



August 2016 Newsletter

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PASTOR'S PAGE

Back in April, I shared a little about the idea of vision as that future towards which God is always leading God's people. Throughout Scripture, there are countless stories of God revealing to the heroes of the faith what they are to do, and where they are to go, to help accomplish God's purposes. Abraham was told to go to a land that God *would* show him, so that God might bless the nations of the earth. A stuttering Moses was told to go to Pharaoh and demand freedom for the Israelites, so that they might live in their own land as God intended. Jesus proclaimed God's vision in Luke 4, recalling Isaiah's words calling for liberation for captives, sight for the blind, and the coming of the "year of the Lord's favor." God reveals a vision of the New Jerusalem to John in the book of Revelation. God is always casting a vision to which God's people are called to participate, if we can but discern it.

The wisdom found in Proverbs 29:18, "Without a vision the people will perish," remains true today. While Thyatira is blessed with an enviable stability and incredible resources, our direction is not as clear as it could be for us to live up to the potential that God has in mind for us. We have done great things in the past and great things are in our future. We just need to discern what great things God is calling us to next!

To that end, the Session of Thyatira has authorized a congregation-wide Vision Discernment process which will help answer the question, "What does God want us at Thyatira to be and do?" with the gifts and resources we have. To lead that effort, the Session has charged a group of six people to guide the congregation in this effort. This small group will not be the people who discern God's vision, but they will be the ones who keep the process moving forward, look for ways to involve everyone who want to take part, and ultimately distill everyone's efforts into a statement that will provide the basis for planning for our ministry together.

Discernment is an art rather than a science. It requires patience and a commitment to let God's purposes, rather than our desires, be the guiding force in our life together. The vision needed for Thyatira's ministry is not a vision we decide and create for ourselves, but rather God's vision that we discern and bring to life. It is more than simply doing an assessment of the needs around us and choosing one. Rather, it is a matter of cooperating with God's choice for the direction of our life and ministry. It may take a little time, but I have no doubt God will reveal it to us.

If discernment requires a lot of patience, it requires even more prayer. As we approach this season of discernment, let me ask you to lift up the entire process and the team that will guide us in recognizing where God is leading us next.

Peace, Stacey

AROUND THE CHURCH

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND HAPPENINGS

HOMECOMING

Sunday, August 14
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Worship
Recognizing 2016 Graduates
and Scholarship recipients;
followed by Covered Dish Lunch

2016-17 PRESCHOOL OPENINGS



"Where the little ones shine"

We still have opening in the preschool program (two in the four year old class, one in the 3 year old class and the several openings in the 2 year old class. If you know of someone who would be interested in our preschool, please have them contact the church office. Preschool begins the day after Labor Day, Sept. 6.

During the Stated Session meeting on July 24, 2016, the Session approved the following items:

- Approved that Carolyn Haggerty will email a request for Kim Eagle to submit a proposal concerning her fees for custodial services to Thyatira Church.
- Approved the Women of the Church's project to sell the large round tables in the Fellowship Hall and replace them with smaller, lighter, rectangular tables just like the rectangular tables already in the Fellowship Hall.
- Elected Georgia McCorkle as commissioner for the next Salem Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church at Boone, NC.
- Gave consensus agreement to send the present Cemetery Policy to TMA for any changes that may be necessary.
- Approved Thyatira's participation in a workshop of "Healthy Congregations" presented on Friday & Saturday, September 9-10, 2016 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. More information to come.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

Thirteen boys and Greg Hager represented Troop 476 at Camp John J. Barnhardt the first week of July, earning approximately sixty merit badges.

Logan McNeely has completed his Eagle scout project at Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary. Isaac Lingle is beginning his project collecting toys for Toys for Tots, and Chase Hovis is starting a project for Main Street Mission in China Grove.

Weekly meetings will resume in August, and if anyone knows of a boy who would be interested in joining, please speak with Greg.



Generosity Update: For June we reached 80.8% of our goal. If you will be out of town during these summer months, please make sure to catch up when you get back!

ATTENTION ALL CHILDREN

Christmas will be here before you know it. With that said the children will be performing a Christmas program on Dec. 4 during the 11am worship service. Music has been selected and will be handed out shortly.

The PW met Saturday, July 16 in the church parlor

Items discussed were:

- Guest Speaker was Perry and Nancy Kesler with Rolling Thunder, Chapter 6. Rolling Thunder supports POW-MIA and helps to bring our veterans home. Larry discussed Wreath's Across America and placing wreaths on the tombstones of the veterans at the VA Hospital.
- The Houck Family Reunion has been cancelled, it was set for Saturday, July 30.
- The menu was discussed for the VBS dinner, Wednesday, July 20.

THYATIRA PRAYER CONCERNS

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <u>Liberty Commons:</u> | Frank Fuller |
| <u>Lutheran Home:</u> | Mullie Varner
Rebecca Morrison |
| <u>C/O George Calhoun:</u> | Mary Alice Calhoun |
| <u>White Oak Manor, Charlotte:</u> | Ruby Erwin |
| <u>At Home:</u> | JoAnn Kerr
OC Shoaf
Nell Fuller |
- Lydia Richmond's mother, Joy Steele is recovering from surgery
 - Judy Leazer (co-worker of Sharon Deal) is taking Leukemia treatments
 - Mark Quinn (the husband of Sharon Deal's best friend) has been diagnosed with Rectal/Colon Cancer in Florida
 - Sharon Deal's cousin Randy McCombs died on July 7 from lung cancer
 - Muriel, mother of our housekeeper, Kim Eagle
 - Drema Clemens' mother, Bertha Warden, has congestive heart failure and is under Hospice Care in West Virginia
 - Drema Clemens' sister, Debbie Meadows is recovering from surgery
 - Drema Clemens' son, Dustin is recovering from back surgery
 - Millicent Hoffner's brother, Joe Kerr
 - Jeanie Irvin, wife of former member Kevin Irvin and daughter-in-law of Kitty & Tony Harris, is recovering from surgery
 - Mike Hawkins who has RA
 - Former member, Pat Hall
 - Debbie Edwards' mom and dad, Peggy and Murray, and her mother in law, Margaret
 - Debbie Belk, a friend of Joyce Caldwell
 - Jimmy's mother and father, Ernestine & Bill Hoffner
 - Matt, Desha Carson and family, friend of Corrie Connolly, Asia missionaries
 - Paul Rogers' daughter and family who are missionaries will be leaving for Pakistan in August

**August Birthdays**

- 2 Bradley McKnight
- 2 Brian Waller
- 4 Stephen Milam
- 5 Ronda White
- 6 Dana Edwards
- 6 Jennie Graham
- 6 Norman McCorkle
- 6 Vickie Stamper
- 10 Jeremy Deal
- 10 Mark Wetmore
- 11 Eric Rouse
- 13 Tyler Bell
- 13 Randall Patterson
- 14 Dan Caldwell
- 17 Kristine Franz
- 18 Juanita Turner
- 20 Christina Rowland
- 21 Bob Weast
- 22 Michael Swanson
- 26 Leona Guy
- 26 Keith Vaughan
- 27 Linda Rogers
- 27 Carolyn Wilson
- 31 Kaye Hawkins
- 31 Charles King

AUGUST SCHEDULES

Greeters: Georgia McCorkle, Debbie Edwards, Bill Hall

Ushers: Ed Hall, Jeff Franz, Mike Connolly, Paul Gaylor, John Sloan

Liturgists

- 7—Phares Sechler
- 14—Bill Hall
- 21—Flora Calderón-Steck
- 28—Alice Sloop

Nursery

- 7—Laurel Harcum, Ben/Mariah Watts, Klancy Deal
- 14—Beth Bates, Michelle Patterson, Selena Bell
- 21—Linda Rogers, Janet Lambert, Alice Sloop
- 28—Carly Moore, Leigh Anne Wetmore, Jada Ware-Guy



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AUGUST 2016

THIS MONTH'S PRAYER FOCUS IS JAMAICA!

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) relates to our partner church, the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. PC(USA) has at times had mission volunteers working with the United Church in their extensive primary and secondary school system. There are a number of sister congregations between the United Church and PC(USA). We have also worked closely with and through Caribbean and North American Council for Mission.

The PC(USA) has supported the United Theological College of the West Indies, particularly in their goal of strengthening a clinical pastoral education component within this seminary. United Theological College is one of the major Protestant seminaries in the Caribbean, particularly for English-speaking churches, though a large contingent of Haitian students also are enrolled.

Current Council for Mission priorities, that all member churches are working towards together, are to eliminate violence against women, eliminate human trafficking, alleviate poverty and address root causes and promote church growth and renewal.

(Taken from the PCUSA Mission Yearbook)

