

Presbytery of the United States

(formerly "Presbytery of Great Lakes and Western Canada")
Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)

Fall Quarter Edition

From the Editor:

The ongoing purpose of our **Presbytery Email Newsletter** is "to promote and encourage love between the brethren and to stimulate unity among the various Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) congregations that the Lord is raising up within our Presbytery". Communication among the brethren enhances our fellowship with one another in the Biblical sense of having things in common, in this case, having common knowledge with one another that we may rejoice or weep together and support one another in prayer. As you will read below in the entry from the Washington Congregation, the initiation of the practice of Quinquennial Visitations (Presbytery's visitation of each congregation every five years) is strengthening our bond of love and will continue to provide encouragement for our congregations.

For effective circulation, it is suggested that each church organize a means by which members without email service might receive the information provided in the Presbytery Email Newsletter. If you have received an email newsletter by error or wish to be removed from our circulation list, please contact the editor, Warren Gardner, at warrengardner@windstream.net and I will promptly remove you from our recipients' list. Those wishing to be added to our list should request a new subscription by writing to the same address. Note that it is important that you keep me updated of any email address changes.

Reporting guideline: For the sake of accuracy and the appropriate release of information, all reporting will be through the ministers and elders of the congregations.

In this issue, you will find:

- 1) Schedule of communion seasons within our Presbytery, (page 1)
- 2) News from each of our congregations, (pages 2-4)
- 3) News from each of our preaching stations, (pages 4-5)
- 4) 2008 Colloquium news, (page 5)
- 5) 2009 North American FCC Conference news, (page 5)

The following communion seasons are scheduled:

Atlanta: the fourth Sabbath of January, April, July and October

Detroit: the second Sabbath of March, June, September and December

Greenville: the third Sabbath of January, April, July and October

Washington, D.C.: the second Sabbath of January, April, July and October

FREE CHURCH ATLANTA

The Atlanta congregation has services on the Lord's Day at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with a meal between services and desserts served following the afternoon service to encourage fellowship. Services are now being held in our newly leased location at 2256 Northlake Parkway, Suites 301-302, Tucker, Georgia 30084-4034. (For directions consult mapquest.com or contact Rev Warren Gardner at 770-867-5765.)

The Atlanta congregation moved to its meeting location at 2256 Northlake Parkway, Suites 301-302, on the first Sunday in September in a professional building advantageously located along Interstate 285, the beltway that encircles Atlanta. This location reduces travel for the majority of the congregation and provides easy access to our location from all points around the city. Members of the congregation have given of their time and energy to renovate the suites with painting and installing a doorway to provide internal access between the two suites. With the enthusiasm about the opportunities that our new location offers, members are beginning visits in the surrounding community to extend invitations to our worship services. Our new location has already resulted in us seeing new visitors in our services. Please pray that we will be effective in reaching our neighborhood with the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.

On October 19th, the current Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) General Assembly, the Rev. John Keddie, will visit the congregation and conduct services. Rev. Keddie is the pastor of our Bracadale and Duirinish congregations on the Isle of Skye and has recently returned from the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where his book on the life of Eric Liddell, the Scottish missionary to China, was distributed in Chinese with government approval. He is on a brief visit to Atlanta in conjunction with the distribution of the English version of his book

Continuing progress is being made in our Catechism Class. Our present study from the Westminster Shorter Catechism covers the questions related to the Ninth Commandment. The Class meets each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Ron and Michele Haag, 2846 Castle Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia. The Class members include adults and youth from the congregation and children from the neighborhood. Attendance varies from 12-22.

For more information, check out our website (www.freechurchatlanta.org) or contact Rev. Warren Gardner at 770-867-5765 or warrengardner@windstream.net.

GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Greenville congregation has two services on the Lord's Day at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., with a fellowship lunch in between. We have two mid-week meetings, a prayer meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and a men's theology class on Friday

at 7:00 p.m. Over the course of the last year we have engaged in open-air, evangelistic preaching and tract distribution on Main Street in downtown Greenville every Friday during the lunch hour and occasionally at special events in the city.

We are thankful to the Lord for new members who have been received into the congregation since the last newsletter: Phil and Carol Larson, Antonio and Corrie Menendez, Jim and Nancy Moline, and Mark and Yele Xu. We have also been grateful for more baptisms: Daniel Wayne Vernon, the son of Ike and Meghan Vernon, and Mr. Mark Xu and his daughter, Anna Aien Xu. Samuel McCurley will also be baptized in the near future. The Lord has blessed us with a total of four infant baptisms and one adult baptism so far this year.

One recent highlight in the life of our congregational was our church picnic and Psalm Sing, held on Saturday, September 20, at the Cochran's home. The Lord blessed us with ideal weather and a rich time of edifying fellowship. It was encouraging to see most people stay the whole day in order to savor time together. In addition to the Psalm Sing, Pastor McCurley presented a biographical sketch of Samuel Rutherford. The afternoon was filled with various opportunities for recreation and conversation.

Rev. Sean Humby will be preaching at our communion season in October. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on his labors among us. Please continue to pray that the Lord will provide our congregation with a new meeting facility. The building we have been renting is being sold by the owners. Pray that the Lord will provide a new rental facility that will be suitable in size, cost and location. We are thankful for the Lord's merciful dealings with our congregation. Please continue to join us in praying that Christ would have the preeminence among us and that his glory would be magnified in our city.

WASHINGTON CONGREGATION

The congregation in Washington, D.C., was very encouraged by the Presbytery's visitation at the end of September. Each congregation in the Presbytery is to be visited once in five years, hence the name Quinquennial Visitation. The Presbytery has established a schedule to visit one of its congregations each year, in the order in which they were received into the Presbytery. The Presbytery meets in turn with the minister, the Session, the Deacons' Court, and the membership of a congregation. The design is to strengthen and sustain each work under the care of Presbytery. This two-day visit left the congregation feeling that there is a compassionate and prayerful interest of the Presbytery in the work going on at Washington.

Though we lost our member Jim Graham through death in the past quarter, the congregation has been glad to see a growth this year. There are now twenty in regular attendance in Bethesda and five in Cumberland, with eleven children in the catechism class at Bethesda.

We would solicit the prayers of our friends for a design being prepared for outreach work among Hispanics in the Washington area. We would also ask prayer for our member Sue Mortensen, who is recovering from bladder cancer and a number of mini-strokes. Finally, pray for the sale of the home in New York of the Edgar Ibarra family, which would allow them to obtain housing in the Washington area to which they have moved.

DETROIT PREACHING STATION

The work in Michigan has seen some progress since the issuing of the previous Presbytery newsletter. We are certainly conscious of the difficulties faced in the endeavor to establish a reformed gospel witness in an area starved of Reformed Christianity. Nevertheless, the Lord has answered prayer in bringing new people into our midst.

Mr. Dennis Collins has been attending our worship services for several months and has expressed enthusiasm for the biblically based nature of the ministry, as well as showing a keen desire for evangelism. At the September communion Mr. Collins was received into church membership. Please pray with us that many more of like mind will be added to our Church.

Additional encouragement in our labors has come by the attendance at our services of two college students who have recently commenced studies at the University of Michigan, located at nearby Ann Arbor. One problem faced by them is the need for transport to and from the services. We would be most willing to help, but are restricted inasmuch as one of the students is allergic to animal proteins, which remain on their owners' clothing, provoking a reaction in the confined spaces of a vehicle. Thus far his parents have been able to take turns driving from Grand Rapids to attend services with their son and the other student. To relieve this burden of extended travel, however, we covet your prayers that alternate arrangements may be made for their transportation. Pray that other students on the campus may be encouraged to attend providing the needed transportation and opening a door for Gospel outreach on the campus.

We also covet prayer with regard to a meeting place for 2009. The hourly rates for our present location are rising beginning January 1, 2009, from \$25/hour to \$45/hour, which understandably places an extra burden upon the financial situation of the Preaching Station. Please pray that the search for another venue would be fruitful, or that provision would be made to meet the price increase for the Cherry Hill School, which has been an idyllic location for our present needs.

ST. LOUIS PREACHING STATION

The work in St. Louis proceeds apace, with meetings located at the chapel building of Southminster Presbyterian Church, a PCUSA congregation in St. Louis County. The worship service is at 6:15 p.m., with a catechism class at 4

p.m., and a shared meal and fellowship between the catechism class and the worship service. There is also a midweek study class which uses John Macleod's *Scottish Theology*.

The services are conducted by Mr. Jonathan Mattull, a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, who is now teaching full-time at Providence Christian Academy. Mr. Mattull also began taking courses this autumn by distance learning, in Free Church history and church principles, and in church law, as a private student at the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)'s Free Church Seminary, at Inverness, Scotland.

2008 FALL COLLOQUIUM

Here are some details regarding the sixth Colloquium of the Presbytery of the United States, of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), to be held Thursday and Friday, November 6-7, 2008, at Bethesda, Maryland. The event is designed for office bearers and students for the ministry.

Among our goals is to pass on the heritage of the Free Church of Scotland to the next generation of office bearers, to discuss practical problems we face in the work of the ministry, and to give us time on a regular basis to visit with one another and enjoy fellowship in prayer.

Speakers at the Colloquium will be Rev. Sherman Isbell, Rev. Robert McCurley, and Rev. David Murray. Rev. Isbell will be speaking on "The Doctrine of Conversion in Experimental Calvinism," and Rev. Murray of the subject of "Leadership."

FREE CHURCH CONFERENCE 2009

The dates of the next family conference are August 10-14, 2009, and the location is again Rockingham County, Virginia. The speakers are Rev. Gavin Beers from Scotland ("Christ on the Cross"), Rev. David Murray, Rev. Sherman Isbell ("Predestination"), Rev. Robert McCurley and Rev. Sean Humby. Accommodation is available in the form of camping at the conference facility (\$23 or \$27 each night, depending on whether one has utility hookup), a bed in a room for single men at Mountain View on campus (\$28 each night), rooms at Lost River Motel thirteen miles away (\$59 each night), or family cabins of various sizes at Lost River State Park twelve miles away (from \$81 each night). Please complete and send in the registration form, which is found at the conference web site, www.freechurchconference.org.