

## NURTURE FELLOWSHIP

The Nurture Committee at BMPC is a large umbrella-type committee with various sub-committees which operate more or less independently but still are supervised by the Nurture Committee elder. The newly elected elder this year, Julia Capps, took over these responsibilities from Charlotte Sprawls, who had been in this position for six years. Margaret Fouse agreed to continue as a co-chair, since she and Anita Wright had been functioning as co-chairs since the end of 2009, and when Anita moved Margaret continued.

Even the **Presbyterian Women** are considered part of the Nurture group, but obviously they are also a free-standing group.

The **Stephen Ministry** was again not active during 2010, though it is hoped that it will be revived during the next calendar year.

The **Bus Ministry** for members at Highland Farms was transferred to the Property Committee, since they are the ones who maintain the bus.

The **Tape Ministry** was transformed this year into the **CD Ministry**. The sermons are recorded, reproduced, and delivered to shut-ins and others not able to attend services. The CDs are easier and less expensive to duplicate than the old extinct tapes, and they provide better sound quality.

The **Transportation for Blind Members** has been a problem this year because of two Sundays a month not having regular drivers. Finally during the fall **Mary Hollins** took over as telephone chair to try to get new drivers for the second and third Sundays who will commit to those Sundays. At present Gerry LeVan is in charge of driving the second Sunday and Ruthmary Williamson the third Sunday. There is always a need for substitutes. The First and Fourth Sundays are ably handled by Mike Duckworth and John & Cathy Moore. Ken Brandon usually drives on Fifth Sundays.

The **Thursday Night Live** year began in January with a program presented by Drs. Barbara Nagy and Olson Huff on their work in Malawi. After dinner the crowd moved to the sanctuary in order to accommodate the large audience. February was a powerpoint program presented by Ron Vinson about the work of the Presbyterian Heritage Center. March TNL was replaced by a delightful concert by the visiting Maryville College Choir, with a dinner prepared and served before the concert by the adult choir and some of the Montreat PCUSA members, and punch and cookies after the concert served by the Nurture Committee. April was an All-Church Square Dance, with a large crowd participating in the fellowship hall on a Friday evening in order to include more school-age children. In May, also on a Friday evening, Mary Standaert presented her Montreat Postcard powerpoint program, also drawing a number of interested Montreat friends. There were no planned TNL programs for June and July, and

the planned square-dance for August had to be cancelled because of conflicting schedules. September was the annual all-church picnic, held again this year at Camp Rockmont in connection with the Youth fall gathering. This year's picnic was on Labor Day, September 6. Since there was already a large adult Sunday School class picnic scheduled in September, it was decided not to have another TNL in September. October likewise had no TNL because of two other churchwide events: the Stewardship Dinner on October 17 and the Pipescreams Concert on October 31. November TNL yielded to Logos with a program on Wednesday by Glenn Bannerman and A.T. Brown, featuring campfire stories. December will be full of other intergenerational events with the December 5 caroling and soup supper, with soup furnished by the Nurture Committee and others; and the Dinner Theater on December 12.

Since Nurture's aim has been to try to include more intergenerational events, it was felt that instead of trying to compete with them it was better to cooperate and promote them.

Two other activities have filled the year's activities for Nurture. At the end of 2009 our work in promoting and producing the Church Pictorial Directory finally came to an end.

After a good deal of planning and discussion, Susie Burns agreed to get a schedule going for after-church coffee hours, hosted by families, Sunday School classes, couples, or other individuals. That schedule seems to be running fairly smoothly, and even a between-church services refreshment time has developed.

The **Over-85 Luncheons**, which have been so ably planned and executed by Carey Jo Elam for several years, now have a new Chair Couple, Hugh and Penny Mayronne, who will begin their duties in January 2011.

Margie Tyas' **Thanksgiving and Christmas Meals**, now in their 22nd year, are again being enjoyed by many church members, town people, and other visitors. She fed about 100 on Thanksgiving.

The Nurture Committee has discussed reviving the Salt Shaker monthly dinner groups and will probably present this idea to the congregation after the new year, with a simpler format than before.

In short, it has been a rather busy year in lots of different ways--trying to Nurture the congregation in as many ways as possible. We are concerned that many of the older members may be falling through the cracks, and we are discussing ways to be in better touch with them. In the meantime, we hope to have at least a few winter and spring Thursday Night Live programs, even if they may have to be moved to Fridays as they were this past year!

Members of the 2010 Nurture Committee: Evelyn Bannerman, Susie Burns, \*Judith Burt, Margaret Fouse, Charlotte Sprawls, Mary Standaert, Margie Tyas, and elder Julia Capps.

\*resigned in summer