

THE SANDHILLS SCRIBE

FEBRUARY 2009 - VOL 5 A NEWSLETTER OF SANDHILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

A NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR PASTORS...

To the family of Sandhills PCA,

Do you worship idols?

Sometimes I catch myself doing just that. I realize that idol worship is not a common confession coming from a pastor, so I should probably clarify that Meg and I do not have any altars to false gods set up in our living room. We do not burn incense or sacrifice animals. We do not bow down before statues. Nevertheless, my confession remains the same. Sometimes I catch myself in idol worship. Do you? These days it is not common in America to participate in "old school" idol worship, but I remain convinced that idol worship is alive and well.

We look back on the cultures which have come before our own and shrug our shoulders in disgust. How could they have been so silly and ignorant as to worship inanimate objects? Did they really think that Baal, the weather god, could make it rain? How could they be so simple?

Before we get all high and mighty on those ancient cultures, however, we need to take a harder look at our own.

We may not kneel before statues, but how much time do we spend sitting before that little black box (or should I say big flat screen?). We may not drop our hard earned money into the coffers of some temple, but if we take a look at our bank accounts and keep track of how much money we spend on movies, eating out, fun activities for our families, vacation, and other things like that, what should it tell us? Ever get the feeling we may be worshipping the entertainment god?

We may cringe at even the thought of child sacrifice, but have we ever stopped to consider how we encourage our young people to spend their lives? How many afternoons, evenings, and weekends do we spend driving our children from one activity to the next? How many hours each day do we require them to spend on working on their education? How much do we value whether they get into the "right" college? We do those things because we care about our kids, but have you ever stopped and wondered whether we value our children's success and cultural wellbeing more than their spiritual wellbeing? If you need a barometer, here is an easy one (stop reading here if you do not want to be convicted): In the last year, how many times have you skipped out on Sunday morning worship because of one of your child's "obligations"? When did those obligations become more important to you than the fourth commandment? Good things are usually the most likely candidates for idol worship. Success and our children are no different.

Spend some time thinking and other modern idols will come to mind: consumerism, materialism, individualism (aka "ME-ism"), busy-ness, laziness, the list goes on and on...

The hard thing about our modern idols is that they are much more subtle than ancient idols. Or are they? In the Old Testament, Israel knew the consequences for idol worship, and yet time and time again God's people did it anyway. Life and death depended on water for crops, so was it really so bad to worship the god of weather and fertility? Israel's idols were always closely related to good things, necessary things, things like water. The people of Israel did not realize they were worshipping idols.

Do we?

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, the Gospel of Jesus Christ says that we all *were* unrighteous idol worshippers, but now we who believe *are* "washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God." What would our lives as Christians and our common life as a church look like if we grasped that reality more fully?

In Christ, the one true image of the one true 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ February 21st: 7pm – Fireproof Movie Night
- ◆ February 27th: Fireproofing Your Marriage Small Group Begins
- ◆ March 1st: The Lord’s Supper During Worship
- ◆ April 9th: 7pm – Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- ◆ April 11-18’ 2009: Mexico Mission Trip
- ◆ April 12th: Easter Sunday
- ◆ April 19th: Missions Presentation During Sunday School
- ◆ July 13-17th: Vacation Bible School

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:

*New Sunday School Classes began February 1st. See Page 3 for more information on Adult Sunday School.

*We would like to create a fellowship committee to plan and coordinate church family meals once per quarter. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please speak with any Elder or contact Barbee Decker by email (barbeedecker@gmail.com) or by phone at 692-5834.

*At 7pm on Thursday, April 9, 2009, we will have a Maundy Thursday Service. Nursery will be provided.

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

*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.

*The Elders are now more involved in our Worship Services. You now see them leading worship!

NOTES FROM THE DEACONS

We have been working on some minor repairs around the church. Light sensors have been replaced so the outside lights should now go on and off at the appropriate times. A new projector to replace the failed one on the left side of the Sanctuary is on order. A couple of the technical folks in our congregation have volunteered to install it once it arrives.

If you sees anything in the way of building maintenance or cleaning that you feel should be addressed, we would appreciate it if you would write us (the Deacons) a note and leave it with Amy Woodside or Barbee Decker in the Church Office. Or, you may send an email to Bill Crisp at wrcrisp@yahoo.com. Please be sure to include your contact information in case we don’t understand your comments.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Spring Sunday School Trimester began February 1st. These classes will run until May and it is not too late to join these classes. The Summer Trimester will run June – August. The Fall Trimester will run September – December. There is no Sunday School the Sunday after Christmas. Each Trimester will have one week for a Church-wide Sunday School for a Missions Update. The next Missions Update During Sunday School will be April 19, 2009.

Spring Sunday School Trimester Classes

Marriage Class is taught in the Groups Room by Dave and Page Smith
Matthew (Women's Class) is taught by Various Teachers in the Grace/Gifts Room
Knowing Scripture is taught by Joe Arnold in the Sanctuary
Parenting Teenagers is taught by the Vermeulen's in the Good Stewardship Room
Sandhills Presbyterian 101 is taught by Chip McAulay in his office

2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sound your trumpets! The King is Coming!

Our second annual Vacation Bible School will be held July 13-17th from 9 a.m. -12 noon. God's everlasting covenant begins with creation and is fulfilled with the King's eternal reign. Great Commission Publication's dynamic *The King Is Coming* VBS curriculum shows God establishing a relationship with his people through all of Scripture. VBS minister's to preschoolers through rising 6th graders within our own church and the surrounding community.

We are in the early planning stages of this important outreach event and are seeking volunteers in all areas: teaching, music, crafts, snacks, recreation, decorating, preparation work, publicity, registration, support, prayers, etc. Youth and adult volunteers are needed! This is a wonderful opportunity to build community within our congregation as we work together to bring the scripture to life in a unique way.

To help in any way, please contact Sheila Theune, VBS Director, at sheilatheune@usa.net or 692-8458.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult choir practice is Tuesday nights at 6:45pm. Contact Amy Ivey at mivey@nc.rr.com to participate in this ministry.

Covenant Kid's Choir presents an opportunity for kids ages 3 through 8th grade to express their love for Jesus Christ through music and song. We rehearse each Sunday afternoon (times posted in bulletin) and sing during the worship service monthly. In addition to working with the choir as a whole, the older members (4th grade and up) are working separately on slightly more difficult arrangements to further develop their singing abilities. This presents an opportunity for youth beyond 8th grade to participate as well. We are always ready to receive new members! If interested, please contact Sheila Theune at 692-8458 or 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.



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YOUTH INFORMATION

Upcoming Youth Events:

Snow Tubing Trip, February 20-21

Youth Movie Night (for all MS & HS youth), February 22, 6-8 pm

Youth and Parent Night (Potluck Dinner, Games, Worship), March 29, 6-8 pm

Youth Group is on Sunday evenings (unless otherwise noted on the calendar, see the link below). The Middle School youth meet from 5-6:30 pm and the High School Youth meet from 6-8 pm. We share a meal together from 6-6:30 pm. Join us for food, fellowship, games, and a deeper understanding of how the biblical truths in our catechisms should shape our lives.

Sunday School: Drew strongly encourages all the youth (and their families) to attend Sunday School! Right now the middle school youth are studying the Book of Acts and the high school youth are beginning a new series called "The Means of Grace: How Christians Grow in Faith." For parents, David and Charlene Vermeulen are teaching a class on "Parenting Teens" based on the great book, *Age of Opportunity* by Paul Tripp.

Information: For a complete calendar of our youth group meetings, information on other events, and resources for parents, go to www.sandhillspca.org/ministries/youth.

Drew is excited about how our youth ministry continues to grow, both in numbers attending *and* in depth. If you have any questions about the ministry of our church to youth and families feel free to drop him a line (drewmartin@nc.rr.com).

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 or 949-3335.

Important Dates:

02-16-2009 (Monday) – Team Meeting at 6:30pm (*Passport Applications Should Be Submitted, \$100 Due*)

03-01-2009 (Sunday) – Team Meeting at 4:00pm (*Prayer, Sharing and Team Building*)

03-08-2009 (Sunday) – All Money Due!

03-23-2009 (Monday) – Team Meeting at 6:30pm (*Packing List, Questions, Itinerary, All Immunizations Should Be Done*)

04-04-2009 (Saturday) – 5:30pm – Commissioning Dinner For the Missions Team and their Families

04-11-2009 (Saturday) – Leave for Merida, Mexico