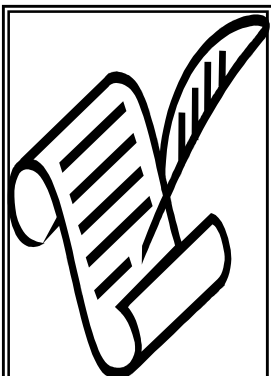


PRESBYTERIAN LINK

JULY 2007



PASTOR'S CORNER

NEVER STOP LEARNING

The mind of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

— Proverbs 15:14

I have a dear ministerial colleague who years ago ambled home on his collegiate spring break, eager to tell his family all the fascinating facts he was learning about the scriptures while earning his liberal arts degree. Visibly threatened by his progeny's new-fangled education, his grandfather protested loudly: "I don't need to know all that stuff. If the King James Bible was good enough for Paul, it's good enough for me!" Nice try, gramps.

I'm always just a little sadder when someone pits Christian faith against education and learning. To be clear, no one is suggesting that salvation can be found in knowledge alone (We're not Gnostics.); neither is anyone endorsing a kind of "education" that simply goes around debunking faith for the sheer fun on of it. (We're not cynics.) But the attitude that all learning is a *de facto* threat to our Christ-faith—that's a position born mostly of fear, not of faith.

This summer, we're preaching our way

through the Old Testament book of Proverbs. Of the many threads of wisdom running through this inspired collection of sayings, one of them is this: The wise believer is eager to learn, "to seek knowledge," to grow not only in heart but also in mind. Foolish persons are satisfied with "folly," with whatever pedestrian madness is in vogue on this day or that. But the wise one is hungry to learn, to know more, to scratch the surface of things, and to dig a little deeper. And note that this hunger is not in spite of faith, it is *because* of faith: If God has made the world, then there is an order and purpose to things, and the wise person searches to know and understand that blessed order better. The president of my Christian liberal arts college used to say in chapel that we should use our minds to inquire deeply into all things, precisely *because* we are Christians. We should strive to learn in the confidence that "there was no rock we could turn over from which something would surface and devour God."

An intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. — Proverbs 18:15

One of the features I most enjoy about the gospels' accounts of Jesus' ministry is how Jesus seems always *one step ahead* of his disciples. He is frequently leading them somewhere (Mark 9:2), usually leaving them with more questions than answers (Matthew 13:13), and often tuned in to realities they have not yet perceived (John

REMINDERS FOR JULY

- Vacation Bible School begins July 8
- Children's Church July 15 & 29 only
- Mission trip to Louisiana July 14- 21
- Stated Session Meeting July 22

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PASTOR'S CORNER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

20:14). While Jesus is much more than a teacher (Messiah, Lord, Beloved of God, etc.) he is no less than a teacher, and a consummate one at that. He is always out ahead of his disciples, teaching them faith, hope, and love in the Father. The gospels make it clear that one cannot be a follower of Jesus and stay in the same place.

Indeed, long before *disciple* took on extra Christian weight, it simply meant *student*, or *one who receives instruction from another*. Thus to follow Jesus throughout our lives is to not only believe in him as Lord but also to learn from him as teacher—to grow in understanding, maturity, and insight. Although sin is surely a sign we are off of the Jesus-path, so perhaps is boredom. Christ not only saves our soul, he also renews our minds (Romans 12:2). One who follows him to the Father is promised “speech and knowledge of every kind” (1 Corinthians 1:4-7).

A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for one who understands. — Proverbs 14:6

A few weeks ago, one of our senior church members bounced into my study and, with the giddiness of school-girl, announced that she had “just finished the most marvelous book!” You could hear in her telling her joy concerning all the new insights and fresh thoughts that this book had disclosed to her. I was deeply moved: It was clear that one is never too old (or young!) to keep asking and learning, seeking and finding. Although our Christ-faith should satisfy our deepest hungers for salvation, it

should also make us hungrier to learn, to see, to know. Saying “yes” to Christ is only the glorious beginning to a lifetime of new insights about the ways of God’s world, the ways of God’s people, and the ways of God.

Presbyterians, I urge you: keep reading, keep wondering, keep learning for as long as you live. Don’t have much time? Read and ponder and learn when you can, where you can. Small bites are better than no bites at all. Devour the scriptures (Revelation 10:9) and hold them in your mind as you ingest others bits of wisdom along the way. Keep looking to learn all you can, until at last in a time still to come, what we see now only dimly will be made clear as we see face-to-face (1 Corinthians 13:12).

The old hymn *O Word of God Incarnate* prays for us all:

***O make Your church, dear Savior,
A lamp of purest gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light, as of old;
O teach Your wandering pilgrims
By this our path to trace,
Till, clouds and storms thus ended,
We see You face to face.***

Pastor Ralph

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	May-2007	YTD
Pledges	\$8,122.00	\$50,336.56
Non-Pledges	\$170.00	\$1854.00
Plate Offering	\$477.00	\$2785.32
Total Expenses	\$10,487.28	\$61,138.71

Each month the Link will include a current financial snapshot. For more information regarding the financial snapshot, please contact a member of the Session or Treasurer, Preston Andrews.



FOR AND ABOUT KIDS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School for children and adults will begin Sunday evening, July 8, at 6:30. Our theme this year is *Trading Places! Where Jesus Makes a World of Difference*. Our kids will be “traveling” each night to a different country and learning about that culture as well as heroes from the Bible! Please let us know if you would be willing to assist with this year’s program – many hands make light work! We will need story tellers, craft assistants, snack assistants, etc. And we would love to have some dads and granddads involved in this as well! We are also working on an adult class for part of the week. For more information, contact Jenny Roark..



Children’s Church Dates

July 15	Elizabeth Hawkins
July 29	Kelly deBernard
August 12	Jenny Roark
August 26	Denise Tucker



MISSION NEWS

Summer Mission trip July 14—21

Altavista Presbyterian Church is planning another mission trip to Louisiana. The planned trip will take place July 14—21 to Luling, Louisiana. For more information, contact Elder Mark Younkin.

TAKE NOTE

PROPS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 20 07

The following items are needed for our 2007 Vacation Bible School from Sunday, July 8 through Thursday, July 12. Please contact Jenny Roark at 309-1156 or Sang-il Lee at 309-9938; leesangil@comcast.net or any Worship and Discipleship Committee member. Thank you so much.

Description of items	Number of items needed	In the story of...
Basket of grain	one	Ruth
Sheaf of wheat or corn	three	'
Stool for the storyteller sit on	one	'
Sign: Ruth Trading Loneliness for Loyalty	one	'
Pillars (in King David's palace)	two	David
A large chair representing King David's throne	one	'
A child's wading pool	one	'
Large stuffed sheep	Two or three	'
Large stones to be placed around the pool	Two or three	'
Decorative clay pot	one	'
Leafy plants to be placed around the pool	Two or three	'
Sign: David Trading Sheep for Subjects	one	'
A scepter to be used by the storyteller	one	Esther
Potted greenery	Two or three	'
Large colorful pillows	Two or three	'
Sign: Esther Trading Beauty for Bravery	one	'
Bucket full of artificial fish	Two or three	Fisherman
Fishing gear such as net and fishing rod	Two or three	'
Rocks and inflatable trees to represent the seashore	Two or three	'
A small rowboat	one	'
Sign: Four Fisherman Trading Fish for Faith	one	'
A table	one	Paul
A chair	one	'
Writing paper	One pad	'
A quill pen	one	'
Jar of ink	one	'
A (oil) lamp	one	'
Sign: Paul Trading Violence for Victory	one	'

Areas of Ministry for 2007—2008

Ministry Beyond our Congregation: This area includes all outreach programs, evangelism efforts, benevolence giving, mission trips and projects, church advertising, college scholarship, missionary support, mission education, etc. It is responsible for advising the Session on the use ACT for Missions trust to prompt and support our mission efforts.

Mark Younkin, Chair Preston Andrews Gary Andrews Kyler Bogert Glenn Berger Debbie Berger
 Doug Hecht Barbie Andrews Miller Warren Les Woodie Anne Hecht

Ministry Within our Congregation: This area includes all efforts at congregational care, such as visiting, food coordination, fellowship events and retreats, Koinonia meals, cluster coordination, LINK newsletter, directory, new member involvement, etc.

Anne Mabry, Chair Kathi Bogert Beverly Eubank Aline Rogers Christine Oliver Kelly deBernard
 Sue Ferguson Anne Peerman Alex Eubank Mary Woodie

Ministry Support: This area includes all items necessary to support the overall ministry of our congregation, including our property, maintenance, annual budget, staffing, stewardship programs, treasury, insurance, membership involvement, etc.

Dennis Janiak, Chair Rob Gilliam Sally Sease Henry Pittard David Sease

Ministry of Worship and Discipleship: This area includes Lord's Day worship, Sunday School, the children's nursery, choir and music, coordinating worship help, pulpit supply, Bible studies, Summer Bible school, overseeing our library, special speakers, etc.

Martha Moore, Chair Elizabeth Hawkins Bill Ferguson Jenny Roark Ron Coleman
 Sue Simmons Abbey Bogert Denise Tucker

People to Contact at APC

Session (Active Elders)

Kelly deBernard

Ministry Within the Congregation

John Erb

Clerk of Session, Presbytery Delegate

Rob Gilliam

Presbyterian Men

Dennis Janiak

Ministry Support Committee

Sang-il Lee

Teaching and Prayer

Margaret Liebchen

Visitation, Nominating Committee

Anne Mabry

Ministry Within the Congregation

Martha Moore

Worship & Discipleship Committee

Caroline Peerman

Home Communion, Pulpit Supplies

Chip Roark

Visitation, New Membership

John Tucker

Visitation, Nominating Committee

Mark Younkin

Ministry Beyond the Congregation

Ralph Hawkins

Moderator of Session

Staff

Carolyn Doss

Church Secretary

Stephanie Moehlenkamp

Choir Director

Connie Southerland

Organist

Preston Andrews

Treasurer

Shannon Moorman

Nursery Attendant

Other Contacts

Debbie Berger

Link Newsletter Reporter

Sue Ferguson, Amy Terrant

Link Newsletter Editors

Sue Simmons

Nursery Coordinator

Sally Sease

Women's Circles

Alline Rogers

Meal Coordination

Janet Soddors


Prayer Fellowship Requests

Pastor

Rev. Ralph W. Hawkins – Minister of Word and Sacrament
Study 369-5286 • Home 369-6999 • rhawkins@embarqmail.com

The pastor is available for conversation and prayer throughout the week, particularly at the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, also on Wednesday evenings when the choir is in practice. Other times and places gladly arranged by appointment. Generally, Fridays are reserved for study and Mondays for sabbath rest.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR JULY 2007

<p>July 1</p>	<p>Sunday Communion 2 Cents-A-Meal Offering Canned Food Sunday</p>	<p>July 22</p>	<p>Sunday Stated Session Meeting immediately following Worship Service</p>
<p>July 4</p>	<p>Wednesday- Independence Day Church Office Closed No Prayer Fellowship</p>	<p>July 23</p>	<p>Monday August <i>Link</i> Deadline</p>
		<p>July 25</p>	<p>Wednesday 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship</p>
		<p>July 29</p>	<p>Sunday Children's Church</p>
<p>July 8- 12</p>	<p>Sunday - Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 pm Vacation Bible School</p>		
<p>July 11</p>	<p>Wednesday 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship</p>		
<p>July 14- 21</p>	<p>Saturday - Saturday Summer Mission Trip to Luling, Louisiana</p>		
<p>July 15</p>	<p>Sunday Rev. Sherwood Smith Preaching Children's Church</p>		
<p>July 18</p>	<p>Wednesday 9:30 am Prayer Fellowship</p>		





**ALTAVISTA PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

707 Broad Street
Altavista, VA 24517

Phone: 369-5286
Email: altapres@earthlink.net

Return service requested

PRESBYTERIAN LINK

JULY 2007

BIRTHDAYS

&

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Rob Gilliam
- 7 Stephen Phillips
- 8 Heather Erb
- 9 Gary Alley
- 10 Cynthia Erb
- 14 Christine Oliver
- 18 Jack Arthur
- 19 Anne Mabry
- 21 Abbey Bogart
- 24 Amanda Sorrell
- 26 Essie Moore
- 27 Beverly Eubank
- 27 Dolores Drumheller
- 30 Gary Andrews
- 31 Megan Blaesing

- 14 Jerry & Janet Soddors
- 19 Lyn & Essie Moore
- 31 David & Anne Mabrey



LINK STAFF

Sue Ferguson
billsueferguson@aol.com
Editor

Amy Terrant
Graphic Design/ Layout

Debbie Berger
Reporter

The Bogert Family
Production Team