

Dr. Philip K. Gladden, Minister

**JULY 2014** 

**Cheryl Brinkley, Editor** 



## SUMMER READING MINISTRY

Thirteen Wallace Elementary students are registered and eleven more have verbally committed for our Summer Reading Ministry 2014. We also have nineteen full time and substitute volunteers to help students improve reading skills and confidence. Eleven of the volunteers are from WPC. Other volunteers are from Transfiguration Catholic, Wallace United Methodist and the community at large. We are grateful for the support of Wallace Elementary Principal J Parker and first grade teacher Sara Davis Matthews, who will help Susan Walters lead the program.

WPC Committee members are: Susan Walters, Harriet Farrior, Karla Casteen, Phil Gladden.

Our Summer Reading Ministry received a \$1000 grant from the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to purchase leveled readers.

Please keep our ministry in your prayers as we begin July 8.



- 2. Karla Casteen Charles McNamara
- 4- Freddy Hall Nancy Gladden
- 5- Ben Roberts Danielle Sills Candace Knowles
- 8. Edgar Wells Riley Tate Bobbie Ives
- 9. Bill Carone
- 12. David Johnson Lee Woodard
- 17- Frank Toothman Charley Farrior

- 18. Linda Burroughs Ellie Carone
- 19. Ann Carter
- 21- Nell Sloan
- 24. Andrew Williams Jenny Blair
- 25. Rebecca Eaddy Ioe Wallace
- 26. Todd Minchew
  - J.P. Phillips
- 29- Kevin Johnson 31- Bill Buckley

Elder Pat Barrow



Dear Friends,

The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met in Detroit during the week of June 14-21. 645 voting commissioners (split evenly between teaching elders/ministers and ruling elders) representing 172 presbyteries, and 219 non-voting advisory delegates (young adult, theological student, missionary, and ecumenical) participated in the business before the General Assembly.

In our Presbyterian form of church government, we are governed and guided by elders (teaching and ruling) who are elected by the members of congregations. Commissioners to General Assembly are elected at their respective presbytery meetings, attended by teaching and ruling elders elected by their congregations. As someone recently said, "You can't get much more grass-roots than the General Assembly!"

Elder commissioners to presbytery, synod, and General Assembly meetings are called to "vote their conscience" after prayerfully considering Scripture, listening to the debates, weighing the consequences, and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Two years ago, I had the privilege and responsibility of serving as a commissioner to the 220th General Assembly in Pittsburgh. I saw and experienced first-hand the hard work and faithful commitment of Presbyterian elders from across our national church as we all sought God's guidance and worked to discern God's will for Christ's church.

*Two actions of the most recent* General Assembly have received much publicity, having to do with divestment of stock in three U.S. companies in Israel and with the question of same-gender marriage. Elsewhere in this newsletter, I have provided several resources and Internet links which you can use to learn more about the General Assembly actions. I encourage you to take the time to read and be informed about what your fellow Presbyterians did in Detroit. I also will be glad to provide hard copies of information about these two issues to anvone who is interested, as well as to talk with anyone who is interested or concerned.

For 225 years, since the first General Assembly met in Philadelphia in 1789, Presbyterians have faithfully sought to discern God's will for their lives and Christ's church, by gathering, studying Scripture, praying, worshiping, deliberating, debating, listening, deciding, and acting. We entrust the business of the church to men and women who are elected by the people of God, elders who take solemn vows to lead Christ's church to the best of their ability, with God's help.

As we continue to live, work, worship, and pray together as the body of Christ in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), may God's Holy Spirit give us guidance and wisdom in all that we do and say. In Christ.







### NEWS FROM THE 221st GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DETROIT June 14-21, 2014

For news and summaries from the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that met June 14-21 in Detroit, visit one of these sites:

To read about GA actions and vote counts in committees and on the Assembly floor: <u>www.pc-biz.org</u>

To watch archived videos from the live feed during the GA meeting: www.oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/ga221/video/

For news reports of General Assembly actions: www.oga.pcusa.org/section/ga221

For reports on General Assembly news and other news from the PC(USA): <u>www.pres-outlook.org</u>



We are so glad to have you as part of our church family!

Darleen Weller By transfer from Grace Lutheran Church Westminster, Maryland

Welcome Darleen!

grow and contribute – we can experience in Zambia. And we also get to contribute to the church in ways we can't quite do here in the USA. The church in Southern and Central Africa is so young and has grown so quickly that training leaders there is an amazing opportunity.

Sherri and I are sincerely grateful for the ways so many of you help to make all of this possible through your prayers, encouragement, and gifts. As we head out in late July, we invite you to consider supporting us in our next four-year term of service by gifts toward our ministry through Presbyterian World Mission.

We still need more financial support, so we welcome and invite new donors to partner with us, as God may lead.

Finally, let me underline the point that we long for your prayers as we return to Zambia. We would appreciate prayer for God's protection on our family in every possible way. Please pray for us to manage the initial transition well, and that we will have all the wisdom and strength we need. We appreciate prayers that Jesus will go before us and prepare the way for us to be fruitful. Our students and colleagues need your prayers as well.

Yours in Christ,

Dustin and Sherri Ellington



Our church is hosting the Kitchen of Blessings meal at the Campbell Center on Saturday, July 26th, for approximately 50-60 people. We need a few volunteers to help cook the food on Friday, the 25th, and others to help serve on the 26th from 3:30 - 6:30. If you would like to help either day, please contact Dean and Gerri Hanson via email at <u>glhcrou@hotmail.com</u> or by phone, (910) 665-1131. Thank you!



# NURSERY WORKERS July

07/06: Nettie Batchelor & Maria Minchew 07/13: Joyce Ange & Leah Fussell 07/20: Andrea Casteen & Lydia Woodard 07/27: Watts & Tracey Carr

08/03: Clay & Noel Blue 08/10: Freddy & Rhonda Hall 08/17: Georgette Thompson & girls 08/24: Kevin & Christy Johnson 08/31: Chuck & Gina Farrior

#### YOUTH WORSHIP LEADERS

07/06: Joe Wallace & Kendrick Minchew 07/13: Raechel Woodard & Cameron Blue 07/20: Madison & Garrett Bullard 07/27: Ellie Carone & Anna Grace Carr

# **USH**HERS

Jim Robison, Leader Michael Teachey Dave Wells Clay Blue Roger Coombs



07/06: Bill & Susan Walters 07/13: Joey Fussell & Mary Carone 07/20: Rick & Nettie Batchelor 07/27: Dave & Gloria Wells

### **OPENING CHURCH BUILDING**

July1-15: Charley Farrior July 16-31: Greg Maready

### CHURCH NEWS ... For Your Information

- \* The church office will be closed on Friday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.
- \* We will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, July 6. All who have been baptized and put their trust in Jesus Christ are welcome at the table.
- \* There will be no Wednesday morning Bible study on July 2 and 9.

\* **Philip Gladden** will be on vacation Wednesday - Saturday, July 9-12. Please contact Susie Bullard, Clerk of Session, or the church office in an emergency.

- \* **The session** will meet on Wednesday, July 16 at 6:00 p.m. If you have any business or concerns for the session to consider, please speak to the appropriate Ministry Team chairperson or the minister.
- \* Cheryl Brinkley, church secretary, will be on vacation July 28-August 1.



MARRIES Myree Bland (home) Judy Robinson (home) Hospital & at home: Avalee Bowman (The Oaks at Mayview, Raleigh, NC) Cathy Wells (Fayetteville) Kelsea Webster (home)



Camp Kirkwood Summer Vesper Service Sponsored by Friends of Kirkwood Hosted by Faison Presbyterian Church

Sunday, July 20 5:00 p.m. Refreshments under the Picnic Pavilion 6:00 p.m. Vesper Service by the Lake

Future Vesper Services August 10 Hosted by St. Andrews-Covenant PC September 14 Hosted by Wallace PC October 12 Hosted by Burgaw PC



# WORSHIP LEADERSHIP IN JULY

ELDER John Green Rick Batchelor Fred Burroughs Bill Walters

#### **PREACHER**

Philip Gladden Philip Gladden s Philip Gladden Philip Gladden I'm excited to get back to Practical Preaching partly because of ways I've seen students grow. One special aspect is getting to stick with the same group over several academic terms, so there's time to see progress. When we first began, the class seemed rather like an initiation rite where older students made first-year students sweat. But as we worked on group dynamics, class members increasingly tried to keep their comments to what might genuinely serve the preacher.

Individual students are developing, too. One went from preaching that everyone who isn't actively following Jesus is actually a Satan worshiper, to being a model of thoughtful biblical preaching for new students. I watched another student transform from using one tone only – a fairly aggressive shout – to becoming comfortable with her particular voice and personality so she can speak to people's hearts with warmth.

I've had to penalize a couple students for preaching someone else's sermons. (It turns out there are some good sermons on the internet!) After finding the sermon sources, I met with the students to let them know I believed they had what it takes to learn the skills of understanding the Bible for themselves and preparing solid sermons on their own. One responded, "Do you *really* think I could learn to do that myself?" He needed someone to believe in him, and he left expressing gratitude. Over and over, I've seen students go from trying to sound and look like some other preacher they admire, to getting a handle on who they are and what gifts they bring as preachers. It's a particular joy to see students who arrive as extremely tentative preachers become at home in the pulpit as they give biblical messages that reach their listeners' hearts.

In addition to all this, I'm excited to get back to this group because of what it does for me. As I see students develop, it increases my faith that God isn't finished with me, and that God isn't finished with the church. Practical Preaching time is also a highlight each week for my own education about the African church and African ways of thinking. One can learn a lot about people by how a passage of Scripture strikes them, and from seeing how they respond to a sermon. I mostly listen (I always get my chance to talk later when I meet with the preacher to give individual feedback). It's in these times that I observe firsthand some secrets of the African church's vitality, including Africans' experience of Jesus Christ as *the* source of abundant life, and the gospel as truly good news. Justo Mwale students also trust that every part of Scripture connects us with God and leads to the life God has for us, so the whole Bible matters to them. And they have no doubt that good preaching guides and transforms lives.

I also find that through the preaching group I come to know the stories of my students' lives and faith. I sense that as I learn their stories I'm able to connect with them more deeply and contribute more to them, both in the rest of the classes I teach and through conversations as I live among them on our campus.

I feel grateful that, even though my family has had a good year in the USA, each one of us has reasons to look forward to getting back to Zambia. The things that make life good – relationship with God and with the people around us, the beautiful world we live in, the chance to learn and



Ellingtons Return to Zambia in July

June 25, 2014

Dear Friends,

In recent days our family has been talking about what it will be like to return to Zambia. We leave the USA on July 25, so it's just around the corner!

- We're excited to see our house again and all the trees and colorful birds around it.
- Christopher, our youngest, is eager to get back to the yard so he can build things in it, like a new zip line.
- We're especially looking forward to seeing friends, yet wonder what it will be like now that some people have moved on students have graduated; others will soon, and foreign friends have left.
- Clayton and Chris are excited to be part of their youth group.
- Clayton thinks a lot about taking what he's learned from his Louisville cross-country and track teams to start a running club with Zambians in our neighborhood.
- Sherri is curious to see how God might lead her to minister through studying Scripture with various groups of women; she kept having more and deeper opportunities to do so before we left.
- I (Dustin) especially look forward to the routines of serving alongside my colleagues and being involved with my students, day-in and day-out, in their learning and growth.

I could say a lot about different things I'm eager for, including how thought-provoking yet entertaining the Justo Mwale staff is. But I'd like to share in particular about something called "Practical Preaching" group.

Every academic term at Justo Mwale, other professors and I each facilitate a preaching practicum, in which a group of eight to ten students meet every week for one person to preach. After the sermon, the rest of the students offer responses and comments.

# SonRise Worship



Every Tuesday morning Room 304

6:30 a.m. Coffee, Doughnuts, Fellowship

7:00 - 7:30 a.m. Worship with Music, Prayers, and Studying God's Word

> New to SonRise? Join us for a worshipful start to your day!



Friends of Camp Kirkwood Announce Camping Scholarships

Friends of Camp Kirkwood, Inc. and the Wilmington Family YMCA are pleased to announce the establishment and funding of scholarships for residential overnight camp at Camp Kirkwood for the foster children from Pender County. For the next ten years, Friends of Camp Kirkwood will provide camping scholarships annually for Pender County foster children. This support of the foster children of our area is due to the generosity of local Presbyterians reaching out to the "least of these."

Our goal at Camp Kirkwood is to provide a faith based outdoor camping experience in God's creation for children of all ages. We recognize that many foster children never have the chance to spend a week at camp. These scholarships will offer these precious children a great experience.

Camp Kirkwood is operated in partnership by the Friends of Camp Kirkwood and the Wilmington Family YMCA and offers summer camps throughout the summer. Camp Kirkwood also serves as a retreat center for local churches and faith based organizations in our area.

Contact Gregory Miller at 452-5260 for information on these scholarships.



### SUMMER SERMON SERIES

A Summer in the Psalms

The Book of Psalms is the Hebrew hymnbook. These songs of praise continue to speak to us today. In the psalms, we hear people of faith express their greatest longings, their deepest joys, their bewildered questions, their wonderful praise, and their loyal faith in God.

During June - August, we will spend "A Summer in the Psalms." You are invited to read and pray through the selected psalms this summer as you prepare for Sunday worship. You are also invited to our Wednesday morning Bible study (10:00 a.m., Room 304, across from the Music Room) at which the psalm for the following Sunday is discussed.

| <u>SUNDAY</u> | <u>PSALM</u>   |  |  |
|---------------|----------------|--|--|
| July 6        | Psalm 34       |  |  |
| July 13       | Psalms 42 & 43 |  |  |
| July 20       | Psalm 77       |  |  |
| July 27       | Psalm 84       |  |  |
| August 3      | Psalm 91       |  |  |
| August 10     | Psalm 100      |  |  |
| August 17     | Psalm 121      |  |  |
| August 24     | Psalm 130      |  |  |
| August 31     | Psalm 150      |  |  |
|               |                |  |  |



## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

"If one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

*Coach Clayton Hall*, Cape Fear Independent Conference basketball Coach of the Year

Joseph Phaneuf, Harrells Christian Academy athlete, honored on May 18
Coach Jason Fussell, Cape Fear Conference baseball Coach of the Year, and the Midway High School (Dunn) Raiders, NC 2A baseball champions
Kelli Norris, Wallace Elementary School Teacher of the Year
Hill Lanier, Principal's List, Penderlea School
Madelyn Coombs, A/B Honor Roll, Penderlea School
Garrett Bullard, A/B Honor Roll, Penderlea School
Natalie Gladden, UNC-Asheville Dean's List, Spring Semester
Dallas Blake Saunders and Liza Jane Mahle, married under the live oaks on
Masonboro Sound in Wilmington on June 21
Lee and Nick Baker, celebrating the birth of their thirteenth grandchild, Beau
Alexander Balzuweit on June 12
Battle and Brooke Holley, celebrating the birth of their son, Jack Battle Holley, on

June 20 (8 lbs., 9 oz., 21 inches). Judy Holley is the proud grandmother.





# 2014 Graduates of Justo Mwale Theological University College Receive Bicycles on April 26, 2014 Thanks to Wallace Presbyterian Church













| SUNDAY  | MONDAY                | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY S  | ATURDAY                    |
|---|-----------------------|---|--|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
|   |                       | 1<br>6:30 am: Coffee &<br>Doughnuts-Room 304<br>7:00 am: SonRise Worship<br>Room 304  | 2<br>No Bible Study  | 3                          | 4 Independence Day<br>Church office closed<br>Happy Independence Day! | 5                          |
| <b>6</b><br>9:40 am: Open Assembly<br>10:00 am: S School<br>11:00 am: Worship/<br>Communion                                     | 7                     | <b>8</b><br>6:30 am: Coffee &<br>Doughnuts-Room 304<br>7:00 am: SonRise Worship<br>Room 304<br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry  | <b>9</b><br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry<br>No Bible Study<br>Minister on Vacation  | 10<br>Minister on Vacation | 11<br>Minister on Vacation  | 12<br>Minister on Vacation |
| <b>13</b><br>9:40 am: Open Assembly<br>10:00 am: S School<br>11:00 am: Worship  | 14                    | <b>15</b><br>6:30 am: Coffee &<br>Doughnuts-Room 304<br>7:00 am: SonRise Worship<br>Room 304<br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry | <b>16</b><br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry<br>10:00 am: Bible study, Blue<br>Room in Currie Bldg.<br>6:00 pm: Session Meeting,<br>Room 304 | 17                         | 18  | 19                         |
| <b>20</b><br>9:40 am: Open Assembly<br>10:00 am: S School<br>11:00 am: Worship<br>5-7:00 pm: Summer Vespers<br>at Camp Kirkwood | 21                    | <b>22</b><br>6:30 am: Coffee &<br>Doughnuts-Room 304<br>7:00 am: SonRise Worship<br>Room 304<br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry | 23<br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry<br>10:00 am: Bible study, Blue<br>Room in Currie Bldg.   | 24                         | 25  | 26                         |
| <b>27</b><br>9:40 am: Open Assembly<br>10:00 am: S School<br>11:00 am: Worship  | 28                    | <b>29</b><br>6:30 am: Coffee &<br>Doughnuts-Room 304<br>7:00 am: SonRise Worship<br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry             | <b>30</b><br>9:00 am-12 noon: Summer<br>Reading Ministry<br>10:00 am. Bible Study, Blue<br>Room in Currie Bldg.  | 31                         |   |                            |
|   | Secretary on Vacation | Secretary on Vacation   | Secretary on Vacation  | Secretary on Vacation      |   |                            |

Have a Safe and Happy Fourth of July!



