



PRESBYTERY OF CHARLOTTE

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*"How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing
for joy
to the living God."*

-Psalm 84:1,2

"Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!'"

- Revelation 5:11-13

This weekly update provides timely information about the Presbytery of Charlotte for the coming week and advance notice of deadlines and upcoming events. Visit us online at www.presbyofcharlotte.org for detailed information and resources for ministry.

Updates...

NEWS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OFFICE:

❖ **Planning to Nominate a Commissioner to the 219th General Assembly?**

The **219th General Assembly** is meeting **July 3-10, 2010** in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Commissioner nominations can now be submitted online! *The deadline for all nominations is December 31, 2009.* [Click here to submit a nomination form now!](#)

❖ **"Lite for Your Life,"** the inspiring radio segments taped by Presbytery of Charlotte pastors and committee members, continues to air on Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays on **Lite 102.9 FM Radio**. Each of the presbytery's spots begins airing between 7:40 and 7:45am. Next week's messages will be from the Rev. Amy Busiek (Newell Presbyterian Church), Tamara Williams, on behalf of the Alzheimer's Care Group, and Belinda Rice for Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy. **To listen to previously aired spots and to view information on WLYT, "Lite For Your Life," and read about some of the presbytery's churches/committees that will be participating, [click here](#).**

Every POC church is invited and encouraged to participate in the "Lite for Your Life" program. For more information, [read the flyer here](#).

MISSION & JUSTICE NEWS:

❖ **A Note to Our Pastors, Session Members and Persons in the Pew from the Hunger Action Work Group:**



Our *Five Cents a Meal* offering that supports 48 agencies providing hunger assistance throughout our seven counties is down about \$15,000 thru October. This is the result of primarily four of our larger churches' donations being down, and trust us – we understand. One of our larger churches and many of our smaller and mid-size churches have stepped up and given more – and some for the first time when they have never given before! We are all filling the crunch of the economy, *but* we are advocating for these agencies that are struggling to meet the ever increasing demands from families that are un/under employed and just do not have enough to feed their families. Your Hunger Action Work Group is asking each of

our congregations to consider increasing or taking for the first time – *Five Cents a Meal* offering – **"Help us to help them to help others!"** If you have questions – please contact Debbie Wilkinson, Coordinator for Mission, Justice, Hunger and Disaster Programs for the Presbytery, 704-535-9999, ext. 213 or debbie.wilkinson@presbyofcharlotte.org.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/RESOURCE CENTER NEWS:

❖ **Finding New Paths: Map Included:** Join the spirit of expectation and hope spreading throughout the Presbytery of Charlotte by attending *Finding New Paths (Map Included)*, a church transformation event, taking place **Saturday, January 9, 2010** at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. Globally known author and expert in growing congregations **Dr. Tom Bandy** will inspire us and help us move forward in our efforts to be a vibrant church for this time. Elders, staff and ministers will be immersed in the Presbytery of Charlotte's *Eight Characteristics of a Healthy Church*. Through teaching, table discussion and workshops, each will walk away inspired, encouraged and informed about their next steps toward being stronger leaders for a healthier congregation. [Click here for the brochure.](#)

❖ **Book of Order & Book of Confessions at Bulk Rates!** It's time to submit your bulk order requests for **2009-2011 Book of Order** & the **Book of Confessions** (last printed in 1999). Both are available for \$8.50. (Another bulk order for the 2010-2011 Planning Calendar and the 2011 Mission Yearbook will be available at a later date.) For details and an order form, [click here](#).

❖ **Vacation Bible School – Preview Opportunity!** Come out and preview the Vacation Bible School materials available this year! Two opportunities are available: **January 10**, at Mulberry Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, and **January 24** at First Presbyterian Church, Wadesboro. RSVP your group to Nancy Youmans, 704-535-9999, ext. 205. [View the flyer to find out more.](#)

Updates (cont'd)...

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❖ **Mark Your Calendars for the 30 Hour Famine:** The 30 Hour Famine sponsored by the Presbytery of Charlotte will take place **Saturday & Sunday, February 27 & 28, 2010**, at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. This event is open to youth in grades 6-12. The event, as always, will include features such as the pre-fast breakfast, service projects and worship. However, this year will provide new opportunities, such as a poverty simulation, World's Fair, and homelessness walk. Registration cost is \$15 per person. For more information view the [flyer](#).

❖ **Got Youth? Send Them to the Triennium!** The **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** is a gathering of Presbyterian youth and adult advisors from all over the world who will meet for a time of growth and fellowship in **July 20-24, 2010** at Purdue University in Indiana. Consider which high school students might attend from your church. For more information, click [here](#).

RESOURCES:

❖ **Influencing Faith through Family:** Read the **December issue of *Presbyterians Today*** and examine readers' responses to the invitation to write about family members who influenced their faith. Read stories of people who felt the call to ministry and mission just as their parents and grandparents had. Learn about other people whose Christian faith and bond with family has helped them through such difficult times as divorce, illness and death of a loved one.

❖ **FTE Fellowships for 2010-2011:** The **Fund for Theological Education (FTE)** has announced that it will provide \$1.5 million for the 2010-2011 academic year to theological students across the U.S. and Canada who aspire to be pastoral leaders and professors. The FTE Fellowships support talented students who are preparing for pastoral ministry and doctoral students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups who plan to teach religion, theology or biblical studies. [Find out more.](#)

WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES, & LOCAL EVENTS:

❖ **Magic of Christmas Concert:** The **Presbyterian Foundation Group** is again sponsoring a special performance of the *Magic of Christmas* by the Charlotte Symphony. This private concert will take place on **Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 7:30pm** in the Belk Theater at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte. Over the last two years, through the cooperation of many churches in the Charlotte area, the Foundation was able to give back over \$24,000 to the churches whose members purchased tickets. In the true spirit of Christmas and in appreciation for the support and participation of Presbyterians, the Presbyterian Foundation will again donate proceeds back to participating churches and organizations. Tickets are now available through the Symphony Ticket Office. Call 704-972-2000 or email ValM@charlottesymphony.org. Ticket prices are \$25 for Orchestra and \$50 for the Grand Tier. (Grand Tier tickets include complimentary parking and a pre-concert VIP reception featuring hors d'oeuvres and desserts.)

❖ **A Free Tax Tips Webinar for Ministers and Churches** will be held **December 9** from **3-4pm EST**. [Register now](#) for this FREE seminar. Learn about common errors you should be aware of as you prepare your 2009 returns, and find out how recent tax law changes could affect how you report income and expenses in 2010.

❖ **Work with youth?** Consider youth ministry afresh and alongside others who share your passion this **January 6-9, 2010** at *The Blaze* at Montreat Conference Center. Visit <http://www.montreat.org/current/2010-the-blaze> for details.

❖ **Ever wonder what conferences are available to you and members of your congregations?** View and/or download the **2010 Montreat Catalog** online, and get a glimpse of every conference offered at Montreat Conference Center!

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCHES AND MORE:

❖ **Mt. Olive PC** will hold "**100 Men in the Kitchen**," a fun-filled event for the whole family, with entertainment, door prizes, and 100 delicious dishes prepared by 100 talented men on **Saturday, December 6, from 12-6pm**. See the [flyer](#) for details.

❖ **Christ PC** (2461 Arty Avenue) will be holding their **Chrismon Open House** on **December 13, 2:00-4:00pm**. Over 400 gold and white hand-made Chrismons will be displayed on an 18' Christmas tree. Everyone is invited to enjoy hand bell entertainment, carols, cookies and hot apple cider!

❖ **Mallard Creek PC** will be having their annual **Hayride to Bethlehem** on **Sunday, December 13, 5:00-7:00pm** at their Community House (11400 Mallard Creek Road, Charlotte). This free event will be presented by Mallard Creek's 6th-12th graders. It will be fun for the whole family as they present the story of Christ's birth. [See the flyer.](#)

❖ **First United PC Christmas Events:**

- A **Christmas Nativity program** will follow the morning service on **Sunday, December 13th**. A light lunch will be served.
- A **Christmas Musical Service** will be presented on **Sunday, December 20 at 10:30am**. Enjoy the music of the chancel choir, handbell choir, a piano duet, guitarist, and others. **See the flyer** for details on First United's Christmas events.

❖ **Myers Park PC** will be having many options for Christmas worship this year, as they've discovered there are different needs for different services. Their **Travelers' Service** will be taking place **Thursday, December 17 at 7:00pm** for those who may be working or traveling during Christmas to have a chance to share in the celebration of our Savior's birth. The church will also hold **several services** on **Christmas Eve** to meet the needs of seniors, youth, and families. Read more about Advent season events on the Myers Park PC [website](#).

Joys & Prayer Concerns...

- ❖ **Family & Friends of Rev. Margaret "Margie" Huffmon** (interim pastor of the Ramah PC), after her recent passing
- ❖ **Rick Mullinax**, cancer treatments
- ❖ **Rev. Ivan Lowery**, health concerns

All prayer requests will be listed for a maximum of three weeks. If you would like to add to the list, change a listing, or keep any requests on for a longer period of time, please call 704-535-9999, ext. 200, or send an e-mail to jennifer.kroitor@presbyofcharlotte.org.

Presbytery Calendar...

Dec. 3 – Thurs.	3:00pm	Church Development Committee Meeting
Dec. 7 – Mon.	12:00pm	Clergy Women's Lunch Meeting @ Trio Restaurant
	6:00pm	Latino Steering Committee Meeting
Dec. 8 – Tues.	11:30am	COM Meeting
	2:00pm	Stewardship of Creation Meeting
Dec. 10 – Thurs.	4:00-8:00pm	CPM Meeting