

MACLAND PRESS

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January 2010

Points of Interest

Save These Dates:

January 10

New Inquirers' Class
K@m
Bibles to 3rd Graders

January 24

Fellowship Lunch
Honoring New Elders
& Deacons & recognizing
our Mission
Ambassadors

January 31

Youth Sunday

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New Classes Beginning in January



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:00-11:30 am

Family Life Center - Room B

The Wednesday Morning Bible study, taught by Zeta Lamberson, will study the New Testament book of Hebrews this winter. Hebrews encourages people to remain faithful as it explains that Jesus is the true and final revelation of God, how Jesus is God's eternal priest, and Jesus is the way to our salvation. Hebrews is a book that centers on Jesus and helps us to see how Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was taught in the Old Testament. A book will be provided for reading in preparation for the lesson. Our time together encourages sharing of learning's and our lives. Our first class will be on January 6. Join us!

Sunday School

Discovering the Bible - The New Testament

Beginning January 10 join us as we spend 15 weeks exploring the New Testament. Here is the heart of our story and this is an opportunity to put the pieces together about the story of Jesus and the early church and to ask all the questions you have had all your life. Join this inquisitive group on the stage in the gym each Sunday at 9:45 am. Taught by Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson

Wednesday Nights

Disciple - New Testament

6:30-8:00 pm - Room B (begins January 20, 2010)

The Disciple Bible study class on Wednesday nights is beginning the New Testament. This study is a survey and helps to build a study habit. All are welcomed to join us. Come and increase your knowledge about Jesus Christ and deepen your spiritual beliefs. Please bring your favorite Bible, pen and paper. The Disciple workbook will be distributed that night. If you will not be able to attend and are interested or have any questions, please Velvet Simmons at 770-354-8855 or v.a.simmons@att.net.

The Life of Jesus

7:00-8:00 pm - Room A (begins January 6, 2010)

Join Zeta Lamberson as we walk through the life of Jesus as found in the gospels. We will begin with the birth narratives, explore his key teachings and then spend the bulk of our time on the events of his final days. We will explore some of the historical Jesus material and seek to understand his life as a Middle Eastern man. Join us as we explore the life of Jesus through a variety of eyes and experiences. This class will help us especially to focus on Jesus as we experience Lent and Easter again this year.



Old highway 41 north of Charlotte made one last curve before it slowed for the college campus. As I remember, it was always at night, usually a Sunday night, and dark. At that curve Christmas holidays were over, exams were eminent, and January had begun. Ever since that reluctant returning to the books January has been to me the most serious month.

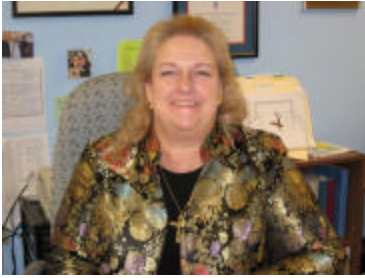
Maybe we all experience something of that back-to-work and back-to-reality feeling. Even the ancient church liturgical calendar calls this “ordinary time.” Gifts and decorations have been put away. “Thank you” notes have been written and mailed and music has lost its celebrative tone. Everything put off until after Christmas has emerged and demands attention. January is the serious month.

But it can also be the month for enjoying more spaces on the calendar and fewer pressures to go and do. Energy does revive.

The shorter days and longer nights invite unscheduled meditation. If we are ever going to ask, “Where have I been?” and “Where am I going?” January would be the time. Such questions evoke a certain kind of prayer like this: “Lord, I have rounded the curve into the new year. It is dark and cold, but I have energy and time again. Show me the best way to use them.”

It is just possible that ordinary days in a serious month will open more space for God in our lives.

Jim Speed



Zeta's Zone

January begins a new decade. Seems like just yesterday we were anticipating a new century and here we are ten years later. What will the new decade bring? What changes are in store for us as individuals, as a nation, as a world? Many of us look to the new year in hopes of a lessening of the recession, opening of new job opportunities for the many who are seeking work and a brighter outlook for the future. We have dreams that we hope will be realized in the new year. Bill and I are anticipating the birth of our second grandchild in February. The new year promises to bring new joys and wonders, new hopes and dreams, new anxieties and concerns. Change is good. Change is exciting. Change is frightening. Change is always with us. Change is all around us.

The same is true for the church. With the beginning of a new decade we begin a new era in the life of Macland Presbyterian Church. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has begun its work. They, along with the Session, will be casting a vision of where Macland Presbyterian Church wants to go in the future as they seek our next installed pastor. As the year progresses we will begin to experience some changes in our life and ministry. Beginning in January you will see some small changes in our order of worship. The Worship Team has been working with some modifications which we believe will enhance our worship life. Also in January we will be ordaining and installing new elders and deacons. These new officers will be setting the stage for a new pastor to come into our life together. Some tough decisions lie ahead for them. There are financial concerns that have to be dealt with. A budget to be approved. Ministry continues. Mission opportunities continue to present themselves and we will respond.

As we begin this new decade together I ask that you pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee as they begin their work. Know that their work must remain confidential but pray that God will be with them in the process. Pray for the Session as they work together to approve a budget and keep the ministry and mission of this church moving ahead. And pray for your staff as they seek to be faithful to their callings in this place in a time of transition.

Finally, my prayer is that we will all be open to a new spirit blowing among us and trust the Holy Spirit to lead us.

In Service to Christ,

Zeta

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

Mission wants you—to be an Ambassador!

Most people are surprised by the extensive list of mission organizations, projects and special offerings that our church supports each year. Have you ever wondered how a small mission ministry team of five or six members does it all? Here’s the secret. We don’t. We have help from a dedicated corps of mission ambassadors. We couldn’t plan, organize and accomplish mission at Macland without them.

Our ambassadors have each adopted one agency, one activity or one special offering that is near and dear to their hearts. They take on that group or project for a year, (or longer), keeping the mission team and the congregation apprised of what the group is doing and how our church can help.

- For example, during the floods last September, our CAMP ambassador, Carla Pierce, told us exactly what items the agency needed to distribute to flood victims.
- At Christmas, Sharon Dold, our ambassador to Compton Elementary, heard about the special needs of some of the school’s families for the holidays. By sharing that information in the bulletin, Macland members were able to respond, as they did to our “Shoes for Compton” appeal, that raised \$731 for shoes for Compton children, many who had experienced flooding.
- Jackie Worrell took on running the MUST Summer Lunch program last July. Her marketing and organizing efforts made it easy for members to bring in the right supplies or sign up to help make lunches.
- Linda and Andy Puterbaugh make the angels for our Angel Tree each year, and deliver the toys bought by members to CAMP for needy children.
- Mary Judd researched and organized our first community garden, which with your planting, tending and harvesting help, grew more than 300 lbs. of fresh produce for CAMP and MUST Ministries.

The mission team formed the ambassador corps several years ago, knowing that not everyone can attend night committee meetings or make a major time commitment to service. We all lead busy lives. But being an ambassador allows members to serve in one specific role that fits their passion, their skills and their schedule. By staying in touch with community organizations or advocating for one of our denomination’s special offerings—they expand Macland’s mission reach enormously. They help us show God’s love in real and tangible ways.

We’re looking for a few new mission ambassadors for 2010. We invite you to read the list of open positions, and ‘apply’ if one speaks to your heart. Please call Laura Yaramishyn (770-944-6273), or speak to anyone on the mission team: Steve Basha, Brenda Hubbard, Marion Savic, McGee Spencer, or Jackie Worrell. There are no salaries for these positions, but the benefits—to your faith journey, your church family and your community—are immeasurable.

Ambassadors are needed for:

The Extension: The Extension is a non-profit organization in Marietta that provides a residential addiction recovery program for homeless men. Macland provides a meal and a short inspirational program for the 55 residents the first Sunday of each month. Many Sunday school classes, small groups and choirs at Macland have signed up to serve at the shelter. They’ve learned that visiting and feeding men who are on the road to recovery never fails to feed their spirits. The ambassador coordinates the sign-up sheet, encourages groups to participate, and occasionally asks for drives for special needs.

Cobb Faith Partnership: This networking umbrella organization promotes unity in sharing God’s love in Cobb County. In communicating, connecting and promoting the outreach efforts of churches and faith-based ministries, CFP works to develop collaborative solutions to pressing issues such as homelessness, poverty and community development. The group meets for lunch and networking at various member locations monthly. With daytime meetings, this position would be ideal for someone retired or who has a flexible schedule.

Thornwell Home for Children: If you care about children, this ‘job’ is a perfect fit. Located in Clinton, South Caro-

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

lina, Thornwell began as an orphanage in 1875. The Synod of South Atlantic, of which we are a part, has long supported Thornwell, and Macland takes up a special offering for the home at Thanksgiving. Today Thornwell provides a safe, nurturing place for about 100 children a year. The ambassador would oversee the collection of the offering (printed materials are provided) and keep us all informed of news on Thornwell.

Cents-Ability: Last year the number of undernourished, hungry people in the world reached one billion. Hunger is a growing problem in the world and in our community. CAMP saw a 40 percent increase in food-pantry requests last year, even before the flooding. Macland has begun asking families to set aside a few cents at each meal, and to bring in those coins as a Cents-Ability offering the first Sunday of each month. Cents-Ability is a Presbyterian Church USA hunger program. We're looking for someone with creative ideas on how to promote the program, as well as willing hands to roll coins. In this economy, we'd like to increase our hunger-relieving efforts this year.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to show God's love to people experiencing need. The funds go to support the ministries of disaster relief, (Cobb County received some of those funds after the September flooding.), refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development. Printed materials are available to help this ambassador educate the congregation about this special Presbyterian offering held at Easter.

Mother's Day Offering: In 60 years of serving Georgia's senior adults at Presbyterian Homes (like our own Presbyterian Village), no one has ever been asked to leave due to lack of funds. Presbyterian Homes' Caring Hands Fund pays for care when families cannot. Each Mother's Day, we receive a Mother's Day Offering which goes to support Caring Hands. We need an ambassador to promote the good this offering does.

Peacemaking Offering: This offering is received in October, usually on World Communion Sunday. The Peacemaking Offering was established in 1980, as a way for the Presbyterian Church to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as a part of our faithfulness to God. Each church designates 25 percent of this offering for a project it chooses. The ambassador would serve as an advocate for the offering and help select projects for Macland to support with it.

Christmas Joy Offering: Collected during Advent, this Presbyterian USA offering is used to supplement inadequate retirement income and insurance needs for former ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families. It also goes to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council for racial ethnic educational institutions founded by Presbyterians. We'd like someone who will find interesting ways to educate members about the importance of this special offering.

Finally, the Mission Team would like to thank all current and former ambassadors who have helped our church give compassionately, effectively and efficiently to the needs that are all around us. You are a blessing.



**Covered Dish Fellowship Luncheon
Honoring our New Elders and Deacons &
Recognizing our Mission Ambassadors**

Sunday, January 24

**After Worship in Fellowship Hall
The Church will provide the drinks and meat.
Please bring a salad, fruit, vegetable or
dessert to share.**



INQUIRER'S CLASS

Attention all Inquirers! We will be offering a 3-week class for all who are interested in officially joining our faith community. Classes will be taught by Dr. Speed on January 10, 17 and 24. Come learn about Macland and the ways to get involved in serving God's Kingdom with us. New members will be received during worship on the 24th, followed by a fellowship dinner in the Family Life Center. For our members, please pass the word and invite those you may know who do not belong to a faith community to come check us out!

**KAM (Kids at Macland)
For 3rd through 5th Graders
Sunday, January 10
4:30-6:00 pm
In the Gym**



Stewardship Update

We have received 117 pledges for a total of \$525,744.00 as of December 15, 2009. If you have not turned in your pledge card for 2010 please do so soon. The Session will be finalizing the budget for 2010 in mid January and based on the pledges to date will have some tough decisions to make to balance the budget for 2010.

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



January 3

**Isaiah 60:1-7; Matthew 2:1-12
"The Rising Star"
Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson**

January 10

**Isaiah 43:1-7; Acts 8:14-17
"The Naming: Baptism"
Dr. James O. Speed**

January 17

**Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11
"When the Wine Gives Out"
Dr. James O Speed, Jr.**

January 24

**Psalms 19; I Corinthians 12:12-31
"Towards the Ordered Life"
Dr. James O. Speed**

January 31

Youth Sunday



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.



Through December 15, 2009

Revenue to date	\$528,955.66
Expenses to date	\$524,408.06



***Bound South* by Susan Rebecca White**

Book Review by Karen R. Williamson

BOOK Review

Bound South relates the experiences of three Southern women whose lives intersect in unexpected and atypical ways.

First, there is Louise Parker . . . a proper, Southern Dame: submissive wife, dutiful daughter-in-law, and decorous mother figure for her two children, Caroline and Charles;

Next, is Caroline Parker . . . daughter of Louise and John Henry: rebellious, impertinent, and disrespectful, with a flair for acting and promiscuity;

Finally, meet Missy Meadows . . . the young daughter of the Parker's housekeeper: abandoned by her father, living in semi-poverty, totally naïve as to the ways of the world, and attempting to live a devoutly Christian life.

The story is told from three, "first-person" perspectives – different chapters in the book have a different voice . . . Louise, Caroline, or Missy. Each character relates different events, thoughts, and feelings which that particular character experiences as they live out their daily routines. From Louise comes the saga of marriage and motherhood, as well as the "burdens" of wealth and the onus obligations that are inherent when one lives in one of Atlanta's premier neighborhoods. Caroline relates the trials and tribulations of being a teenager struggling to discover who she is, misunderstood by her parents and stepping into adulthood much too soon. Through the hapless Missy, readers are drawn into a little girl's dream of a reunion with her biological father and the reality of lost innocence.

Some critics have labeled *Bound South* "hilarious", "humorous" and "laugh out loud funny"; however, I found nothing in this work over which to giggle or guffaw. From the infeasibility of a woman never realizing that her maid of 30 years was actually a man in drag to the eccentricities and callousness of the spoiled rich, from the tragedy of child abandonment and teen pregnancy to the mockery of the Christian faith, *Bound South* was anything **but** comedic and/or amusing. However, I would agree that the story is *poignant* with respect to its ability to evoke pity for the characters depicted in the book, as well as *sharply perceptive* in how it reveals current social issues and portrays the distinct separation of and difference between social classes. In this vein, White is exceptionally insightful and does an excellent job.

Readers will also find that the book is well-written overall. Sentence structure, pacing, and flow are well done. Despite the fact that different first-person voices are heard in different chapters that flip-flop, overlap, and intersect with each other, White weaves a seamless tale and effortlessly moves readers through the lives of her characters. In addition, the author's development of her characters is commendable and, while there is no "action-packed" suspense, the strength of the players makes the work compelling and will keep readers turning pages.

Southern readers, especially Atlantans, will also enjoy the setting of this work – Atlanta. As White moves her characters through their various life events, she cites numerous landmarks and locations which natives will recognize and appreciate . . . the two smokestacks of the old mill in Cabbagetown, Oakland Cemetery, Piedmont Hospital, Peachtree Street, Ansley Park, Buckhead, Sandy Springs, Piedmont Park, and many, many more. Here, White echoes the likes of Margaret Mitchell (*Gone with the Wind*) and Elizabeth Musser (*The Swan House*), although she lacks the grace and classic depth of a Mitchell or Musser.

In short, I cannot concur with all of the accolades which other critics have bestowed upon *Bound South*. It's not charming, extraordinary, impressive, or enthralling as some have said. However, on the whole, there is more good to say about the book than there is bad. In addition to character development, setting, and general writing style, the work also comes with a Reading Group Guide and a "Conversation with the Author" section in the back. These features, as well as the hot-button social issues addressed by White, make *Bound South* a must for any serious book discussion group. Still, I am not sure I would read another book by this author. Grade: C

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Susan Rebecca White was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a graduate of Brown University and holds a master of fine arts in creative writing from Hollins University. Now at work on her second novel, she lives with her husband in Atlanta. To learn more about Susan Rebecca White and her books, visit www.susanrebeccawhite.com.



A Special Thank You

What a wonderful time we had at “A Night in Bethlehem”! The market was crowded. The census taker was diligent recording our attendance. The Roman soldier kept watch over everyone (Did you see those legs!?). The tax collector was hounding everyone. The candy shop and bakery were yummy and fun! The wreath shop helped us to get into the experience as we made garlands for our heads. The leather working was a challenge. The metal worker reminded us that people believed in good luck charms so we made a bulla! The scribe shop was an experience as we learned to write with a quill and ink and sealed our scrolls. Making a pot was taxing but creative. The many crafts reminded us of the birth of our Savior. And the storyteller in the melody shop taught us to play a game and sing a song. And the most exciting part was the shepherd who led us to see Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus in the stable! We even got a nativity scene to take home to remember our afternoon in Bethlehem.

Events like this don't just happen. Lots of people shared their talents and helped to make it happen. A special thanks to the Christian Education Team who coordinated this event. Special thanks to Susan Polacheck, Marlene Michalke and Angela Yates who coordinated everything. Beverly Thompson, Linda Puterbaugh and Peggy Ingalsbe helped with the costumes. Doug Michalke, Allison Michalke, Don Yates, John Polacheck, David, Ginny, Jake, Frank, and Sara Spain and Jill Puterbaugh helped with set-up and tearing down. Thanks for the strong backs! Nick Barge created our stable. Thanks also to all the shop keepers - Richard & Penny Estes, Doug & Marlene Michalke, Ruth Kuhl, Jill Puterbaugh, John Polacheck, Karen Gooden, Johnny Gravley, Eric Michalke, Heather Scott, Linda Moon, Sharon Dold, Gayle Kuykendall, Linda Koval, Ginny Spain, Jane Keegan. Our actors were wonderful - Don Yates, Hank Picken, Bill Lamberson, Bob Kendall, Don, Cindy & Adelina Zell, Taylor & Caroline Polacheck, Michelle & Micheala Yates. Finally, thanks to everyone who came and made it such a wonderful afternoon!



January Birthdays

1/1	Don Yates	1/7	Pat Richardson	1/23	Tiffany Tabb
1/1	Stephano DeMarino	1/8	Steve Stana	1/23	Fleet Lester
1/2	Eileen Stoya	1/8	Eva Jimenez	1/23	Tyler Zorn
1/2	Rachel Gartrell	1/9	Jane Keegan	1/23	Tristen Hubert
1/2	Makayla Rogers	1/10	Poli Brunot	1/24	Tyler Keegan
1/2	Drake Sheckton	1/11	Doug Michalke	1/25	Greg Yaramishyn
1/3	Jason Scott	1/11	Bill White	1/25	Ashley Jones
1/3	John Mitchell	1/12	Emma Straka	1/26	David Estes
1/3	Paige Hubert	1/13	Dan Robison	1/27	Kristi McAlexander
1/4	Jim Kuykendall	1/15	Eve Carter	1/27	Frank Spain
1/5	Sharron Duff	1/17	Edward Varner	1/28	Ken Keegan
1/5	Janet Robison	1/17	Marion Jones	1/29	Jack Tucker
1/5	Liz Ard	1/17	Robert Thach	1/30	Lauren McLendon
1/5	Heather Rogers	1/18	Jim Tabb	1/31	Heather Scott
1/6	Callie Straka	1/18	Merdith Carter		
1/7	Donna Hill	1/20	Haley Coyle		

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Reaching the Lost,
Raising Disciples
Relieving Suffering

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