



Tidings

Bringing News of the
Clover Presbyterian Church

Sister Congregation of Larne First Presbyterian Church
Larne, Northern Ireland

September, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- **Marty returns!!!** Our Seminary intern Marty Simmons will be back with us in September to resume her work in our congregation. We welcome her back from the August semester break and look forward to having her with us again.
- **Wednesday Night Fellowship** returns September 9th! Dinner will begin at 5:30 followed at 6:00 by classes for all ages. If you are interested in helping staff our children's ministry during this time please talk to Douglass or Paula Brinkley. Thanks!
- **Junior / Cherub Choirs** will resume on September 9th as well. They will rehearse at 4:45 in the Choir room and 1st-2nd grade classroom. Let's all make a joyful noise to the Lord!
- The **Handbell choir** will rehearse on Wednesday nights at 6:00 as they have in past years. The handbell choir will need an extra hand or two so if you can count to 4 and like making music, come join in the fun.
- The **Sunday School** year kicks off on Sunday September 6th. We have new classes and new curriculum, some returning teachers and some new teachers, all in place to nurture our love for God and one another, to strengthen our faith and deepen our understanding of God's purposes in our world.
- The 2nd Annual **Youth Golf Tournament** will be held on Saturday, October 10th at the Carolina Crossings Golf Club in Sharon. The Captain's Choice Shot Gun start will go off at 8:00am. The cost is \$50 per player (\$200 per team). All proceed go to support our youth ministries. There will be a Cookout lunch at the close of the play. **Hole Sponsorships** are also available for \$50 per Tee Box. See a youth for more information or to sign up to play!
- Our Fall Family **Movie Night** is coming up on Friday, September 11th. The evening starts with a covered dish supper at 6:00 followed by the film: Secondhand Lions for youth and adults and Spirit for the younger children. . Come join the fun—bring a dish and bring a chair!
- The **Nominating Committee** is receiving recommendations for church office until Sunday, September 13th. Recommendation forms are available in the Atrium or from a member of the Committee. The Nominating committee is considering possible elders and deacons to serve in the class of 2012.
- The 2009-2010 **Confirmation class** is beginning its work together. We have **18** 7th and 8th graders who will spend this school year reflecting on their faith and deepening the commitment to the life of Christian discipleship. IT all leads up to Confirmation Sunday on April 5, 2010—Easter Sunday! Encourage these young people and find ways that you can enrich the confirmation experience for them.
- Older Adult Luncheon will be September 15 at Bethelwoods. Join us in paying tribute to this year's Older Adult of the year—**Mrs. Dorothy Sanders!**

Things You Need To Know Continue on Page 7



Keynotes: The Power of Persistent Practice

*So now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you?
Only to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him,
to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
and to keep the commandments of the LORD your God
and his decrees that I am commanding you today, for your own well-being.
(Deuteronomy 10:12-13)*

I have finally gotten around to reading A.J. Jacobs's 2007 memoir, *The Year of Living Biblically*. Jacobs, who is a writer for *Esquire* magazine by day, was raised in a thoroughly secular Jewish household. "I am officially Jewish," he writes, "but I'm Jewish in the way that the Olive Garden is an Italian restaurant. Which is to say: not very."

He was raised in a secular household, educated at secular schools, and now lives in a world where religious belief is irrelevant and religious affiliation downright suspect. But Jacobs is a new father (or was in 2005 when the events of the book take place) and he longs for structure, for a framework of meaning to pass on to his young son. He is constantly worried about his son's ethical education, he admits. "I don't want him to swim in this muddy soup of moral relativism. I don't trust it. I want to instill some rock-solid, absolute morals in my son." Plus, he accepts that his utter lack of religious sensibility might be a shortcoming of character - "a defect in his personality" - and, "if my lack of religion is a flaw, I don't want to pass it on to him."

So for these and other reasons Jacobs undertakes to spend a year following every rule and command in the Bible as literally as possible. Some were easy to figure out: No lying. No stealing. Honor father and mother. Others more obscure and difficult: Don't eat fruit from a tree planted less than five years ago; pay the wages of a worker every day; don't wear clothes woven from two different kinds of cloth. Others would be illegal, so he excused himself from them: Kill magicians. Sacrifice oxen.

Jacobs does not come to this project as the result of some great conversion. He is not seeking religious meaning, but experimentation. He is still a secular Jew when he gets up that first morning and says his prayers. He has no notion at all that anybody is listening. In fact one suspects that this whole endeavor is aimed at mocking religious literalists, of proving the

impossibility of the fundamentalist assumption that the Bible can be taken literally. He makes that point, one must pick and choose, but that is not the story that results from this year of Biblical obedience.

Early in the journey Jacobs retains the services of a Shatnez Tester who goes through his closet carefully culling out any articles of clothing that are spun from mixed fibers (Lev. 19:19; Dt. 22:11). When he discovers a linen lining inside the lapel of a wool suit the Shatnez Tester, Mr. Berkowitz, is overjoyed. "If I save someone from breaking a commandment, it gives me a little high," he explains. But, Jacobs finally objects, is this really that important? Why would God care if we wore mixed fibers? It makes no sense.

"We have no idea," the Shatnez tester responds. "This is a law that God gave us. We have to trust him. He's all powerful. We are like children. Sometimes parents have laws children don't understand... Biblical laws come without explanation. Some say it is more crucial to follow the inexplicable ones, because it shows you're committed, that you have great faith."

***Persistent
practice
clarifies and
deepens
our faith.***

It is an act of trust to obey a rule that has no rational explanation simply because you trust and wish to obey the rule giver. For a year Jacobs does this, relentlessly, persistently, without that requisite trust that makes such irrational obedience intelligible. It is that disconnect that makes this story so compelling and thought provoking. He refuses to take himself too seriously, but he never trifles with the text, or the sincerity of the faithful masses who cleave to it.

As much as we might wish for a conversion at some point in this process, that never takes place. He takes conversion and faith too seriously to claim what isn't there. He doesn't emerge at the end of the year a fully formed, practicing Christian or observant Jew. What happens instead is a sort of spiritual awakening. A new appreciation for the sacred. A new thankfulness for life. A new awareness that God is present, that God is



Keynotes: The Power of Persistent Practice

listening, that God cares who we are and what we do.

His testimony, insofar as it goes, is powerful. For he shows us that the Bible is far more than a rule book of laws for ethical improvement. The Bible is a witness to the power and presence of God in the world working out his redemptive purposes in and through the course of human history. If you reduce it to a set of rules, or eternal laws, or absolute truths you will miss the point and fall short of full conversion.

But more importantly he reminds us what people of faith have known forever - that the heart follows its habits. That relentless, persistent practice transforms who we are, what we think, and what we believe. Jacobs is warned of this at the very beginning by a friend who says, "You're going into this thinking that it's like studying the sumo wrestlers in Japan... Saying 'I won't become one. I'll keep a distance.' ...But you're dealing with explosive stuff. You have to admit that there is a possibility that you will be profoundly changed by the end." And he is, profoundly changed, if not entirely transformed.

That is why we repeat the creed every Sunday. And pray the Lord's Prayer. Why we insist on Confessing our sins. It is why Weekly Worship and Daily Prayer are part of who we are - core values of our community. Because persistent practice clarifies and deepens our faith.

Why else would we stand and pray "Thy will be done, thy kingdom come" - even when that's not really what our hearts desire in this kingdom that honors our will and prospers the work of our hands? Why, if not to draw our hearts toward that which God has promised is his greatest blessing - the triumph of his will over ours, of his Kingdom over the Kingdoms built on human wealth and power? When we devote ourselves to practicing our faith - not keeping the law, but practicing the faith into which we have been baptized - when we worship, and read the Bible, and pray with and for one another, our hearts follow and our faith is strengthened.

Peace,

Our church grounds need help!! Are you willing? We are trying something new. Each volunteer will choose a small portion of the grounds and be asked to keep it in tip-top shape. We provide the round-up, fertilizer, and pine needs; you provide the sweat, equity and you choose the time to work.

Also some of our plants need to be replaced. If you are able to donate to this, please contact the church office (222-9108) or Kay Gordon (222-7982) and let us know how much you would be willing to donate (\$5—\$100). This donation could be in honor of someone or just to the glory of God. For more information or to donate just let us know.



It's Coming: October 25, 2009

In Memoriam ~ Elizabeth Fewell Thomas

On August 16, 2009, the oldest member of our congregation, Elizabeth Fewell Thomas, entered her eternal home. Lib was a vital force in life. She was a wise woman with a bright smile and kindhearted ways. Se will be missed by all who were touched by her life.

Lib was born and reared in York County. She was a member of Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church in York until her marriage in 1937 to T.M. Thomas, Sr. when she joined our congregation. Lib and T.M. had five children, eleven grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

In 1933, Lib graduated from Winthrop College and taught at Sullivan and Bethany schools until her retirement. As she and T.M. reared children and raised turkeys, she was active in the community becoming Clover Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, a director of the York County Museum and an organizer of the Clover PTA and Band Booster Club.

In our congregation, she was active until the end of her life as a teacher in the Ladies Bible Class, an honorary life member of Presbyterian Women and president of the Women of the Church among other things.

Lib lived her family and two weeks before her death insisted on attending her family reunion so she could visit with everyone. She turned 97 on August 14 and died peacefully in the early morning of August 16, alert to the end.

Lib loved life and love the Lord. She leaves us with a proud legacy of serving the Lord in her daily life and living each day to the fullest. She will be missed by all who knew her, and we rejoice that she has been welcomed into her eternal dwelling place. "Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter in."



Presbyterian Women

Council- Tuesday, Sept. 8- 6:30pm- at Lisa Hall's home. All outgoing and incoming members are invited- please bring a salad and we will share a salad supper.

Circles- Monday, Sept. 14

#1 meets at the church at 10:00am

#2 meets at TBA

#3 meets at TBA

September, 2009

People Who Need Your Prayers:

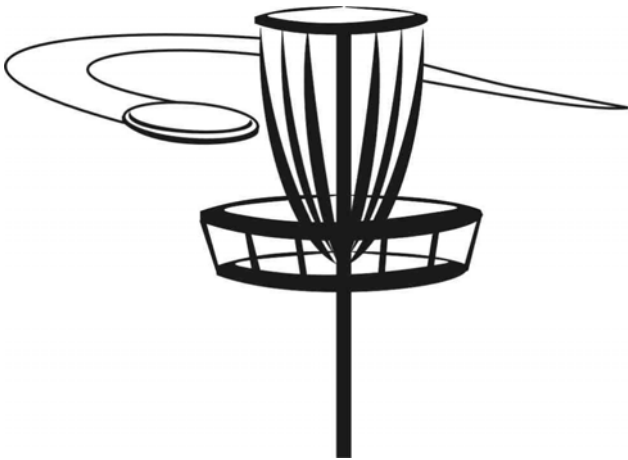
The one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; The leaders of our world and nation, the men and women in the military, our President - Barack Obama, our Governor-Mark Sanford, our Mayor-Donnie Grice, our missionaries: Jim & Jodi McGill, Mark & Miriam Adams.

Our Known Sick: Grant McLean, Taze Bennett, Ruby Bennett, Nona Beamguard, Mary Sifford, Gene Sifford, Ann Wright and Jim Westmoreland.

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

Friends and Relatives:

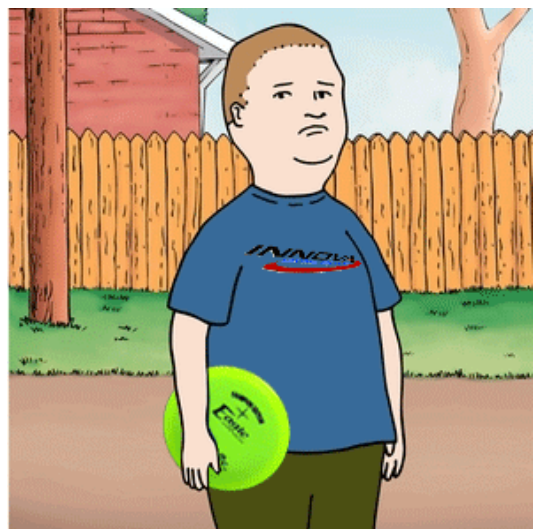
JoAnn Barnes - mother of Lois Talbert, Rush Smith - dad of Andy Smith, Lee Killian, Alice Fowler - aunt of Julia Smith, Jake Pritchard - grandson of Bill & Pat King, Terry Florence - friends of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Al & Mary Jauregui - grandparents of Jacqui Marquez, Mack Falls - cousin of Dick Jackson, Carrie Reese - niece of Janet Owings, Anne Futch - sister of Bear Owings, Elizabeth Barnett - mother of Tom Redmond, Sharon Fitch, Eddie Doss - friend of Don & Donna Hartsoe, Paul Timms, father of Paula Clayton, Mackenzie DeCuir, Alex VanEtten, mentor student of Libby Sprouse, Earl Sprouse, uncle to Julie Preston and Scott Sprouse, Tom Warrick, father of Dawn Dawes, Dan Hartsoe - father of Don Hartsoe, Anne Fishburne, Vanessa Henkel - sister of Julie Preston, Gail Windell - friend of Tommy & Susie McLean, Debra Good - friend of Jeannie Edmunds, Sepideh Bahri - friend of Terry Swanner, Caroline Hogue - granddaughter of Harry & Ann Hogue, Bruce Clark - friend of Kathy Key, Libby Claire McGarity, Ida & Ernest Cagle - grandparents of Mike Carpenter, Miriam Snyder - mother of Kelly Crowe and Vernon Feiler - grandfather of Chris Rice.



Join the CPC Youth
for:
**Labor Day
Disc Golf**

Monday, September 7
Meet @ Church - 9:30 am
Playing - Fewell Park in Rock Hill
Bring \$\$ for Lunch

Don't let Bobby Hill have more fun
this Labor Day than you!



Serving the church in September

Closing - Charles Ford

Worship Leaders ~ 8:45am

06 Bruce Elliott
13 Mike Crowe
20 Georgia Westmoreland
27 Greg Rowland

Worship Leaders ~ 11:00am

06 Jeff Sanders
13 Jim Kosko
20 Dave Cyphers
27 Brian Boling

Greeters

06 Kay Gordon, Gene Bowman
13 Sally Mann, Evelyn Pendleton
20 Pat Lowe, Millie Jones
27 Adelle Edmunds, Peggy Adams

Offering

06 Bob Mann
13 Dick Jackson
20 Jane McCall
27 Jack Scott

Acolytes 11:00

06 Sean Clayton
13 Alex Mcleod
20 Dominique Perez
27 Mackenzie Dawes

Nursery Volunteers (11:00)

06
13
20
27

Children's Church 11:00

3 & 4 year olds

06 Buddy & Paula Clayton
13 Carl & Mary Adams
20 Phyllis & Allison Maynard
27 Greg & Kristy Rowland

K-2nd grade

06 Paula Brinkley & Brittney Brinkley
13 John & Julie Preston
20 Marc & Dawn Dawes
27 Mark & Martha Spurrier

Sunday School

Ladies Bible Class—Ladies Classroom

06 Kay Gordon
13 Willie Westmoreland
20 Pat Lowe
27 Myrna Kosko

Men's Bible Class—Rec. Building

06 Charles McLean
13 Dave Cyphers
20 J.S. Edmunds
27 Don Westmoreland

Adult 1 Class—Church Parlor

06 Greg Rowland
13 TBA
20 Donna Hartsoe
27 Jane McCall

The Seekers Class—Church Library

06 Bruce Elliott
13 Jack Scott
20 Class member
27 Lisa Hall

Worshipping ~ Praying ~ Reading ~ Welcoming ~ Serving ~ Giving

September, 2009

Things You Need to Know:

- The Session has appointed a **DCE Search Committee** to fill the vacant position on our church staff. They are beginning their work this month and covet your prayers. The Session has spent the summer refining the position description and preparing for this important search process.
- **Consecration Sunday** is coming up on October 25th. We will welcome the Rev. Art Gatewood to worship and lunch that day as we dedicate ourselves to the work of Christ in this congregation for the upcoming year.
- **New Member Class**—for those who are visiting and interested in knowing more about the life and work of the congregation is September 13 and 20.
- **Presbytery Youth Rally** will be September 27 at Bethelwoods for all youth! Come join the fellowship!

September, 2009

Things You Need to Do:

- **Welcome** our new members and our visitors who worship with us and join us in fellowship every week.
- **SING!!!** Make a joyful noise with one of our worship leading vocal ensembles. The Fall is a great time to join or rejoin the Choir or Praise team and put those latent musical gifts and abilities to the service of worshipping the Lord!
- Come to **Movie Night** on September 11 and enjoy good food and fun together.
- **Volunteer:** to help in our Nursery; on Wednesday nights; at Children's church; anywhere you see a need.
- **Join an Adult Sunday school class** (if you are not already involved): Adult 1 (Church Parlor), The Seekers (Church Library), Ladies Bible Class (Ladies Classroom), and Men's Bible Class (Recreation Building).
- **Bring your children** to Sunday school EVERY Sunday at 10am. New Curriculum, New classes, New teachers this Fall.
- **Sponsor a hole** at the Second Annual Youth Golf Tournament, coming this October!

September, 2009

Places You Need to Be:

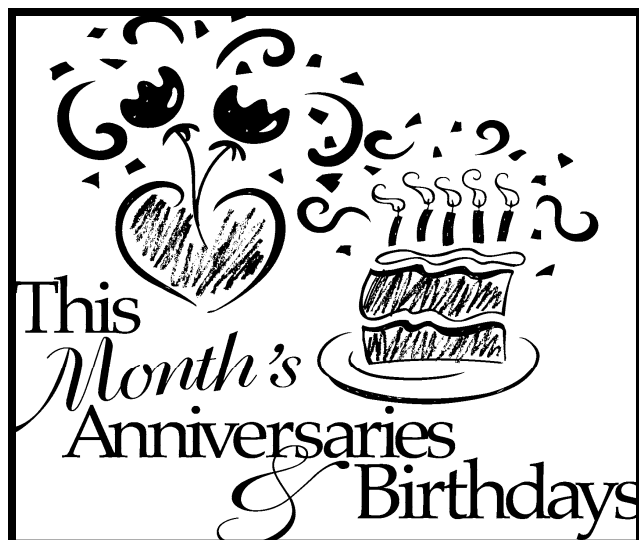
- **Sunday School** ~ classes available for all ages. Sunday morning 10:00 a.m.
- **Worship:** every Sunday, here at 8:45 or 11:00.
- **Movie Night** ~ Friday, September 11. *Secondhand Lions* and *Spirit*.
- **Confirmands:** Lock-in September 11, following Movie Night.
- **Confirmands:** Greek Festival, Saturday, September 12.
- **Confirmands:** Ropes Course Team Building, Sunday, September 20, 1:30 PM.
- Youth: **Labor Day Disc Golf**, leaving church at 9:30 am, September 7th.
- Youth: **Youth Rally**, September 27.
- **Elementary Lock-In** (mark your calendars) Friday night October 30.

September



- 01 J.S. Edmunds
Jim Wylie
- 02 Barbara Quinn
Millie Jones
Matt Johnson
- 03 John Gordon
- 04 Alex Owings
Brantlee Spurrier
- 05 Annavee McWaters
- 06 Bebe Stine
- 07 Madalyn Thomas
Myranda Thomas
- 08 Barbara Beamguard
Elizabeth Edmunds
- 09 Michaela McAninch
Georgia Westmoreland
Grant McLean
Lani McLean
Jana Redmond
Mattie Johnson
- 10 Catherine Smithson
- 12 Josephine Mills
- 14 Janet Owings
- 16 Zach Wall
Allison Jackson
- 18 Ben McCall
Cheryl Miller
Colleen Davis
Darwin Shaver
- 21 Katie Bowman
Mary Lou Sifford
Joe Zeibel
- 23 Paul Joyner

- 24 Sally Mann
- 26 Betsy Johnson
- 27 Taze Bennett
- 29 Brian Boling
- 30 Julia Barnett



- 02 Mack & Linda Henry
- 06 Gene & Frances Bowman
Tyler & Nicole Lowe
- 07 Don & Kay Westmoreland
Tommy & Suzanne McCall
- 09 Scotti & Libby Sprouse
- 12 Brian & Lisa Hall
- 16 Harry & Ann Hogue
- 19 Dean & Tory Campbell
- 22 W.J. & Cheryl Miller
- 26 Ken & Darrell Graham

September 2009 at Clover Presbyterian Church

Wednesday Activities:
 4:45am Music Garden, Cherub & Jr. Choir, Youth Drama Team
 5:30pm Supper
 6:00pm FW Friends, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study,
 Handbell Choir Rehearsal
 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Praise Team Rehearsal

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Fellowship AA	7 Labor Day! Youth: Disc Golf	8 6:30pm PW Council ~ <i>meet at the home of Lisa Hall for a Salad Supper</i>	9 Wednesday Night Activities	10 5:30 pm—Presbytery Committee on Ministry	11 6:00pm Covered Dish Supper & Movie Night	12 Confirmation Lock-in/Field trip to Greek Festival
13 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Deacon Bible Study Youth Fellowship AA	14 10:00am Circle 1 7:00pm Circle 2 Circle 3	15 12:00 pm—Older Adult Luncheon (Bethelwoods)	16 Wednesday Night Activities	17 5:30—Presbytery Coun- cil	18	19
20 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 1:30 Confirmation 6:00pm Session Bible Study Youth Fellowship AA	21 6:30pm Deacon Meeting	22	23 Wednesday Night Activities	24	25	26
27 8:45am Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Youth Rally (Bethelwoods) AA	28	29	30 Wednesday Night Activities			

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September, 2009
Volume 18, Number 9

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit 14
Clover, SC



Clover Presbyterian Church
202 Kings Mountain Street
Clover, SC 29710

Tidings

Is published monthly by:

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More information about events and activities available online:

www.cloverpres.org