

FIRST PRESS

First Presbyterian Church

Volume 28, Issue 3

February 19, 2009

Dear John,

In this St. Valentine's season, I think of John Calvin's valentine, Idelette de Burre. It was not until Calvin was thirty years of age that he began even to think seriously of marriage. He wrote to his coworker in ministry, William Farel: "Friends are urging me to marry a young lady of a noble family, above my station in life and very rich. But I refuse for two reasons: first, because she does not understand our language [French], and secondly, because I am afraid that she might think too much of her noble birth and fine education."

His ideal wife, he told his friends, was not a beautiful face or graceful form, but a "helpmeet" who was kind, pure-hearted, meek, frugal, patient, and to whom the care for her husband would be the first consideration. In another correspondence to Farel he wrote: "Would you know what kind of beauty could alone win my soul? It is kindness and modesty, linked to simplicity and contentment."

That Idelette de Burre measured up to Calvin's ideal seems to be proof of her character. She had been a widow for some years with several children, and when Calvin proposed to her she accepted. The marriage took place on August 1, 1540, and (Calvin already having made quite a name for himself) it proved to be a great event. Guests came from across Europe.

Their married life was one of extreme simplicity and frugality. When a visiting dignitary visited Geneva he requested to see Calvin's "palace." To his surprise, he was shown to a little, nondescript, and insignificant house belonging to the man whose influence was felt throughout Europe. Certainly not a palace!

During their marriage Idelette revealed the qualities of a faithful and devoted wife. Despite her own poor health, she was a caring nurse in Calvin's oft-recurring attacks of sickness. She tried to cheer him in his hours of mental depression, severe headaches, and bodily weakness. After they had been married for only nine years, Idelette died following a protracted illness. We are told that whenever Calvin mentioned her name, "a certain vibration in his voice indicated how dear she had been to him." As he put it, "The best of partners has been taken from me."

It seems appropriate to cherish the memory of Idelette Calvin this February 2009, during the quincentenary of Calvin's birth.

Your friend, Gus

DON'T FORGET!!



**SUNDAY
MARCH 8, 2009**



Men's Fellowship Schedule for 2009

- March 10** - **Mr. George Dawson**,
President & CEO, Centra Health
- April 21** - **Ladies Night**
Mayor Joan Foster

Please mark your calendars and also sign up on the appropriate sheets.

Any questions, please call Mitchell Mays at 384-2653.



Sunday School News

The youth Sunday school classes were joined by the Pastor's Class and the Family Matters class in supporting the Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry in the month of January. These classes gave their offerings in the amount of \$327.38 for this ministry to feed the hungry in our neighborhood.

Sunday school offerings from these classes in the month of February will go to

Central Virginia Area Agency on Aging.

CVAAA provides supportive services such as meals, transportation, care management, personal care, homemaker assistance, elder rights advocacy and legal assistance for older citizens to enable them to remain independent in their homes, to be active in the life of the community, and to live life to the fullest degree that each is able.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Celebrate Shrove Tuesday On Monday, February 23

The Christian Explorations Sunday School Class will host the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Celebration on **Monday, February 23, 2009, at 6:00 P.M.** The food will be great, the fellowship warm, and the activities fun for all ages. There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer for this event to make sure that we have enough pancakes for everyone (compliments of Billy McBratney)! We will ask for donations that evening to cover the cost of the food (the labor is free!).

The word "shrove" is the past tense of the English verb "shrive," which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confessing and doing penance. Shrove Tuesday precedes Ash Wednesday and the commencement of Lent which is a period of liturgical fasting when the plainest of foods was generally eaten. Pancakes are heavily associated with Shrove Tuesday because the rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, and sugar had to be used before Lent so as not to have food spoil during that time. Pancakes and doughnuts were a very efficient way to deplete the perishable foods as well as providing a celebratory feast prior to the fast itself.

So come to the Fellowship Hall, February 23, at 6:00 P.M. and celebrate with us! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Lifsey at 384-8280.

Members Helping Members in February

- Katy Nunn - 386-0011**
- Sue Thornton - 384-5299**

Members Helping Members in March


- Betty Shotton - 384-1457**
- Marcy Shilling - 534-9044**



Chancel Ringers will assist in worship on Sunday, March 1st, at both services.

Children's Choir will assist in worship on Sunday, March 8th, at 11:00 A.M.

*We mourn
with you*



PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY
are extended to
Buddy McCausland and
Madaline Martin
in the death of their sister,
Jean McCausland Lyle,
who died on
February 3, 2009,
and to
Brock Barkley
in the death of his wife,
Edith Barkley,
who died on February 16, 2009.



FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE

During the month of February, First Presbyterian will be holding a food drive to benefit the River-mont Area Emergency Food Pantry. This food pantry is a collaborative effort of nine area congregations including First Presbyterian and is housed in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. First Presbyterian helps by providing volunteers to bag the meals, monetary funds from the Community Mission budget and, hopefully, this month lots of canned goods! Last year the pantry helped feed 3,262 people for a total of 29,358 meals. They have already had an increase in their numbers for this year, and expect with the current economy to see them rise even more. A grocery cart is in the front hall of the church to collect canned goods and non perishable food items. Please give generously and we can really help fight hunger in our community. Thank you!

Health News..... Farewell.

It is with great regret I have to notify all of you that as of February 25th I will be leaving First Presbyterian Church. My husband has been re-located to the Richmond area for his job. Our house was placed on the market and has sold with a closing date of March 2nd. I apologize for my short stay with you all. I have really enjoyed the job here and have loved getting to know you. You have all welcomed me with open arms. Please remember the Health Ministry Team is here to help in any way it can.

Sincerely,
Nell Corbett

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESENTS:

The **Women's Fellowship Series for 2009** will have its first program of the year on **Tuesday, February 24th, at 7:00 P.M.** We will be discussing the book ***The Shack*** by Wm. Paul Young. Meggan Farwell will be leading our discussion.

Please come for fellowship, coffee and dessert. Sign-in the foyer, or call the church office (384-6231).

The Single Adult Fellowship

will get together for lunch on **Sunday, March 8, 2009 at V & T Café and Grill, Graves Mill Center, 18013 Forest Rd., Forest.** Meet at the restaurant by 12:30 P.M.



Results of the Malawi Christmas Gift Program



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The National and World Mission Committee would like to thank all of the members who generously contributed to the continuing needs of our fellow Presbyterians and friends in Kalikumbi and Embangweni, Malawi. A total of \$ 11,549.00 was given and below is a list of the gifts:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| * Benches for the Kalikumbi Church | \$ 700.00 |
| * Tinted glass for the Kalikumbi Church | 500.00 |
| * Fund for furnishings for the Kalikumbi Church | 480.00 |
| * Hymnals for the Kalikumbi Church | 495.00 |
| * Bibles for the Student Christian Organization of Malawi | 735.00 |
| * School books for the Kalikubi primary school | 925.00 |
| * Student fees for Kalikumbi area secondary school students—Term | 900.00 |
| * Student fees for Kalikumbi area secondary school students—Year | 1,200.00 |
| * Fund for a new teacher's house in Kalikumbi | 400.00 |
| * Funds for the Loudon Presbytery Loan Committee | 1,164.00 |
| * Maternity care for the Kalikumbi clinic | 850.00 |
| * Treadle pumps for Kalikumbi area farmers | 750.00 |
| * Shallow wells for Kalikumbi area villages | 2,450.00 |

LEONARD SCHOLARSHIP

Our church is the distribution agent for a financial needs grant for undergraduate and graduate studies at a four-year accredited college, university, and theological institution. The annual grant offered is based on need and is subject to a maximum \$3,500 per year of study. Interested persons should contact the church office for guidelines and an application for the 2009-2010 school year. Completed applications must be in the church office no later than May 4, 2009.

The Coordinating Team will meet on **Monday, March 2, at 10:00 A.M. in the library.**

The Horizon Circle will meet on **Monday, March 9, at 10:00 A.M. in the Officer's Room.**

The Book Circle will meet on **Monday, March 9, in the library at 10:00 A.M.** The book to be discussed will be *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalid Hossieni.

Following Circle meetings there will be a **General Meeting of Presbyterian Women in the Chapel at 11:15 A.M.**

The Program: "How Yoga Serves My Faith" will be presented by Christine Euhus. Christine wrote the following about her talk:

"Although I have been practicing yoga for 10 years, I have come to realize that it has really fostered a deeper fellowship with Jesus and really served my Christian faith. This may seem counter-intuitive to some because of the Hindu tradition out of which yoga comes, but I happen to believe all truth is God's truth, and the ancient yogis used the physical poses to prepare themselves to be able to focus their minds for prayer. In addition to the physical benefits, I am finding the spiritual aspects of learning to quiet my mind and set aside distractions to focus on Jesus very helpful."

As a part of the program, we will do gentle seated yoga with short meditation and scripture. All women of the Church are invited.

Brunch, hosted by the Book Circle, will follow the General Meeting.

The Young and Not So Young Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 10, at 9:00 A.M. in the library.**

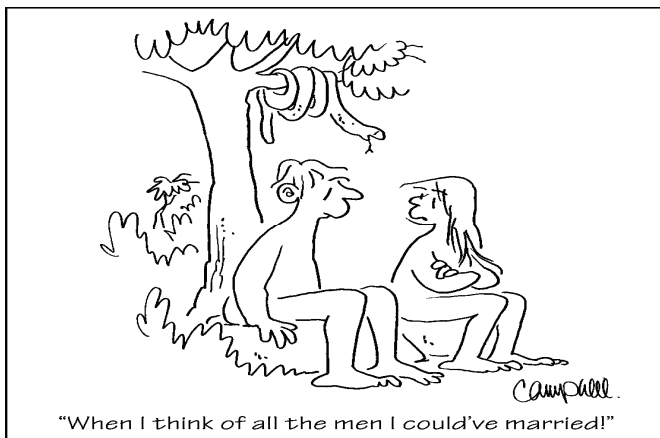
The Evening Circle will meet on **Tuesday, March 10, at 7:30 P.M.** at the home of Kitty Snead, 204 Bishops Lane.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Sparks, Dick | 10 Clark, Hewett | 18 Green, Rogers | Gallagher, Matthew |
| 2 Barrett, Jennifer | Stump, Phil | Palmer, Helen | 25 Harrington, Elizabeth |
| Barrett, Sarah | 11 Adams, Chris | Pettigrew, Alan | 26 Haskins, Ali |
| 3 Basten, Katy | Landes, Jason | Roach, Jayson | McDonald, Madeleine |
| Saum, Meredith | 12 Craighill, Laura | Tweedy, Mary Frances | Milam, Berkley |
| 4 Stein, Norma | Lee, Danise | Wallace, Diana | Pettyjohn, Raine |
| 5 Cleveland, Patrick | Thienemann, Grant | 19 Howerton, Judy | 27 Clark, Catherine |
| Leslie, Anne | Varnier, Julia | Sellick, Jack | Ebert, Betty |
| Mount, Chris | 13 Clower, Devin | 20 Capps, Cece | Selzler, Catherine |
| Nexsen, Gray | Oertle, Ruth Ann | Craighill, Rob | Ware, Bob |
| Richards, Alex | 14 Craddock, John | Ford, Lauren | 29 Beuchert, Anna |
| Underwood, Nick | 15 Mayo, Susan | Kirkpatrick, Teresa | Greene, David |
| 6 Adams, Terry | 16 Adams, Budd | Porter, Shannon | Wiley, Gray |
| Fraley, Fred | Cleland, Hunter | Williams, Rachel | 30 Bruce, David |
| Richards, Dunn | Cobb, Macon | 21 Barauskas, Eva | Ramsey, John |
| 7 Hatcher, Pete | Craighill, Anne | Claiborne, Shane | Warsing, Dan |
| Riordan, Caroline | Moore, Jim | Dennis, Eleanor | 31 Agnew, Annie |
| 8 Nelligan, Wistar | 17 Hare, Katherine | Mibus, Marcel | Burger, Wilbur |
| Todd, Kirk | Meriwether, Lisa | 22 Laughon, Tance | Eskridge, Elizabeth |
| 9 Bennett, Herb | Mibus, Manfred | 23 Burr, Tom | Olsen, Todd |
| Jenks, Eyla | Sigler, Ellery | Richards, Lib | |
| Sorenson, Robert | Tiller, Craig | 24 Dendy, Lucas | |

If your name is not here but should be, please call the church at 384-6231



First Dinners

By now your hostess should have called you to schedule the **February** dinner. If there are any problems, please call Leslie Roberts at 384-5961.

Last Chance for College Addresses!!!

Attention parents of college aged students – we need addresses!! This year the youth want to put together care packages for our college students, but we don't have very many addresses.

If you don't want your son or daughter to be left out, please email Meggan Farwell at meggan@fpclly.org or call Meggan at (w)384-6231 or (h)239-5439 with your child(ren)'s name and address at school.

We will not accept addresses after the end of February so don't delay!

Adults and parents we will need some help with transportation and chaperoning so please let Meggan know if you can go.

This is a great opportunity to meet other youth in the presbytery and relax for a day.

Two of our high school students are members of the youth council – Kathleen Lifsey and Christina Cosby – so let's support their hard work!

There will be no youth group on Sunday March 15th – this will be youth group for the week!

YOUTH NEWS

4th Annual Valentine's Dance

This year's dance was a big success. The youth had a lot of fun.

Thanks to all who helped make this event a success. We could not have done it without the help of over 20 adults!

Thanks again!

Middle School Retreat

The Peaks Presbytery Youth Council is putting on a one day retreat for Middle Schoolers at camp **Hat Creek on March 14, 2009.**

The theme is ***SHINE*** and runs from **10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

The cost of the retreat is \$18 which includes lunch and a t-shirt, our youth group funds will pay \$5 for each participant.

If you want to go please fill out the permission slip (you should have already received one in the mail) **and bring in \$13.** The **deadline is Sunday Feb 22nd at the very latest.** You can put your forms and money in Meggan's mailbox.

The Rope Walk by Carrie Brown

A member of the congregation brought to my attention the book The Rope Walk by Carrie Brown. This book is part of the "Lynchburg Reads" program. Carrie Brown is a local author and teaches at Sweet Briar College.

Carrie will be speaking about her book on Monday, March 23rd at 7:30 P.M. at Smith Hall at Randolph College.

Any youth who are interested in reading this book and attending the event on March 23rd please let Meggan know – 384-6231 or meggan@fpclly.org.

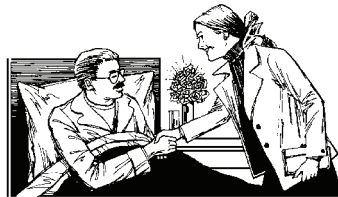
Here is what the story is about (taken from the back cover of the book):

"In The Rope Walk, Carrie Brown crafts a luminous story of a young girl's coming-of-age during a crucial summer in New England.

On her tenth birthday Alice meets two visitors to her quiet town: Theo, the African American grandson of her father's best friend, and Kenneth, an artist who has come home to convalesce. Theo forms an instant bond with Alice that will indelibly change them both. The

pair in turn befriend Kenneth, and decide to build a “rope walk” through the woods, allowing him to make his way through the outdoor world he has always loved. But their good intentions lead to surprising consequences, and Alice soon learns how different the worlds of children and adults really are.”

This book is not just for youth and not just for girls. It is a great story for all! **Encourage your youth to read the book and attend the event! Think about reading it with them and attending yourself!**



**SICK?
HOSPITALIZED?**

Federal privacy laws have restricted the availability of patient information to the public. The local hospitals do not contact the church with admission information, and access to admitted patient lists is quite limited. Therefore, we are dependent upon our church family to let us now when they or someone they know is sick or hospitalized.

Your notifying the minister or the church office with any information will certainly help us in our ministry. Please do not presume we already know about it. We do not intentionally neglect members and friends.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings are performed the **second Sunday of each month** after the first service and before and after the 11:00 A.M. service in the Parish Nurse’s Office, Room 102.

2009 BUDGET APPROVED

The Session has approved the 2009 budget recommendation from Budget and Finance which totaled \$978,776. This represents an increase in our budget of \$36,010 over 2008. We were very pleased to have an **increase** in the budget despite these tough economic times.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2009 was a great success. We increased our pledges from 2009 by over \$36,000 compared to last year. That is a tremendous effort by our whole congregation during this financial downturn. A big round of applause goes out to the hard work by our Stewardship Committee. We should all be proud and thankful for the generous support from our members and friends.

Year end 2008 finished up strong with pledges received in December for 2008 of \$125,592. This allowed pledges to come in \$25,732 over what was budgeted. Expenses were also kept in check when all committees came in under budget. The finances of First Presbyterian Church remain strong.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

**First Presbyterian Church
2009 Budget**

| | Amount | % of Budget |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Presbytery/Synod/Gen Assembly | \$ 43,200 | 4.41% |
| Presbyterian Cemetery | 1,000 | 0.10% |
| Community Mission | 56,000 | 5.72% |
| National and World | 56,000 | 5.72% |
| Worship and Music | 38,000 | 3.88% |
| Christian Education | 17,685 | 1.81% |
| Membership/Fellowship | 3,200 | 0.33% |
| Witness Outreach & Stewardship | 3,500 | 0.36% |
| Care & Nurture Committee | 2,500 | 0.26% |
| Leadership Training | 1,000 | 0.10% |
| Personnel | | |
| Ministers | 225,064 | 22.99% |
| Staff & Misc Pers. Exp. | 288,403 | 29.47% |
| Office Administration | 43,000 | 4.39% |
| Building | | |
| Maintenance | 128,543 | 13.13% |
| Utilities | 48,575 | 4.96% |
| Grounds | 20,306 | 2.07% |
| Stock Transactions Net Exp. | 2,800 | 0.29% |
| EXPENSE BUDGET | \$978,776 | 100.00% |

First Presbyterian Church

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Lynchburg, VA 24503

Phone: 434-384-6231

Fax: 434-384-9156

Email: info@fpcly.org

Next Newsletter: March 19, 2009

DEADLINE:

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

CONGRATULATIONS To the New Officers Elected Sunday, February 8, 2009

Elders (2012)

Doug Brockman, Marilyn Bellaire, Bryant Hare,
Lee Perry, Harold Riley, Diane Stroud,
Persis Tinsley and
Christina Cosby (Youth Elder).

Deacons (2012)

Julie Brammer, Will Cleland, Caskie Giles,
Mike Harrington, Robyn Johnsen, Alan Pettigrew,
and Brad Weaver.

Nominating Committee At Large:

Tom Carrico, Helen Gilmer, Bob Glenn,
Claudia Pierpoint, Karen Riordan.



