

# Newsletter

## First Presbyterian Church

of Sylva, North Carolina

August 2011

David Grachek, Pastor

Grace Reed, Editor

### PASTOR'S CORNER

“People do not drift toward Holiness...  
We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance;  
we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom;  
we drift toward superstition and call it faith.  
We slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into  
thinking we have escaped legalism;  
we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have  
been liberated.”

—D.A. Carson

We Christians are prone to wander as the great hymn “Come Thou Fount” reminds us. We are given free will and free choice and often when faced with a difficult choice lean towards the path that is most pleasing to us rather than perhaps God’s good and perfect Will. We have an exciting future ahead of us here at First Presbyterian Church.

My friends, even as we find ourselves in contentious times, we should realize that this time is a call for us to re-focus. We should be asking ourselves “who are we as a church and who is God calling us to be a church?” Like Peter, I feel we are all being called to focus our attention on Jesus Christ – committing ourselves to knowing Jesus Christ and making Him known.

—David Grachek

### FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR

I managed to pass one semester of Greek while I was at Montreat College and that met my foreign language requirement so I could graduate. The extent of my biblical Greek consists of the alphabet and a few words. But one of those words is "odos" and in John 14 it's translated "way" as in Jesus is the "Way" and the Truth and the Life. I like the fact that "odos" can also be translated to

mean, "road" and "journey." Jesus is the Road. Jesus is the Journey.

Over these last few months of seeking out where God seems to be calling our family we prayed that for each door He opened for seminary, we would go through it and begin knocking on the next. It seemed like door after door continued to open and we felt like we were moving closer to Portland, OR and Multnomah Seminary. But the door of our house selling was not opening and we began to wonder what the Lord was up to in all of this. It became more and more clear to Shelly and I that we were becoming not as concerned with the "Where" but the "Who" behind it. That's where the freedom has come in, because the "Who" is behind, in front, through, around, over and under it all. This experience has helped me to find the joy in the fact it's not, "Jesus is in this circumstance," or "Jesus is in that circumstance," but the reality that "Jesus Is." He's the road, the journey, the Way.

I'm also thankful for the "Way" that I'm still able to begin seminary with Multnomah through a year's worth of on-line classes, and at the same time we get to stay with our family here at First Presbyterian. A while back our church selected a nominating committee to pray over and select a Pulpit Nominating Committee. That Pulpit Nominating Committee prayed over, interviewed and discerned who God was calling to be our pastor. During that time David Grachek and his family were praying and depending on the Lord to lead them to where David would be a pastor. Through all those prayers and the guiding hand of God's Spirit, David Grachek was called to pastor our church. I look forward to the continuing opportunity to work with David and the vision God's given him for this part of the body of Christ. I look forward to seeking out what God has in store for our youth group in the months ahead. I look forward to what opportunities there may be for our church to serve our Lord, and to nurture the faiths of parents and children, young and older than young. As I look forward to what's ahead, I give thanks that no matter what it looks like, the only way we get there is by the road, the journey, the way; by Jesus Christ the crucified and resurrected Son of the Living God.

—David Cathcart

## HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY

When we hear the word, **healing**, most of the time we think of the healing stories in the NT when Jesus brought healing to people who were sick, lame, blind, or maimed in some way. And so we think primarily of physical healing. What the church has forgotten is that the Greek word for salvation in the NT is the same word that is used for healing, the word, Sode-zo. So when we look closely at healing we realize there are **different levels of healing**. The first and most important is that of our **salvation**. That is the basic healing that is needed by us all—restoration to personal, living relationship with God himself in Christ. Then the second is **emotional/mental healing**. After that comes **relationship healing** which has to do with reconciliation among people, peoples and nations. Then **healing of the land** and environment from what sinful people have done to it.

What we find in the healing-prayer ministry, is that Jesus through the Holy Spirit is **very ready** to bring the healing of **salvation** to us, and He is also **very ready** to bring the **emotional/mental healing** to us. Physical healing sometimes seems to take a lower priority, though God has given much of the physical healing ministry in the first world to medical practice. [However, as we look at the Gospels, we find that Jesus never says no to a request for healing.] The salvation and emotional healing are important for the relational healing and reconciliation between persons to take place. They are basic for the church to be able to function as the church without constantly getting de-railed by this conflict or that conflict.

By **emotional healing** I'm talking about how our lives have been affected by events that happened in the past to us especially when young children. These early events in our lives and how we react to them have affected how we react to life situations in the present. These include issues of feeling rejected or unwanted or unloved. These include quick and strong anger reactions which are actually rooted in things people have done to us in the past when they abused us either physically or verbally—or just abandoned us, or didn't pay any attention to us when very young. Probably a number of you have been sexually abused. So many of

us get a victim mentality because of wounding (This has affected our whole national culture). Some sort of woundedness happens to each of us. I know I have abandonment issues that I think root back to my mother's being sick when I was a baby.

The church tends to be unaware that it can facilitate these other levels of healing once a person receives salvation. Thus we often leave undealt-with the emotional healing which is so needed for us to experience the freedom that Christ is more than willing to bring to us. Most church people don't even know that Jesus can bring this to them.

Thus it is important that every person that belongs to Jesus seek out emotional healing from things that have happened in the past too. When we agree to seek help for the emotional brokenness that we carry, Jesus readily enters in and sets us free from the pain in those wounds. And as we become more and more free from the emotional pains and more and more free in Christ, we are able to love one another more sympathetically as our faith calls us. The healing ministry team in our congregation is preparing to help you with these needs. Please contact Sam Hale or Judy McManus if you would like to begin.

Sam Hale

## SYMPATHY to...

..Sandy Mahar's family on the death of her father Charles Salter on August 2.

..Grace Reed's family on the death of her brother John Kolb on August 17.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

..Next Sunday, September 4 – Get the school year off to a good start by coming to Rally Day at 10:00 am in the Mary Jay Patten Center. Breakfast will be provided. Come meet your teacher and enjoy food, fun and fellowship with your fellow students. Then dismiss to your classroom for a short lesson.

### **Everything I needed to know I learned in Sunday School**

Okay, so I sort of borrowed the idea from the book All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum. But it is true that the Bible is full of truth about God, and how He wants us to live our lives. He even shows us ways to do it. So we can't underscore enough how important it is to take our children to Sunday School and to go ourselves. As we begin a new school year, please make plans to attend Sunday School. There are classes for all ages. Please note the opportunities for service.

- **Nursery Attendant needed.** Jenny Porter will be teaching the preschool.
- Stacy Grachek and Linda Kelley will be teaching a combined pre-K, K.
- Kelly Doppke and Kelly Spilliards will be teaching first and second grades.
- Rev. Sam Hale will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- David Cathcart has 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Mary Kelley facilitates the College/Career/Young Adults. New book will be chosen soon.
- Bruce Henderson teaches the other “Young” Adult Class. They are currently studying the book of Acts and will then return to their study of Luke.
- **Teacher needed** for the other adult class.

..The Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Presbyterian Women Circles will begin their study of the Beatitudes in September.

..United Christian Ministry will hold a ladies clothing and accessories event on September 10, 2011. There will be no prices so everything will strictly be a donation. “Let your conscience be your guide” will be our motto. New and gently used items will be accepted on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00 am and 4:00 to 6:00 pm, on hangers if possible. We will sort and hang on Friday, September 9 and THE SALE will be Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Call Nancy Smith for more information (828) 293-5924.

..Upcoming events at Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and Families:

- Wednesday, October 12 – First Annual BMH Golf Classic. See the bulletin board in the fellowship hall for more information.
- Saturday, October 15 – Fall Festival 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Annual silent auction with theme baskets, live music, games for the kids on a glorious fall day in the mountains.

**Deadline for the next issue: September 13**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR-TO-DATE**

As of the end of July

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Income to Regular Budget	152,011	145,639
Expenses from Regular Budget	155,985	140,493

### **ARE YOU MINISTERING IN SEPTEMBER?**

#### **Coffee Fellowship:**

4 Sarah Thompson  
11 Fran & Jebby Webster  
18 Tom & Melanie Tabor  
25 Ali Large & Judy Henderson

#### **Kid's Club:**

No Kid's Club  
Jae Crawford  
Stacey Grachek  
Marlies Owens

#### **Flowers:**

Joan Yount  
Sarah Thompson  
Don & Peggy Morgan  
The Cathcarts

#### **Family Night Supper** – September 7

Fran & Jebby Webster

#### **Ushers & Greeters:**

Dave & Dottie Whitesides

#### **Deacon of the Month:**

Jebby Webster, 586-3577;  
Betty Foti, 586-6807 (alternate)

#### **Communion:** September 4

Preparers: David Noland, Dianne Scott  
Servers: David Noland, Dianne Scott, Livingston Kelley, Gloria Stockton