



The Heartline

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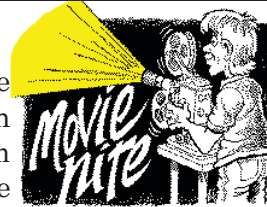


"Where Hearts are Warmed"

August 2012

Pizza & Movie Night

We will present the third in a series of films by the Kendrick Brothers of the Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, GA, this Friday evening, August 10th. The film and pizza is open to everyone in the church; you don't have to be a youth to attend. These Christian films deal with everyday issues and highlight the grace and love of Jesus Christ for all mankind. The film "Fireproof" deals with a firefighter fighting addictions in his life and an attempt to save his marriage using a 40-day experience known as "The Love Dare." The first film in the series, "Flywheel," was made on a budget of \$20,000, and this film on a budget of \$500,000. The entire congregation of Sherwood Baptist Church participated in the making of the films in one way or another – as actors, volunteers, wardrobe, construction, etc. Steve and Alex Kendrick, the writers, producers and directors of the films, are both Associate Pastors at SBC. Kirk Cameron, one of a few professional actors in the film, plays the main character. He said that it was the hardest part he ever played because the part was the antithesis of who he is. Come and enjoy the experience of Christian fellowship. Pizza is at 6 PM and the movie at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.



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July was an eventful month:

I helped plan the Friday Night Pizza-Movie nights: WOW! Are these GREAT! August's nights are the 10th and 24th. I attended the first movie-pizza night and was really warmed by all of our youth and their friends -- and by the attendance of the Peters.

In July, I spoke with several folks, some of them non-church members, regarding Andrew Wise. It was Andrew's desire not to involve anyone other than the pastor and family in his care. However, on Communion Sunday, I received Andrew's permission to take Communion to him. Elder Kay Ebbs represented the congregation as the Elder in attendance. Many members of Pauline's family from California were there visiting, and they complimented Pauline on the service.

I felt most honored in continuing to talk with Andrew up until a few days before his death and being with Pauline when I visited during Andrew's naps. Founding Elder Andrew Wise entered the Church Triumphant at home, as he wished, on the morning of July 17th. Elder Janis Bomar and I were with Pauline from the time

the EMS took Andrew to the hospital until after visiting the funeral home. I truly don't know what I would have done without Janis' sacred presence. Pauline's family arrived a couple of days later. The Fellowship team was absolutely awesome, and the Worship Committee prepared the sanctuary with reverence and dignity. The music of John Tucker and Brittany Roughton was blessed! I hold our Elders in the highest esteem.

A few women in the church have started an informal Lunch Bunch, every other Thursday, at noon. So far we haven't eaten at the same restaurant twice. We meet next on August 9th at Satchel's Pizza. Dianne Felts and Judy Newell join in, glad to keep up with women from CPC.

On July 8th, I trained members of Council and other interested Elders in making home and institutional visits and serving Communion. The church office provides Elders with service bulletins and a communion kit. If you are aware of someone who is shut-in in any way, phone them or their family to ask if they'd like a

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[PASTOR'S CORNER, from page 2]

pastoral visit from CPC. *Ask first, please, before calling to make arrangements with the church. Also, ask about the convenience of day and time so that the Elder(s) and I will plan our schedules accordingly.*

Beth Herrington did an outstanding job on training youth to be part of the ushers' team. On July 15th, Joy Paulin served as youth usher. Other youth will assist in August and September. YAY! If you know of youth or kids who might like being part of a church if they could participate in the service, invite them and their parents to church.

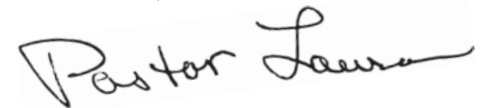
Let's remember that our next Healthy Congregations meeting is on Saturday, September 8th, from 9 through 11 AM. This continues our series led by the dynamic CRT team from the presbytery!

I was unavailable to attend the reception for Rev. Dr. Paul Hooker on July 22nd, the same day as the funeral and reception at the church for Andrew Wise. On behalf of CPC, Council has sent our appreciation to Rev. Dr. Hooker for supporting the pastor and this congregation, from the start of our recent difficulties and into the process of healing with the CRT.

I took a vacation with BJ and a grandson, Nicholas, from July 28th through August 3rd. The week before, Nicky was here to attend Gatorball Baseball Academy in Jonesville, while I worked and BJ watched and rooted. During our extraordinary time with "the Nitch-o-las", we played Yahtzee and Go-Fish and watched the Olympics. During my vacation, we reveled at the State Park's beach on St. George Island and ate our way through Apalachicola. Afterwards, we three jumped the waves at Crescent and roamed around the Castillo de San Marco in St. Augustine. Finally, Nicky and I gave BJ a break; we drove up to Manatee Springs, where I watched Nicky swim in the cold springs. Being on a real vacation with a grandchild was incredible! But we were ready to hand him back on the last two days.

I am grateful to shepherd prayerful congregants and an army of servants who strive to live the Christian Way. May God bless and hold you warmly, keep and watch over your loved ones, and bring about the Domain of God through you.

In the Name of our God, Creator, Word, and Sanctifier of all life,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Laura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

How Do We Make Decisions at Covenant?

Have you ever wondered how some decision came about within the church? Have you ever attended a Council (Session) meeting to find out? We want you to know that all are welcome at Council meetings to observe. Council meets the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Library. “To observe” means just that – you may come to see the proceedings of the Council but do not have a voice at the table. If you want to speak at a Council meeting, first please speak to the Pastor, Clerk of Council or one of the Ruling Elders who will help you decide the best course for your issue. Don’t be alarmed if they

redirect you to one of the committees to address your concerns. If you are approved to address the Council, you will be notified and there is a procedure for your participation. The new policy has been placed on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and outlines both the Council’s responsibilities and behaviors, along with yours as a congregation member. Wendy Firman recently observed at a Council meeting and told us that every member of the congregation should attend to see how decisions are made. She was amazed at the detail of the content and the knowledge of all Elders.

Birthdays

3 – Janis Bomar
6 – Wendy Firman
27 – Kathy Fishel
28 – Fred Fishel
31 – Susan Nimmo

Anniversaries

3 – Debbi and Dan Alessi
14 – John & Prue Tucker
29 – Joan and Michael
Brewer

Prayer Families

Aug 5th Madge Roodenberg
Aug 12th Sonny Ross
Aug 19th Brittany Roughton
Aug 26th Kathryn Russell

Committee News

The committees of Covenant have been active this past month. Here are highlights:

Administration and Personnel (meets 3rd Sunday following worship): Janis Bomar, Chair

- Administrative Manual Annual review
 - Administrative Assistant job description revised
 - Sexual misconduct policy revised and approved by Council
 - Attendance at Council Meetings Policy written and approved by Council
- Performance reviews will be conducted on Pastor Laura and Brittany Roughton. Members of committee will be soliciting feedback from members of the congregation this summer on each.
 - New website for Covenant Presbyterian Church will be unveiled sometime in August
 - Request to add calendar and birthdays/anniversaries to Newsletter
 - Have acquired a Facebook account for Covenant Presbyterian Church
 - Approved educational leave for Pastor Laura, which will require pulpit supply on October 14th

Budget and Finance: John Peters, Chair

- Received all weekly bank statements for review
- Continued to meet with Cell Tower Committees as we continue to negotiate a different lease agreement
- Continued fiscal due diligence exercised in relation to congregation and committees

Building and Grounds (meets 1st Sunday following worship) : John Carver, Chair

- Kitchen will be painted and counter pass through will be re-opened.
- Jim Traer is working on hand rail to choir loft
- Crown Castle sent surveyors to re-establish present driveway easement
- Drain pan in office air conditioner began leaking and is now repaired
- New visitor sign is needed outside, as one of the posts rotted away

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Worship and Music (meets 4th Sunday following worship): Kay Ebbs, Chair

- Worship on July 22nd included a service for Andrew Wise. Thanks John Tucker & Brittany Roughton for the beautiful selection of music for the service. Pauline and the family are very grateful for the outpouring of support and love from the Church.
- Janis Bomar filled pulpit July 29th during the Pastor's vacation
- Training for Elders to administer Communion to those who cannot attend worship
- Offering communion service to Harbor Chase, which they have embraced wholeheartedly
- Harbor Chase is thankful for the service offered to their residents monthly – comment

from Sara at Harbor Chase, “You know you have something special when even the staff are talking about it.”

- Beth Herrington trained youth as greeters, ushers and acolytes
- Planning for Veteran's Day
- Christmas Eve service planning
- New Years Eve service for kids/families
- Exploring cost of making banners for white liturgical color, as the only white we have is Christmas
- Planning for pulpit supply in October so Pastor Laura can attend educational program – Ceara Ebbs has volunteered.

Christian Nurture and Education: Susan Nimmo, Chair

- Healthy Congregations programs were presented by Pastors Charlie and Alysun
- Initiated quilt project as fund raiser for Fisher House with Larry Herrington and Kathryn Russell
- Elder training by Pastor Laura preparing Elders to serve Communion to homebound members
- Evaluating potential for Saturday Morning Prayer Service at Covenant with John Peters and Wendy Firman

- Recognition of need to provide nursery and Sunday School for Youth on Sunday
- Small Groups continue:
 - Sunday School classes at 9 AM on the study “Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelations”
 - Thursday afternoon Agape studying “On the Road with Jesus: Teaching and Healing”
 - Thursday evening Koininia studying “The Book of Revelation – Garnet style”

Nominating Committee (meets as needed): Susan Nimmo, Chair

- Have met initially to consider candidates for vacant Ruling Elders recently open by the resignations of Helen Rivers, and Larry Herrington.

Youth Advisor

- Pizza and Movie nights enjoyed
 - July 13th – *Flywheel* – 16 attended
 - July 27th – *Facing the Giants* – 8 attended
- Pizza and Movie nights planned.
Come for 6 PM pizza and 6:30 PM movie
 - August 10th – *FireProof*
 - August 24th – *Courageous*

- Youth will participate once a month in worship service, assisting with ushering (including the offering), as liturgist, and as acolyte
- Yard sale – Approached by Pauline Wise to handle sale of Andrew’s clothing and personal effects, with all proceeds to go to church. Tentative date is September 15th.

Fellowship (meets 2nd Sunday following worship): Debbi Alessi & Ceara Ebbs, Co-chairs

July was a very hot month here in Gainesville, especially for the members and visitors of Covenant.

We kicked off the month with a BBQ for CommUnity Dinner – thank you very much for all who assisted and attended. A special thank you to John Ebbs for cooking all of the burgers, hot dogs, and brats. The next Sunday service was followed by a dinner provided by the Firman/Paulin Family.

We will be painting the kitchen soon, a pastel blue.

We have started August with the delicious “Fish Fry” CommUnity Dinner on August 5th.

Fellowship hosted the reception honoring Andrew Wise on July 22nd following his funeral service. As always, it was a huge success and there was plenty of good food and fellowship for the event. Thank you to those who set up, donated and/or prepared the food, served, and cleaned up: Debbie & Danny Alessi; Janis Bomar; Garnet Brenner; Ophelia & John Carver; Kay & John Ebbs, along with Ceara; Bea & Norm Farmer; Beth & Larry Herrington; Linda Ivines; Marty Lyda; Judy Newell; Monica, Joyce & Susan Nimmo; Helen Rivers; Maggie Sanders; and Lauren & Jim Traer.

Next Council meeting – August 27th at 6:30 PM in the Library. Anyone from the congregation may attend a Council meeting with permission of the Pastor or the Clerk of Council. There are guidelines to be followed, which will be shared with you on request.

Meditation Trail - Dog Days of Summer

by Mike Hein, ASLC

It's hot and buggy - what more do I need to say? With Easter long since past, it wasn't Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail that I saw last month, but the trail was really hopping with thousands of tiny frogs! Although I was walking very quickly to stay ahead of the mosquitos, there was something moving as slow as a turtle along the path one day. Oh, that's right – it *was* a turtle! I didn't stop long enough to confirm what kind it was, but it could have been a pond slider – yellow on the underside with dark patches along the edges.



Should you brave the trail this month, note the peacock ginger plants (*Kaempferia pulchra* var. *masonii*) blooming at each end of the bridge with pinkish-lavender flowers. Also look for the orchid pansy plants (*Achimenes grandiflora*) at several places along the trail. They have soft hairy leaves that are dark green on top, but reddish below with reddish-purple flowers almost two inches in diameter. The pinecone lilies (*Zingiber zerumbet*) will be blooming on the south side of the trail between the bridge and the Y of the trail. Small white flowers will be peeking out of the “pine cones” that will turn bright red later this fall. Many of the gingers will be blooming and you may also see the purple flowered composite (*Vernonia gigantea* or ironweed) plants across from the sinkhole or near the CPC end of the trail. Pokeweed plants (*Phytolacca americana*) in the sinkhole also will be blooming, with tiny white flowers and ¼-inch purplish-black berries in elongated clusters.



Meet Your Council Participants

[Ed. note: This is the last of a series that has profiled our congregation's leaders. Preceding issues have each featured two or three of these dedicated servants.]

Susan Nimmo, Class of 2014.

Susan joined CPC in 1999 and most recently was re-elected as a ruling elder for a three-year term. She has assumed responsibilities as Chair of the Nominating Committee and of the Christian Nurture and Education Committee. She has a flair for working with the youth and teaching Sunday School, has been instrumental in providing craft stations at Vacation Bible School each year, and has also introduced the Christian Dental Students from Shands, with their mission to provide free dental services to the needy in other countries while also sharing the "Good News." Susan has also been a faithful participant in Koininia, our Thursday evening small group. Her term on Council ends in December, 2014.



instrumental in reducing our telephone bill, bringing a volunteer into our church office to organize the files, and planning a program to offer communion to those who are not able to attend worship during communion. Larry is active as a greeter and usher on Sundays and embodies the spirit of CPC.

Janis Bomar, Class of 2014.

Janis joined CPC in June of 2007 and by September was coordinating the Family Retreat held over a weekend at the Montgomery Presbyterian Conference Center. She has been the coordinator of Vacation Bible School for several years and brought Adult VBS to CPC.



Janis was recently re-elected as ruling elder for a three-year term. She assumed responsibility as the Chair of Administration and Personnel and is currently working on becoming the new webmaster for CPC. Revisions of the Administrative Manual are ongoing, along with job descriptions. The A&P Committee has developed guidelines for congregational members who attend Council meetings. Janis Co-chaired the Interim Pastor Search Committee and was Co-chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee, with John Carver. Her term on Council ends in December, 2014.

Larry Herrington, Class of 2014.

Larry joined CPC in 2010 and hasn't stopped since. He was recently elected as a ruling elder for a three-year term. Due to health issues, Larry has resigned from active service on our Council. He had been chair of Outreach Committee and Evangelism. Since his election as ruling elder, he has been very active in many of the committees. He was



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John Tucker, Clerk of Council.

John joined CPC in 2001 and has been a musical addition to our worship with his flute and alto flute. John also plays with the Gainesville Flute Ensemble, which rehearses at CPC and offers a free Christmas concert to the congregation and community. John is a former ruling elder at the church, but currently serves as the elected Clerk of Council. John also serves as the Financial Secretary for CPC and helps to keep all of us on track from a financial perspective. John sets the church up every Sunday morning, arriving very early, unlocking the building, and setting up the projector and sound system. He is our “utility infielder.” John’s term as Clerk of Council continues for one year and can be extended by vote of the Council.



in a letter to CPC upon her acceptance as Pastor, “My interest in the impoverished and otherwise marginalized persons came about during my high school years. Although I came from an affluent household, some of my close friends did not. As I spent more time with them and their families and read the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I realized that I desired to walk more closely with Christ through serving him with the poor and otherwise needy. Since adulthood, I have been involved in social action to benefit the disenfranchised wherever I have lived because their poverty and infirmity affect not only their lives, but those of us who are better off. Our souls, our very spirits, are affected. This is not to say that our spirits are unaffected by the suffering of our more comfortable neighbors or selves; often, the people with whom we may be in contact the most, including the person sitting next to us in church, may be suffering terribly, physically, mentally or spiritually. As your pastor, my door will always be open to you, and I will be but a phone call away when I am physically unavailable. I ask for your prayers that I may fulfill Christ’s Call to be your good shepherd and neighbor.” Laura’s term as Moderator of Council lasts as long as her ministry at CPC.

Laura Joost-Kuhn, Moderator of Council.

We received Laura as our third Pastor in January, 2011, and it has been a whirlwind since then. We commend her for her patience and tolerance towards all of us. Did you know that in her secular life she ran a soup kitchen? Our Christmas Dinner, 2010, at St. Francis House was like a coming home for her. Laura wrote



2012 Session
Rev Laura Joost-Kuhn, Moderator

Debbi Alessi	Janis Bomar
John Carver	Ceara Ebbs
Kay Ebbs	Susan Nimmo
John Peters	Clerk John Tucker

The Heartline is published monthly. You may submit articles either handwritten, typed, or on disk (saved in text or Word format) and delivered to the church office.

Deadline for the next newsletter is
August 28, 2012.

If you have a question about submitting an article for *The Heartline*, please call John Tucker.