

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *"We seek to follow Jesus Christ as his body in the world, reaching out with arms opened wide to embrace any whom the world would reject or deny."*



I "missed" being born on the 4th of July by a few hours, and as a kid, I sometimes felt like the unhappy wedding guests who ran out of oil for their celebration lamps and wound up showing up a few hours too late

for the big occasion. Because, July has the 4th going for it, but after that, for many the rest of the month is just "summer filler" before school starts or Labor Day weekend. The fact that some astrologer having a bad day hung the name, "Cancer" on those of us born in July and gave us the crab for our team logo certainly didn't help anything, either.

But along with hot days, hayfields, cold iced tea, watermelon and being out of school, the most vivid symbol I have for July is the sunflowers that grew behind my grandmother's house every year. They are some of my earliest summer-July memories, and for me as a kid, they were evidence that the old story of Jack and the Beanstalk might not all be made up. Actually, they looked as though they belonged in God's own front yard. They just didn't look like they were "normal". And because my grandmother always said that "they just appeared one day and have always been there since," those sunflowers might just have fallen from heaven, as far as I was concerned. The Germans apparently picked the Christmas tree as a symbol for God's presence among us. I just might have picked a Christmas sunflower.

So, just this week I was reading a story about how Japan is urging everyone around the troubled nuclear plants to plant...yep, sunflowers. It turns out that sunflowers have a startling property to be able to draw deadly radioactive cesium out of the ground. They can do the same thing for water, just by planting them close to the water's edge. Sunflowers did more to clean up the disaster at Chernobyl, according to this article, than anything else.

So, I'm even more ready to nominate the sunflower as the symbol of the month of July. Something that can redeem earth and water from some of the most deadly and dangerous mistakes we human beings can make is worth its weight in gold at the very least. Now there is a team logo I would pay good money to wear.

I think July took a beating with the crab symbol and the unpleasant association with "cancer" probably because people complain and get crabby when they are too hot. And a bad mood spreads like radiation through a crowd of people. I have one friend at least who argues that maybe even God should take July off, because people's crabbiness indeed increases in the hot month of July.

But then those sunflowers behind my grandmother's porch stand out taller than ever in my mind. Nor only do they confidently face and follow the rising sun every day, they stand up straight and tall to do it. The ground around them might become literally radioactive, but rather than being overwhelmed by the toxic circumstances around them, they do what needs to be done. They do their part to transform the bad into good. And they do it with beauty and quiet grace, but also a face full of joy.

A few years ago, a friend of ours gave Emma and me a water color painting he did. At the bottom, he wrote this:

*The sunflower breaks open in wild summer,  
Like a brass band, like a lightning bolt,  
Like a Roman candle on the 4th of July.*

*Yet the green bending neck remains humble,  
delicately curved like the back of a pilgrim saint,  
moving always toward the sun.*

Yes, I could wish that the symbol of July were universally the sunflower. And the symbol of even more.

There really is no reason it can't be, is there?

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## PYF & FPOP Kids NEWS

### *Something to Think About*

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love." 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

It has been a busy June for us; yard sale, car wash, Na-CoMe camps, and VBS. I thank each one of you for your help in making these events successful!

While I am looking forward to a little slower pace for July, I'm also looking forward to our mission trip to Jacksonville. Here is a little peek into the week's devotions. Worship will center around scripture and questions concerning the call of Jesus on our lives and how we continue to respond to his call. As we serve, study, pray and play, remember that Jesus' call for us to be his disciple comes from his desire to share his love and forgiveness with us. As we recognize his gift and seek to know him more, we are able to share his love and forgiveness with those around us.

It will be a challenging week of seeking and seeing him through serving others. As always, it will be a week of being blessed in ways that I look forward to experiencing!

*Teresa*

### PYF Mission Trip

There are 7 of us registered for the Jacksonville, Florida mission trip. If your schedule has changed and you would be interested in attending, there is still time to join us!

Please remember, a deposit of \$96.50 is due on or before July 17<sup>th</sup>. There are forms to be filled out and notarized. We will meet at church at 5:45 a.m. and will leave at 6:00 a.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to be back at church by 6:00 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

According to the Team Effort website, this is an idea of how we will serve: 'in addition to continued service at the children's home and homeless shelter, this summer we are starting a new outreach ministry in a community just south of our camp. This is an extremely impoverished neighborhood where mission teams will minister to the children through our children's outreach program and work to repair dozens of homes to bring them back to livable conditions. There is so much need and so much to be accomplished in this community that we can't help but be excited about the impact your group can have showing the love of Christ to the families and children who live there.'

And of course, the beach is only 40 miles away! We will use our free time wisely (don't forget your sunscreen)!

### Dates to Remember

Sunday, 7/17 - 24 – PYF Mission Trip

### July Birthdays

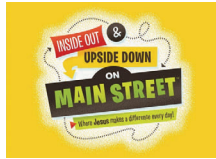
7/9 – Seth McLemore

7/25 – Melissa Costello



## **Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street**

Vacation Bible School is in full swing as this goes to print. All I can say is THANK YOU



to everyone who is and has volunteered his or her time, energy, resources and prayers to help make this event happen.

### **Nursery Volunteers Needed**

Several of our volunteers will be out for the next several months and in order to continue to provide a schedule for once every 2 months, our pool of volunteers will need replenishing. Men and women, ages 16 and up are encouraged to volunteer!

### **Living Above Worry and Stress**

Join us on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Russell as we continue our monthly Bible study. We will meet at the church at 5:45 and travel to Anne's. The meal starts at 6:00 p.m. with the Bible study beginning at 7:00. We hope to see you there.

### **Save the Date**

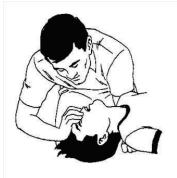
Plans are being made for another all church High Adventure weekend of white water rafting on the Ocoee River on Labor Day weekend, September 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **CPR / AED Training Scheduled**



Our church now has an AED (automated external defibrillator) that is currently located in the church office. It will be permanently located on the wall in the hallway near the wheelchair lift.

There will be a CPR and AED training class held on Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The cost for the class will be \$45.00. If you are currently CPR certified and would like to know how to use our AED, please come at 10:45 a.m. The last hour of the full CPR class covers the AED instruction. Cost for the AED instruction will be \$30.00.



The class is open to anyone interested in learning CPR, renewing their certification or just knowing how to use our AED device. It is also open to the community, so pass the word to anyone you know who needs to renew their CPR certification. To register, please call me (Teresa) at church or email me at [youthfpc@energize.net](mailto:youthfpc@energize.net).

### **Welcome to the World, Rayford Jack Raney!**

The newest Mr. Raney was born on Monday, June 27, to parents, John and Christa and to elated grandparents, Cheryl and Jerry. Our congratulations to one and all. God's peace be upon you.



**Wednesday, July 13, 6 PM.**  
It's our annual, summertime, fish fry. Don't miss out!

July also brings our **next Presbytery meeting, July 23, 9 AM, at First Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg.** Until we ourselves host a meeting, it won't get much closer than this, so if you have always been wondering what a presbytery meeting is or what goes on there, why not come along? There will be something for everyone, from first-time attendees to seasoned veterans. For long-time Presbyterians, you will have a chance to hear a presentation on the **New Form of Government** (nFOG, as it's known for short), which will reorganize and slim down our Book of Order. During the last major reunification of two different bodies of Presbyterian Churches, the two Books of were generally welded together with the plan to come back and do a more thorough and systematic compilation. This spring, a new proposed Book of Order was approved by the presbyteries after approval by the General Assembly.

### **Hackleburg Mission Trip**

I noticed I had a text message from Teresa about an hour after she sent it Friday evening. She was sick and wouldn't be able to make the Hackleburg/Phil Campbell trip she had worked all week to set up. It wasn't until Saturday morning about 5:50 that I realized I really didn't know what we were doing other than going back in the general direction of Hackleburg; as it turned out that was enough after all. By 6:20 we had Sharon Rush, Janice Newton, Jamie Smith, Kati and Andrew Nave, Charlotte Hughes, Karen and Marv Barnett, Melody, Tegan, and Scott Gonzales, Jacob May, Joyce, Kate, and Emma Birdsong and myself. We picked June Kimbrough up at the top of Antony Hill on the way south. This was already turning into one of those trips where my expectations had been exceeded just by the turnout alone.

About two hours later we pulled into Hackleburg. For those returning it was quite a different place as a lot of the debris had been collected and most of the remaining debris was at the road waiting for pickup. For some of the first timers there was the expected silence that the confusion of such overwhelming destruction brings. It seems the older I get the more I realize there are many things that pictures and television just can't capture. The power of God at work in his kingdom definitely falls into that category.

On this day, we worked with David Lolley. Unlike our first trip when it took us a while to find anything, we drove right to his house. He was already working as we pulled into his driveway. When he looked up and saw us his excitement was obvious. Before we got stopped good his hand was out and he just started talking. He quickly explained that he really wanted to get his neighbors place cleaned up. He described her as a sweet lady from Colombia that spoke broken English. Her husband died from injuries he suffered during the tornado. Immediately after the storm, they had managed to fill a U-Haul that was with her and her family some 200 miles away. He was very intent on getting her place cleaned up so they could setup a FEMA trailer when she returned if she wanted. As we spent the first (Continued on page 3)

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Brownie Brown  
Dave Corbett  
Shelly Goolsby  
Charlotte Hughes, Clerk  
Emily Harmon  
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Milton Nesbitt  
Kenny Newton  
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## July 2011 SUNDAY CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES

### LAY ASSISTANTS

3rd Fran Douthitt  
10th Mark Miles  
17th J. B. Smith  
24th Brock Birdsong  
31st Brownie Brown

### USHERS

3rd - Joey Moss, Max White  
Charlie Burger, Dave Corbett  
10th—Mark Miles, Hutton Brown  
Emily & Mike Harmon  
17th—Steve & Shelly Goolsby  
Paul Wilburn, Otis Kimbrough  
24th—Eddy & Pam Petty  
Linda & Ronnie Rogers  
31st—Kenny & Janice Newton  
Milton & Wes Nesbitt

### Sunday School Assembly

3rd—Fran Douthitt  
10th—Grant Vosburgh  
17th—Linda Rogers  
24th—Brock Birdsong  
31st—Flora Smith

### Wed. Night Meal Responsibilities July 2011



6th Seekers (pizza)  
13th **SUMMER FISH FRY 6 PM**  
20th Worship (BBQ)  
27th Keystone (chicken fingers)

*The family of Raymond Earl Shackelford wishes to thank you for your expressions of love and support during the past few weeks.*

*In ways both emotional and practical you have brought us comfort following our loss and the damage from the tornado.*

*Your kindness has provided a refuge from the storm of our lives.*

*Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers*

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Dear Friends,

Your cards, letters, words of encouragement and gifts of love have been a source of strength for me the last two months. Thank you.

*Sue Shackelford*

### Presbyterian Women:

We will not have a meeting or Bible study during July or August unless there is an emergency that we need to take care of; however, we will begin again with both on Sept. 12, 2011.



Our new Bible study will be "Confessing the Beatitudes" by Margaret Aymer. The first study and introduction will be lead by our Circle Chair, Doris Latta.

We invite all women who are not attending the day or night groups to come and join us in this new study, so mark your calendars now, so you won't forget.

### RELAY for Life

Our special "thank You" to each and every one of you who helped in anyway with our fund raising this year of 2010-2011. To date we are looking at over \$10,000.00 for our church team and the Relay drive runs through August 31, 2011. "Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts"



*Edna*

Hackleburg Mission Trip (Continued from page 2)

hour making a debris pile, a salvageable goods pile, and a scrap metal pile different people couldn't help but get caught up in conversation with Mr. Lolley. It was during these conversations that we learned that he had lost his mother and sister in the tornado.

After this first hour, we split up and Charlotte, Sharon, Kati, Kate, and Emma went a few miles further south to the warehouse in Hamilton to help sort all types of donated goods. We continued to rake, shovel, and pitch fork the mound of debris in front of us. When we had enough moved to get a small tractor in, Andrew began to make real

progress. Clothes were found, (wet, dirty, smelly clothes) and they were taken and laundered at the staging area. This is a good place to explain the support that has been setup by FEMA, Volunteer Organizations for Disaster Assistance (VODA) and lots of other volunteers. I have been just as amazed by this as by the spirit in all of the people we have come in contact with. Both times we have been there, we have been offered warm meals, coolers, water, ice, gloves, chainsaw chaps and bar oil. They have a semi trailer setup with 12 washers and dryers, CLEAN port-o-potties, and even sinks with a foot pump to wash your hands! I for one am satisfied with my hard earned tax money (Federal and Alabama) being spent this way.

After a water break, we set back to picking and cleaning and piling. Marv and I cut up three or four fallen trees and Jacob and Scott pulled limbs as we cut.

After lunch, the warehouse crew switched up a bit offering relief to those that had been in the sun all morning and we set back to the tasks at hand. I'm not sure if it was the lunch break or if it actually did get hot quick, but all of a sudden it became very uncomfortable in the afternoon sun. We pushed on for another hour or so and wrapped everything up at the work site by 2:30. As God would have it, three more volunteers (one a pastor that Mr. Lolley knew) showed up as we were preparing to leave. It would have been difficult for me to drive away with Mr. Lolley still facing such a battle with no one visibly at his side. We all said our goodbyes while being invited to come back anytime. Mr. Lolley, just as Mr. Daniels from the first trip, was more appreciative of our help than words could convey. It's in these goodbyes, these times of eye contact and handshakes, that one realizes that this "stranger" is no different than you or I, no more or less mortal, but a brother or sister in Christ.

*Brock*

### 10,000 Villages / Living Waters for the World

On Saturday, September 17th, the Missions Committee will host a Ten Thousand Villages Festival sale in the Fellowship Hall. A pre-sale brunch, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. will raise money for our next LWW installation. We need your help in publicizing the event, becoming familiar with 10,000 Villages and inviting friends and coworkers to attend. The sale of the brunch tickets will go towards our LWW fund. Any money made from the items from 10,000 Villages is returned to the communities where the crafts were made.

## Session Minutes June 21, 2011

### CLERK'S REPORT:

**Facilities Requests:** Prior to this meeting, session members had been contacted and approved a change of date for the non-member wedding of Kristen Burkhalter and Justin Wilbanks from June 17-18 to July 29-30.

Edna Harwell has requested the use of Nall Hall by the County Relay for Life team for Thursday, August 4, at 6:00 PM for the Relay Wrap-up dinner and also on Thursday, December 8 at 6:00 PM for the Survivor Christmas dinner—these requests were approved.

The church has received another nonmember wedding request from MacKenzie Greene and Timmy Pickett who wish to have their rehearsal and wedding on October 21-22; this request was approved.

### MINISTER'S REPORT:

- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated at the 11:00 AM worship service on Sunday, June 5, with the Rev. Robert Montgomery presiding.
- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sun-

day, June 12 (Pentecost), with Charles Gordon, Dave and Mable Corbett, Frank Kimbrough, and David and Mary Wade Johnson, and on Thursday, June 16, with Otis and Edna Kimbrough. Robert Montgomery presided, with Elder Teresa Burns assisting.

- The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is scheduled for the 11:00 AM worship service on Sunday, July 3.
  - Rev. Montgomery requested volunteers to attend the next Presbytery meeting, which will be held on Saturday, July 23, in Lewisburg (Pastor Montgomery's home church). Brownie Brown, Michael Rush and Flora Smith indicated they could attend this meeting.
- Gratitude was expressed to an anonymous donor who has located and purchased a pulpit Bible to replace the one damaged in the recent break-in.

**INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT:** Treasurer Jerry Raney presented the financial reports for the month of May. This has been a good month, with contributions exceeding expenses, even without taking into account the \$10,000 contribution reported at last month's meeting. As approved previously, \$9,500 was transferred into the new checking account to be used for missions. The regular checking account showed an unrestricted balance of \$13,765 at the end of May. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

**MINISTRY UNIT REPORTS:**

**Administration, Stewardship & Finance:** In the absence of Chair Karen Barnett, Brownie Brown presented an updated Wedding Policy and Application. The Wedding Guild, with assistance from Pastor Montgomery, Organist Charlotte Hughes and others, has attempted to revise this policy to make it more concise and more welcoming for both members and nonmembers. The revised policy was approved.

Pastor Montgomery stated that work is under way to get the church's website back into operation. Since it is no longer feasible to use Surfmore as host, he had communicated with elders that Bettie Higgins (former elder) and he both recommend using hiwaay.net as our host.

**Building and Grounds:** Chair Max White reviewed this ministry unit's expenses for the month. Johnny Rayburn has received a copy of the certificate of liability from C & H, but has learned that they do not carry workers' compensation. Although this coverage is quite costly to contractors, legally contractors with one or more employees are required to carry it, and our insurance agent has advised that all workers we hire should have this coverage. One of C & H's former workers does have a business that carries workers' comp, but Johnny was unsure how much he would charge to make the needed roof repairs. A motion was made, seconded and passed, to authorize Johnny to proceed with the work through the suggested contractor if his estimate does not exceed \$750.

**Christian Education:** Teresa Burns reported the following:

- She needs help at the end of this week to clean up the basement and set up Nall Hall for Vacation Bible School (week of June 27).

- Blair and Kate Harmon and April Coleman are attending camp at NaCoMe this week and will return on Friday.
- The PYF group will be leaving for their mission trip to Jacksonville (Florida) early on Sunday July 17, returning late on July 23.
- Andrew Nave is interested in planning a camping trip with PYF July 12-15.
- A "high adventure" trip on the Ocoee River is being planned for Labor Day weekend; some people outside the church have indicated interest.
- Saturday, September 17, is the date now scheduled for the "10,000 Villages" and Living Waters for the World brunch (postponed from April).

**Spiritual Care:** Chair Michael Rush reported that there was a good turnout for the Pentecost luncheon on June 12.

The joint Relay for Life/PYF yard sale, car wash, etc. brought in around \$1,500, less expenses, to be split between the two groups. In addition, Edna Harwell had stated that she expects the final amount from last weekend's Relay for Life to be close to \$10,000.

A menu has been finalized for the July 13 fish fry, which will be held in Nall Hall this year rather than outdoors.

The October 2-4 services have now been designated "Days of Spiritual Refreshment," with the theme modified to "Count Your Blessings."

**Worship:** In the absence of Chair Whitney Kimbrough, Flora Smith reported that she and others will soon be choosing a new communion set for the church, which is the result of a special donation.

**Mission:** (No report)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Visioning Committee:** Chair Milton Nesbitt stated that the committee has not met this month. However, the new AED has arrived, and Otis Kimbrough plans to mount it on the wall. Teresa is working on scheduling the Red Cross to do CPR training soon, which includes training on AEDs.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Brownie Brown reported on attempts to contact tree trimmer Joe Prince as requested last month; however, he has not returned her calls. With all the severe storms and tree damage in the area in recent weeks, it may be necessary to delay any further action on the courtyard trees.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Treasurer Jerry Raney reported that Hanover Insurance Company has recently retained a person to do "loss control surveys." This person has scheduled an appointment to come to the church tomorrow to meet with Jerry, Robert and Rand Hayes. He is interested in learning about the church's operations, finances, history, etc. It is assumed that he will be looking for anything that could be an insurance liability.

The meeting was adjourned, and Rev. Montgomery closed the meeting with a prayer.



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