



January 2010 Newsletter

**Thyatira Presbyterian Church
at Mill Bridge
Salisbury, North Carolina 28147**

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Sandra M. Kern, Pastor

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A Reverend's Reflections

Welcome to a new decade!! Time Magazine named the past decade one of the worst in the history of our nation. Two recessions, two wars, mass murders on college and school campuses, 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, etc., just to name a few of the devastating events that occurred between 2000-2009. As people of faith, these events have tested and tried us, but by the grace of God, we move forward into this new decade with hope and courage. Only God knows what lies ahead, but only God can give us the strength of purpose and perseverance to meet the challenges that this new decade will bring.

As we enter into the second decade of this millennia, I want to celebrate God's enduring faithfulness to this particular family in the Christian faith—Thyatira Presbyterian Church at Mill Bridge. The symbol of God's faithfulness for us is our sanctuary. 2010 marks the 150th year of the completion of our worship center.

In 1860 this brick building was dedicated to the worship of God here in this community. I do not know who the architect was. I do know who fashioned the brick on the outside walls—slaves, but who laid the brick and designed the cross-shaped windows and the fretwork on the entrance to the nave, are very much a mystery.

I recently had a conversation with Sabrina Roberts, the keyboardist who accompanies our contemporary worship services. She told me that the acoustics in the sanctuary are absolutely perfect. Neither the preacher, if she or he knows how to project her voice, nor the choir, really needs microphones because the sound travels so well throughout the entire building. Who knew that much about acoustical engineering back in 1860?

And here is another mystery—how did Thyatira survive the devastation of the Civil War that erupted the very same year this sanctuary was completed? Think of all the calamitous events of the past 150 years that have engulfed our nation and yet this community of faith has always had this sanctuary to remind us of God's enduring presence among us.

In 1984 the church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Dept. of Interior. In 1999, thanks to the efforts of church members and the leadership of then pastor, Steve Moss, the sanctuary was completely renovated. Brian Waller told me that a brand new basement was excavated under the building, the original flooring was put back and refinished. The pews were cleaned and replaced, walls were repaired and painted, and aisle carpet was installed. After 6 months of worshiping in Fellowship Hall, on November 14, 1999 the congregation returned to worship in the sanctuary.

At the December, 2009 stated session meeting, the elders voted to form a committee to plan a special service of worship and celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of the completion of our worship center. Paul Rogers is chair of this committee. If you would like to help Paul in the planning of this service, please call us at the church office.

God is good, and God's love is everlasting. Nothing fashioned by human hands will last forever, but for now, we give thanks to God for our sanctuary. It is an emblem of God's enduring love for us.

Blessings and happy 2010, Sandy

AROUND THE CHURCH

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND HAPPENINGS

Sunday, January 24
8:30am

Contemporary Worship

In celebration of Hispanic Ministry
in Rowan Co.,
7 churches are entering a covenant to
support our new Hispanic minister,
Jorge Alvarado.

**THE SPAGHETTI
LUNCHEON**
held on Dec. 13 sponsored
by the Youth as a
Summer Mission Trip
Fundraiser
was a huge success.
We've collected \$747.
Thank You!

Annual Congregation Meeting

Sunday, January 31
following the worship service
All 2009 committee chairs need to have
their committee's reports into the church
office by January 24. If you have any
questions, please call Carolyn.

Christmas Card Tree Donors

Phyllis Patterson
Cynthia & Beverly Hampton
Hall & Ronney Steele
Juanita & Tom Turner
Jim & Ruth Albright
Ruth Erwin
Keith & Patricia Vaughan
Sandy & Dave Kern
O.C. & Jewell Shoaf
Beulah Davis
Karen & Keith Townsend
Brian & Melissa Waller (in honor of E.K. & Carol Graham
and in memory of Randy Raymer)

Phares & Harold Sechler
Jimmy & Millicent Hoffner
Ted & Dot Luther
The Connolly Family
The Wetmore Family
Mary & Albert Moon
The Michael Belk Family
The Dorlin Kerr Family
Charlie & Carol King
Ed & Mary Hall

A total of \$800 was received!
Wishing 2010 a very special year for everyone!

Church Officers for the Class of 2012

Elders

Debbie Edwards
Doug Patterson
Phares Sechler
Keith Vaughan
Ada Sloop (2nd term Youth Elder)

Deacons

Debra Bendig
David Lambert
Stephen Milam (second term)
Randall Patterson
Neil Raymer
Ian Lambert (Youth Deacon)

Class of 2009

A special thanks to the officers of the Class of 2009 who
served us for the past three years.

Elders:
Charlie King
Ann Myers
Nora Patterson
Keith Townsend

Deacons:
Ed Hall
Crystal Hobbs
Richard Luther
Vickie Stamper
Daniel Milam (1 yr, Youth Deacon)

The Church Triumphant
Ruth Daniel Erwin
February 16, 1921 – December 17, 2009

CONGRATULATIONS TO: Claudia and Victoria Patterson for the 89 lbs. of food they raised for their birthday that has been donated to Rowan Helping Ministries-West.

Prayer Concerns

Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater, FL: O. C. Shoaf,
(recovering from heart surgery)

Baptist Hospital: Ann Myers

Carillon Assisted Living: Henrietta Sherrill

Lutheran Home:

Sadie Cress Bonnie Goodnight
Martha Dickens Mullie Varner

C/O George Calhoun: Mary Alice Calhoun

At Home: Ella Goodnight Carol King
Sadie Parker Katherine Morrison
Frank Fuller Jean Silliman
Jean Wilson Hall Steele
Ruby Erwin (with daughter, Brenda)
Helen Harrison (with son, Bobby)

Also keep in your thoughts and prayers:

- ◇ The family of Ruth Erwin
- ◇ The family of Malcolm Bullock and family on the loss of Sally Bullock
- ◇ Beverly Hough, mother of Robin Luther
- ◇ Ammie Raymer and family on the loss of her mother, Ellen Gumaer, on December 20
- ◇ Ann White is undergoing treatment
- ◇ Polly Shoaf Ritchie is in Autumn Care
- ◇ Becky Kepley-Lee, principal at Cleveland Elementary diagnosed with cancer
- ◇ Rayna Waller Gardner's new born baby boy, Ty, is recovering from surgery in the Philadelphia hospital
- ◇ A friend of Melissa Waller, Mindy Carriker's mother is undergoing cancer treatment
- ◇ Karen Doherty, daughter-in-law of Pam & Don Doherty, recovering from lung transplant surgery (Cards may be sent to her at: Karen Doherty, c/o Kara Arthur, 4467 Briarwood, Copley, OH 44321)
- ◇ Robin Hall

I thank the Men of the Church for their delicious Christmas gift to me. It eased my aging, at ninety-three, of Thyatira's oldest church attended.
Beulah Davis

Thanks to all who gave the Christmas gifts of apples and jelly, oranges, the huge bag of M&M's, a wonderful basket of breakfast goodies, the jar of delicious fruit, the lovely handmade tree ornament, the beautiful pink and white poinsettia, and the monetary gifts. Also thanks to those who have asked about Bill's hip replacement surgery. He is doing well. Your concern and warm wishes have meant so much to us both.
Sincerely
Carolyn Haggerty

CHURCH WEBSITE

Check out our new and much improved web site:
www.thyatirapresbyterian.org
beginning January 5, 2010, or thereabouts.
You will find up to date information, schedules, bulletins, and more.

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary on a particular Sunday in 2010, call the church office and let us know. The cost is \$65 for the two vases.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION REPORT

YTD budgeted contribution requirements as of Nov. 30....	\$ 195,040
YTD collection for General Fund as of Nov. 30.....	\$ 177,434
YTD miscellaneous income as of Nov. 30.....	\$ 1,774
YTD current expenses as of Nov. 30.....	\$ 180,596

The Mayonnaise Jar

(an email recently sent to the church office by one of our members)

When things in your life seem, almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day is not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and 2 cups of coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students, if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous 'yes.' The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

'Now,' said the professor, as the laughter subsided, 'I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things - family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, house, and car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff. 'If you put the sand into the jar first, He continued, there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life.

If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. So...pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal.

'Take care of the golf balls first — the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand.'

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. 'I'm glad you asked'.

It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend.'

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Janet Lambert
- 4 Nancy Kerr
- 4 Kathy Lineberry
- 7 Paul Gaylor
- 7 Lauren Luther
- 8 Raymond Harcum
- 12 Michelle Patterson
- 13 Ryan Sloop
- 14 Linda Gaylor
- 14 Melissa Waller
- 14 Mark Seaboch
- 16 Martha Dickens
- 24 John Cocca
- 25 Belinda Raymer
- 26 Glenn McCorkle
- 26 Jon McCachren
- 26 Ashley Myers
- 27 Mark Forrester
- 27 Jennifer Parish
- 29 Helen Harrison

NEWS FROM THE VEGGIE VOICES

The Veggie Voices would like to thank everyone who donated cans of veggies to make their 200 can goal a success for the Joy Gift Program. The proceeds have been sent to RHM—West.

It has been thirty years since a children's choir at Thyatira had a song book for each child. Millicent has found one, "The Best Songs for Kids" which has approximately 300 pages. If you would like to donate money to help purchase these books, please contact Millicent.

Get your voices ready — Veggie Voices will begin practice again on January 24.

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JANUARY 2010



ITEMS APPROVED BY THE SESSION AT THE DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

1. The Finance Committee recommended that a committee review the finances of the church for the past two years. David Bates, Mary Moon and Linda Rogers have agreed to serve on this committee.
2. Pastor Kern will be on vacation from Dec. 26 thru Jan. 2 of 2010. Rev. Bob Freeman will preach for us on Dec. 27. Rev. Kern will use her continuing education leave from Jan. 4 thru Jan. 18 to work on materials for her DMIN class. Rev. Steve Moss will be with us on Jan. 10 and Margaret Almeida will be here on Jan. 17, 2010. Rev. Kern will be available during this time for special needs in the congregation.
3. Staff members, as in past years, will receive a small Christmas bonus. A love offering will be collected for the pastor and presented to her on Sunday, Dec 20.
4. Contemporary Worship has been rescheduled for Jan. 24th. The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on Jan. 31st.
5. Our sanctuary will be 150 years old this coming year in 2010. A core committee of Beulah Davis, Ron Mercer and Paul Rogers will be in charge of planning a suitable worship service/celebration for us.
6. The budget of 2010 was approved by the Session. The budget, as first proposed, was just a little more than last year; however it became necessary to add \$10,000 to make repairs to the manse bathroom. The approved budget totals \$226,791.
7. The Session approved the concept of a Parish Nursing Program for Thyatira. The actual implementation depends on getting a Cannon Foundation Grant to cover the cost of setting up the program and getting it running. More detail will be given at a later date.