



Presbyterian Link



**FROM THE
PASTOR'S
DESK**

So, I come into the office on Sunday morning and notice something is different. It does not immediately register in my mind, but eventually I figure it out. The dogwood tree outside my office window is gone! I knew there had been some discussion about removing the tree. It had become overgrown and several folks wanted to redesign the garden in the alcove outside my window. Still, the change is hard to take. Where once there had been green shade, there now is the bare soil and the glare of unshielded sunlight.

Change is always difficult to take. We like things the way they were. We shy away from making changes because we never know what the "new" is going to be like. I often wonder about the level of trust that it takes for a woman to go into a salon and ask the stylist to give her a new hair style. Let's say that this woman has always had long hair down to her shoulders, but has decided to go for a shorter, more easier to manage style. Is this not an act of faith? What happens if the hair is chopped off and she doesn't like the results? At least she knows that in a few months it will have grown back.

Change may frighten us because we truly do not know how the "new" will end up.

But stop to think about it. Everything we do today was once a new thing. Once upon a time there were no organs in sanctuaries. Then along came this strange instrument that made a sound like nothing ever heard before. It was foreign. It was overpowering. It added a new dimension to worship that folks were not used to. Today, we have a difficult time thinking of worship without an organ.

Change here at Altavista Presbyterian is no different than change in any other congregation across the face of the globe. It takes some time getting used to it. It takes some rethinking of traditional ideas. But most of all it requires that we ask ourselves what the unchangeable elements of life really are. And when we ask that question, we come back to the only thing that does not change: God. God is the unchangeable element of life. God is the One who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. All else is subject to alteration and evolution. This is the key to our Faith.

Thankfully, our faith does not hinge on the color of the sanctuary carpet, nor on the version of the scriptures from which we read. And thank The Lord, our faith does not depend upon who the pastor of the Church is. Very few things in life are permanent, especially when you talk about the pastor of a church. The closest thing to a permanent pastor I have ever found is Latta Terry over at Monte Vista Baptist Church. But even Latta will move on some day.

So, it won't be long until Altavista Presbyterian experiences another change. Isn't that exciting! The unchangeable God will stand

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**REMINDERS FOR
OCTOBER**

- Oct. 3 ~ *Workday*
- Oct 4 ~ *AAMA Leadership Summit*
- Oct. 6 ~ *Men's Luncheon*
- Oct. 11 ~ *Adult Study Group*
- Oct. 17 ~ *Peaks Presbytery Leadership Event*
- Oct. 18 ~ *Koinonia Luncheon after Worship*
- Oct. 25 ~ *Adult Study Group*



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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 20, 2009 MEETING

- Voted to accept Alice Barkdoll as an active member of APC by letter of transfer from Mount Hermon United Methodist Church.
- Voted to authorize APC's participation in the Presbytery of the Peaks Thanksgiving offering for Presbyterian Homes.
- Called a Congregational meeting for October 4, 2009 for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Voted to elect a six person PNC, one of whom would be an ex-officio youth representative.
- Reviewed the August, 2009 Financial Report.
- Approved up to \$150 for the purchase of an ad in the Altavista High School yearbook.
- Authorized the purchase of eight (8) round tables and table cloths and six (6) six foot banquet tables (total cost approximately \$1,200) for the Fellowship Hall; and to solicit donations from the Congregation for the purchase of these tables.
- Authorized giving the old Fellowship Hall tables to Camp Hat Creek free of charge and to offer for sale at \$5 each any remaining after Hat Creek selected those they wanted.
- Approved minutes of the August 16, 2009 Stated meeting, the August 23, 2009 Congregational meeting, the August 30, 2009 Called meeting and the September 6, 2009 Called meeting as presented.
- Voted to cancel the October 18, 2009 and the November 15, 2009 Session meetings and instead hold one Session meeting on November 8, 2009, following the November 3, 2009 Committee night.
- Approved the submission of a grant application for DAWN in the amount of \$2,000 from the Presbytery of the Peaks 2 cents a meal hunger grant program.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	August 2009	YTD
Pledges	\$11,102.75	\$86,804.75
Non-Pledges	\$885.00	\$7,207.00
Plate Offering	\$388.25	\$2,728.64
Total Expenses	\$236,343.29	\$111,327.00

Congregational Meeting

The Session meeting on Sunday the 20th of September, and in accord with the Book of Order G.14.0531, called a meeting of the congregation for October 4th immediately following the Worship service "for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee." At that time the congregation will hear a report from the Standing Nominating Committee. Please make a special effort to be present for this important meeting.

Pastor's Corner *continued from Page 1*

by us as we welcome another temporary pastor. And that pastor will lead this congregation into its next stage of growth. Even the word "growth" denotes change. What we need to do is to welcome change, embrace change, wrap our arms around change and understand that just as the garden outside my window will be replanted and sprout some new growth, so will this Church. It is all a part of God's unchangeable plan for us. Amen?

Operation Christmas Child Volunteer Opportunity

Ministry Beyond the Congregation is excited to announce that we have been able to secure a spot for a group of up to 8 adults to help out in the Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center in Charlotte, NC, this year. Our work time is Friday, November 27 from 2 - 6 p.m. We will plan to leave the church at around 9:30 a.m. that morning to allow time for a quick lunch before we start to work.

We are excited to participate in another aspect of this wonderful ministry and hope you will join us. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. If you have questions, please contact Barbie Andrews at (434) 369-8521

Presbytery of The Peaks plans Fall Leadership Event

On *October 17th*, the leadership of all of the Churches in Peaks Presbytery is invited to gather at *Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA*. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Richard Boyce and there will be numerous workshops designed to assist congregations develop their ministries. Rev. Button invites as many of the congregation as possible to attend this event with him. If you are interested, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Altavista Area Ministerial Association Plans Leadership Summit for October 4 at Altavista Presbyterian Church

Once again the Altavista Area Ministerial Association will conduct a *Leadership Summit on October 4th*. The program will feature an ecumenical worship service with the Rev. Chuck Warnoch preaching. There will be two separate training sessions designed to help lay leadership develop skills in missions.

The program will begin on Sunday evening the 4th of October at 5:00pm with worship followed by the first training session at 5:45. Supper will be served at 6:30 followed by the second training session at 7:15. This Leadership Summit promises to be a rich experience of learning and sharing across denominational boundaries.

The call is out to all members of Altavista Presbyterian Church. Put this on your calendar. Plan to be there. **Worship, meal and sessions will all take place right here at Altavista Presbyterian.** We will be responsible for the dessert, so start planning now what you will whip up! A sign up list will be on the bulletin board.

Adult Study Group Time Change

The Christian Education Committee is offering another opportunity for you to join with other members of the congregation in regular study. On the second and fourth Sundays of every month we have a one hour study based on a contemporary book. Our first book is *The Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins we Tolerate, by Jerry Bridges*.

The time for the Adult Study Group has been changed to 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. If you did not make it to the group the first week, we are still studying Chapter 1 -3.

New Tables for Fellowship Hall



At its recent meeting, the Session approved the purchase of round tables and six foot banquet tables to replace the old tables that have been in use for many years. The round tables have been in the fellowship hall for two weeks and have received a good response from those who have used them. They seat more to a table, are more conducive to conversation and are lighter and easier to move. The long tables are also light and will be easier to put up and move around. Several families have already made contributions to purchase four of these tables. If you would like to be a "table sponsor", please send a check to the church office. The cost of the round tables which includes a table cloth is \$120. and the cost of a banquet table with no table cloth is \$55.

In addition, the session approved sending any of the usable old banquet tables to Camp Hat Creek for use with their camping program. Those not sent to Hat Creek will be offered to the congregation for \$5.00 each.

Thanks from the Hechts

I would like to thank all my friends in Christ at Altavista Presbyterian Church for the thoughtfulness shown to Anne and me following my recent hip surgery.

The food that was provided was delicious. The get well cards were inspiring and uplifting. The phone calls and visits were encouraging.

Most especially, your prayers and God's help brought me through the surgery and onto the road of full recovery.

Your friends in Christ

Anne and Doug Hecht

Congregational Meeting

October 11

Immediately following Worship

Philip Erb is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Florida in the Behavior Analysis Program. He would love to hear from you !

Philip Erb

4830 NW 43rd St. Apt. 200M

Gainesville, FL 32606

Phone: 238-7336

Email: mfanerb@yahoo.com

Men's Luncheon

Main Street Emporium

Tuesday

Oct 6 11:45



MARK YOUR CALENDAR**OCTOBER 2009****OCTOBER 3 SATURDAY**

8 am - Noon Church Maintenance Workday

OCTOBER 4 SUNDAY9 am Sunday School for Adults/ Communion
Class for Young Children & Parents10 am Worship/ Communion
Children's Church
Congregational Meeting

5 pm Youth Group Meeting

5 pm AAMA Leadership Summit

OCTOBER 6 TUESDAY

10 am Circle I meets in the Parlor

11:45 am Men's Luncheon @ Main Street
Emporium**OCTOBER 7 WEDNESDAY**

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study

11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch

6 pm Choir Practice

OCTOBER 11 SUNDAY

9 am Sunday School for Adults

10 am Worship ~ Dori Baker Preaching
Children's Church
Congregational Meeting

5 pm Youth Group Meeting

5:30 pm Adult Study Group

OCTOBER 13 TUESDAY

7 pm Circle II meets in the Parlor

OCTOBER 14 WEDNESDAY

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study

11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch

6 pm Choir Practice

OCTOBER 18 SUNDAY

9 am Sunday School for Adults/

10 am Worship ~ Dr. Robert Herron Preaching
Children's ChurchKoinonia lunch immediately following
Worship

No Session Meeting

5 pm Youth Group Meeting

OCTOBER 21 WEDNESDAY

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study

11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch

6 pm Choir Practice

OCTOBER 25 SUNDAY

9 am Sunday School for Adults

10 am Worship

Children's Church

5 pm Youth Group Meeting

5:30 pm Adult Study Group

OCTOBER 28 WEDNESDAY

9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study

11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch

6 pm Choir Practice



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Return service requested

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

October 2009

BIRTHDAYS &

- 1 Barbie Andrews
- 1 Jenny Roark
- 2 Glenn Berger
- 2 Murrell Routon
- 3 Jeffrey Blaesing
- 4 Jennifer Strebel
- 5 John Erb
- 7 Ronald Coleman
- 9 Maxine Montague
- 13 Bob Steele
- 14 Jeannie Smith
- 21 Dan Kauffman
- 24 Linda Janiak
- 26 Jimmy Martin
- 26 David Sease
- 27 Susan Alley

- 28 Elijah Hanson
- 31 Patty Eller
- 31 Earl Copes

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Darrell & Annie Shelton
- 10 CE & Jean Murphy
- 17 Gary & Jane Strebel
- 21 Jimmy & Diann Martin
- 25 Jeremy & Abby Eubank
- 29 Murrell & Joyce Routon



LINK STAFF

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Editor

Ministry Within the
Congregation Committee

*Previous Links can be found on the
website
www.altapres.org*

