

# THE SANDHILLS SCRIBE

OCTOBER 2008 - VOL 2

A NEWSLETTER OF SANDHILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

To the family of Sandhills PCA,

I love it when the seasons change - the anticipation brought on here in the Sandhills as we hope for even just one day of snow. This anticipation quickly fades with the first budding of the Dogwood trees. Spring visits us quickly, as the humidity rises with the summer heat, which then slowly leads us to one of my favorite times of year, fall.

During the fall there is a crispness in the morning and evening air. The sun begins to set earlier, and the leaves begin to show their brilliant colors. It is a time of change. Change is not something that many of us naturally embrace. For many change is difficult, be it in our personal lives, family life, or in our church.

So far this year we have seen a lot of changes. Some have been for the good and some for the not so good. The good changes we welcome and embrace. The more difficult ones come with trials and tests. The interesting thing is that it is usually during the difficult times that God grows us and teaches us to be more dependent upon Him.

Our church has been going through a period of growth. This year has been a time of trial and tribulation. I have observed many within our congregation growing in their faith and in community within the church family. I have seen others who have been struggling and asking many different questions. This is actually great as well. It is when we stop struggling and stop asking the questions that we become in a sense dormant like the trees of winter.

Our lives are very much like the four seasons. However we are not all in the same season at the same time. Those of us who are struggling, for whatever reason, can be like the tree whose limbs are bare, but still have life within them.

Some of us are like the trees in spring, with buds of green now beginning to show on once dormant limbs. Others are like the tree with fully developed leaves, giving shade, protection and rest to all who are around. Finally there are those who are like the trees in fall. They have reached maturity for the season. They are fruitful. They give off color and add a refreshing crispness to life.

Our walk with Christ can often change just like the seasons, but we do not all change at the same time. Today you may be in spring while someone else is in fall. Or perhaps you are in winter and looking to someone who is in summer.

Change is inevitable. All I can do is encourage you and say that it is okay. All is well. God is at work in our lives here at Sandhills PCA and for this I give Him praise.

I think it would be fitting to end this little note with scripture.

*1 Peter 1:6-8 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

In His Grip, Chip

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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
Charlie Proulx	Deacon
John Stone	Deacon

**NOTES FROM THE SESSION**

**PREACHING SCHEDULE:** Pastors Drew Martin and Chip McAulay and our Pastoral Intern, Mike Windish, will be continuing to preach through the book of Genesis in the coming months.

**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 (Elder) is pleased to announce that after much prayer and consideration Gene Fuzy has accepted the position of Chairman of the Missions Committee. There is a tremendous amount of work ahead for this committee. Now that the committee has a chairman the next key areas of focus are staffing the committee and developing policies. John asks that the congregation pray for Gene and that God would reveal those individuals gifted and burdened for missions.

**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). After creating a committee mission statement, they are now reviewing responses from people in our congregation in order to create a “church profile”. They have set dates for the fall for job descriptions and posting of our vacant position. They welcome feedback, candidate suggestions, and questions from you! There is a wooden box in the Narthex for suggestions.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Scott Boulton (Elder) is in the process of creating a committee that will develop an Adult Sunday School Curriculum, determine the best curriculum for children, and help select an available curriculum for Small Groups, Ladies Bible Studies, and Men’s Groups. Anyone interested in serving is asked to contact Scott Boulton at 692-0636 or [rscottboulton@hotmail.com](mailto:rscottboulton@hotmail.com).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ◆ Oct 10-12<sup>th</sup>: Women’s Retreat to Ridge Haven
- ◆ Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: Small Group Kick-Off and Movie Night (6pm)
- ◆ Nov 21-23<sup>rd</sup>: Youth Beach Blast Retreat
- ◆ Dec 14<sup>th</sup>: Agnus Dei, Christmas Cantata (7pm)

**NOTES FROM THE DEACONS**

The Deacons are responsible for our “church grounds”. Here are a few updates on things that have been going on around the church:

\*All the fluorescent lights in church have been repaired and bulbs have been replaced. So, they are now all functioning properly.

\*A 30 foot electro/hydraulic man lift has been anonymously donated to the church so it will make changing light bulbs and maintenance in the sanctuary much easier,

\*If you notice a cutout piece of our paving in the lower parking lot, it's because we had a water leak in one of the pipes going to our irrigation system.

**\*All of the funds for the retention pond have been donated!**

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you do not attend Adult Sunday School, you are missing out! The new quarter begins October 12<sup>th</sup> with the following classes:

- \*"Know What You Believe & Why You Believe It": Tom Smith will teach this in the Sanctuary.
- \*A Women's Class on Matthew is taught by various teachers in the Grace/Gifts Room.
- \*"Sandhills Presbyterian Church 101" for future/current members: Pastor Chip McAulay will teach this in his office.
- \*A Class for the Parents of Youth will be taught by David and Charlene Vermeulen.

## NURSERY INFORMATION

We are pleased to announce that Shay Barber has volunteered to be our Nursery Coordinator. She will help make a 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)).

When children are dropped off in the nursery, parents are given a pager. From time to time, these pagers are not returned. If you have one of them at home, please return it to the church!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH: ADVENTURE TRAILS THAT LEAD TO JESUS

Just an update to let you know that Children's Church is off to a great start this year!

It is taking both Heather and I to fill Terri Blades shoes, but we hope to maintain the quality and organization that she incorporated into the program.

We just finished a unit on "We Are Important to Jesus" (thanks to Tracey Martin, Michelle Stewart, and Scott Renshaw.) Allison Carter will be leading us on a new adventure of how "Jesus Shows Us What God is Like". Gene Fuzy, Heather Windish, Paige Smith, and Scott Renshaw will finish out the month of October.

The teachers captivate and delight the children with Bible lessons, games, puppets, music, crafts and snacks. We have had approximately 25-30 children each Sunday. A couple of Sundays, when extra helpers showed, we were able to divide into two groups. A few parents have approached us with the idea(s) of dividing the group every Sunday and inviting children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. We like the ideas and will certainly implement changes when we get a few more teachers and volunteer helpers.

It will take two teachers and two helpers each Sunday to make it happen. Teachers will be supplied with all materials and helpers will need to assist with keeping the children focused and on task.

We need moms, dads, grandparents, and others that have a concern for the development of our children's Christian growth. The vision statement of Children's Church is, *"To be a Biblically functioning community of believers which teaches and models for children how to become Christ-followers.* What better way to model for our youth the great commission of Jesus when he said, ***"Therefore go and make disciples . . . and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you . . ."*** That commission was given to all of us, but if you feel uneasy, reluctant, or nervous about going out and witnessing to others, where would be a better place to begin than within our own Children's Church?

Please pray how you can be involved with our children.

In Christ, Sharon Caviness - 949-3541 & Heather Windish - 245-7776

## HOMEFRONT HEROES

Homefront Heroes is a ministry that provides support & encouragement for all military wives – active duty, reservist, or retired, meets monthly. If you would like to be of service to military families of our deployed soldiers or if you have any questions, contact Sheila Theune 692-8458 or [sheilatheune@usa.net](mailto:sheilatheune@usa.net)



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## MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult choir practice has started, but it is not too late to join. Practices are Tuesday nights 6:45-7:30pm. We are preparing for Agnus Dei, our Christmas cantata, which is Sunday, Dec 14 at 7pm. Mark your calendars now! Contact Amy Ivey at [mivey@nc.rr.com](mailto:mivey@nc.rr.com) to participate in this ministry.

Children's Choir has begun and is at 3pm every Sunday. All children ages 3 through 8th grade are invited to participate. Parents are asked to attend this first rehearsal so that we can discuss the plans/goals for children's choir this year. If you have any questions or are interested in helping please contact Sheila Theune at [sheilatheune@usa.net](mailto:sheilatheune@usa.net) or 692-8458.

## NEWS IN OUR MIDST

Wes and Tracy Martin have exciting news: a 2-year-old little girl has been referred to their family for adoption from St. Petersburg, Russia. They are travelling now to meet her for the first time but will likely have to leave her after this initial visit and return on a second trip for the court date to receive her. Her name is Cerys. Wes, Tracy, and their daughter, Jenna, are grateful for those who have been praying for them as they have been pursuing this adoption for almost two years and ask for your continued prayers. The Martins are still raising the necessary funds to complete their adoption. Information is available in the Narthex of the church and you can visit their blog for updates and journal entries ([www.findingcerys.blogspot.com](http://www.findingcerys.blogspot.com)).

## YOUTH INFORMATION

This fall, youth group will be on Sunday evenings for both the middle and high school students. MS Youth Group will be from 5-6:30pm and HS Youth Group will be from 6-8pm. The two groups will overlap from 6-6:30 for a shared meal. 6<sup>th</sup> Graders are invited to participate in MS Youth this year!

In addition to the regular Youth Group schedule, the youth will participate in service projects/mercy ministry on October 25<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Beach Blast retreat is the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 21-23<sup>rd</sup>.

Additionally, all families with Youth who are not already communing members are invited to attend a luncheon and Parent Taught Communicant's Class Meeting on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. Lunch will be served at 12:30.

## SMALL GROUPS

2008/2009 Small Groups will soon be in full swing.

Please see the Small Group table in the Narthex for details and sign-up sheets. Small Group Topics this year include Parenting/Family, The Truth Project, Victory Over Darkness, The Reason For God, and Bible studies.

Don't miss the Small Group Kick-Off / Movie Night on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Pizza and Pop-Corn will be

## MEN'S MINISTRY: FROM DAWN TO DUSK...

DAWN (Discipleship and Weekly Nurturing) meets on Friday mornings from 6:30-7:30am at the church. Their focus is the renewal of our minds, through study and discussion of the inerrant, living word of our Lord, while applying His absolute truth to our lives and daily walk. Each week is independent, so join whenever you can. Contact Wayne Gomillion at 585-2400 or [gomillion@charter.net](mailto:gomillion@charter.net).

DUSK meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm at the church. They are working through the book: "EVERY MAN, GOD'S MAN" (Every man's guide to... Courageous Faith and Daily Integrity). This group is open to anyone, so come and bring someone with you. Contact Wes Martin at 638-8222 or [martininspect@embarqmail.com](mailto:martininspect@embarqmail.com).