



The Challenger

August 16, 2010

Gordon Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

"In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity."



FROM THE PASTOR

I was in a group meeting the other day when the subject of the 2008 Faithful Planning process came up. Members of the group were debating about how well we were doing in terms of meeting our Faithful Planning goals. Opinions varied, but everyone agreed in the end that we should keep the document before us since it was prayerfully and thoughtfully prepared.

After the meeting, I decided to take a look at the document to see how we stand. We're at the half-way point (the goals take us to 2012) and, as the group discerned, we had "won some" and "lost some." That's OK, of course, since the purpose of Faithful Planning is not to be legalistic about things, but rather to be prayerful and focused on the future we believe God is planning for us.

Space won't allow me to consider all goals, but I was glad to see that the Wednesday evening program and dinner was a part of them. Loaves and Fishes, by most everyone's estimate, has been an overwhelming success. I continue to get feedback as to how much folks appreciate this midweek time together. I was also glad to see things like the sunrise service, prayer vigils, and the outreach emphasis on the document—we can be glad that these areas and events are getting well integrated into the life of our church.

Two areas on the document still need a Spirit-driven push! One is the area that most mainliners are frightened to death of—evangelism. In the goals, we spoke of putting together an advertising program for the church so that we would be more visible and attractive to the community. With Spirit Aerospace and Sanderson Farms coming, now is the time to really get up and going on this.

The other area that needs a push is stewardship. Last fall, we completed one of the most organized and successful stewardship campaigns in my time as pastor, and yet this year we have fallen farther behind than in any year since I arrived (~ \$15,000 behind where we were this time last year). I know that the Stewardship Ministry is working on closing the gap, and subcommittees like the Permanent Fund group is thinking about creative ways to help our church finances. But the reality is that—in a church like ours that *does* have resources—the effort to meet the operating budget is an ongoing concern and seems to get harder each year. I know the Stewardship Ministry and Executive Committee would appreciate your prayers.

So that's the quick scoop on Faithful Planning. Keep the meeting of these goals in your thoughts, prayers, and actions. Meanwhile, celebrate with me the return of the fall and the many ministries and programs around here that we have grown to love and look forward to. You'll read about them in the remainder of this newsletter—they are a part of our efforts at being a faithful church. Blessings,

SPECIAL OFFERING

GSCC will receive a special offering on August 22 and 29 to honor retiring chaplain Carol Steffa of Pitt Memorial Hospital. The offering will go towards the effort by the Pastoral Care Department of the hospital to have a blessing bowl sculpted and placed in the new interfaith chapel (in honor of Carol and her many years of ministry there). Simply make your check to GSCC and mark it, "Carol Steffa bowl," and it will be given to the right place. Carol is one of only two "Pricilla's" of this congregation (i.e., women who grew up here and went into ministry).

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8

Wonderful Wednesday, the children's choir program at Gordon Street Christian Church, will start up for the Fall on September 8th. We hope that your child will be participating during the coming year. The schedule is:

3:15 - 3:30 Arrival & snack
3:30 - 4:15 Jr Choir
4:15 - 5:00 Chapel Bells


The program is an after school program for children (grades K - 6) that is a part of the Music Ministry at Gordon Street Christian Church. The program offers an excellent opportunity for developing the child's singing voice through songs that are either based on scripture or sound Christian theology. The Chapel Bells handbell program introduces and develops ringing skills and music reading ability through the use of English handbells and hand chimes.

If you know children who might be interested in Wonderful Wednesday, please ask them to contact me, Joanne Heath, at the church (523-4143) with questions.

KICKOFF SUNDAY

To celebrate the return of Sunday school and the fall programs, everyone is invited to join together in a pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 12, 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Sunday school classes for all ages will follow at 10 a.m.. All classes, including the two adult classes (Pathfinders, discussion; Moseley, Bible study), enjoy welcoming visitors and new members. How about renewing your commitment to Christian education and Sunday school?

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes, our midweek congregational dinner, will resume on September 8, beginning at 6:41 p.m. (based on  Mark 6:41 ... look it up!). As before, the dinner will be catered by local restaurants. Registration is by signup near the elevator; cost is \$7 per person. Our midweek Bible study will precede the dinner at 5:30 p.m. for interested folks. It is based this year on the Gospel of Luke (study books are available from Mark for \$12.50).

OLAN MILLS DIRECTORY... COMING SOON!

In September we will be having pictures made for our new pictorial directory. Photography dates are: September 1, 2, 7, 20 and 21 from 2-9:20 p.m. Sign up sheets are available on Sundays after worship or by calling Anne Vincent, so get your calendars out and pick a date that suits your schedule. A letter has been mailed to all members with more details. If you have not received a letter, please call the church office, 523-4143.

BLESSING OF THE BOOK BAGS

On Sunday, August 29th Gordon Street Christian Church will hold its annual Blessing of the Book Bags service in morning worship. Members and guests are asked to bring school supplies for Contentnea-Savannah Hand and Hand Project. Supplies needed are: book bags, paper, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, notebooks, note cards, hand sanitizer, large ziplock bags, tissues, etc. These items will be taken to the school on Monday, August 30th, 2010. The Hand and Hand committee would like to thank everyone for participating in this very needy project.



The Challenger Deadline

The next deadline will be Monday,
September 6, 2010.

CHURCH STAFF




Mark A. Benson	Senior Minister
Joanne M. Heath	Minister of Music
Gail J. Cooper	Organist
Laura J. Clark	Office Manager
Thurman Pate	Church Steward
Tina Faulkner	Nursery Attendant
Church Office	252-523-4143
Minister's Cell	252-468-1022
Minister's Home	252-523-5472
Minister's e-mail	mark@rustikat.net or markgsc@embarqmail.com
GSCC Website	gsc.kinstonlc.com

**Gordon Street Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ), Inc.
118 E. Gordon St.
Kinston, NC 28501**

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010 Rev. Mark Benson Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17</p> <p>THOSE SERVING: Elders - Marjorie Moore, Graham Knott; Elder Usher - Billy Parrott; Ushers - Ed & Marsha Rowntree; Deacons - (*prepares/cleans up communion) Ed Rowntree*, Marsha Rowntree*, Gene Rybolt, Jane Rybolt, Ed Smith, Shelly Sparrow; Youth Deacons - Hiott Walker, Rebekah Sparrow, Ashley Scarborough, Emily Benson; Receptionists - (Narthex) Isabelle Perry; (North Door) Jackie Parrott; Acolyte - Lauren Fletcher; Nursery - Tina Faulkner; Fellowship Hour -</p>	
<p>SUNDAY, AUGUST 29 2010 Rev. Hollie Woodruff Jeremiah 2:4-13; Psalm 81:1, 10-16; Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14</p> <p>THOSE SERVING: Elders – Billy Parrott, Mary Sharpe Owens; Elder Usher – Mary Ann Scarborough; Ushers - Stephen & Sharon Ginn; Deacons - (*prepares/cleans up communion) Anne Vincent*, Thurman Vincent*, Vernita Turnage, Reid Taylor, LaMarr Walker, Carol Weber; Youth Deacons – Andrew Benson, Abbye Reynolds, Donna Tomlinson, Dustin Courtright; Receptionists - (Narthex) Peggy Ferrell; (North Door) Jerri Harding; Acolyte – Elizabeth Wynne; Nursery – Tina Faulkner; Fellowship Hour - Debbie Casey</p>	
<p> Prayer Concerns – Clarice Davenport, Frances Edmundson, Lynn Crawford, William MacIntosh, Debra West Panagacos, Zella Medlin, Phil & Leslie McGrew, James Hull, Nicholas Jones, Nancy Vincent Smyth, Ben and Elmer Whitfield, Kara Gay, Gus Stallings</p>	<p>REMINDERS FROM THE PROPERTY MINISTRY Electric bills: May - \$1403, June - \$2017, July - \$2505, August - \$2634—this is why we ask you to turn off the lights and turn up a/c temperatures or lower heat when you leave the room.  Water bills: May - \$71, June - \$175, July - \$152, August - \$66—if you know of any water leaks, please let the Property Ministry know about them. The ice maker is not working. If you plan something at the church and will need ice, you will need to bring it until a solution has been reached.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Worship Attendance August 8 - 92 August 15 - 83 Stewardship Update Income YTD - \$115,119.78 Expenses YTD - \$179,363.37</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">End of the Year Luncheon The Hand in Hand committee donated baked goods of cakes, pies and cookies for the Contentnea-Savannah End of the Year Luncheon. A thank you note from Principal Kay Blizzard was received thanking Gordon Street Christian Church for the delicious desserts and all of the church’s help throughout the year.</p>
<p>Library News----- “Reflections on My Call to Preach” (connecting the dots), by Fred Brenning Craddock has been given to our library by Rev. Dr. Bill and Martha Boswell. Also new is “Walking With God in America”, by Ken Duncan, (the heartbeat of America in words & pictures.)  Four new novels--- “Angel Song”, by Sheila Walsh & Kathryn Cushman; “Blaze of Glory”, by Major Jeff Streucker & Alton Gansky; “The Way To a Man’s Heart”, by Mary Ellis (Book 3 in the Miller Family series); and “Charlie St. Cloud” by Ben Sherwood. (This is a major motion picture now in theaters.) Watch for our annual book sale coming this fall!!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thank You Dear GSCC, I’d like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts during my surgery this summer. I am getting along fine and look forward to coming back to church soon. Sincerely, Pam Gerding</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C.M.F. NEWS After the summer break, the Christian Men’s Fellowship will resume with dinner together at the Olympian Restaurant on Vernon Avenue on Monday, September 13, 6 p.m. The time together will focus on fellowship and planning. All men, teenage and up, are a part of the CMF and invited. Reservations are not necessary.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">IN BRIEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to the summer heat, the outdoor service originally planned for August 22, will be rescheduled for another time. Worship on the 22nd will be in the sanctuary. ▪ Mark will be on vacation August 23- 29. If you have a pastoral need, contact one of the church’s elders. ▪ Youth advisors are reminded of the planning session on Sunday, August 29, 6 p.m., in the church library. ▪ Forms are available in the church office for regional Chi Rho (9/24-26) and CYF (10/8-10) retreats. Cost is \$70 (1/2 to be paid by the church). ▪ Mark is still in need of a few more folks for his spiritual growth group this fall. Participants need to be available 10/2 (9-noon); 10/9, 23, 30 (9-10:30); 11/6-7, Lynchburg retreat; 11/13 (9-10:30). Contact him a.s.a.p. if interested. ▪ GSCC received a note of thanks from Mary’s Kitchen for our recent Miracle Jar donation. ▪ It is a joy to welcome Anne and Thurman Vincent into full membership at GSCC as of 7/27, after a period of time as associate members. Welcome!
<p style="text-align: center;">YOUTH KICK-OFF SEPTEMBER 12TH. To Kick – off our Sunday night youth activities for the Fall, all youth (grades 1-12) are invited to spend the afternoon at the Heath house on the Neuse River close to Camp Caroline. After church, those going will eat a snack lunch in the fellowship hall. (bring your own) and may change clothes if needed. The bus will leave the church around 1:00 p.m. and return at 8 p.m. Bring towel, swim suit, extra clothes, if necessary. Supper (\$2.00 each) will be a hamburger & hot dog cook-out. Please R.S.V.P. to Mark, Joanne, or the church office by 12:00 noon on Friday, September 10th. Joanne</p>	

SERVING SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

If you cannot serve on the day you are scheduled, you are responsible for finding a replacement and notifying the office.

SEPTEMBER 5	SEPTEMBER 12	SEPTEMBER 19	SEPTEMBER 26 Scout Sunday
Eld. #1—Cup Eld. #2—Bread			
Ben Scarborough Roger Riddick	Paul Scarborough Mary Ann Scarborough	Charles Yarbrough Martha Smith	Bill Boswell Margaret Burchette
ELDER USHER			
Paul Scarborough	Martha Smith	Carolyn Hodges	Lorena Mills
USHERS			
Cile Eubanks Joe Burchette	LeAnne Benson Louisa Chrisco	Tave Fletcher LuAnn Fletcher	Dwight Gerding Joyce Frederick
RECEPTIONISTS (Narthex) CWF #2			
Glenda Elmore	Mamie Ruth Jarman	Mary Sharpe Owens	Marilyn Rouse
(North Door)			
Alan Carlson	Vickie Knott	David Dudley	Kathy Riggs
ACOLYTE			
Kaitlyn Johnson	Will Moore	Nicole Barwick	Robb Moore
NURSERY			
Donna Tomlinson	Luan Lawson/Lee Johnson	Susan & David Moore	Sharon Ginn
DEACONS			
Jim Whitfield* Bennett Wynne* LeAnne Benson Justine Blizzard Paul Burchette	Mary Helen Daniels* Plumer Daniels* Louisa Chrisco Jean DuPree Glenda Elmore Cile Eubanks	LuAnn Fletcher* Tave Fletcher* Jennifer Faasii Peg Godwin	Dwight Gerding* Pam Gerding* Anna Harper Gene Heath Sue Heath Shirley Herring Brenda Holland Lyle Holland
YOUTH DEACONS			
Cody Courtright Sarah Casey Laura Knott Hannah Gerding	Matt Scarborough Hiott Walker Rebekah Sparrow Ashley Scarborough	Emily Benson Andrew Benson Abbye Reynolds Donna Tomlinson	Dustin Courtright Cody Courtright Sarah Casey Laura Knott
FELLOWSHIP HOUR			
Virginia Knott	Virginia Knott	Virginia Knott	Virginia Knott



August 2010



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- ★ 2 Kaitlyn Johnson, Kathy Riggs
- ★ 3 Mark Benson
- ★ 4 Mike Johnson
- ★ 5 Emily Davenport
- ★ 6 Dot Rhodes, Wanda Scarborough, James White
- ★ 9 Tave Fletcher, Carroll Kratzer
- ★ 12 LeAnne Benson, Judy MacIntosh
- ★ 13 Vickie Knott
- ★ 17 Cameron Sargeant
- ★ 23 Hiott Walker
- ★ 29 Adelaide McCain, Mary Sharpe Owens
- ★ 31 Louis & William Gower, Brenda Holland

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- ★ 2 Bob & Marjorie Moore
- ★ 21 Rex & Gail Cooper
- ★ 23 Keith & Marilyn Rouse
- ★ 27 Peg & Sherwood Godwin

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 12 noon Elders' lunch	4	5	6 6 p.m. Deacon Class of 2010 feeds the homeless shelter	7
8	9 9 a.m. Hand Bell camp	10 9 a.m. Hand Bell camp 12 noon Elders' lunch	11 9 a.m. Hand Bell camp 12 noon AOC (Faith Fellowship)	12 9 a.m. Hand Bell camp	13 9 a.m. Hand Bell camp	14
15	<i>The Challenger</i> 16	17 12 noon Elders' lunch 7:30 p.m. Worship ministry mtg.	18	19 6 p.m. Christian Ed. Ministry mtg.	20	21
22 10 a.m. Outdoor worship service	23 Parrott Academy begins	24 12 noon Elders' lunch 4 p.m. Memorials ministry mtg.	25 Lenoir County schools begin	26	27	28
29 Blessing of the book bags 6 p.m. Youth planning mtg.	30	31 12 noon Elders' lunch 4 p.m. Scout Sun. planning mtg.				