



THE SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Van Edington, Pastor

Winter 2012

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FROM THE PASTOR...

A little more than ten years or so ago, before I came here, when this church formed a search committee to look for a preacher, one of the things that the search committee put in writing for all candidates for this position to read was this: *"We can't keep being the church we've always been. We need to be the church in a new and different way."*

To those of you who were here ten years ago or more, consider what the church looked like then: what were you doing then? What was important to you? What was the shape and direction of your ministry? What was your reputation in this community? After ten years, what I can tell you is that you're doing different things. The shape and direction of your ministry has changed. Your reputation in this community has changed as well.

You're much more community-sensitive and mission-minded than you were a decade ago (and really, at any time in your history that I am personally aware of), and this is a change that is well-pleasing to God in the extreme. Consider the ministries you've started, maintained, and invested yourself in over the course of this time in addition to the ones you're about to get committed to: Second Harvest, Children's Community Choir, the "Smile God Loves You" dental ministry---and now you

are in the throes of becoming a host church for outside work crews coming to Alabama to help re-build homes and lives after the April tornadoes. You will also become involved in building a Habitat for Humanity house for a needy family on this side of the river, and who knows what other great opportunities God has in store for you and will reveal to you and what wondrous experiences with God await you.

There are lots of other things that you've done and are doing, all for the glory of God and to benefit those in need and for your enrichment as His people in Christ. There's a long list of them on the table in the Great Hall and on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Pick up a copy and rejoice and continue to use your God-given gifts to enrich and expand these great works for God.

Yes, over these ten years you have become the church in a new and different way. Back then, no one could have seen this coming. No one did see this coming. The leadership of this church didn't see this coming and I didn't see this coming. Well, who saw it coming? God saw it coming and it came.

(continued on page 2)

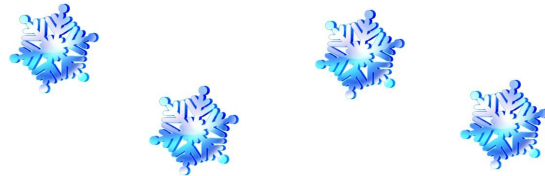


FROM THE PASTOR (CONT.)

How thrilling to know that God has been behind it all and working through it all (through the good times and the not-so-good times) to bring His will and purpose to fruition here, and He's not through yet! There's still a world of hurt out there. You don't have to look very far to see it. God has great things yet for you to do. And so, as you go forward, lean on God and be open to His leading.

Lean on each other and love and encourage one another. Be faithful to Jesus Christ and be strong as His church. The Lord guide you and keep you!

Peace,
Van



SECOND HARVEST MINISTRY UPDATE

Our program to feed people in the community each Tuesday night who need a meal is going strong. We serve an average of 50-60 people beginning at 6:00 p.m. Lots of those who eat come early and visit with us and each other. We have met and made some good friends. It is hard to believe, but we have been doing it regularly for over two years.

If you are not participating, come join us. We have at least ten workers each Tuesday, including several from other churches, preparing and serving food, serving iced tea and water, cleaning tables, and sweeping floors. We will even let you wash a pot or pan if that is your thing. If for any reason you cannot come down at that time but want to help, we always need someone to make cakes for desserts, or you can contribute money which goes directly into an earmarked Second Harvest Fund. We can always use money to buy food or supplies. Join us. It is a fun active group that enjoys what it does!

The church would like to express a special thank you to Inez Foerg for her support of the Second Harvest ministry. Although Inez is not able to attend many church services or events, she bakes a pound cake each week to be served as a dessert for our Tuesday night meal served to those in need in our community.





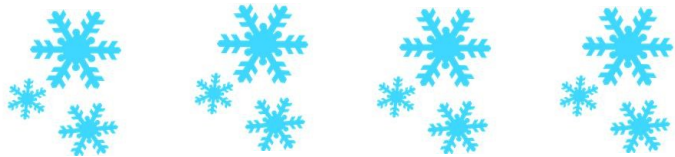
SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, February 17, 2012
6:30 p.m.

1st Annual Mardi Gras Gala
Dinner & Dance
featuring music by **Replay**

Turtle Point Yacht & Country Club
Killen, AL

Fundraiser to Benefit "Project Smile"



Upcoming Events



Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.

A.W. Tozer

Circle 1 Meetings 10:00 a.m.

- February 6
- March 14
- April 9

February 12 Covered Dish Luncheon



Circle 2 Meetings 5:30 p.m.

- February 8
- March 12
- April 11

Combined Circle Meeting May 14 at 10 a.m.

WITNESS & SERVICE

The Witness and Service Committee would like to thank everyone for helping to make our "Angel Tree" so successful this Christmas. Thanks to you, 12 children from the Parents in Prison Ministry that Debbie Dixon administers and 9 International Students from UNA received a gift for Christmas at our Christmas Eve service. Your support is very much appreciated. A big thanks to Jackie Sargent and Carol Edington for their help with coordinating this effort.

Gene Hamby and the Presbyterian Long Term Recovery Team are continuing their work in damaged areas from the April tornadoes. Gene is coordinator for several projects that have included porches and wheel chair ramps for victims in our Northwest Alabama area. Along with members of our church, they have paired with the Sheffield Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity to provide needed construction work to these victims. We appreciate their hard work and continued effort in this area.

Some of the committee members are helping to plan a fundraiser for the continuation of the dental ministry the church started with the help of Patti Hussey. Patti received the help of an anonymous person in our church to help pay for much needed dental work that she had to have done. Years later, Patti paid the good deed forward and much needed dental help for people began. As a result of this donation, 39 people in our community have received dental work to alleviate pain and the risk of disease. So, mark your calendar for Friday, February 17th for the First Annual Mardi Gras Gala to be held at 6:30 pm at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club with dinner and music by "Replay", Patti's band, benefitting the dental ministry.

There are plans to have a bake sale/ bizarre near Easter to benefit one of the ministries of the church. More information will be coming your way.



Above: Tommy Halcomb and Andy Betterton promote the FPC Sheffield Blood Drive.

On January 19, the church partnered with the Red Cross to host a blood drive, and it was a great success. Thanks so much to all who came out to support this cause!



The Ladies' Combined Circle Meeting, Children's Choir, and Joy Gift services were wonderful events.

Special thanks to all who helped with these activities and the decoration of the Christmas Tree!





Tornado Recovery Efforts

FPC Sheffield has participated in projects to assist those who lost homes in last year's tornadoes.

The projects involved building a wheelchair ramp and porches for families who lost homes in the disaster.

*Special thanks to Habitat for Humanity,
Sheffield Housing Authority,
and other volunteers for their hard work!*

CONTACT US

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Our spring newsletter will be available late April 2012. Please send all contributions by April 15. Email your articles and updates to April Cookson at aprilcookson@gmail.com or drop a copy off at the church in the 'Spotlight' box.



W I N T E R 2 0 1 2

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Church Staff:

Pastor - Rev. Van Edington

Administrative Assistant - Betty Young

Organist - Brian Beck



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**Join us for worship
each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.**