

September–October
2010

Graceland Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

- **September 1, 2010**
Family Night Supper
& Business Meeting
- **September 12, 2010**
Church Picnic
- **September 26, 2010**
Jaime Tolley (singer/
songwriter) 11:00 AM
Service
- **October 3, 2010**
Homecoming
- **October: Operation
Christmas Child be-
gins**

Inside this issue:

VBS Reflections	2
Young at Heart & Improving Our Grounds	3
Youth News Small Group Ministry Church Picnic	4
Poem, Operation Christmas Child, & WOM officers	5
Updated Shut-In-List	6
September/October Birthday List	7
Southwest Virginia Mission Trip	8

Pastor's Ponderings

Throughout the late spring and early summer, or the late summer and early fall, there is always mention of special family gatherings we call reunions. Many families maintain these regular events even within our hectic society. Other families have fallen victim to overcrowded agendas and seem to only reunite at funerals. My own family planned reunions regularly, but now have become victims to those overwhelming schedules. The most common phrase at the funerals of loved ones is, "we need to get together at times other than these."

The family coming together is important not only for our earthly families but also for our Christian family. Weekly, we have the opportunity to connect with one another and with God. We find in these moments family members to share our trials and triumphs with while also gaining new perspective and strength for the week ahead. It was recorded in the book of Acts that the first century Christian family came together regularly and "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers." As the summer draws to a close and the restful vacation trips come to an end, we look forward to all of the Christian family gathering at the weekly reunion held on Sundays.

Our Sunday reunions are not the only opportunity for the Graceland family to come together. We have family night suppers, or special events like the river baptism

which was held last Sunday afternoon. What an event with over 120 people present and 16 people baptized! Another special opportunity, which is fast approaching, is our annual homecoming held always on the first Sunday in October (October 3rd this year). At this event, besides the usual abundance of food, there will be special music by Calvary's Mercy Quartet and the message brought by Pastor Emeritus Robert Beasley. Already our hearts are filled with excitement for this reunion. We hope to see all the Graceland family there.

Another event we hope to see everyone present for is that great banquet:

¹⁶Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.

¹⁷At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹"The servant came back and

reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²²"'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'

²⁴I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

This is the one reunion that all of our other reunions are promoting. We are in the business of making sure everyone attends!

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you at the next reunion.

Shalom,

Ron





*“This is the day the
Lord has made; we
will rejoice and be
glad in it.”
Psalm 118:24*



A Blessing for Me

My name is not important, but my experience is. As a teacher for VBS, I was blessed to serve the Lord in instructing some very wonderful young people. The children were anxious to learn about the Bible and how it relates to all of our lives. I felt God working through me as I looked into the eyes of these young people and saw God working with them also.

Reflection of VBS

This year, I worked with the 2-5 year old kids who came to Graceland for VBS. My friend Mariah and I were assigned to a group of seven young children to lead from one station to the next. We also participated and interacted with them during the class times.

I thoroughly enjoyed working with this year's VBS and all of

VBS Success

The students were rounding up questions and driving home answers in Greg and Chris LeMasters' special needs class. They enjoyed peanut butter sandwiches, apples, and pink lemonade at snack time led by Carolyn Watts.

In recreation they raced and milked Betsy led by Ron Wyatt

My assistant and I were touched very deeply when one of our young men went forward and committed his life to our Lord and Savior. As the heading for my testimony states, this was a blessing for me.



the wonderful kids that came. The best part was when their parents dropped them off and they ran to us smiling because they were so excited to be at VBS. They were also excited to be with the other kids learning about God. My hope is that we have even more kids come next year because I love seeing them each and every day. I would have done that

week over and over if I could, and I'm glad that they all had a good time.

Katie Spain



and Michaela Wright. Beth Dingus had everybody coloring bandanas and took their pictures in crafts.

They learned in their bible study about Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who after meeting Jesus gave back money he had taken from the poor.

Thanks be to God for the many blessings given this year in Vacation Bible School and to all the volunteers who helped out on the Saddle Ridge Ranch.

Patricia Lipscomb

VBS

Vacation Bible School was an epic success this summer. We had about 95 children, from three years old to sixth grade in attendance. In addition, we had about fifty workers who participated to help make it the success it was. The Western/Cowboy theme for VBS was a hit with the children and the workers. Broken Road Farm in Amelia brought a petting zoo, which provided a wonderful end to the week. The students really enjoyed

seeing the miniature cows, goats, horse, donkey, as well as ducks, rabbits, chickens, alpaca, and pigs. The students learned about God's love for them, and we truly appreciate all of the prayers that went into making VBS a success. Lisa Seal did a marvelous job pulling VBS together; her hard work and dedication made sure each and every one of us experienced God during the week. God moved throughout the week and drew students to

Him. Zachary Woodel accepted Christ as his Savior during VBS and was baptized at the river on August 8. Please enjoy reading the accounts.

Matt Winters



Improving Our Grounds

I hope everyone has noticed our beautiful new fence along the side of the cemetery. It was made possible by the generous donations of church members.

I would like especially to thank the anonymous donor for the bench. In addition, I would like to thank the Woodman of

the World for our flag and flagpole. These new additions add so much comfort and beauty to our church grounds.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to the men of our church that took the time and effort to install the fence.

If you have not seen our newly

installed fence and additions to our grounds, please take the time to see the results.

Lou Gregory



Young at Heart

September

Young at Heart will meet on the 3rd Tuesday in September. That date being Tuesday the 21st. The plans are to have a covered dish supper starting at 6:30 PM. Also a selection for a new leader should be addressed. If anyone is interested please step forward. If not I

will continue in this position (Fran Leehy). Secretary/ Treasure also should be addressed and Pat Condrey would like to step out of this position. So please someone step up.

October

Young at Heart will meet 3rd Tuesday of the month in Octo-

ber. That date being Tuesday the 18th at 7:00 PM. The plans are to have a fun evening of Dominoes. This will be led by different members. I may not be here for this meeting but it should be a fun evening with refreshments being served by at least two members.

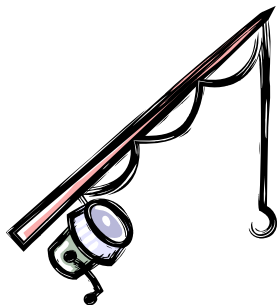
Fran Leehy

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails”
Proverbs 19:21





*“Look to the Lord
and His strength;
seek His face
always”
1Chronicles 16:11*



Youth News

It’s exciting to hear the sounds coming from the youth praise band each Sunday night. The students are developing their skills and learning to play together. It’s an awesome sight to behold the group bonding and worshipping God together. I’m excited to see where God takes the group. Also, I want to welcome other students who have a love for music to join us. We are especially looking for singers and someone to play the keyboard. AJ has been doing an excellent job with the students, so we want to say a big thank you to her.

I’m looking forward to the new

students joining us for the upcoming school year. All of the students going into seventh grade are now a part of the youth program, and I look forward to working with you. We have a special trip planned for just the seventh and eighth graders to Eagle Eyrie in Lynchburg. You should have received a letter in the mail regarding this trip in October, so I hope you’ll prayerfully consider attending.

I’m also looking forward to some great Bible studies this summer. We are trying a new approach on Sunday nights. Not only will we have praise band practice but also

we will have two girls’ small groups—one for older high schoolers and one for the junior high/ninth graders. We have some awesome ladies leading these studies, which will be an excellent growth opportunity for your faith. I will lead a Bible study for the boys during this time, too, so we look forward to an awesome year.

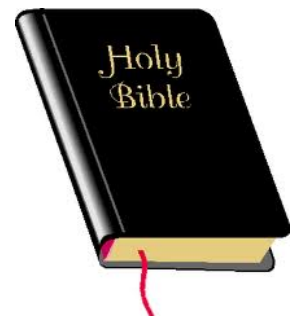
Matt Winters

Small Group Ministry

After completing a successful year in developing a small group for 20-30 year olds, I am looking for opportunities to expand our church’s small group ministry. A small group is a group of folks—adults, kids, or both—that meet in a home, or in another location, and talk about the role of faith in their lives. You may do a Bible study or may meet to discuss whatever is on your minds. The group is meant to be a source of encouragement and support through our

lives. I believe that there are others in the church that would like to be a part of a small group. I would like to connect those of you who are interested together. If you’d like to be in a small group, please let me know so we can put together loving communities of people.

Matt Winters



Church Picnic

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 12. We are having a church picnic. What better way to celebrate the beginning of the school year with a nice gathering of fellowship and fun. We’ll meet at Gloria Blankenship’s home. She has a twenty acre lake where you can fish, swim, or canoe. There is a large play area as well, so perhaps we can have a great game of kickball—men versus women, perhaps! The meal will start around 5 pm, but you are welcome to come earlier. People with the last names beginning with an A-L please bring a dessert, and last names beginning with M-Z please bring a beverage to share. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship hall, the vestibule, and the bulletin board. Sign-up by September 5 so that Gloria Blankenship can have an approximate headcount. Please make sure you plan to join us for the picnic.



How Awesome Is Our God!!

God Said let there be light and there was light

How awesome is our God! He lets the sun rise up every morning.

There is always a beautiful sun set in the evening

How awesome is our God!!

In the spring he dresses our yards with different color flowers

How Awesome is our God!!

The beautiful waterfalls and Mountains

God created them all!!

How awesome is our God!

The different color Birds that sing and the colorful butterflies

God created them too!

How awesome is our God

The beautiful rivers and oceans

God created them too!!

How Awesome is our God

By: Phoebe Spiers



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be available in October. Again this year, Graceland Baptist Church will participate in this program sponsored by the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

Jafar is a teenager living in Afghanistan. There is no running water—no beds in the orphanage that Jafar calls home. The orphanage is the site of a former trash dump. Last year, Jafar was quite excited when a Samaritan's Purse team distributed Operation Christmas Child Shoe box gifts at the orphanage in April. Instead of quickly opening his box, however, Jafar seemed to be enjoying the moment as he watched smiles

overtake the faces of child after child in the room. When he finally did raise the lid and look inside, Jafar pulled out school supplies, toiletries, and a special treat—candy. What encouraged Jafar's heart the most, though, was the message shared by one of the Operation Christmas Child team members. "You have a heavenly father who loves you. He promises to never leave or forsake you," the man said.

Over the past decade, more than 229,000 shoe boxes have been delivered to orphaned or impoverished Afghan children like Jafar who yearn to know that they have a Father in heaven who loves

them unconditionally.

Please make it a priority this year to fill one or more shoe boxes for children like Jafar all over the world. These gifts provide tangible ways to share God's love and break down barriers so that children will know, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18, NIV) More information will be coming in the next few weeks to help you participate in this most important ministry.

Pat Bartlam

Nelda and Earl Lodge

*"I can do all things
through Christ,
who strengthens
me."*

Philippians 4: 13

Newly Elected Officers— Starting September 2010-2011

WOM Director: Hazel Worsham

President: Fran Leehy

Vice President: Christine Dorton

Secretary/ Treasurer: Peggy Osborne

Historian: Charlotte Brockwell

Missions: Vivian Beaseley & Louise Spiers

Prayer Calendar: Evelyn Blankenship

Program Committee: Rebekah Hepler, Hazel Worsham, & Peggy Osborne

Lyracist: Phoebe Spiers





“The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”
Deuteronomy 31:8



Shut-In-List 8-25-2010

Mrs. Thelma Whitaker
Imperial Plaza Apt. A816
1717 Bellevue Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227
205-9018

Mr. Art Williams
2425 Moore Road
Powhatan, VA 23139

Mrs. Brenda Yeary
4513 Bookridge Road
Chesterfield, VA 23832
744-5551

Betty Stockner
4000 Hailey Crescent Dr.
Apt. 103
Midlothian, VA 23113
897-2823

Dorothy Younce
547 Clayville Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
598-4347

Roscoe & Dale Gunn
1847 Jeter Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
598-5323

Mrs. Susan Hardie
2540 Butterwood Drive
Powhatan, VA 23139
598-8466

Jimmy Lassiter
1201 Schroeder Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
598-2973

Ms. Jennifer Manaigian
2009 Moseley Road
Moseley, VA 23120
598-4417

Ms. Ruth Moore
P O Box 2556
Midlothian, VA 23113
598-3044 –Maxine
Home address: 1400 Dorset Rd

Bobby & Jeanette Preston
Lexington Court
1776 Cambridge Drive
Richmond, VA 23238
740-6174

Ms. Linda Rawls
5541 Wright Road
Amelia, VA 23002
561-1147

Ms. Virginia Samuels
2855 Rocky Oak Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
598-6048

Let's Remember them with a call, a card, or a visit.

September Birthdays

09/02	Michele	Rimli
09/04	Beverly	Wright
09/09	Wesley	Futrell
09/09	Selena	Turley
09/11	Allen	Perry
09/14	Chris	Andrews
09/15	Peggy	Osborne
09/16	Norma Jean	Broyles
09/18	Shawn Thomas	Cole
09/18	Garrett	Dorton
09/21	Robert	Yates
09/21	Robin Bland	Lipscomb
09/21	Daniel	LeMaster
09/22	Loren	Bales
09/22	Robert B	Perkins
09/23	Kyle	Snyder
09/24	George "Bryon"	Dingus
09/24	Crystal Campbell	McArten
09/25	Steve	Aldridge
09/27	Rev. Robert B	Beasley
09/27	Samuel Thomas	Lewis
09/28	Walt	Jones
09/28	Mary Koonce	Temple
09/30	Jasmine	Stephenson
09/30	Jessica Burks	Winters
09/30	Chiquita P	Barnard

October Birthdays

10/01	Michaela	Wright
10/02	Troy	Carter
10/02	Timothy	Turley
10/04	Pamela	Dorton
10/04	Mark	Lambert
10/05	Julie Ann Clark	Beasley
10/06	Donna	Haddon
10/07	Becky	Callaway
10/07	Christina	August
10/07	William (Bill)	Worsham
10/09	Christina	LeMaster
10/09	Matthew	Winters
10/09	Norma H	Jones
10/09	Christie	Glidewell
10/09	Cassandra	Elliott
10/10	Ed	Shamoon
10/10	Pat	Condrey
10/12	Malinda	Davis
10/12	Sarah	Lester
10/13	Mike	Ralls
10/13	Kelsey	Lambert
10/16	Carolyn	Cahoon
10/16	Kyle	Dingus
10/18	Chase	Dowdle
10/18	Suzanne	Huddleston
10/18	Becky	Wells
10/19	Matt	Haas
10/20	Patricia	Butcher
10/21	Rosco	Gunn
10/23	Heather	Davis
10/23	Kevin	Fore
10/25	Tammy	Schmied
10/25	Kathleen	Duty
10/25	Glenda	Davis
10/25	May	Cretsinger
10/26	Deborah	Sparks
10/26	Diane	Whitlock
10/27	Ina	Byers
10/28	Lilly	Aldridge
10/28	Hazel Williams	Worsham
10/29	Donna T	Snyder
10/29	Michael	Painter
10/31	Bob	Wray
10/31	Diane	Stanley



Graceland on Mission

The mighty hand of God is ever-present! Whether it is seen through the vision of the majestic mountains, heard in the raging water of a mountain stream, witnessed in the work and efforts of a diverse group of Spirit led believers on a mission team, or felt in the grateful embrace of a person in need who has experienced the love of God through helping hands—the mighty hand of God is present with us and through us! These thoughts and memories now fill the minds of the fifteen member mission team recently returning from Southwest Virginia.

As our tired bodies recover from the work and the heat, only positive thoughts drift through our minds. Thoughts of a region of Virginia that has

long felt like the unwanted and forgotten stepchild by the rest of the state, is now realizing that others care about them. Memories of an elderly woman with cancer living in a run-down doublewide who offered all that she could in appreciation for what was being done to improve her living conditions will forever be embedded in the mission team's heart and mind. Upon completing our work she exclaimed, "All I can give you is a hug," which was warmly received. Now she lives under a new roof with a new bathroom, new kitchen cabinets and improved electrical service. Witness the mighty hand of God!

The hand of God was also present in the team's efforts to

assist in building a church. A new ceiling now hangs in the kitchen. Sheetrock walls are now taped, spackled, and painted. Other work was done on the exterior of the front of the church. All of this is listed to express how the mighty hand of God moves through us when we heed His call.

Much more will be expressed soon during one of our services including the story of two people, Jan and Tony, sacrificing much and living on little to serve the next two years as missionaries heading up this mission effort. Likewise, we will not forget to tell you the story of "Swampy." More details to follow!

GRACELAND BAPTIST CHURCH



975 Dorset Road, Powhatan, VA 23139
(804) 598-3481
E-Mail gracelandbc@earthlink.net

We're on the Web!

www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org