

Tidings

Clover Presbyterian Church

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church
Larne, Northern Ireland



April, 2011

Things You Need to Know:

- **New!!!** Keep up with what's happening around the church by subscribing to our newsfeed:
http://www.cloverpres.org/mod/news/syndicate.php?category_id=1

- **Come to the 2011 Ministry Team Fair:**

Explore the many opportunities to put your gifts, skills, and talents to work for the glory of God through the ministries of our congregation at the 2011 Ministry Team Fair. From April 3-17 our Teams will display their plans and hopes for the coming months in the fellowship hall. Stop by on Wednesday night or on your way to worship and discover a new way to be involved in the mission and ministry of the church. Ask, learn, volunteer!

- **Holy Week and Easter:**

Maundy Thursday Communion	April 21	7:00 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae	April 22	7:00 pm
Easter Sunrise	April 24	7:00 am
Easter Cantata and the Lord's Supper	April 24	11:00 am

- Join us for **Breakfast each Sunday in Lent** ~ March 13—April 17 at 8am in the Fellowship Hall.
- **The Easter Egg Hunt** will be on April 16th. Watch for opportunities to help.
- The **Middle and High School youth** will be going **bowling** immediately following the 11am worship service on Sunday, April 3.
- The **Senior Adult Dinner** is coming up on Saturday April 9th at 5:00 pm in the fellowship Hall. All of our Senior adults are invited to this night of fun, fellowship and BINGO! Thanks to the Adult 1 Sunday school class for providing this great opportunity. Reserve your place by calling the church office (222-9108). Thanks!
- Save the Date: **Bethelwoods Night at the Charlotte Knights**—Saturday, June 4. Enjoy a night out with your Church friends and portion of the ticket revenue will fund Camp scholarships at Bethelwoods. It's a win-win-win. More details coming.
- Save the Date 2: **The Third Annual Seeker's Fish Fry**; Sunday May 1; 11:30-1:30; Eat-in/Take-out. \$7.00/plate. Proceeds benefit the Mexico Mission Trip and the Montreat Youth Conference.
- Save the Date 3: The Middle and Senior High Youth will be riding the **Virginia Creeper Bike Trail** on May 6-7. The cost for the trip is \$55 plus incidentals (like food: Dinner on the way up, Lunch on the trail). Reserve your place now. Registration deadline is April 17!
- The **Lenten Devotional Table** is in the Hall outside the Parlor off the Fellowship Hall. You can find a variety of devotional materials there to guide your family's observation of the Lenten season as we journey toward Holy and Easter.

Things You Need To Know Continue on Page 7



Keynotes: The *Christian Century*

"You yourselves know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or to visit a Gentile; but God has shown me that I should not call anyone profane or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection."

Acts 10:28-29

After Christmas we went to visit my cousins who live outside Boston. Against all reasonable judgment, as some of you know, we decided to drive to Massachusetts the week after Christmas. The trip was not uneventful, what with the blizzard and all, but the directions at least were easy to follow. It is not hard to get to Massachusetts from here. You take I-85 north to I-95 north to I-84 east, and as long you stop to pay the tolls you can get to Massachusetts turnpike in something like five turns.

It is a very satisfying way to travel, really, when the snow is plowed off the road surface. There is never any doubt along the way that you are making progress. The road is wide, the traffic is moving at a good clip, the miles zoom by, the highway reels in your destination by the minute. Arrival is so inevitable that somewhere around Delaware you start making preliminary calculations as to its exact time.

This was the first time we had visited this part of my family since they had bought a house in the suburbs. So when we arrived in Boston, navigated the Big Dig and thought we had accomplished our task, I noticed that the directions suddenly got a lot more complicated. They lived a long way off the interstate. The roads were no longer wide and straight, the traffic was no longer all headed in the same direction, confidence waned. Every half mile we were turning here, merging there, stopping for trains and traffic signals. Progress slowed to a crawl, arrival seemed less certain, navigation became tentative, hostility and paranoia overtook the passengers. "Is this Smith street?" "I don't know, where's the sign?" "Should we stop and ask?" "We're in Massachusetts!! They'll probably pull a knife on us or something!" And so on.

It seems to me that in recent years the experience of the Church has been much like that winter car trip to Boston.

At the dawn of the twentieth century the church seemed poised for unprecedented success. It was a time of unmatched optimism. For two generations the churches of Europe and America had been carrying the gospel to faraway lands; saving souls, establishing churches, planting the seeds of discipline and decency among uncivilized peoples. With the beginning of the new century it seemed that there was nothing that the church could not

accomplish if it put its mind to it. No culture it couldn't evangelize, no people it couldn't convert, no distance it couldn't travel to fulfill its missionary dream. The road was wide, the traffic swift, the progress unencumbered as it established outposts of God's kingdom.

Some even believed that a tipping point was in sight. Very soon, faithfulness was going to flood the earth with justice, empowerment and prosperity in its wake. This was finally going to be century when the results of Christian living were going to work a sweeping transformation of human history. Missionary churches, with their protestant work ethic, their commitment to education, their gospel of liberation and empowerment, were going to make a difference in the life of every nation, on every continent. The momentum was unstoppable. This was the century when the evidence would be overwhelming, the conclusions obvious, that the Christian life was the life human beings were created to live.

So optimistic and enthusiastic were the professors of this faith that they even dared to publish a magazine with the title: *The Christian Century*. In 1908 the publishers of *The Christian Oracle* changed the name of the journal to *The Christian Century* as a testament to their confidence that this generation would finally see the fruits of their missionary labor.

Well, how did that work out? Now that we are a decade past the close of that century we can begin to reflect on it with some historical perspective. It seems that a funny thing happened on the way to the Christian Century. The road didn't stay wide and free flowing; the progress did not continue to be unstoppable, momentum shifted, the road got twisted, navigation toward the destination got more complicated.

The story of the twentieth century, the Christian Century, is a tale of roadblocks and detours. What started out looking inevitable turned out to be negotiable. The Christian Century saw unprecedented change, but not the transformation that the church establishment imagined. History got in the way. It was a century of atrocity and liberation; of world war, and holocaust, and the prospect of nuclear annihilation. It was a century of women's suffrage, civil rights, and the fall of Communism and Apartheid.



Keynotes: *The Christian Century*

Along the way the traditional colonial powers of the west, those administrative structures that had sponsored the missionary movement and sheltered it under their authority, dissolved. The great empires were dismantled and their armies and governors recalled. To its credit the church did not board the last train out of town and sail back to Britain, or France, or Holland, just because the native people were now self-governing. The missionary movement remained and sought a new way of making disciples in a now truly foreign land. The road got narrower, the route more confusing, but we didn't stop the bus.

What we can now understand and appreciate about this journey through the Christian Century is how truly transformative it was. Every bit as transformative as it promised to be at its outset. For in every colony that won its independence and in every oppressed people that won their voice, there were found new witnesses to the gospel. There were people in South Africa, and Southeast Asia, in the Soviet Union, and in African American churches, there were women and immigrants and tribes long forgotten who for the first time in their history were free to read the Bible and interpret its message on their own terms during the Christian Century. And they raised legitimate, probing, often uncomfortable questions about the received tradition.

Consequently, the Christian faith in the twentieth century was confronted time and again with a fresh perspective on what God had done for the world in Jesus Christ. When the colonial powers went home, the people left reading the Bible discovered that there was really very little in the book that legitimated the foreign domination that they had endured for centuries. They spoke up, challenged the received wisdom of the ages, demanded an explanation. "The God in this book never seems to be on the side of the superpower," they noticed. "He's forever taking the side of the weak, the poor, the displaced and neglected, the widow and orphan. Our side. Against you." They said to Western orthodoxy.

When women read the book for themselves they discovered that, on balance, Jesus seems willing to work with men and women pretty much without distinction, and even Paul greets women regularly as co-workers. African Americans found their voice and challenged the prevailing assumptions about God's ordering of society. Latin Americans heard a story of a liberating God setting the oppressed and enslaved peoples free.

The bus got full. Everybody brought their own map. The

directions got more complicated, the destination less clearly in view, progress less easily measured, hostility and paranoia more easily provoked. The Christian Century was immensely transforming, just not transforming in the way the church had imagined.

The directions are more complicated, it turns out, when you have several million back seat drivers.

Naturally, at every step along this journey there have been those from the establishment, those who were loath to part with the animating vision and dream of a conquering Christian empire, who suffered. Every liberated critic of the prevailing narrative of the faith challenged the rectitude and integrity of Christian tradition, fraught as it is with injustice and willing collaboration with power. The faith proved not to be terribly nimble or eager to adapt to this new testimony.

At every turn the church tried to squelch dissent and preserve its privilege. Its life got increasingly fragmented as its proclamation struggled to make sense of these new expressions of Christian experience. The Christian century was marked by discord, conflict and ultimately decline, for its sponsoring institutions. As each new participant came to the microphone and began to read out their bill of indictment against the received doctrines of the church, we were tempted to mutter, "You know, the church worked a lot better before you started talking; we felt a lot better about ourselves when we taught and you learned, before we had to accommodate your questions; before we had to consider the merits of your reading of God's word."

The Church worked a lot better when we enjoyed broad agreement about everything of consequence, we want to think. The church worked better when it was in the custody of white males. The church was better when it was visibly successful, when the budget was fully funded and the programs fully staffed. The church worked better when the gospel endorsed our privilege. Trust us on this; if you would just give us back the keys we'll make sure we all get home by the quickest route.

Only, we wouldn't. We know better now than to think of the church and its faith as anybody's possession other than God's. The Christian Century has been an amazing journey toward a more complete, more just, more faithful body of Christ at work in the world. The challenge to listen and consider and discern and befriend this diverse company of disciples has made us stronger, if not bigger; and certainly a more exact likeness of our Lord and Savior.

The twentieth century ended a decade ago, but the Christian Century drives on. Still we are challenged to make sense of the Christian witness of people long excluded from the conversation. We are called to hear what they hear when they read about the Father who had two sons, or the God who so loved the world. We are called to privilege their understanding of Jesus' words to the Samaritan woman with the privilege ours has enjoyed for so many centuries. But still there are those who want the keys back; who are tired of being challenged and criticized and scrutinized; those who would rather tell a truth than receive a witness.

The conflicts visited upon the church in this generation will soon pass and new challenges will take their place. The old critics will be assimilated and new critics will arise. And in the process our witness will be refined and perfected, our knowledge purified, our mission made more faithful. The Church is God's act. God is driving this bus. Our itinerary is not our own. For us it is enough to make room for each and every new passenger that God stops to pick up along the way; to welcome them, and listen to them, and regard them as a child of God for whom Christ died that they might get on board.

Peace,



*Presbyterian
Women*

The PW Council will meet on **Monday, April 4** at the church with Paula Brinkley, hostess, at 7pm.

Circle 1 will meet on **Monday, April 11** at 10:00am at the church.

Circle 2 will meet on **Monday, April 11** at 7:00pm at the church.

Flower Calendar for April

3 Available

10 Available

17 Palm Branches

24 Easter Lilies

April, 2011

Things You Need to Do:

- **Join an Adult Sunday school class:** Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).
- **CAAC Collection.** This Month ~ Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant, etc.
- **Observe a Holy Lent:** Come to Breakfast; make plans to worship during Holy Week, prepare to meet the risen Lord.
- **Senior Adults:** Join the fellowship and Bingo at the Senior Adult Dinner, April 9.
- **Help** with the Easter Party / Egg Hunt: See Candy McCain and volunteer.
- **Save the Dates:** Seekers Fish Fry, May 1; Virginia Creeper Trail, May 6-7; CPC Open, May 14; Bethelwoods Night at the Knights, June 4.
- **Cans Cans Cans!** Aluminum funds youth ministry. Bring us your cans.
- **Give:** We need \$7,067 per week in order to fund our operations inside the church building. There is no where else to cut the church budget without eliminating valuable ministry.
- **Subscribe** to the CPC Newsfeed.
- **Find** a new way to use your gift, talents, and skills at the Ministry Team Fair.

April, 2011

People Who Need Your Prayers:

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President – Barack Obama, our Governor - Nikki Haley, our Mayor - Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams and Tony & Connie Johnson.

Our Known Sick: Grant McLean, Taze Bennett, Ruby Bennett, Robin Davis, Ollie Robertson, Gene Bowman, Kimberly Sanders and Brad Robinson.

Those unable to worship with us: Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Anne Hall, Mary Lou Sifford and Gene & Mary Sifford.

Friends and Relatives:

JoAnn Barnes – mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith—dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler—aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard—grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Elizabeth Barnett—mother of Tom Redmond, Eddie Doss—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Alex VanEtten, mentor student of Libby Sprouse, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Dan Hartsoe—father of Don Hartsoe, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell—friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Debra Good—friend of Jeannie Edmunds, Bruce Clark—friend of Kathy Key, Ida & Ernest Cagle—grandparents of Mike Carpenter, Carly Bennett—grand-daughter of Don & Kay Westmoreland, Dian Timms, mother of Paula Clayton, Cam Robinson, brother of Brad Robinson, Mary Jo Harvey—cousin of Charlotte Jackson, Joan Blalock & Jennifer Brown—friend of Hartsoe family, Ronnie Bell—uncle of Terry Swanner, Ticker Spurrier—mother of Wes Spurrier, David Stanton, Jr.—friend of Harry & Ann Hogue, Mickey Gordon—sister-in-law of Joe & Kay Gordon, David Patterson—friend of Jessica Swanner, Kristin McDonough—friend of Scott & Holly Frisk, Jim Carroll—nephew of Ann Goode & Barbara Beamguard, Don Dawes—father of Marc Dawes, Sara Anderson—sister-in-law of Tammie Anderson, Rex Pritt—cousin of Lois Talbert and Sharon Fitch—friend of Alisa Johnson.

Worshiping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

April, 2011

Places You Need to Be:

- Ministry Team Fair ~ April 3-17 in the Fellowship Hall
- Choir Practice ~ Wednesday, 7:00
- Praise Team Rehearsal ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship ~ Wednesdays, 5:30; Thru April 13.
- Session and Deacons Meetings ~ April 10
- Easter Party ~ April 16, 9:00am—11:00am
- Maundy Thursday Service ~ April 21, 7:00pm
- Good Friday Service ~ April 22, 7:00pm
- Easter Sunrise Service ~ April 24, 7:00 AM
- Easter Worship and Cantata ~ April 24, 11:00 AM
- Lenten Breakfast ~ Sundays, 8:00 am.
- Seekers Fish Fry ~ May 1.
- Knight's Castle ~ June 4

June 4



\$12 per person
(\$4 supports
Bethelwoods)

Serving the church in April

Closing - Ted McCarley

Ushers ~ 11:00am

03 Ann Goode, Jane McCall, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Gary Love, Garrison Love
10 Lillian Lawrence, Sally Mann, Ted McCarley, Bob Mann, Tommy McLean, Bill Brooks
17 Pat Lowe, Linda Henry, Ted McCarley, Mack Henry, Jack Scott, Eric Scott, Wes Spurrier
24 Millie Jones, Peggy Adams, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Tommy McLean

Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am

03 Don Hartsoe
10 Jane McCall
17 Dick Jackson
24 Wes Spurrier

Worship Leaders ~ 8:45am

03 Doug Westmoreland
10 Bruce Elliott
17 Georgia Westmoreland
24 Jennifer Johnson

Acolytes 11:00

03 Sophia Sprouse
10 Sean Clayton
17 Christianna Priester
24 Alex Mcleod

Nursery Volunteers (11:00)

03 Sammy Ann McCarley
10 Millie Jones
17 Mary Adams
24 Sherer Hopkins

Children's Church 11:00

3 & 4 year olds

03 Buddy & Paula Clayton
10 Carl & Mary Adams
17 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
24 Greg & Kristy Rowland

K-2nd grade

03 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
10 Bill & Libby Brooks
17 Alice Aiken
24 Katie Benton & Evelyn Pendleton

Sunday School

Ladies Bible Class ~ Ladies Classroom

03 Kay Gordon
10 Willie Westmoreland
17 Pat Lowe
24 Myrna Kosko

Men's Bible Class ~ Rec. Building

03 Dave Cyphers
10 Douglass Key
17 J.S. Edmunds
24 Don Westmoreland

Adult 1 Class ~ Church Parlor

03 Lynn Edmunds
10 Candy McCain
17 Donna Hartsoe
24 Jane McCall

The Seekers Class ~ Church Library

03 Bruce Elliott
10 Jack Scott
17 Class member
24 Terry Swanner

Youth Suppers

03 (Bowling)
10 Jeff & Kimberly Sanders
17 No youth
24 No youth

If you would like to prepare supper for our youth,
please contact Sue Love at 222-6549 or thecloverloves@bellsouth.net

April, 2011

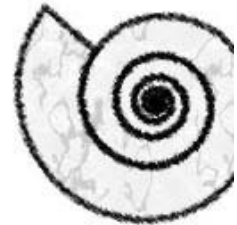
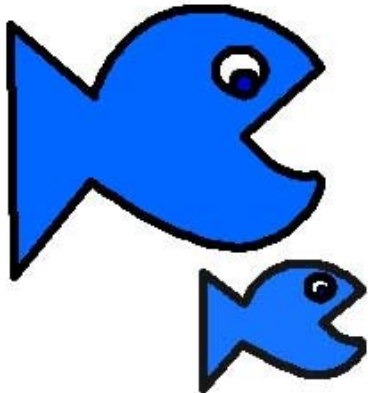
Things You Need to Know (con't):

- The **Board of Deacons** will meet on Sunday, April 10 at 5:30 in the parlor.
- The **Session** will meet on Sunday, April 10 at 6:00 in the conference room.
- **Thanks** for a great season of Wednesday night Fellowship, Friends, Kid Connection, and Bible Study. Our last Wednesday night program for the year will be April 13.
- **Thanks** for giving the **Gift of Life**, at our Spring Blood Drive on March 29.
- **The CPC Open Returns!** Golfers mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14 and join us for the third annual CPC Open. We will shotgun start the captains choice festivities at 1:30 pm at Carolina Crossings Golf Club. Entry fee is \$50 per golfer or \$200 per team. Holes (tees and greens) can be sponsored for \$50. Proceeds support our youth trip to the Montreat youth Conference in June.
- **Cans Into Ca\$h!** Did you know that **ALL** the aluminum that we recycle here at the church is sold and the money supports our **Youth Program Funds**? So... separate your drink cans (regardless of what they once held—really—we don't judge!) and bring them to the church so that we can turn those cans into cash! Drop them in **ANY** of the recycling bins around the church and we (Roy Brinkley) will do the rest. Thanks!
- **Hunger Awareness:** The youth will join with area churches on April 29th to participate in a **30 Hour Famine** where we will experience hunger and learn what it might take to survive in an earthquake!

Worshiping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

Clover Presbyterian Church Fish Fry
Grahams Fish Camp

\$7.00



Plates include fried fish and/or chicken tenders, slaw, fries, & tarter sauce. Bake sales items will be available.

Sunday, May 1
11:30 until 1:30

All proceeds benefit mission efforts to build a Bible school in Chiapas, Mexico and to support our Youth programs.

First Quarter Financial Summary

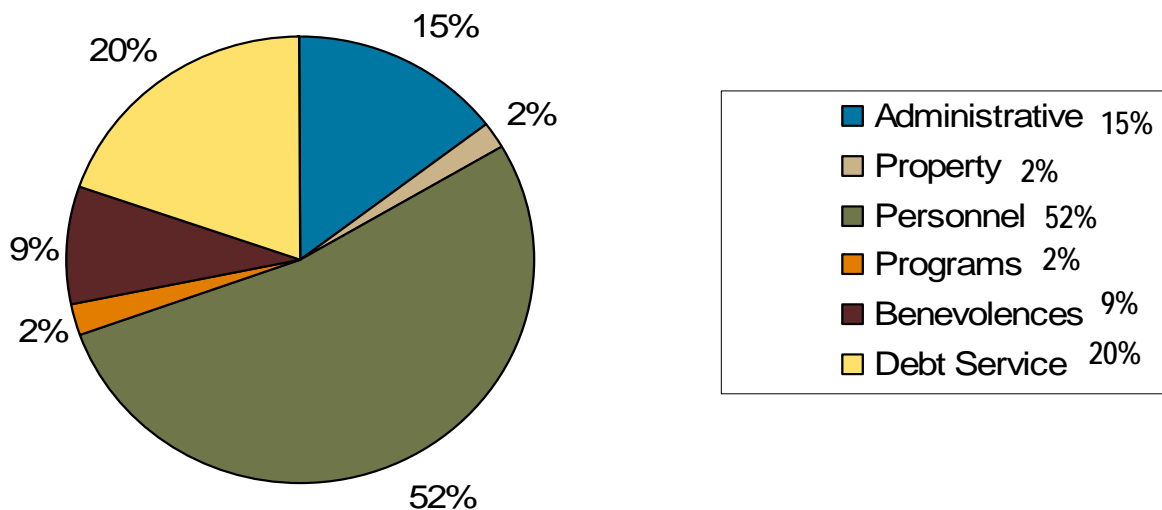
The Stewardship and Finance ministry team has focused on two primary initiatives during the first quarter of 2011.

1. **New financial reporting for the Tidings.** The three quarterly graphs shown are intended to provide a quick and easy perspective of our financial status with respect to the general offering, where those collections are being spent, and how the collections from the capital campaign are retiring our debt. Please also review the commentary, which provides additional insight and interpretation.

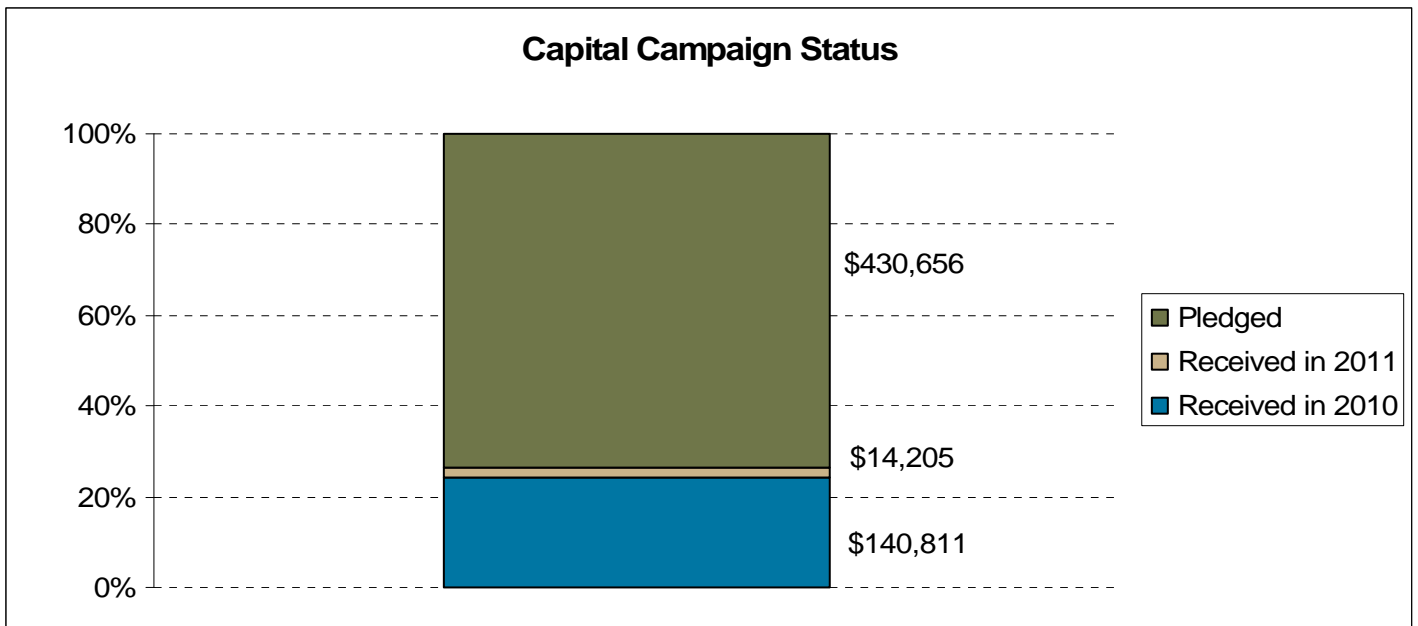
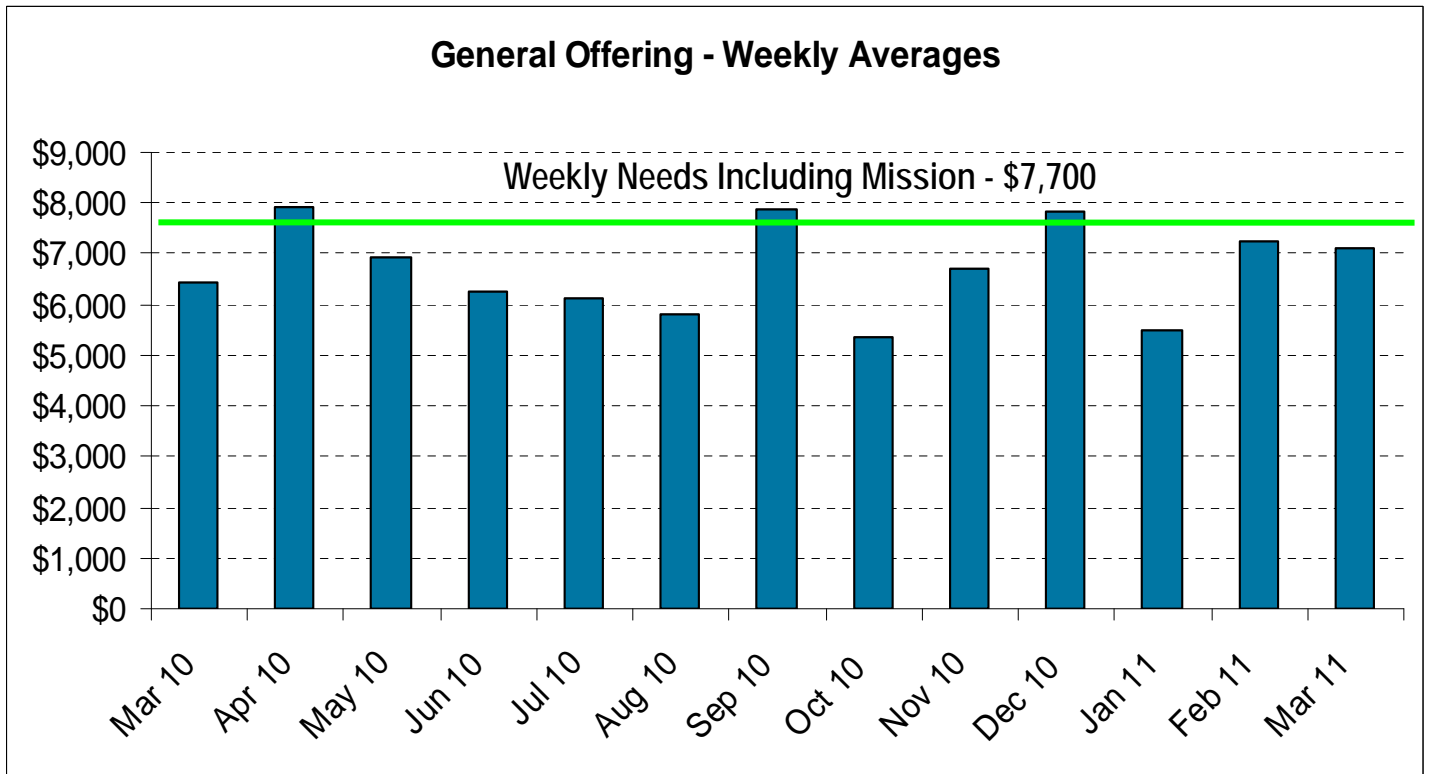
2. **Convenient giving options.** Some members have stressed an interest in being able to make their offering electronically. Therefore, the ministry team has been actively pursuing both bank draft and scheduled bill pay options. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about these options, which will not only provide convenience but also allow our members to stay current with their pledges during times that they're unable to make it church on Sunday.

If you have questions about either of these initiatives, please contact ministry team members Buddy Clayton or Wes Spurrier.

Year to Date Actual Expenses



First Quarter Financial Summary (con't.)



Financial Summary:

- Weekly expense needs line represents total budgeted expenses including commitments to outside mission and charitable agencies.
- Notice in the pie chart that our actual expenses show that only 2% is spent on property, 2% on programs, and 9% on benevolences.
- The shortfalls represented in the general offering directly contribute to low allocations on property, programs, and benevolences.
- Eliminating the debt (20% of expenses) can greatly increase the emphasis in these areas and expand our mission to do God's work.

April 2011 at Clover Presbyterian Church

Wednesday Activities:

4:45am Music Garten, Children's Choir
 5:30pm Supper
 6:00pm Bible Study for all ages
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Praise Team Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00pm NA	2
3 8:00am Lenten Breakfast 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm AA	4 7:00pm PW Council ~ <i>at the home of Paula Brinkley</i>	5 5:30pm AA 6:00pm Preschool Registration	6 Wednesday Activities	7 8:00pm AA	8 8:00pm NA	9 5:00pm Senior Adult Dinner
10 8:00am Lenten Breakfast 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Deacon MT Meeting 6:00pm Deacon Bible Study Session Bible Study Youth Fellowship AA 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	11 10:00am Circle 1 7:00pm Circle 2	12 5:30pm AA	13 Wednesday Activities	14 8:00pm AA	15 8:00pm NA	16 9:00am—11:00am Easter Party
17 8:00am Lenten Breakfast 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm AA	18	19 5:30pm AA	20 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice/Praise Team Rehearsal	21 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 8:00pm AA	22 7:00pm ~ Good Friday Service 8:00pm NA	23
24 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm AA	25	26 5:30pm AA	27 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice/Praise Team Rehearsal	28 8:00pm AA	29 8:00pm NA	30

APRIL

01 Mary Beth Shealy
Patti Scott

02 Brian Hall, IV.
Sophia Sprouse
Ted McCarley

03 Channing Thomas
Kara Mcleod

04 Bob Mann
Chris Stewart
Matthew Aiken

05 Laura Johnson

06 Ellen Westmoreland

07 Annie Brisco

08 Adam Scott

09 Otis Adams

12 Joshua Warlick

13 Drew Cyphers

15 Bartlett Shealy

17 Bennett Cox

18 Josh Pendleton
Katie Benton

19 Felicity Adams
Penny Campbell

20 Josh Wall
Larry Wall
Anita Hart

21 Kathy Key

25 Rebekah Stine
Pat King

26 Sarah Burrell

27 Jean Jackson

30 Roy Brinkley



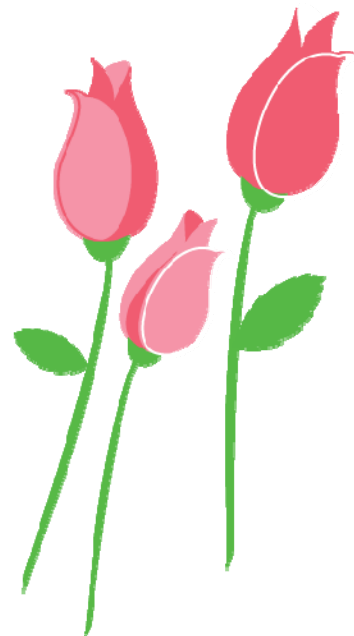
12 Bob & Sally Mann

14 Barry & Katie Benton

18 Gary & Sue Love

20 Joe & Carolyn Thomas
Ed & Faith Shirley

25 Mike & Lisbeth Carpenter



www.cloverpres.org

More information about events and activities available online:

wandawhitesides@yahoo.com

Wanda Whitesides

Director of Preschool:

barbq@carolina.rr.com

Barbara Quinn

Organist/Choir Director:

Pamtfowler@gmail.com

Pam Fowler

Secretary:

bluehose1@yahoo.com

Debbie Dixon

Director of Christian Education:

preacherdkey@gmail.com

Douglas Key

Pastor:

**Clover Presbyterian Church
202 Kings Mountain Street
Clover, SC 29710
*information@cloverpres.org***

803-222-9108 office

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