



Presbyterian Link



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We had a visitor in worship this past Sunday. I greeted him during the "passing of the peace". He indicated that he had known Ralph, but had never visited here before. I had encountered him several months ago at a meeting at the Library. But there he was sitting in our pew and

worshipping with us for the first time. But there was something unique I noticed about him. He had his bible with him. And, when I read the scripture as preparation for the sermon, I noticed that he had turned to the passage in his bible and was reading along with me.

Now, friends, I don't want to sound like an old fashioned fuddy-duddy. And I certainly don't want to come across as one of those "right wing Christian conservatives", but why do we come to Church on Sunday morning without our Bibles? Would you send your children to school without their textbooks? How can you become familiar with God's Word when you don't even bring it to God's House so you can use it as a reference?

One of the results of the survey we took in November or 2008 was that we seem to be a little lax in our Biblical and Spiritual development. The point is that we need to recapture the centrality of The Bible (God's Word) in everything we do as a people of God. If you plan to become a Medical Doctor, you will have to master the knowledge of many textbooks. If you want to become a Teacher, you will have to master the knowledge in your chosen field. If you want to become an Accountant, you will have to master the knowl-

edge found in many accounting and economic texts. And more than that, if you want to remain up to date in your chosen field, you will have to take numerous continuing education programs.

But to grow in the faith of Jesus Christ we need to worry only about one (1) book. I've read many novels longer than the Bible. So, what's the problem? Why are we not, all of us, bringing our Bibles to Church on Sunday morning? And why are we not, all of us, making it standard practice of attending Sunday School and learning as much as we can about the life and times that gave birth to our Faith?

I want to admonish all of the members at Altavista Presbyterian to go out and purchase a Bible (pick any version you want) that has wide margins and lots of foot notes. The NIV study bible is an excellent example. And then when you are reading and studying, write notes in the margins. And use different color highlighters to mark passages that have special relevance to you. As members of The Reformed tradition we have inherited a strong emphasis on individual biblical understanding. Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and Knox would roll over in their graves if they could see the way we neglect the very scriptures that they struggled to make accessible to you and me.

When new families come to Altavista Presbyterian the first time, they should get the impression that we really are People of The Word. Because, without The Word, we wouldn't be a people at all.

Thanks for listening. Once again, I ask you to simply think about these ideas and then decide for yourself where you stand.

Many Blessings, Bob Button

REMINDERS FOR JUNE

- June 2 ~ Men's Lunch at Main Street Grill
- June 2 ~ Committee Meeting Night
- June 7 ~ Installation & Ordination of Elders
- June 14 ~ Stated Session Meeting following Worship
- June 21 thru June 26 ~ Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MAY 15 & 16, 2009 MEETING

- Sustained the examination of the new Elders-elect.
- Approved minutes of the April 5, 2009 Called meeting and the April 19, 2009 Stated meeting as presented.
- Scheduled Session meetings to be held on third Sundays, immediately following worship. The June meeting will be held second Sunday (June 14, 2009) because Father's Day is third Sunday.
- Decided to continue Committee night on first Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.
- Scheduled Installation/Ordination of the Elders-elect for June 7, 2009.
- Elected John Erb as Clerk of Session for the 2009-10 year.
- Elected Preston Andrews as Treasurer for the 2009-10 year.
- Elected Brian McCrickard as Assistant Treasurer for the 2009-10 year.
- Elected John Erb as Commissioner to Presbytery for the 2009-10 year.
- Elected the following Officers of APC, Inc. for the 2009-10 year:
 - President – Rob Gilliam
 - Vice-President – Ron Coleman
 - Secretary – John Erb
 - Treasurer – Preston Andrews
- Scheduled celebration of the Sacrament of Communion for each first Sunday during worship.
- Approved the rental of the fellowship hall to Shirlen Grandison on July 10, 2009 for a family reunion.
- Approved matching the Elpis Scholarship offering with ACT for Mission funds.
- Approved reimbursement from ACT for Mission funds the cost of renting a van and the cost for fuel for the van and one additional vehicle (\$370 total) for the recent mission trip to the Volunteer Farm in Woodstock, VA.
- Decided to award three \$1,000 scholarships (one more than normal) this year from ACT for Mission funds. Motion passed. Recipients will be announced later.
- Decided to split the responsibilities of the Worship and Discipleship Committee into two committees: a Worship Committee and a Christian Education Committee; and to split the responsibilities of the Ministry Support Committee into two committees: a Ministry Support Committee and a Property Committee. The responsibilities of the Ministry beyond the Congregation and the Ministry within the Congregation Committees will remain the same. It was also decided that the Chairman of the Worship Committee would chair the Nominating Committee.
- Specific Elder Functions for the 2009-10 Year are:
 - Barbie Andrews – Co-Chair Ministry beyond the Congregation Committee
 - Ron Coleman – Chair Ministry beyond the Congregation Committee
 - Kelly deBernard – Chair Ministry within the Congregation Committee

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Greetings from the Vacation Bible School Committee

For more information contact Jenny Roark, Denise Tucker, Anne Mabry or Martha Moore

Registration forms and a schedule will be available in the church office soon

The theme this year is **Camp EDGE**. We are joining First Baptist Church for a fun-filled week of VBS. Mark your calendar for the week of June 21 - 26 from 6 - 8:30 pm. There will be classes for preschool-age children to adults. Please plan to attend. This year's mission action will be DAWN. There was a feeling that DAWN was in much need of assistance.

Mike Lee will be instructing the adults. We have been asked to provide snacks for two nights and have people serve, as well.

The committee is looking for pop-up tents and undecorated Christmas trees of many sizes to use as props. Please let us know if you have any that we could borrow. They are also looking for a large stuffed eagle.

Each night they will collect items for DAWN:

Monday: Canned soup

Tuesday: Dried/ canned beans

Wednesday: Rice of any kind

Thursday: Boxed Jell-o and pudding

Friday: Tooth paste and soap

Each night there will be a color to wear:

Sunday: Blue

Monday: Yellow

Tuesday: Green

Wednesday: Red

Thursday: Purple

PARENTS: Please let your children know that each age group will have an exciting name: **Rock climbers, Surfers, Skydivers, Snowboarders.**

Here is what



we need from you....

- Excited children who want to experience God everywhere!!!
- Adults who want a very meaningful Bible Study experience
- Snack preparers
- Snacks
- Snack Servers
- Volunteers to register excited children each night
- Volunteers to help in the craft area
- Volunteers to play games
- Volunteers to help with music
- Prayer
- Volunteer to take pictures

We are sure there is a job for anyone wanting to get more involved with the children of our church and our community. It takes a village to raise all of our children!

Please come out and join us in a very exciting event!

John Erb – Clerk, Presbytery Commissioner

Bill Ferguson – Chair Property Committee

Rob Gilliam – Chair Ministry Support Committee

Sang-il Lee – Chair Christian Education Committee

David Mabry – Co-Chair Property Committee

Jennifer McCrickard – Co-Chair Ministry within the Congregation Committee

Stephanie Moehlenkamp – Chair Worship Committee

Caroline Peerman – Co-Chair Worship Committee

Jenny Roark – Co-Chair Christian Education Committee

- Decided to divide equally among all children going to camp this summer the money raised for or given for Camp Scholarships.
- Reviewed the April, 2009 Financial Report.
- Decided that APC has the “ability to meet the Presbytery salary guidelines and projected cost of living increases for three years without undercutting the ongoing mission of the congregation.” This must be documented to fulfill one of the five requirements in order for a congregation to be allowed by Presbytery to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- Decided that Stewardship should be a year-round discussion with the Congregation, not just a budget preparation discussion, and that this discussion should be led by the Session, not by the Minister. This matter was referred to the Ministry Support Committee.
- Identified the following Session goals for 2009-10:
 1. Stewardship program – year round
 2. Commit to strengthen/re-establish and improve our total Christian Education program.
 3. Call a full-time Pastor.
 4. Continue to support and expand our Mission outside the church.
- Thanked the retiring Elders for their contributions for the past three years.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	April 2009	YTD
Pledges	\$11,357.00	\$42,111.00
Non-Pledges	\$965.00	\$3,795.00
Plate Offering	\$512.00	\$1,746.00
Total Expenses	\$9,321.86	\$43,594.54

MARK YOUR CALENDAR**JUNE 2009**

JUNE 2	TUESDAY 10 am Circle I meets in the Parlor 11:45 Men's Lunch at Main Street Grill 7 pm Committee Meeting Night	JUNE 17	WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch 6 pm Adult Choir Practice
JUNE 3	WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch 6 pm Adult Choir Practice	JUNE 21	SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School for Adults 10 am Worship 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
JUNE 7	SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School for Adults 10 am Worship/ Communion Installation & Ordination of Elders Canned Food Sunday 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering	JUNE 22	MONDAY 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
JUNE 9	TUESDAY 7 pm Circle II meets in the Parlor	JUNE 23	TUESDAY 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
JUNE 10	WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship in Pastor's Study 11-12:30 Second Helping Lunch 6 pm Adult Choir Practice	JUNE 24	WEDNESDAY 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
JUNE 14	SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School for Adults 10 am Worship Stated Session Meeting immediately following Worship	JUNE 25	THURSDAY 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
		JUNE 26	FRIDAY 6 - 8:30 pm VBS @ First Baptist
		JUNE 28	SUNDAY 9 am Sunday School for Adults 10 am Worship



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PRESBYTERIAN LINK

June 2009

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Michelle Martin | 3 Ralph & Elizabeth Hawkins |
| 2 Mary Woodie | 5 Bob & Elaine Button |
| 2 Elaine Button | 14 Brian & Jennifer McCrickard |
| 5 Bob Ragsdale | 17 Lynn & Earl Copes |
| 6 Edro Simmons | 18 Ted & Louise Phillips |
| 9 Denise Tucker | 19 Henry & Nancy Pittard |
| 11 Bradie Alley | 23 Darlene & Billy Robertson |
| 11 Holly Alley | 23 Jerry & Martha Moore |
| 11 Ralph Hawkins | 28 Edro & Sue Simmons |
| 11 Erika Mabry | 29 Chip & Jennifer Roark |
| 20 ElizaAnne Copes | 30 John & Connie Southerland |
| 26 Debbie Berger | |



LINK STAFF

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Editor

Ministry Within the
Congregation Committee

*Previous Links can be found on the
website
www.altapres.org*

