



The Messenger

Laurinburg Presbyterian Church

600 West Church Street Laurinburg NC 28352 910.276.0831
www.laurinburgpres.com laurinburgpresby@bellsouth.net
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From Our Stewardship Committee

2013 Stewardship Update	1/2/14
2013 Pledge Budget	\$439,805
2013 Pledge Receipts	\$437,177
2013 Pledge Difference	(\$2,628)

2014 Stewardship Update	1/7/14
2014 Pledge Goal	\$449,148
2014 Pledges Received	\$429,086
Pledges Needed	\$20,062
2014 Pledges	96% of goal

We are well on our way to completing the Stewardship Campaign for 2014. Thank you for your prompt and generous support of Laurinburg Presbyterian Church. If you have not filled out your pledge card, please help us meet our goal by mailing it to the church during the next few days.

The Stewardship Committee is also excited about the contributions that have been made to the 2 Cents a Meal Program. Our children have led the way in an effort to help others that are much less fortunate than us. The total for 2013 was \$1,301.51.

From Our Pastor

Breaking Up the Fallow Ground

"Break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord until He comes to rain righteousness on you..." (Hosea 10:12)

On a recent drive up Independence Boulevard, heading to uptown Charlotte, the demolition of abandoned structures is in overdrive. Once a stretch of Independence engulfed in hectic commerce activity, long now open-air plazas and strip malls filled with emptiness and parking lots jammed with open spaces. Yet, these abandoned buildings are being pummeled, crushed to dust, making way for lively commerce to return yet again.

The traffic and stop lights provided time for me to share stories with Candace about Reliable Music (the

music store with the best variety of acoustic guitars I've ever known), the old Charlotte Coliseum (where I saw David Robinson drop 50 points on Michigan in his last game as a college student), Ovens Auditorium, and on and on.

Far away from the urban sprawl that is Charlotte, Israel, in Hosea's day, was a nation of agrarian folk. Images of the sod, crops, and work of the land are common and helpful for integrating the secular and the spiritual. Hosea addresses them as a nation with stagnant faith (my evangelical friends refer to such folks as backsliders). Hosea employs this image of fallow ground so farmers and shepherds can relate. He rebukes them for their idolatry and sharply warns them of the impending judgments of God.

Fallow ground, once tilled, has gotten hard and now lies as a wasteland. It needs to be broken up and made soft again, before it is ready for growth.

Breaking up the fallow ground is Hosea's way of calling his people to churn under all their evil habits; clear their hearts of weeds, in order that they may be prepared for the seed of righteousness and faith. Land was allowed to lie fallow that it might become more fruitful; but when in this condition, it soon became overgrown with thorns and weeds. The cultivator of the soil was careful to break up his fallow ground before sowing seed in it. So says the prophet, *"Break off your evil ways, repent of your sins, cease to do evil, and then the good seed of the word will have room to grow and bear fruit."*

As 2014 begins, may we break up the fallow ground at LPC. Churn under all the old, thorny, overgrown places in our congregation that need to be refreshed and renewed. The session initiated this process with a strategic retreat to begin the new year. How can we as a church turn under the stale and dried up ground for new pliable ground for spiritual growth?

As 2014 begins, maybe we need to break up the fallow ground of our own hearts. We must begin by

looking within to examine carefully the state of our hearts and minds to see where we are. While many people never even seem to think about doing this, may we exam our lives and break up the fallow ground. Self-examination consists of looking at your life, considering your motives and actions.

May we allow the Spirit to plow through the fallow areas of our lives. Let us begin anew in the Spirit. The results will be a fruitful harvest of godly living for us that that will be a witness to others of God's presence in our lives and in the life of our congregation.



Join us for Sunday Worship

January 12, 2014 Baptism of The Lord Sunday

During worship, we will install our newly elected officers, and celebrate communion. Please note that our communion wafer are gluten-free.

Neal's sermon: *Won't Back Down*
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;
Matthew 3:13-17
495 We know That Christ Is Raised
505 Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread
524 Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

January 19, 2014

2nd Sunday of Ordinary time

Neal's sermon: *What Are You Looking For?*
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; **John 1:29-42**
476 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!
314 Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song
522 Lord, When I Came Into This Life

In lieu of flowers a donation has been made to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory of Mr. W. R. Dulin, Rev. and Mrs. D. H. Dulin by Mrs. Sibyle Dulin

January 26, 2014

3rd Sunday of Ordinary time

Neal's sermon: *Zebedee INC.*
Isaiah 9:1-4 (Roman Catholic: Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3)
Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

477 Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
375 Lord of All Good
369 I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

The flowers today are given in loving memory of Cornelius Bushoven, Jr. on the 100th anniversary of his birth by his family.

February 2, 2014

4th Sunday of Ordinary time

Scout Sunday (104th Anniversary of Scouting)

Scout will be leading in worship and ushering

Neal's sermon: *Nice Words*

Micah 6: 1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;
Matthew 5:1-12

462 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
405 What Does The Lord Require
536 Lord, Make Us More Holy

Sunday Worship Service is broadcast on WLNC 1300 Sunday at 11 am, & on the internet (wlncradio.com) On TV Channel 2 Sundays at 10 am and Tuesdays at 8 pm for the previous week's service.

The Membership Committee is also showing Sunday's service at Scotia in the MMEC at 2 pm for the same day's service. The church office is providing large print bulletins and hymns.

Placing Flowers in the Sanctuary

The Flower Calendar, maintained by Lynn Mason, is posted in the office. If you would like to put flowers in the church on Sunday, please contact Lynn Mason 280-1417 to see what dates might be available.

The Worship Committee is pleased to offer the use of two colored silk flower arrangements (or white for communion Sundays) to be place in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Because the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used often to discreetly help those in our congregation and community who are in need, we are hopeful that some who wish to honor loved ones might choose to make a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund instead of purchasing flowers. The silk flowers would be used for that Sunday and the bulletin would read, "In lieu of flowers this Sunday, _____ has made a donation to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund in memory (or in honor) of _____."

Jim Wallis of Sojourners offers a few ideas that the Church should consider for 2014.

Some of the ideas that he presented are:

Honestly answer the question “Why in the world would anyone want to come to this church?”— I believe that this is the biggest question that every church must ask itself. How one answers this question affects the ministry, outlook, and mission of the church. If you answer this question honestly, the answer might surprise you and scare you all at the same time.

Try Something New—One of the complaints is that the church is stuck in the 1950s. Let’s expand our horizons and try something new. In every church I have ever worked or preached in, I have heard “we like things the way they are.” I’m not calling for the church to re-orient the sanctuary but try something, anything. There are great new modern hymns, new Bible translations and worship styles just waiting to be used. Give them a try, you might actually like them. If God can make all things new, then why not take God up on the offer; you’ll never know what’s out there until you try.

Pass The Torch—The younger generations in many churches are waiting to be able to take over the reigns and serve God, but some people are unwilling to let go. The year 2014 is the time. Let’s inject some new life in stale committees/ministry teams/church leadership. Hearing how a different generation or segment of the population understands and seeks out the Divine is a wonderful learning experience. “Do not let your own preferences and comfort segregate an entire generation from service to the church.” The church cannot tell the next generation to “wait your turn” any longer.

Fail (a Lot if You Have to)— The fear of failure is one of the biggest impediments to ministry. No one wants to devote time, effort, energy, and even money to a project that is going to fail. I completely understand. However, through the act of failure we are able to examine what went well and what didn’t. Failure is a necessity for innovation. Edison failed hundreds of times before he perfected the light bulb. The church is not immune to failure so we should stop acting

like it.

Join the 21st Century— In 2000 having a website was a luxury; now it’s a necessity. More and more people share, learn, collaborate, and access news from pop culture to current world events thanks to the power of the Internet. The church, however, has been lagging behind in this category. Too often this is delegated to a committee or a person who will update it if/when there is time. One of the biggest turnoffs for many people is a website that hasn’t been updated in six months. There are many different resources to record sermons, worship services, etc. Many of them are free or fairly cost effective. If a website is too daunting of a task or too expensive, then maybe look into Facebook and Twitter; they are pretty user friendly and also free.

Review Mission Statement— Many churches have mission statements; they are the words that guide the ministries of that congregation. There is one small problem: Hardly anyone in the congregation (the pastor included) can recite it. A mission statement should be simple enough to remember but still encapsulate the church, which can be challenging. If your church hasn’t even looked at the mission statement in the past decade, it’s time to. Every ministry project of a congregation should reflect this statement; it doesn’t have to be verbose, it doesn’t have to be complex but, it does have to be real.

Read More (books, blogs, Bible)— Some followers of Christ do not have a regular reading routine. Many people know the stories and know the characters in the Bible, but that is it. Some are busy with their jobs, lives, kids, etc. and cannot find the time to fit one more thing in. There is a treasure trove of theological thought from Christian bloggers/authors/theologians from various walks of life. They bring a new perspective on the world and Christianity. They help to form conversations and articulate thoughts in differing ways thus opening the conversation up more. Taking time to read the Bible, blogs, and books (religious and nonreligious), we can see how the story of God can be told over and over again in many different ways.

Study More— Why are we going to the Bible to only reinforce what we already know? Let’s take some time in 2014 to look at the Bible with fresh eyes, listen for the voice of God with open ears, and

have open, honest, faithful conversations. Billions of people have read the Bible over thousands of years and yet each time we approach the text we find something that we had never noticed before. Try different ways of reading the Bible like lectio divina or examen prayers. Try a new translation or commentary. Be open to what God is speaking to you and your church, it might surprise you (in a good way).

Love More—Sadly the church has received an unfortunate reputation of being cold and unloving. Now hear me out, I'm not saying that all churches are this way but every church can be more loving. Love in my opinion is at the heart of the gospel but if our love is bound by conditions then we are squandering a free gift, the free gift of God's love given to all. (See I John 4:19.) I'm not talking about "love the sinner, hate the sin" mentality either; love is extended to all people from God. Christ's teaching to love our neighbor as ourselves cannot be limited. Love and care for all of humanity is the basis of the ministry of Jesus; let's open our hearts and our doors and love all people no matter what.

Stop targeting "young people" (especially if you are not going to do what it takes to keep them)— First off, young people aren't lazier than the previous generation and it's not the iPhone's, MTV's, or the Devil's fault that they aren't attending church. We know the stats and we see it happening in churches across the country — young people are leaving the church and they are leaving it in droves. Try as they might some churches are not willing to allow new, fresh, differing ideas, thoughts, theologies, and beliefs in their church building. There is this unwritten understanding that "we want people to come and experience the Jesus we know even if it doesn't speak to them." This is another door slammed in the face of the next generation. The younger generations do not want to join committees or organizations; they want to join causes. This is a huge shift from previous generations but it's one that the church must recognize. As a minister friend once told me, "the church has lost its particularity in society." He's right; why go to church if it means serving on a committee when you can make just as much of difference with CASA or United Way or Habitat for Humanity? Churches that have a cause to unite others with ministries they are passionate about will generally have the younger generation more invested.

Promote Justice— Justice comes in many different shapes and sizes and is part of the gospel of Jesus Christ. There are simple steps that churches can do to promote justice in the world. One way that I like to promote justice is ensuring that the coffee I drink is from organizations that are Fair Trade Certified. These groups work with co-ops and farmers to make sure that the workers that pick the beans for your morning cup of Joe get paid a fair wage; it's a win-win. You get great coffee (or tea or chocolate) and the workers can provide for their families. There are dozens of organizations focusing on the promotion of justice in the world like International Justice Mission and World Vision International to name a few. God is calling the church in 2014 to look outside of its walls and extend the healing ministry of Christ to all people, in all places, and at all times.

—Jim Wallis of Sojourners

Presbyterian Women

**Circle 1 meets Monday, January 13
in the Fellowship Hall at 7 pm**

Valentine Candy for Our College Students

In early February, PW will be sending Valentine candy to our church members who are in college. Parents and college students we need your college mailing addresses for the annual PW Valentine candy boxes. Please send student's name and mailing address with zip code to laurinburgpresby@bellsouth.net as soon as possible. Thank you.

Circle members if you would like to make candy/trail mix, etc., please notify Mary Margaret Miller (mmbwt@yahoo.com or cell: 384-2250). Candy or mix needs to be individually wrapped, and delivered to the church kitchen by Tuesday, Feb. 4. If you are not a candy maker, donations to defray the cost of postage would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Scholarships

Each year Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina offer scholarships to any full time student enrolled in accredited institutions of higher learning. Preference is given to students attending Presbyterian colleges. The scholarship

forms can be picked up outside the church office, and the deadline for submission to the Presbytery is Friday, February 14, 2014. Get one now and get an early start! Our Presbyterian Women offer 3 other scholarships. These application forms will be available later in January.

Blanket Project

Every January we have the opportunity to answer a cry for help coming from families living in extreme conditions such as homelessness, famine, war, poverty, or natural disaster. This program has been a steady supplier of wool, cotton, and eco-friendly Ingeo (corn) relief blankets for humanitarian work around the world. Blankets cost \$5. Our collection will be received on Sunday, January 26.

Laurinburg Presbyterian Women's Retreat

February 21-February 23, 2014 Ocean Isle Beach
All women of the church are invited to attend. Let your circle leader or Sue Schulz know if you plan to attend.

PW Coordinating Team Monday, January 27 at 7 pm
February Circle meetings Monday Feb. 3

Sue Schulz, Moderator
schulzsula@gmail.com

From the Deacons

Thank you so much for your help with Christmas Cheer this year! We sponsored 10 families who were very grateful for our generosity! Thank you to all of you who got tags off the tree, helped deliver gifts to families & all the other jobs (typing tags, cutting tags, sticking & hanging tags & sorting) it took to make this year a success!! Thank you so very much!!!

Youth Sunday Evenings at 5:45

The Sr. High Baked Potato Fundraiser has changed and moved up one week to Wednesday, January 22.

Souper Bowl of Caring	Sunday, Feb. 2
(Bring canned foods/money to donate to the hungry collections taken prior to worship)	
Charlotte CROSS Weekend	Feb 14-16
Winterplace Ski Weekend	Feb 28 to Mar 2
Montreat Youth Conference*	July 14-19

*(open to rising 9th though graduating seniors)

Wednesday Night Meal & Fellowship

At 6 pm, we invite you to join us for dinner and Wednesday night programs in the fellowship hall.

Dinner reservations/cancellations needed by 1 pm Wednesday. Sign up on the friendship pad, call Lu in the church office 276-0831, x. 301 or email laurinburgpresby@bellsouth.net Meal cost: \$7 per adult, \$3.50 for children 12 & under; Family of 4: \$21; More than 4: \$23.

Wednesday, January 15

Boston butt, field peas, roasted potatoes, collards, tossed salad, tea and dessert

*****Wednesday, January 22 - Sr. High Fund-raiser*****

Baked potatoes with toppings, salad, and home-made desserts. Come support our youth!

Wednesday, January 29

Grilled chicken, mac and cheese, green beans, glazed carrots, tossed salad, tea and dessert

Wednesday, February 5

Pork chops, rice and gravy, vegetable casserole, cooked apples, tossed salad, tea and dessert

Contacting Staff

Lu's office hours are Mon.-Thurs. 8am-5pm and Friday 8am-Noon. Remember the staff will be able to receive voicemails to their smartphones/iPhones anytime; just call LPC 276-0831, when you hear Lu's voice you can dial the extension number immediately.

Lu Fowler ext. 301 cell 217-0657
laurinburgpresby@bellsouth.net
lufowler@gmail.com

Neal Carter ext. 302 cell 280-9688
carterneal@bellsouth.net

LeGette McLean ext. 304
legettemclean@bellsouth.net

José Rivera ext. 305 cell 414-218-2822
jriver45@gmail.com

Priscilla Graham ext. 306
graham.priscilla@gmail.com

Christian Nurture and Education

Sunday Mornings

Nursery: Darlene Swing, caregiver

Two Children's Classes:

Explorers for 3 year olds through 1st Grade first floor

Trekkers for 2nd Grade through 5th Grade upstairs

These classes will be taught at 11:20 following the children's sermon.

Four Adult Classes:

Men's Bible Class meets at 9:45 in the Session room.

3M's Class meets at 9:45 off the fellowship hall.

Men's Bible Class and 3M's Class use the Uniform series.

Fun Adult Class meets at 9:45 off the fellowship hall.

Part Time Adults upstairs starting at 10 am.

Neal Carter teaches the weekly lectionary passages.

CNE encourage you to find a class that fits your needs. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful and experienced teachers in our church. Don't miss this opportunity to share in the faith and fellowship of community.

TOT: Theology on Tap

Tuesday, January 14 at the Downtown Club.

We start gathering for food, drink, and fellowship at 6 pm. Discussion begins at 7. Mark your calendars for the second Tuesday of each month as we continue to discuss, laugh, think, and grow in the faith.



Congratulations

On Saturday,
December 14, 2013
Stone Phillips received
his Eagle Scout Award.

Stone is the son of John
and Sherrie Phillips, and
older brother of Ryan.

Celebrating Birthdays

John Decembrino	01/09
Scott Poage	01/09
Jane Tornow	01/09
Marty Sutherland	01/10
Owen Bruner	01/12
Craig Ellis	01/13
Sherry Fox	01/13
Bill Parker	01/14
Sam Thompson	01/14
David Herr	01/15
Mac McLaurin Jr	01/16
Hewitt Fulton Jr	01/17
Herman Gillis	01/17
Ann Hill	01/17
Sammy Simmons	01/18
Carol Coughenour	01/19
Mildred Scharstein	01/19
Susan Wentz	01/20
George Melton	01/22
Stephen Bridgeman	01/23
Mary Frances Fitch	01/23
Ervin Hill	01/24
Lynn Massey	01/24
Kenslee Hecht	01/25
Allen McLaurin	01/25
Jane Murray	01/25
Will Purcell III	01/25
Charlotte McLean	01/26
Debra Sutherland	01/26
Sophie Freeman	01/28
Flora Wells	01/28
Stone Phillips	01/30
Emma Herr	01/31
Betsy Massey	01/31
Pete Liles Jr	02/03
Lucy Sojka	02/03
Kristen Anderson	02/04
Alec Braswell	02/04
Hugh McArn Jr	02/04
Daniel Caudill	02/05
Stuart Carmichael	02/06
Debby Holcomb	02/06
Apita Waters	02/07
Bill Carmichael	02/08

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Sherrill Gustafson

July 5, 1929 - December 24, 2013

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord
henceforth; that they may rest from
their labors for their deeds follow them.*

Revelation 14:13

Congregational Concerns

Christian Sympathy is extended to Tommy Britt in the death of his stepfather, to the family of Helen Gustafson in her death, and to Sarah Bullock in the death of her sister-in-law.

In Chapel Hill:
Creed Sellers

Continuing Concerns:
Emery Boger (Lillian's son), Courtney Carmichael, Jacque Doubles, Susan Hardy, Ray McCormick (Virginia Ann's brother), Frances Shannon

At Scotia SNF:
Edna Drake, Virginia Johnson, Jack Hanna, Mary Hafer, Ann Hill, Frances Hopkins, Edna McKeithen, Janet Petris, Mary Lee Shaw

At Scotia Special Care:
Anne Collins, Reba Essey

At Scottish Pines:
Thelma Morgan, Mary McDonald, Pauline Bruner

At Morgan Center:
Katherine Edmund

At Prestwick:
Dooda Robertson, Lois Muse

Celebrating a birth:

Landon Michael Huddleson, son of Jason and Kristi Caddell Huddleson was born on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2013. Danny and Carolina Caddell are the proud grandparents.

Thank You to Our Volunteers

NURSERY

Jan 12 Jane & Ashlyn Murray
Jan 19 Carol & Haley Sellers
Jan 26 Sue Schulz, Grace Wilkinson

ACOLYTES

Jan 12 communion
Jan 19 Emma Herr
Jan 26 Katie Carmichael
Feb 2 Daniel Caudill

BUS DRIVERS remember to pickup at Scotia 10:15

Jan 12 Jimmy Stubbs
Jan 19 Scott Sellers
Jan 26 Eddie Carmichael

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Jan 12 Phil Waters
Jan 19 Phil Waters
Jan 26 Chuck DeVaney
Feb 2 Chuck DeVaney

GREETERS Sanctuary Doors

Jan 12 Clint & Carlene Willis
Jan 19 Sue Schulz, Shirley Pait
Jan 26 Nick & Lucy Sojka

GREETERS Office/Fellowship Door-Elders

Jan 12 Allen McLaurin
Jan 19 Craig Ellis
Jan 26 Beth Elliott

GREETERS Elevator Door-Deacons

Jan 12 Amy Sloop
Jan 19 Kevin Patterson
Jan 26 Jamie Synan

USHER TEAM 4

Bradley Williams, lead
Tommy Britt, John Clark, David Herr, Bill Hill, Wayne Hobbs, John Massey, Fred Mabry, Don Ohl, Michael Sellers, Sammy Simmons, Jamie Sutherland, Philip Wilkinson, Drew Williamson, Greg Wood

Volunteers needed to open and close the church on Sunday mornings. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Celeste McRae, 280-1615.

On the Calendar...

Sundays: 9:45 am SS Adults; 11 am Worship; 11:20 am Children's Church School
12:15 pm Whitechapel Ringers; 5:45 pm Youth

Wednesdays: 6-7 pm Fellowship Meal & Program
6:30-6:55 Children's Music; 7:15 pm Chancel Choir

Sun 1/12 11 am Installation of Officers & Communion

Mon 1/13 PW Circles 1 at 7 pm in the fellowship hall

Tues 1/14 6 pm Theology on Tap at Downtown Club
7 pm Boy Scout Court of Honor

Thurs 1/16 5:30 pm Childcare; 7 pm Finance

Mon 1/20 7 pm Session Meeting

Wed 1/22 6 pm Sr. High Youth Fund-raiser

Sun 1/19 11 am Worship and Baptism of Jackson David Synan

Sun 1/26 11 am Worship and New members joining & January collection of 2 cents a meal

Sun 2/2 11 am Worship and Souper Bowl of Caring collection for hunger
4 pm Deacons' Meeting

Non-Profit Organization
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Laurinburg, NC 28352

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