

THE SANDHILLS SCRIBE

AUGUST 2008

A NEWSLETTER OF SANDHILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ August 24 - Youth & Parent Cook-Out
- ◆ September 12-14 Family Camping Trip to Jellystone Park in Tabor City, NC
- ◆ October 3-5 Mountain Man Camping Trip

WELCOME - THANK YOU FOR READING

Thank you for reading our first issue of The Sandhills Scribe, a newsletter for Sandhills PCA. We are making every effort to improve communication and this is another step to keep everyone informed. This newsletter will include the various ministries of our church and will vary from month to month.

CHURCH COMMUNICATION OPTIONS

Would you like to know more about what is going on here at Sandhills PCA? There are many ways to stay informed!

CHURCH WEBSITE: Our website has recently been redesigned. So, if you have not seen it lately, take a look! We now have announcements, the bulletin, sermons, pulpit committee updates, information on many of the ministries at Sandhills PCA, and more available on the web. (This newsletter and archived newsletters are there too!) www.sandhillspca.org

EMAIL: You can receive emails from Sandhills PCA for various announcements. If you are not receiving them and would like to, please call (692-5834) or email the church (sandhillspca@nc.rr.com) office to sign up.

NEWSLETTER: This is our first issue of a church-wide newsletter. You may receive this newsletter via email or paper mail. You may also pick up a copy of this at church or you may view it on the website.

PRAYER CHAIN: If you would like to be a part of a vital ministry at Sandhills PCA by praying, you can receive prayer requests through a phone tree or via email. Contact Betsy Fuzy (betsyfuzy@gmail.com) to sign up for the email prayer requests. Contact Neal Middleton (255-3796) to be on the phone tree.

CHURCH BULLETIN: The weekly church bulletin contains many announcements, updates, and a weekly calendar of events for the church. These are available every Sunday and are also on the website. Usually, the last four weeks are available on our website so that you can see them even if you miss church!

WIC-Gram (Women in the Church): An electronic newsletter is put together periodically by Dale Crisp to keep us all informed. If you are not on the WIC-Gram Distribution list and would like to be, please contact Dale Crisp (dscrisp@earthlink.net).

OTHER IDEAS: If you have other communication ideas, please contact Barbee Decker (barbeedecker@gmail.com). She welcomes your ideas and encourages you to share them!

LEADERSHIP:

Dr. Bruce K. Lax	Associate Pastor
Chip McAulay	Assistant Pastor
Drew Martin	Assistant Pastor
Mike Windish	Pastoral Intern
Joe Arnold	Ruling Elder
Scott Boulton	Ruling Elder
John Carter	Ruling Elder
Chuck Robbins	Ruling Elder, Clerk
Tom Smith	Ruling Elder
Gray Cockman	Deacon
Bill Crisp	Deacon, Chairman
Charlie Proulx	Deacon
John Stone	Deacon

NOTES FROM THE SESSION

WORSHIP SERVICE STARTING TIME: The Session has received some questions regarding the time of our Sunday worship service, and they discussed this matter in depth at their July meeting. The result was a decision to maintain the 11 AM start time for a variety of reasons. Primarily, the Session was concerned that there have already been a number of unavoidable changes to our worship service during this time of transition, and that to change the time again would create confusion. In addition, maintaining the present times for worship and Sunday School would easily allow us to resume the 8:30 service should attendance necessitate such a move. The Session realizes that there are a number of folks who would prefer an earlier service, but the 11 AM service has always been our most highly attended, and so until increased attendance makes two services necessary we are going to stick with the later time. In the meantime, the Session appreciates your patience!

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The Finance Committee is made up of Bill Crisp (Deacon), Chuck Robbins (Elder), Randy Saunders, and David Vermeulen. They are working on the budget for our next fiscal year of September 2008 – August 2009.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee is made up of Lorraine Buracker, Amy Ivey (Committee Chairman), Drew Martin (Assistant Pastor), Karen Rhea, Tom Smith (Elder), Michelle Stewart (Committee Secretary), and Bob Ward. They meet monthly and serve the Session by practically carrying out our vision for worship.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: John Carter is in the process of reorganizing the Missions Committee. Anyone interested in serving on this committee is encouraged to contact John Carter (JohnCarter@murphybrownllc.com).

PULPIT COMMITTEE: The Pulpit Committee is made up of Scott Boulton (Elder), Lorraine Buracker, Allison Carter, John Caviness (Committee Chairman), Troy Decker, J.D. Millikan, Charlie Proulx (Deacon), Chuck Robbins (Elder), and Sheila Theune (Committee Secretary). They have created a committee mission statement: "With humble dependence upon God, our mission is to recognize, through the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, the man that God has already chosen to shepherd Sandhills Presbyterian Church." They are creating a "church profile" and are asking for feedback from church members and attendees. Please fill out a Congregational Questionnaire to help them with the profile of our church.

**CHURCH GROWTH
IN 2008****BABIES BORN**

Samuel James Cockman
Alicia Holmes
Brady Phillip Smith
Aiden Lane Cordell Scott

NEW MEMBERS

Donna & Nathan Harrelson
David & Jennifer Zmiewsky
Joey & Sarah Bright
Les & Mary Schrontz
John & Sarah Caviness
Gene & Betsy Fuzy
Phil Griessel

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

We were recently required by the Town of Southern Pines to put a dry retention pond on the back of the church property. The work is now complete on the retention pond on the church property. We have raised \$26,730 of the \$30,000 needed for the cost of the work. Please consider making a donation over and above your normal tithe toward this expense.

NURSERY NEWS

Did you know that we are in need of a new nursery coordinator? The Nursery Coordinator helps to make the schedule of volunteers for the nursery and is a vital position at Sandhills PCA. We average about 15-25 children in the nursery each week. And, we have about 35 volunteers who work in the nursery on a rotational basis. Volunteers are always welcome!

Ever wonder where new parents sit with their little ones during the service? In the back of the sanctuary, we have a prayer room that doubles as a room for infants. There is a closed-circuit television so that parents do not have to miss our worship services. A changing table was recently added to this room, but it is still in need of a rocking chair or glider. If you have one in your attic that you just haven't found a home for, please contact the church office.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

Ever wonder what the school-aged children (ages 4 – 2nd grade) do during children's church? We average 25-30 children in Children's church each week. For the past 2 years, Teri Blades has been the Children's Church coordinator. The kids have Bible lessons and do a craft every Sunday. In the fall, Sharon Caviness and Heather Windish will take over as the Children's Church Coordinators. Sign up to help them!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

The new year of children's Sunday School begins Sunday, September 7th. Please be sure your children do not switch classes until that Sunday.

Sunday School teachers are needed for ages 2-3, 4-5, 1-2nd Grade. If you would like to help with this important ministry, please contact Susan Boulton at 692-0636 or rscottboulton@hotmail.com. Curriculum is provided. And, team teaching is possible! Susan provides substitutes if needed.

YOUTH NEWS

This has been an action packed summer for the youth! We had three interns working with the youth ministry this summer and they all did an awesome job. If you did not have the chance to see Lindsay Kropp, Mark Letteney, and Nicole Moering in action, you really missed out. In addition to working through a "seminary-level" course in practical ministry, they also had the chance to lead, teach, disciple, plan events, and hang out with the youth.

So what did the youth do all summer? In addition to our usual Sunday School, we had fellowship groups for both middle school (Wednesday) and high school (Tuesday) that met during the day for food, Bible study, and a different fun activity each day. After studying the book of Ruth (middle school) or a topical Bible lesson related to C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* (high school), we swam, made road trips to the area's best ice cream stands, played Frisbee golf, went to the park, and played a ton of Wii (cow racing was the crowd favorite). This summer we also went to a drive-in movie in Albemarle, a Durham Bulls Baseball game, we bowled, and we took a week long trip to "Basic Blowout" in Greenville, NC. At Basic Blowout the youth spent the mornings at work sites, volunteering with various mercy ministry organizations, and they spent the evenings fellowshiping, worshipping, and learning with youth from five other churches from Tennessee, North Carolina, and even New Jersey. Needless to say, it was an exciting summer. We learned a lot, we grew together, and we built a lot of momentum heading into the Fall.

Drew is very excited about the opportunity to build on this momentum as the Fall semester approaches. In the meantime, the Youth Leadership Team will be on a training retreat August 15-17, we have a Youth & Parent cookout on August 24, and we will kick-off the Fall calendar on Sunday evening, September 7. Mark your calendars and we will see you there!



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We're on the Web!
www.sandhillspca.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

After having Back Yard Bible Clubs for many years, we recently finished our first Vacation Bible School, FAITH Expedition. Teri Blades and Sheila Theune organized 50+ volunteers who ministered to 106 children throughout the week. The kids started each day with a rally, had concrete Bible lessons that were reinforced through daily skits, music, crafts, games, and even their snacktime. There was a theme for each day too. Throughout the week, the boys and girls had a competition with their offering that raised money to send Bibles to China. \$1,079.81 was raised and 360 Bibles will be sent. The overall theme was that God gives us faith to follow Him, believe in His promises, obey Him, repent and give our lives to Jesus, and to share the Good News with others.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir practice will resume **TUESDAY** Sept. 9th from 6:45-7:30pm. Please note that choir practice will be on Tuesday instead of Wednesday nights. Everyone is invited to be a part of this ministry. Also, we are trying to expand our children's choir ministry. If you are interested in helping with either of these ministries, please contact Amy Ivey at mivey@nc.rr.com

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