



NORTH STREET NEWS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TALLADEGA, ALABAMA

MAY / JUNE 2008

Dear Friends,

As our church goes through the Acts 16:5 process you may hear a lot about the need for transformation. Transformation means change, and change seems to be a bad word in the church. That is natural because change is hard. It is easy to get set in our ways and be comfortable and secure in knowing that we can do things the way we have always done them because it seems to have worked for 174 years.

But is that God's will for our church? Does God mean for us to cling to the past with no thought for the future? I don't think so. In Romans Paul talks about the need for Christians to be transformed: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:2; NRSV)

What is the will of God for this church in 2008 and beyond? What is God's vision for us? To whom does God want us to minister? What gifts has God given us for that ministry?

Pray about these things as individuals and as a church. And remember to pray for your church daily so that we can be transformed *according to the will of God.*

In Christ, Leeann

Brown Bag It at the Talladega Public Library

by Becky Davis

On May 13, at 11:30, Bob Whetstone, author of *Grave Dancin'* will be at the Library to discuss his book. It's an intriguing new novel set in the early twentieth century amidst the oppressive poverty of tenant farming; a story of moving from cotton fields to cotton mills in the Deep South, and a young man's determination to leave a crowded, run-down shack to seek a better life as a cotton mill hand. Obie, the young man, has quite a journey – sometimes tragic, often humorous – on the long road to maturity.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch, and come meet Bob; *Grave Dancin'* is based on his grandfather's story, and quite fascinating. Bob and his wife Janelle are also grandparents of our own Elise Picard! For more information, call Talladega Public Library, 362-4211, or visit Bob's website: www.bobwhetstone.com.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY / JUNE 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				MAY 1	2	3 SUNSHINE SATURDAY
4	5 Session Meeting 6:30 pm	6	7 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Wednesday Night Supper WISE UP Youth Group	8	9	10
11 Pentecost Communion Mother's Day	12	13 2:30 Hymn Sing Sunset Inn <i>Happy Birthday Van Blankenship</i>	14 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Wednesday Night Supper WISE UP Youth Group <i>Happy Birthday Pat Miller</i>	15 <i>Happy Birthday Betty Willingham</i>	16	17 <i>Happy Birthday Todd McRae</i>
18	19	20	21 5pm Choir Practice 6pm COOKOUT Wednesday Night Supper <i>Happy Birthday Bill Willingham</i>	22 <i>Happy Birthday Bob Stolts</i>	23 <i>Happy Birthday Jim McIlwain</i>	24 <i>Happy Birthday Marjorie Martin</i>
25 <i>Happy Birthday Becky Christopher</i>	26 <i>Happy Birthday Candy Edmiston</i>	27 2:30 Hymn Sing Summer Place	28 12:00 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Brown Bag Supper	29	30	31 <i>Happy Birthday Becky Davis</i>
JUNE 1	2 <i>Happy Birthday Mike Waller</i>	3	4 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Brown Bag Supper <i>Happy Birthday Cate Joseph Rasco</i>	5	6 <i>Happy Birthday Mary Lee Blankenship</i>	7
8	9	10	11 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Brown Bag Supper	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Brown Bag Supper	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Brown Bag Supper	26	27	28 <i>Happy Birthday Jackie Graves</i>
29	30	Sunday School 9:45 - 10:30 Sunday Worship at 11:00 am Youth Bells practice Sunday mornings at 9am Boy Scouts meet Monday nights at 6:30pm				

Presbyterian Women – May 2008 Meeting



The last yearly meeting for Presbyterian Women will be Monday, May 12th, at 10:30 a.m. at Presbyterian Oaks II. The meetings are very informative and entertaining, so please plan to attend.

During the meeting, Leeann will direct Bible study and we will have the Birthday Celebration of our Presbyterian Mission offering, which celebrates PW's heritage of mission giving. We will also present the lifetime Presbyterian Woman Award to a deserving member.

Installation of the moderator and officers for 2009 will follow. PW will also honor past members who made such a great contribution to our organization. Lunch will be served after the program. Come and join the Presbyterian Women for the fun and fellowship! See you May 12th at Presbyterian Oaks II.

Recipe Reminder!

Please remember to send a favorite recipe to the church for our cookbook. The church will be 175 years old next year and we would like to have recipes of friends and family of First Presbyterian. Email to Millie@chastainfarm.com or send by regular mail, or bring by the church office at 130 North Street, Hill Street entrance, Talladega, Alabama 35160.



Gifts, Memorials & Honoraria for March / April

Mr. and Mrs. James Martin	In memory of Julia Donahoo Gift	General Fund Kitchen Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hubbard	In memory of Lenore Bishop	Bell Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kerr	In memory of Mr. C. Hearn	Bell Choir
Miss Beverley Hyde	In memory of Beth T. Coker and Murray Howard	Music Fund
	In memory of Walter Belt White	
	In memory of Walter Belt White and T.E. Christenberry Jr.	Donated New Freezer
	In memory of Edith Norman	Baby Bells
	In memory of Marjorie Brunson Bass	Baby Bells
Member	In memory of Mr. Jimmy Ray Adams	General Fund
	In memory of Lenore Bishop	
Mrs. Sue Nicholls	In honor of Sam Lewis	Music Fund
Mrs. Mary Lib McGehee	Gift	"Baby" Bells
	Gift	Kitchen Cart
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lewis	Gift	"Baby" Bells
Mrs. Jacqueline Graves	In memory of Lenore Bishop	General Fund
	In memory of Mr. Alfred Mitchell	
Valerie Paris	Gift	"Baby" Bells
Mrs. Sidney Thompson	In honor of Vernon Viehe	Library Project
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Huffstetler	In memory of Lenore Bishop	General Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Wallis Elliott	Gift	Handbells
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Roberson	Gift	Baby Bells
Mr. and Mrs. James Howard	In memory of Lenore Bishop	Handbells
Mrs. Assimina Hontzas	In memory of Lenore Bishop, Kay Ferguson	Handbells
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Clayton	In memory of Julia Donahoo and Bailey Dixon	"Baby" Bells
The Snows	In memory of Lenore Bishop	General Fund
The Bates	In memory of Lenore Bishop	Choir Fund
The Franz	In memory of Lenore Bishop	General Fund

The Church appreciates your generosity, and welcomes your gift "in honor of, in memory of, or in appreciation of" to any area of the Church budget. When you send a gift, please include the name of the person/s in whose honor, memory, or appreciation you are giving, and if you have a specific area of the church for which you would like to designate the funds.

Message from the Easter Sunrise Service at Mt. Ida

Following is what I shared with the Berney Station folks re Cotton Patch Gospel:

For all of you who attended Easter Sunrise service at Mt. Ida, and wondered what on earth I was reading, here is a bit of explanation about Clarence Jordan and the Cotton Patch Gospel.

Clarence Jordan, born in 1912, died in 1969, was a devout follower of Jesus Christ, who took the Master's teachings very seriously. As a child, Clarence was deeply troubled by racial and economic injustice in his home state of Georgia. Later, he attended the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville Kentucky, and became a strong and prophetic preacher. In order to live out the teachings of Jesus, he and his wife, along with a few others, founded the Koinonia Christian community on his farm in southwest Georgia, near Americus. All who lived there shared equally in life, work and material goods. In the late 40's and early 50's, blacks and whites living together was a huge offense and threat to the status quo. (To the 'good white folks,' as Jordan calls them) The Koinonia farm was burned more than once, and often received bomb threats from the Ku Klux Klan.

As a preacher, Jordan strove to connect with his hearers by writing scriptural texts as if they were set in Georgia. Over the years, he created colloquial versions of Paul's epistles, Luke and Acts, Matthew, John, and the letter to the Hebrews. Jordan called these works 'versions,' rather than translations. Again, he was trying to make the teachings of Jesus sound fresh and relevant to those who heard him preach. For example, in the text we read on Easter morning, the Mary's and the disciples were to "go on over into Alabama," rather than to Galilee, where they would see the risen Christ.

Clarence Jordan and the Koinonia community (Koinonia simply means communion or fellowship) suffered greatly for their faith—as do we all, when we really and truly take Jesus seriously. The Christian message about loving your enemies doesn't sit well with our culture's belief that we fight violence with violence. Jesus' command to forgive; to feed our enemies, to love and not hate, makes no sense to the culture we live in.

In 1982, Atlanta-based actor, Tom Key, wrote a musical called the Cotton Patch Gospel, based on Jordan's versions of Matthew and John. The musical opened off-Broadway and had a successful run. It has been performed in numerous venues since that time. I first saw it in the 90's at Trinity United Methodist Church, in Talladega.

I plan to read more about Clarence Jordan, in the near future. I believe I will start with a book by Henlee H. Barnette, called *Clarence Jordan: Turning Dreams into Deeds*. I hope this brief sketch of Clarence Jordan and his walk in faith is informative!

Shalom,

Becky Davis

Troop 32 News

Our troop is very busy right now with the task of completing Eagle projects. JD Germany had his Eagle project in March. We worked all weekend at Camp Cottaquilla pouring concrete and installing park style BBQ grills and fire pits. Each participant put in about 14 hours of heavy manual labor. I'm still sore.

Luke had his Eagle project this past weekend also at Camp Cottaquilla. He laid out and developed a nature trail. More manual labor. Along the trail placed natural wood engraved signs identifying plant life and giving trail directions. He's been learning how to use Grandpa's router.

Another of our scouts has his Eagle project next month (May) also at Camp Cottaquilla. He will be clearing a large area and developing an archery range for the girls to use during summer camp. Oh no, more manual labor. I'll have to remember the Advil!

Thank you for supporting our troop, Tim Smith - Scoutmaster



April Session Meeting

The Session met at the church on April 1, 2008. Leeann Scarbrough opened the meeting with a word-share-prayer.

Building and Grounds Committee: James Howard is installing a heat pump for the church kitchen.

Evangelism & Witness Committee: Anna McIlwain reported that the Pentecost offering will be received on May 11. The session voted to give the 40 percent for local charities to Palmer Place. Our gift will pay for counseling and other expenses. Palmer Place will have the program at the April 30 Family Night Supper. Anna reported that a committee is looking for Sunday School teachers and for literature for the small children in our church.

Fellowship & Service Committee: Dede Elliott reported that the last Wednesday Night Supper will be on May 14 or May 21. We will honor Sonya Henning who graduates from high school. There will be another yard sale on August 2.

Worship & Music Committee: Millie Chastain reported that we will have a communion Service on May 11. Millie also reported that Presbyterian Women are working on a church cookbook. Next year will be the 175th anniversary of our church.

Several members of our church plan to attend the Acts 16:5 retreat at the Four-H camp on April 22 and 23.

The Session voted to recommend Kate Scarbrough for membership in the Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery Youth Council.

There will be an election of church officers on May 18. Contact Cathe Jacobs or Drew Wood if you like to recommend someone.

Leeann closed the meeting with prayer.

Caravan Class News

Sunshine Saturday is almost here – May 3rd! This is an event that Caravan Class has heartily supported over the years and one of the most worthwhile and uplifting events that anyone could hope to participate in.

We had great turnout last year, and this year should be even bigger. It's a wonderful time for fun and fellowship while making that special contribution that makes us all better citizens.

Chuck Keith has done yeoman work as usual, making preparations and arrangements. Everything seems to have come together – the BBQ will be provided from Ron's BBQ in Alexandria and we will prepare the sandwiches at the park on Saturday morning. Hours of operation of the concession stand will be 10:00 until 2:00. Remember, Sunshine Saturday, 3 May, Veteran's Park for Caravan BBQ! Come by and have lunch with us!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS . . .

Rev. Shannon Webster, Pastor of FPC Birmingham, will be leading a three-day program entitled "**Country Music and Theology**" on Sunday, Monday & Tuesday evenings, September 7-9. Kickoff will be Sunday at 5pm with a BBQ Supper, program from 6-8pm. Monday & Tuesday, volunteers (*you may be called!*) will provide refreshments during breaks.

Shannon has a lot of fun at these events, plays his guitar, tells stories, and entertains while teaching theological lessons. Plan to attend all three nights!

Join us for a Church Cookout

on Wednesday, May 21st at 6:00 pm.

Tom Kulk and the Caravan Class have graciously offered to grill hamburgers and hotdogs for us ~ just bring a side dish or dessert.

This will be our final "catered" Wednesday Night Supper; during the summer we will continue to have our Brown Bag Dinners at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



HYMN SING(S)

The Hymn Singers will go to Sunset Inn to worship, sing and laugh on **Tuesday, May 13th at 2:30**. Also that day is close to Betty Willingham's birthday, so come and help us celebrate.

The Hymn Singers will go to Summer Place on **Tuesday, May 27th at 2:30**. We need you at both of these events!!!!

Preschool Sunday School Class

Seven members of our church will be teaching the Preschool Sunday School Class on a rotating basis. Bobbie Howard and Jerre Warren who have graciously taught our children for many years are two. Others are Anne Davis, Dede Elliott, Judy Elliott, Lea Lewis, and Anna McIlwain.

This Sunday, May 4, 2008, Anna will be the teacher and will be teaching about Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10). May 11 is Pentecost Sunday; Anne Davis will be teaching about Pentecost (Acts 2). On May 18 Bobbie will be teaching about a Woman who Anoints Jesus (Luke 7: 36-50). Lea will be teaching about the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) on May 25.

Dede will teach about Jesus Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-15) on June 1. Then Jerre will give a lesson named Feed My Sheep (John 21:15-19) on June 8. On Communion Sunday, June 15, Judy Elliott will teach on The Lord's Supper (Luke 22:7-38).

Along with listening to the Bible stories, our children will play, sing songs, and pray. Leeann and the teachers ask you to pray for all our children, youth and teachers. If you have an idea for a name for this class, please pass it on to any of the teachers.



*This litany was used during the morning worship service on April 6th
and written by Rev. Leeann Scarbrough.*

Litany of Thanksgiving for the Handbells

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

Pastor: For the gift of music,

People: We praise you, God.

Pastor: We lift our voices,

People: And play our instruments,

All: To glorify you.

Pastor: We thank you for our handbells;

People: For the lovely sounds they make;

Pastor: For the gentle tinkling,

People: And loud clanging;

Pastor: For the songs they help us hear, and the memories they invoke;

People: We listen with hearts wide open,

All: To glorify you.

Pastor: We thank you for Mrs. Sidney Elliott,

People: For her desire for bells for this church,

Pastor: And for leading the young people to play the bells;

People: We thank you that some of those young people are here today.

Pastor: We thank you for fifty years of handbells.

**People: We praise you for the enthusiasm and joy with which they
have been played,**

All: To glorify you. Amen.





MUSIC NOTES by Lea Lewis

On April 6, the adult handbell choir, the Whitechapel Ringers, played both the prelude and offertory in the morning worship service. One of the songs also incorporated the handchimes. Our pastor wrote a litany of Thanksgiving for the handbells which celebrated the fifty years they have been a part of our church. This litany is included in this newsletter.

When the bells were new, the children's choir, the Calvin Chorus, played them, and now an adult choir and a youth choir both use the bells. In a few weeks the youth handbell choir, the Calvin Ringers, will play during worship service. There is a bulletin board in the fellowship hall celebrating the handbells. If anyone out there has a copy of the old photo of the Calvin Chorus holding the bells, please let me know as I would like to put it on the bulletin board.

Five people who were in that choir are still members at First Presbyterian. They are Patti and Cleve Jacobs, Sidney Thompson, Wallis Elliott, and me, Lea Lewis. Also, as mentioned last month, we are asking for gifts to purchase five new bells that are high notes which are frequently called for in our music. So far, we have enough for two bells but will wait on ordering until we have the full amount of money.

The word on our organ is that the console wood has been "refreshed" and will be brought back soon and the work which will be done here should begin in early summer. I am looking forward to the return of the organ and have really been missing it. More of you are asking about it. The pipes for the new stops have been on order for about two years and they still are not in to Pipe Organ Specialties. Obviously, it takes a long, long time to get new pipes. There are but a handful of companies who do this work. It is not too late to donate to the organ fund, and if you want a plaque in memory of honor of a loved ones, which signifies your gift of \$1000, it is not too late for that. We believe that sufficient funds are in hand to pay for all the work but gifts can still be given which will be part of a maintenance fund or can be used for other music needs.

A musical event that is in the planning for next fall for us all to look forward to is a concert by THE SCOTTS. These are relatives of our own Jim Scott and Diane and Mark Durham. Some of you heard their wonderful sound last year. This will be an event for the whole community on a Saturday night either in September or October. More info later...

We are planning some interesting music in choir over the next several weeks. There is still a spot for one or two more sopranos. Keep that in mind as you sing your way through your day!

GODSPELL



Six of the youth of First Presbyterian will be guests of the church at a performance of *Godspell* on Friday evening, May 2, at the Ritz Theater at 7:00 pm.

Some of our adults will be accompanying our youth. Don't be surprised if, in the next few weeks, you hear a lot of humming and singing of tunes such as "Day by Day."

If anyone is interested in tickets, you can call The Ritz Theatre at 256-315-0000 or order online at www.talladegaritz.com.

YARD SALE

We are still working toward our yard sale planned for **AUGUST 2, 2008**. Lots of items are needed, so clean out and bring them to the Education Building. The rooms are marked for specific items like clothing, holidays, kitchen, etc. Call Dede, 362-8645, if you have ?????? or need some help unloading your items. We also need cardboard boxes and plastic sacks. Workers will be needed ahead of time to price items and LOTS of workers on Saturday morning, August 2. If you can help any time, there is a sign up sheet in the church office and also in the Education Building. Many, many thanks for your support!

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
130 NORTH STREET, EAST
TALLADEGA, ALABAMA 35160

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MISSION STATEMENT

Recognizing the Bible as the Holy and inspired Word of God, and Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our mission is to worship and glorify God, nurture spiritual growth of people, and proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior to the world.

MINISTERS

All of the members
of the
First Presbyterian Church

SESSION

Class of 2008: Millie Chastain, Judy Elliott,
James Howard, Jerry Huffstetler, Jim McIlwain
Class of 2009: Joe Chastain, Cathe Jacobs
Class of 2010: Anne Davis, Dede Elliott,
Anna McIlwain, Myron Waits, Drew Wood

STAFF

The Rev. Leeann Scarbrough, Pastor
Mrs. Brenda McTaggart, Secretary
Mrs. Lea Lewis, Organist/Pianist
Mrs. Cathe Jacobs, Adult Bell Choir Director
Mrs. Jeanne Rasco, Youth Bell Choir Director

If you have any information to include in the newsletter, please contact one of the following:

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