



Pastor's Ponderings



The hymnist Daniel Whittle wrote these inspiring words in the late 1800's: "There shall be showers of blessing: Oh, that today they might fall..." All around us every day the blessings of God are poured down upon us. The ability to rise in the morning, a newborn child, love in a family, a sunrise or sunset, a cooling breeze on a hot summer day, salvation, prosperity, challenging life circumstances to build character, and on and on the list goes. All we need is the eyes and heart to recognize the blessings of God all around us.

This church year we have experienced blessings: 35 new church members this year, 25 baptisms this year already, a dozen more decisions for Christ made at VBS, over 50 decisions made through various mission activities and camps, the financial resources to meet budget in a serious recession, reaching 90 in the early service attendance, a high attendance at Easter services numbering near 450, the wonderful sharing of love through the Care Team and Men's Group as well as other groups and individuals, starting an outreach to the Hispanic community, and Children's Worship Service each Sunday morning.

"There shall be showers of blessing: Precious reviving again." The beautiful music from groups and individuals through this summer has added tremendously to our revival fervor. Groups like 4 The Lord and The Dixie Melody Boys, as well as individuals like Jamie Tolley have rekindled our passion for Christ. Furthermore, the fires of revival are spreading with (to date) 78 people committed to daily praying for revival and 63 people pledging to attend nightly. God is truly preparing us for an outpouring of His Spirit in revival.

"There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above." God is prepared to renew our spirits. Many have labored long and hard this year and these individuals are worthy of our heartfelt gratitude. They will also be renewed because God is true to His promises: **"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength..."** (Isaiah 40:31)."

"There shall be showers of blessing: Send them upon us, O Lord." The blessings of God are not over by any means. As a matter of fact, the blessings that have been ours this year are a mere drizzle in comparison to the downpour which God is preparing to send His people. Are we ready for that deluge? Do we long for it? Send them upon us, O Lord we pray. Make your people ready to receive your blessings and may you be glorified through your people here at Graceland as we wait upon your blessing in this new church year!

Maybe you have wondered where Daniel Whittle received his Biblical inspiration for this hymn. It is found in Ezekiel 34:26: **"I will bless them and the places surrounding my hill. I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing."**

God's Blessings,

Ron



Education

On Tuesdays from August 11 until September 25, Matt is offering a class on different spiritual disciplines. The idea of the class is that the participants will develop a fuller spiritual life with Christ by practicing different spiritual disciplines. If anyone is interested in participating, come on out. The class meets each Tuesday from 12 to 1:15 pm. You do not have to attend weekly, since each class stands alone. Also, we will offer this class in the evenings either in the fall or spring. Some interest has arisen from some in the congregation for another class on *Experiencing God*. I am happy to offer this class if there is enough interest. Look for a sign-up sheet for *Experiencing God* in the coming weeks.

Matt

Outdoor Baptism

On August 9, 2009, 1 man, and 11 children were baptized by Dr. Ron Wyatt at an outdoor ceremony held at Fine Creek.

Steve Norwood (Wendy – wife)
Will Dingus
Kyle Dingus
Brenna Andrews
Gatlin Snyder
Abbie Preston
Tommy Preston
Mack McMillian
Michelle Innes
Carly Allen
Carter Allen
Brady Woodle

**Let's make our new family members
welcome!**



Young At Heart

A trip to Riverside Dinner Theatre is planned for September 9th. Travel, dinner, a play, and a stop at the Russell Stover Candy Store are included. Please contact Fran Leehy 598-3124, if you would like to join us on this outing.

We invite all "Young at Heart" ladies and gentlemen to come and have fun and fellowship at our monthly meetings held the third Tuesday each month at 7:00pm.

Mexico Mission Trip

Greg LeMaster is planning another Mexico Mission Trip to Matamoros, Mexico during Spring Break 2010. The trip will take place between Thursdays, April 1, 2010 and April 8, 2010. The cost will be approximately \$850 per person, with future fundraising events planned to help with expenses. Anyone interested is invited to come, but we will need to order plane tickets near the beginning of August. Pray about how you can be



GROW

The GROW Team is visiting "our visitors" and new families that have moved to the area. We have seen evidence of interest and additions to our fellowship at Graceland. For this we praise God. We are now visiting the families of children that attended VBS, if they did not have a church home. We pray that they might come to know Christ and become our brothers and sisters.

Greg



WOM News

The WOM met August 11th. We had a special guest, "Priscilla," wife of Aquila. She came with a plea for workers to carry on the work of Jesus. Her plea was very appealing and the WOM is giving careful prayer and consideration to this request.

We voted to again sponsor hospitality bags for State Fair workers. This program is a project of CVBM. The bags include all types of toiletries. They must be ready by September 11th.

School Supplies will again be collected. The GA's have made a beautiful box and poster for the "Christmas in August" project. If you noticed an ornament on your classroom door, they were made by the GA's. **Amy Berger** is the new GA leader.

We are also collecting Christmas cards for the women's prison ministry. They made be turned in the office.

The annual Women's Get-Away will be held November 6-7 or 7-8 at the Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. All ladies are invited to attend. Details may be found at <http://www.wmu-va.org/> (click on Get Away).

EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

September

2nd 6:00 p.m.: Supper

7:00 p.m.: Business Meeting

13th 11:00 a.m.: Commission Service for all church workers and teachers

28th Conference – Bon Air Baptist Church. See information at church. It is a training session for all church members. Dinner at 5:45 p.m. @ \$7.00 per meal. To register, call 598-6350, or on-line at www.cvbm.org (click online registration)

October

4th Homecoming - We encourage members to bring a covered dish and a dessert (enough to feed your family plus one other family).

28th 6:00 p.m.: Fall Social

Nov. 7th We look forward to our FALL FESTIVAL, which is held each year on the 1st Saturday in November

Children's Worship

Children's Worship seems to be going very well. The kids and adults all feel like the worship time lifts their hearts and souls to God. Thank you to everyone for your support. Also know that this program is a good outreach to families with young children and who want their young children to be plugged into a program designed for them at the church.

Matt



Latino Ministry

Three months into our Latino outreach we are beginning to harvest some fruit. God is moving in the Latino community, and we are pleased to be a part of it. We enjoyed the visit and ministry of two missionaries, Chacho and Marc, from Matamoros Mexico. While here, Chacho and Marc helped increase our connections and work with the Latinos. Most notably, a new believer, José, came to know Christ as his savior. Also, Chacho and Marc helped us set up a weekly Bible study for the Latino workers from Chesterfield Berry Farm. We have provided them with Bibles, some of whom have never owned or read the Bible for themselves. Pastor Louis Orsatti, the pastor of our Latino congregation, is helping us lead the Bible Study for these Latinos at the Chesterfield Berry Farm. The Bible study convenes at the Berry Farm on Tuesday nights at 8:00 p.m. We welcome anyone who would like to be a part of this ministry. The Latinos enjoy meeting friendly faces and would welcome any of you to join us. We are much indebted to Pastor Orsatti, Chacho, and Marc for their support of this ministry. We also want to thank each of you for your support. Our next Latino worship services will be August 29 and September 19.

Dios le bendiga (God bless you),

Matt

Youth News

Nineteen youth and five adults enjoyed the summer camp experience at Passport in Wingate, NC in early July. Each of the youth and adults experienced God at the camp, for which is more than anyone can hope. I believe the youth program is as strong as it has ever been in the previous six years and I am looking forward

to the coming school year and the rising seventh grade class. Twelve of the ladies from the youth group have been participating in a small group discussing the book, *The Five Love Languages*. The ladies have really enjoyed the small group and look forward to participating in another small group in the fall. I'm excited about two retreats this fall. The first is the Junior High retreat at Eagle Eyrie on October 9-11. This retreat will be with other students from across the state. The Senior High youth will have their own retreat at James Madison University on November 13-15. I hope and trust the upcoming school year will be one of the best. All students are invited to participate with us. We meet on Sunday evenings from 6-7:30. We will have a parent/student meeting on Sunday September 13, 2009, at 6:00, to discuss the events and plans for the upcoming year.

Matt

Baptist Men's Group

We have been especially busy this month, cutting grass, cutting down trees, and hauling logs.

We built and installed a ramp for an elderly lady to enable her to get her scooter from the house to the porch.

We worked on weeds in the playground and repaired some of the equipment. We need input from the people who use the playground to notify us if they see any problems.

Our next scheduled meeting is September 12th at 8:00 a.m.

We are looking for a new leader for our Men's Group. Hope you will think and pray about this.

Earl Lodge



Dixie Melody Boys Concert

The Dixie Melody Boys delighted one and all with their gospel music on July 19th at the 11:00 a.m. service. This quartet, hailing from North Carolina, was brought to us through the auspices of Carol's Concert.



Web: <http://www.dixiemelodyboys.com>

Notes from the August Business Meeting

Graceland Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting August 5, 2009.

Committee Reports

Reports were given by the following committees: Community Missions', WMU, Care Team, Men's Group, Education, Building and Grounds, Nominating Committee, and Youth

Youth -- Matt Winters stated that 19 youth and 5 adults attended "Passport" at Wingate University. Donations are still being accepted to cover the cost of the trip. There is a budget deficit of approximately \$3,000 for this trip.

Finance Committee will present the 2010 budget at the September meeting. Anyone needing funds included in next year's budget should submit a request for funds to the Finance Committee.

LET'S ALL LEARN SOME "A B C'S" FROM THE BIBLE

- A. A time to morn and a time to dance. Eccl 3:4
- B. Be still and know that I am God. Ps. 46:10
- C. Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Ps 51:10
- D. Do not worry about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Matt 6:34
- E. Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Luke 11:10
- F. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1
- G. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have but everlasting life. John 3:16
- H. Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away. Luke 21:33
- I. I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?" Isaiah 6:8
- J. Judge not, that ye be not judged. Matthew 7:1.
- K. Know that all things work together for good to those who love the God. Romans 8:28
- L. Let the peace of God rule in your hearts. Col 3:15
- M. My strength is made perfect in weakness. II Cor 12:9
- N. Neglect not the gift that is in you. I Tim4:14
- O. One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind I reach forward to those things which are ahead. Phil 3:13
- P. Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:17
- Q. Quench not the Spirit. I Thessalonians 5:19
- R. Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Exodus 20:8
- S. Study to show thyself approved unto God.. II Tim 2:15
- T. There are three things that remain – faith, hope, and love and the greatest of these is love. I Cor 13:13
- U. Uphold my steps in Your paths, O Lord. Ps 17:5
- V. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. Matt 25:45
- W. When God gives quietness, who then can make trouble? Job 34:29
- X. Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 18:3
- Y. Your word is a lamp to my feet. Ps 119:105
- Z. Never be lacking in Zeal. Romans 12:11



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Once again this year, Graceland Baptist Church will participate in the Operation Christmas Child program. For those of you who have not participated

before, this is a program started by and sponsored by Franklin Graham (Billy Graham's son) who is President of Samaritan's Purse.

Millions of boys and girls around the globe live in more than difficult circumstances and are in desperate need of hope. You have heard from Kathy and Ed Sprowls firsthand about the plight of the children in Nicaragua who literally live and exist in "the dump." Pat and Bruce Bartlam have been corresponding for several years with a family in Zimbabwe who are in dire circumstances. These children long to know that they are loved.

Operation Christmas Child is a way you can make a difference! This program shares the Good News of God's love with hurting children through the simplest of gifts – shoe boxes! Filled with school supplies, toys, and personal items that are packed by caring people, these boxes help introduce children to Jesus Christ. In past years, Graceland has packed over 200 boxes to send to these children around the world.

More information will be provided in the coming months. Please be praying about your participation. Our prayer is that every member of Graceland will fill a shoe box!

Pat and Bruce Bartlam
Nelda and Earl Lodge

CARE Team News

Nelda Lodge and Pat Bartlam have decided not to co-chair the Care Team for the coming year. We are asking that some of you prayerfully consider stepping up and either chairing or co-chairing this meaningful group for the next year.

You might ask, "What is the Care Team?" The Care Team was formed several years ago to meet the growing needs of the members of Graceland Baptist Church: to send cards, visit the sick and bereaved, deliver meals to those in need, etc.

The Team is divided into four areas: visits, meals, cards and calls. There is a Team Leader for each of these four divisions with anywhere from ten to twenty people under each of these divisions. This year, the teams were further divided into months: several people within the team were assigned one or two months a year to send cards, deliver meals, etc. Hopefully, this plan spread the responsibility more evenly among the team members.

Members on the Care Team agree that they have received great blessings from serving. We hope that as the next year approaches, many of you will consider serving on this most important committee of our church, and that several of you will agree to serve as chair!

Pat and Nelda



Graceland Baptist Church

We're on the Web! Visit us at:

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

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Graceland Baptist News



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Birthday Blessings and Wishes!

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

SEPTEMBER



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

OCTOBER



Thoughts on VBS from Tricia Lipscomb

Being a blessed member of Graceland Baptist Church, I had the opportunity to observe God's work through a ministry called Vacation Bible School. From August 3-7, we were on the "Boomerang Express" designed to teach kids the **A B C's** of becoming a Christian. **A**dmit to God you are a sinner. **B**elieve Jesus died for your sins. **C**onfess him as your Savior and Lord. Through the many workers at our church, like Pastor Ron, who led recreation; Matt Winters, who showed kids the movements to songs; Daryshad Nard, who moved with the spirit by allowing the kids to pick their own songs; and Christine Dorton, who guided kids to each class by acting like a train. A lot of kids came to know Jesus Christ.

"Thank you" to Lisa Seal, our VBS Director, and to everybody that helped out for this wonderful ministry. I look forward to seeing everybody next year on "Saddle Ridge Ranch".

Tricia Lipscomb

Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success this year!

The Boomerang Express made a stop at Graceland bringing with it a great time for all!! VBS was a huge success this year with an average attendance of 74 adventurers for the week of August 3-7. We had the great pleasure of having two missionaries, Mark and Chacho, with us for the week. Adventurers had a great time with Bible study, crafts, music, snacks and recreation. Thursday night was family night and the learners shared with us the songs that they had learned throughout the week. There was also a slide show presented with pictures taken by Neil Leehy. Friday morning, Ron and the

missionaries spoke with the students about the ABCs of becoming a Christian and we had 10 professions of faith!! Hallelujah!! Thanks to the almost 80 volunteers that made the week possible. Special thanks for the opportunity to serve and I look forward to the Saddle Ridge Ranch in 2010!! Remember, mates, it all comes back to Jesus!!

Lisa Seal

Vacation Bible School was great this year. Seeing 85-90 children come into the church and learn about God was awesome. At least twelve to eighteen decisions were made for Christ. Many of these children are not connected to a church at this time, so we are planning on doing outreach to these children and families. We would love your support. Please join us in our contacts to these families and/or please pray for our contacts with them. Pray that God will continue to open doors to them so they can all know Him. Thank you to Lisa Seal for her hard work in organizing VBS, thank you to all of the teachers to, guides of, and workers with, the children, and thank you to all of the kitchen and support staff that made the event successful. This VBS was the biggest in the past several years, and, hopefully, will be smaller than next year's. Let's start preparing now for VBS 2010.

Matt

