

## March Birthdays

Larke Griffin .....Mar 5  
 Sarah Rierson .....Mar 7  
 Sue Fowler .....Mar 10  
 Tim Norman.....Mar 14  
 Ann Mabe.....Mar 18  
 Hilda Tuttle.....Mar 18  
 Ginger Marshall .....Mar 19  
 Steve Rierson.....Mar 19  
 David Hall.....Mar 26  
 Will Rierson.....Mar 28  
 Patrick Stinson .....Mar 28  
 Abigail McAninch.....Mar 29  
 Sue Jarvis .....Mar 31

Shhhh! Can you keep a secret? A new ministry is about to hatch at Pfafftown Baptist, one sure to be a blessing to everyone. Are you interested in being a blessing to someone, to anyone, to everyone? This may be the perfect ministry for you! Look for more information soon concerning this new ministry, and here's a hint: Barnabas. Shhhh!



Heck-Jones® Envelopes are located in the pews.  
**Offering**  
 WEEK OF PRAYER  
 for WMU of North Carolina

## March Events

Mar 1 ..... Men's Breakfast  
 Mar 4 ..... Shrove Tuesday Meal  
 Mar 5 ..... Ash Wednesday Worship  
 Mar 8 ..... Pine Needle Distribution  
 Mar 10 ..... WMU Night Group  
 Mar 11 ..... WMU Day Group  
 Mar 16 ..... Deacon's Meeting  
 Mar 20 ..... Single Seniors Lunch

## WEATHER POLICY

Our church will follow the procedures below when inclement weather (snow, ice, etc.) may cause cancellation of our church services.

**Sunday School and Sunday morning worship** — Watch WXII Channel 12 for updated information. A decision will be made Sunday morning by 7:00 am.

**Wednesday evening activities** — If local schools have closed or let out early due to weather conditions, our evening activities will be canceled. If the inclement weather begins after school closes for the day, follow the same procedures listed for Sunday services. A decision will be made by 5:00 pm.

## PFAFFTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

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# Pfafftown

Baptist Church



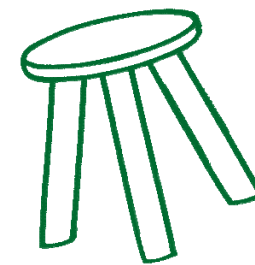
March 2014

PBC *Connections*

## 3 Important Ways We Need To Find Our Level

Years ago I had a pastor, one who curiously links me to this area. Rev. David Morrow was the pastor at First Baptist Church, Red Springs, before he felt called to Old Town Baptist just down the road.

A few years later Rev. Morrow was invited back to FBC Red Springs to preach at a revival service. My family was glad to make the short drive to Red Springs to see and hear our friend. I remember a curious phrase Rev. Morrow used in his sermon that night.



**He said a good sermon should find its level in the same way a good stool does, with three strong legs.** He reflected the homiletic style of his day, but I'll never forget that phrase. I'm not preaching in this article, but my point

needs three strong legs to find its level.

To wit: as our church faces its current challenges we need not deceive ourselves to hope in simple

answers or solutions. It will take faith, perseverance and strength to find our level, and **I see the three strong legs on which we must stand: faithful stewardship, renewed generosity, and commitment to outreach.**

For more than a decade now, while the budgets of PBC have trended downwards the simplest solution has been to cut, cut, cut. Programs have been cut, budgets too, and even personnel. To what end? None; not one year has the "cut" mentality stemmed the tide of decline. What has not been tried, so far as I can see, is a re-evaluation of our programs and activities in light of our vision. "What vision?" you ask. Exactly. **The deacons and I are currently working very hard to discern a God-sized vision for PBC** and we must be prepared as a church to align our budget in faithful stewardship of that vision.

**Renewed generosity is also critical to our time.** A few years ago I jumped out of a plane and landed with a sorely bruised backside. Many people think that image describes generosity, but the opposite is true. The blessings from generosity to faith are beyond description. We think we can't live without "it", but if

(Continued on page 2)

## Find Our Level... (continued from page 1)

we understood what we gained through generosity we would know truly what is indispensable. **I encourage each of you ask yourself if your giving is equal to the blessings in life you feel, or if you are afraid to give more because of what you'll "lose".** Either way, I want more for you, and I know how you can receive it.

**Finally, and this is the leg that no one seems to be thinking about, we must have a commitment to outreach.** Two years ago I preached a New Year's sermon on the power of "one". I challenged each of you to invite one person to church during that year. Many of you simply did not, but now the time can wait no longer. Some churches struggle and other churches fail because church people fail to reach out to friends and neighbors. If we grow by twelve people this year, one person per month, it will make a world of difference in us. If we grow by 24 people

this year, two per month, we will make magazine covers as one of the fastest growing churches anywhere. Invite people to church. This is a job for all of us; no one person or subset of us can do it. It will take all of us. And do not reach out so "they" can save "us". Reach out, invite, so "we" can together grow in "Him".

We now have three strong legs for our stool: faithful stewardship, renewed generosity, and commitment to outreach. **With each of these efforts strong our church will stand strong.** If but one of them fails our church will continue to struggle in old and new ways. I have nothing but faith we will rise to these faithful challenges. I know your hearts, your love for God, and now I believe we will together do the amazing. Will you believe, and behave, with me?

*As always I'd love to hear from you, any way you want to reach me, about whatever you think.*

[pbcpastor@windstream.net](mailto:pbcpastor@windstream.net)

### Soaking up the Sun!



Birds chirping, waves crashing, Jesus praising, Worship lifting ... all melodious sounds that can be found at Caswell this summer! I began working at a summer camp four years ago and watching how God worked through the lives of the campers was inspiring. Fears were conquered on the high dive and the big zip as counselors lifted up prayers. God was seen through individual devotions, group worship sessions, and warm discussions at the dinner table. I saw so many

lives rejuvenated and set on fire. **Summer retreats are a place for youth and children alike to experience the glory of God on their own levels through creative activities and heartfelt worship. Reserve your spot today!** Camp dates are June 23-28.

**Deposits due by March 23, 2014. Contact Larke for details.**



Pick up your pine needle rolls on Sat., March 8th beginning @ 8:00.

The remark of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than to receive is based on the human truth that the more you give away in love, the more you are.

— Frederick Buechner —



The last few weeks of winter mean busy practice times for the adult and youth groups. **Easter will be here before we can believe it,** and the sanctuary

choir is working on their portion of the Resurrection celebration. The children are also continuing to practice the music they'll be presenting very soon after Easter.

**But first, we have March and the season of Lent.** The Praise Band is working on music that will hopefully be presented soon, but we don't have a date as of this article. We do have a date for our Handbells, and that is Sunday morning of March 30. As long as we have so many willing community ringers to help us on an occasional Sunday, we want to celebrate and I encourage you to be apart of those times.

**Hopefully, you're keeping up with these new hymns we're learning once a month.** March 11 will introduce a new one. To recap, here are our previous ones.

Fall 2013: God, Our Author and Creator (#590)

Jan. 2014: Stir Your Church, O God, Our Father (#392)

Feb. 2014: We Praise You with Our minds, O Lord (#599)

In Christ,  
David

## Support our College Students

**Kalin Rierson**—Appalachian State

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## Annual Lenten Services



### SHROVE TUESDAY

Please join us on Tuesday, May 4th for a Pancake Supper to celebrate "Fat Tuesday" or Shrove Tuesday to kick-off our season of Lent. Supper will begin at 6:30 followed by a brief devotion. We ask

everyone to donate \$5 to help offset the cost of food. The Youth will be cooking the meal for the church.

### Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 5th, is the beginning of Lent. There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. All other activities are encouraged to attend. The imposing of ashes will be a part of the service. What a mindful and thoughtful way to begin the Holy Easter season. You will not want to miss it.



**Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
at PBC  
on Sunday,  
May 4 from  
1:30-5:30 pm**