



PASTOR'S PASSAGE

Dear Friends,

It was one of those days where a cockeyed optimist says the glass has always been empty, is still empty, and will always be empty. I never believe that so many things could fall apart in such a short time. A friend, who knew some of the problems with which I was dealing, hoped that the rest of my day had been a great deal better. I just shook my head "no." My Mama taught me that if you can't say something nice you shouldn't say anything at all. He shook his head, and asked how I could keep my sanity.

That broke the tension, and I laughed for what seemed like the first time in a long time. I confessed that some folks, myself included, were not quite sure that my sanity was intact. He said some day he hoped that he would learn my secret. I thought about that. It isn't my secret. It's not supposed to be anyone's secret. Just in case you don't know it, let me share it with you.

Our Lord has promised that he will be with us until the end of the age. He has promised to provide for our needs. He has promised that nothing can separate us from his loving presence. We can all believe that. We know it is true because God has given us the gift of faith. Faith is the God-given ability to know that something is true because God has said it is true. Like our muscles and our brains, faith is one of God's gifts to us that improve with use.

Each day we should grow in faith. Each day we should want to take some time to listen to God's Word. The place we can most easily hear the Lord speaking to us is in his scriptures. Each day we should take the sacred text and prayerfully ask God's Spirit that inspired those who lived the story, and inspired those who told and wrote the story, and inspired those who have kept the story alive, to inspire us and to make God's Word come alive within us.

Some days God speaks before we can even finish our reading. Some days God seems absent, and we read word after word with no Word being spoken to us. Sometimes we seem to be unable to hear anything except the telephone, or the neighbor's lawnmower, or our own friends and family and all their demands for time and attention. Each time we are aware of something trying to separate us from hearing God's Word, we need to hear God asking us "Do you love me more than this?" When we can truly pray "yes," we let the other things go and give God an opportunity to reorder our priorities and to remold our lives to do whatever God wills. That can be frightening, until we remember that God wants us to know how much God loves us.

As we settle down to listen, all the stress and strain around us float away. The Lord renews us physically, mentally, and spiritually. We have been created for a deep and intimate friendship with our Lord. St. Augustine learned that truth long ago and said: "Our hearts are made for you, Lord, and they will not rest until they rest in you."

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Each of us has some days that try our souls. The only way to make it through any day and keep your sanity is to have a faith—a deeper, more experiential relationship with God. Like any true friendship, our friendship with God will grow until it goes beyond speaking together and even beyond doing things together. The Biblical image is marriage. God embraces us totally and we feel with more than our hands, hear with more than our ears, see with more than our eyes, love with more than our hearts. Our whole being knows and is at peace. Every day we can have peace regardless of the stress or chaos all around. Have faith, and you will find the peace of God within you.

Van

Dean's Notes
Dean Cason, Minister of Music



Dear EPC,

I hope you have enjoyed the old hymns from yesteryear, as well as the new ones and those with familiar tunes telling us about the love of Christ, following in His steps, and bringing people to know the Lord. It is nearly August. Time does fly. This reminds me of the words to another hymn: "Work for the night is coming, Work thro' the morning hours; Work while the dew is sparkling, Word 'mid springing flow'rs; Work when the day grows brighter; Work in the glowing sun; Word, for the night is coming, When man's work is done." Annie L. Coghill; copied from the Modern Hymnal; copyright 1926.

Dean

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – June 28, 2010

The Session had a Called Meeting on June 28th to approve a proposed budget for redecorating the Fellowship Hall.

The Decorating Committee has obtained two – three bids for each of the proposed projects and recommended the following:

- Replacing the current 2'x4' ceiling with new 2'x2' ceiling panels
- Framing the metal columns with wood and molding
- Painting the room
- Installing new flooring
- Installing new blinds for the windows

The Session approved the recommended projects and the proposed budget. Work will begin in July with a goal of a beautiful finish by Homecoming.

MISSION UPDATE

PCUSA sent out this past year and half, 40 New Mission Co-worker Units (Singles, Marrieds, or With Young Children), to 25 different countries!

Their pictures are on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Strickland

Our monthly gifts for Missionaries, Drs. Leslie & Cynthia Morgan in Bangladesh and Dr. Michael & Nancy Haninger in the Congo, were sent to the NE Georgia Presbytery.

An additional \$70.00 was received for the Pentecost offering. (\$42.00 to Presbytery and \$28.00 for EPC)

The summer events for families on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer:

Our entire church family and friends are invited to join in on the fun at Wednesday Family Fun Nights. Themes will revolve around the parables of Jesus.

Dates

July 14 @ 4:00 pm, Fishers of Men, water adventures and cookout @ Will's house on Lake Oconee

August 11 @ 6:00pm, Talents, talent show and art exhibit and dinner@ the church

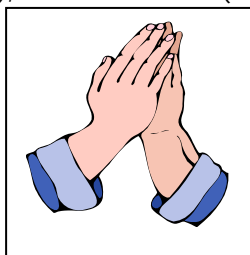
The committee has planned lots of fun and surprises for the whole family. Invite all of your friends and extended family members to attend with you.

Member Care








Please keep in prayer:


[Church Family]: Sara Jane Cason, Jonathon Cason, Louise Duncan, Evelyn Jackson, Teresa & Leon Smith, David Poole, Gabrielle Keen, Bobby Hill, Helen Worley, Tom Strickland.

[Friends]: Kathryn Foskey, Janet Sidwell, Pop Smith, Leon Smith, Jr., Louie Watkins, Mitchell Harl (great grandson of Martha Adams), Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holloway (friends of Charlie & Helga Lewis), Christina Edwards (friend of Caroline Davis).




July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					 Sara Jane Cason & Robert Thomas	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00	Session Meeting 6:00			 Ruby Mae Dearman	 Mal Mallinson	 Caroline Davis
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00 Mouse Articles Due			 Charles Lewis Family Fun Night 4:00 PM - Will Durham's house			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00			 Larry Kennon		 Jimmy & Doris Jarrett	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00						

 Anniversary
 Birthday

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00	Session Meeting 6:00  Clay & Candyce Hudson				 Glen & Martha Lindsey	 Gabrielle Keen
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00 Mouse Articles Due  David Hill	 Van & Peggy Nesbit		Family Fun Night 6:00			 Jimmy Jarrett
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00  Christa Holmes	 Sarah Rozar  Melvin & Sarah Rozar	 Buddy Beckstine		 Jim & Joyce Yamshak	 Dot Strickland	 Mandy Alliston
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00  Doris Jarrett				 Jason Stewart		
29	30	31				
SS 9:45 Worship 11:00  Dick Kastory & Jim Yamshak		 Brenda Jarrett & David Thomas III				

 Anniversary

 Birthday

CELEBRATIONS



Happy Anniversary

July

23 Jimmy & Doris Jarrett

August

02 Clay & Candyce Hudson
 06 Glenn & Martha Lindsey
 09 Van & Peggy Nesbit
 16 Melvin & Sarah Rozar
 19 Jim & Joyce Yamshak

Happy Birthday

July

02 Sara Jane Cason
 02 Robert Thomas
 08 Ruby Mae Dearman
 09 Mal Mallinson
 10 Caroline Davis
 14 Charles Lewis
 21 Larry Kennon

August

07 Gabrielle Keen
 08 David Hill
 14 Jimmy Jarrett
 15 Christa Holmes
 16 Sarah Rozar
 17 Buddy Beckstine
 20 Dot Strickland
 21 Mandy Alliston
 22 Doris Jarrett
 26 Jason Stewart
 29 Dick Kastory
 29 Jim Yamshak
 31 Brenda Jarrett
 31 David Thomas III

REPORT FROM: 219th General Assembly Presbyterian Church (USA) Minneapolis, Minnesota July 3-10, 2010

There were many subjects of discussion and vote at last week's General Assembly. The following information has to do with two major issues:

1.) Two years ago, the 218th General Assembly called for a Special Committee to study issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage. The Committee of 55 met many times but could not agree on a unanimous report.

The minority report which articulated a Biblical position on marriage, gained only 15 votes (27%). The majority report received 40 votes (71%). The proposal was to redefine marriage as being between "two people" instead of between a man and a woman.

The majority report went to the General Assembly for vote and did not pass. The Assembly agreed not to redefine marriage, but to urge Presbyterians to further study the issues and stay in covenant with each other while doing so.

2.) The General Assembly in 2008 passed an overture that would delete the "fidelity and chastity" standard from the Book of Order. However, the Presbyterians narrowly defeated the amendment.

The 219th Assembly, last week, voted to, again, send an overture to the Presbyteries to delete the "fidelity and chastity" standard from the Book of Order. The standard requires ordained officers to be faithful in marriage between a man and a woman or chaste in singleness. This overture will be voted on by the Presbyteries during the next few months. The vote by the Assembly commissioners was 53% for approval.

LOST AND FOUND:

Please check the coat hooks in the Fellowship Hall (in hallway opposite the restrooms) to see if one of the coats, sweaters, or hats belong to you. Many of them have been there for over a year. If the items are not claimed by the end of July, they will be donated to Putnam Christian Outreach.

PUTNAM CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

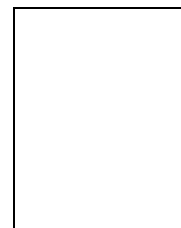
July: Canned Meats
 August: School Supplies – paper, pens, crayons
 September: Paper towels and toilet paper
 October: Soap – Machine and Hand
 November: Canned fruit and vegetables
 December: Soups

(Ensure and diapers are always helpful)



Eatonton Presbyterian Church
307 North Madison Avenue
Eatonton, GA 31024

706-485-1103



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

"The Mouse"

Editor: Lynn Barber

Phone: 706-485-1270

Email: pclynn22@yahoo.com

Articles for the
August/September issue are
due by August 8, 2010

