



Our Mission: *To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Our Vision: *Growing in our relationship with God as we strive to be more like Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit. Nurturing our faith through community worship, bible study, and witness (living our faith in community).*

Core Values: *Radical Hospitality, Christian Community, and Extravagant Generosity.*

Men's Club Meets on May 3

All Men are invited to meet at Jim's at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Backpack Food Packing

Meet in Rome at 12:30 on May 13.

Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle will meet on May 19th . Additional info can be found on page 3 of the newsletter.

Circle will not meet in June and July.

Camp Hamby Picnic on Sunday, May 4th

Please bring a dish to share. Our church is the host church for the picnic this year.

Camp Hamby Scholarships Needed

Several children are in need of scholarships to attend day camp. The scholarships may be given in the amount of \$70 per child. If you would like to provide one or more, you may give your money to Wes Privett, Rita O'Neal or Mary Beth Housch.

Wednesday Night Supper– 6 p.m.

May 7 —Bring salad, sandwiches, or desserts to share.

May 14— Fried tenderized pork, limas, rice, yeast rolls, and dessert. Call or text Elaine Crouch at 706-506-7527 for reservation.

May 21—BBQ pork sandwich, baked beans, slaw, chips and desserts. Call or text Susan McGinnis for reservation. 706-857-8009.

May 28— Italian Roast, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, dessert. Text Sandy Weaver at 706-540-7397 for reservation.

From the Pastor's desk.

WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

Mine is November 14. Dossie's is February 13. Those are fixed dates. Same day each year. The birthday of the church is Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. It falls on a different day every year owing to the way we calculate the date for Easter. Easter itself is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of Spring.

When is your birthday over Mine ends at midnight on November 14. A few times, I have celebrated Dossie's birth week or even her birth month. But eventually, the celebrating ends.

When does Easter end? We change the parament cloths on Pentecost, but that just means we have moved into a different season of the church year.

I think the answer to my question is never, or at least not until Christ returns. The tomb is still empty after all and Christ is alive today. So it's still Easter.

Now for the harder part. If it is still Easter, and I believe it is, How should we then live? (*Apologies to Francis Schaeffer*)

If you are a Christian, and I assume you are, **shouldn't we all live expecting Jesus to return?** The first disciples went fishing. At first glance it seems like an odd thing to do. They had seen the resurrected Jesus, and the best thing they could think of was to go fishing?

What if we took off our modern glasses for a moment and thought like first century believers? How do you make sense of things that make no sense? I like to ride my motorcycle. I have solved a lot of my problems with nothing but the wind blowing through my hair, I mean through my helmet. Fishing does the same thing for me. I lived for eight years in Elberton and went fishing every week that the weather permitted, and several that didn't permit. I have left tons of my issues in Lake Russell.

Maybe, just maybe, the disciples followed Peter out on the boat to have a sense of normalcy and routine. They had a routine night fishing, it was just a BAD night. They came close to the shore and Jesus appeared to them, for the third time. Jesus has them put their nets down and the catch of fish is amazing, miraculous even.

Peter remembers this exact scene from the early days and he leaps out of the boat to reach Jesus. This is the scene where Jesus asks Peter three times if he loves Him. Peter answers, not fully, but he answers and Jesus tells him to feed and tend Jesus' sheep.

I believe Easter challenges us to give our old selves a decent burial and to walk away from that decaying body. I believe we MUST embrace the new creature that we all are in Christ and live as shepherds of the flock of Jesus.

A shepherd is sold out to caring for his sheep. He is willing to die for the flock. Isn't this what Jesus meant when he told the disciples to love each other, not as the world loves, but as Jesus loves?

My answer to the question of what happens after Easter, is that there is no such thing as after Easter. It is always Easter and we are all continuously being resurrected.

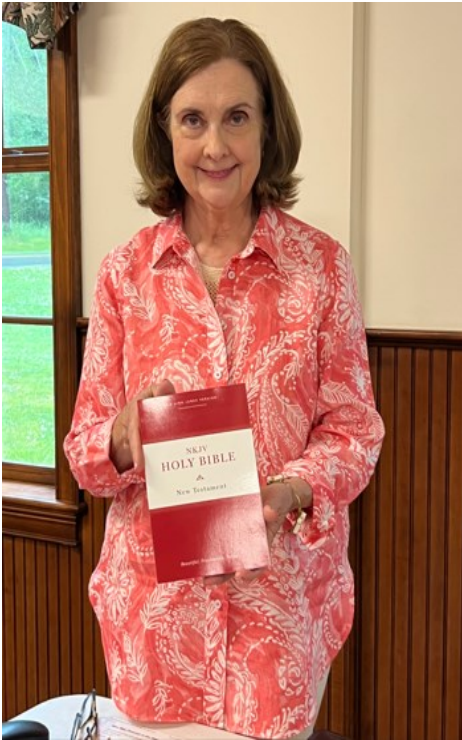
I will end with the question asked of us at our ordination.

ARE YOU MOVING ON TO PERFECTION?

HAPPY EASTER

Wes

Friendship Circle



Nell Farrar spoke at the April Circle Meeting. She told the group about the Deborah Bible Ministry. Women and girls from all denominations join together to participate. They work to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing copies of the New Testament .

- 5/19: Women's Friendship Circle is taking a field trip to the Rock Garden in Calhoun. All SFUMC women are invited to view, meditate, ponder, and pray. We will follow our visit with lunch at a local restaurant. Please let Sandy Weaver know (text 706-540-7397) if you are interested so appropriate accommodations can be arranged. We will meet at the Rock Garden at 10:30am; if you'd like to carpool, we will leave the church parking lot at 10:00am.



5/20: All are invited to join the Sew Joyful Ministry as we kick-off our inaugural project. We will begin constructing dresses for the "Dress A Girl Around the World" organization. A variety of talents are needed from designing, cutting, ironing, trimming to sewing and shopping. We will set up in the Fellowship Hall from 9am -4pm, so come by anytime you are available, and stay as long as you like.

May BIRTHDAYS/ ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS:

05/01 John Allen
05/08 Josh Cordle
05/11 Linda Leonard
05/13 Mary Beth Housch
05/13 Lauren Jarrett
05/16 Steve Weaver
05/21 Dale Housch
05/23 Jori Day
05/28 Christine
Hammitt
05/31 Gail Allen

ANNIVERSARIES

None are listed

Prayer Concerns

SHORT TERM

Serena Rawls (Linda Leonard's granddaughter passed the Bar), Darby Hall & family (sickness in family)
Virginia Sanders, Sharon Cox, Gaia Hall (tonsillectomy), Dossie Privett (shoulder) Hope Fulton (Dianne Fulton's Grand DIL surgery went well)
Sal Amendola (Sandy's BIL, pace maker recovery), Jane Stokes (Floyd rm 6516), Ann Baird, Jim Taylor, Becca Slason (Broke toe), LaFayette High School students (death of a student), Terri Garnsey,
Lynne Lee, Jane McCool (cats have virus)

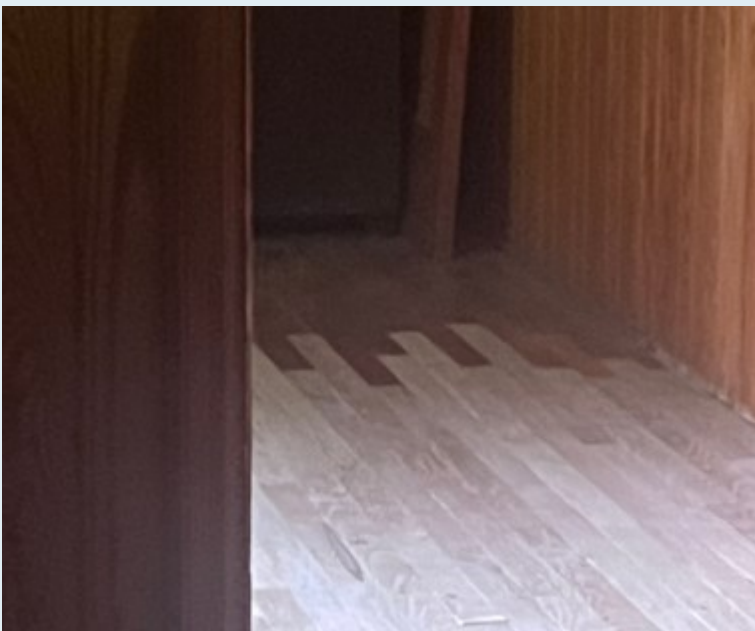
LONG TERM

NATALIE BURNLEY (heart), CAROLYN ROGERS (finished chemo), GARY HYLANDER, JIM MEDICI (Dossie's brother), JILL SPEARS (MRI), REBECCA SLASON, JANE STOKES, GAIL ALLEN, CARTER & LINDA BLACK, DIANE FULTON, LUCILLE HAMBY, BEN MCCOOL & FAMILY, JANE MCCOOL, KASSIDY MCCOOL, DIANE MCCONNELL, DOSSIE PRIVETT, JEFFERY FLOYD

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The family of Connie Barris, the family of Bentley Beard, the family of Brinley Corbin, the family of Sharon Day, the family of Linda Liska (Dossie's friend), the family of Billie Hughes (Jordan McGinnis' mother), the family of Donna Barnett, the family of Ann McCollum, the family of Lonnie Stevens

Progress is being made in repairs to the floor upstairs at the church.





Financial Report - Jan. 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025

<u>Funds Received</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Variance</u>
\$37,963	\$46,661	(8,698)

MISSIONS YTD:

Receipts \$3,567 Expenditures \$2,303 Difference \$1,264

The finance team thanks those who have continued to financially support the church during this past year.

Camp Hamby Day
Camp

The dates for this summer are June 9-13 and June 16-20. The cost will be \$70 per camper. It is for kindergarten through 6th grade. Time is 9:00-2:00.

Morning Worship April
(non-designated receipts)
General Funds: week 1 \$2,961
General Funds: week 2 \$3,708
General Funds: week 3 \$1,886
General Funds: week 4 TBA
Online Giving \$246 TOTAL
\$8,801

Church Staff and Contact Info

Pastor, Rev. J. Wesley Privett
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Organist, Gene McGinnis

Office Phone 706-857-2057

Pastor's Cell: 478-394-5575

**SFUMC is partnering with
Chattooga County DFACS to
meet **Emergency** food needs
in the county. May shortages:**

spaghetti noodles and sauce, macaroni
and cheese, canned meats, peanut
butter, and cereal.

**Donations may be placed in the
Fellowship Hall.**