

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
July, 2013

Volume 13, Number 7

FROM THE PASTOR



July 4. A day that for many people means parties, parades, cookouts and fireworks. But there is a reason why we celebrate on the 4th and we can't forget that! It was the day the colonies declared their independence from England. Freedom was declared in some famous words of the Declaration of Independence, which starts:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

And it was signed first by John Hancock and then by representatives from all the states. We still honor John Hancock by saying, "Put your John Hancock on there," whenever we ask for a signature. If you want to get a blank stare, ask someone for their "Josiah Bartlett." He's the second guy to sign, but nobody remembers him.

This was an exciting day! A day of joy and celebration. But what followed was anything but a simple joy or easy. Let your thoughts race ahead to December of 1776, because it's here that history shows us how brittle and fragile was the hope of independence.

George Washington was commanding an army that was disintegrating before his eyes. It looked as if all hope for victory was gone. He had made a military blunder that had lost New York to the British Army. The Congress had fled from Philadelphia because the city was seen as a lost cause. The Continental Army was low on gunpowder, guns, food, and other supplies. The civilians that had celebrated so heartily on July 4,5,6th, were now wondering if it would be wisest just to give up at this point. Most of the soldiers would finish their enlistments on December 31, and other didn't wait that long and simply deserted. George Washington's Army was about to be destroyed by British troops and German Mercenaries (Hessians). The future of America was hanging on by a thread.

Which makes the events of Christmas Day 1776 all the more amazing. Washington led his troops across the Delaware River against incredible odds. There was hail and sleet, and ice flows. The operation took hours longer than originally thought. Two of the generals failed to join in the fight because of the bad conditions. But Washington led his troops against all odds on a nine mile march and defeated the better trained and equipped Hessians and turned the war around. An almost impossible mission completed, and a seemingly undefeatable enemy, defeated. The future hung by a thread, but a thread was all it took. This is our history as Americans, and we ought to cherish it, and be grateful for it.

(continued on page 2)

From the Pastor-continued from page 1

But for as great as this is, we have a richer and more amazing history and heritage as Christians. We have a great gift in the Bible. Here we can read our past, present, and future. We can look at our history as people of faith and we can see how time and time again it looked like our history hung on by a thread, but a thread was more than enough for God to sustain his people.

Today we are living in troubled times. My prayer is that as we take some time to look back this July 4, that we would be inspired to trust God, to trust his provision, to trust his grace as we look to the future, and the times when it seems that our future may be vulnerable, or fragile, or in danger.

See you in church.

Jay

JULY HYMN OF THE MONTH - #472, "O Sing to the Lord"

This text is a joyous hymn inviting us to sing a new song, dance and blow all the trumpets for our God, who by his holy power "has done wonders." It first appeared as a Brazilian folk hymn in 1986 and was translated from the Portuguese into both English and Spanish by Gerhard Cartford, a leading Lutheran organist and choir director, who has a most interesting background: he was born in Madagascar, served in the United States Army, studied folk music and hymnody in Norway, and has taught at numerous U. S. colleges and seminaries.

The tune used in our hymnal is a Brazilian folk tune contemporary with the text. It has a happy lilt that should be easy to learn and sing.

Birthdays This Month

July 7 – Gerry Burnside

8 – Michael Smith

12 – Judy Miller

18 – Dale Holder

19 – Larry Bailey

20 – Emy Crump

23 – Grace Wyrick

"Age is strictly a case of mind over matter.
If you don't mind, it doesn't matter!"

-Jack Benny

ANSWER TO JUNE'S BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUESTION

What did the writer of the Book of James say we should do if we lack wisdom? "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you.....But when you ask him, be sure your faith is in God alone." (James 1:5,6 NLT)



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

	<u>Sermon topics</u>	<u>Scripture Readers</u>
July 7	“Transforming Power” Text: Luke 10:1-11;16-20	Jean Shuping Reading: Galatians 6:1-6, 7-16
July 14	“Making God’s Love Our Love” Text: Luke 10:25-37	Janice Woods Reading: Amos 7:7-17
July 20	“The Measure of a Christian” Text: Luke 10:38-42	Ben Parke Reading: Amos 8:1-12
July 27	Dialogue and Questions Gospel: Luke 11:1-13	Diane Taylor Reading: Hosea 1:2-10



IN HIS SERVICE

JULY USHERS
 Earney Walker
 Jan Walker
 Dale Holder
 Nita Holder

JULY COMMUNION SERVERS
 Sunday, July 7 – Earney Walker
 Nita Holder
 Jean Shuping
 Merrilou Williams



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

Which apostle, who was described as “full of grace and power, and doing great wonders and signs among the people”, was stoned to death?



PRAYER CONCERNS: Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy Bristow, Earney Walker, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Bob Berthold, the family of Myrna Stell, Katie Williams, Margaret Simmons, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Jim Farley, Reuben and Shirley Mercer, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Jane Christopher, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Chris Westmoreland, Joyce Myer, Zachary Reavis, Joe Herndon, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.

* * * OUR JUNE RECORD * * *

	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
June 2	47	\$ 3,905.00
9	47	\$ 1,970.00
16	48	\$ 1,081.00
23	46	\$ 1,467.00
30	not available	



FOOD CART

In May we collected 208 pounds of food. Please continue to give. The featured item for July is juice. No glass jars, please.

Thank You

A big thank you to John and Phyllis Watkins for planting the melampodium (yellow flowers) along the walk into the Fellowship Building and keeping them watered.

Dwight (Bud) Causey died on Friday, June 21. Dwight and his family were former members of St. Paul. His late wife, Hilda, was Andy Taylor's sister. A memorial service will be held at a later date at his church in Garden City, SC

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES

The Love/Peace Circle will meet Tuesday, July 2 at 9:45am at the church. Members should bring fruit to share in a fruit bowl. The Charity Circle will meet that same evening at 5:30pm at O'Charley's.

GAD-A-BOUTS

The Gad-A-Bouts will meet at the church on Tuesday, July 23 at 10:00am to play bingo. They will then go out to lunch.

GODSPELL, JR.

The Shepherd's Center, an agency our church supports, is offering an opportunity to members of supporting congregations to attend the musical, *Godspell, Jr*, performed entirely by youth, at a special rate of \$10 each. Dates are: July 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 at 7:00pm, with matinee performances at 2:00pm on July 13, 14, 20 and 21. If you would like to go to this great show, which is based on the Gospel of Matthew, please let Janice Woods know, along with the date(s) you would prefer.

"Feed My Sheep"

Thanks to the generosity of a St. Paul couple, St. Paul now houses an emergency food bank. We will continue our blue cart collection for the Urban Ministry. However, now when Pastor Jay learns of a dire need for food by someone who may have exhausted eligibility with other sources, there will be food available at St. Paul to help bridge that gap.

We expect to be able to replenish the food supply as needed by using resources from the Ministry Fund. So please continue to be generous in your donations both to the Ministry Fund and to Urban Ministry through our blue cart collections.

You may be asked on occasion if you will meet another member at the church to give a prepared bag of food to a hungry person. The need is great! Thank you for doing your part to help. If you have any questions you may contact Janice Woods.

ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars now and plan to be with us for a very enlightening Adult Vacation Bible School. The dates are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 12, 13 and 14, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm. As in past years we will have guest speakers from other faith groups to share with us about their traditions, beliefs and practices: Monday: Fr. Christopher Foley of Holy Cross Orthodox Church (Orthodox Church in America); Tuesday: Jay and Laura Ebert of the Baha'i Fellowship of Greensboro; Wednesday: Aaron and Ruth Martin of the Mennonite faith. It will be interesting to learn about these different faith traditions. As always, there will be a question-and-answer period after each presentation. Don't miss these opportunities!

