

Would You Believe?

July 2008

NEWS IN THE PEWS



School is out and vacations are underway as is evident from, the number of empty pews on Sunday mornings. There are many comings and goings to report.

I neglected to report last month that Chris Gocio graduated from Forest Hill High School. Congratulations,

Chris!!! I don't know what Chris' plans for the future are but do pray for him.

Katie Gocio, our resident flautist, is working for Cross Ministries this summer with the day care. Do ask Katie about this ministry.

Melissa Myers, as I write this, is in Tallahassee attending the 4H Legislature. This is a week exposing the young folks to the working of the government. They have a mock set up of the chambers and she will be a lobbyist. She is spending the week in a dorm at FSU. Be sure to ask her about this interesting experiment.

The Myers fellas have an interesting project. They are "demolishing" a bathroom and then are going to re-do it!!! That should be an interesting experiment and quite a learning adventure!!

Helen Lukasiak is beaming with pride at the accomplishments of her granddaughters. Calley Keithler has just completed 8th grade as an honor student with a 3.33 GPA. She received a Citizenship Award as well as a presidential award for outstanding academic excellence. Another granddaughter, Kimberly Lukasiak along with 17 others from Las Vegas, ran 26.2 miles in Alaska. During 14 miles of the run, it was raining. This was a run for the leukemia- lymphoma society. Kimberly raised over \$5,000. So you can understand why Helen is beaming. Isn't it exciting to hear what some of the young folks are doing???

Speaking of accomplishments...our Virginia Bright has completed 1,000 cross stitched yarn crosses that will be sent overseas, along with food, to orphanages and children who are the poorest and living in the most troubled parts of the world. Thank you Virginia!!!

Wasn't it wonderful to have Amy Cavender sing in church two Sundays in June. All the Cavenders were here and of course, the three girls, Maggie, Lexi, and Katie stole the show!!! Aren't they precious and can you believe--they are 5 years old!!! In addition to the Cavender family, Jayne Burchette was also here. They came for a wedding of one of Jayne's granddaughters. Aren't we thankful for the weddings of the granddaughters so that we get a chance to visit with these folks who strayed away from us. Of course, I can't say too much about that since they live in the "suburbs of the BIG CITY" and we enjoy visiting them in the fall.

It was great to see the entire Lee family in church on the 22nd. Jeff and Jenny are spending some time with family during their summer break from school. Jason and Cherie were also here.

It was also good to see Scott Newell in church on June 22. He and Kelley will be moving to the northern part of Florida.

Phil and Joyce Elder are rejoicing at the birth of their first great grandchild. Micah Goldstein arrived on June 4th so be sure to congratulate Phil and Joyce. All the Elders, with the exception of two granddaughters enjoyed 4 days together in Whittier, NC. Phil mentioned in Sunday School how much they enjoyed a sharing and devotional time in the evenings.--that makes for real family closeness and many good memories. On the way home, Phil and Joyce enjoyed a stop in St. Simons Island GA.

The Rob and Jeannie Mejeur family have been vacationing in North Carolina. On their way up, they went through the BIG CITY. They spent some time with Anne and Larry in their NC home and then went on over to Cherokee.

The Ossos spent a week relaxing in their place in TN. I'm heading up that way next week to visit Doug and family and while there Russ will also join us so the entire Kullmar Klan (all 8 of us) will be together--a real treat for me!!! I will also spend one afternoon with some of the Jennings clan.

Jane Burhans and Betty Figari, along with Betty's daughter and her husband, drove to Branson, MO and enjoyed some time there as well as visiting several interesting sights along the way. Shortly after they

returned Babe Ruth and some of his family also went to Branson.

Jim and Becky Forester spent a week in St. Augustine celebrating their 30th anniversary. It's hard to believe they have been married that long. Then Jim went to NC for 10 days where he was going to be painting for Maria and Hank, and Becky went to MS where she helped Mary Downing move to her new place. Justin Forester recently purchased a home in Fleming Park, just out of Jacksonville, FL. As we congratulate Jim and Becky on their 30th, we also congratulate the Roffs on their 40th anniversary. Scott and Dorothy Wilson are also celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary by taking a cruise to the beautiful state of Alaska.

Ted and Shirley Stewart went to VA for the graduation of their grandson from high school. Marc and Martha Smith are on a 6 week trip during which they will attend a college reunion and visit friends and relatives. George Kirkwood made a trip to Ohio to visit a daughter and I understand to do some projects for her. Betty and Terry Kennedy are making a trip to their place in Alabama. Mary Ann Griffin had a nice visit with her brother in Texas. While she was there, they went to their mother's home and cleared it out.. Next, Mary Ann will visit her son Michael and family in Washington, DC, John and Carol Brandt spent several days in the Keys. It's good to have Marlene Roese back after visiting her daughters and also attending the Baldini wedding. Also Bob and Mary Anderson have returned from a cruise with Rick, Lisa and family.

Laurie Moll will be leaving for her new job in Colorado toward the end of July. Before she moves, she will be going to Cashiers, NC to visit her dad. We will surely miss Laurie but are thankful for the time she has been with us. Do be faithful to pray for her in the transition to her new job.

The choral group went to the Ukraine and according to e-mail reports, the trip is going well. While the Blanzoles are there, Florence Haines is spending time with Charlotte McKee. Kwang Yang is on the trip and when she returns, she plans to do more traveling going to Boston among other points of interest. Judy Morgan will also, on her return, be taking off to visit her daughters and be will be away TOO LONG.

The Backus family, Ron, Vicki, Bryan, Melissa and Amanda all attended the wedding of the daughter of Vickie's brother on Sanibel Island. Amanda's "friend" is on a 6 week mission trip to Jordan so please pray for him during this time.

Matt Jones, son of Steve and Barbie , and his family are on a mission trip to Haiti. Matt will be working at the hospital where Garry and Anita Chambers served for several years. Do pray for them, not only on this trip but also for Matt as he is doing her internship in Minnesota. His goal is to become a medical missionary.

Eddy Benmuvhar gives praises and thanks to the Lord. His two grandsons each experienced God's kind blessings in the same week. On May 18th John and Lauren Benmuvhar exchanged wedding vows before family and fiends as they began their new lives together as husband and wife in Kansas City and on May 22, Ethan Michael was born to Mark and

Andria Benmuvhar in St, Louis. Eddy and his family rejoice over the new little life. As James 1: 17 reads *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*"

And I am happy to report that another new life is expected in the life of our church family. Henri and Olga Dietlin are anticipating the arrival of an addition to their family in December. How wonderful it is that God is answering our prayers for young families.

We rejoice over the addition to the Kibben family. Vaughn David arrived on June 20. I am happy that mother and baby are both doing well. What a blessing!!!

We had 2 deaths in our church family. Alga Tramell went to be with the Lord on June 1st and Bill Smith departed this life on June 6th. We extend our sympathy to the Smith and Tramell families.

Isn't it wonderful to have new church directories? They are very complete and hopefully as we publish in WYB each month any changes in address or phone numbers, we'll all keep our directories up to date. How thankful we are to our resident computer wiz, Ruth Riggs, and all the other ladies of our Encouragement Group who worked long and hard to get this accomplished!! What a useful tool to have, so do be faithful in keeping yours up to date!!! Please notify the church office if you have not had the opportunity to acquire a new directory or the latest inserts. We will all work together to make available a directory to all who wish to have one.

Before I close this months "News" it has come to my attention that the family of Sally Hubner will honor her on the occasion of her 90th birthday on Sunday, July 27, at Marshfield Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Indiana. If you wish to shower her with congratulations and love, cards may be sent to: Sally Hubner, in care of Jim Hubner 1282 Woodgate Drive, Carmel, IN 46033. Let's all let Sally know how much we love and miss her on this special occasion.

As we celebrate the birthday of our country on July 4, let's not only thank God for how He has blessed the USA but also pray for the elections and the future of this nation.

Carolyn Kullmar

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS

Actions of the 36th General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met in Dallas, Texas, June 10-12, 2008, hosted by North Texas Presbytery. A total of 1,185 commissioners attended, of which 881 were Teaching Elders and 304 were Ruling Elders. The assembly included ministry-related seminars Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday that were well-received and well-attended. In addition to hearing annual reports from the ten Committees and Agencies, the assembly elected members of Committees and Agencies and acted upon overtures received from presbyteries.

TE Paul D. Kooistra Elected Moderator

Dr. Paul David Kooistra, Coordinator of Mission to the World, the international mission agency of the PCA, was elected as moderator on the first ballot. Other candidates were Dr. Tom Kay, Jr. and Dr. O. Palmer Robertson. Dr. Kooistra previously served as a staff minister in several churches, as professor at Belhaven College and Reformed Theological Seminary, and as president of Covenant Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota (B.A.), Columbia Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the University of Alabama (Ph.D.). He and his late wife, Jan (who went to be with the Lord in April 2008), are the parents of three children and seven grandchildren. Under his leadership, both CTS and MTW have experienced significant growth and progress. His recurring emphasis was that the Church is the family of God. That perspective was evident as he presided over the assembly with grace, humility, and good humor.

Interchurch Relations

- Approved the admission of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches and the Presbyterian and Reformed Church into the North America Presbyterian and Reformed Council.
- Approved the establishment of corresponding relations with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil and the Reformed Church of South Africa.

Deaconess Discussion

A major issue at this year's assembly was women's roles in local church ministries of mercy.¹ The present PCA *Book of Church Order* (BCO) does not allow for women to be ordained as deacons but does allow for Sessions to appoint godly women to assist the male diaconate in mercy ministry (BCO 9-7). Some PCA churches call such women "deaconesses" to describe their function and some do not. Also, some PCA churches publicly "commission" such women, but do not ordain them. There have been differences regarding the nature or necessity of ordination and the distinction between ordination and commissioning. As candidates for ordination in the PCA have indicated that they differ with the PCA's present policy on deaconesses, as more churches have sought to involve women in mercy ministries, and as some churches have chosen not to ordain either men or women for diaconal ministry, the issue has come to the attention of the General Assembly by several overtures and a judicial complaint. The complaint (Case 2008-1, Session of Crossroads Community Church v. Philadelphia Presbytery) is before the Standing Judicial Commission. Overtures from several Presbyteries asked the General Assembly to take action on the issue:

- Philadelphia Presbytery (Overture 9) [seconded by Overture 15 from Western Canada, and Communication 2 from Northern California Presbytery] asked for the assembly to form a study committee to study the biblical evidence concerning the role of women in mercy ministries.
- Rocky Mountain Presbytery (Overture 17) then asked the assembly to expand the scope of the proposed study committee to include all matters regarding establishing guidelines where women may serve in the Church whether ordained or unordained.
- Central Georgia Presbytery (Overture 19) expressed the opinion that a study committee should not be formed and additionally asserted that "commissioning" people to do diaconal ministry is unwarranted.

The Overtures' Committee (OC) Majority Report was that no study committee be formed (as proposed in either Overture 9 or 17). A Minority Report, submitted by about 40% of the members of the OC, asked that there be a study committee on the women's roles in diaconal ministry only (Overture 9), providing biblical and historical evidence as well as pastoral advice. The proposed committee was to include scholars representing a range of opinion. After the longest discussion of any issue at the assembly, the Minority Report requesting a study committee was not adopted and the Majority Report was adopted by a margin of about 60% to 40% of those present and voting. Overture 19 from Central Georgia was answered by referring to the assembly's action on Overture 9. The Majority Report advised Presbyteries to send up specific BCO amendment proposals (BCO 26-2) or references (BCO 41) to the General Assembly.² [For some helpful historical sources see www.pcahistory.org.]

Other Overtures

In other actions the General Assembly:

- Agreed to send to Presbyteries a proposed amendment to BCO 57-5 to reword membership vows as requested by the Presbytery of the Blue Ridge (Overture 4).
- Approved a tribute to TE Wm. B. Leonard, Jr. and a memorial to the late RE Robert C. Cannada, Sr.
- Approved the division of Evangel Presbytery to form an additional Presbytery to be named North Alabama Presbytery (or some other name that suits its members). The new Presbytery will be the PCA's 77th Presbytery.
- Approved amendments to the Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO 14-6 k.; 14-9 g.; 15-9 e.; 14-9 e.; 15-8 c.) to expedite business.
- Revised the boundaries of Northwest Georgia, Tennessee Valley, Piedmont Triad, and Western Carolina Presbyteries at their requests.

Standing Judicial Commission

All judicial matters that come before the General Assembly are committed to the Standing Judicial Commission of the assembly (SJC). The SJC reported that it had received nineteen cases since the last General Assembly, twelve of which had been handled by the time of the meeting of the assembly with seven still in process. In an historic and solemn occurrence, the SJC reported that it had conducted a trial on March 6, 2008 against Louisiana Presbytery (Case 2007-14)³ having indicted the Presbytery for failure to find a strong presumption of guilt in the theological views of one of its ministers TE J. Stephen Wilkins.⁴ The Presbytery pled guilty to that charge, and the SJC imposed the censure of admonition to the Presbytery. In the presence of the assembly, the Moderator, Paul Kooistra, formally administered the admonition with Dr. James Jones representing the Presbytery.

PCA Growth

The PCA has grown to a reported membership of 342,041, with 1,666 churches (including mission churches) in seventy-six Presbyteries. Eighteen churches were added to the denomination in 2007. Over 10,200 professions of faith were reported. MTW has 594 long-term missionaries, 136 two-year missionaries, 342 interns, and sent out 6,006 people on short-term mission trips in 2007. MTW now works with 584 national partners. MNA reported that the PCA placed 53 church planters in 2007. There are now 172 PCA-endorsed chaplains, many of whom served in the Iraq-Afghanistan war zones in 2007.

Reformed University Ministries (RUM) now works on 117 campuses in the USA. Seven new campus ministries were added in 2007; seven more are slated for 2008. Covenant College reported an enrollment of 1,343 students in 2007 with a new residence hall and a new academic building now being used. Covenant Theological Seminary also reported record enrollments with students coming from 46 states and 21 countries. CTS is on track to complete its \$25 Million Capital Funds Campaign in December 2008. The Administrative Committee reported that *byFaith* magazine has won the First Place Award from the Evangelical Press Association for the Best Denominational Magazine in America for the second time in three years. CE&P reported that they conducted WIC Leadership, Directors of Women's Ministries, Youth World Awareness, and Equip leadership training conferences over the past year. CE&P is developing alternative electronic training applications that will assist local churches. PCA Foundation reported asset growth to \$51.7 million with ministry disbursements of \$9,594,000. PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc., reported asset growth to a record \$318.6 million, with \$301,934 disbursed in Ministerial Relief.

Ridge Haven Conference Center Dilemma

Though Committee and Agency annual reports to the assembly are usually upbeat, this year's RH report was quite serious. RH Administrator, Mo Up De Graff, reported that Ridge Haven is facing difficult circumstances with a combination of a financial shortfall, a decline in camper registrations, deferred maintenance, a large-group cancellation, a depletion of financial reserves, and staff turn-overs. Camp fees have been raised and staff salaries have been reduced in order to deal with the difficulties. A survey was conducted among the assembly commissioners to gauge their opinions about the future options for Ridge Haven. A recommendation from the RH Committee of Commissioners was approved that the General Assembly direct the Cooperative Ministries Committee to make an evaluation of Ridge Haven's situation and make recommendations to the RH Board that will be reported to the 37th General Assembly (RAO 7-3). The assembly asked that churches give to help cover Ridge Haven's Water and Sewer Upgrades (\$184,354.09) mandated by the State of North Carolina.

Book of Church Order Changes

- An amendment to the BCO 12-1 and 12-2 to Change Quorum Requirements for Session meetings was approved by the Presbyteries and given final approval by the General Assembly (BCO 26-3) and is now in effect.
- A proposed amendment to BCO 57-5 to reword membership vows was given initial approval and sent down to the Presbyteries for a vote (BCO 26-3).

Special Days, Offerings and Events Recommended for PCA Churches:

- September 14, Seniors Ministry (Grandparents and Senior Citizens Day) (CE&P).
- October 2008, a Month of Prayer for Global Missions (MTW).
- October 12, 2008, Covenant College Sunday. Prayer for CC.
- The 2009 Women in the Church Offering is for the AC/SC.
- A special offering for MTW Compassion Ministry to be taken in 2008, date set by Sessions.
- November 9, 2008, A Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Worldwide (MTW).
- November 2008, Thanksgiving Offering for MNA Urban and Mercy Ministries.
- December 2008, Offering for Ministerial Relief (PCA-RBI).
- February 15, 2009, Ridge Haven Sunday, Day of Prayer.

- May 4-10, 2008, Week of Prayer coordinated by CE&P.
- The 37th General Assembly will convene June 15, 2009, in Orlando, Florida.

A Word of Thanks and a Request

The Administrative Committee/Office of the Stated Clerk provides the administrative services and legal structure for the PCA to minister cooperatively as a denomination. All churches, presbyteries, and denominational ministries benefit from the ministry of the AC/SC. Therefore, we request that all PCA churches consider supporting the AC/SC through the *per capita* giving of Partnership Shares or *proportional* giving (for example, one-half of one percent of local church offerings). **We appreciate your support for this needful ministry**

--L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk PCA

¹Coming out of the 16th Reformation there have been several practices regarding women's service in the Church doing mercy ministries in light of several New Testament passages and historical references from the history of the Early Church. Some Reformed/Presbyterian Churches had unordained women who were authorized by the church to work with the male deacons (see Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV., Ch. III, § 9 regarding the Reformed Church at Geneva), some conservative denominations have ordained deaconesses (e.g. The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America which has had women deacons for almost 200 years) since it is not an office of the exercise of discipline, and still other denominations have neither ordained nor unordained female deacons. One of the PCA's antecedent denominations, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod came very close to ordaining deaconesses shortly before the RPCES was received into the PCA in 1982. There have been differences in perspectives regarding the nature or necessity of ordination and the distinction between ordination and commissioning.

²It should be noted that the discussion centered on diaconal work (mercy ministries), *not* on the office of Elder. In a Presbyterian system of Church Polity, Elders (both Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders) govern the Church (BCO 1-5; 1-7; 4-3; 12-1; 13-1; 14-1). Deacons do not govern the Church (BCO 7-2) but have an office "of sympathy and service" (BCO 9-1) that is exercised under the supervision and authority of the Session (BCO 9-2). BCO 9-7 states, "It is often expedient that the Session of a church select and appoint godly women of the congregation to assist the deacons. . . ." A local church must have at least two Elders to be organized by

the Presbytery as a particular church (BCO 5-9) but is not absolutely required to have deacons (BCO 5-9; 9-2).

³BCO 40-6 provides that a Session or Presbytery as a body may be tried in a manner similar to that of an individual. That has not been done in American Presbyterianism since the 1830s, however.

⁴The issue of so-called "Federal Vision Theology" a.k.a. "Auburn Avenue Theology" has been before the assembly in five instances in the last two years, A Memorial from Central Carolina Presbytery (Case 2006-2), an overture from Suncoast Presbytery (Overture 22, 2006), a Complaint (Case 2007-8, TE James Jones et. altera v. Louisiana Presbytery), an ad interim study committee on Federal Vision Theology and New Perspectives on Paul appointed by the 34th General Assembly and reported to the 35th General Assembly, and finally, Case 2007-14, the PCA v. Louisiana Presbytery. Mr. Wilkins left the PCA for the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches before proceedings against him could begin.

FROM THE PASTOR



The relationship between the Christian and the Church; that was the focus of the

sermon last Sunday. There are three further important points to digest in that consideration.

First, We established on Sunday that one cannot normally be a truly biblical Christian while being *para* church (*para-* meaning beside or beyond). We also established that the church is not just a service station for meeting our individual fuel and repair needs so we can then go on our individual way. We must now emphasize that the church is our *place*, i.e., our natural habitat for collective life, safety, and prosperity as Christians. It is where our built in spiritual homing device wants to take us. When, therefore, we listen to, and follow the siren song of other "attractions" or competing agendas, we accept the invitation to complication and even catastrophe.

I am thinking about just such a case from another city as I write this article. The folks I have in mind attend church as something they consider to be important, but not an agenda controller. Consequently their lifestyle has included places and activities which are counter productive to their true spiritual health and prosperity. As a result, their lower priority on church and their higher priority on personal preferences has resulted in very traumatic developments in their lives. No doubt, they will (possibly) focus on the Lord in the context of church until they can hopefully "get themselves fixed,"

and will then go their way again. This is not the biblical relationship between the Christian and the church.

Second, When anyone lives *para* or semi *para* to the church this gives passive permission to those under their influence to do the same. This is the meaning of Romans 14:7, “. . . none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.” It is common for one who is under the influence of another to follow their habits, especially when those habits promote personal convenience.

Third, our view and degree of personal participation in the church has a strong influence on our practice of outreach, or the lack of it, as the case may be. This is not the only reason why we might not do well in outreach. It is a given, however, that if we don't have a high or strong view of the biblical necessity of relating to the Head (Christ) through the Body (the church), then we will disregard the biblical importance of church growth through personal outreach.

May God give us the grace to want what He wants in these matters individually and collectively.

*In Christ,
Lynn*

LARRY'S COLUMN

MISSIONS TRIPS

Our choir mission trip to Ukraine was a marvelous success in every way. The beautiful country, the spectacular flowers, the sweet-spirited people, and the impressive churches we saw all made it an experience none of us will ever forget. The concerts sounded fantastic. (There will be DVDs and audio CDs available for purchase at the Welcome Center later this month.) The people who attended were very responsive.

Singing for the church dedication at Belgorod-Dnestrovsky was an unforgettable thrill. They have been working on their building for ten long years! The privilege of assisting in the spread of the Gospel in Ukraine was an indescribable honor. And the permanent impact this has made on all who traveled, particularly in their prayer life, was life-changing.

Choir members presented a wonderful report with testimonies, pictures, and video on Sunday evening, June 29. You can go to the church web site to find a summary of the trip along with pictures spread over twelve pages.

Now it's time to start planning next summer's mission trip to Ecuador. We have had a very close relationship with the MTW team there in Quito. Our Missions Committee is working with the missionaries there to plan a work project for us next year. We don't have details yet, but hope to announce them soon.

If you have never been on a mission trip, you need to do so. You will never be the same again. It will change the way you think, the way you pray, and the way you give.

DOWNING "SEND-OFF"

The weekend of July 26 – 27 will be focused on sending the Downings out with our blessing to the ministry to which God is calling them. After 37 years of faithful and divinely-blessed ministry here, they will be moving to Birmingham, AL. Lynn has accepted the position of Revitalization Pastor at Briarwood PCA as part of the "Embers to a Flame" ministry. He will be assisting other churches across the nation as they enter this much-needed revitalization process.

Here at LOPC, we will gather in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm on Saturday evening, July 26. Special friends will share ways in which the Downings have been a blessing to them, and to all of us. There will be special music, special presentations, and a reception afterward in the fellowship hall afterward.

On Sunday morning, July 27, Pastor Downing will preach a sermon that concludes his resident ministry here. But it will not be his last sermon at LOPC, as we look forward to occasions in the future when he will return for a visit. After the service, we will have a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall. There will be no evening service that day.

MEN'S DINNER

Our monthly fellowship for July will honor Pastor Downing. We will meet on Monday, July 14th, 6:30pm at the Bonnette Hunt Club 5309 Hood Road, Palm Beach Gardens. The buffet supper (all you can eat!) includes: turkey, pork, cole slaw, potatoes, salad, dessert, coffee, tea and sodas. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Please make checks payable to LOPC and denote "Men's Dinner." For questions, please contact Bob Lee (588-7102) or Dave Wade (966-6366). Please call the office today with your RSVP.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School July 7 – 11
Summer Fun Club each Monday from 9:00 – 1:00
Children's Wednesday night ministry from 6:30 – 8:15

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor Downing will lead us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper on Sunday evening, July 13 at the 6:00 pm evening service.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

On July 6 we will begin nine weeks of a special combined adult Sunday School class from 9:00 to 10:00 am. We will all meet together in the sanctuary with a rotating schedule of teachers: Pastor Downing, John Brandt, Buddy Tate, and Pastor Roff.

The study will be drawn from J. I. Packer's book, "Never Beyond Hope; How God Touches and Uses Imperfect People." Each week will be a character study in a different Biblical character. These will include:
Samson – HOPE when my strength brings weakness with it

Jacob – HOPE when I belong to an unhappy family

Jonah – HOPE when I am angry with God and with people

Thomas – HOPE when I find it hard to believe

Peter – HOPE when I have done something terribly wrong

CD RECORDINGS BY PASTOR ROFF

There are now three available for purchase (\$15) at the welcome center. These include two recordings he has made on the organ in Ukraine at Odessa's Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of an organ for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Belgorod-Dnestrovsky, Ukraine.

1. ***Lift High the Cross*** – hymn arrangements
2. ***Hymns for Him*** – piano/organ duets
3. ***Favorite Melodies*** – transcriptions of orchestral works

Larry Roff

OUTREACH MOMENTS

From Your Outreach Team

Have you heard about our "Summer Movie Series"?!

When we met in May we decided it'd be fun to show a movie once a month in June, July, and August. It was felt that it would be a fun and relaxing way for our members to invite their friends to church for fellowship. We get to see a movie for just 2 bucks, our guests get to see a movie for free, and afterward we talk about what we've seen over a bowl of ice cream!

The first movie in the series that was shown on Friday, June 27th, was "Shadowlands" starring Anthony Hopkins. The story is about C.S. Lewis who meets Joy Gresham, a fan of his from America whom he eventually marries. The story also deals with his struggle with personal pain and grief. Lewis believed that suffering should be endured with patience but found it a real challenge to apply that principle when his wife falls ill

and eventually dies. (I don't know when you'll actually be reading this article so I'm hoping you joined us.)

Well, that's the first movie we plan to show. At the time of this writing, the Outreach Team hadn't settled on what movies we'll be showing in July and August so... stay tuned!

Let me take this opportunity to again invite every one of you to share any ideas you might have with anyone on the Outreach Team. They'll represent your idea the very next time the team meets. That's the fourth Tuesday evening of every month at 7:00pm here at the church. You're certainly welcome to join us.

Thank you. Jay Myers

(Third in a series, from Pascal Amouzou)

The Frozen Water

Some weeks ago, my child's class was going on a science trip and I have to take him to the bus. The bus was late and while we were waiting, I seized the occasion to engage in a friendly conversation with one of the science teachers accompanying the students. I have in mind to use my "outreach" function.

We talked about how wonderful the world is coordinated, the solar system with the position of the planets on their orbits in such a way that the whole set is suspended into emptiness, the position of earth in a way that makes life possible, the succession of seasons. We talked about the beauty and functionality of the infinitely immense universe, so immense that it is mind boggling, the beauty and functionality of the infinitely small atom, so small that it is mind boggling. We talked about how beautiful and functional is a living being structure, the complexity of a living being cell, cells that gather to form a tissue, tissues that gather to form an organ, organs that gather to form an apparel, apparels that gather to form a living being.

We seem to be speaking the same language and to share the same admiration of the mind boggling universe. When I introduce the fact that creation was too much coordinated, too much precise, too much organized to be the result of chance, the beautiful harmony we have shared for the last thirty minutes fell apart.

No there was no intelligence design, everything started from the big bang, and so forth. Do you believe that beyond the sky where there is not an atmosphere to breathe, there is a white beard old man, almighty, all powerful who ordained everything? Please.

Yes he agrees that Jesus was real, but he was just a smart man who manage to do some magic tricks in a land where the people were not educated enough to question

and challenge him. How does he manage to walk on water? That was easy, the water was frozen.

I had never heard that argument before. The water on which Jesus walked was frozen. I tried to remember what the scripture says. I could not remember what season it was. I did not remember the last time I read the passage. Was it five years ago? Ten? In spite of the half of a dozen of bibles I have on my shelf, I only read them ... the day the pastor reads them for his preaching.

As soon as I got home, I reached to one of the bible to ask the Lord if the water on which he walked was frozen. I heard Peter laughing: why do you want to go all the way to the Lord when you can ask anyone one of us who were witnesses? Of course that the water was frozen. It was so frozen that we have to row for the boat to move. It was so frozen that I, Peter, standing within a yard of the Lord was sinking.

The day you will see my child's science teacher, please let him know I want to talk to him again.

YOUTH PLUGGED IN



Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you! I am writing this to you from my dorm room at Columbia International University where I am just getting ready to start my second week of classes for this session. Last weeks course was *Trends in Evangelism and Mobilization* while this week's course is focused on gaining a better understanding of Islam. Last weeks course was very beneficial and I look forward to reporting to you upon our return.

Whereas last week Tiffany and Hannah were with me, this week they are with a friend in Tennessee for a much needed time of rest and refreshing.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thanks to ALL who helped with the rummage sale this year. From those who donated their treasures☺, to those who organized and did the pricing, to all our youth and leaders who were there serving diligently. What an incredible job. Special thanks, as always to Betty Roff for her willingness to take on this task each year. What an incredible blessing!!!!!!

We have been working from afar to put the finishing touches on our Summer trip which we pray will be a beneficial time for all who will be attending. Please continue to pray for us as we are also using this time to begin preparing next years youth season. Now it is Time for me to go and get "Plugged In".

Love in Christ, John, Tiffany, and Hannah

24 Notes That Tap Deep Emotions

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than the call Taps.

As soon as Taps was sounded on the night of July 1862, words were put with the music. The first were, "Go To Sleep, Go to Sleep". As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but here are some of the popular verses

Day is done, gone the sun, From the hills, from the lakes
From the sky. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
may the soldier or sailor, God keep.

On the land or the deep, safe in sleep.

Love, good night, must thou go,
when the day, and the night need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all to their rest.

Fades the light: and afar goeth day, and the stars
shineth bright, fare thee well; day has gone,
Night is on.

Thanks and praise, for our days,
'neath the sun, neath the stars'
'neath the sky,
as we go, this we know,
God is nigh.

Remember those lost and harmed while serving their country. Also remember those who have served and returned; and those presently serving in the Armed forces.

ADS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Trinity Cross Stitchers Club has a goal for 2008 to cross stitch 10 thousand colorful yarn crosses that will be sent overseas to orphanages and children living in the poorest and most trouble countries. The organization, LeSea Global Feed the Hungry, Dr. Lester Sumrall, founder, feeds 13,837 children daily on their "Every Child Every Day" feeding program.

Volunteers are so appreciated from churches, organizations and individuals.

A number of ladies here a LOPC have already stitched a great number of these crosses.

For information, supplies and instructions please contact Mary Alice Baker at 965-9428

SENIORS!! NEED MORE INCOME OR CASH?

REVERSE MORTGAGES MAY BE THE ANSWER.

We have found many seniors needing extra income or cash who have a significant equity in their home.

The appeal of this type of mortgage is many fold. Here are some of the benefits:

This is an FHA program and is insured by FHA

No qualifying required for income, employment, or credit

No payments required as long as you live in your home

Receive income you cannot outlive.

Call John Morris at 433-1228 for information

MONICA'S GIFT BASKETS

Monica Bailes

Ph: 561-827-8859

Fax; 561-798-1622

monicagiftbaskets@yahoo.com

NEED A PAINTER?

Jim Forester is available of exterior and interior painting. You may reach Jim by calling 385-2151 or 968-2806.

LADIES!

Would you like to receive beautiful FREE jewelry for yourself or as gifts for the special ladies in your life? This is FREE jewelry! Call me; I would love to tell you how!!

Peggy Sprankle

One Diamond Designer

Independent Distributor

for Premier Designs

(561) 294-4991 email – psprankle@gmail.com

COMPUTERS NEEDED

Do you have an old computer running any level of WINDOWS that you are not using or plan to replace? Please consider donating it to the church. If you don't have one available, maybe a friend, relative or neighbor may.

The church has a software program which is used to teach non-English-speaking people, English. The church is working with the Guatemalan congregation to assist them in learning English. This is done using computers and it is not necessary that the computers be the latest version. As long as they are able to run a version of WINDOWS that's all that is necessary. This is a great opportunity to make some of our recent immigrants more productive and help assimilate them into our culture

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

Bill Campbell	Editor and Administrator
Lynn Downing	Senior Pastor
Phil Elder	Maintenance
John Panico	Youth Ministry Intern
Larry Roff	Associate Pastor
Judy Smiley	Administrative Assistant
Peggy Sprankle	Church Secretary