

## Pastor's Note

Let me say right up front: I am thoroughly enjoying my time here at Tazewell Presbyterian Church and Blacks' Chapel. There is a good spirit here --- the Spirit of the Lord, --- and I feel blessed to be your pastor.

One of the disturbing but fascinating stories in the Scriptures --- at least for me --- comes from Mark 4:35-41. It's a dramatic, life-and-death story: a story that involves Jesus, the disciples, a boat, and what was meant to be a smooth and safe journey across the Sea of Galilee. You are probably familiar with this story but it was only later in my life, in a closer examination of this tale, that I realized this harrowing near-death experience began with Jesus saying, "Let's get to the other side of the lake." In other words, Jesus initiates this trip, this life-and-death episode.

That is why the story is so disturbing . . . because essentially it contradicts so much of what we want to believe about faith and being a follower of Christ: --- i.e. just believe in Jesus and everything will be okay. But the story suggests that sometimes He leads us into situations that feel anything but okay!

Remember that in the story many of the disciples were seasoned fishermen. They had probably fished the Sea of Galilee hundreds if not thousands of times. They were experts and the truth is they would have never set sail if they knew danger was imminent.

Such are our lives. Such are our hearts and minds. Such are our goals. We pride ourselves in becoming experts and being captains of our own lives, circumstances, and world until we realize that no matter how much we've charted the seas, we never have full control of our lives or the seas.

The hope of the gospel is not that God promises that everything will be okay (health, wealth, a life of bliss), but that God is with us --- through all circumstances. Good is present in our mountaintops and valleys, in the calm seas and in the ferocity of the storm . . .and everything in between . . .present even --- and especially--- in our doubts, pain, and mess.

The story is intriguing, isn't it? The disciples feared for their lives. They even wondered and openly questioned how Jesus could be sleeping during such an occasion. But Jesus never promised a quick, easy, and straight journey. Jesus never promised a smooth sail on a decked-out yacht. He does promise one thing: "Let's get to the other side of the lake." And if He promises to get us to the other side of the lake, He will. Mess, doubts, pain, tension, and all.

Peace,  
Dave Gilbert

# Prayer Concerns



## ***Church Family***

*DAWN & DAVID OLINGER*

*JUANITA BOLING*

*DOROTHY WRIGHT*

*CHARLIE ASBURY*

*THOMAS FAMILY*

*LAURA KINCER*

*GIZELE BOWEN*

*JERRY CROMER*

*SUE KEENE*

*STANLEY STEVENSON*

*PEGGY ASBURY*

*RICHARD WITTEN*

*SAM ADKINS*

*EDDIE NASH*

*MARTHA MASSIE*

*JEANETTE RAMEY*

*RENIA HALE PEERY*

*VICKY RINEHART*

*BARBARA SISCO*

*PRISCILLA DILLOW*

*BOB PARKS*

*BARBARA STANSBURY*

*ROBERT HELDRETH*

*CONNIE FLETCHER*

*BETTY KELLY*

*PARKER NECESSARY*

*GEORGIA HALE*

*DOROTHY NUCKLES*

***Active Military Personnel:*** John Patrick Flynn, and Jon Wright

***Missionaries:*** The Wellers and The Ardnts

## ***Others***

Tom Stranger (brother of Dolores Pruitt)

Family of Russell Owens (Betty McClanahan's brother)

Taffy Clifton ( daughter-in-law of Linda Clifton)

Sarah Kitts (granddaughter of Carolyn Kitts)

Lee Ann Stump

Family of Dorothy Litton (sister of Ann Parks)

Melissa Parks (Bob Parks' niece)

Larry Stroup & Ed Smith (neighbors of Randall & Martha Cooper)

Shelley Keene-Walsh (daughter of Sue Keene)

Jeannie Putman (Connie Fletcher's niece)

Jimmy O'Neill (Dora's grand-nephew)

Charlotte Wilson (daughter of Martha Massie)

Gilliam Shelton (Debbie Crews' father)

Rev. Curtis Murray

Dustin Hicks

Blanche Carpenter (Ron Carpenter's mother)

# September 2016

## Session Action

- † *Chair Debby Crews reported that the Property Team has been busy refurbishing locks, speakers, playground equipment and the church bus. The Session approved a repainting of the sides and hood of the bus with new lettering.*
- † *Jim Thompson, Chair of Education announced that Sunday Night Live has begun with good attendance, including a group from Buchanan First and a former student of Dr. Hudson's. The topic is "What is Christianity". The Session consented to a fund raiser for the preschool. The group will sell cards and wrapping paper. An order book will be placed in the fellowship hall for those interested in assisting the preschool.*
- † *The Worship team amended the head usher duties list, which is to be sent to the head usher before serving each month.*
- † *Fellowship and Missions Chair Dorothy Wright asked for prayers for the Wellers, our PCUSA missionaries as they are in the midst of tribal wars. The Ardnts will visit with us on December 11 to tell us of their mission efforts.*
- † *November 20 will be Stewardship Sunday. On the four previous Sundays team chairs will present items that their teams have accomplished at both Black's Chapel and Tazewell Presbyterian.*
- † *Website Committee Chair Matt Irvin will ask for committee volunteers in Lamplighter and bulletin.*
- † *Dr. Gilbert has performed many home, hospital, nursing home, and phone visits. He is participating in team meetings, Sunday Night Live, and choir. He has also greeted all groups that meet in our church and attended the last Cluster Gathering. He regularly attends Rotary.*
- † *Dr. Gilbert, is conducting a Sunday school class at 10 before worship each Sunday on the topic of "Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life." Dr. Wright will lead class on Sundays when Dr. Gilbert is away.*
- † *Dr. Gilbert is in the midst of a series of sermons entitled "The Church Unleashed: Internally Strong, Externally Focused". A list of the series and scripture readings has been published in the bulletin.*
- † *Each Wednesday he is having a time of devotion, singing, and prayer time with the preschoolers.*
- † *He is scheduled to give the sermons at Westfork Presbyterian Church on October 25, as part of a revival service and at the Community Thanksgiving Service on November 20 at Main Street United Methodist.*
- † *Dr. Gilbert's installation service will be at 3 on November 20.*
- † *The session appointed Debby Crews and Bert Taylor to the elected nominating committee, including David Pruitt, Jerry McPherson, Peggy Riley, and Linda Clifton. The committee shall report in time for the congregational meeting on Sunday November 13.*
- † *Dorothy Wright volunteered to be commissioner to Presbytery in November.*
- † *At the request of Dr. Gilbert, the session approved a prayer team. Each Sunday a session member will be available by the banner after worship to meet with anyone in the ladies parlor for personal prayer. Any member of the congregation may join the team.*



**In an effort to keep members of, and those associated with our church up to date and current on important information about our church, I want to refresh our website committee. The purpose of this committee is to assist in maintaining the church's website and social media pages, as well as to help gather and organize content to be posted. The committee will work with our webmaster, Gary Sergent to bring ideas to the table, and keep the site's content fresh and accessible.**

**If this sounds like something you may be interested in being part of, please contact me at: [mattstudio15ips@yahoo.com](mailto:mattstudio15ips@yahoo.com), or call me at 276-970-5764**

**Thank you!  
Matthew Irvin  
Website Committee Chairman**



# **SWEATSUITS FOR REFUGEES**

**Christina and Don Hudson will be traveling to Israel again in December and plan to take any donated sweat suits we can provide to give to aid workers who have requested them for the refugees.**

**If anyone has new or good condition sweat suits they could donate, of any size (children through adult), please bring and add to the collection boxes which are in the ladies' parlor.**





## **Community Outreach**

Luncheon & program is Wednesday,  
October 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am  
in the Tazewell Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall

The Program will be presented by,  
*"John Blankenship, Extension Agent"*





# FOOD PANTRY NEWS

As always the Food Pantry was busy during the month of August. Although we took a week off for R & R our numbers were not down much from a full month.

Households – 310

Individuals – 569

Food bags given out – 474 (approximate value \$9,480; 6,636 lbs. of food.)


We signed up 12 new families and gave out 12 Bibles.

Our special emphasis for the month of October is boxed dessert mixes as we are getting stocked up for the Christmas bags that we begin giving out December 1. This is a full meal in addition to the regular food bags given.

*Pam*



**Feeding the  
Community**



**THE CARING FRIENDSHIP CLUB** has enjoyed two outings lately. Thirteen participated in the trip to Princeton to dine at Cracker Barrel and attend a musical play at Chuck Mathena Center. Twelve participated in a great trip to Saltville to tour the Museum of the Middle Appalachians and enjoyed a wonderful lunch at a quaint little 50's themed Ed's Diner. The dessert specialty was Mountain Dew Cake, a tribute to the fact the soft drink, Mountain Dew, originated in Saltville. UMMM GOOD!

**OUR OCTOBER ADVENTURE** will be a return trip to the famous country style restaurant at Shatley Springs and to visit the Churches of the Frescoes in West Jefferson and Glendale Springs, NC. A tentative date for this trip is SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, leaving the church parking lot at 9:00 AM.

Please let Eunice know via telephone (988-4412) or email: [jnseun@aol.com](mailto:jnseun@aol.com) as soon as possible if you want to participate in this trip,

*If we do not have enough participants for a bus load on this date, we will consider an alternate date if there are enough of those who are interested but not able to participate on the 8th*