



The Pilgrim

A Message from the Minister

Recently, we have been asked to give. We've been asked to give to the Backpack Buddies ministry. We've been asked to give to Week of Compassion (WoC) for Haiti relief. We've been asked to give to the animal shelter. And, now it is time for the annual Week of Compassion offering and we are asked to give again.

As, Christians, giving is what we do. In his final moments with his disciples, Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" "Yes," Peter replied. "Feed my lambs," Jesus told him. "Tend my sheep." Three times, Jesus passionately repeats his instruction, pressing his followers: If you love me, take care of the people I love. Live your love for me by actively tending these for whom I have sacrificed everything. (John 21:15-19)

Two years ago, I spent time at Christmount with Johnny Wray, the former WoC director. He told us of the many ways that WoC takes care of people – from people hit by tornadoes in North Carolina to people hit by earthquakes in Haiti. In true Disciples' fashion, WoC works across denominational lines to meet basic needs in Christ's name in our own neighborhoods and throughout the world. The members of the family of God — from those we know to distant sisters, brothers, and cousins in parts of the world we may never visit — are God's flock, the sheep of God's pasture (Ezekiel 34:31).

Jesus calls us to tend his sheep caught in situations of deep need. I know that in in challenging times, we often wonder how much we can afford to sacrifice to

help feed Jesus' beloved sheep, when our own needs remain pressing. Perhaps only our prayerful conscience can answer that. But remember the feeding of the 5,000: when Jesus asked the disciples to feed the crowd, the disciples despaired (Mark 6:34-44). The five loaves and two fish seemed insignificant compared to the massive need. Yet when each gave sacrificially from what they had, through God's blessing, their gifts turned into a miracle of compassion for all.

Lea can be contacted via email: wilsonsmillscc@gmail.com.

Worship Attendance
January 3 —50
January 10—76
January 17 — 58
January 24— 49
January 31—TBA

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9:45 A.M. Coffee
10:00 A.M. Sunday School
11:00 A.M. Worship

Your input needed....



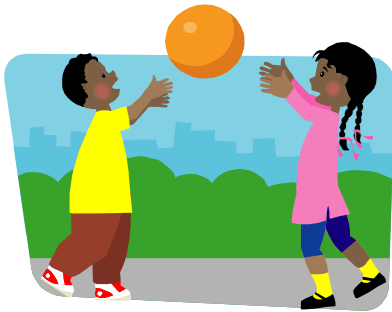
As you know, Wilson's Mills Christian Church made the decision to tithe our budget. Biblically, the tithe represents the 'first fruits' and 10% of what we receive. So, 10% of what we receive in this church is given to outreach that supports our church mission statement: "In recognition of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) the mission of Wilson's Mills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to reach out in ways that bring both people from the surrounding community and within the church into a relationship with Jesus Christ resulting in faithful, passionate discipleship. Our discipleship will be defined by our love (Do we love God, our neighbors, and each other? Matt. 22:36-40), our service (Do we serve God, our neighbors and each other? Matt. 20:26-28), and our witness (Do we witness for God to our neighbors and each other? Matt. 24:14: 28:19).

Last year, some of the organizations who received portions of our tithe were Harbor House, Christmount, Camp Caroline, Christian Children's Fund, Hospice House, Smithfield Rescue Mission, Council on Aging, Reins from Above Riding Center, Community Action...just to name a few. Based upon YOUR recommendations, the Membership and Evangelism Committee designated these agencies as recipients of our tithe. This year, we again very much want congregational input. You may know of organizations that could benefit from financial assistance as they seek to minister to the least of these. If so, please put your recommendation in writing and include the name and address of the organization, your reasons for wanting to support the organization, and a contact person and phone number. You may give your recommendation to Louise Mills-Dumoncaux by February 28. The Membership and Evangelism Committee will review all recommendations and make a decision about our tithe from 2009 and where it will best be put to use. Throughout the year, if there are organizations that you believe support our mission, please let us know in writing as we will continue to make our tithes to God.



Welcome to the world
Olivia Paige!
January 16, 2010.
Congratulations to
Ashley & Seth Reffit!

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<p>Mid-Week Lenten Services</p>	<p>Logos</p>
<p>During the Lenten season, Smithfield Area Ministries invites you to attend a Series of Mid-Week Lenten Services hosted by First Presbyterian Church at 215 S. Third Street Smithfield, NC every Wednesday at noon. The scheduled preachers are as follows (and two of them are Disciples!):</p> <p>February 17—Ash Wednesday Service Fr. Ken Miller St. Paul’s Episcopal Church</p> <p> February 24, The Rev. Lea Slaton Wilson’s Mills Christian Church</p> <p>March 3, The Rev. Christopher Ingram Sharon Baptist Church</p> <p> March 10, The Rev. Jerry Burton Mill Creek Christian Church</p> <p>March 17, Bishop Richard W. Johnson St. Peter Church of Christ</p> <p>March 24, Msgr. Michael Clay St. Ann Catholic Church</p>	<p>By the time you are reading this newsletter, Logos has begun! We have volunteers to teach bible study and crafts. We are looking for help with our Missions segment and Recreation Time which happen from 5:30-6:00 each Thursday night. If you have any time to give, let Carrie Ragland know. The Missions portion would not involve planning and the Rec. time would only involve minimal planning. The Education Committee would be more than happy to provide ideas. We just need the man/woman power! Thanks for helping when you can!</p> 
<p align="center">Bible Study Kick-Off</p>	
<p>Adult Bible Study of the Minor Prophets (for women and men) will begin on Sunday, February 7. Yes, I know, that is also Super Bowl Sunday, but fear not, Bible study will not interfere with Super Bowl plans. In fact, in honor of the Super Bowl on February 7, we will KICK-OFF our study right after church with lunch for Bible study participants. If you are planning to participate in the study (and will be here for lunch), please let Carrie Ragland know so that we can plan the meal. Dr. James Ashmore, professor of Old Testament studies at Shaw University Divinity School, will eat lunch with us and then talk with us about the history of the prophets. He will set the stage for the rest of our studies. Dr. Ashmore will also preach for our morning worship service, so come enjoy him! From Feb. 14 through March 28, the Bible study group will meet at 4PM.</p>	

February Worship Service

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Church Appointments	Lauren Trogdon Linda Wilson Dawn Hodge	Lauren Trogdon Linda Wilson Dawn Hodge	Lauren Trogdon Linda Wilson Dawn Hodge	Lauren Trogdon Linda Wilson Dawn Hodge
Elder	Alex Wilson	Ginger Lee	Linda Ramsey	Janet Stephenson
Deacons	Trudy Carter Whitley Stephenson	Rose Thompson Joe Slaton	Carrie Ragland Nina Murray (Junior Deacon)	Jason Lawhorn Armando Mejia
Worship Leader	Lea Slaton	Paula Bennett	Trey Ragland	Sarah Barnhart
Nursery	Linda & Ariana Ramsey	Dawn & Brenna Hodge	Karen Klahre Leanne Bronson	Paula Bennett Shirley Betti
Acolytes	Patrick McCarthy	Oscar Mejia	Nora McCarthy	Angel Sauls
Paraments	Green	Green	Purple	Purple

Birthdays



Feb. 2	Sunisha Shavers	Feb. 16	Gladys Caddell
Feb. 4	Jim Wilson	Feb. 22	Travis Stephenson
Feb. 5	Josh Ryan	Feb. 23	Lynn Stephenson
Feb. 8	Dorothy Proctor	Feb. 23	Elizabeth Mooty
Feb. 8	Janet Stephenson	Feb. 25	Tyler Dumonceaux
Feb. 13	Yancy Strickland	Feb. 27	Ron Foxworth
Feb. 14	Alex Wilson	Feb. 28	Zack Parrish
Feb. 15	Bryan Eatmon		

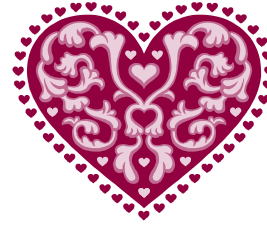
Tithes and Offerings

	Pledged	Pledges Rec.	Difference	Donations
December	\$9,678	\$14,933	\$5,255	\$1,015
Year to Date	\$116,136	\$105,278	(\$10,858)	\$13,353

Post this page on the refrigerator!

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February 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Handbells 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	4 LOGOS 5:30 PM (Super Bowl)	5	6
7 Bible Study Kick-Off noon	8	9	10 NO Hand- bells Choir 7:00 PM	11 LOGOS 5:30 PM (Valentine's Day)	12	13
14 Adult Bible Study 4PM	15 Valentine Banquet	16	17 Ash Wednes- day Service 7 PM	18 LOGOS 5:30 PM (Week of Compassion)	19	20
21 Elders' Mtg noon Adult Bible Study 4PM	22	23	24 Handbells 6:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM	25 NO LOGOS	26 CY F Activity TBA	27
28 Adult Bible Study 4PM	Lea will be attending Pastors' School at Stetson University in Deland, Florida Tuesday, Feb. 2 through Friday, February 5. Should there be any pastoral emergencies, please contact Trey Ragland (your Board chair) at either 550-8251 or 369-2014; or Ginger Lee (your elder chair) at 218-4058 or 553-3031. A local minister will be on call.					

Post this page on the refrigerator!

Offering

A video has floated around the internet with a man dancing down an aisle to make his offering. I don't know the amount he gave, but he gave with passion!

Our giving on Sundays in an act of worship. And, worship is not primarily to receive blessings from God but to make offerings to God. Ancient people presented offerings in the form of sacrifices. In the New Testament, worshipers gave sacrificially in faith and obedience.

That is what makes giving as worship different from making a car payment: our giving symbolizes our union with God and the giving of ourselves to God. When we give, we express our love and a desire to spread God's love.

We start the offering with a brief statement or Scripture verse about the meaning of giving. The intent is to prepare minds and hearts for presenting gifts. When the gifts are brought to the altar, we sing a doxology to praise God in our act of giving and to keep God front and center in our act of giving. We pray a dedication prayer asking God to accept our gifts and trusting God to use them for bringing his reign to earth.

That is something we are passionate about! While we may not dance, our spirits should lift at the thought of being part of God's redeeming work in the world and at the thought of the Almighty God accepting a gift from us.

Worship News...

The 2010 Lenten season begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 7 PM. Ash Wednesday takes its name from the ceremonial imposition of ashes on the foreheads of worshipers as a reminder that we constantly need to turn our hearts back to God. It's a wonderful way for our church family to begin the Lenten season. Please plan to join us. Childcare will be provided.



Beginning this month, if you are scheduled for appointments, please make sure that there are sufficient communion supplies on hand (juice, Pita bread, and mini-Italian

loaf from Food Lion). Juice is furnished by the church – call Linda Wilson if low. You can buy a month's supply of the mini-Italian loaves at Food Lion and store them in the church freezer. If we are serving communion by intinction and need a fresh loaf, the minister will let you know. If you would like, you may give your bread receipts to Alex Wilson for reimbursement.

Finally, the Worship Committee is pleased to announce that Christopher Ray will be joining Mary Ann as a regularly scheduled pianist! Pianists are in short supply in Johnston County and we are thrilled to have both Mary Ann and Christopher sharing their gifts with us!

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Prayer Concerns

Ina Mae Lee	Betty Parrish	Donald Coates	Ione Gainey
Patricia Scheumann	Joan Hunt	Cathy New	Ruth Ryan
Jeff Trask	Billy Blackmon	Zilphia Bailey	Cheryl Bryant
Donita Byrd Jones	Jeff Trask	Michelle Stephens	People of Haiti
Frank Yansom	Jody Wiley	Peggy Norris	

Tee-Shirts



We've had several requests for WMCC T-shirts. If you would like to order a shirt, you may do so on-line at: http://www.zazzle.com/donnapool* If you do not have computer access and would like a shirt, please let Lea know.

Education News...

The members of the Education committee for 2010 are Kevin Daughtry, John Dumonceaux, Rachel Konneker, Allison Lawhorn, Carrie Ragland (chair), Ashley Reffit and Sherri Yaroch. We had our first meeting for the year on January 13th. We discussed many possibilities for how our committee can best plan educational opportunities for all age groups in our congregation. We are currently working on getting Logos up and running for the Spring, planning ideas and activities for our Youth and creating a nursery ministry. If you would like to help in any of these areas, let Carrie Ragland (Ed. Chair) or an Ed. Committee member know! We would love to have you on board!

On February 26th we will have our first Youth activity for 2010! We will gather at the Hodge's home from 6-8 pm for fun, food and fellowship. Sherri Yaroch will lead the Youth Group this year and needs your help! If you are willing to plan an activity or host a Supper Study at your house let her or Carrie know! We are eager to get the CYF up and going again! If you are interested in being added to our CYF email list, contact Carrie Ragland and she will add you!

The Education Committee is working on ideas to turn the nursery in our church into a ministry. We have a few people who have volunteered to care for our children each Sunday. We are looking for a few more who would be willing to give one Sunday a month to care for the youngest members of our church family. The responsibilities would include a brief lesson and spending time showing these little ones how much they mean to us. Our committee (and the Moms and Dads of these little ones) are excited about the chance to have some consistency in our nursery. If you are interested in learning more, contact Carrie Ragland.

**WILSON'S MILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)**

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ADULT CHOIR



Our adult choir is up and singing again! If you enjoy making a joyful noise, please let Dawn Hodge know or just show up for rehearsal on

Wednesdays at 7PM. If you have an interest in leading the choir, let Dawn know that too!

Valentine's Banquet
Monday, Feb. 15th
6:30 pm