

SEPTEMBER

THE FAMILY Evangelical Presbyterian Church SEPTEMBER 2011



6 Anne Peteet	20 Juliann Bullock
6 Gregg Sorensen	21 Jane Littlejohn
8 Madalyn Page	21 Logan Moore
9 Jeanne Damoff	22 Beckie Bates
10 Olivia Bach	24 Stuart Sorensen
10 Taylor H. Thompson	25 JoAnne Klotz

Financial Update

		YTD
July 2011		
Giving Income	26,231	170,024
Expenses	25,458	171,662
NET	773	(1,638)

Kitchen Clean-up for September
Tammy Miga and Jamie Vanbiber

**Fellowship Lunch Hosts and
Hostesses September 11,
2011**

**Becky Flowers
**Michele Spencer
*Kelly Spencer

*Vera Hall
*Maigen Chastain
Joe Chastain
*Kim Holland
Scott Holland

* Please bring one bag of ice. ** Please bring sliced lemons for tea. Each hostess should bring a portion of bread to share. If we have a special function in place of fellowship lunch, the team will be asked to serve in some capacity. Thank you for your help. God Bless. Please call me if you cannot be there. Kim



Music Ministry

VOICES OF WORSHIP Adult Choir resumed rehearsals last month. Three new members, Scott and Lindsey Chandler and Kari Thompson, were welcomed into the group. We are thankful for them as well as the members who have served so faithfully for the past years.

The "Back to Choir" Party was at Ethan Sorensen's home. Thank you, Ethan, for a

delicious and delightful evening. After the feast he prepared, we heard reports from Choral Festival and previewed new music for the year.

It is not too late for new members in VOW. If God is leading you to become a part of this music ministry, please join us each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

LIGHT LOOKED DOWN (and the WORD became flesh), by Marty Parks, is the musical for Christmas this year. It will be presented on a Sunday evening in December at 6:00 p.m. The date will be given soon. Any of you, who would like to come and sing with us for this presentation, are invited. The rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons following Fellowship Lunch (beginning in October) and a couple of Wednesday evenings in December. Please let me know, and I will have a book and listening CD for you.

JOYFUL SOUNDS and MORE will have a "Back to Choir Carnival" on Wednesday, September 7, 3:30 – 4:45 pm. There will be snow cones, a fish pond, face painting, bounce house, relay races, other games, and snacks. This will "kick off" the new choir year. All children, ages 4 years through grade six, are invited to come. Carpools are available for the public schools. If your child needs a ride from school to EPC, please let me know as soon as possible, so the carpools can be in place by September 7.

It is always exciting to start off a new year in choirs. I look forward to what God is going to do this year. Please join us in prayer for this year. As always, we want the Lord to be honored, glorified, and exalted in all we do.

"It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High." Psalm 92:1

In His Service,
Sarah Joe Strong



Young At Heart

YOUNG AT HEART went to the 5 D Cattle Company for dinner in Avinger last month for a "get back together after the summer" time for food and fellowship. The regular monthly meetings will begin on Tuesday, September 27, 10:30 a.m. in the Choir Room. We will watch the DVD of Don Piper, author of 90 MINUTES IN HEAVEN. He shared his testimony during a morning devotional time at Choral Festival this past August. Following the DVD, we will go to lunch at Porky's. In October, Pastor Craig will begin his Bible study for the year.



Ten years have passed since that tragic September morning in 2001, when terrorists took thousands of innocent lives and shattered America's sense of security. As we reflect on this anniversary, Psalm 10:17-18 reminds us that God is on the side of the victim, the weak and the helpless. He won't ignore the cries of people in need, and he ensures that justice is ultimately done.



7 Reason Why Your Church Nursery Service Is Vital To Your Church

by Tony Kummer

Reason #1

God is in the church nursery. This may come as a shock, but the Bible has specific promises about God's presence when children are welcomed and loved in Jesus' name.

Reason #2

Your service in the church nursery allows church goers to focus on worship, rather than worrying about their children. In a very real sense your ministry makes it possible for the pastor to fulfill his ministry.

Reason #3

The first (and sometimes lasting) feelings a child will have toward church is formed in the nursery department. While not everyone agrees, I believe that a positive experience in the church nursery is essential.

Reason #4

When you serve in the nursery, you are being entrusted with the most important (and vulnerable) members of the church family. There is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones God has given us. You must be someone special to have a job that is so important.

Reason #5

Your service is essential for your own spiritual growth. You may have never looked at it this way, but a *growing* Christian is always a *servant* Christian. Jesus was known for putting others first, when you serve in the church nursery you are walking in His example.

Reason #6

The church nursery is the first contact young families will have with your church. Your friendly greeting and exceptional care for their children can make a great first

impression for your church. If they don't feel like their children are safe, they will not return - and rightly so.

Reason #7

Your service in the church nursery is a powerful opportunity for prayer. If every nursery worker would spend several minutes praying over the children in their care, imagine how God might begin to change this coming generation. There is no better way to create an environment of spiritual nurture than to pray while you serve in the nursery.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE

Jim & Nina Bates will host a six week home meeting for "**The Art of Marriage**" DVD series starting on Sunday, September 25th, at 6:00 p.m. at 501 Denise Dr. (Duncan Addition, off Hwy 80 East). This will be a time of viewing the excellent "Art of Marriage" materials (workbooks furnished) and have a discussion of the material. Empowering and enhancing your marriage will be the goal of the sessions. The meetings will be from 6 to 8 P.M. and will include the study, food, fellowship, and fun for the group. Child care will be provided at the church. Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer of the church. You can call Jim or Nina for more information at (903) 938-8166.



The Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Church Family,

September is going to be **Green Envelope Month**. We did one back in May for our Senior High D3 Youth Conference participants. This

Green Envelope Month is for our students who, last month, went to the Great Escape Middle School Conference. Unlike the cards used in May's Green Envelope Month we will *not* have students' names on the cards but here is the list of students who went to the Great Escape in July: Chloe Alderman, Hannah Anders, Reagan Anders, David Bach, Seth Davis, and Colton Strnad. Please consider getting a card and donating to help us shore up the cost remaining for the conference.

Let me also take a line or two to thank Angie Anders for coming along on the Great Escape and helping me shepherd those students. She was a valuable asset on the trip and I'm thankful for her gifts!

As the new school year approaches there are a million new opportunities for ministry. Our Backyard Bible Club continues and is going well. I have some unique opportunities for ministry that I need prayer for including a chance to serve at Willoughby Juvenile Detention Center by teaching two Bible study classes. But that's me. What opportunities to serve our community and spread the gospel are you seeking and seizing?
Yours in Christ,

Ben



Women In Ministry

WOW! Time really does fly when you're having fun. There was so much I wanted to do this year. Where did the time go. I have really enjoyed the last year of involvement with WIM. Thanks you so much to all the women who served on the various committees this year and their committee members. You all did a wonderful job. I am looking forward to the coming year of fun and service with my sisters in Christ. I think our new WIM President, Julie

Mills, has some exciting ideas for us. Be on the lookout for announcements of the WIM Organizational Meeting coming up later this month. I encourage every woman age 18-99 to come to this meeting. During our Organizational Meeting we briefly discuss the opportunities for serving the Lord. You know, WIM is not a one trick pony. WIM links you to Bible studies, community services, church services, and mentors and friends. If you are feeling a call to serve or just a bit disconnected, coming to a Women in Ministry meeting at EPC may be the place to find the area of services God is calling you and to meet and stay connected with some great friends.

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. Luke 12:37

Your Sister in Christ,
Jackie Mills
WIM President 2010-2011



Recently I came across a sermon by a minister named Francis Chan on Paul's prayer for the Church found in Ephesians 3:14-19. Rev. Chan spoke of his renewal of focus for his own church, and that renewal of focus came from his meditation on this passage. His words inspired me! I feel led to make this my foremost prayer for our church for the days ahead, for however long the Spirit of Christ stirs me to keep it up. Here's what the passage says:

ESV **Ephesians 3:14-19** *For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner*

being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

One of the “re-centering” works of the Holy Spirit in my life during our 21 Days of Fasting last January was to help me get back to the priority of “the love of Christ” as my primary motivation in life. I had become exhaustingly ministry-oriented. But I was re-centered, and I am deeply grateful! What do I mean by “the priority of the love of Christ”? First, this means Christ’s love for me. It “surpasses knowledge,” so the only way I can “know” it is by the help of the Holy Spirit. But by His power in us, this love can be known – deeply, richly, and powerfully. In fact, we must begin here before we can truly love God and one another (1 John 4:19: *We love because he first loved us.*).

You’ve heard it in a number of sermons since, and it will no doubt be repeated. Christ’s love for us generates our love for Christ... and that overflows into love for one another. As I see it, this prayer from Ephesians 3 is always relevant and tremendously important. As God answers it, we will be rightly focused in our life and ministries. If we don’t start with Christ’s unfathomable love for us, we will lack power and become spiritually weary, opening ourselves up to being overpowered by the particular temptations that the Evil One knows are most likely to make us stumble. And worst of all, our love for Jesus might grow cold (recall Revelation 2:4, “*But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.*”]

I give thanks to God for helping me see “from where I have fallen” (Rev. 2:5), to repent, and to be vigilant to contemplate “the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” I think that I would have burned completely out by now if He hadn’t intervened. This Ephesians 3 prayer cries out to God for ongoing deliverance from such trouble.

So, I have embraced this prayer for the days ahead because I want all of us “to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge,” and whatever it means in all its fullness, I long for all of us to “be filled with all the fullness of God”!

Will you pray this alongside me as we venture together in the love of... and for... Christ?

Under the Mercy,

Pastor Craig

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