

Presbytery of the United States

Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)

FIRST QUARTER 2009 PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER

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”. Our congregations separated by some distance are aided by hearing news from each other that we may rejoice or weep together and support one another in prayer. As our circle of fellowship continues to expand through contacts and friendships formed during our annual church conferences, we also are delighted to share our news with brethren who are praying for us.

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 a 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) 2009 Colloquium news, (page 5)
- 5) 2009 Family Conference news, (page 5-6)

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. A meal is served between services and a dessert is available following the afternoon service to encourage extended fellowship. Services continue to be held in our leased location at 2256 Northlake Parkway, Suites 301-302, Tucker, Georgia 30084-4034.

Our new location has resulted in our seeing new visitors in our services. Recently two Christian businessmen from the Netherlands located us on the internet and joined with us for worship. Please pray that we will become effective in reaching our neighborhood with the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.

We rejoice in the addition of a new member, Ivanka Kordeva, who was received on profession of faith, and for the baptism of Joshua Ryan Deming, infant son of Chris and Jennifer Deming. We are praying that the Lord would be pleased that the congregation may double in size in the coming year, if he would be pleased to add to our numbers and give us this increased ministry.

Our Catechism Class is presently studying the Westminster Shorter Catechism Questions 86 & 87, covering the Gospel message: "What is faith in Jesus Christ?" and "What is repentance unto life?" 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 un-churched children from the neighborhood. Please pray with us for the children's salvation. Attendance varies from 12-22.

The downturn in the economy has affected the employment and income levels of several of our families. Let us all pray for one another as we seek from the Lord our daily bread!

For more information, check out our website (www.freechurchatlanta.org). For directions to our meeting location consult mapquest.com or contact Rev Warren Gardner at 770-307-0017 or 770-867-5765 or warrengardner@windstream.net.

GREENVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Greenville congregation has two services on the Lord's Day at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., with a fellowship lunch in between. Our mid-week prayer meeting is held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. In addition, there has been a weekly, Friday evening, men's theology class which concluded at the end of February. Over the course of the last couple of years, we also 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: Gabe and Wendy Avila, David and Renee Gillespie, Norm Maitland, and Gary and Patrice Wise. We have also been grateful for two more baptisms: Lisa Marie Avila and Samuel Rutherford McCurley. The Lord blessed us with a total of five infant baptisms and one adult baptism in 2008 and one baptism thus far in 2009.

We are looking forward to having Dr. Joel Beeke preach in our congregation on Monday, March 9, at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Beeke is the President of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on his ministry among us.

Please 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 would also appreciate your prayers for Mrs. Kim McClintock in her ongoing battles with cancer. Pray also for our congregational meeting in March, at which we hope to have the election of office-bearers, the Lord willing.

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

There has been a notable encouragement in the Washington congregation in recent months, with a sense of the Lord's mercies in providing for our families, the joy of a communion and mutual ministry among the saints, a joy in the proclamation of the gospel, and an eagerness for the outreach of the gospel in this metropolitan area.

We are thankful that the Ibarra family was able to lease their home in New York, freeing up funds for the lease of a home in Northern Virginia. One result is that the catechism class is expanding to eleven eager, young faces. Meanwhile, prayers were also answered when Don Hautsch, having been laid off from work, was quickly able to secure new employment in the area.

There seem to be a number of jobs available near Washington, D.C., in software development and information technology, and other fields. The congregation welcomes inquiries about how we can assist brethren who would consider relocating to this area for work and for a good church.

A men's class is being held twice a month on Saturday mornings, with teaching and discussion about some aspects of personal growth in grace. There have been lessons on secret prayer and on meditation in God's Word. It is planned that with the coming of spring there will also be outreach by the men on a

Saturday each month in the area around our meeting place in Bethesda, Maryland.

We would request prayer for the Lord's blessing on the faithful labors of Elder David Biser, who conducts the service each week in Cumberland, Maryland. Prayer is also sought for Christian friends who are investigating employment in our area and for the Lord's blessing as we look ahead to the outreach efforts to begin this spring. Edgar Ibarra is excited at the large multi-cultural population in the Washington metropolitan area, and we are seeking ways that we can spread the gospel among a culturally-diverse population in this important urban area. We rest in the mighty power of the exalted Savior, to use us for the building of his kingdom.

Detroit Preaching Station

The Detroit Preaching Station continues to meet for public worship at 3:30 p.m. on the Lord's Day. When the last Presbytery newsletter was issued, prayer was requested that the search for a new location would be fruitful. We are very thankful that in answer to prayer the Lord has wonderfully provided a suitable venue for us at the low cost of \$100 per month. The room has been kindly provided by Trinity Church, a Presbyterian Church in the area, and amply meets our present needs. The address of the new location is 10101 W. Ann Arbor, Plymouth, MI 48170. (For directions consult www.maps.google.com or contact Rev Sean Humby at 734-855-6221.)

We have also commenced meeting together at the residence of Rev. Humby on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of fellowship and to share testimonies of how the Lord brought us to himself and how he has worked in our lives.

We are thankful for the regular and faithful attendance of our small group of members and adherents. However, we are conscious of the pressing need to reach many more within this area with the gospel of God's grace bringing salvation to sinners through Jesus Christ. Do pray that the Lord would give wisdom and direction as new means of outreach are sought out and explored. May the Lord grant that by the time of the next Presbytery newsletter we may be able to report growth in the congregation, with the Lord adding to the church such as should be saved!

ST. LOUIS PREACHING STATION

The St. Louis Preaching Station was erected on June 6, 2008. We meet at the annex chapel of Southminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), in south St. Louis County. Each Lord's Day, we meet at 4:00 p.m. for catechetical instruction, studying the Larger Catechism on the first and third weeks, and for the benefit of the children we give attention to the Shorter Catechism on the second and fourth

weeks. After a meal provided by those in attendance, the worship service begins at 6:15 p.m. There is also a midweek meeting study and prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

There are roughly 20 in regular attendance on the Lord's Day. We come from a variety of church backgrounds. It is a joy to acknowledge the Lord's presence in our meetings and worship.

There is regular outreach to the surrounding area on the first Saturday of each month. Multitudes in our area remain unconcerned for their souls, and we long to see the Spirit's fresh outpouring upon the city of St. Louis and surrounding communities.

We are very thankful that the Lord has graciously sustained the St. Louis Preaching Station through these initial eight months. It is a kind token of the Lord's merciful answer to many prayers. We ask that you continue seeking the blessing of God on the work in St. Louis. Jonathan Mattull, who is ministering to the group, may be reached at 314-520-1629 or by email at jmattull1643@gmail.com.

2009 SPRING COLLOQUIUM

The seventh Colloquium of the Presbytery of the United States, of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), will be held Thursday and Friday, April 2-3, 2009, at Greenville, South Carolina. 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.

Rev. Sherman Isbell will be speaking on "The Kindness of God to the Unwilling," and "Christian Commonwealth." Rev. Robert McCurley will give addresses on "Confessional Subscription," and on "Open-Air Preaching." There will likely be a meeting of Presbytery on one afternoon of the Colloquium.

Those attending from outside the area will be housed with families from the Greenville congregation.

2009 FAMILY CONFERENCE

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.

This year we are particularly urging that friends consider taking accommodation in the nice cabins at the Lost River State Park. We believe that once a number of the conference families discover this fine resource, it will become a very popular choice for years to come. There are virtual tours of the cabins at <http://www.lostriversp.com/accommodations.html>.

There are now 145 registered for the conference. You are advised to act soon to secure accommodation in close proximity to the conference facility. For last-minute registrants, there will be motel rooms on the interstate (24 miles away) or camping on the conference campus.