

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are having so much fun on Sunday evenings. Of the 48 students who began the study of The Story we have about 30 showing up every Sunday evening for a light supper, fellowship and the study time. From what I have been able to

determine, every participant has learned something new and been enriched through this study. There are 30 lessons all total, of which we are studying lesson 15 this on January 25th. On February 1st we will suspend the lesson while we celebrate the SuperBowl. Then on February 8th we will resume our study, completing the 30th lesson just about the time that school lets out and families begin to take their family vacations. So, if you have not been with us for the first 15 lessons, you can jump in at any point. The thing to remember is that learning is a lifelong process!

Speaking of learning, the Christian Education Ministry Group has some great plans for our Sunday mornings. There once was a time when our classrooms were filled with learners every Sunday morning. I wonder what happened to Sunday School. The Bible is the same. It is our text book. We now have flat screen TV's in several of our classrooms. And we have the best in Sunday school literature. What is missing? The students: parents and children who want to know more about their faith. And of course we need folks who are willing to lead the classes. The important thing is that we should never stop learning about the God who created us, sustains us and sent his Son into the world to redeem us. So, I lay it on every single heart. Will you commit yourself to being a lifelong learner? Will you commit yourself to get up a little earlier on Sunday and being a part of our learning program? You will never regret the time you spend learning about the God who loves and redeems you.

Finally, this note about Christian Education. As Presbyterians we have always valued education. We believe that God gave us minds to use and that in order to honor our Creator we should develop our minds to the fullest possible extent. Therefore, Presbyterians have always been in the forefront of developing colleges and universities. Most people do not know that the University of North Carolina was begun as a Presbyterian School of Higher Learning. There are many other institutions of higher learning that have Presbyterian roots. So, I want to challenge our children to think about Presbyterian Colleges and Universities when you are looking at a college. Here in Virginia we have Hampton Sydney and Mary Baldwin. In North Carolina we have Lees McRae and St. Andrews. In Tennessee we have King University and Maryville. All of these institutions claim their Christian roots and teach to the highest academic levels. At a Christian College/University you can receive a sound educational base at the same time that your Christian Faith is nurtured. And that is something we need to be thinking about as we move into this 21st Century. The challenges we will face in the future require leaders who not only have the academic credentials but the moral and ethical strength to face this complex world.

And my final word to you is: Live every day as an opportunity to learn something new about the world which God created and gave to you as a gift!

Peace, Pastor Bob



Prayer Concerns



Church Family

JEAN SMITH
JULIA BUTLER
BOB PARKS
ELIZABETH & EDDIE NASH
MARTHA MASSIE
CHARLIE ASBURY
JOSH THOMPSON
EUNICE JONES LESTER
AL GILLESPIE
PAUL FOURNIER
DONNA DAVIS CRUEY

BARBARA STANSBURY
ROBERT HELDRETH
CONNIE FLETCHER
DAWN & DAVID OLINGER
SHIRLEY MELTON
BETTY KELLY
PARKER NECESSARY
GEORGIA HALE
MILDRED PENNINGTON
JUANITA BOLING
DOROTHY NUCKLES

Active Military Personnel: John Patrick Flynn, & Jon Wright

Missionaries: The Wellers & The Ardnts

Others

Jeff Nash
(Eddie & Elizabeth's son-in-law)
Joann Sawyer
(friend of Janine Addair)
Eli Jones (surgery)
Jan McClure
Jan Gressman
(friend of Mary Graf,)
Jimmy O'Neill "Braveheart"
(infant, Dora's grand-nephew)
Darden King
Wayne Hoops
(friend of David Pruitt)
Michaux Grant

Elke Popoff & family
(Jerry Cromer's niece)
Charlotte Wilson
(daughter of Martha Massie)
Gilliam Shelton
(Debbie Crews' father)
Dustin Hicks
Edsel Harris
Blanche Carpenter
(Ron Carpenter's mother)
Paula Sparks (Teacher at TMS)
Rev. Curtis Murray
Jaelynn Wright
Sam Cecil (cancer)

January 2015 Session Action

- † *Education Chair Donna TePoel announced plans for a new Sunday school session beginning in March with a need for teachers of a middle/high school class. There will be two adult and three youth classes. Jim Thompson has accepted the position of Superintendent of Sunday School. He accepted on the condition that the Elders will support the revised program with their attendance. All Elders accepted this challenge. The Session approved a restart rally day & breakfast in March. The committee is considering a revamp of the Advent Festival.*
- † *New Worship Chair Carol Weaver will order oil Advent candles, which are more reliable than wax. Rev. Button will build a stand for the Advent wreath. February 8 will be blanket Sunday. Rev. Button will be gone that Sunday and have pulpit supply from King College. He asked for volunteers for worship leader. The Session approved February 15 as Scout Sunday.*
- † *Co-Chair of the Pastoral Nominating Committee Frank Barnes explained the steps of the committee's process. The committee is currently in step one, constructing the Ministry Information Form (MIF).*
- † *Reverend Button submitted his usual written report. His vacations include weeks in February, June, and September.*
- † *The Session appointed Bob Brown and Carolyn Kitts to join the Standing Nominating Committee of 2015.*
- † *The Session appointed Dorothy Wright as representative to Presbytery on March 12. Joan Flynn will be alternate.*

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Co-Chairs Frank Barnes and Anne Sergent's Explanation of the Five Steps of Selecting a Pastor

Step #1 is the creation of the Ministry Information Form (MIF). This is a very important step, as the church enunciates what its mission, beliefs, and expectations are. Rev. Tim Reynolds, the committee's Committee on Ministry contact said ministerial candidates put much stock into what the MIF says and match that with their own skills, beliefs, ideas, and expectations. It is important that the PNC spend quality time in this step. (Our PNC is currently in this stage.)

Step # 2 is putting the MIF on line and then begin receiving and soliciting responses.

Step #3, is reviewing candidates' resumes and sermons and establishing initial contact.

Step # 4 is the interview step. These interviews are done on the telephone, Skype, and even in person.

Step # 5 is the step in which the committee presents the nomination to the Congregation, which issues the Call.

Tazewell

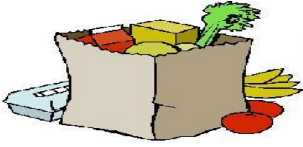


In our library here at Tazewell Presbyterian we have a book that came from the library of Virginia H. Dobson. The name of the book is C.T. Studd: Cricketer and Pioneer. Does not sound too exciting, does it! But for some reason I picked it up and began to read. Now, I do not understand the sport of Cricket. I've watched my cousin play it over in England. A game can last for several days and scores can run into the hundreds. One batter can tally as many as 100 runs in a single game. Often they stop the game and have lunch, as they did when I was visiting my cousin. But it was not the cricket that caught my attention. It was the other part of the title: Pioneer. Pioneering to me means rugged outdoor living. Heading off to the frontier. Breaking new ground. Living close to the earth. Pioneering means going where other have never gone. And so I began reading. The life of C. T. Studd was amazing. Even though he was recognized as one of England's finest cricket players, he dedicated his life to mission work around the world. In 1885 he sailed to China where he shared the gospel message for ten years, until ill health forced him to return to England. In 1896 he was invited to come to America where he was instrumental in the revival of the Christian faith on college campuses all across this country, holding revivals and meeting one on one with young men who would become the future leaders of the American Church. In 1899 he sailed to India where he preached the Gospel to natives as well as British military personnel stationed there. In 1908 he was back in Liverpool, England where he saw an advertisement. It simply said: "Cannibals want missionaries." By 1910 he had sailed for Africa and spent the remainder of his life bringing the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to native tribes who might well have cooked and eaten him. The following is an excerpt from the book:

"We arrived here two strangers three and a half years ago, the natives sunk in sin unprintable, the medium of communication to be learned, yet there are now just upon 100 baptized converts. Many Chiefs are beginning to build schools and other houses at their centers, that we may go and instruct them and their people. Everywhere we have an open door for ourselves and our native Christians."

When C.T. died in 1931 he was still in Africa and the missionary movement in the deepest of dark Africa was well established and native churches established. Much of what he established laid the ground work for Presbyterian missionaries throughout that region. One man who felt the call and did not refrain from answering.

How will you and I answer the call to share the Gospel with others?



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Below are the stats for the Food Pantry for 2014:

Individuals served	8,850
Households served	3,269
New clients	208
Bibles given out	179
Bags given out	4,765
Approximate value	\$95,300
Total pounds contributed	\$27,332

Volunteer Hours:

Adults	2,812
Youth	102
Total	2,914



Tazewell Presbyterian Church & Black's Chapel

Thank you, for your generosity and participation with the ***Prison Fellowship Angel Tree***.

Your participation in this program, gave hope and kindness for inmates and their children during these difficult times.

Without wonderful people like you, this opportunity of kindness may have been missed.

Thanks again, and may each of you be blessed.

Dora Barnes

Church Announcements

Seeking Childcare Worker

We are currently seeking a responsible adult, experienced in childcare, to serve as regular Sunday morning nursery worker. This would be a paid position for 3 hours each Sunday, allowing our parents of young children to attend both Sunday School and worship. A regular nursery worker will provide consistency for our children who would get to know the worker, and vice versa. This would additionally reduce our need for volunteers in the nursery to one assistant per week rather than two.

If you can recommend a qualified individual for this position, please talk to Pastor Bob.

Prayer List Help Needed

In the effort to keep a current and relevant Prayer List, please note that we have changed from 3 weeks to 4 weeks the length of time that names will remain on the printed list unless we are notified otherwise. For members whose prayer needs are ongoing, we will certainly leave their names indefinitely. For friends of members, we recommend that you check with these individuals first to see whether they want their names listed in our bulletin, and then provide the pastor or church office with updates if the names should remain longer than 4 weeks, or indefinitely.

Everyone needs prayer! A fellowship of Christians prays for each other whether their names are in print or their specific needs unknown. Our hope is that the printed Prayer List will give added focus to our prayers and will help us to minister to each other. Please help us to keep it current.