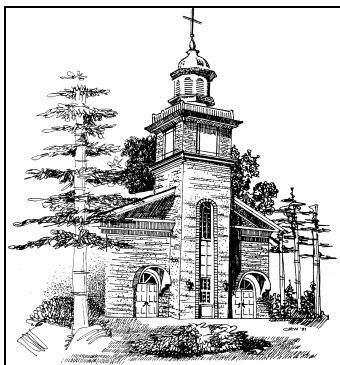


The Ambassador

Amity Presbyterian Church

Discovering God Through the Community of Faith Since 1882



Vol. XXIII, Issue 1 January 2012

Happy New Year!

Inside this issue:

Betsy's Letter	1
Betsy's Book Club	3
Financial Report	4
Beverly Randall	5-6
January Calendar	7-8
Volunteers	9
Birthdays	10
Session Highlights	11-13
Poinsettia Donations	13-14

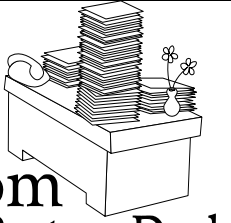
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Director of Music: Doug Hughes
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The Ambassador Volunteers

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Publisher: Helen Eubanks

Healthy Habits for a New Year



From the Pastors Desk

I like the story of the little boy who fell out of bed. When his Mom asked him what happened, he answered, "I don't know. I guess I stayed too close to where I got in." Easy to do the same with our faith. It is tempting just to stay where we got in and never move."

Max Lucado, When God Whispers Your Name

Think back over the last year. Are you in the same place where you "got in" last January? Did you begin the year in 2011 with many wonderful resolutions for things you would do to strengthen your Christian walk? By the end of January, how many of the resolutions had fallen by the wayside? Have you thought about your resolutions during the year and renewed your commitment to make the changes? Have you carried out your commitment to make the changes? Have you found new ways to serve God at Amity?

I am not very good at keeping resolutions. It might be because I have the wrong resolutions – or the wrong motivation. For example, if I resolved to run a mile a day, it would be the wrong resolution for me. I hate running! If I ever did run, it would only be because someone was chasing me or because I want to be first in line for the grand opening of a new place to shop! In addition, I have frequently made resolutions that were suggested to me by someone else. Of course, I haven't kept those resolutions because my heart just wasn't in it.

I am convinced that maybe I shouldn't make resolutions. I am convinced that I should try to develop healthy habits for my Christian walk. I know that if I do something 7-10 times, it will become a habit. What about you? What habits do you need to develop? The seven "purposes" outlined by Rick Warren in *A Purpose Driven Life* are a wonderful place to start in thinking about the habits we need to develop.

Worship: Do you regularly worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ in this community of faith at Amity? Do you prepare your heart before worship and ask God to open your heart and mind to what he has to tell you? Do you have the gift of music that you can share in worship service?

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Fellowship: Do you attend other activities offered by Amity or do you just show up on Sunday? Fellowship is all about being here. Want to join a circle for fellowship with other Presbyterian Women? What about joining the Amiables, Seekers or Friendship Club? Want to join or start a small group? (If so, please talk to me! I would love to help you start one!)

Discipleship: How are you growing closer to the Lord? Do you regularly read the Scriptures, meditate on God's Word, and pray? Do you attend a Sunday School class? Do you participate in Betsy's Book Club? If not, see Glenn Butterworth for information about the available classes.

Ministry and Mission/Evangelism: How are you serving in the community of faith, local community and the world? There are many opportunities to serve at Amity. Don't wait to be asked! Contact me and we will discuss how you can serve in the Lord here at Amity. Contact Jim Messer to see how you can become involved with the Missions Committee, or Donna Dobson for the Fellowship Committee, or Pat Wallace for the Property Committee. For that matter, as any Elder how you can serve.

Developing healthy habits begins with just one step. Start today. Use the "purposes" to take an inventory of your life. Don't be like the little boy. Don't risk falling because you stayed too close to where you "got in."

Join me in moving away from the edge...
Betsy Williamson

Prepare Your Hearts for Worship in January

January 1	Luke 2:22-40
January 8	Mark 1:4-11
January 15	I Samuel 3:1-10
January 22	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
January 29	I Corinthians 8:1-13

Betsy's Book Club

For January and the first part of February, we will study a book of the Bible. We will study I Timothy on this schedule:

Wednesday, January 4, 5:30 p.m. Chapter 1 and 2
OR, Thursday, January 5, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 p.m. Chapters 3 and 4
OR, Thursday, January 19, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. Chapters 5 and 6
OR, Thursday, February 2, 2:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Check the February issue of the Ambassador for information on our Lenten Book Study.

New Member Campaign

"Let's Keep Amity Growing" is the theme of our New Member Campaign. Please continue to invite to a church service those that may not have a church home. There are many people who are seeking a connection to our Lord.

Tony Higgins and Ron Talton



We're on the
Web!
www.amitypc.org

Dear Amity Friends,

"Thank You" for all of the cards, calls, visits, and delicious food so generously given by members of Amity during my hospitalization and continuing recouplement. They have been appreciated more than I can say. You are certainly a most loving congregation.

Love,
Faye Castle



Financial Report as of 11/30/2011



Year to Date Receipts	\$185,561.45
Year to Date Disbursements	\$199,010.80
Year to Date <u>Losses/Gains</u>	(\$13,449.35)

Your gifts and support are vital to our church's ministry.

Thank You!

Beverly Randall has stepped down as the Editor of “The Ambassador” and Amity would like to thank her for years of dedication in getting our Newsletter out each month. She has endured a lot (such as deadlines not met, last minutes changes and issues with the post office) to see that we have a Newsletter that has always kept us up-to-date on the news around Amity.

We wish Beverly the best in the future, and when you see her be sure to tell her how much she is appreciated.

Denise Smith shares her thoughts on Beverly’s service to Amity:

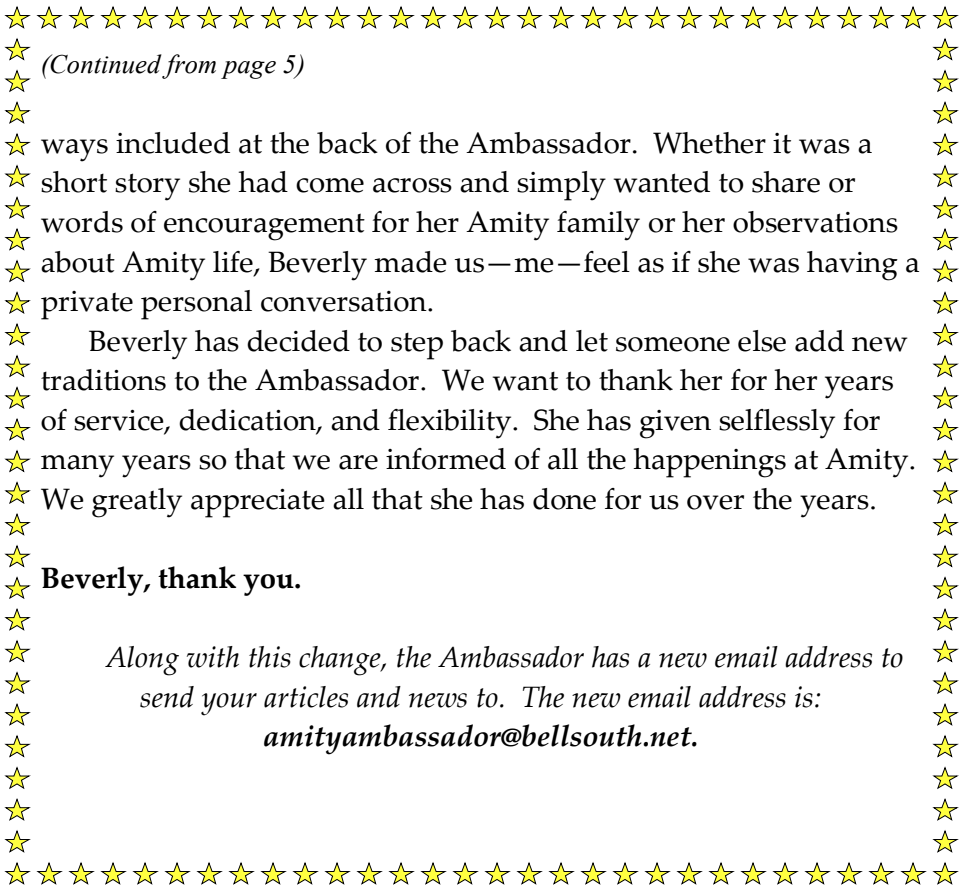
Amity is full of traditions, just ask anyone how something is done and they will tell you “this is how it has always been done”.

The Ambassador is one of Amity’s traditions. Many years ago, when Beverly started doing the Ambassador, it was informative and well done. It included many of the items that are in our current Ambassador: the monthly calendar, meeting dates and times, thank you notes, and birthdays. Beverly took it further, she made the Ambassador hers and by doing so she made it personal for each of us.

She put up with people, like me, who would call past the deadline and say “I’m going to send you something that I really need in this Ambassador, please wait for it before printing”. She would then have to take the time to correct my grammar and punctuation. She listened to the ideas and suggestions from others who thought they were the best person to tell her how to do her “job”. She would do the “helpful” suggestions only to have to start all over again when those same “helpful” suggestions didn’t work. The Ambassador truly had to be a labor of love for her there is no other explanation for doing it faithfully for so long.

The best tradition, however; was the personal touch Beverly al-

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

ways included at the back of the Ambassador. Whether it was a short story she had come across and simply wanted to share or words of encouragement for her Amity family or her observations about Amity life, Beverly made us—me—feel as if she was having a private personal conversation.

Beverly has decided to step back and let someone else add new traditions to the Ambassador. We want to thank her for her years of service, dedication, and flexibility. She has given selflessly for many years so that we are informed of all the happenings at Amity. We greatly appreciate all that she has done for us over the years.

Beverly, thank you.

*Along with this change, the Ambassador has a new email address to send your articles and news to. The new email address is:
amityambassador@bellsouth.net.*

Fellowship News

January 8th 1st Sunday Lunch: Welcome to 2012.
Happy New Year. Bring a covered dish.

February 5th 1st Sunday Lunch: Love is in the Air

Volunteers

Extended Session

01/01/2012	Allen & Pat Wallace; Denise, Savannah and Peyton Smith
01/08/2012	Jane Kiser and Peggy Davidson; Jill Efird, Steve and Taylor Pressley
01/15/2012	Merle Stephenson and Doris Fincher; Debi and Mike McClintock
01/22/2012	Stephanie Polonyfis and Carolyn Hudspeth; Kirstin and Rick Gelinis
01/29/2012	Cheryl and George Foster; Denise, Savannah and Peyton Smith
Substitute:	Marie Houston

Lawn Maintenance

Jan. 2—Jan. 8	Sam Davidson/Steve Pressley
Jan. 9—Jan. 15	Tommie Kiser/Dick Houston
Jan. 16—Jan. 22	Ken Hutchins/Tom Phlegar
Jan. 23—Jan. 29	George Foster/Jack Hudspeth
Jan. 30—Feb. 5	Mike McClintock/Jimmy Messer

Ushers

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Faye Castle at 704-566-4545.

Happy Birthday



January

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Tony Higgins</i> | 10 | <i>Doris Fincher</i> |
| 1 | <i>Anne Kennington</i> | 13 | <i>Ruth Blanton</i> |
| 1 | <i>William Kennington</i> | 13 | <i>Dave Watson</i> |
| 1 | <i>Loretta Washam</i> | 14 | <i>Amy Weaver</i> |
| 1 | <i>Trudy Freeman</i> | 15 | <i>Mary Wise</i> |
| 1 | <i>Jill Efird-Pressley</i> | 16 | <i>Emmett Marion</i> |
| 4 | <i>Jack Ledford</i> | 16 | <i>Amethyst Palma</i> |
| 4 | <i>Tina Caldwell</i> | 18 | <i>John Seaborn</i> |
| 5 | <i>Frances Baker</i> | 19 | <i>Cheryl Foster</i> |
| 6 | <i>Earsel McCall</i> | 21 | <i>Betsy Williamson</i> |
| 6 | <i>Catherine Brewer</i> | 25 | <i>Rick Gelinas</i> |
| 6 | <i>Beth Wittersheim</i> | 28 | <i>Matt Edwards</i> |
| 6 | <i>Dave Edwards</i> | 31 | <i>Caroline Jackson</i> |
| 8 | <i>Jane Kiser</i> | 31 | <i>Peyton Smith</i> |
| 9 | <i>Bobby Kille</i> | | |

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATED SESSION MEETING 12/12/2011 OF Amity Presbyterian Church

Elders Present: 8 of 15

Moderator: Reverend Betsy Williamson

SESSION APPROVED:

1. **By General Consent**, the Docket of 12/12/2011, as amended.
2. **By General Consent, the Omnibus Motion**, the minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of November 6, 2011.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS:

1. **Clerk' Report:** Average Sunday Worship attendance for November: 72
2. **Congregational Care:** Allen Wallace to be added to care list, as having surgery after Christmas.
3. **Preschool:** Parking issues by the Preschool building are being addressed.
4. **Christian Education:** Proposed by Pastor Betsy and approved by Session to cancel Sunday School on Christmas Day.
5. **Finance/Stewardship:** Budget for 2012 will be presented to the Congregation at our annual meeting in February.
6. **Administration:** Manual of Operations is in final stages of being edited. Beverly Randall has retired as editor of Ambassador. Pat Wallace has agreed to accept this challenge for the next few months. Her E-Mail address is: amityambassador@bellsouth.net.
7. **Worship:** Final cost of the new bell case and refurbishment of seven Hand bells was \$916.14 (including the cost of shipping and insurance to Malmark, which was \$36.57). Plans are to start using the wooden offering plates, until our metal plates can be refurbished, and to start using a drawing of the church by Mr. Charles Mills on the front of the Sunday bulletins. The old bibles are still being collected and sorted, prior to being given to those in need.
8. **Fellowship/Outreach:** Our next Sunday lunch will be a covered dish on Jan. 8th, 2012.
9. **Mission:** Men's Shelter meal will be Dec. 28th. Angel Tree project is ongoing to benefit "Dove's Nest", a Charlotte Rescue Mission Center for homeless and at-risk women.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

10. **Evangelism Task Force:** Ideas being discussed are: Visitor and New Member Packets; having a “Jam Session” and inviting the community; a series of discussion groups; and having Altar Calls, as a way for spiritual re-commitment.
11. **Publicity/Communications:** No report.
12. **Property:** The inside of the bus is being cleaned, trees are being taken down between the sanctuary and cemetery, but the driveway project has been put on hold until March, new handrails have been placed in the sanctuary, handicap parking spaces will be added and marked, and Capital Projects are being discussed for 2012.

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor Betsy included her report from Nov. 3—Dec. 9, 2011. Major activities included: leading Sunday Worship on 11/6, 11/13, 11/20 and 12/8; leading a Session Retreat on 11/12; leading a book club discussion; leading Chapel for the Preschool; visiting hospitalized members, homebound members, and serving communion; providing pastoral care; officiating at Lu Daumer’s funeral service; meeting with the COM, subgroups and Session meeting.

Old Business:

1. Discussion from Session Retreat will be held at a later date. A report will be written and presented to the Session at our January meeting.
2. **Corporate Officers’ Report:** Session approved electing Lou Watson to be the Corporate Secretary through June 30, 2012.

New Business:

Congregational Meeting was approved for February 5, 2012 for the following: Presentation of the 2012 budget; Committees’ accomplishments for 2011; Goals for 2012; elect Nominating Committee for 2012; vote to fulfill unexpired term on Session; and vote on proposals from the Corporate Officers.

Calendar:

Sunday, January 8, 2012, Stated Session Meeting at 4:00 p.m.,
Amity Session Room

Saturday, February 11, 2012, Presbytery Meeting at Hopewell
Church, Huntersville, NC (250th Anniversary).

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Announcements:

All congregation joys and concerns should be reported by way of the Church Office (704-537-3484) or by way of the Pastor Betsy's cell phone (704-491-7932).

Submitted by Faye Castle

Acting Clerk of Session

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

DONORS.....IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF

Margaret BighamIn memory of Jim Bigham

Danielle Brassington..... In honor of Adrian Boyd, Pat Wallace
..... And Karen Nivens

Faye Castle In honor of Rev. Betsy Williamson,
..... Addie Yandle & Doug Hughes

Cheryl Clodfelter In memory of Roger Clodfelter

Peggy & Sam Davidson In honor of The Armed Forces,
..... Wounded Veterans, policemen, and firefighters

Linda Dorin.....In memory of Marie Dorin

Stephanie Efird.....In memory of Ben. Efird,
..... Peter Sims & Kellee Massey

George & Cheryl Foster In memory of Richard Houser,
..... Mitch & Bunny Foster, Elizabeth Ann Houser
..... In honor of Rose Houser

Tony & Norma Higgins.....

Marie & Dick Houston..... In memory of Jim Bigham,
..... Roger Clodfelter & Ed Stephenson

Caroline Jackson..... In memory of William Jackson, Jr.,
.....& Claire Michele Jackson

Tommie & Jane Kiser

Emory & Mary Mason In memory of our parents

Thelma & Carl MooreIn memory of Mr. & Mrs. Carl Moore, Sr.
..... Mrs. R.A. Jamison & Mr. Reese Jamison

Jack Penick..... In memory of Eleanor Penick

Tom & Barbara Phlegar In memory of John & Emily Molton,
..... Winfred & Una Phlegar

Carolyn Smith..... In memory of Buddy Smith

Merle Stephenson..... In memory of Ed Stephenson

Rose Mary Thompson..... In memory of Audrey & Bob Hood,
..... Mr. & Mrs. S. L. Thompson, Sr.

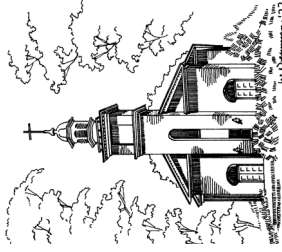
Loretta Washam..... In memory of Estelle & Felix Helms,
..... Annie & Harry Washam

Jean Waters.....In memory of Walt Waters

Bill Watkins In memory of D. A. Wentz, Sr.
..... Raymelle Wentz, Earl Wentz

Amity Presbyterian Church
2831 North Sharon Amity Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205

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