

THE BIRD'S NEST

A recent article, penned by a cynic, pointing to religious strife around the world, said “if we could just get rid of religion, we might be able to have peace”. On the face of that statement, there may be a modicum of truth. We have witnessed the blood lust of religious fundamentalism as it has claimed many lives over the centuries, highlighted especially for Americans on September 11, 2001.

Such destructive beliefs and behavior have been underscored in recent weeks with the horrors of war we witness in the Middle East in Syria, Egypt, as well as others. These most recent episodes only highlight other religious bloodletting taking place around the world. We see it in disputes displayed in Muslim and Hindu atrocities carried out in India and Pakistan and animosities between Sunni and Shiite factions in Iraq and other nations. Many others could easily be pointed out as an alarming influence of religious cults over peoples' lives and deaths are made manifest. So, is religion a blessing or a curse of humankind?

Perhaps the best way to understand how we use religion, instead of allowing our faith in God to lead us, can be found in a quote by Frederick Fruerbach. He commented that “man has created God in his own image”. When this occurs, it gives us free rein to commit all sorts of atrocities in the name of God that suit personal or national agendas.

However, in our Christian faith, we see God who came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, not to destroy, but to build up – a Lord of love, not hate; a Savior who saves us by self-sacrifice rather than sacrificing others. It is this graceful faith in Christ that marks the difference between a follower of religion and a faithful person. A religious person constructs the rules to separate and judge others which justifies the killing or harming of others. The faithful person seeks to understand and find the spark of God in every human being.

Beloved, let us not be fooled by the perversion the world calls “religion” which is clothed in self-righteousness and stained with the blood of others. Instead let us hold true to our faith, seek God's forgiveness for our sins, and reach out to gather others into the bosom of our Great and merciful Lord.

Those who say “I love God”, and hate their brothers or sisters are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from the Lord is this: Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (I John 4:20-21)

Tim

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!

- September 1- Timothy Bird, Jr.
- September 4 – Eleanor Williams
- September 8 – Emma Buchanan
- September 9 – Henrietta Umberger
- September 9 – Kristin Gentry Forrester
- September 10 – Naomi Simpson
- September 13 – Rebecca DeBusk
- September 13 – Nancy Inazu
- September 17 – Fred Lester
- September 18 – Jeane Hutton
- September 18 – Agnes Lester
- September 18 – Donald Inazu
- September 20 – Joseph Dee Lester
- September 20 – Kitty McClaugherty
- September 21 – Steve Johnston
- September 21 – Jack Henderson
- September 23 – Georgia Moore
- September 24 – Damon Lester
- September 24 – Ann Lester
- September 24 – Christine Wallace
- September 25 – Shirley Overbay
- September 26 – Jim S. Hutton
- September 27 – Carolyn Gentry
- September 28 – Joe Robinson
- September 29 – Gwen Simpson
- October 3 – Eleanor Hutton
- October 4 – Isaac Freeman
- October 4 – Scott R. Simpson
- October 5 – Betty Jo Tuell
- October 8 – Catie Robinson
- October 8 – Rebecca Buchanan
- October 9 – Sarah Buchanan
- October 10 – Frank Buchanan
- October 22 – Kathryn Beattie
- October 24 – Willis Wagner
- October 24 – William Moore
- October 25 – Travis Hill
- October 31 – Will Johnston

ANNIVERSARIES

- September 5 – Mr. and Mrs. Carlous Henderson
- September 8 – Mr. and Mrs. Blake Blevins
- September 20 – Mr. and Mrs. Tim Simpson
- September 29 – Mr. and Mrs. Joel Chance
- October 5 - Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gentry
- October 21 – Mr. and Mrs. Stan Williams
- October 25 – Mr. and Mrs. David Potter

Please save Box Tops for Education and Campbell soup labels for Niz Barker. Place in basket in narthex.

We would like to have pictures and addresses of our college students and home-bound members that can be posted on bulletin board outside offices. Please leave pictures and addresses in office.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Choir Practice - Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00.

Lydia's Connection – Wednesday evenings at 6:30

Youth – Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Circle Number 4 – Monday, September 23rd at 6:00

Pennies for Hunger – collected during worship on Sunday, September 29th.

Homecoming – September 29th. Potluck lunch to follow.

Board of Deacons – Sunday, October 6th, at 5:00 p.m.

Deacons – Sunday, October 6th, at 6:00 p.m.

Blue Sky Committee – Wednesday, October 9th at 5:30

Youth Sunday – October 13th.

We warmly welcome our visitors
Michael Stovall
Adrienne Griggs
Pete Beattie
Matt and Samantha Shannon

If you, a friend or loved one is shut in and would like communion to be served, please contact the church office or Rev. Bird.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE is challenging the congregation to donate 2,013 cans of soup during the year 2013. The soup will be split between Glade Spring Food Bank and Faith in Action. Place your donation in basket in narthex. We have collected 763 cans to date.

From the Royal Oak Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

Constitution Week, September 17-23, commemorates the signing of the Constitution of the United States. Did you know that the only place in the Constitution that "lord" or any reference to God is where the date is written: "Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven"? Did you know that "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal" and "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" are not in the Constitution, but both are in the Declaration of Independence? And lastly, this quote "Of the people, by the people, for the people" is neither in the Constitution nor the Declaration, but comes from the Gettysburg Address. Study our Constitution!

We wish to include a prayer that is printed in our DAR Ritual and Missal:

As we celebrate the anniversary of the Constitution of the United States of America, we offer thanks, dear Lord, that our nation has prospered with this document as the foundation. We are grateful to the wise men whose foresight made possible this priceless treasure. With hearts filled with gratitude, our Father, we give eternal thanks. Amen.

September, 2013

ABINGDON PRESBYTERY UPDATE

This is the first in what I intend to be a series of occasional updates on what is happening in the Presbytery.

Mountain Top

The Education and Church Development Committees have combined to bring us a Mountain Top experience on Saturday, Sept. 28. This educational event will be held from 9:30 am to 2 pm at the Royal Oak PC in Marion. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Stated Clerk/Exec Search Team

The team has conducted a series of listening sessions throughout the Presbytery to learn how members view Presbytery. I have attended several of these sessions and have been encouraged by the response. The Search Team will collect and review these responses as it determines the nature of the position of Stated Clerk/Exec.

Youth Mission Trip

Tony Palubicki and Greg Wood led another youth mission trip to New York City. Here is an edited (for space) version of Tony's observations. For the past three years the Presbytery's Compassion Ministries Committee has supported and helped fund three mission trips to New York City. The mission trip enables those who come an opportunity to experience a real-life connection to the larger mission and ministry of the church. Although aimed at our youth the mission trip has also been open to adults who participate as both volunteers and leaders. Over the course of the past three years about 65 people (youth and adults) have participated in the event. During our time in New York we work with various food / soup kitchen ministries located throughout the boroughs of New York.

The trip also affords the participants the opportunity to touch history. We have included visits to the National Sept. 11 Memorial, trips on the Staten Island Ferry to see the Statue of Liberty, and the Empire State Building, and Times Square - where we always include the opportunity to watch a Broadway play.

I enjoy leading these trips because, for me, they're like spiritual retreats. Each and every day I find myself privileged to watch the Spirit of Christ moving in wondrous and marvelous ways. I witness this especially in the youth as they discover things about themselves they hadn't known before, grow in faith and understanding, and make friends with others from across the globe but especially with people right here in our own Presbytery. How do you place a value on these things? I don't believe you can. It's priceless! Peace, Tony

Hunger Program

Phyllis Canter and the Compassion Committee continue to be active in feeding the hungry in southwest Virginia. Several shipments of sweet potatoes have been distributed in Appalachia, Bland, Bluefield and Saltville. Fruit was also distributed this spring. An extensive gleanng program took place and thousands of

pounds of produce was collected to feed the hungry in our presbytery. We are all grateful for the work of the Hunger Program on our behalf.

From The Past As I was looking up some information regarding a real estate transaction in 1952 I ran across this item in the minutes of the meeting of Abingdon Presbytery on April 15 & 16 in Richlands and Cedar Bluff. "On motion the Hoot Owl building was placed under the care of the session of the Powell's Valley Church until the Spring Meeting of the Presbytery."

Stated Clerk Since the June meeting of Presbytery at which I was installed as your Stated Clerk, I have been acquainting myself with the duties of the office and learning more about the Presbytery. Regrettably, much of my time has been concluding the transfer of property to churches leaving our denomination. I hope to complete this work by the end of November. Keep Presbytery and the churches who have left us in your prayers.

Please welcome Mike Chamberlain, Interim pastor of Central PC and Andy King, Stated Supply for Dinwiddie PC.

John DiYorio

**GLADE SPRING PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH PRAYER LIST –**

**Matthew Martin (nephew of Tammy Allison
being deployed to Afghanistan)**

Page Umberger

Ann Turner Glenn

Rev. Jerry Williams

**Bob and Carol Creasy (Tina Gentry's
parents)**

Fay Brown

Bob Green (father of Lisa Green)

Jim Smith

Johnny Williams (friend of the Lester girls)

Robin Sweat

Alice Porterfield

Eleanor Hutton

John Robinson

Jeff Sweat

Daryl Henegar

Jennifer Thompson

Carrie Lamie (sister of Sarah Helton)

Nola Ann Rosenbaum

Jewel Osborne

Jason Waters (nephew of Alice Porterfield)

Verna Elizabeth Stephenson Schmidt

Margaret Orr

Shirley Overbay

Ruth Sheffield

Jacob Ritchie

Michele Wagner (daughter of Betty and

Willis Wagner)

Juanita Baggett

Carolyn Gentry

Kathy Dohman

Gary Wallace

J. G. Lester

Linda Parsons

**Anna Marie Smith (granddaughter of
Delores Wagner)**

Dr. Robert Lominack

Daryl Phillips

Bea Mason

Brion Ferratt

Craig Taylor (in Afghanistan)

Don Haynes (brother of Harry Haynes)

Norma Arnold (friend of Carolyn Gentry)

**Scott Rasnake (brother-in-law of Bonnie
Ballinger)**

Madeline Wagner

Eleanor Mahaun (mother of Steve Johnston)

YOUTH have an e-mail address.....

gspmmmyouth@gmail.net

**We extend our Christian love and sympathy to
Neal and Melissa Hutton upon the death of her
grandfather, Warren "Hank" Miller, on August
13th.**

**Youth Sunday is scheduled for October 13th. Our
youth will lead our worship that morning. They
will share their experiences of the mission trip
they took to Camden, NJ.**

**IF YOU ARE WILLING TO LEAD CALL TO
WORSHIP, PLEASE SIGN SHEET IN
NARTHEX OR CALL THE OFFICE. ALL ARE
URGED TO PARTICIPATE.**

**HOMECOMING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 29TH. REV. KEVIN CAMPBELL
WILL BE OUR GUEST MINISTER. POTLUCK
LUNCH WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP. MEAT
WILL BE FURNISHED. BRING A DISH TO
SHARE. INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND
FRIENDS.**

**LYDIA'S CONNECTION meets on Wednesday
evenings at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. Please join
us as we knit and/or crochet items for various
mission projects. This is a wonderful time to get to
know one another while helping others.**

Address Changes:

Margaret Orr, c/o Lydia Landis, 196 Longview Drive, Abingdon, VA 24211, 276-206-8251

Jewell Osborne, Greensboro Place, 440 Lawndale Drive, Room #5, Greensboro, NC 27455, 336-288-4561

BLUE SKIES

You may see reference to a new committee (yes, another committee) called the Blue Sky Committee. This committee will be researching and developing strategies to implement our vision (printed on the first page of our web page) more effectively in the months and years ahead. It has already met as it looks at ways to increase our ministry, congregation, and mission, both near term and in the future. The committee is moderated by Michael Colston and its members from the Session and Board of Deacons are Sara Hutton Tallman, Dirk Wilmoth, Nancy Hagen, Anita Robinson and Damon Lester with Rev. Bird as ex-officio. Please don't be shy in making suggestions you might have. Further reports will be forthcoming as they do their work. Please keep them in your prayers.

Glade Spring Presbyterian Church

Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting

Sunday, August 4, 2013

5:00pm

The monthly stated meeting of the Session of Glade Spring Presbyterian Church was held jointly with the deacons at 5:00pm in the fellowship hall. The following members of the session, constituting a quorum, were present: Jay Robinson, Clark Hutton, Dirk Wilmoth, Michael Colston, Sara Hutton Tallman and Reverend Tim Bird, Moderator. Elders James Allison, Bobbie Ryburn, Lee Brannon and Patrick Buchanan were excused. Deacons Anita Robinson, Bob Stanberry, Alice Freeman, Daniel Cline and Nancy Hagen

were present. Tammy Allison, Damon Lester and Kay Williams were excused.

Reverend Bird called the meeting to order.

The clerk gave a devotional and offered a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Two sets of minutes were presented from the deacons' stated meeting on May 5 and a called meeting on July 21, 2013. MOTION: Anita Robinson moved, and Dirk Wilmoth seconded the motion, that the minutes be approved as written. The motion passed.

Two sets of minutes were presented from the stated session meeting on May 5 and a called meeting on June 23, 2013. MOTION: Michael Colston moved, and Clark Hutton seconded the motion, to approve the minutes as corrected to include the clerk's name on the nominating committee. The motion passed.

Financial Report

Clark Hutton presented a financial report.

Clerk's Correspondence

The clerk read a thank-you note from Sarah Bird and presented an application from Kay Williams for use of the fellowship hall and the church for a wedding and rehearsal on November 15 and 16, 2013. MOTION: The clerk moved, and Bob Stanberry seconded the motion, to approve the application. The motion passed.

The care list was reviewed.

Minute for Minister

Reverend Bird reported that he continues to develop ideas for young people and that a small committee might be beneficial. MOTION: Clark moved that a small group should develop ideas for the future of the church and its mission and present the ideas to the session and deacons. Alice Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed. The group will meet together with Reverend Bird on August 22nd at 5:30pm.

Dirk, Michael, Sara, Anita, Damon and Nancy will serve. The group will be called the blue sky committee.

Old Business

There was discussion on the thermostats in the church and the fellowship hall.

New Business

Reverend Bird reported that lightning struck the elevator, security system, phone line and ruined the computer tower in the church office.

MOTION: Jay moved, and Michael seconded the motion, to purchase a new computer tower and a system to protect the computer from lightning, with a limit of \$1500, to come from the session fund. This may be reimbursed by our insurance once the lightning strike is verified. The motion passed.

Reverend Bird reported that the hospitality committee will host a brunch next Sunday.

MOTION: Dirk moved, and Jay seconded the motion, to hold a brunch next Sunday. The motion passed.

Reverend Bird reported that we are invited to a Presbytery meeting at Grace Presbyterian on Thursday to hear our input for the future of Presbytery.

Reverend Bird announced that we will have a Bible Study in September. Homecoming will be September 29th and Reverend Kevin Campbell will speak. We will have a pot-luck lunch on Sunday.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance: Dirk reported they are working to audit all church books and review the utility bills.

Worship: Michael reported: The new hymnals will be here in October. MOTION: Michael moved, and Clark seconded the motion, that bookplates for the hymnals may be purchased for \$10.00 with the money going to the Outreach Committee. The motion passed.

Personnel: No report.

Outreach: Met July 23rd. School supplies drive is underway.

Property: No meeting. The light fixture in the fellowship hall needs to be replaced. Alice Freeman stated that there are some wires sticking

out of the ground beside the front sidewalk at the church and she asked if they can be removed or should we install another light?

CE: Sunday School will begin on August 18.

Shepherding: Dirk reported that they are collating all updated contact information gathered during the survey. They will develop a new directory of members.

Membership: No meeting.

Deacons: No meeting.

Presbyterian Men: No report.

Presbyterian Women: No report.

The youth email is gspmmmyouth@gmail.com.

Next meeting: The clerk moved, and Michael seconded the motion, to change the September session and deacons' meeting to Sunday September 8 due to Labor Day Weekend and to adjourn. The motion passed.

Reverend Bird closed the meeting with prayer.

Sara Hutton Tallman, Clerk

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal-Bookplates

The new hymnal, Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal, will arrive in late October or early November. The hymnals have already been purchased. Even though the hymnals are paid for, the Worship Committee wanted to give you, the congregation, an opportunity to purchase a bookplate to place in the hymnals in honor of or in memory of someone. The cost of each bookplate will be \$10 (the original cost of each hymnal). All of the money from sale of bookplates will go to the Outreach Committee's fund for local missions. Order forms will be in the bulletin in the coming weeks as well as in this newsletter. Please make checks payable to Glade Spring Presbyterian Church. On the memo, put hymnal. There were 200 hymnals ordered, so get your bookplate orders in quickly. Turn in order forms and money to the church office.