

# Tidings

**Clover Presbyterian Church**

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church  
Larne, Northern Ireland



*August, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Know:***

- **Lemonade and Fellowship** in the Atrium: Join us in the Atrium following Worship in August for refreshments and fellowship. The Board of Deacons will be providing this opportunity for us to catch-up, meet new people, and get to know one another better. August 7, 14, and 21!
- **Rally Day & Church Picnic @ Bethelwoods ~ August 28** ~ Bid farewell to Summer on August 28 at our second annual Church Picnic at Bethelwoods. Come to Sunday School (9:00) and Worship (10:00) that morning dressed to gather under the picnic shelter at Bethelwoods for lunch, and then enjoy the pool, the lake, and all the other recreational facilities available at the camp. More details inside and in the Bulletin all month long.
- **The Adams Are Coming!** Mark, Miriam, Cindy, Anna, and Nathan will be joining us in Clover on August 15 for a nine month interpretation leave from their mission appointment on the US / Mexico Border. They will be staying in our Manse during their leave and visiting with churches that support their ministry throughout the year. A huge thank you to everyone who has offered us things to prepare the house. Help us welcome them this month by:  
Helping us furnish the manse for their arrival, or  
Joining us on August 9 @ 10:00 am for **Manse Pounding Day**—to stock the pantry and make final preparations.
- **New!!!** Keep up with what's happening around the church by subscribing to our newsfeed:  
[http://www.cloverpres.org/mod/news/syndicate.php?category\\_id=1](http://www.cloverpres.org/mod/news/syndicate.php?category_id=1)
- **Youth Going to Carowinds:** The Big Youth Thing at Carowinds is Thursday, August 4. Tickets are still available at the door for \$40. Join us Thursday morning at 9:00 am for all the fun!
- **Summer of LOVE:** Youth in grades 6-12 don't miss Sunday School this Summer. Douglass, Debbie, and Andrew Swanner will be leading a conversation about two different understandings of God's love and our place in it. First we will be sharing the thoughts of Francis Chan from his book / video series *Crazy Love*. Then we will turn to Rob Bell's new book, *Love Wins*. Join us every week, we promise it will be lovely! ☺
- **Confirmation is Coming!** Attention all rising 7th and 8th graders and their families: You are invited to reflect on your faith journey and the call to Christian discipleship. Our 2011-2012 Confirmation Class organizational meeting will be held Sunday, August 21, at 11:30 (right after worship) in the Ladies' Classroom.
- **Clover Kids go to the Movies!** 2nd thru 5th graders will be going learning How to train Your Dragon (rated PG) on August 10th. We will meet at 8:45am in the CPC parking lot before leaving for the movie. Cost for the movie is \$1 and a responsible adult is needed for your children. We will grab lunch following the movie before returning to CPC. If you have questions or would like to sign up please email Debbie.
- For updates on **Kimberly Sanders**, who had surgery Friday, July 29, at Duke University Medical Center, visit her Care Page. Go to [www.carepages.com](http://www.carepages.com) and enter her name in the search box. If you'd like to help when she returns from the hospital with a meal or whatever, visit [www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/644566](http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/644566) or call Pat King, 831-2825, to sign up for a day.

*Things You Need To Know* Continue on Page 7



## Keynotes: A Tough Crowd

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?

Psalms 13:1

We are a people who love an opinion poll. In fact I would not be surprised if we were not the global leader in opinion research. Other nations make things or implement policies for the common good. We survey what sorts of things people prefer and which policy directions they would be most likely to support. Maybe we think having an opinion gives us legitimacy. We are important, our opinion counts. Because we heard a 25 second explanation of the difference between the traditional Consumer Price Index and the Chain Weighted Consumer Price Index as to its accuracy for calculating cost of living adjustments for retirees, we have credibility on the matter. We have an opinion, and we would like to be heard. We know that Casey Anthony is guilty. We know that Rupert Murdoch is great! Or entirely evil! Just ask us. We are capable of approving or disapproving of just about anything.

Including God. According to a July poll fully 52% of Americans who believe in God approve of God's job performance. That's right, God's job approval is just 52%, among his faithful ones! To be fair, that puts God far ahead of congress (33%) and the President (45%), and way in front of Rupert Murdoch (12%), but I would have expected God to be doing somewhat better with his people. Difficult economic times are usually good for God's popularity. When other support systems fail us we are reminded that God has been with us all along. Poverty begets piety.

It makes me wonder about the other 48%. The disapproving 48. Those who expect a little more from their God than what they've seen lately. They don't disapprove of everything that God has done, 72% of us approve of God's handling of creating the universe. We like the predictability of gravity, maybe; or the constancy of the tides, the color of a sunset, or the beauty of the human form. But in general, God is not doing well in the courts of public opinion.

My first reaction to these findings was, "Who would dare disapprove of God?" Shouldn't God's job performance be irreproachable? Who would sit in judgment upon the Lord? Who are we to say that God is not living up to our expectations? I

suppose this result could be an illustration of how unhappy we are right now with any and all authorities. We are miserable and we approve of no one's handling of anything, not even God. The Lord just happens to have gotten caught up in a rather extreme case of anti-incumbency fever.

But it is not impossible that there is something more substantive at work here. The 48% might not be generally disaffected with the direction of the world. They might be people of very strong and vital faith. People who expect God to be powerfully engaged in the course of human events and who do not exempt God from blame for human suffering. We are sick – he can heal. We are poor – he can bless. We are weak – he can defend.

If that is who the 48% are then they have good Biblical cohorts. When the Psalmist exclaims, "Why, O Lord, do you stand afar off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" he is disapproving of the job God has been doing. What is "Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed," but a plea for God to do better; to get in the game and show a little more effort? Job and Jeremiah also constantly disapprove of God's handling of the affairs of human life.

So, the Disapproving 48 may stand in that Biblical tradition. They may marvel that 52% of us actually think, given the state of the world and human life, that God is doing a fine job.

Consider the Somalis. The Horn of Africa really picked the wrong time to fall into the grips of its worst famine in sixty years. Previous famines have been met with an outpouring of aid from prosperous countries in times of stable economic growth. But now there is no sovereign wealth to share. In Europe, Japan and the United States it is politically, if not economically, impossible for large scale food relief to be summoned on behalf of starving Somalis, Ethiopians, Eritreans, and Sudanese. It is the wrong time to be the mother of a starving child. And there are millions of starving children in that part of Africa today.



## Keynotes: A Tough Crowd

So how, exactly, could anyone who believes in a God who is capable of making a difference, who is omnipotent and mighty, approve of the job God is doing?

It depends, I guess, on what you believe God's job actually is. If, for instance, you believe that God's job is primarily to bless, guard and defend his people, to heal them, and defeat the infidel before them, to prosper them and give them power over their enemies – then it would be easy to find God's job performance wanting. If you believe that it is God's job to defend the vulnerable and establish justice for the oppressed, to bring about an age of peace and fairness, to clothe the naked and feed the hungry, then again, it would be easy to decide that God might not be on the job like he should be.

But if God's job instead is to present his faithful ones with opportunities to make the kinds of decisions, form the kinds of communities, nurture the kinds of relationships, to become the kind of people that reflect his love in their lives – then God has perhaps never been better than he is now. If God's job is to draw us more deeply and establish us more firmly in our knowledge of his love for us in Christ, then these days of relative tumult are some of God's best work. If God's job is to teach us to trust his love, not just for us, but for all people, and to demonstrate that love in how

we live, then he has been working overtime this year.

Count me among those who approve of God's job performance. In fact, I believe there has never been a better time to be a Christian disciple than right now. Every day we are presented with another clarifying choice. Are you going to feed those starving children in Africa, or not? Are you going to deny sick children access to a doctor, or not? Are you going to take care of the elderly, or not? Are you going to show hospitality? Are you going to find compassion? Are you going to have mercy? Has the sacrifice of Christ made a difference in how you live, work, and spend?

Or. Not.

Are you people of hope and generosity and grace? Or will you be people of greed, selfishness, and hate? Every day God brings us another silver tray and unveils a chance to be the kind of people he needs us to be; another chance to demonstrate that we have grown, that we have learned, that we understand and accept what Jesus taught his disciples about life in this world. Every day God greets us with this challenge.

He's God. That's his job.

Peace,

*August, 2011*

## ***Things You Need to Do:***

- **Buy School Supplies** for a needy child in Clover. Tree in the Atrium.
- **Welcome the Adams.** Moving in August 15, in worship, August 21.
- **Come to Rally Day and the Picnic,** August 28
- **Give:** We need \$7,067 per week in order to fund our operations inside the church building. There is no where else to cut the church budget without eliminating valuable ministry.
- **Join the Confirmation Class**—Sunday, August 21, 11:30.
- **CAAC immediate canned goods needs:** Tomato-based products, canned meats, soups, dried beans & canned beans.

August, 2011

## *People Who Need Your Prayers:*

The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President - Barack Obama, our Governor - Nikki Haley, our Mayor - Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams and Tony & Connie Johnson, Billy and Sara Turner in Mozambique, and Jessica Swanner home from Uganda.

**Our Known Sick:** Kimberly Sanders, Joe Gordon, Jean Jackson, Barbara Corson, Jim Westmoreland, Carolyn Thomas, Brad Robinson, Gene Bowman, Ollie Robertson, Taze & Ruby Bennett and Grant McLean.

**Those unable to worship with us:** Mary Alice McCarter, Beth Hinshaw, Dean Miller, Ruth Ramsey, Mary Lou Sifford and Gene & Mary Sifford.

### **Friends and Relatives:**

JoAnn Barnes – mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith—dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler— aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard—grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Elizabeth Barnett—mother of Tom Redmond, Eddie Doss—friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel—sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell—friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Bruce Clark—friend of Kathy Key, Ernest Cagle—grandfather of Mike Carpenter, Dian Timms, mother of Paula Clayton, Cam Robinson, brother of Brad Robinson, Joan Blalock & Jennifer Brown—friend of Hartsoe family, Ronnie Bell—uncle of Terry Swanner, Mickey Gordon— sister-in-law of Joe & Kay Gordon, David Patterson—friend of Jessica Swanner, Kristin McDonough—friend of Scott & Holly Frisk, Jim Carroll—nephew of Ann Goode & Barbara Beamguard, Don Dawes—father of Marc Dawes, Sara Anderson—sister-in-law of Tammie Anderson, Rex Pritt—cousin of Lois Talbert, Sharon Fitch—friend of Alisa Johnson and Dan & Mildred Hartsoe—parents of Don Hartsoe.

Worshipping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

August, 2011

## *Places You Need to Be:*

- Big Youth Thing @ Carowinds ~ August 4, 9:00 am until...
- Manse Pounding Day ~ August 9, 10:00 am.
- Movies for Kids ~ August 10, 8:45 am.
- Choir Practice ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00.
- Praise Team Rehearsal ~ Wednesdays @ 7:00.
- Confirmation Class Orientation ~ Sunday, August 21, 11:30 am.
- Bethelwoods ~ Sunday, August 28
- Wednesday Night Fellowship ~ returns Wednesday, September 7 @ 5:30.

# *Serving the church in August*

*Closing* - Ted McCarley

## *Ushers ~ 10:00am*

- 07 Ann Goode, Jane McCall, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Gary Love, Garrison Love
- 14 Lillian Lawrence, Sally Mann, Ted McCarley, Bob Mann, Tommy McLean, Bill Brooks
- 21 Pat Lowe, Linda Henry, Ted McCarley, Mack Henry, Jack Scott, Eric Scott, Wes Spurrier
- 28 Millie Jones, Peggy Adams, Ted McCarley, Bill King, Tommy McLean

## *Worship Leaders ~ 10:00am*

- 07 Betty Westmoreland
- 14 Will Baker
- 21 Bruce Elliott
- 28 Dave Cyphers

## *Acolytes 10:00*

- 07 Sean Clayton
- 14 Alex McLeod
- 21 Alex Owings
- 28 Sophia Sprouse

## *Nursery Volunteers (11:00)*

- 07 Christine Gourley
- 14 Libby Sprouse
- 21 Millie Jones
- 28 Mary Adams

## *Children's Church 10:00*

### *3 & 4 year olds*

- 07 Buddy & Paula Clayton
- 14 Carl & Mary Adams
- 21 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
- 28 Greg & Kristy Rowland

### *K-2nd grade*

- 07 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
- 14 Bill & Libby Brooks
- 21 Alice Aiken
- 28 Katie Benton & Evelyn Pendleton

## *Sunday School*

### *Ladies Bible Class ~ Ladies Classroom*

- 07 Kay Gordon
- 14 TBA
- 21 Pat Lowe
- 28 Myrna Kosko

### *Men's Bible Class ~ Rec. Building*

- 07 Charles McLean
- 14 Meet with Ladies Bible Class
- 21 Dave Cyphers
- 28 J.S. Edmunds

### *Adult 1 Class ~ Church Parlor*

- 07 Lynn Edmunds
- 14 Candy McCain
- 21 Donna Hartsoe
- 28 Jane McCall

### *The Seekers Class ~ Church Library*

- 07 Bruce Elliott
- 14 Jack Scott
- 21 Class member
- 28 Terry Swanner

August, 2011

# Things You Need to Know (con't):

- **Christmas in July:** We need the backpacks returned to the Atrium by August 1<sup>st</sup>, so remember to stop by the tree and take a tag so that even our neediest neighbors in Clover can get off to a good, well supplied start to the school year.
- Our **Wednesday Night Program** will be returning in September. Make plans to join us for dinner at 5:30 and Bible study programs for all ages at 6:00 starting on September 7!
- **CAAC immediate canned goods needs:** Tomato-based products, canned meats, soups, dried beans & canned beans.
- The Town of Clover has planned its 2011 **Springmaid Beach Retreat** for November 14—16. The trip is senior citizens oriented and will consist of two nights accommodations, breakfast each morning, two Christmas shows at the Palace Theater and Carolina Opry Theater. If anyone would like more information, please call Josh McCarter at 222-9493 or email at [jmccarter@cloversc.org](mailto:jmccarter@cloversc.org).

PW Council will meet Monday, August 8 at 7:00pm at the home of Lillian Lawrence.

*Presbyterian  
Women*

## Flower Calendar for August

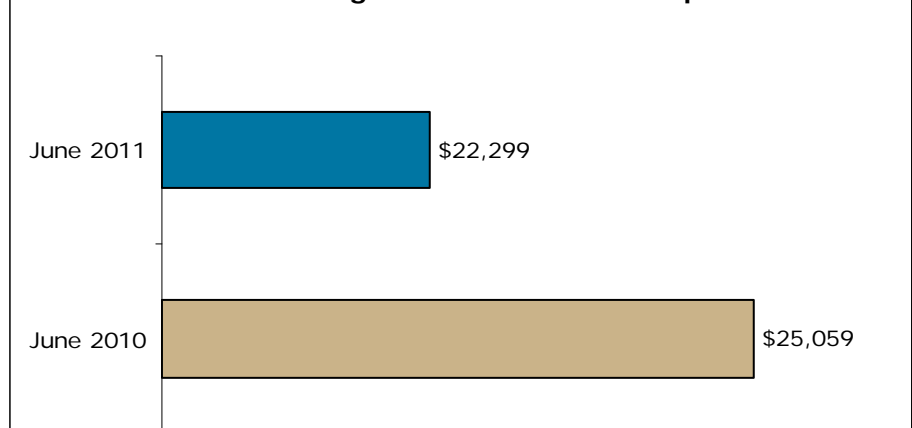
07—Available    14—Available    21—Available    28—Available

## Financial Update June, 2011

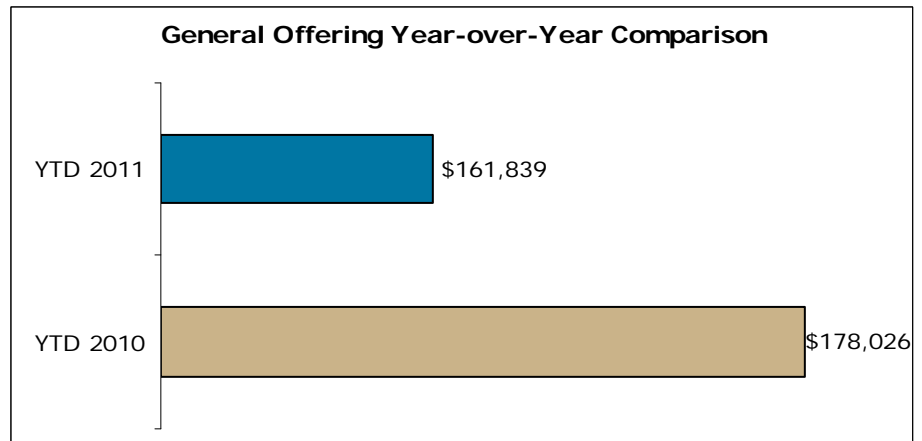
### Analysis of Financial Report:

- Collections dropped \$2,760 from June 2010 to June 2011. This represents a – 11% change for the month-over-month comparison.
- In comparing Year to Date 2011 with Year to Date 2010, we see a drop in collections of \$16,187, or a –9% change.

General Offering Month-over-Month Comparison



General Offering Year-over-Year Comparison



# August 2011 @ Clover Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 5:30pm AA	<i>3</i> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice & Praise Team Rehearsal	<i>4</i> 9:00am BYT @ Carowinds 8:00pm AA	<i>5</i> 8:00pm NA	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm AA Deacon Bible Study 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	<i>8</i> 7:00pm ~ PW Council ~ <i>at the home of            Lillian Lawrence</i>	<i>9</i> 5:30pm AA	<i>10</i> 8:45am Movie Grades 2-5. 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice & Praise Team Rehearsal	<i>11</i> 8:00pm AA	<i>12</i> 8:00pm NA	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm AA <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 5px;">             Youth Fellowship              Kickoff Lake Party           </div>	<i>15</i> <b>Adams            Arrive!</b>	<i>16</i> 5:30pm AA	<i>17</i> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice & Praise Team Rehearsal	<i>18</i> 8:00pm AA	<i>19</i> 8:00pm NA	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA Session Bible Study 6:30pm Session Meeting	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 5:30pm AA	<i>24</i> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice & Praise Team Rehearsal	<i>25</i> 8:00pm AA	<i>26</i> 8:00pm NA	<i>27</i>
<b>28 Rally Day</b> 9:00am Rally Day Breakfast and Program 10:00am Worship 11:30am Confirmation Orientation Meeting 12:00pm Church Picnic @ Bethelwoods 6:00pm AA		<i>30</i> 5:30pm AA	<i>31</i> 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice & Praise Team Rehearsal			



01 Karen Cox  
03 Jeannine Hogue  
05 Erica Bolin Fielder  
Katie Anne Robinson  
Mike Lunsford  
Reba Wright  
06 Christianna Preister  
09 Noah Hopkins  
10 Patty Christenberry  
11 Shirley Herrin  
12 Marshall Stine  
Mary Grace Hopkins  
13 Eric Talbert  
14 Frank Westmoreland  
Gabe Sprouse  
Molly Stewart  
15 Mariah Johnson  
Sherer Hopkins  
16 Joe Thomas  
Kellie Graham  
Mike Carpenter  
Jerrod Nichols  
17 Gwen Baker  
18 Brynn Dickerson  
19 Avery Goode  
Julia Smith  
Brittany Brinkley  
21 Angela Dickerson  
Tammie Anderson  
22 Douglass Key  
Tucker Nelson  
23 Linda Henry  
Sophie Stewart  
24 Grace Miller

24 Charlotte Gourley  
25 Eric Talbert  
26 Jennifer Johnson  
Stephanie Brackett  
Hannah Hawkins  
27 Evelyn Pendleton  
Bill King  
30 Barbara Beamguard



03 Doug & Georgia Westmoreland  
06 David & Lori Hawkins  
07 Nick & Dana Partin  
11 Scott & Holly Frisk  
17 Douglass & Kathy Key  
Joe & Liz Zeibel  
21 Jack & Barbara Quinn  
29 Eric & Lois Talbert  
30 Bart & Maureen Wallace

**www.cloverpres.org**

More information about events and activities available online:

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Barbara Quinn  
*barbq@carolina.rr.com*

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