



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



March 2011

POSITIVELY PELHAM ROAD



What do these pictures have in common? They were all taken in our Family Life Center, which gets lots of use from both the church and community. More inside.



An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure¹

A foundation is the portion of a building's structure that transfers the weight of the building into the ground strata. A good foundation is not a luxury but a necessity.

Jesus said *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."*²

In short Jesus is saying storms will come and the foundation you build on makes a difference. Of course for eternity and peace we need to build on the foundation

of our Savior; anything else is bound to fail.

During the coming month you will hear about our *foundation @ Pelham Road*. This foundation will not save your soul but it will provide resources to save another. Of course I am writing about a financial *foundation*. An instrument to which we can contribute that provides perpetual gifts to our congregation to tell the "old, old story" to the next generation and the one after that.

This column is not long enough to provide all the details. A separate brochure explains this and hopefully answers your questions. Storms will come for the church. When these storm arise, it will be necessary to have a strong foundation to remain faithful to our mission and calling.

While our foundation is not a substitute for the "firm foundation of Christ our Lord," I pray we have the forethought to provide a firm foundation for the future church. A church foundation is an ounce of prevention. In a world which doesn't look past today, let's be one that looks past tomorrow.

—John

¹ Ben Franklin

² Matthew 7:24-27

Our FAMILY LIFE Center

It was a big dream. It is a big expense in our monthly budget. But the benefit is worth it! Our dream was to have a multipurpose building that would be used by church family and community alike. Valentine's weekend was a perfect snapshot of that dream come true.

Friday afternoon, our building was teeming with afterschool kids being tutored in their homework, playing, and lovingly cared for by our CDC staff. Later in the evening some Upstate Christian Singles were in to decorate for their big Valentine's dance.

Saturday morning, 6:30 a.m., the building was open for youth to gather for a trip snow skiing in North Carolina. Ordinarily a basketball team would be practicing on Saturday morning but didn't on this day because the gym was already decorated for the night's dance.



The two pictures on this page are from the Valentine's Banquet, Feb. 13.

Saturday evening around 350 singles were here for their annual Valentine's dance. With recessed lighting and the basketball goals pulled up, our gym looked like a banquet hall.

Early Sunday morning, a team of ministers from our congregation met to brown meat and prepare a meal for the Triune Mercy Center, a ministry to the homeless.

By 10 a.m. nearly every room upstairs was filled with people enjoying fellowship and studying God's Word together.

Sunday afternoon, a team prepared for the church's evening Valentines' Banquet—setting up tables, sound equipment and video projection. Food was prepared; every detail attended to.

Sunday night, the entire church, young and old, gathered for a delicious Italian meal and a time of fun as we participated in the "Oldywed Game." Upstate Christian Singles had left its decorations from the night before, so once again the FLC looked like a banquet hall. Some of the singles also had their Bible study upstairs and joined us for the Valentine's meal.

Our building IS in constant use. When outside groups use our building, it's a



way for us to say to our community, "we love you" and think your service is worth our time and money. Many of those who come to our building may never attend a worship service here but ANYONE who walks in our building is considered "us." It's easy to imagine that when a friend is looking for a church home, or a place for ministry in a crisis, Pelham Road will be on our guests' lips because they know us and of our kind, open doors.

And we the church benefit at every turn. We have a perfect place for Bible study, fellowship, meals, recreation and more. We have a place to generously offer our community. And we have a message to communicate about the love of God through Jesus Christ to everyone...EVERYONE!...who enters our doors. — Sam

Compassionate Friends helps grieving parents/siblings

Church member Betty Garrett was the driving force behind the organization of the Greenville Chapter of Compassionate Friends in 1980 and so it is no surprise (although it may be a secret to many) that the group has met monthly in our building since then.

Compassionate Friends is a support group for those grieving the loss of a child, grandchild or a sibling. There are chapters in more than 80 countries and 600 chapters in the U.S.

"PRBC provides a convenient place for our monthly meetings that gives us the space, privacy and amenities needed," said Dick Renner, one of the group's leaders. "Through your generosity, Pelham Road demonstrates

in action the love of Christ, especially for those deeply hurting."

Meetings include a brief presentation followed by discussion time to allow attendees to share concerns and feelings. Meetings close with a time for one-to-one mutual sharing, comforting and supporting.

"Without Pelham Road Baptist Church's support, Compassionate Friends Greenville could not live up to our motto *You need not walk alone*," Dick said.

The monthly newsletter for Compassionate friends announces its activities and includes helpful articles and original writings by bereaved parents and siblings. There are no membership dues or fees for attending.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Sunshine Cafe.

tcfofgreenvillesc.org | 864.990.1061

Child Development Center

The Family Life Center is a benefit to the CDC in so many ways. We use it daily for the after-school program; on holidays and vacations for the camp program; and monthly for CDC staff meetings. But beyond what we do in the FLC regularly, at least once a quarter we host child care provider training. Child care providers in South Carolina must get 15 hours of continuing education each year in order to remain employed and our Family Life Center makes that possible for our staff and for staff from other Centers.

As a Master Certified Trainer for childcare providers, I provide training in brain development, classroom management, literacy, diapering and toileting procedures, and curriculum including science, math, art, and block activities for young children. The childcare providers have come from as far away as Spartanburg to attend the sessions along with

our staff. Since childcare providers make so little money in their profession, I generally charge only \$5 per session to providers from other centers and provide it free for our staff. All of this goes back into the CDC account for use in our building.

The Family Life Center provides us with classroom space, audio-visual equipment, bathrooms, and ample parking. It is located in a convenient place for people from throughout the county. During 2011, I will be offering training in June, August, and October. Prior to joining the Pelham Road CDC last summer, I gave trainings at other facilities in the county that charged high fees and restricted the usage in many ways. To be able to use the Family Life Center and to offer affordable training makes for a better informed workforce in the area. This is another way your vision makes life better for others. — Susan



Happy feet, happy faces

One of our younger childrens' favorite uses of the Family Life Center is for Happy Feet, an optional program in our CDC that teaches children team and group skills through soccer. Come into our building on any Thursday and you'll hear them eagerly saying "I'm going to Happy Feet today." These happy faces are possible because Pelham Road members had a vision of what a Family Life Center could mean.



Other WAYS the FLC is used:

- ▶ A Girl Scout troop meets regularly.
 - ▶ The Eastside Kiwanis Club annually holds a pancake breakfast. This year's breakfast will be March 5.
 - ▶ On the fourth Saturday of every month, people are coming to our gym to pick up Angel Food orders.
 - ▶ Most Saturdays during the winter, a group of young African-American teenagers, members of an AAU basketball team practice, in our gym. And our own boys' basketball team practices on most Tuesday nights during the season.
- This is just a sampling of the ministry that occurs because Pelham Road had the vision to reach out.

Birthdays in March

Ann LeGrand	03/01	Delores Smith	03/18
Pat Austell	03/03	Tripp Holtzclaw	03/19
Beck Brissey	03/03	Nicholas Smith	03/19
Shawn Detrich	03/05	Doug Tucker	03/21
Dorothy Champion	03/08	Walter Crooks	03/24
Linda Parks	03/08	Greg Morgan	03/24
Rachel McAbee	03/10	Ayla Lee Franklin	03/26
Thetis Rush	03/10	Dillon Huygen	03/28
Brice Pelley	03/11	Jake Morris	03/28
Art Fallis	03/13	Jordan Franklin	03/29
Melissa Hull	03/16	Taylor Roy	03/30
Zack McGill	03/17		
Susan Sponberg	03/17		



WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE READING

This month Jim Leach recommends *Pearl Harbor: A Novel of December 8th* by Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen. Combining the elements of good fiction with the best historical research, you have in this book a unique perspective on this most crucial part of American History.

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Upstate Christian Singles

Dances/Bible study help mend the brokenness

When Upstate Christian Singles was looking for a larger place to hold its regular dances five years ago, Pelham Road said “yes, let’s give it a try.” At the first dance, the parking lot was full and it’s been full for almost every dance since then.

“Most of our dances had been held downtown in a small upstairs studio over a restaurant,” said Tal Groce, who directs UCS. “At best, we could squeeze in around 100 singles. Now we have 200-300 singles at some of our dances. We are so grateful for our partnership with Pelham Road. Everyone loves the convenient parking, the nice facilities and the freedom that the Family Life Center offers.”

Recognizing the need for more than fellowship, UCS began holding Bible study classes in our building on Sunday nights, and currently about 30 singles

attend each week.

“Since this marriage with Pelham Road, we have been able to encourage thousands of singles through our dances, Bible studies and other activities,” Tal said. “Many of the singles who attend our functions are broken. They have lost spouses, they have been through divorce, broken relationships, and much more. We have seen lost singles surrender their hearts to the Lord, believers make decisions to live Spirit-led lives as singles and many others who are encouraged in their brokenness to move forward in the Lord.”

“Without Pelham Road, there would be many lonely singles that we would not have been able to reach and encourage,” Tal said. “We have been partners for over five years and hope to have many more years together.”— Sue



Upstate Christian Singles is a non-denominational ministry geared to reaching singles. Dances are usually held on the second Friday and fourth Saturday but this occasionally varies so check their website for the current schedule. Bible studies are held every Sunday at 6 p.m.

upstatechristiansingles.org | (864) 979-9008