

# THE SANDHILLS SCRIBE

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## A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR PASTORS...

To the family of Sandhills PCA,

The Old Testament book of Judges is famous for its ominous closing verse: "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." That verse, though written millennia ago, should serve as a helpful reminder to us here and now. God's people have always struggled to follow him instead of our own individual ideas and desires. Can you almost hear Fleetwood Mac playing the theme music? "You can go your own waaaay....."

Right now our church, like Israel in the book of Judges, stands at a leadership crossroads. We are praying hard for our Pulpit Committee and hoping that the Lord will fill the Senior Pastor position very soon. In the meantime, our calling as a congregation is not for everyone to do right in his or her own eyes, thinking that in the absence of that leadership we can each pull the others in our own desired direction. Instead we are called to follow the leadership of our Savior and King, the Lord Jesus Christ. I am not sure that is what the Beatles had in mind when they sang "Come together...right now...over me," but I am not so sure they knew what they meant either.

"No duh!" we all say. Of course we are supposed to follow Jesus together. On the other hand, while it is easy to say we should all follow Jesus, it is much harder to *do*. Sometimes it is also very hard to even know what Jesus would have us do or where he would have us go. So how do we avoid doing what is right in our own eyes and ensure that we are truly following Jesus? That is no easy question to answer.

How do we know we are truly following Jesus, the Word of God incarnate? Well the primary way is by making sure that we are following the Word of God in Scripture. It is no coincidence that the opening chapter of the Gospel of John draws a close connection between the Word of God and the Son of God, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14) Both Jesus and the Bible are described as God's Word! This Christmas season, it is so important for us to remember that the birth of our Lord Jesus represents the ultimate revelation of God's Word. As we remember that beautiful truth, it should inspire us to turn to God's Word, the Bible, to ensure that we are following God's Word, the Son. Knowing Jesus and following the Bible are inseparable.

So let me ask a question. Do you say you love and follow Jesus? Does that love inspire you to spend time in the Bible? Or does your Bible gather dust on a shelf? Do you read it once a week on Sunday morning – just enough to shake the dust? Let me encourage us all: If we really love the Word, Jesus, we will also love, the Word, the Bible. The two are inseparable!

Let me ask another question. Are you ever frustrated by how genuine believers, even those who are reading their Bibles, have very different ideas about what it means to follow Jesus? Even when we read the Bible it is still easy to bend and twist it so that we each go our own way (can you hear the theme music again?). Let me encourage us all once more: If you want to understand the Bible and follow Jesus, you will not try to do it on your own. You will spend time reading the Bible and using as guides the summaries of its teaching handed down to us by the early church (Apostle's Creed) the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Nicene Creed) and the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Reformed Confessions). We use creeds and confessions during our worship services to remind us of the continuity of the Christian faith over the centuries. That is also why we think it is so important to be familiar with our own confession of Faith: The Westminster Confession and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. Is your copy gathering dust? Don't go your own way! To read the Bible we have to come together, allowing the remarkably consistent teaching of the church over the centuries to help us understand God's Word, the Bible. As we do that we will be much better able to follow God's Word, Jesus.

And knowing Jesus is what Christmas is all about!

In Christ, the Word of God, Pastor Drew Martin

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**LEADERSHIP:**

Drew Martin	Assistant Pastor
Chip McAulay	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
Larry Haywood	Deacon
Charlie Proulx	Deacon
John Stone	Deacon

**CHURCH GROWTH****BABIES BORN**

Nathaniel James Gilliam  
 Samuel Thompson Racey  
 Kevin Rodney Phile  
 Tate John Brokmeyer  
 Brook Lynn Mickey

**NEW MEMBERS**

Phil & Jessica Fausz Family

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ◆ Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service
- ◆ Dec 24-26<sup>th</sup>: Church Office Closed
- ◆ Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: Church Office Closed
- ◆ Jan 18-25, 2009: Missions Week
- ◆ April 11-18' 2009: Mexico Mission Trip

**NOTES FROM THE SESSION**

The Session has bi-monthly meetings. Non-confidential items of interest are shared in this newsletter and will be put on our website under the "Announcements" tab.

Recent Information from Session Meetings:

\*The Congregation has been divided up into "Shepherding Groups". Members and non-members have been assigned to an Elder/Deacon.

\*We will be having a Christmas Eve Service at 6pm

\*A Church Calendar has been created. A copy of it is in this newsletter and is also available on the website under the "Announcements" tab.

\*Missions Week will be January 18-25, 2009 – Please see pages 3-4 for more Missions Information

\*The Elders will be more involved in our Worship Services going forward. You'll see them leading worship!

**NOTES FROM THE DEACONS**

If you have not already received one, please get your copy of "The Treasure Principle" by Randy Alcorn. Copies of this book were donated by a church member to be given to each family in the church. The Deacons and the Elders are challenging everyone to read this book.

**NURSERY INFORMATION**

We are in SERIOUS need of volunteers to work in the nursery. Shay Barber is our Nursery Coordinator who makes the schedule of volunteers to cover our nursery of 15-25 children each week. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Shay to volunteer (947-9971 or [shayb11@peoplepc.com](mailto:shayb11@peoplepc.com)).

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Adult choir practice will resume Tuesday, February 3, 2009, at 6:45pm. Contact Amy Ivey at [mivey@nc.rr.com](mailto:mivey@nc.rr.com) to participate in this ministry.

Covenant Kid's Choir (ages 3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade). CKC will be singing during the Christmas Eve Service. Please be at the church at 5:30pm on December 24<sup>th</sup> to practice before the service. We will resume practice on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. If you have any questions or are interested in helping please contact Sheila Theune at 692-8458 or [sheilatheune@usa.net](mailto:sheilatheune@usa.net).

We are in need of more people to be involved in the sound and projection ministries. If you are interested in sharing your gifts, please contact Amy Ivey at [mivey@nc.rr.com](mailto:mivey@nc.rr.com).

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 28, 2008.

Beginning in 2009, we will have a set Annual Schedule for Sunday School Trimesters.

\*Spring Trimester will run January – May. Teachers should plan for two weeks of Church-wide Sunday School for Missions Week. There is No Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

\*Summer Trimester will run June – August.

\*Fall Trimester will run September – December. There is no Sunday School the Sunday after Christmas.

\*Each Trimester will also have one week for a Church-wide Sunday School for a Missions Update.

## YOUTH INFORMATION

The Youth Group has had a busy fall full of praise and worship, learning, a retreat, service projects, and a Christmas Dinner. One highlight from the fall was our annual “Beach Blast” retreat. We took 38 Youth and 8 Chaperones from our church and joined with youth from Church of the Redeemer and Christ Presbyterian in Myrtle Beach November 21-23<sup>rd</sup> for an awesome weekend of fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth

Thank you to all who help with Youth Group by preparing meals, driving, setting up, cleaning up, etc.!

Our normal Youth Group schedule will resume Sunday, January 11, 2009. Middle School (6-8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and High School (9-12<sup>th</sup> Grade) students meet on Sunday evenings. MS Youth Group is from 5-6:30pm and HS Youth Group is from 6-8pm. The two groups overlap from 6-6:30 for a shared meal.

## MISSIONS: MISSIONS WEEK JANUARY 18-25, 2009

The Missions Committee, under the leadership of Chairman, Gene Fuzy, has a few vacant positions:

Vice-chairman

Treasurer

Missions Conference Subcommittee Chairman

Short/Long Term Missions Subcommittee

Candidate Coordinator

The following positions have been filled:

Chairman: Gene Fuzy

Secretary/Public Relations/Communication: Barbee Decker

Hospitality Subcommittee: Michael and Rachel Gilliam

Prayer Coordinator: Betsy Fuzy

Assimilation Coordinator: Dale Crisp

Our 2009 Missions Conference will be January 18-25. The Missions Committee has settled on a 2009 Missions Theme from the SPC Vision Statement: “Reaching, Embracing and Discipling”. Assistance is needed for the Conference! We are currently in the process of lining up the speakers which include Ricardo Santana (Merida, Mexico), Jack Beall (MTW), and more.

Please pray for our Missions Conference and our Faith Promise Budget.

Information about some of our Mission Agencies and folks that we support is on the next page.



650 Pee Dee Road  
Southern Pines, NC 28327

Phone:  
(910) 692-5834

Fax:  
(910) 692-6831

E-mail:  
sandhillspca@nc.rr.com

We're on the Web!  
[www.sandhillspca.org](http://www.sandhillspca.org)

## MISSION TO THE WORLD (MTW)

What is Mission to the World (MTW)? Mission to the World is the mission-sending agency of the PCA, helping to fulfill the Great Commission by advancing Reformed and covenantal church-planting movements through word and deed in strategic areas worldwide. MTW advances the work of the body of Christ worldwide through a wide variety of word and deed ministries by identifying, selecting, training and sending men and women and integrating these into church-planting movements. We minister among unreached people groups in world-class cities as well as hinterland areas, partnering with national churches and indigenous leaders whenever possible. MTW also partners with local PCA churches to glorify God through the discovery and engagement of their unique potential, purpose and passion for cross-cultural ministry.

MTW currently has 594 long-term missionaries. They have 6,484 short-term missionaries who serve for anywhere from two weeks to two years.

MTW also has the following ministries: Street Child International, Medical Missions, International University Ministries, Teaching English Ministry, Global Youth and Family Ministry, and Disaster Response Ministry.

For the 2008-2009 Missions Budget Year, we at SPC supported four MTW Missionaries and one MTW Ministry: Earl/Rosie Adams in Latin America, Cheryl Crocker in the Philippines, Sandra Hart in the Philippines, Jim/Sara Ward in Peru, and Street Child International in the Philippines.

## MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA (MNA)

What is Mission to North America (MNA)? Mission to North America strives to ignite a powerful church planting and vitalization movement that impacts all of North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and transforms the heart and face of PCA Churches and presbyteries. In addition to church planting, they offer the following ministries:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| African American Ministries   | Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP) |
| Church Planter Development    | Native American/First Nations              |
| Church Planter Wives Ministry | Network of Portuguese Speaking Churches    |
| Haitian Ministries            | Church Renewal                             |
| Hispanic American Ministries  | Urban and Mercy Ministries                 |
| Korean Ministries             |  |

MNA Also has the following Outreach Ministries:

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Chaplain Ministries | MNA ShortTerm Missions   |
| ESL Ministries      | Disaster Response        |
| Ministry to State   | Special Needs Ministries |

## MISSION TRIP TO MERIDA, MEXICO

We will return to Dios Con Nosotros (God With Us) Church in Merida, Mexico (Yucatan Peninsula) April 11-18, 2009, to continue work on various projects at their church. This trip is open to individuals as well as families and is during Spring Break for Moore County Schools. For more information, contact Troy Decker at [troyandbarbee@charter.net](mailto:troyandbarbee@charter.net) or 949-3335.