



The Good News Letter

September 2011

A monthly publication of First Baptist Church, Gaston

Vol. 37 Issue 9

Prayer Thoughts:

I have been driven to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.
—Abraham Lincoln

Before we can pray, "Lord, Thy Kingdom come," we must be willing to pray, "My Kingdom go."
—Alan Redpath

"Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden."
—Corrie ten Boom

"Our only true power is the power of prayer. When we pray, God moves from Heaven. When we pray, things happen that would not otherwise happen. By prayer all things are possible."
—Dr. Ray Prichard

"The greatest hindrance to effective prayer is sin. Satan's greatest goal is to keep us from our knees."
—Dick Eastman

"Prayer, real prayer, is lethal to Satan's cause."
—Unknown

Simon Peter

"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has desire for you that he may sift you as a grain of wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.' But he said to Him, 'Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death.' Then He said, 'I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me.'" Luke 22:31-34



The above words are some of the saddest which you will find in your Bible. They show that even the one with great zeal for the service of God is able to fall. Peter, having been with Jesus since called by the shore of the Galilean sea had witnessed many wonders, and confidently proclaimed to Jesus, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!' This is the same Peter who, when Jesus opened the door for His disciples to depart from Him with the multitudes stated, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life...' Again, in our context, Peter professes his faith and desire to serve God, stating that he was ready to go to prison, yes, even death for the Lord.

Jesus no doubt wished that these words of Peter's would come true, but He knew it wouldn't. Scripture stated that the Shepherd would be struck, and that all would be scattered, including this devout Galilean. Peter would deny Jesus. He would deny Him, not just once, but three times before morning came. He would curse and swear to the fact that he did not even know who Jesus was.

After Peter had denied Jesus, Luke writes, "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord... So Peter went out and wept bitterly." I, as many others have wondered what that look was like. It was piercing. Piercing to the heart and soul of Peter. Not hateful, but a look of disappointment; and no doubt, a look of love and forgiveness. Peter ran away, and wept.

In the context we also find comfort. Jesus realized that Peter would fall. Jesus prayed for Peter. He forgave Peter. He encouraged Peter. Jesus accepted that Peter would stumble, and told him to get back up, that there was work for him to do in the kingdom. "...And when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Jesus was not going to hold Peter's unfaithfulness against him, but forgave it, and removed the stains it left.

For us today, we have a wonderful lesson in Peter. We can relate to him easily, for the Scriptures are revealing of his errors. We might have great zeal for the service of God, yet will at times fall. We will in our own way curse and swear that we don't know the Man. And when such happens, if we truly are the children of God, we will feel the need to weep. Peter was a big, husky man, but his unfaithfulness turned him into a whimpering child. Such is the effect of unfaithfulness.

Pastor Larry

"All that I am I owe to Jesus Christ, revealed to me in His Divine Book." —David Livingstone

NEWS FROM OUR SPIRITUAL WARRIORS WITH HELEN KING, DIRECTOR

This month we'll learn more about our Spiritual Warriors. Thinking about three places they would like to go, **Wilma** likes to go to Sunday School and church, Sugar-Bakers, and the Skillet. **Joe** likes to go to the Waffle House, church, and home while **Heyward and Carolyn's** places are church, Ruby Tuesdays, and the mountains. **Annie Laura** likes the same except she chose Wal-Mart along with church and the mountains. **Lou Ella** likes to go to church, reunions, and fishing. **Bertha** likes going to church, restaurants, and the mountains while her sister **Lucy Mae** likes Wendy's and Hamrick's besides church. **Sara** likes going to the library, shopping (looking) and the apple trip in the fall. **Pastor Larry**, also called Buck or Red, likes the mountains, mission fields, and home. **Lureen** likes going to the Warrior Luncheons, going to town, and visiting children and grands. **Phyllis** likes church, the beach, and shopping. **Helen** likes going to church, visiting family, and going to concerts. Of course, **Mr. Hasford** likes going to church along with going to the mailbox and the bank. **Ida Alice** likes the Spiritual Warriors luncheon, Sugar-Bakers and going to church. Isn't it great to have so many that love coming to church?



Juanice likes to read, shop, and do nothing. **Lena** likes to work in the yard, baby sit, and read. **Wilma** likes to cook, eat, and shop. **Joe** likes to piddle, read the Bible, and do church bookwork. He also looks forward to eating at The Coffee Shop, Heaven, and hugging church ladies. **Scarlett** looks forward to family birthdays, eating, and just waking up each morning. **Annie Laura** likes to visit the sick, help people, and talk. **Lou Ella** looks forward to family visits, shopping and Bible lessons. You can often find **Phyllis** reading, doing needlework and visiting the homebound and looking forward to the rapture. **Sara Goza** looks forward to the apple-picking trip, family reunions, and the senior group meetings. Last, but not least, **Pastor Larry** likes to fish, take naps, and go out to eat. And now you know.



All seniors remember the luncheon the first Wednesday of every month at 11:30. See you there.

MUSIC NOTES WITH SHERRELL OTT, WORSHIP LEADER

September Music Notes...

In one of the Presbyterian hymns we find these words...

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey
Show forth the glory of Your God, which shines on you today!
Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captives' liberty, Good tidings to the poor.
Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born.
Bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

Ruth Duck, 1981

I love the words to this song because of the simple yet Biblical instructions we find in them. We have constant opportunities around us to let our light shine for Christ... to visit the sick, send cards to the homebound, pray for someone hurting, say a kind word to a fellow co-worker in the Lord, to assist others financially, to witness to the lost around us, to set the example of Christ in our homes and the list goes on....

It just seems that in today's fast paced world, we are so totally consumed by life itself that we do not take time to do these things. We focus on our own problems and issues so much that we lose sight of those around us who could use some encouragement. Let's make it priority this month to shine our light and show our love to those around us!

Joyfully Serving,

Sherrell ☺





It's September, school has started back and we have mission projects galore.

The GAs and RAs will be starting new classes **September 7**. We are very excited to have the RAs as part of the WMU organization again. We are looking forward to a great year with all the kids and many joint mission projects.

There are many mission opportunities for all adults as well. First we have the Camille Graham Women's Prison Picnic on **September 10**. We have several ladies going to this event to minister to the women in the prison. We are asked to prepare food to take. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. Food items needed are:

**Fried Chicken
Chips**

**Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches
Fresh/Raw Vegetables
Home-baked cookies or cakes (pre-sliced)**

**Pimento Cheese Sandwiches
French Onion or Ranch Dip**



We are requested to wrap all sandwiches in clear plastic, not foil. Bake goods are to be pre-sliced and wrapped in plastic. They can be delivered to Gaston First on **September 10** by 9:00 am to be taken by the ladies attending the picnic. Donations will be accepted to purchase the chicken.

The Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering is **September 11-18**. This includes projects like the State Fair Ministry, Health Kits, Seafarers Ministry, to name a few. Our church offering goal for this is \$1,850.00. Prayer guides will be in your bulletin that week and offering envelopes will be placed in the pews. Please pray how God would have you participate in this project.

The Lexington Baptist WMU Association is hosting a Fall Festival on **September 24** from 9:00 – 11:30 am at Riverland Hills Baptist Church in Irmo. The Theme is Game On! For Missions. There will be activities for the entire family and this Fall Festival is open to everyone with games, crafts, face painting, clowns and display tables for different churches to display the mission projects they are involved with. We are planning to take the GAs and RAs to this event and encourage other church members or families to attend. More information will be in the bulletin as a reminder.

Since our children and youth groups are growing by leaps and bounds, I want to encourage GA, RA, and Youth leaders and teachers to participate in the **See You at the Pole Day on September 28**. This has been done in the past and if you or your child would like to organize the meeting at your school, please let me or Cindy know and we will get you all the info you need. Let's support our children and teachers and show up on **September 28**.

The Lexington Baptist Association Office still has mission opportunities available to everyone. Ms. Linda Hite will be coordinating many Prayer Walking events. Please keep the following dates on your calendar and be in prayer for how you may wish to participate.

Prayer Walking in Lexington, SC.....Dec 7, 2011
Prayer Walking in Atlanta, GA.....Nov 1-3, 2011
Prayer Walking in London, EnglandOct 6-13, 2011
Prayer Walking in Halifax, Nova Scotia.....Sept 2-8, 2011



Many of these events are both Prayer Walking and Mission Trips. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Linda Hite or David Lee at the Lexington Baptist Association Office at (803) 356-2543.

Coming in October we have: **World Hunger Day October 9; State Fair Pre-Ministry October 10-11; State Fair Ministry Oct 12-23**. Please pray how you can be a part of these mission opportunities.

As always thank you for your support with all our mission projects and continue to be in prayer as to how you can become involved in missions.

Love in Christ, Margie Rish & Cindy Furtick

DISCIPLESHIP WITH DEBBIE SPIRES, DIRECTOR

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Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of obedience to Christ, which transforms a person's values and behavior, and results in ministry in one's home, church, and world.

~ Classes currently meeting ~

- Adult Discipleship with Hasford Ott ~ Diggin' Deeper with Terry Pound**
- Cross Training with Bobby Spires and Adam Callahan - grades 6 -12**
- TeamKID with Sunnie Gail Pound, Lisa Pound, Bonnie McBride and Melody Feaster**
- Preschool through 6th grade**
- All of the above classes involve Bible lessons, and life application.**

~ Beginning September 11, 2011 ~



GRIEF SHARE with Sandra Pound



HOW GRIEF SHARE WORKS ~ If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

VIDEO SEMINAR WITH EXPERTS ~ Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects.

SUPPORT GROUP DISCUSSION ~ After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

WORKBOOK-BASED PERSONAL STUDY AND REFLECTION ~ During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process.

WHEN TO JOIN A GRIEF SHARE GROUP ~ You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin.

BREAKAWAY with Debbie Spires

As we make our way through life, our culture tends to herd us all in the same direction until we begin to look the same, act the same and want the same things as everyone else. After a while this sense of sameness, with little hope for change, makes us feel trapped. None of us sets out to be like everybody else, but it happens. How do you break the cycle and break out of the crowd? Video speaker Andy Stanley will renovate your thinking by exposing you to four core beliefs that have the power to change the trajectory of your life. Six sessions!

~~~~~ Coming Soon ~~~~~

**Jesus on Leadership: Becoming a Servant Leader with Pam Spires**

**Help & Hope for Single Parents with Pastor Larry**

**CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL with Ed Joseph**

**A CLEAN SLATE**

**O**ne of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.

Praise God that He allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help, we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH KEITH SPIRES, DIRECTOR

The month of September will start our new church year. I look forward to serving as your Sunday School Director.

### Balanced Spiritual Growth

is the theme for our Bible Studies in September.

The lesson emphasis each Sunday will help us accomplish this.



**September 4<sup>th</sup> - Connect to CommUnity**

**September 11<sup>th</sup> - Grow in Spiritual Maturity**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> - Find Your Place of Service**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> - Go and Tell**

We currently offer 22 Sunday School classes, ranging from Bed Babies to Senior Adults. There is a place for everyone. If you have not found yours, we will be happy to assist you.

Bed Babies ~ Marilyn Callahan

Toddlers & Twos ~ Sherri Miller, Kay Joseph

PreK ~ Sandy Poole, Amelia Suggs

K5 ~ Sandy Drawdy, Elisa Edwards

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade ~ Traci Rish, Mary Ann Moseley

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade ~ Ruth Barwick, Rhonda Smith

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade ~ Helen King, Randy Poole

Access ~ Connie Salyer, Lee Willets

Younger Youth ~ Adam Callahan

Older Youth ~ Bobby Spires

College & Career ~ Pam Spires

Life ~ Sherrell Ott

Maranatha ~ Duane Johnson

New Beginnings ~ Chris Vidrine

Sonshine ~ Terry Pound

Fisher's of Men ~ Hasford Ott

Helping Hands ~ Heyward Kelly

Seekers ~ Carolyn Kelly

Prayer ~ Debbie Harrison

Love ~ TBA

Golden Circle ~ Clair Thomas

Senior Men ~ Ray Smith

**Sunday School is a place where any person can enter his or her own journey in Christ and nurture his or her personal growth. Two items that will help you in your studies are your Bible and the learner guide, provided by your teacher.**

### Invite Someone to Sunday School

## NEW MEMBERS FOR JULY

Amya Bozard

Tatum Cox

Angela Henry

Michelle Knight

Sherri Wood

Ryan Wood

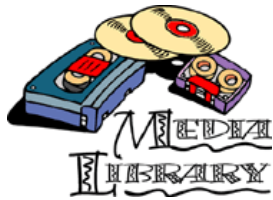
Welcome!!



### *Our Heartfelt Sympathy to the Roy Skinner Family*

Mr. Skinner passed away August 17. A memorial service was held at First Baptist Gaston Friday, August 18, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. Burial was at Southland Memorial Gardens Mr. Roy will be greatly missed by all.

*"I Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens Me"*  
*Philippians 4:13*



The Media Library staff and the entire church rejoice that Peter is at home and is attending worship again. We are reminded that we can, indeed, do all things through Christ in our relationship of faith in Him. Without His strength we can do nothing. The evidence of this strength was also seen in the family of Bethany Hamilton when she lost an arm to a shark attack. Her family trusted God during the most difficult moments of their lives.

"Soul Surfer" is the inspiring true story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again, through her sheer determination and unwavering faith.

"In the wake of this life-changing event which took her arm and nearly her life, Bethany's feisty determination and steadfast beliefs spur her toward an adventurous comeback that gives her the grit to turn her loss into a gift for others." (From the soul surfer website)

The film features an all-star cast, including Ann Sophia Robb, Helen Hunt, Dennis Quaid and Carrie Underwood in her film debut. More information on Bethany Hamilton can be found at <http://bethanyhamilton.com/>

The above DVD and others may be found on our shelves in the Media Library as well as the Welcome Center.



## TERROR NO MORE

"O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek; you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more" (Psalm 10:17-18, NRSV).

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 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.

## CHILDREN'S NEWS WITH RHONDA PARRISH, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

### Growing in Christ

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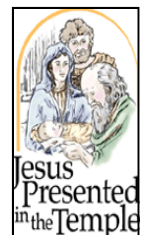


How do children grow? You grow by taking care of your body, eating good food, exercising and getting a good night's sleep every night. Doing these things help make your bodies healthy, build strong muscles and help you grow up to be an adult.

In Luke 2:52 the Bible tells us "*Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*" As a Christian, we also need to grow. We should read our Bibles and do what the Bible tells us to do. We should obey our parents and teachers. And we should be kind and loving to others.





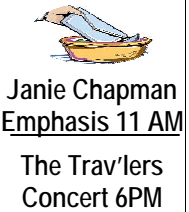



All of these things will help us to grow in Christ.

I am praying for you to grow to be big and strong for Jesus!



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*September, 2011*

| Sunday                                                                                                                                        | Monday                                                                                                                                         | Tuesday                                                                            | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                            | Thursday                                                                                                         | Friday                                                                                                                                   | Saturday                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 |
| 4                                                                                                                                             | 5<br>Phillip McBride<br>Sherrell Ott<br>Wendy Redding<br><br> | 6                                                                                  | 7<br>Claudea Pound<br><br>                                                          | 8<br>Vanessa Ayer<br>Cindy Gleaton<br>Sherry Reynolds<br>Janice Willetts<br>♥Freddie & Sharon Brant              | 9<br>Amber Fallaw<br>David Hinkle<br>L. H. Sightler<br>Lois Skipper<br>Marion Sturkie                                                    | 10<br>Huston Brock<br>James McIver<br>Lonnie Shivers<br><br>Women's Prison Picnic                                               |
| 11<br>Dwain Smith<br><br>                                   | 12<br>Faith Brock<br>Nanette Stabler<br>♥Eddie & Collette Knight<br>♥E. N. & Melba Williams                                                    | 13<br>Roy Jackson<br>Jim Pound<br>David Rish                                       | 14<br>Hannah Anderson<br>Sherry Ellison<br>Daniel Feaster<br>Kyle Haigwood<br>Kameron Haigwood<br>Lee Sanford<br>♥Robbie & Nanette Stabler                           | 15<br>David Hartgraves<br>Joe King<br>Savanna Martin<br>Michael Rish<br>Bailey Sharpe<br>♥Ted & Janice Boldt     | 16<br>Melissa Alsbrook<br>Rhonda Parrish<br>Mike Rollison<br>Laurin Sturkie<br>♥Robert & Joyce Lyles                                     | 17<br>Edward Dowd<br>Marvin, Sr. Pound<br>Pam Saunders<br>Charles Sharpe<br>Joel Sox<br>Andie Suggs<br>♥Brice & Peggy Donaldson |
| September 11 - 18 Week of Prayer for State Mission (Janie Chapman Offering)                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 |
| 18<br>Victoria Aziz<br>Richie Pound<br>Betty Sharpe<br><br> | 19<br>Charles Calk                                                                                                                             | 20<br>Beatrice Bryant<br>Lisa Sightler<br>Dorothy Wilson<br>♥Boyce & Sherry Rampey | 21<br>Shannon Kincaid<br>Agnes Sigh<br>Phyllis Templeton<br>Shirley Watts<br>♥David & Grace Hartgraves<br><br>Conference News Articles Due                           | 22<br>Cheri Vidrine                                                                                              | 23<br>Pamela Corrette<br>♥Tony & Kim Miller<br><br> | 24<br>Taylor Griffin<br>Tyler Stalvey                                                                                           |
| 25<br>Mitchell Dowd<br><br>                                | 26<br>Nathan Aultman<br>Hallie Collette<br>Brandon Dawkins<br>♥John & Anne Brewster<br>♥Andrew & Lisa Sightler                                 | 27<br>Katlyn Kelly<br>Patricia Sprinkle<br>E. N. Williams<br><br>Deacon Meeting    | 28<br>Victoria Hammond<br>Eddie Knight<br>Timothy Urbanek<br>Kinley Watts<br><br> | 29<br>Jennifer Delatorre<br>Patricia Sightler<br>Holly Watson<br>♥Harold & Annette Lucas<br>♥Randy & Sandy Poole | 30<br>Josh Copeland<br>Austin Godfrey<br>♥Harvel & Linda Sightler                                                                        |                                                                                                                                 |

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*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6*

**Weekly Schedule**

**Sunday**  
 09:45am.....Sunday School  
 11:00am.....Worship  
 11:00am..Children's Worship  
 05:00pm.....Adult Choir  
 05:00pm.....Discipleship  
 06:00pm.....Worship  
**Monday**  
 3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's Prayer Time  
**Wednesday**  
 6:00 PM Joyful Noise, Jr & Youth Choir practice  
 7:00pm. ....Prayer Service  
 7:00pm.....GA, RA & Mission Friends

**Monthly Meetings:**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday all mission groups meet 7:00PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Conference/Prayer Service 7:00PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Women on Mission Home Meeting 6:15  
 Last Tuesday of Month Deacons Meeting  
 Check bulletins & website for additional activities.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!**

**"THE CARING PLACE"**

We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.



At the outset of his reign as Israel's third king, Solomon saw the Lord in a dream. God invited Solomon to request anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask for?

- (A) The ability to discern between good and evil
- (B) Long life (C) Riches
- (D) Conquest over his enemies



Answer: A (See 1 Kings 3:4-14.)

"Life will only work out successfully one way, and that is God's Way."  
 —Leslie Weatherhead



"I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO 'LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION.'"