



Grace Notes



October 2009
Vol. V, No. 8

Grace to you and peace...

CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor

Stacie Duke Harris
Secretary

Jane Clayton &
Flo Peters
Interim Pianists

Jane Clayton
Clerk of Session

Don Clayton
Treasurer

THE SESSION

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Gene Grimes
Michele Pawlik

Class of 2010
Jane Clayton
Bill Peters

Class of 2011
Keith Bidwell
Judy Rogers

THE TRUSTEES

Eleanor Brown
Marcia Sears
Leo Horton

It's October – one of my favorite months of the year and the first *full* October I will have spent in Montevallo! On the one hand, I am experiencing the perils of Montevallo fall allergy season, but on the other, I'm looking forward to the beautiful fall colors, cooler air, and pumpkin patches. I'm even already looking forward to Montevallo's early Christmas parade!

October also means we start looking toward the holiday season, and for us in the church, we start thinking about the new year. The nominating committee has begun to try to discern God's will with respect to new elders to serve on our session. The stewardship team has started to think about ways to encourage us to give in 2010. And our new Living River partnership team has begun to think about ways we can support the creation of a new camp and conference center on the Cahaba River near Pea Ridge.

Another thing the fall season means is Christian education! If you haven't had a chance to join us yet for Sunday School at 9:30 each week, think about doing so! We have a new elementary age Sunday school class taught by Keith Bidwell. In our adult class, Dorothy Grimes is leading a wonderful study on stewardship and helping us to think in different ways about giving both to the church and to our world.

Using a book by Mark Allan Powell called *Giving to God*, we have already learned about the *original* biblical ways of giving. Offerings made to God used to be burned up or poured out rather than used by somebody or something. Worshipers didn't worry or wonder about how their offering was going to be used. They simply gave because they *needed* to give back to God some of what God had generously given them. It was and is an "attitude of gratitude!"

Soon, we'll start our stewardship campaign, and you'll get some mailings about the church's goals for the new year. There are lots of wonderful things we are doing here, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance and your suggestions and creativity, there will be lots *more* wonderful things we'll do in the future. I encourage you to participate in any way you can as we talk about stewardship and how we not only maintain but grow the ministry we have in Montevallo.

And don't forget to pray for our confirmation class as they have begun a journey that will end in May with their confirmation of their baptismal vows. Tristian, Lauren, Caitlyn, Ashlyn, and Heather are not only learning about the Bible and about our Christian heritage but also having fun! We're also looking forward to their Christmas pageant on the evening of December 6 (put it on your calendar now - 5 pm!).

Grace and peace to you as we enjoy the blessings of God's season-change,

Church location: 510 Shelby Street

Mailing address: P.O. Box 456, Montevallo, Alabama 35115

Office & Student Center (Forbes House): 820 Vine Street • 205-665-7360

www.montevallopcusa.org

GLORIFYING GOD



Join us for our new Bible Study on the book of *Acts* on **Tues., October 27, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.** at the Forbes House.



WORSHIP

Worship Highlights for October 2009

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Sunday, October 4, 2009 | World Communion Sunday
Service for the Lord's Day and Holy Communion
<i>Job 2:1-10</i>
<i>Mark 10:2-16</i>
<i>Job's Health Fails</i>
<i>Teachings on Divorce</i> |
| Sunday, October 11, 2009 | 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Service for the Lord's Day
<i>Job 23:1-17</i>
<i>Mark 10:17-31</i>
<i>Job's Complaint is Bitter</i>
<i>Jesus and the Rich Man</i> |
| Sunday, October 18, 2009 | 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Service for the Lord's Day
<i>Job 38:1-7</i>
<i>Mark 10:35-45</i>
<i>God Answers Job</i>
<i>Jesus Came to Serve</i> |
| Sunday, October 25, 2009 | 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Service for the Lord's Day
<i>Job 42:1-17</i>
<i>Mark 10:46-52</i>
<i>Job is Humbled</i>
<i>Blind Bartimaeus Becomes a Disciple</i> |

OUR WISH LIST

There's always lots of things we'd love to have at our church as we strive to be a welcoming fellowship and to reach out into our community. It may take us a while to save the money, but here are some of the long-term goals we'd like to reach:

- installing a fence around our future church playground (approx. \$3,500);
- purchasing playground equipment for the lawn behind the church (approx. \$2,000);
- making repairs to and protecting our beautiful stained glass sanctuary window;
- decorating our nursery and installing shelves for all our toys!

Do you know of another need? Call us at the Forbes House (665-7360) and let us know.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

It's that time of year again! Football season? Yes! But *also* it's time to think about a new year and a new church budget. We have had a great year of worshipping, studying God's word, teaching our children, giving to presbytery mission projects, collecting food for the needy, and so much more. Now, we are looking at ways to continue our mission in 2010. **We'll begin a series of Stewardship Sundays on October 18 during worship. Different members of our congregation will discuss the many arenas of stewardship, including our personal, church, public, and financial lives.** In the meantime, for some great discussion on stewardship, drop in on our adult Sunday school class (9:30 a.m.). We're looking at some different ways to consider the subject of stewardship, and we're learning more each week. Join us!

GROWING AS DISCIPLES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

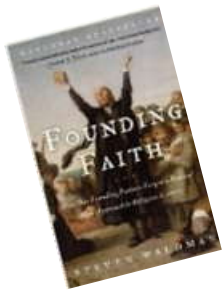


A huge thanks to our Sunday School teachers for their faithful service: Keith Bidwell - elementary age, Kim Yancy - middle and high school, Dorothy Grimes - adult. One of the parts of our vision statement is “grow as disciples.” Sunday morning education is one of the ways we do this - not only growing *ourselves* as disciples but fulfilling the baptismal vows we made to teach our children! Join us every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for some good education and lots of fun!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Sunday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Our October book, *Founding Faith: How Our Founding Fathers Forged a Radical New Approach to Religious Liberty*, by Steven Waldman, well-known journalist and co-founder of www.beliefnet.com, focuses on the religious legacy of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Adams, and Madison. Although their religious views differed widely, they were all intent on creating religious freedom in the new government. Waldman makes clear that America was not primarily settled by people seeking religious freedom and that the separation of church and state resulted, paradoxically, from the efforts of 18th-century evangelicals, not from the activism of secularists. Join us for a fantastic read!



THE WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

All women of the community: please join us for the Women's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast on **Friday, October 9, at 7:30 a.m.** at the Forbes House. This month, it is our turn to help provide breakfast.



CAMPUS MINISTRY—FORBES HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

All college students are welcome for supper and a short Bible study on **Tuesday nights at 5:30 p.m.** at the Forbes House. Contact Wendy (665-7360) or Robin (665-1825) for more information. Bring a friend and/or roommate! MPC will be providing suppers for our college students in November. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet to help provide food!



PRESBYTERIAN MEN

We will meet for breakfast again on **Saturday, October 17, at 8:00 a.m.** at the Eclipse (1032 Main Street). This is not only an opportunity for the men of our church to get to know each other better, but also a chance to find ways in which we can serve the church and community. Join us!



The Community Thanksgiving Service will be hosted by Montevallo Presbyterian Church this year! Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 22 at 5:00 p.m.



Members of churches from all over the Montevallo area and its surrounding communities have traditionally attended this ecumenical service. Last year, we were having our Open House and New Pastor Installation during the community Thanksgiving service, but this year, we'll have a chance to host the entire community in our historic sanctuary and newly renovated educational wing.

There will be several ways we will be asked to assist with this service: setting up extra chairs in the educational wing to provide more seats for the service, preparing and bringing food for the reception following the service (all churches are asked to bring reception-style foods as well), and cleaning up after the service. We'll soon ask you to sign up to help with this event, and we are honored to be asked to host it this year!

MONTEVALLO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECYCLING

For nearly 6 years, Montevallo Elementary has worked in conjunction with Pratt Industries/VISY to gather and recycle mixed office paper. This program is not offered for free, but the cost associated with it is minimal (\$45 monthly fee) compared to the environmental, financial, and overall impact that this program makes upon the world, the community, and most importantly, the children participating in this program here at MES.

For the last two years, the Student Council at MES has worked to provide the funding for the recycling program through various fundraising projects. This fund was also helped tremendously by a grant provided by the Wal-Mart Corporation. During this time, the MES administration and PTO were generous enough to handle 50% of the cost incurred for recycling so that the Student Council would not need shoulder the entire amount. Unfortunately, with recent economic developments, all funds set aside for this program have either been exhausted or have been cut all together.

Through placing their paper discards into a separate container, removing these to the larger bins, and witnessing for themselves the adults and peers around them taking part in this program, our students gather an understanding and take part in an important learning process. If there is any way you, your organization or someone you know can help MES with the continuation of this program, please contact Alan Cecil at acecil@shelbyed.k12.al.us or at 682-6420. All financial contributions are 100% tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

LIVING RIVER PARTNERSHIP TEAM

We at Montevallo Presbyterian Church have a unique opportunity to be part of the development of the Presbytery of Sheppards & Lapsley's upcoming camp and conference center - **Living River!** We have formed a "partnership team" to help raise funds for Living River over about a 3-month period. The team has decided to focus on Living River in our congregation at the beginning of 2010. But in the meantime, let's not forget to pray for everyone, including the new project manager and all the churches who are already in the middle of their campaigns. We'd also like to give a big thank you to our friends **Jim and Carol Chomicz** for their contribution in memory of their grandson John, a victim of muscular dystrophy who died in April 2009.



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA



THE SESSION

meets on the third Sunday, every other month. The next stated meeting will be **Sunday, October 18**, after worship.



**OPERATING FUND
2009**

January through August

**Annual Budget
\$87,579**

Total Income

Budget YTD \$ 58,386
Actual YTD \$ 55,694
Difference -\$ 2,692

Total Expenses

Budget YTD \$ 58,387
Actual YTD \$ 64,542
Difference -\$ 6,155



CARING FOR PEOPLE & CREATION

GREEN TEAM: BECOMING A GREEN CONGREGATION

The Lord reigns...let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. Psalm 96:10,12

DO-IT-YOURSELF GREEN CLEANING TIPS

Even the biggest messes and toughest stains can be attacked with baking soda, borax, lemon juice and more. You'll also spend less money and reduce packaging.

PORCELAIN AND TILE—Dust surfaces with baking soda and scrub with a damp sponge or cloth. For tougher grime, sprinkle in some kosher salt and apply elbow grease. Also works well for kitchen counters and stainless steel.

WINDOWS AND MIRRORS—Mix 2 tablespoons of white vinegar in a gallon of water and spray on the glass. Then scrub with newspaper.

CARPET AND RUGS—For spot cleaner, mix up 1/4 cup liquid soap in 1/3 cup water. Mix until foamy, spray on and rinse with vinegar.

WOOD FLOORS—Make up a solution of 1/4 cup white vinegar in 30 ounces of water. Spray on a cotton rag and clean your floors with that, scrubbing away any grime.

OVEN CLEANING—Coat the inside of your oven with a paste made from baking soda and water and let stand overnight. Then, don gloves and scour off the grime.

Source: The Daily Green

Energy Forum

Interested in greening your energy use? Check out the Interfaith Environmental Initiative of Alabama (IEIA)'s Energy Forum coming up on October 13 and 14 at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Our own Bill Peters as well as Tom Evans, our presbytery executive, will be speaking at this event! For more information, visit www.interfaithenvironmental.org and click on "Energy Forum 2009" on the right side of the page.

A NEW CHRISTMAS ON THE CREEK THIS YEAR

The Montevallo Chamber of Commerce is inviting all churches in our community this year to participate in Christmas on the Creek. We have been invited to choose an evening between December 11 and 22 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. to sell tickets, welcome visitors, and sing carols. Any tickets we "pre-sell" will benefit a project of our choice. We are also invited to participate in a Country Christmas Bazaar at Parnell Memorial Library, featuring handmade arts and crafts from schools, churches, and other organizations. Christmas on the Creek tickets will be sold in the library, so there will be plenty of visitors to view and purchase arts and crafts.

Are you interested in selling a craft, helping sell tickets, or singing carols? Let us know by calling or emailing as soon as possible (665-7360 or stacieharrismpc@charter.net). We need to let the Chamber know about our participation soon as there are a limited number of slots and craft tables.

**YOUTH LAKE PARTY ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2009
AT BILL AND FLO PETERS' HOME**

WOW! Did we stay busy at the lake party. There were boat rides, fishing, beading, and a surprise visit to see antique fire trucks and toys.

Savannah was the first to catch a fish....the biggest catch of the day. Caitlyn caught the most and held the title with three catches. However, Tristian had the patience to hang in there until he made the hardest catch of all.

Funny thing about crickets, worms and children. Scott enjoyed catching crickets just to see if they would jump into the "pond." Ashlyn wouldn't touch a cricket, but was game for digging her own worms and baiting her hook.

And then, one of our Moms was squeamish when it came to worms. Savannah was delighted with her number of worms, but Miss Jamie wasn't too interested in checking them out!

Mr. Bill decided to take us for a boat ride in his fishing boat. That was fun. We had to wear our life jackets. Later, we rode in the paddle boat. Tristian worked hard with the paddle wheel to move us about. We went all over the lake!

For a break, we decided to do bead work. Miss Wendy helped us make bead rings, bracelets, and cell phone tags. Thomas wanted to make his mom, Leanne, a pretty necklace.

Things were moving right along and it was time for tie-dying shirts. Whoops! The kit was in the car and guess what someone had locked their keys in their car! There's a tricky touch to opening a locked car, but Mr. Keith succeeded. While this activity was going on, we decided to eat.

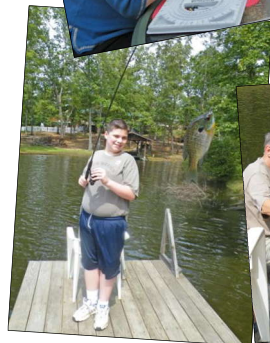
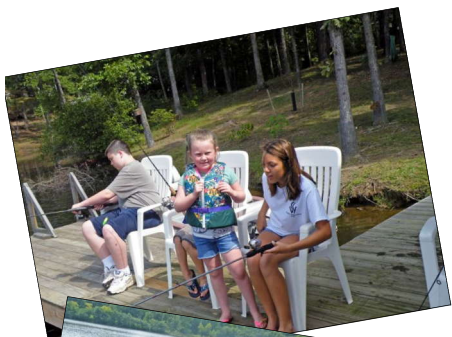
Mr. Bill grilled hot dogs and we had a yummy lunch with homemade potato salad, baked beans, cupcakes, and cookies. No one left hungry. In fact, you would be surprised at who ate three hotdogs... and a cupcake!

Our last treat was to visit Mr. and Mrs. King to see their collection of 12 antique fire trucks. Not only did they have trucks, but a collection of toys all related to firefighters. I'd be surprised if Santa Claus had this many toys! Thomas thought so, too.

It was time to go. Lauren and Savannah were cheering at a night game out of town. We decided We'd complete the tie-dying shirts at a Wednesday night practice. Time went by pretty fast.

And, yes, we finally got the car door opened and everyone was happy! The End.







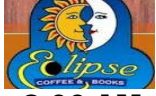



We're having a Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 6, at 5:00 p.m.! Be sure and mark your calendar to come to church *twice* that day! Some of our adult congregation are even going to participate with the fabulous Youth in acting and singing! It ought to be spectacular!





October

2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Happy Birthday! 24 DONALD CLAYTON 25 LORI PICKETT CULPEPPER</p> <p>Looking ahead: Our next First Light supper will be Saturday, November 7!</p>				1	2	3-11 AM <i>Girl Scouts Forbes House</i> 10 AM <i>Fire Prevention Parade</i>
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship - World Communion Sunday 12:15 PM Living River Team meeting 	5	6 5:30 PM <i>Forbes House Fellowship</i> 	7 6:00 PM <i>Confirmation Class (Forbes House)</i>	8	9 7:30 AM <i>Women's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast</i> 	10
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 5:30 PM Stewardship Fellowship Supper (Forbes House)	12	13 5:30 PM <i>Forbes House Fellowship</i> 	14 6:00 PM <i>Youth Choir Practice</i> 	15	16	17  8:00 AM <i>Men's Breakfast</i> 9-11 AM <i>Girl Scouts Forbes House</i>
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:15 PM Session meeting	19	20 5:30 PM <i>Forbes House Fellowship</i> 	21 6:00 PM <i>Confirmation Class</i>	22	23	24
25 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 7:00 PM Book Discussion Group at Forbes House	26 4:00 PM <i>Acts 16:5 meeting</i>	27 9:00 AM NEW Bible Study 10:30 AM Finance Team meeting (Forbes) 5:30 PM Forbes House F'ship	28 6:00 PM <i>Youth Choir Practice</i> 	29	30	31 

Our Vision

Montevallo Presbyterian Church

- *glorifying God*
- *growing as disciples*
- *caring for people and creation.*

Member Spotlight

We'd like to say a big "thank you" to church member and elder **Keith Bidwell** this month! Keith not only stepped forward to teach the elementary-age Sunday school class, but he and Becky also decorated the classroom beautifully for our kids! Take a look at their hard work the next time you attend church (it is the upstairs classroom across from the Youth Sunday School room). We also want to thank Keith for providing some spectacular fellowship foods on Sunday mornings!

Many thanks also to Leanne Reed for helping with Sunday School and for providing the colorful rug for the new classroom!



Montevallo Presbyterian Church, USA
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