

CLARKTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 20, No. 6

August 2015

From the Pastor

*I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.*
Joel 2:28-29

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all—

As you hopefully know, our session is making an effort over these summer months to visit with every member of the congregation, so that we can hear your hopes, concerns, and dreams for Clarkton Presbyterian Church. I expected that these conversations would end up focusing mainly on the socio-political positions the PC(USA) has adopted over the last several years, so I have been pleasantly surprised that these have not come up at all in the visits I've sat in on, replaced by more intimate concerns. Specifically, the conversations I've been privy to have all addressed the question of how people of different generations interact and relate to one another (or don't) in the church.

This is a question that has been rattling around in my head anyway. I've noticed over the last couple of years that many of the blogs, magazines, books, and journals that I read obsess over two groups of people: young families and "Millennials" (people in their 20s and 30s, who reached young adulthood around the year 2000). These groups are held up as holy grails for all types of ministry settings. If we can just get them in our churches, the thinking goes, we'll have attained the goal and we'll have it made.

And of course we want our churches to be welcoming for families and young people. Of course we should value and find ways to use the gifts and energy of young adults. But shouldn't we be welcoming for *everyone*? Shouldn't we be excited about the gifts of people young and old and everywhere in between? Something feels wrong to me about idolizing particular groups of people in the church and elevating them above others. Especially when God's revelation to the prophet Joel (which is invoked again at the creation of

the Church in Acts 2) involves the gift of the Holy Spirit being poured out on all people, young and old; their dreams and visions complementing and building on one another to give God's people a fuller vision of the Kingdom.

In the last two weeks, I have attended the Montreat Youth Conference with our high school students and officiated the funeral of our oldest member. These diverse experiences have reminded me once again of what we all have to offer one another and this community of faith.

Whenever I spend time with our youth, I'm delighted and surprised by their curiosity and insight. They're not afraid to ask hard and important questions, and they're willing to wrestle with difficult, often complex answers.

Reflecting on and celebrating Tysor Clark's life last week, we remembered a life dedicated to teaching, in and out of the classroom. And Ms. Tysor isn't the only one. In conversation with many of our older members, I've heard a desire to teach and share not just information, but the lessons and insights gained from a life spent in the church.

We have a generation hungry and willing to learn, and a generation with the desire and ability to teach and pass on their wisdom. What a perfect arrangement! My prayer and hope is that we can create opportunities to get these groups together.

With Rally Day and the beginning of a new program year in the church on the horizon (September 13), now is the time to think and talk about what a multi-generational ministry might look like. I know of some very good models, but I want to hear *your* ideas. So in addition to the questions you'll be getting from your shepherding elder, I invite you to also think and pray about bringing the generations together so that we can truly be the body of Christ in all its diversity, and model the Kingdom of God that both the young and old dream of.

Shalom, y'all!
Andy

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

FROM THE SESSION.....

The Stated Meeting of the Session was held Sunday, July 26, immediately following worship. Our church as per General Assembly mandate needs to adopt a Child Protection Policy. This was referred to the Education Committee because of its responsibility for youth programs. The following items were received and/or approved from the appropriate committees. August 23 will be designated as Montreat/Youth Mission Sunday and morning worship will be led by those participants. The financial statement was reviewed. In the past month we were not able to meet our operations budget with our income. Expenses were met by moving money from the Buildings and Grounds. Repairs for the manse and other items were also expenses this past month. "Listening and Dreaming" visits are in progress. If you have not yet been visited, you will be very soon. We look forward to hearing everyone's thoughts and ideas about our church and its mission and ministry. The Gracious Dismissal Policy was reviewed in order to make any comments or suggestions to Presbytery for additions or deletions to the proposed document. Congregational concerns were shared. August 30 will be Bladen Parish Fifth Sunday Worship. The search for the 2015-2016 Sunday School personnel, Youth Leaders, etc. is now taking place. We are thankful for the many who share their time and energy, and pray that others will consider this call to serve. The meeting was closed with prayer.

THE SESSION

Session Members

George Barber - 645-6695 Greg Brown - 647-0367
Johnny Cox - 647-2251 Julie Cox - 647-2751
Chuck Heustess - 645-6631 Dan Ward - 647-7357
Linda Clark - 645-4509 Lynn Clark - 647-3951
Allison Priest - 645-4669

Roxane is in the Office:

Monday and Thursday - 8:30 am to 2:30 pm
Wednesday - 8:30 am to 11:30 am

AUGUST CALENDAR



Aug. 15 - PW Fall Gathering at Galatia PC
23 - Montreat/Youth Mission Sunday
30 - Bladen Parish Worship

The Presbyterian Women food item for the Bladen Crisis Center is **fruit**.

The PW Fall Gathering is August 15 at Galatia Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. Registration and fellowship is 8:45am to 9:45am. Worship is at 10:00am, with workshop for all following. You are encouraged to attend.

August Service

Flowers: 2 - Sarah Melvin (Communion)
9 - Maria Edwards
16 - Juanita McGraw
23 - Julie Cox
30 - Maxine Priest

Nursery: 2 - Wendy, Lauren, and Addie Bowen
9 - Candice Ward and Emma Turbeville
16 - Regan McAulay and Kate Watts
23 - Allison and Karli Priest
30 - Gail and Allie Marsh

Acolyte: Grace Russ

Greeters: Sarah Melvin, Kay McFerrin

Ushers: Dan Ward, Stewart Clark
Rusty and Allie Marsh

Children's Sermons: 2 - Kathy Wilkes
9 - Stewart Clark
16 - Rusty Marsh
23 - Julie Cox
30 - Dan Ward

In our Prayers

Kerry Priest, Emily Owen, Billy Whitehead, Jimmy Whitehead, Linda Howell, Ronald Tuton, Rebecca and Happy Lashlee, Marvin Burney, John and Mary Ward, Marion Hardee, Shirley McDonald, Eunice Singletary, Giles McAulay, Gerry Carey, Cody Clark, Ken Boykin, Arsula Williamson, Brad Zimmerman, Donald Grainger, Glenda Nobles, Kelly Smith, Bill Jackson, Abe Wilson, Betty Priest, Carolyn Scoggins, Juanita McGraw



Rally Day will be Sunday, September 13.

In worship we will celebrate the past year's educational and youth ministries, and commission our Sunday School teachers and other leaders for the coming year; **and** after worship we will celebrate with food, games, and fellowship!



The Montreat Youth Conference (Week 4, July 19-24th) was a great experience for the youth and adults who attended. The week's theme was "This Is Our Story," and through worship, keynotes, music, small groups, recreation, and back home group, our 9 youth and 2 adults

explored how their stories belong to God's story, which is still being written. Thank you to everyone who contributed money for food for the week, and everyone is invited to worship on Sunday, August 23rd, where the youth will lead us in worship and reflect on their experiences at Montreat and on this year's Bladen Mission Project.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

Your Christian Education Committee is searching for Sunday school teachers and youth group leaders for 2015-2016. Please prayerfully consider serving God in this way. If you have been a teacher or leader and are willing to continue, or if you've never done it before but would like to try, please let Linda Clark or Greg Brown know!

Together growing Christ's Church....

Are you wanting to share Christ's Gospel with others but not sure how to go about doing it? Worried that you lack the talent to communicate effectively? Find it easier to stay silent than to share? You are invited to the "**Personal Evangelism for Ordinary People**" workshop presented by Evangelism Coach Rev. Chris Walker on Friday, Aug. 14 @ First Pres., **Jacksonville** and Saturday, Aug. 15 @ Jonesboro Pres., **Sanford**. Each one day event runs from 9AM - 4PM and is free, although you may purchase lunch for \$8. Come to either day. Learn more and pre-register by Aug 10 at www.presbycc.org/2015/evangelism-workshops-for-presbyterians/

Together Educating, Equipping, Empowering

Disciples With topics ranging from youth to elder ministries, from stewardship to grants, from PW to PM, from preaching to listening, the **Learning Fair is happening Saturday, Sept. 19**, in Elizabethtown—it is designed with you in mind! Learn more and register online at www.presbycc.org/2015/e3/ or call the Presbytery Office.

Clarkton Presbyterian Church
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