

Memorial Messenger



August 2012

Latest News



The **Mission & Evangelism Committee** has completed its summer project of serving snacks for eighty children at the Center for Children and Families. This was a six-week project and our thanks go out to the congregation and others who helped us in this venture. Our next meeting is August 14 at 6:00 P.M. We will be preparing for another mission. — Carolyn Montgomery, chairman.

You are invited to contribute to a **wedding gift** for Ross and Shannon Forsyth, who were married June 9, 2012. Please bring your donation to the church office by Friday, August 10. We will give them a Lowe's gift card to help them with their new house. There is also a card to sign in the office.

Coming Soon - 23rd Annual Cole Invitational

The annual outing to Lake Eufaula is August 11-12, 2012.

Come over on Saturday for fun & fellowship on the water. The Cole family will provide the hamburgers & hotdogs for the evening meal. They ask those coming to bring a side dish to go with the burgers & dogs. After dinner there will be a Vespers service.

If you haven't yet signed up, please do so at the bulletin board by the office so that the Coles will know how many are planning on coming and whether any are planning on staying over Saturday night to enjoy Sunday at the lake.

Maps are posted along with the sign-up sheet.

Mike & Joan Cole (329-4325)

Deacons and Session will have a retreat at the church on Saturday, August 18th, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Please let Rev. Tracy know if you cannot be there.

In Memoriam—Condolences to the family of Helen Blackstone, who died June 27, 2012. Services were held in Purcell and at our Columbarium on June 29.



Dear Friends,

We are still in the midst of summer, in spite of “Back to School” announcements and even the occasional Christmas decoration for sale (really!). The summer has been a full one for me.

Being a commissioner to General Assembly was an honor and a responsibility. I will be speaking to the Adult Sunday School class about my experience on August 26th; all are welcome to attend. If you have particular questions or concerns, let’s sit down and discuss them!

We now have a permanent Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary. Terry Cast has agreed to take the position and is serving admirably. Please be patient with us as we both continue to make our way in the workings of the church office!

I have enjoyed leading the Summer Study series on Jesus’ Parables. It has been a time of good discussion every week. Watch for another evening study to begin in September.

If you haven’t seen the pictures from our wonderful week of Vacation Bible School, stop by the bulletin board on the south end of the east hall. It was a great week, and it couldn’t have happened without the leadership of Jessica Farris and her many, many volunteers. Thank you all!

At the June meeting of session, your ruling elders approved the recommendation of the Christian Education Task Force. First is a desire and hope to hire a half-time Christian Educator, plus college interns to work with the youth. If you know of a non-church member who might be interested, please have them contact me. Second, our Wednesday night routine will be changing. The plan is to carry on with the after-school program, and adapt it to better suit our needs. There will no longer be weekly Wednesday dinners.

One of the difficult things about loving a church family is when we have to say goodbye. We have several families moving away this summer, and we wish them God’s richest blessings as they go. As I reflect on this change, which will be evident since we are losing several of our children and youth, I have two competing thoughts. My human—and often pessimistic—side sees this as a time for worry and cause for alarm. “What are we ever going to do without them?” could be our cry. But my faith in God reminds me that there are great things in store for us. I truly believe we are on the precipice of a new chapter, and I’m looking forward to the journey ahead.

I don’t know what God has in store for us. I do know that God wants us to follow God’s call, and that this may be the way to hear what is being said. As basic as it may be, I hope you will join me in praying for the future of Memorial Presbyterian Church. Pray that we follow where God is leading, and that our congregation may be a blessing to those we encounter.

Grace and peace,
Tracy

Vacation Bible School

Much thanks to all who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School a success! Our theme this year was Living Waters and every child had an opportunity to better understand the important role water plays in our lives as Christians. Each night 12-15 youth heard stories, made crafts, had outdoor activities and sang songs. It is such a blessing to share in the lives of



Memorial youth and VBS was the perfect opportunity for us to come together in fellowship. I want to acknowledge Harry Wright and Angie Martin for their dynamic portrayals, Dave Iske for his wonderful story telling, Tamara Iske for always helping with everything, Kerri Bales for leading our recreation, Jona Thiessen, Donna Wright and Charlotte Lovett for sharing their crafty talents, Pastor Tracy for her camera skills and capable helping hands, Ann Forsyth for checking us in, and last but not least our wonderful youth leaders Elvira, Chelsea, Riley, Gabe, Kenny, and Mario who helped corral the kids all week. We are blessed as a congregation to have such wonderful children, and I am so grateful to share in their lives. — Jessica Farris



Book of the Month

This month's featured book is *The Family - the Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power*, by Jeff Sharlet. Published in 2008, the book is a culmination of his work as a visiting research scholar at New York University's Center for Religion and Media.

It is the story of a group of people who insist they are just a group of friends, yet they funnel millions of dollars through tax-free corporations. They claim to disdain politics, but Members of Congress of both parties describe them as the most influential religious organization in Washington. They say they are not Christians, but simply believers. Their stated goal is "Jesus plus nothing." Their method is backroom diplomacy.

The Family is the story of how their faith — part free-market fundamentalism; part imperial ambition — has come to be interwoven with the affairs of nations around the world.

—Harry Wright

Note: Memorial Presbyterian Church has had a library for some time, but it generally has been underutilized. To encourage members and friends to make greater use of our church library, we are offering a new feature—a book of the month review. The book highlighted will be on display in the library, and available for borrowing.



"A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken."

—James Dent

To Tell the Truth

To prepare for a sermon on honesty, a pastor asked church members to read Joshua 25. The next week, she asked, "How many of you read it?" Half the hands in the church went up.

"Great," the pastor said. "You're the ones I want to talk to ... because Joshua has only 24 chapters." — From *The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart*, Charles Swindoll

"Imperfection is the prerequisite for grace. Light only gets in through the cracks."

—Philip Yancey

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year — it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul."

—Unknown

Dwight Mission Capital Campaign Update

Happy Summer!

The Dwight Mission Capital Campaign has ended its first year of the matching grant from the Walton Family Foundation. The total raised from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 is \$270,362.23. We had an extra \$45,408.92 which was collected before July 1, 2011. The total as of June 30, 2012 we have for restoration of the Heritage Center is \$315,771.15. After receiving the first year's portion of the Walton grant we will have \$586,133.38 for the restoration project. We have been receiving checks after July 1 of this year which will go towards the second \$500,000 of the Walton Family Foundation grant.

Many good things have been happening at Dwight Mission, including work groups doing roofing and repairs, dorm updating and of course, lots of campers! You are always welcome to visit, just call ahead to the camp office, 918-775-2018, to let them know you're coming.

Please continue to pray for progress in this campaign. The foundation boards we have contacted need to see many donors from our Presbyterian churches to show that we have the backing of our members. If you would like to talk to someone about contributing a significant amount of money and the naming opportunities for the Heritage Center, please call Johnna Thurston 918-697-5505.

And also please consider joining the campaign committee; we'd love to have you on board!

Many thanks to all of you who have given funds to this campaign; I am truly grateful for all of you and your churches for supporting this project. I have tried my best to send thank you cards to everyone; if you did not receive a card, please know that I have personally prayed a "thank you" for your contribution when it was received.



These campers and others are who we are raising this money for, to ensure that Dwight Mission can continue its service to bless God's people.

God bless you all; thank you for your faithful service to Dwight Mission.

Johnna Thurston
Chair, Capital Campaign

Known Joys and Concerns

Those who seek healing

Jim Eckel has cancer and emphysema.

Bob Goodner's legs continue to heal.

Vince Leseney is undergoing treatment for melanoma.

Jayelle Martin continues to recover from surgery.

Rhonda Beard (Trudy & Mike's daughter-in-law) has been having chemotherapy.

Scottlyn Rose Dewees, one-year-old daughter of Tamara Iske's massage therapist Andrew, will have heart surgery on August 2.

Phyllis Johnston, mother of Sandy Johnston, is experiencing pain of unknown origin.

Winnie McEndree (Molly Rambur's grandmother), whose hip surgery went well.

Kate Yost (niece of the Iske's) is doing better.

Those who grieve

Family of Helen Blackstone

Carolyn Montgomery

Those who are homebound

Ann Killins



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/1	Matthew Stensrud
08/2	Lee Kelley
08/3	Ben Rodriguez
08/5	Esebe Masango
08/6	Diana Johnson Baldwin Annoh Alex Pennington
08/8	Harold Baade
08/11	Faith Ngonge Sandy Johnston
08/13	Michael Pennington
08/18	Lizet Annoh
08/19	Larry Fisher
08/20	Bob Goodner
08/21	Joan Thrailkill
08/22	Tamara Iske
08/24	Karen Upton Tanner Bunce
08/25	John Beck
08/28	Gina Ngonge
08/29	Angie Martin
08/31	Kirk Forthman Holly Van Auken



AUGUST 2012 WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

08/6	Clint & Kerri Autry
08/11	Jimmy & Molly Rambur
08/14	Gary & Joan Thrailkill
08/26	Charles & Dana Terrell
08/29	Charles & Jan Johnson
08/31	Bill & Betty Silman

Back to school

Early one morning, a mother woke her son, who whined about having to go to school.

"Give me two reasons why you don't want to go," she said.

"Well," he complained, "the kids don't like me, and neither do the teachers!"

"Nonsense," she said. "Come get ready."

"Give me two reasons why I *should* go," the son protested.

"Well, for one, you're 52," she said. "For another, you're the principal!"

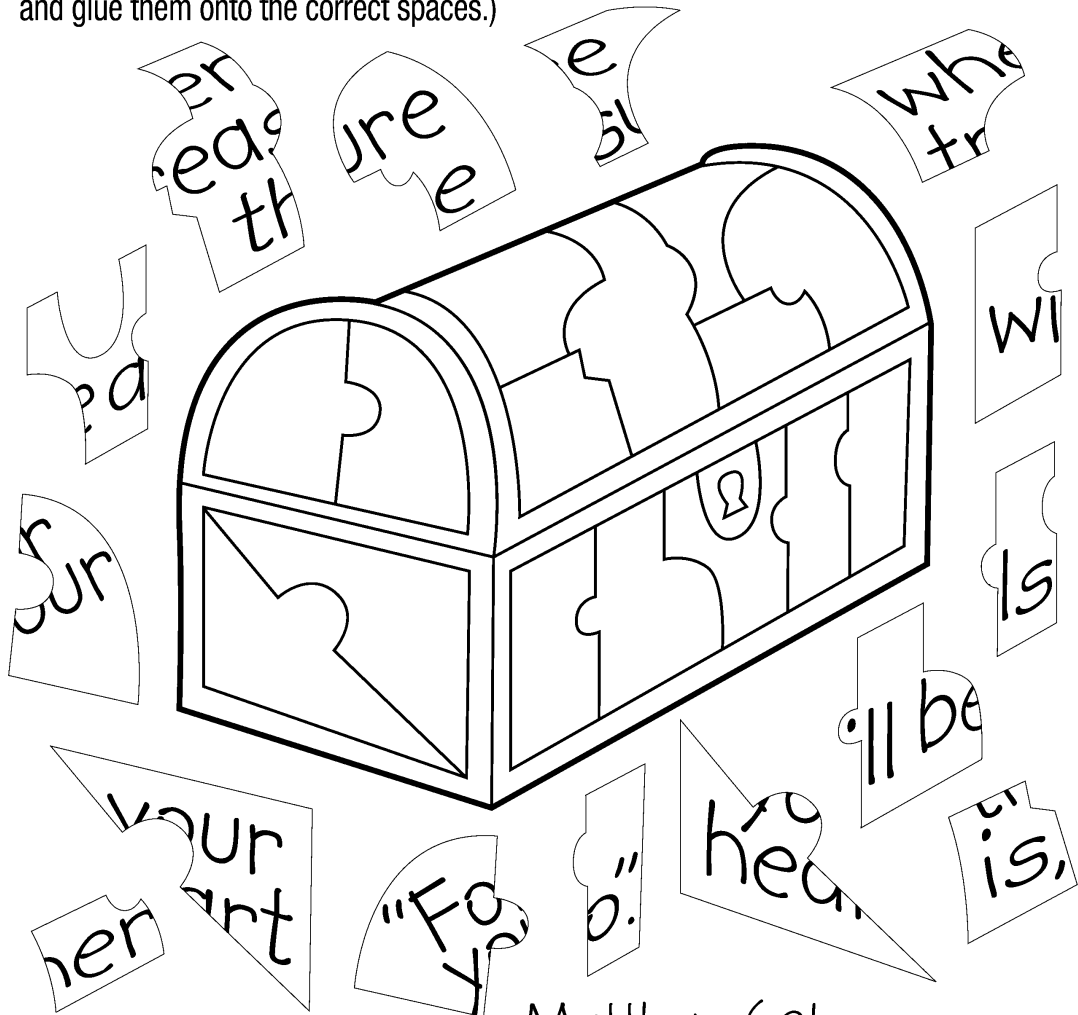


PUZZLE

TRUE TREASURE

The Bible speaks often of “treasure” — where we can find it, who gives it and who can have it.

Directions: Match the puzzle pieces to the correct shape. Then write the letters to learn what Matthew 6:21 (NIV) says about treasure. (Younger children can cut out the shapes and glue them onto the correct spaces.)



Matthew 6:21, NIV

Answer: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21, NIV)

Memorial Presbyterian Church

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 LWV 11:15— 1:30 Library Chancel Choir 6:30 P.M.	2 Serve at FFF 10:00 A.M.	3 Boys Scouts 6:00 P.M.	4 Boy Scouts fundraiser
5 Celebration of the Lord's Supper 10:55 A.M.	6 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	7	8	9 Christian Edu- cation meeting 6:30 P.M. Building & Grounds meeting 7:00 P.M.	10	11 23rd Cole Invitational at Lake Eufaula
12	13 Worship & Music meeting 7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	14 Mission & Evangelism meeting 6:00 P.M.	15	16	17	18 Officer Retreat 9:00 A.M. —1 :00 P.M.
19 Deacons 12:00 P.M. Stewardship 5:30 P.M.	20 Classes begin at OU Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	21 Session 7:00 P.M.	22 First Day of School (NPS) 	23 September Messenger Articles Due	24	25
26	27 Boy Scouts 7:00 P.M.	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY REGULAR SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:30 A.M.
Fellowship and Refreshments	10:30 A.M.
Worship Service	10:55 A.M.