



## Positive words of encouragement from the members of Pelham Road Baptist Church



April 2011

# POSITIVELY

## PELHAM ROAD

It's always been this way, but now more so. People come and people go. We meet someone, we make friends with them, and they move away. Their job may move them, their health may move them, but

in the end they leave.

Of course there are people who remain— friends we

have known

for 30 years. Then, of course, there are those who move away but never move from our hearts.

We believe there was a day when neighbors never moved and churches remained the same and when people passed, they moved from sitting on the pine pew to resting beneath the maple tree in the church yard. However, neighbors have always moved, now more than before, churches have always changed, and cemeteries are maintained by professionals far from the church.

What we know today has always been true. The church is scattered and gathered. We gather Sunday after Sunday, but don't confuse the ones who gather and worship as the only church. Pelham Road is influencing a woman in seminary in Richmond, a

family living in Atlanta, a widow in North Carolina, not to mention the college kids at Clemson, USC, Winthrop, and West Point. What we see on Sunday is the thin surface of who we are. Beneath the surface is a church scattered.

From our child care center and our sanctuary we have an international reach and a local voice. This scattered approach is in our DNA; the earliest church saw itself as the intentionally scattered people. On May 7 and 8 we celebrate COME HOME 2011. We invite our scattered church to assemble. To **COME HOME** to our place on Pelham Road.

On May 7 we will have an evening of food, fellowship and Charlie Miller. We will do what families of faith do, remember and rejoice in what the Lord is doing. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we will have spirited worship. Sam and I will preach a sermon in duet. Our focus this weekend will be to pay our respect to the past but to also focus our attention on the future.

The church is both scattered believers serving our God, and a gathered group building the Kingdom of God. So call old friends, invite new friends, and make plans to come home.— John

Scattered & Gathered



# 2011

Come Home

### FENNEL AND LENOIR WARREN

Fennell and Lenoir Warren were a vital part of our church, becoming members in October of 1975. Fennell served in almost every area of church life and could be somewhat intimidating with his snow white hair and beard, and unusual sense of humor; but he was an awesome spiritual leader. Lenoir was a little woman, barely five feet tall. Her heart was in mission work and prayer ministry. If you were on her prayer list, you were a very lucky person. Her prayers were mini-sermons. I think we all knew she was the spiritual strength in the family. She had a variety of health issues and no one would have ever dreamed she would outlive Fennell, who died more than 12 years ago. Lenoir is 90 years old now and lives in the Atlanta area with her daughter, Sallie. Her mind is still clear. She frequently calls various members of Pelham Road and still sends many of us birthday cards. Her heart remains here where she and Fennell did so much to make it what it is today.—*Frances Fernandez*

# Come home and remember

## TOM AND DOTTIE WOOD

Tom and Dottie were wonderful neighbors of ours when we lived in Colonial Hills in Taylors. They had three children, Amy, Carrie and Kendall. Our children, Chris and Deborah, enjoyed playing with them.

In the fall of 1977, we were attending Lee Road United Methodist Church while the Wood family was attending Pelham Road Baptist Church, where Tom was a deacon. The Woods talked about how friendly Pelham Road was and how much they enjoyed the worship and fellowship. They invited us to attend and, by the end of the year, we had joined Pelham Road. The folks here welcomed us with such enthusiasm that we felt right at home in no time at all.

Even though our children and the Woods have moved away, Linda and I are still members. We feel blessed to have enjoyed so much of our spiritual life here for all these years and look forward to many more.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to the Woods family, who now live in Georgia, and to all those at Pelham Road who made us feel welcomed and a part of the church family.  
—Tommy Crain

## Birthdays in April

Jan Parker	04/01
Les Goodwin	04/04
Christina Duvall	04/08
Barbara Leach	04/08
Diane Buie	04/09
Graham Ferrell	04/12
Betty Griffith	04/13
Jackie Brunson	04/17
John Ruzga	04/18
Jessie Taylor	04/20
Carl Kelly	04/21
Dean Batson	04/24
Murray Scripture	04/24
Sam Wiley	04/25
Rob Hauser	04/26
Anna Sturgis	04/26
Debbie Vaughan	04/26
Somaria Ali	04/27
Jane Gerwig	04/29

On Saturday night, May 7, we will have a banquet in the Family Life Center that will include a meal and entertainment. There is no charge for the meal and it is open to all (with a reservation). On Sunday morning, May 8, we'll begin worship at 10:30 and take time to celebrate the relationships that have been built at Pelham Road since the church's founding in 1975. So, plan to **COME HOME** with your family and invite friends and former members to join with us as we celebrate together at our place on Pelham Road.

# 2011 Come Home

## FRANK, SUSAN AND BURNS WETMORE

Frank, Susan, and Burns Wetmore were members of our early congregation. Frank, a banker, understood finances. Susan, a teacher, used her teaching abilities in Sunday School. Burns, a preschooler, endeared himself to everyone with his sweetness and intellectual ability which was obvious at an early age. Susan would get down at eye-level with her preschoolers and listen intently to every word, blocking out the outside world, so that child, at that moment, was the center of her universe. God used that family here, and in Christian settings since. We loved them in the early seventies; we continue to love them and cherish their special friendships. —Fletch Leslie

## STEVE AND DEBBIE MORGAN

Steve and Debbie sang in the choir with me and I loved to hear them sing together. My favorite song by them was "Beulah Land." Kiefer was good friends with their son, Alex, and they spent a good deal of time together. A sweet, sweet family and I was sad when they moved away. I would love for them to come home again!—  
Carol Ogburn

## TOM AND THERESA NIX

Tom and Theresa came to Pelham Road from Alabama in the early days of our church. Tom worked for the post office and Theresa stayed home with their daughter, Heather.

Tom was quiet, almost shy, but very dedicated to being a good church member. He served as a deacon; and upon finding out that someone had to take the newsletters to the downtown post office on Wednesdays for mailing, he volunteered to come by the church each week to pick up newsletters and take them.

Theresa, on the other hand, was very outgoing, laughed frequently, making everyone around her laugh. She sang in the choir, directed children's choir, and played the organ (a small, portable one). She was very talented. One week, someone needed a substitute teacher in an adult Sunday School class. Theresa volunteered and we discovered her real talent. She was an outstanding teacher and taught her remaining years here. Anyone who attended her class came away in awe of her knowledge of the Bible.

They eventually moved back to Alabama, leaving forever their footprints in the sands of our church.—Frances Fernandez

# Child Development Center



## Our International Flair

The 131 children who comprise the Child Development Center are a diverse group. We have children who are French, Indian, Hispanic, Irish and Chinese. Many of them come to the CDC knowing only their native country's language. When we work with young children who speak a different language at home, we face several challenges.

We always ask the parents to provide us with words for important things like yes, no, potty, mom, dad, hello, and good-bye. These are important so that we can make the child feel welcome and comfortable at the CDC. We may not know the language but we can say hello.

We also have to make sure that we use lots of words in the classroom by naming the things that we use and by talking about what we are doing. This helps the young child learn about the world.

We do for this for all children as they begin to use language but it is very

important for children learning two languages at once.

We sometimes find that children who speak a different language at home do not speak as early as those who are learning just English. They have to think in both languages and then decide which to use. We have books in different languages in the classrooms so that the children can feel at home and so that the parents can read to them in their home language. Overall children are very adaptable and learn English quite quickly from their peers and caring teachers.

We welcome the challenge of dual language learners because it also increases our cultural awareness. We get to learn about different cultures and customs.

We have enjoyed food and holiday traditions from the different countries. Our diverse families are part of what makes Pelham Road CDC so special.—Susan



Above: Ireland. Below: France, China, Colombia, India.



### ELLA MORTON

Ella said, "Still here!" Here is Southern Pines, NC. Ella was "Ms. Hospitality" when she was at Pelham Road. She loved to cook and we loved eating her food on Wednesday nights. She says she really misses working with the cooking crews here. Ella was an alto in the choir. She and I published the cookbook, "Sam 'N Ella," together.

Ella left our congregation seven years ago to be near her sisters. She joined First Baptist Aberdeen and was active doing the same ministries she did here. However, 4 years ago, Ella and her sister were in a serious car accident when a man pulled out in front of their car. Ella still has a hard time standing for long periods of time. Because of this, and because the church hired a Wednesday night cook, Ella no longer serves on that team. Today she puts

her ministry energy toward serving nine people on a Meals on Wheels route with her sister. She does still sing in the choir.

Five years ago her Minister of Music was getting married and his wife to be was allergic to his cat...named Ella. So "our Ella" couldn't stand the thought of "that Ella" being without a home. This cat now keeps her company! At Christmas Ella takes the train to Florida to see her three children and teenage/college aged grandkids. It was hard to let Ella move to North Carolina, but we think of her as our missionary there...kind, generous, helpful, and caring for people and cats! She put our "Come Home" weekend on her calendar. We hope she'll be able to join us. Maybe she'll bring a banana pudding! —Sam Coates

# PELHAM ROAD

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2011

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## LEWIS AND FRANCES MCKINNEY

Lewis and Frances McKinney did not leave Greenville to go back home or move to another state. They left us for their Eternal Home. But remembering past members would be incomplete without talking about two people who probably had as much influence on the life of Pelham Road as anyone.

Lewis was a retired minister when he came to us as our interim. He and Frances brought to us the encouragement and healing we needed.

His sermons were full of wisdom and love. Lewis was a quiet-spoken man, but seemed to know when you needed to hear a kind word. He would quietly come up to you, take hold of your hand and whisper "I love you." Then he'd walk quickly away, leaving you with a special feeling.

Frances, on the other hand, was quite lively. She was a little woman, but had a big smile, full of mischief. She would entertain us with funny stories; and on one occasion while on a senior adult trip, she spotted a motorcycle in the parking lot. She went to it, pretending to get on it and said she had always wanted to ride one. You can imagine the look of horror on Lewis' face, although we think he really got a kick out of her mischievous ways.

After his interim ended, he and Frances eventually moved to Rolling Green and they became members of Pelham Road. He taught the Senior Adult Sunday School class for many years. The class was eventually named for him. Frances taught the Ladies Class. Lewis died in a tragic automobile accident. Several years later, Frances died from ALS. They must be looking down on us with a heart full of joy at what our church has become, never admitting that they had a tremendous role in making it happen.—*Frances Fernandez*

*Scattered  
&  
Gathered*

“Hear the word  
of the LORD, you  
nations; proclaim  
it in distant  
coastlands: ‘He  
who scattered  
Israel will gather  
them and will  
watch over  
his flock like a  
shepherd.’ —  
Jeremiah 31:10