

# Coastal Chronicle

## Southport Presbyterian Church

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February 2009

### **From Our Interim Pastor**



Dear Members and Friends,

Is it possible that Advent/Christmas/Epiphany have come and gone, leaving us with amazing memories of preparing for and then celebrating the birth of Christ?

Is it possible that February is here, and that, before the month has passed, we will be in the season of Lent?

As the church year moves us deeper and deeper into our observance of events in the life of Christ, and as our worship calls us to deeper and deeper levels of commitment to him, I thank

God for the rhythm of the liturgical seasons and the Biblical readings that set the tone for our daily devotions and Sunday worship. I am thankful for the richness of being a part of this church at worship, the companionship of being a part of this church in fellowship and study, the joy of being a part of this church in service to the community. I hope you feel the same way, and that your faithfulness to God and to God's Church at Southport will grow with every passing season.

During this interim time, as we make a big transition from the things that are past to the things that are on the way, my prayer is that we will pray daily for God's guidance and leading. Please pray for the congregation, the Pastor Nominating Committee, the Session and all committees, Sunday School teachers, PW and Circle leaders, and the church staff, including me! Let us move with confidence into the future God has in store for us!

Love,

*Martha Jane*

### **Southport-Oak Island Food Pantry Needs Our Help**

As a regular volunteer at the Southport-Oak Island Food Pantry, Betsie Lytton wanted to share a few facts about the status of this organization during the current financial "crunch" we are all feeling right now.

- The pantry has the smallest amount of available food to distribute to those in need possibly in its history.
- More and more people are in need of this assistance than ever before. Many of these young families have children.
- All the meat, produce and bakery goods are given out and still the pantry must turn away other people. Betsie reports that they were able to provide groceries to 46 people.
- Local grocery stores do donate some of these items to the pantry, but they have had to cut back on what is available to donate.
- The people are so grateful for the help they receive through the Food Pantry.

Here is a real opportunity to provide help for people right here in our own neighborhoods. The Southport-Oak Island Food Pantry only serves those who live in Southport, Oak Island, and Boiling Spring Lakes. These families only can get food there once a month.

The Pantry is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings. Bill Hogue is the Director and has a great staff of dedicated volunteers who pick up donations from area grocery stores and shelve and distribute items to those in need.

All donations of cash and non-perishable food items are accepted gladly. Giving to the local Food Pantry is one way you can make a big difference to those less fortunate in our community.

### **A New Members' Orientation Has Been Planned**

Our next New Members' Orientation Class is scheduled for **Saturday, February 28** from **9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

This class is an opportunity to learn more about the Presbyterian Church in general and Southport Presbyterian in particular. If you have been thinking about joining the church, or if you want to know more about the church before making a commitment, you are encouraged to come and learn more about us.

Please call Madelyn Clow (253-6029) or the Church Office (457-6811) for additional information or to let us know that you plan to attend.



*Thanks  
for Caring*

To our caring church family,

Great gratitude is given to all of you for the gifts of food, transportation, time, plants, notes and concern during my knee replacement, P.T. and, extending yet today.

You are angels of thoughtfulness!

Thank you,  
*Doty and Art Armstrong And family*



### **Help Needed!**

We need Hosts/Hostesses for the fellowship time after the church service on Sundays. This is a good way to get involved at Southport Presbyterian without having a weekly or monthly commitment. You can choose the month and week that fits your schedule.

The sign-up sheet for Fellowship Hosts/Hostesses is located on the bulletin board just outside the Church Office.

We have filled the February dates. Thanks to all who have signed up already!



## **The Raleigh Ringers Are Coming!**

The Raleigh Ringers, an outstanding hand bell choir, will be in Sunset Beach, North Carolina on April 18. They will perform at Seaside United Methodist Church. This group is very accomplished and is directed by David Harris, the son of Connie and Doug Harris.

There will be more information as the date approaches. But, circle the date on your calendar now if you are interested.



## **Session Highlights January 2009**

The following actions were approved at the Session Meetings in January 2009:

- ❖ A Yard Sale will be held on June 6, 2009. Connie Harris and Debby Jacoby have agreed to co-chair this event. Debby Jacoby's garage and Chris Dudley's basement are available for storage.
- ❖ The 2009 Operating Budget was approved and will be presented to the congregation during the February Annual Meeting.
- ❖ An Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., April 12, 2009 was approved. The service will be held at Kingsley Park and a fellowship breakfast will follow.
- ❖ The Session voted to repair the fountain and enhance the current design. The estimated cost is within the previously approved amount.



## Mission News

December was truly a month when the members of Southport Presbyterian Church showed the spirit of Christmas by sharing in a number of ways. During the week of December 15, deliveries of the Angel Tree gifts were made to both Ocean Trails Nursing Home and to a special Southport family.

Their response was overwhelming. Please look at the Mission bulletin board to see the thank you notes received from both. It was a wonderful, tangible way that we show our love with the community.

The annual Christmas Joy Offering resulted in \$146.00 that reflects exceptional generosity from our congregation and an increase in giving over last year.

Pastor  
Call



## PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee is back at work weekly after a short break for the Christmas/New Year holidays. We will continue reviewing and discussing the Personal Information Forms and will be doing this for the next several months.

This is a lengthy and deliberative process - one that cannot be rushed. Please continue to keep the PNC in your prayers.



*Caring for  
Our  
Members*

## Congregational Care Committee News

The Congregational Care Committee did not meet in December. However, we were busy delivering poinsettias, Christmas door hangers, and goody bags from the PW evening circle to our homebound members. Martha Jane, Susan Spencer and Betsie Lytton took Communion to them as well. A donation was sent to the Heiffer Project in memory of Diane Price's mother.

The newly formed Cancer Support Group met once in December and once in January. Martha Jane is the leader for the group. Four members attended each meeting. Any other members of the congregation who would like to join the group or learn more about it can call Martha Jane or Susan Spencer for information.

The Presbyterian Women donated six lovely plants in bloom from the PW Winter Gathering. They have been delivered to brighten the windows of our homebound members.



## **PW Circle Meeting News**

**Morning Circle** will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, February 3 at 9:30 a.m.** We will gather for fellowship, coffee and Bible study. The topic for that morning is Chapter 5 of Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor.

All women are welcome to attend this gathering.

**Afternoon Circle** will continue its study of The God of Second Chances on **Wednesday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m.** Doty Armstrong will lead the discussion on Chapter 5.

All women are always invited to join us at our meetings in the Multi-purpose Room in the Education Building.

**Evening Circle** will meet on **Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue our study in Jubilee, Luke's Gospel for the Poor.

Anyone who would like to come is welcome. Call Judy Geck (454-8838) if you have any questions.

### **Words for the month:**

**LOVE YOURSELF....AND REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!!**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

**HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!!**

## **Warm Hot Soups – Great for a Winter Gathering!**

The PW Winter Gathering was a great success on Saturday, January 17. It filled our Presbyterian Women with assurance that spring is not too far away as we fill bowls with soil and spring bulbs. This assortment of bulbs will soon produce flowers that will announce the new season.

We also received warmth both for our spirit and for our bodies. Two hot soups were served and enjoyed. There were many requests for the recipes. Please find them below.

### **Portuguese Soup**

Serves 8

6 cups chicken stock or canned broth  
1 pound smoked kielbasa sausage, diced  
1 ½ pounds boiling potatoes, peeled and diced  
1 can kidney beans, drained  
1 (14 ½ ounce) can diced tomatoes, with spices  
Small head green cabbage, coarsely chopped  
1 medium onion chopped  
½ green bell pepper, diced  
3 garlic cloves, minced (I use minced garlic in the jar)

Combine all ingredients in large pot. Bring to boil, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat; simmer until thick, stirring occasionally, about 2 hours. Season with pepper. (Can be prepared 2 days ahead; refrigerate. Rewarm before serving)

*Mary Stober*

### **Many Bean Minestrone**

Serves 20 cups or 10 servings

Note: For vegetarian version, omit bacon. Increase oil by ¼ cup and substitute vegetable broth for chicken broth.

¾ cup dried cannellini or Great Northern beans (pick over and rinse ALL beans)  
¾ cup dried cranberry or pinto beans (“)  
¾ cup dried red kidney beans (“)  
Water  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
½ pound thickly sliced bacon, diced  
2 large onions, coarsely chopped  
5 large garlic cloves, minced  
¾ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, optional  
8-10 small sprigs fresh rosemary (tied in a piece of cheese cloth)  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
48 ounces canned chicken broth  
6 cups water  
28 ounces canned crushed Italian plum tomatoes, esp. San Marzano with basil  
6 cups coarsely chopped cabbage  
3 large carrots, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced

2 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced  
1 cup small pasta shape (ditalini or shells, cooked and drained)  
Freshly grated Parmesan cheese for serving (NO GREEN CAN!)

Place beans in a large pot and add water to cover by 3 inches. Cover and let stand overnight. Drain and rinse beans.

In a large heavy pot, warm oil over medium heat. Add bacon and cook, stirring often, until lightly crisp, 7 minutes. Leave the bacon in the pot. Spoon off all but three tablespoons of drippings. (For vegetarian version, add 4 tablespoons of olive oil.)

Stir in onions, garlic, crushed red pepper flakes and rosemary. Sprinkle lightly with salt and pepper and cook, stirring often, until tender and lightly golden, 6 minutes.

Stir in broth, 6 cups of water and beans. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer until beans are tender, about 1 hour.

Stir in tomatoes, cabbage and carrots and return to boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until carrots are tender, 20 to 25 minutes.

Add zucchini and cook 5 minutes longer.

Stir in pasta if you are serving soup immediately. Otherwise, if freezing soup, add cooked pasta after you have reheated it. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with Parmesan cheese.

*Bobbie D'Reaux*



How do you measure hope? For members of Fair Trade cooperatives, hope is measured by the cup or by the bar. For you, it may be a cup of coffee, tea or cocoa or a bite of candy. For the small independent grower, it is a cup of hope.

That bag of coffee, box of tea or bar of candy means a chance at a better life for farmers and their families. These purchases provide an opportunity to build schools and roads, improve housing and ensure a better life for their children.

The Presbyterian Coffee Project gives hope to Equal Exchange partners. Why not try a cup soon?

## **The Bell.....Ring in the New Year with Christ!!**

### **THE BELL**

#### **I KNOW WHO I AM**

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15 )  
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)  
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)  
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)  
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)  
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )  
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28 )  
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 )  
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12 )  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven ( Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)  
I belong to God  
Do you know  
Who you are?

**Keep this bell ringing...**

**'The LORD bless you and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you;  
The LORD turn His face toward you  
And give you peace...  
Numbers 6:24-26**



The schedule for the Adult Forum will begin March 1, 2009 with a Lenten Study entitled “Gospel Portraits of Jesus”. We meet in the Education Building from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. prior to the worship service on Sunday. Please plan to attend and participate in an interesting discussion.

The material for all of the Adult Forum classes can be accessed from the Yahoo Group “spcadultforum”. If you are not a member of this group, please send an email to [wgmonahan@gmail.com](mailto:wgmonahan@gmail.com).



### **Adult Bible Study**

The members of this group meets in the Library each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. We are continuing the interesting study of the Gospel of Mark.

All adults are welcome to visit and participate with us. We are a laid back group who wants to know more about the Bible and we have fun learning and sharing.

If you would like to enrich your knowledge of the Bible, please join us on any Sunday.



### **St. James Blood Drive We're Moving Because of Your Generosity.....**

Date: Monday, March 16, 2009

Time: 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Place: The Members Club Dining Room in St. James Plantation

Due to the overwhelming success of our last community blood drive, we have moved our donation site to The Members Club dining room. The expanded space, as well as an increase in Red Cross staff, will enable us to accommodate more donors and reach our new goal of eighty units.

Appointments are strongly recommended as they help us stay on time and reduce wait times, but walk-ins are welcome.

For more information and to make an appointment, please contact Sue Mills 253-8015

## TRANSFIGURATION



*Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them,  
and a voice came from the cloud:  
“This is my Son, whom I love.  
Listen to him!”*

Mark 9:7

O God, glorious and faithful,  
to those who seek you with a sincere heart  
you reveal the beauty of your face.  
Strengthen us in faith  
to embrace the mystery of the cross,  
and open our hearts to its transfiguring power;  
that, clinging in love to your will for us,  
we may walk the path of discipleship  
as followers of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

**Amen**



### **Hypothermia**

Hypothermia occurs when the body's core temperature drops too low. The very young and the elderly are more susceptible to this condition. As we age, our body may lose its ability to adjust to changes. Certain medications and illnesses also can affect the body's temperature. You should discuss these issues with your physician.

Symptoms of hypothermia include: shivering (as the body attempts to reheat), cold skin, confusion, drowsiness, apathy, numbness and, in late stages, loss of consciousness.

Treatment includes: moving to a warmer place, removing anything wet, wrapping in warm blankets, monitoring vital signs and, if the person is alert, giving him a warm drink (never any alcohol). If the body temperature goes below 95, call 911!

Prevention includes: keeping the thermostat above 65 degrees, wearing layered clothing, removing anything wet as soon as possible, eating a well-balanced diet, avoiding alcohol, walking or exercising as much as your doctor allows and discussing your medications and illness with your doctor.



## *Looking Back* **110 Years Ago – 1899**

Southport Presbyterian Church celebrated its first anniversary with 21 members. There were 30 students in the Sabbath School. The Reverend W. M. Shaw, who served all of Brunswick County, continued as Southport's minister at a yearly salary "actually paid" of \$9.50. Price Furples served as the Ruling Elder and church treasurer. Funds collected throughout the year included \$150.00 for education, \$80.00 for congregational needs and \$45.00 for benevolences.

In Southport, an ordinance was passed by the Aldermen which stated, "It is hereby declared unlawful for any person to bathe in the river and creeks within the boundaries of the city in the day time without a suit covering their entire body from elbows and neck to knees." Also, the Southport, Wilmington and Western Railroad was incorporated and chartered with plans to build a railroad between Southport and Wilmington.



### **Penny Pledge Update**

The total collection reported for December and January was \$67.10.

Interesting additions were found among the American coins: coins from Hong Kong and Canada, a few Euros and a few unknown coins.

Thanks for continuing to help the children fill the jar!



### **Prayer Concerns**

**Prayers for those in nursing homes:** Mary Caldwell, Art Armstrong, Tim Hazelton (nephew of Don Hazelton), Helen Hodson, Marion Williams (Marilyn Whitford's mother), Jean Rhudy, Betsy Snyder, Inez and Charles Kierstead, Fred Stumpp

**Prayers of Sympathy:** Family of Tony Jones, Family of O'Dell Cagle, Sr.

**Continued prayers:** Mary Alice Haynie, Karen Holdridge, Doty Armstrong, Mary Higgins, Martha and Jay Liotta, Melissa Ruelle, Jerry and Susan Spencer, Joyce and Marcia Galuski, Jan Caudill, Christy Cribb, Gilda

Rogers, Mike Hill, Lou Duke, Diane Viney, Fran Jarrett, Ruby Groves (Barbara Miller's mother), Eleanor DeCoster (Sandy Egbert's mother), Joe Thomas and family, Meg Courtright (sister of Rhodes Messick), Steve Gervase, Fred Smith (Phyllis Johanson's brother), Ann Castro, Bob Howlett, Cliff White, Susanne, Heather and John Titrington, Florence Schaller (Dorothy Johnston's sister), Morris Bevel, Jr., Jack Walker, Phyllis O'Brien, Leadell Hill (Mike Hill's mother), Melba Walker, David Furiness, Vicki Worrell, Baird Bell, Dianne Abbott, Adam Boardway, Karen Teasdale, Grace Allen, Kathy Roberti, John Seymour, Daun Boucher, Phyllis Coltrane, Tom Crum, Janet Strassberger, Bill and Rita Johnson's daughter, Carol Vignola, Lynn Sellers, Bill Nardella, Min Kerr, Ralph White



## February Birthdays

1	Mary Alice Haynie	11	Gayle Allen
	Martha Liotta	15	Linda York
	Glenda Smith	18	Mary Higgins
2	Mary Caldwell	23	Gavin Toth
	Christy Cribb	26	Sandy Burch
4	Susan Toth		Elaine Witmer
6	Trex Thomas	27	Norm Carathanasis
7	Eric Hedblom	28	Dave Caudill
8	Jan Caudill		Joan Holloway



## March Newsletter Deadlines

Welcome back devoted contributors! I hope you enjoyed your little reprieve! I think with Lent and Easter on the horizon, we may have quite a bit of news to report in the next few months. Thanks for all your good help!

**Deadlines** for the **March issue** will be:

**Hard Copies:** **Thursday, February 19, 2009** in the church office  
by 5:00 p.m.

**Email Copies:** **Friday, February 20, 2009**

to: [bobbiedreaux@ec.rr.com](mailto:bobbiedreaux@ec.rr.com) (and cc copy to the church ([spresby@bellsouth.net](mailto:spresby@bellsouth.net)) by midnight.

**Newsletters** will be **available** in church on **Sunday, March 1, 2009** and on the website ([www.southportpresbyterian.com](http://www.southportpresbyterian.com)) that weekend or sooner.



- 1 Souper Bowl following worship service
  - 14 **Valentine's Day**
  - 15 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
  - 22 Transfiguration of the Lord
  - 25 Ash Wednesday
  - 28 New Members Class
- 
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins