

## St Andrews Celebrates Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Year of Jubilee

St Andrews Presbyterian Church was chartered by Atlanta Presbytery on October 23, 1960. The church began with the initiative of the Holy Spirit and a group of women who petitioned the presbytery to plant a church in the rapidly growing Tucker area. Looking back over the years, we have much to celebrate. Looking around and looking ahead we also see reason to celebrate what God has done, is doing, and will do through this church.

The Session and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, under the leadership of Ron and Betty Weber, are dreaming and scheming of ways to celebrate our past, present and future. Here is an outline of some of those plans.

*A Year of Jubilee*—The first and foundational holiday (holy day) is the Sabbath, the God given day of rest. The people of God are called to hallow the Sabbath day. It is a commandment! That weekly cycle of rest, reflection and renewal carries over to an understanding of our years as well as our days. The children of Israel were called to let the land rest every seventh year. That cycle culminates in the year of jubilee, “seven weeks of years, seven times seven years ... the fiftieth year”. The year of jubilee as described in Leviticus, chapter 25 is a time of rest and restoration.

As we celebrate our fiftieth year of ministry, we do so as a year of jubilee. It is a time to rest, to talk about what it means to keep the Sabbath in a very busy world. Our Lenten series focused on the idea of Sabbath and a Jewish understanding of the Sabbath. It concludes with a Passover Seder meal on Sunday, March 21 at 5:30 in our Fellowship Hall. Jubilee is also a time of return and restoration. The Session and our many and varied ministries will spend the rest of the year reviewing our respective ministries asking a series of questions of each and every ministry and of our ministry together.

Why and how was this ministry started?

Who is being served? How does it relate to other ministries?

How has this ministry changed over the years? How might it be changing?

How do we measure the effectiveness of the ministry?

Throughout the review process, we will ask how all our collective ministries support our shared understanding of our mission. The process will be completed by next year's officer retreat in February 2011.

***The Years in Picture and Prose***—The Fiftieth Anniversary committee is busy chronicling our history. There are two wonderful scrapbooks lovingly prepared by Zee Sellmanberger in our church library. Please take the time to leaf through the pages. We will also have poster boards with pictures sprouting up around the church (in the narthex and fellowship hall). These boards will begin with the 60's and lead us up to today. There will also be regular articles (including a recounting from a few of our charter members, Trudy Dickinson and Lettie Hudson) in our newsletter, the Lamplighter, and on our webpage.

***Birthday Plans & Birthday Gifts***—We celebrate our fiftieth birthday with our Homecoming Sunday, October 24. Steve Montgomery, who served this church from 1994 to 2000, will be our guest preacher that day. As is our custom, Homecoming Sunday is also Pig Pickin' Sunday. We will enjoy some NC style barbecue for lunch after worship. Go ahead and put that date on your calendar and invite a friend to come with you for worship and fellowship. Invite an old friend, a former member, and new friends, people who may be looking for a church home. The church office is collecting those addresses (postal and e-mail) and will be sending out an invitation. Please forward the addresses of friends and neighbors to the church office.

Yes, we are asking for birthday gifts! That is the mission component of our birthday celebration. We are looking to share these gifts with our neighbors in need - fifty of this, fifty of that. The list being put together now by our mission ministry includes ...

*fifty* mosquito nets for use in Sub-Saharan Africa,  
*fifty* knit hats for the men at the Druid Hills Night Shelter,  
*fifty* sets of soccer cleats and fifty soccer balls for the children of refugee families with the Six Star Refugee partnership and with refugee ministries in Clarkston (the soccer field is a kind of home away from home for many new immigrants)  
*fifty* backpacks (stocked with school supplies) for school age children through NETWorks Cooperative Ministry and Initiative for Affordable Housing

Be sure to look for more information throughout about these mission opportunities, including collection boxes, and for more dreaming and scheming about how to we might celebrate fifty years of ministry.