



Presbyterian Link



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

At a recent meeting of the Altavista Area Ministerial Association Rob Gilliam shared some interesting data from the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Amid the charts and graphs showing the “Existing Single-Family Home Sales” and the “Labor Market Conditions” for the recent five years there was one indisputable piece of data. WE ARE IN AN ECONOMIC SLUMP! These are my words, not Rob’s. He might use a different word than “slump”. However, after reviewing the charts and sharing his thoughts about the economic indicators, he did say one thing that all of us know deep down inside of us:

The road back is not going to be quick.

It is remarkable, then, that each month when the Session receives the financial report, our figures are good. One might even say, excellent! We have received over the first eight months of 2009 contributions to the mission of this church that more than exceed the expenses we incurred. You might want to join me in saying: “Praise the Lord!” The members of this congregation are committed to the mission of Christ’s love and grace in this community and around the world. This is one of the few congregations I have served where when I have called for the tithes and offerings on Sunday morning I really know that a good portion is going to mis-

sions, not just the pastor’s salary.

As we approach the Stewardship Season this year I want to encourage you to keep Missions in the forefront of your hearts and minds. We are not here to keep a beautiful building in good repair, although that is important. And we are not here to make an impression on the Baptist up the road, or the Methodist down the road. We are here to advance the love, peace and justice of Jesus Christ around the world, to bring men and women, boys and girls to a saving knowledge of Christ as their Lord and Savior and to equip them to become instruments of Christ’s love, peace and justice. And so, it seems to me that our balance sheet each month reflects the commitment which members of this congregation have to this ministry.

In the next few weeks, you are going to be asked to look into the future and to make a reaffirmation of the commitment which you have made year after year. Please do not make a commitment to a budget. Make a commitment to a mission. Make a commitment to the youth programs of this congregation that will enable us to reach out and touch the lives of youth who don’t go to church here. If 51% of this nations families do not have a Church Home, then it stands that 51% of the youth in this community are not attached to a congregation. Let’s commit ourselves to touching those children for Christ. Let us commit ourselves to the reconstitution of Camp Hat Creek where hundreds of children from the State of Virginia learn about Christ in an outdoor camping experience.

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REMINDERS FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 ~ Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child
- Nov. 3 ~ Men’s luncheon
- Nov. 3 ~ Committee Meeting Night
- Nov. 8 ~ Session Meeting
- Nov. 8 ~ Home Communion Training
- Nov. 8 ~ Adult Study Group
- Nov. 15 ~ Return shoe boxes
- Nov. 22 ~ Adult Study Group
- Nov. 22 ~ TWYG Scavenger Hunt for DAWN
- Nov. 26 ~ Thanksgiving Day ~Church Office Closed



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Pastor's Corner *continued from Page 1*

Make a commitment to the world wide ministry of Altavista Presbyterian Church. You and I have not been called to work in Africa, or Mexico or France or the UNC campus. But Altavista Presbyterian Church has been called. John and Beth Muehleisen in Africa, Don and Martha Wehmeyer in Mexico, Paul and Reinhild Sydnor in France and John Farmer at UNC are our arms and legs. In 2010 we need to recommit ourselves to world wide ministries by increasing our support of their ministries. What does it say about our faith when, while all the world is caught in the grip of a "slump" we increase our support for vital mission programs?

And let's not forget DAWN, and Habitat for Humanity and 2 Cents a Meal and Franny's House. Just recently this church was responsible for submitting a grant request to Abbot Foundation for over \$10,000. for DAWN. I am happy to report that this generous gift is safely in the account of DAWN. The money did not come from Altavista Presbyterian, but the manpower that makes DAWN so vital in our community does come from us. What does the scripture say? Where your heart is, there will you money be! Or does it say, "Where your money is, there will your heart be!?"

You see, our success in the financial realm has little to do with how rich we are in worldly goods and a lot to do with where are hearts are. This year, when the pledge cards are passed out, stop and ask God to help you to focus on where your hearts are leading you.

Thanks be to God for the vision and mission of Altavista Presbyterian Church.

Robert E. (Bob) Button

Ministry Within The Congregation offers training for In Home Communion Servers

Home Communion Specialists Needed

On Sunday the 8th of November, Rev. Button will lead a 1 hour discussion and training for those Elders who would like to carry communion to our shut-ins. Right now we have only four trained Elders who carry this program. We need at least another four. If you are an Elder, or have been an Elder in the past (Once an Elder, always an Elder) please consider attending this course. You may be called on only once or twice a year to carry The Lord's Supper to a shut-in, but you will receive a great blessing from doing it. We will begin promptly at 4:30 and will be finished in time for the Adult Book Study at 5:30.

Please contact the office and/or sign the sheet on the bulletin board if you plan to get this training.

Tween Youth Program

The Tween Youth Program, or TWYGs, are meeting each Sunday evening at the church for dinner and Bible Study with Mark Younkin.

In the coming months there will be a need for helpers for Mark, someone to fix a meal or someone to host the youth.

Please contact Jenny Roark if you are able to help.

309-1156

Roark02@comcast.net

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	September 2009	YTD
Pledges	\$9,362.00	\$96,166.75
Non-Pledges	\$955.00	\$8,162.00
Plate Offering	\$140.46	\$2,869.10
Total Expenses	\$24,155.67	\$135,482.67

Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child

Just a reminder that our "Packing Party" for shoe-box gifts for Operation Christmas Child will be this Sunday afternoon at 1:00pm in the fellowship hall. All are invited to come join in the fun.

We hope everyone will participate in this ministry by either purchasing items to pack an individual shoe-box gift or purchasing items for our "gift assembly line". The list of appropriate gift items is on the bulletin board in the hallway and I have some extras if needed. If you are packing an individual gift please be sure to put the tag on the outside marked if it's for a boy or girl and the age category. The church will cover the shipping fee so you don't need to include that. All gifts need to be returned to the church by Sunday, 11/15/09.

If you wish to contribute, but are unable to shop for gifts, you may make a monetary donation by check payable to Samaritan's Purse. Just note on the memo line that the donation is for Operation Christmas Child. You can also go online to www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

These gifts may seem like a small thing to us, but they are a wonderful expression of Christ's love to these deserving children. Thank you for being a part of this!



Anyone (new members as well as old members who want to update their photo) who has not had a photo taken for the directory should contact Alline Rogers to make arrangements to have your picture take.

Food Scavenger Hunt for DAWN



On Sunday, November 22nd, from 3 pm until 6 pm, APC's "TWYG" (Tween Youth Group) will be holding a Scavenger Hunt to collect four items for

DAWN. Members of TWYG will be divided into 2 teams, each team visiting homes of APC members who have volunteered to participate by signing up on the "Sign-Up" sheet located on the hallway bulletin board. At different times between 3 - 6 pm on 11/22, each of the 2 scavenger hunting teams will visit APC members homes to pick-up the donated items. Please note: Since each team will be paying you a visit, please donate a minimum of two (2) different food items (one for each team). Once the teams return to APC the afternoon's haul will be tallied according to points assigned to different food items and the team with the most points wins!

This is a fun way for members of TWYG to interact with APC members outside the walls of our church, while performing a mission project to help DAWN address hunger in our community. Please sign-up to participate in this fun event!

Directory Photos

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 Fergusons

We would like to thank all our APC friends for the phone calls, cards, visits, and delicious food you provided while Sue was recovering from surgery.

Your generosity never ceases to amaze us!

Love,

Bill and Sue

Committee Meeting Night

Tuesday, November 3

7 pm

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 Nov. 3

11:45



MARK YOUR CALENDAR**NOVEMBER 2009****NOVEMBER 1 SUNDAY**

- 9 am Sunday School for Adults
- 10 am Worship/ Communion
Children's Church
- 1 pm Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child
- 5 pm Youth Group Meeting

NOVEMBER 3 TUESDAY

- 10 am Circle I meets in the Parlor
- 11:45 am Men's Luncheon @ Main Street Emporium
- 7 pm Committee Meeting Night

NOVEMBER 4 WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study
- 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
- 5:30 pm Choir Practice

NOVEMBER 8 SUNDAY

- 9 am Sunday School for Adults
- 10 am Worship
Children's Church
- Session Meeting immediately following Worship
- 4:30 pm Home Communion Training
- 5 pm Youth Group Meeting
- 5:30 pm Adult Study Group

NOVEMBER 10 TUESDAY

- 7 pm Circle II meets in the Parlor

NOVEMBER 11 WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study
- 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
- 5:30pm Choir Practice

NOVEMBER 15 SUNDAY

- 9 am Sunday School for Adults/
- 10 am Worship
Children's Church
- 5 pm Youth Group Meeting
- Return shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child

NOVEMBER 18 WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study
- 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
- 5:30 pm Choir Practice

NOVEMBER 22 SUNDAY

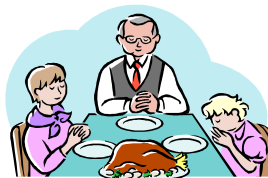
- 9 am Sunday School for Adults
- 10 am Worship
Children's Church
- 3 -6 pm TWYG Scavenger Hunt for DAWN
- 5 pm Youth Group Meeting
- 5:30 pm Adult Study Group

NOVEMBER 25 WEDNESDAY

- 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study
- 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch
- 5:30 pm Choir Practice

NOVEMBER 26 THURSDAY

Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

**NOVEMBER 29 SUNDAY**

- 9 am Sunday School for Adults
- 10 am Worship
Children's Church
- 5 pm Youth Group Meeting



**ALTAVISTA PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

707 Broad Street
Altavista, VA 24517

Phone: 369-5286
Email: altapres@embarqmail.com
Website: www.altapres.org
Return service requested

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

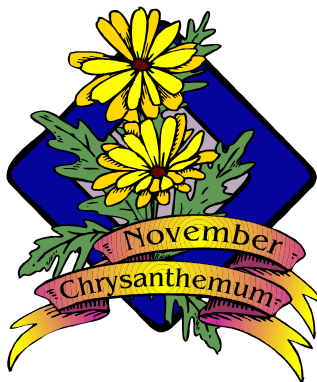
November 2009

BIRTHDAYS &

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 Jeremy Larkin | 27 Lillian Margaret Copes |
| 5 Phillip Erb | 30 Preston Andrews |
| 5 Allison Mabry | 31 Michael Montague |
| 6 Alline Rogers | |
| 10 Geraldine Kauffman | |
| 14 Elizabeth Hawkins | |
| 15 Connie Southerland | |
| 15 Bob Button | |
| 16 Megan Ingram | |
| 19 Dana Taylor | |
| 20 Dennis Montague | |
| 21 Dean Barbour | |
| 23 Laura Ward | |
| 25 John Southerland | |
| 26 John Tucker | |
| 26 Darlene Robertson | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Joe & Joyce Mason



LINK STAFF

Sue Ferguson
billsueferguson@aol.com
Editor

Ministry Within the
Congregation Committee

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