

FOCUS

July 28, 2010

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. XIX, No. 27

Sunday, August 1, 2010

BREAKFAST, 8:30 a.m.
CHURCH SCHOOL, 9:15 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP, 10:30 a.m.
"Knock! Knock!"
Luke 11:1-13

No Sunday Evening Programming During the Summer!

ELDERS GREETING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Lee Craig, Jess Begley, Suzanne Jackson, Bill Nock

GREETERS AT THE SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Whitney Duffy

TAPE MINISTRY

Susan Brabham, John James, William Croft,
Nancyhunter Blanding

TELLER DUTY - Debby Williams, Tripp Lee

ELDER IN CHARGE OF VISITING - August 1 - 7

Chuck Fienning

USHERS

William Croft

Junior Ushers: John Ballard & Richard Dwight

SUNDAY STEPHEN MINISTER - Marie Mills

CHURCH HOUR EXTENDED CARE VOLUNTEERS

(Please note the schedule for this Sunday)

Committee Member - Meg Hill

Nursery - Amelia Macloskie

2 & 3 Yr. Olds - Catharine & Brian Frerichs

4 & 5-Yr. Olds - Parker Geddings & Cameron Smith

This Week at FPC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

8:30 a.m. Breakfast Fellowship Hall

9:00 a.m. Session Meeting Session Room

9:15 a.m. Sunday School - Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

7:00 p.m. Summer Youth Group West Building



MEMO FROM MARK

Colossians 1:15-20

Last Sunday we looked at Paul's glorious description of Jesus Christ as "the Image of the Invisible God." This is one of the most striking thoughts in the New Testament and we talked a little bit about the difference it makes to think of Jesus Christ living among us as the revelation here before our eyes of the Invisible God who makes the world and guides its people and its ways.

Seeing Jesus Christ in this way also makes a very personal difference in the way that we think of God and especially how we relate to God. Apart from Jesus Christ people are basically kept in the dark about the real nature of God: who is God really? A stern and demanding Ruler, a sly Trickster who takes delight in always fooling us and keeping us guessing? Or is God simply inscrutable, unknown and unknowable and not really concerned to be known by us?

No matter how much we may want to draw near to God or make contact with Him, we are basically in the dark as to God's real nature. And in relation to this hidden, unknown God we are always guessing how we should act toward Him, always in danger of doing or saying the wrong thing or simply being the wrong person. How do we know? How can we know?

For Paul and all the New Testament writers the astounding answer is that we can know, and now amazingly, we do know who God is and what God wants from us because the invisible God has appeared among us in Jesus Christ. And even more amazing is that Jesus Christ shows us that God wants to give to us, to do for us before and beyond anything He might desire from us. God has come to us, not to take but to give His own life to us and for us. Paul can't say enough in praise of this amazing revelation! And for him, knowing Jesus Christ changes the way he thinks about everything and everyone. Can we say the same?

Grace to you and peace,
Mark



GEAR UP FOR LEARNING

Soon the school bells will be ringing as school reopens for another year. As in the past, United Ministries of Sumter County will be gathering new school supplies to help children in need return to school with needed supplies. In the last few years, almost two thousand individual bags of supplies have been prepared. First Presbyterian Church has committed to supplying 2875 *wide rule spiral notebooks*.

**(These notebooks are currently
\$.15/each at Wal-Mart!)**

Please look for the sales and help with this endeavor! A collection box is located outside the Fellowship Hall. *United Ministries has asked for us to turn these notebooks in before August 3*. This is a great opportunity to provide the necessary school supplies to children who may not have the tools they need. It can lighten the burden of feeling unprepared and not being equal with the other students.

United Ministries also needs volunteers from August 3 through August 13, from 9 a.m. until noon to sort and stuff the bags. The districts will need to pick up filled bags on August 16.



WOMEN'S DIVINE DETOUR

October 15-17, 2010 at Montreat

The retreat leader will be Rev. Julie Schaaf, Chaplain at Foothills Presbyterian Community in Easley. A sheet is located on the table outside the church office to indicate your interest in attending (Sign-up does not commit you at this time, but shows your interest.) We hope you will join us for a time of study, fellowship, fun and above all, renewal at the third gathering for a women's retreat. Women of all ages are welcome.



FPC PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Registration continues for the new school year beginning in September. Classes will be held for children 2 years old through kindergarten age. Please call 773-9027 for more information.



Please note . . .

*Mother's Morning Out will not be held the
month of August!*



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

In less than 4 months, we will be collecting gift-filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Avoid the rush in November and start picking up items now! This would be a great family activity before the kids go back to school. Fill a shoebox with toys, school supplies, books, or anything else a child would like. *(No liquids or chocolate, please!)*



SUMMER SCHEDULE

(Continues through Labor Day)

Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
Session Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.

Intergenerational Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall!

Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
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STEPHEN MINISTRY

If you are sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to provide confidential one-to-one care, encouragement, and support to help you through a tough time. Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with one of our Stephen Leaders: Isabel Gist, Suzanne Begley, Mark Durrett, Sue Fienning and Josie Holler. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.



KNOWN TO BE HOSPITALIZED

At Home: Helen Propst, Eleanor Beard, Gordon Rettke,
JoAnn Coskrey, Carolyn McLeod, Gerald Dix



FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Received Last Week	\$10,095.34
Needed Each Week	\$22,254.46
Received Year-to-Date	\$632,742.54
Expenses Year-to-Date	\$594,182.06
Budget Year-to-Date	\$645,379.34



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9 West Calhoun
Sumter, SC 29150
Telephone (803) 773-3814

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