



# First Presbyterian Church

## MARCH 2011

### Sunday Regular Schedule

9:15am Disciples Class  
 9:30am Sunday School Class  
 10:30am Fellowship  
 10:45am Worship Service

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Inside Ministry Committee mtg  7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30am World Day of Prayer @ FPC	<b>5</b> 8:00am Ham Dicing & Bagging
<b>6</b> <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i>  Communion Service  	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00am-1:30pm Spud Lunch at FUMC	<b>9</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 12:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service  6:00pm Bell Choir  7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 1:30pm Circle II meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00am Circle I meeting	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>  Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Diaconate meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30pm Session meeting	<b>16</b> Noon Birthday lunch @ El Palacio  7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>  Youth Food Harvest (Canned Fruit)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> FAW Entry Deadline	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b>		

Ushers: Leah Berning  
 Robin Caldwell

Hospital Visitor: Charlotte Utley

# My Visits to London's St. Paul's Cathedral

George Copland

St. Paul's Cathedral in London is not the largest cathedral in Europe but it has the world's largest dome. Cathedrals generally do not have domes. The location is on the highest hill in central London. The structure is quite imposing and can be seen from all over the surrounding area. The structure is 574 feet long and 125 feet wide. The dome is 107 feet in diameter and is 85 feet high above its 8 massive support columns. The main axis of the cathedral runs east to west with the High Altar in the east end. Sir Christopher Wren, architect, designed the cathedral in about 1650 and construction started on June 1675. It took 32 years to complete in December 1697. Sir Christopher Wren was on location almost every day.

The basic shape is in the form of a cross with the arms on the north and south called transepts. The choir seating is split into two sections, up front on floor level, on either side of the main aisle. The organ pipes are located above the High Altar around the base of the dome. The five rank keyboard of the organ is located at the rear of the cathedral. Marble, gold and walnut carvings are encountered at every turn of eyesight. The chairs for seating are removable revealing a large expanse of floor space used for various functions. Religious services are held every morning at eight. Under the main floor of the cathedral is basement or crypt which runs the whole length of the structure. Famous leaders' tombs are located under the High Altar on the east end. Admiral Nelson and the Duke of Wellington are interred in lavish marble sarcophaguses while Sir Christopher lies in a tomb under a flat slab of marble. During World War II this large area was used to store valuable artifacts of the cathedral.

When I was on my way to see the war in Europe in fall of 1944 I had the good fortune to get a three day pass to London. One of the places I visited was St. Paul's Cathedral. It was not in use at that time as it had suffered severe damage from bombs and incendiary devices. The whole High Altar at the east end had been destroyed. All the stained glass windows had been removed so there was little light inside. The cathedral was not open for inspection but I went inside anyhow. The caretaker on duty and was polite enough to show me around as I had an American uniform on. The south transept had received considerable damage but the north transept floor was reasonably clear. I remember in the center of the area was a huge pile of sandbags. I asked the reason for the pile. I learned that a 500 kg bomb had fallen through the roof a couple of days ago and was lying on the floor. It was alive and awaiting removal. There was a large hole in the roof. This would have been in the first week of November 1944. I looked around a little more and decided it was a good time to leave.

In September of 1990 my wife and I were on a tour of Europe with the first stop over in London. We went to the regular tour sites such as the Tower of London, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abby, Churchill's Office at 10 Downing street and docks at the East End. We had a little free time so Martha and I decided to go to see St. Paul's Cathedral. My what a change I was in for. We joined one of the hourly tours and followed around.

What a splendid experience it was. All of the stained glass windows had been installed and there was organ music in the background. It was hard for me to envision what I had seen before as everything seemed so different. As I was standing in the south transept I looked up to see if I could recognize where the bomb damage was I had seen earlier, where the bomb came through the roof. I was pointing this out to Martha when the elderly tour guide became interested in what I was looking for. I explained to him the last time when I was there in 1944 a bomb had come through the roof and was laying on the floor under a large pile of sandbags. I presumed it had been removed satisfactorily without detonating. He said that they had tried to keep such problems secret as at that time public morale was so low. I still have vivid memories of what I saw that cold cold day.

*George Jr.*

*Submitted by George Copland Jr.*