



Pastor's Ponderings

What is the first word that comes to mind when you think of summer? With the way temperatures have been here of late that word may be "HOT!" But for many the word which comes to mind at the mention of summer is — "REST." Vacations with ocean breezes and crashing waves or the cool mountain air with the sound of a waterfall -- no matter where we journey to vacate, the heartfelt desire is for rest, relaxation from the normal demands, and a change of scenery.



It is not just rest from our jobs that we desire but rest from other demands, schedules, and responsibilities. Here at Graceland we are blessed with so many faithful volunteers committing to serving the Lord Jesus. Many who have visited or joined with us have commented on how much this church family does. As your pastor, I am proud of the faithful service of our members, the genuine love we share for one another, and the passion we have for reaching and ministering to the world.

In realizing all that we accomplish, this pastor wishes for every member this summer a true time of "REST." This thought has been on my mind and recently showed up in a devotional reading, which spoke to my heart:

"Rest in My presence when you need refreshment. Resting is not necessarily idleness, as people often perceive it. When you relax in My company, you are demonstrating trust in Me. Trust is a rich word, laden with meaning and direction for your life. I want you to lean on, trust, and be confident in Me. When you lean on Me for support, I delight in your trusting confidence.

*Many people turn away from Me when they are exhausted. They associate Me with duty and diligence, so they try to hide from My presence when they need a break from work. How this saddens Me! As I spoke through my prophet Isaiah: **In returning to Me and resting in Me you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.**" Isaiah 30:15*

Maybe it is these words from Isaiah which touch your heart more deeply: **"He gives strength to the weary and strengthens the powerless. Youths may faint and grow weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not grow faint."** Isaiah 40:29-31

My prayer for us all this summer is that we may find a time of rest and renewal so that we regain the strength to soar on "wings like eagles" into the most productive church year ever. May God receive all the honor and glory. Amen.

Shalom,

Ron



High School Graduates



Allen Bradbury
Son of Keith and Dawn Bradbury



Joshua Morris
Son of Jimmy and Cindy Morris



Larry Younce
Son of Larry Gray II and Bobbie Younce

College Graduates



Jessica Winters
Wife of Matt Winters



Chatham Dorton
Son of Michael and Christine Dorton

[Photos not available](#)

Linzy Andrews

Loren Bales

Darnusha Nard

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Young at Heart News

The "Young At Heart" have been busy. In May, approximately 45 of our members went to dinner and then attended "The Flying Squirrels" ball game at "The Diamond." Even if it did sprinkle some rain, we all enjoyed the fellowship, food, and the game.

In June, we went to Carolyn Watts' house for a cookout. Not only were hot dogs enjoyed, but all the other good food served. June is our last meeting for the summer.

We'll resume meeting in September. A trip to the 37th Annual Neptune Festival at Virginia Beach on September 25th is planned. We invite you to join us if you are "Young At Heart" (50 plus). Details on bulletin board or call Fran Leehy: 598-3124.

WOM NEWS

The WOM presented bibles to our recent high school graduates. Graceland had three girls and four boys. Some of the graduates are going to college and some to technical school and some already have jobs. We wish each one a lot of success in their chosen field.

We plan to work on a mission project at our July meeting in lieu of our regular program. We encourage all members to be present.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. We invite all women of the church to join us. Missions are a vital part of our growth.

Family Night Suppers for Summer

While our permanent kitchen crew takes a well-deserved summer vacation, we are being fed "Family Night" meals by Clinton and Wanda Dunlow with Brook and Blake. June was grilled chicken with lots of trimmings. Hope you will come and join us for July and August.

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

July

11: Calvary's Mercy Quartet 11:00 AM

August

2-6: VBS 9:00 AM to Noon each day

15: The Lighthouse Trio at 11:00 AM

15-21: SW VA mission trip (bring school supplies until August 8th)

See Bulletin for upcoming River Baptism



Vacation Bible School

August 2-6, 2010 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner! Lisa has a list up in the hallway for any spaces remaining for helpers, so if you'd love to help us with VBS, there is a place for you. I trust and hope that you are praying for the VBS on a daily basis. We have made prayer calendars to help guide your prayers, so if you have not received one yet, we encourage you to come and pick one up. All of the decorations and plans are coming together—all we need is the children to come. We encourage you to invite your neighbors to VBS so that all of the children will hear about the love of Christ. As a part of the VBS, we are scheduling a petting zoo to come to Graceland. This week should be an awesome experience!

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Youth News

We have begun an exciting summer with the inception of our Youth Praise Band. By the third practice, we've grown to eleven members of the Praise Band and look to have more students joining us in the near future. The Youth Praise Band has already sparked new life in the youth group, and the students are steadily working toward using their skills to glorify God in the coming months. Please pray for these students as they learn to lead others in worship and in relationship with God. One big expense that comes with the Praise Band is the equipment it takes to run the Praise Band. We have purchased drums and a new soundboard to run all of the sound together. With five singers, five guitars, a pianist, drums, and more, we needed a lot of inputs. The old system was too outdated to handle our Praise Band. We appreciate the donations many of you have made, and we would gratefully accept additional donations.

To celebrate the beginning of the summer, the sixth through eighth graders are taking a water skiing and fishing trip to Lake Gaston, where the Norwood family is donating their lake house and boat for the students' enjoyment. After this trip, these students will meet every Thursday for fun outings and Bible study. If you would like to be a part of this experience, please be sure to let Matt know.

Sunday School Class

If you are not involved in a Sunday School class yet, I invite you to read the descriptions of the Sunday School Classes so that you can find a great fit for you. These descriptions can be picked up in the Church Office or in the Fellowship Hall.

For the high school gals, Jessica will be leading another girls' small group on Sunday evenings. They will be studying the book of Colossians by having an interactive, fun evening. All high-school aged girls are welcome to come and be a part of this annual Bible study, which will begin on June 27.

PASTOR'S CLASS

Pastor's Class will be held during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m. Sundays) beginning May 16th. This class is for new members, or any member, as well as visitors, seeking to know more about Graceland Baptist Church, Baptists, goals and plans, church policy, and any other question you may have. The class will last for 6-8 weeks. Please contact Pastor Ron with your plans to attend, so he can prepare the needed materials.

Education News

Beginning Sunday night, June 27, and Tuesday afternoon, June 29, Graceland is offering the Bible Study, *Experiencing God*. This Bible Study focuses attention on where God is moving in your life and encourages you to join God in the work He is already doing. The fellowship and journey through this study with other believers is instrumental in developing a richer walk with God. We encourage you to come and be a part of the *Experiencing God* class. The classes will meet as follows: Sunday evenings beginning June 27 at 6:00 PM; Tuesday afternoons beginning June 29 at 1:00 PM.



G.R.O.W. Team Ministry

Our team is always blessed when we take bread out to many in our community and some of these folks come to church! It is even a larger blessing when those that comes, give their heart and lives to Christ! Then, even more blessings come when we see these folks serving the Lord and walking with the Lord! We have seen many in leadership positions and functions in our church!

This is the reason for this ministry: to reach them and bring them in for the purpose of sending them out. Our team is excited to see how God is working thru, and in, many of these folks. It is beyond exciting! Amen!

You can and will make an eternal difference in people's lives that will impact you, then the community, and our church! Come join us any Sunday and experience where God is moving and working.

Greg

House Church Planter

"Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ." Acts 5:42

Greg LeMaster is now a House Church planter for the Middle District Baptist Association.

House Churches reach people that do not wish to attend a regular church. They are informal, meeting in homes or other buildings away from a formal setting.

You are invited and asked to pray for Greg as he embarks on this journey. Pray that God will lead in every aspect of development of this new ministry.

Southwest Virginia Mission Trip

Graceland is planning its second annual mission trip. After working in southern Louisiana last February, we are sending a team to Southwest Virginia from Sunday, August 15 to Saturday, August 21. The cost of the trip will be no more than \$200 per person with a team construction material goal set at \$1,100. Donations will be collected for the construction material costs associated with our work. According to the missionaries in Southwest Virginia, they anticipate that our team will be painting and doing minor repairs to a church and/or completing a rehab project in a family's home. Some of the work is hard to plan at this stage because several other mission teams are going ahead of us and will be completing some of these same tasks. We ask that you continue to pray for this trip, and if you feel God is calling you to participate in this trip, you are most welcome to go. A sign up sheet is located on Matt's office door.

Matt and Bruce



Believers

Accepting Christ who are
Pro-life.

Teaching others of the
I AM and through
Salvation will spend eternity with
The Heavenly Father

Come as you are to the
Hearth of worship
Unchanging is the One who
Reigns on high. **I**
Could sing of your love forever.
In the name of the Father Son, and
Holy Spirit. Amen

Patricia Lipscomb



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Birthday Blessings and Wishes!

7/1	Greg	LeMaster
7/2	Elaina	Elliott
7/3	Keith	Bradbury
7/4	Patsy Williams	Sadler
7/5	Dale	Martin
7/5	Justin	Martin
7/5	John	Morison
7/6	Taylor	Wilkinson
7/6	Ron	Carter
7/7	Robin	Michael
7/7	Donna Spoor	Edwards
7/9	Jacob	Aldridge
7/10	Herbert	Morton
7/10	Bud	Smith
7/12	Joey	Gordon
7/13	Judy Painter	Lipscomb
7/13	Ron	Wyatt
7/14	April	Dowdle
7/16	Betty Duncan	Crouch
7/16	Denise	Haas
7/17	Lucille (Lou)	Gregory
7/17	William	Dingus
7/18	Max	Byers
7/18	Robert	Church
7/19	Harold	Mann
7/19	Bobbie	Younce
7/21	Patricia	Tomlin
7/22	Dowe	Watson
7/22	Allen	Anderson
7/22	Spencer	Dowdle
7/22	Heather	Ritz
7/24	Ronald (Bobby)	Hathaway
7/24	Georgia M.	George
7/24	Raymond	Hooper
7/24	Timothy	Johnson
7/25	Wendy	McClellan
7/26	Anthony L.	Berger
7/26	Angel	Lowe
7/27	Kim Grant	Meyerhoffer
7/27	James E.	Barden, Sr.
7/30	Joyce Payne	Barden
7/31	Jennifer L.	Aldridge

JULY

8/1	Samantha	Schmied
8/2	Mandi	Glidewell
8/2	James	Hawkins
8/3	Sarah	Hash
8/5	Kathy	Snyder
8/5	Mike	Cobb
8/6	Barbara	Brizendine
8/7	Steve	Norwood
8/8	Evelyn	Blanton
8/8	Katie	Glidewell
8/9	Janet	Taylor
8/10	Larry Gray	Younce, II
8/10	Amanda	Rawls
8/10	Rachel	Bales
8/11	Kathy	Gusti
8/12	William (Bill)	Rush
8/13	Julie	Burleigh
8/14	Patricia	Oliver
8/14	Christopher	Hooper
8/17	Jessica	Patterson
8/20	Joyce	Butler
8/21	Todd	Bradbury
8/21	Madison	Tilghman
8/23	Renee	Breeden
8/25	Richard	Edelen
8/27	Robert	Wright
8/27	Rawdin B.	Lipscomb
8/28	Kenneth	Hardie
8/29	Wayne	Duty
8/29	Luke	Wyatt
8/30	Kelli	Bailey
8/30	Cornelia Law	Andrews
8/30	Kirsha Renee	Purkey
8/30	Louis	Blanton

AUGUST



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Care Team

The Care team is happy to send its greetings and thank everyone for their patience while we were regrouping. We have 40 members signed up to at least one of four of the following care groups: Meal, Card, Call and Visit. We have been actively fixing meals, sending cards, making calls and visits to our fellow church members who have experienced an illness, lost a loved one or some other type of unfortunate event.

As part of our "regrouping," we have documented our process for handling events as they arise. The team is also finalizing a new process for handling our shut-in members. That process will be available over the next few weeks. The team is committed to serving our shut-in members; therefore we are actively researching services (other than meals, cards, call and visits) to be offered in the future.

Please remember we are always looking to sign new members, so please let me know if you are interested in serving. The more members we have, the more evenly we can distribute the work. And while it is work, it is very rewarding work. We are also ready to answer any questions, so please don't hesitate to ask. Please let us know if there is ever a time when you need us or if you know of someone that may need our care.

Wendy Norwood

Summer Help – Our Church Library

It's time to do some summer reading. Why not schedule a little down time for yourself by reading a good book?

If you enjoy modern fiction, I strongly recommend Karen Kingsbury. The library contains more than 20 of her books, including her newest, which will be out in August. For a slightly earlier time period, there are 29 books by Janette Oak, another enjoyable inspirational author.

Interested in more in-depth "**Bible study?**" There are books specifically dedicated to the study of various books of the Bible.

The largest selection is the section on "**Christian Life.**" Here you will find a variety of topics by such well-known authors as Billy Graham, Max Lucado, Joyce Meyer and many others.

For your convenience, the library is open whenever the church is open and with the new chair lift, it is more accessible for those who have trouble climbing stairs. There is a clipboard with a sign out sheet for you to sign out your selection. Feel free to keep the books as long as you need but remember to return them when finished as others may be waiting to read them. Look for recommended reading selections in the Fellowship Hall, as well as the catalog of all the library books. If you need any assistance, feel free to contact me.

Patricia Butcher



Graceland Baptist Church

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

<http://www.gracelandbaptistchurch.org/>

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