

MACLAND PRESS

A Publication of Macland Presbyterian Church

February 2010

Points of Interest

Save These Dates:

February 4
MPC Women
Meet at Old Ephraims
7:00 p.m. Marietta Sq.

February 7
Souper Bowl Sunday

February 21
K@M

February 28
Youth Fundraiser Dinner

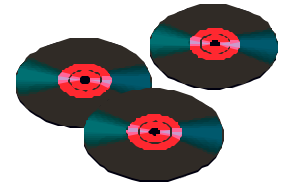
March 12, 13, 14
Family Retreat

March 27
Spring Chicken Run

April 23, 24
Men's Connection
Golf Outing

In This Issue

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- ✦ Lenten Faith Challenge
KAM
VBS
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Youth Fundraiser Dinner

By Lexie Savic

Come on out to the Youth Fundraiser Dinner where we will take you back in time to the fantastic 50's! This **February 28th at 6pm**, the Family Life Center will become **'The Macland 50's Diner'** where you will have the night of your life. This fundraiser is the biggest youth fundraiser of the year, it helps us do life changing things like Montreat, the Middle School Conference and a mission trip to Appalachia and so your generosity is much appreciated! For dinner we will be having chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans and a roll. As for dessert, well we will have the infamous **dessert auction**, which is always a lot of fun! There also will be great entertainment! Tickets for this event are on sale now, we will have tables set up on Wednesday nights and also Sunday morning, they are **\$12 each**. And this year we are doing something new, we are selling children's tickets for \$3 per child. The reason we are charging is because we are hiring childcare and getting pizza for your kids! This will be a night of wonderful fun, and you'll be helping the youth at the same time! So get your ticket soon! We can't wait to see you there!



Souper Bowl Sunday

By Lexie Savic

What's so special about February 7th? No, it's not a football game that has the people of Macland excited, it's Souper Bowl Sunday! Souper Bowl Sunday is a nationwide day of giving and serving. On this day the youth will be collecting money after the services to donate to food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities across the country. In these hard times, so many people are suffering so much more than us, here we as a church have the opportunity to help the hungry on a national scale. We get excited on this day because of the Super Bowl, but if you donate money or cans, you can get someone else excited about the Souper Bowl. So on February 7th, join the cause and donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring, and help feed someone! Please bring a canned good and your donations to worship that day.



Once again this year you are invited to participate in



The Lenten Faith Challenge

47 Days of Growing Closer to God

Ash Wednesday, February 17 to Easter Sunday, -April 4

What is the Challenge?

During Lent to spend **12 Hours a week** intentionally growing closer to God

By spending **3 hours a week in each of four areas:**

Corporate Worship/Prayer/Devotions or Private Worship

Bible Study with Others/Personal Bible Study or Reading Scripture

Koinonia which is Fellowship/Relationship Building/Caring Ministries

Service/Mission which includes Service Outside and Inside the Church

How do we do this?

Step One - Pick-up the **Lenten Challenge Faith Assessment Guide** in the Gathering Area and work your way through the questions assessing your faith journey.

Step Two - Respond to the Challenge by **signing up** after worship on January 31, Feb 7 or 14 or on Wednesday nights February 3, 10 or 17 to take the challenge. Give us your email address to get the daily email devotional.

Step Three - Pick up a **Lenten Faith Challenge Notebook** to record your hours and activities. Spend 12 hours a week from Ash Wednesday through Easter drawing closer to God.

Also available are **two specific pieces for children**

Lenten Challenge Guide

Help your child participate in the Lenten Challenge using a guide developed specifically for them, a storybook and a record sheet.

A Life of Jesus Storybook

Pick up a storybook and read with your child daily the story of Jesus Christ.

For more information contact Zeta Lamberson, 770-439-1548, ext 228, zetalamb@bellsouth.net



KAM

For all 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade

Children

Sunday February 21

4:30- 6:00 pm

Gym



Vacation Bible School

Mark Your Calendars NOW!

June 14-18, 2010



Along the highway the fallen leaves and the bare bushes have faded into dead shades of gray. The naked trunks and bare limbs of trees stand out starkly pale. Even the sky seems to struggle to show anything more than a steely blue in the cold of February.

But if you look closely, there emerges just the slightest touch of red on the tips of the branches. The leaves of Spring, not yet formed, are tightly packed there in tiny, barely visible buds, ready and waiting and just so slightly red.

These buds of February convey promise like uncompleted people. They exhibit not-yet beauty and not-yet full usefulness, but just slightly visible potential.

In these last two weeks we have had two occasions to drive through just such woods over into Alabama. The first was to a family funeral, something of a gray experience. But in this case a whole generation of young and middle aged men showed up to celebrate the life and mentoring influence of my cousin, their coach. Their presence was like the red buds of life showing on the limbs of dormant trees.

A few weeks later the drive through the woods was for an exhibition of Flora's aunts paintings on the tenth anniversary of her death. We made the trip to honor the memory of a special lady no longer with us in this life. But the paintings, eighty of them spread over a life time of lovingly displaying people and places, warmed and pleased us. They became companions for the red buds we see in the cold gray days.

Jesus was the master, I think, in seeing the red glow of promise in rough and unready persons. He saw fisherman who could fish for men and a tax collector who had more spirit in him than just an ability to attract to money. Jesus somehow observed the almost hidden integrity in a young Nathaniel and the courage and incipient passion in the questioning Thomas. Most of all he could see Easter morning when others could see only a cross.

In these gray days of February let the touch of red in the roadside trees summon us to look for what we can see in each other.

Jim Speed



Zeta's Zone

On February 17th we once again move into the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of preparation -forty days as well as the seven Sundays. Forty seven days of focusing on Christ Jesus. Many of us know of the practice of giving something up for Lent. For many years it has been a symbol of the sacrifice which God made for us on the cross.

Once again this year we are challenging our faith community to do something radically different to help us observe Lent. We are encouraging you to take up something - **the Lenten Challenge**. In a way it involves giving up something precious to us - our time. For what we are asking is that each of us intentionally **give twelve hours a week to God**. So we will be giving up those twelve hours that we have spent in other ways and giving them back to God. We are doing this again this year because so many people told us what a powerful experience it was for them last year. If you participated last year we hope you will sign up again - we just need your email. If you weren't ready to make that commitment last year we encourage you to sign up and take the challenge this year. The majority of the information is communicated using email. If you would like to participate and do not have email just contact me and we will get you the information in hard copy.

In this newsletter you will find an article about what is involved. Our experience was that this focus helped us to strengthen our journey toward the cross. Several people who participated last year said they printed out the e-mails and made a notebook which they found they went back to during the year. It also helped them if they got behind to catch up!

We provided several resources for children last year which were not really pushed. We have updated them and hope that families will use these resources to encourage their children to join them on this journey. A simple storybook retelling the life of Jesus would help to provide a devotional bible study each night with your family. In addition there is a chart which you could place on the refrigerator to help your child remember the four areas included. Children love using stars or stickers to show their efforts. A life committed to Christ begins early and parents are the greatest teachers of the faith. We hope you will take advantage of these resources. Older children and teenagers could read the stories themselves. Why not make this a family event!

I am excited about how God has been at work in this church over the past year. The fact that the Session felt it was important to provide this challenge again reminds me that God wants us to draw closer to Him and to one another. Won't you join me again this year and accept the challenge!

In Service to Christ,

Zeta

Reaching, Raising, Relieving
Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time



Loaves and Fishes Faith

As I gathered statistics to write a mission wrap-up for 2009, the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand as told in Mark (Chapter 6) came to mind.

The situation was a logistical nightmare. Jesus and his disciples had tried to get away to a solitary place for rest, but the crowds had followed him. Having compassion for them, Jesus began to teach them. Maybe he lost track of time, but his disciples didn't. Telling him that it was late in the day and the people were hungry, they suggested he send them away to the countryside and villages where they could buy food.

But He answered, "You give them something to eat."

Still thinking in human terms, they told him what it would cost to buy bread for so many—about eight months of one man's wages. Did He really expect them to go out and buy bread for that many people?

Ignoring the question, Jesus asked one of his own. *How many loaves do you have? He asked. "Go and see."*

We all know the answer—five loaves and two fish. We know the outcome, too. Miraculously, this amount was more than enough to feed everyone, with twelve baskets of scraps left over. The message I took away from rereading this story was this: that when you add faith in God's grace and power, what you have is always enough, probably more than enough. I saw so many examples of that message lived out in our church this year.

Doing mission in the midst of a recession is a lot like trying to feed 5000 in a remote place late in the day. A poor economy, high unemployment, tightened or cut budgets and floods all made for mission challenges. With so many people hurting, the needs always seemed to be greater than the resources. But that didn't stop our congregation from giving. We gave anyway out of what we had—time, talent and money—trusting in God to multiply it and use it for His purposes. I call that a "loaves and fishes faith." Our congregation is growing in that kind of faith—and the journey is exciting. I'm grateful to be a part of it. Thank you for every way you helped our church to be blessing to others in 2009.

Here are just some of the ways we shared our "loaves and fishes" last year:

- Macland youth collected \$535.47 and many canned goods for CAMP on Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Volunteers gave rides to church to residents of Cedar Glen Apartments.
- Church members brought in school and hygiene supplies and children's clothing to be sent to Mars Hill's orphanage in Kenya. The Early Service Choir performed at a fund-raiser for this mission.
- Macland volunteers and runners/walkers raised nearly \$7,000 for CAMP with its annual Spring Chicken Run.
- Members made Easter baskets for CAMP kids.
- Our response to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was \$1,597.
- Many church groups and families signed up to serve dinner at the Men's Extension Shelter the first Sunday of each month.
- The Slanted Sidewalk group began serving monthly meals at the new Women's Extension Shelter.
- Macland planted its first community garden, growing more than 400 pounds of food for the food banks at CAMP and MUST.

Reaching, Raising, Relieving

Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

- Knit Wits made caps, afghans, baby blankets, sweaters and other items to give away with love.
- We gave \$215 for the Mother's Day Offering which benefits residents of Presbyterian Homes.
- In May, the church held a registration drive for the National Marrow Donor Program to give people with leukemia, lymphoma and other diseases a second chance at life.
- Macland volunteers helped to build a Habitat for Humanity house and fed the workers lunch one Saturday.
- Members brought in school supplies for Compton Elementary and the Cobb Coalition Back to School Event.
- They brought in the food and assembled 400 lunches for the MUST Summer Lunch Program.
- The Mission Team led an alternative worship experience on Mission Sunday, August 23 with a moving video by Rob Bell. Darlene Duke spoke for CAMP and Carla Pierce for Compassion International.
- The VBS raised \$200 for the Kenya orphanage and collected school supplies for CAMP.
- Macland members responded to the September floods with six truckloads of clothing, linens and other necessities for flood victims.
- People gave \$731 so that children at Compton Elementary would have shoes.
- We gave \$1,233 to Marion Medical Mission which builds shallow wells in African villages where there is no clean drinking water. The money built almost four wells.
- We supported financially (\$5000) and with prayer five missionaries working in Africa and South America.
- We contributed \$1,195 to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering.
- We also gave \$734 to the Christmas Joy Offering.
- The congregation made \$2,340 in contributions to CAMP for Holiday Gift Baskets and other projects.
- Families filled turkey banks and sent \$273 to the Thornwell Children's Home in South Carolina.
- The monthly PATH (Presbyterian Answer to Hunger) offering added up to \$1,044.
- Macland hosted and provided lunch for an organizational meeting of the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Agency.
- Members showered this year's Angel Tree with 130 toys for needy children.
- The Christmas Eve offering of \$597 went to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund to help flood victims in Georgia and Alabama.
- The church mission budget made contributions to many mission organizations, including CAMP, MUST, the Men's Extension Shelter, Thornwell Children's Home, and Shepherd's Rest (a home for battered women), as well as our partner in education Compton Elementary.
- Our pastors gave out \$10,598 from our Angel Fund to church members and others in need.

Mission Opportunities for the New Year

Souper Bowl Sunday: Our youth will have the soup pots out again on February 7th. Please bring your donations and canned goods to feed the hungry to services that Sunday.

Cents-Ability: We begin collecting this Presbyterian offering for hunger causes in January. Please pick up a collection cup in the narthex, add coins throughout the month and bring them to church the last Sunday each month.

Men's Extension Shelter: A new calendar is up and we invite your family or small group to sign up to serve a meal for the 50+ residents who have found shelter and a new way of living through this inspiring program.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update



Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is hard at work searching for a Senior Pastor for Macland Presbyterian Church. From information shared by others who have gone through this process we expect the search to take 12 to 18 months.

In order to communicate our progress with you, the congregation, we will have monthly up-dates in the church newsletter as well as periodical up-dates in the Sunday bulletin and pulpit announcements. Also, watch for our bulletin board in the gathering area where we plan to have a time-line describing our progress.

What can you do to help? Continue to pray that God will send a leader of His choosing to move MPC in the direction He desires. Continue to support MPC with your gifts both financial and talent.

The committee is excited about this process and welcomes comments and questions regarding our progress. Although the PNC welcomes in-put and questions from all, please honor our need for confidentiality. "Secrecy" helps protect all of us from rumors and protects the security of potential candidates in their current positions.

The Role of Deacons at Macland

At Macland the Deacons are the care givers of our congregation. Each year all families in the church are placed into a deacon group. The deacons are asked to contact each family on their list giving you their contact information. They are available to listen, to help in times of crisis, to be a source of communication to the church about your needs and from the church to you about what is happening at the church. Some deacons communicate by email. Others prefer the phone or face to face contacts on Sundays and Wednesdays. The deacons are encouraged to try a variety of methods of contact to find the one that works with each family.

On February 8th the deacons will get a new list of their assigned families for this year. You should expect a contact by the end of February from your deacon. Listed below are their names. You will also receive a card telling you who your deacon is and being given their contact information. Please keep this information in a visible place and be sure everyone in your family knows who your deacon is. What we need from you is two fold -

If you have a need please contact your deacon and the church. We want to be available for you but often we don't hear about things until after the fact.

Secondly, if you have NOT had a contact from your deacon by the end of February please contact Zeta at 770-439-1548, ext 228 or zetalamb@bellsouth.net

Our goal is to be a caring community. We appreciate your help in our efforts!



Macland Deacons for 2010

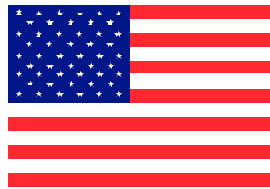
Kelly Barge	Jennifer Lundeen
Jan Brown	Linda Moon
Jennifer Clark	McGee Spencer
Peggy Dhonau	Camille Townsend
Sharon Dold	Ferne White
Bonnie Little	Angela Yates



The MPC Women will resume meeting on Thursday, February 4 at 7:00 pm. To make it easier for everyone's planning purposes, this year we will hold our gatherings on the first Thursday of every month. On February 4, we will meet at Old Ephraims on Marietta Square. We need to make reservations, so please email or call Michelle Dettore if you would like to join us. The purpose is fun, food and fellowship--get to know or re-connect with your old and new women friends at Macland! For future outings and reminders, please check the Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters; softcopies of both can be found on www.macland.org.

Flying Our Flag – After some discussion, the motion was made and approved by our Session to begin flying our U.S. flag at Macland on national holidays including:

- MLK Day – Jan 18th
- Presidents Day – Feb 15th
- Memorial Day – May 31st
- Flag Day – June 14th
- Independence Day – July 4th
- Columbus Day – Oct 11th
- Election Day – Nov 2nd
- Veterans Day – Nov 11th



And our thanks to all of you whose input we received about flying our U.S. flag.

Your Admin. Team



Macland Family Retreat
March 12, 13, 14, 2010
Fall Creek Falls

We have reserved 30 rooms and have 23 families signed up. So there is still room for you and your family. We will have group activities for both the adults and children, plus the park has many great things to do. The cost of the rooms are \$79.39 per night, the meals are reasonably priced, and the friendships developed are free. Please call Zeta Lamberson (770-439-1548), Linda or Andy Puterbaugh (770-439-8487) to get more information and sign up. If you have already signed up don't forget to call the Lodge and make your room reservation (1-800-250-8610) be sure to tell them you are with Macland.

Macland's Sunday Sermons
 via pod cast at www.macland.org



February 7

Psalm 42:1-6a

Galatians 6:1-9

“God Never Promised We’d Be Winning at the Half”

Dr. Don Esa

February 14

Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-43

“The Problem With A Lean-To”

Dr. James O. Speed

February 21

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Roman 10:8-13

“A Basket For The Lord”

Dr. James O Speed, Jr.

February 28

Genesis 15:1-12; Luke 13:31-35

“Able To See Blessing”

Dr. James O. Speed



The Page Turners Reading Guild

meets on the third Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., in Room B of the Family Life Center.



Knit Wits meets the 4th Monday night of every month at the home of Miriam Burch in Presbyterian Village at 1962 Overbrooke Way, Austell, Ga.. Knit Wits is not only for those of us that can

knit and crochet, it's also for those that wish to learn. Come join us for fun, fellowship and refreshments. Contact Pat Morrison at 770-919-7604 or Beverly Thompson at 770-422-9591 for more information and directions.



Children's Choir Schedule for Spring

Children and Rainbow Choirs will sing the prelude on the following Sunday this Spring. Parents mark your calendars and congregation be there to support the children.

February 14, March 7, April 18

May 9 - Mother's Day



Midnight Revelations by Karen Bence

Book Review by Karen R. Williamson



When Sara Miller, her husband David and their young son Jack move into an old, abandoned plantation in Virginia, they are innocently unaware that the house and grounds are haunted by tragedies that befell the previous owners. However, it's not long before chilling events begin to take place which alert the family to the unfortunate history surrounding the manor and to a sinister presence which refuses to be silenced.

At first, all seems well as Sara and David begin restoring the estate to its former glory. Floors are refinished in the main house, fresh paint and wallpaper are applied, and furniture is added to revive the splendor and beauty of the grand old mansion. One item in particular – a uniquely patterned antique mirror – catches Sara's eye during a shopping trip, and she purchases it to include among the classic touches to her new home. Interestingly, the clerk informs Sara that the mirror was an original piece that hung in the hallway of the manor – a fact that delights Sara immensely. However, almost immediately, the mirror begins to cast a shadow on the family's happiness as it eerily manifests an ethereal reflection of a tormented woman.

Later, Sara discovers a mysterious diary and begins to suffer from strange, horrific dreams filled with ghastly images involving people she doesn't recognize. Then one day, a lone gunshot resonates across the open fields adjacent to the house and a pool of blood covers the ground . . . but no body (animal or human) is ever found. Finally, when Jack is rendered comatose in a bizarre accident featuring a ghostly rider on horseback, Sara – in desperation – travels to a nearby church in search of spiritual assistance in exorcising the demons that seem to possess her property and which are endangering the lives of her family. However, the reception she receives from the priest in charge leaves Sara stunned and results in even more unanswered questions.

Resolved to discover what lies behind the strange events surrounding the plantation, Sara sets out to uncover the history of the estate and of the family who once resided there. However, the young woman gets more than she bargained for as the terrible secrets hidden in the annals of the house reveal not only a baleful plot of ignominy and deception, but also a startling realization concerning Sara's own past.

Midnight Revelations is the first installment in a new series by author Karen Bence. It is a moderately chilling tale of the paranormal, as well as a powerful portrait of a strong woman determined to uncover the truth for the sake of her family and for herself.

Bence grabs the reader and does not let go. The plot is tightly maintained, and the characters are real and finely wrought. All of the players are given honest feeling, emotion, and dialogue. In addition, the writing style is highly visual – descriptions of setting and character action and interaction are detailed and vivid, transporting bookworms into the pages of the work. The "supernatural" elements of the book are not so far-fetched as to be ridiculous, and the dream/vision sequences are related in believable fashion. Finally, the mechanics of Bence's writing are good. There is no variance or drifting. Bence weaves a complicated and intricate story while maintaining flow and consistency.

Bottom Line: A fast-paced, page-turner with interesting and intriguing paranormal activity. Book One in the *Dark Whispers Series* by Bence . . . anxiously awaiting the second installment. Grade – B++

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Karen M. Bence graduated with a bachelor of arts in Psychology from Dickinson College and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania. A former social worker, psychotherapist, and educator, Ms. Bence is an avid equestrian and dog breeder. Like the protagonist of *Midnight Revelations*, she is also engaged in a determined search for her biological mother. Ms. Bence currently resides with her husband and son on a horse farm outside of Atlanta, Georgia.

Final Financial Report for 2009



Budgeted Revenues	608,600.00
YTD Actual Receipts	555,823.17
Budgeted Expenses	606,283.27
YTD Actual Expenses	542,301.95

A special word of thanks for your faithful giving throughout 2009. Because you gave consistently, completed your pledges and in some cases gave over and above we were able to complete the year in the black AND fulfill all our mission commitments in full! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Our **total Mission giving in budgeted funds and special offerings for 2009 was \$53,680.78** and that figure does not include all the meals at the Extension, clothing drives, angel gifts, food, etc. that has been given. Macland is truly a Missional church reaching the lost, raising disciples and relieving suffering. Thank you for being who you are and caring so much for our community and world.



February Birthdays

2/1	Danny Baldwin	2/19	Alex Scott
2/1	Will Cromer	2/20	Bob Ledbetter
2/1	Jaina Sheckton	2/20	Norma Morrissey
2/5	Jackie Worrell	2/20	Joyce Skolte
2/6	Angela Yates	2/20	Ben Hodges
2/7	Susan Blair	2/20	Erin Michalke
2/7	Beth Stana	2/21	Mark Beebe
2/7	Dylan Cole	2/21	Richard Hughes
2/8	Elizabeth Ekweh	2/21	Jeremy Christopher
2/8	Andrew Scott	2/25	Richard Estes
2/10	Alexis Dingler	2/26	Maggie Sheckton
2/13	Gregg Downs	2/27	Inez Garrett
2/17	Rachal Bonham	2/27	Barry Haugh
2/17	David Savic	2/28	James Schmidt
2/19	Jeff Pierce	2/29	Erin Dooling
2/19	Caroline Alley		

Macland Presbyterian Church
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Reaching the Lost,
Raising Disciples
Relieving Suffering

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