

Leaps & Bounds

Bob Bullock, Pastor

Rev. Jennifer DiFrancesco, Associate Pastor

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“SEEING WHERE GOD IS AT WORK AND JOINING HIM!”

Some years ago, while teaching “Experiencing God,” I discovered Henry Blackaby’s concept of “Seeing Where God is at Work and Joining Him!” Blackaby sets this within the Apostle Paul’s soul searching statement in Philippians (2:12-13) where he says: “Therefore, my dear friends (the Philippian church), as you have always obeyed - not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence - continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

“Therefore” in our Bibles, always refers us back to what has already been said. Paul means for us “to continue to work out (our) salvation” within the context of his preceding exhortation to unity within the church (chapter 2:1-11) as he says, “If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. . .” (2:1-2). Having said this, the Apostle then tells every Christian, “to emulate Christ’s own humility” (2:5-11), as we do so.

Our Lord himself models “Seeing Where God is at Work and Joining Him!” in everything he did in his life and ministry. While delivering the Keynote address of his ministry, Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” (John 5:19) Jesus’ whole life and ministry was reflective of his relationship to the Father. This timeless truth of Holy Scripture is instructive for us all. Just as our Lord’s life and ministry was an expression of his faithfulness to the Father, so should all we do in ministry be a demonstration of Christ’s calling us to join him in what he is doing in and through his church. Our life application might well be to ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do?” and “What would Jesus have me do?”

Every Sunday morning, you hear me welcome our guests to the life, ministry, and work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through his church at Eastminster. Our understanding that we are called by our Lord to share in his ministry and mission to the world is essential for each of us as members of his church. This in fact, is a cornerstone of our Reformed theology of the church.

Christ is calling each of us to

discover our spiritual gifts and use them in his ministry and mission here at Eastminster. Our Eastminster Vision Statement is **“Building Christian Lives.”** That is our rallying cry! *Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you as you find your place in one of the ministries and missions here at Eastminster. How do you discover the spiritual gifts and find your ‘fit’ in the ministry and mission of Christ’s Church? Plan to join one of the **LifeKeys** seminars taught by John Speiser and offered each quarter as one of our Adult Sunday classes.*

Seeing where our Lord is at work and joining him,

Bob Bullock

In this issue

Associate Pastor	2
Marriage Retreat	3
Wed. Night Dinners	3
PW	4
Super Bowl Party	4
Session Highlights	5
CPR Training	6
Birthdays	7
United Mission Offering	8

Calendar & Youth Inserts

A Note from the Associate Pastor:

Everywhere you go, you hear people talk about the changes they want to make in their lives.

"I want to lose weight."

"I want a better job."

"I want to make more money."

Maybe for you, it's to travel round the world, to get higher education, or improving a current relationship. We all have goals and changes we want to make and we talk a lot about wanting them, but how many of us really do something?

Talking frequently turns into complaining. We accumulate our wants, but never go about resolving those unfulfilled spaces in our lives. We start to make up excuses why success is not possible. Is it time? Is it money? It's family then, isn't it? We begin to blame other people, we blame events, we blame bad luck, and sometimes we blame ourselves.

God calls us to live our lives according to his purposes, and without regret. For it is with God's help that our lives have purpose, on earth and for eternity. On earth, at least, with the right incentive, it seems we can accomplish anything. That's what we're hoping for, isn't it, the right reason to pursue a goal? If someone gave you a million dollars to run on the treadmill for 20 minutes a day, would you do it? How great is your desire to have a better physique? How much is that worth? We're all in search not of a particular goal, but of our true motivations for pursuing our goals.

There are three main theories of motivation:

1. Desire for achievement.
2. Desire for power.
3. Desire for affiliation or a sense of belonging.

These theories are linked to the concept of extrinsic and intrinsic rewards. Extrinsic motivation comes from outside, for example, the prospect of fame, recognition, monetary rewards, gaining power, respect or social approval/belonging (sense of affiliation). With intrinsic rewards, the task or situation is in itself motivating or compelling.

There are six main steps or elements in the process of motivation.

1. Desire: First, to be motivated you must have an intense burning desire to get where or what you want.
2. Decision: You must make a conscious decision on what to aim for.
3. Determination: to climb mountains so that absolutely nothing will stop you. You need to be able to repeat the habits which are necessary to get there.
4. Discipline: It is critical to pay the price whether you like it or not. Motivation is strongest when it is the internalization of your goals and dreams, in other words, when you are headed on a clear path in your life's direction.
5. Focus
6. Direction

With the right motivations, we can change and create winning actions in our lives. God asks us to treat ourselves as "a temple," respecting the best intentions that God has for us – the living lives of purpose and intentions. As God is our ultimate motivation for everything, we are never locked into any behavior. We all are capable of un-shackling ourselves from our self-imposed limits, and transforming ourselves into the better person God calls us to be.

Announcing Eastminster's Second Marriage Retreat!

Is the work-a-day world taking its toll on your relationship with your spouse? Are you looking to reconnect and solidify your commitment to common goals? This year's marriage retreat will be held at WinShape Retreat Center on the campus of Berry College, about one hour away in Rome, Georgia. Full details are at www.WinShapeMarriage.org. The program, called "Romantic Adventure" is professionally facilitated and offers couples "unique ways to enjoy time with each other and God, while enlarging their vision for how thrilling and fulfilling marriage can really be!"

Eastminster's special price for this program is only \$325 per couple, which includes program, meals and lodging from **Friday evening March 10th** (check in between 3:00 and 6:00), through the end of the program on **Sunday March 12th** at 11:00. (Please note: WinShape does not permit smoking or alcoholic beverages on their grounds.)

This special price can only be offered to a *very* limited number of couples - to reserve your space please provide the church office with your non-refundable deposit of \$175 by February 15th with the balance due one week before the retreat. Last year's marriage retreat was a great success for those that attended - you won't want to miss out on this one!



Spring Bridge Lessons

If you have played bridge in the past and would like to hone your bidding and playing skills, lessons will be conducted Saturday mornings 10-12am at the church: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25. To sign up, please call Don Fifield (770-973-4399) or call the church office. Babysitting provided upon request. This is a great way to meet new people who enjoy the challenge of a great game, good conversation and fun, fun, fun!

Jesse Tree Ornaments

If you and your family participated in the Jesse Tree services during Advent in '96, '97, or '98, please contact Betsy Wade at 770-565-9490 so she may return your ornament to you.

Wednesday Night Dinners

To **make reservations**, sign up on the blue form in the friendship pad on Sundays OR call the office by NOON on Monday (770-977-2976).

Cost:

\$7.00 Adults \$5.00 (65+)
\$4.00 Children under 10
\$18.00 Family of 4
(Please pay at the door)

Feb. 1

Mexican Night

Tacos, Enchiladas, Burritos, Pork Tostados
Mexican Rice and Refried Beans
Green Salad Rolls/Bread
Dessert

Feb. 8

Pot Roast

Red Potatoes Carrots Peas
Green Salad Rolls/Bread
Dessert
Kids: Chicken Fingers, Fries

Feb. 15

Soup and Salad Bar

Chili, Chicken & Dumplings, Cheesy
Broccoli, Chicken Noodle (soups)
Grilled Cheese Salad
Rolls/Bread Dessert

Feb. 22

Italian Night

Lasagna, Tortellini, Fettuccine with
Chicken, Spaghetti
Grilled Italian Chicken
Italian Salad Rolls/Bread
Sherbet

PW SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The 2006 PW Spiritual Retreat for Cherokee Presbytery will be the weekend of May 6-7 (concluding about noon Sunday) at Red Top Mountain State Park. If you wish, you can come up Friday the 5th -- Friday evening is optional and very casual, nothing planned except to set up the big room for the weekend events.

There will be a \$20 retreat registration fee payable to CPPW when you arrive. Room reservations are to be made directly to Red Top Mountain. Cabins with two bedrooms (2 double beds in each) and kitchen are available. Cabin rental must be for two nights for a total of \$228 plus tax – divided by four is \$57 plus taxes. Please have only one person make reservations for a cabin. Reservations are due by April 5th.

Or, you may stay in the Lodge: \$100 plus taxes per room per night whether a single or a double room.

Meals will be on your own. The Lodge serves buffet meals or you may order from the menu. Please add tax and gratuity to these buffet prices: breakfast \$7, lunch \$8, Saturday night Prime Rib \$16. The cabins have full kitchens.

If you are coming just for the day on Saturday the cost would be for meal(s) and the \$20 retreat registration fee.

The weekend will include Bible study, worship (offering will be taken), fellowship, and free time. Julia Wiley from Faith Presbyterian will be the speaker for the retreat.

Last but not least – there are three \$70 scholarships available for ladies who have not attended a retreat. You do not need to be in a circle to attend.

SUPER BOWL PARTY

The Men's Ministry is sponsoring a Family Super Bowl Party on February 5th starting at 4 o'clock p.m. The Super Bowl Party will be held at the Clubhouse in the Highland Point subdivision off Sandy Plains Road. If your last name begins with A-L, you are asked to bring an appetizer; M-Z bring dessert. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided. This is a gathering for the whole family, and we are looking forward to a good turnout. We hope to see you there. For more information, please contact Robert Chesser at 770 924-6318.

Men's Ministry

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN . . .

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS is meeting each month on the 2nd Wednesday morning at 10 am in the parlor. Our next meeting date is February 8th, with the lesson "Pursuing a Life of Service" led by Carolyn Tolbert. Babysitting is provided. Call Helen at 770-516-1113 or Ann at 770-993-1767 if you have questions.

SPUNKY SPIRITS CIRCLE: Our next meeting is Thursday, February 9th, at 11:00 at Jan Walls' home. We will be discussing the 4th lesson in *A Woman of Balance* by Juanita Ryan. Please bring a lunch/brunch dish to share. All women of Eastminster are invited!

Becky Sammons 678-493-9348 Barbara Duda 770-321-4400

THE ANNUAL GATHERING is going to be held March 11, 2006, at Westminster Presbyterian in Rome. The meeting will be from 9am-1pm with lunch provided. There will be one hour for growthshop with 3 offerings for classes. A short service and the installation of officers and business will conclude the meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available during February, along with additional details.

EASTER BASKETS

Easter is around the corner! The Presbyterian Women will be beginning their collection for the Thornwell Children's Easter Baskets before you know it. This is Eastminster's opportunity to give to these children. Keep your bunny ears and bright eyes open for a collection box next month. More details in February.



Lisa Tabor

Session Meeting Highlights

January 15, 2006

- ◆ The baptism of Ella Kathryn Starnes, daughter of member Randolph Anderson (Andy) and Mary Evelyn Starnes at the 9:00 service on January 29, 2006 was approved.
- ◆ Session approved a motion from Stewardship and Finance that all current and future funds to be used for a building expansion, including the Grow to Serve funds, be combined into a single account with a separate chart of accounts. By isolating Capital Campaign and Building Expansion funds from normal operating funds, the Stewardship and Finance team can best manage, monitor, and report on how associated funds are received and spent.
- ◆ A motion was approved, that on behalf of the Session, the Stewardship and Finance Team be given fiduciary responsibility and oversight of the Capital Campaign and the Building Design teams receipts and disbursements. Also, the Treasurer will provide a separate report for the Capital Campaign/Building Expansion funds to Session each month.
- ◆ Leader Tom Nickles reported to Session that the Capital Campaign is progressing on schedule. The team will continue to keep Session apprised of its activities and future scheduled events.

- ◆ The Building Team moved and Session approved the Master Plan as presented to Session on January 15, 2006 with phasing and prioritization to be determined later. The Session called a Special Session Meeting for Sunday, January 29, 2006, after the 11:00 AM service for the purpose of discussing the recommendation of the Building Design Team.
- ◆ The Session approved a motion from the Administration and Personnel Team to hold a congregational meeting after the 11:00 service on Sunday, February 12 for the purpose of approving the pastors's Calls and the election of one elder who will fill Brad West's unexpired (two-year) Session term.
- ◆ Session approved the following members be named to the A/P Team: Diane Best, Sonny Hall, Vince Parkhouse, Dick Smith, and Lewis Wiggins.
- ◆ The Session approved The Christian Education Ministry Team motion to approve and add to the calendar the following youth activities: Sunday, January 29, 2006 – Middle High Youth to participate in a neighborhood scavenger hunt for canned goods to be donated to "Souper Bowl Sunday." Sunday, February 5, 2006 – all Youth to participate in "Souper Bowl Sunday" by collecting canned goods and money after both worship services. Canned goods and money will be donated to MUST Ministries, February 17-19, 2006 – Senior High Youth to participate in the annual ski trip, April 29-30, 2006 – Middle High Youth to visit "Lost Sea" in Tennessee, and March 16, 17, and 18, 2006 – Annual Youth Garage Sale fundraising activities to benefit youth travels over the summer of 2006.

- ◆ Session approved a motion to host Vacation Bible School for both Eastminster and the community on July 10-14, 2006. This event will include a performance during the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, July 16, 2006. Session approved a motion to confirm Leigh Sain and Karrie Willard as co-directors of the 2006 Vacation Bible School.
- ◆ Session also approved Diane Green and Carolyn Waters as leaders for the confirmation class of 2006.
- ◆ Session approved a motion to allow Linda Shell to be added to the Congregational Care Team to serve as a Stephen Ministry Trainer.
- ◆ Session approved a motion to allow Sara Brown to be added to the Congregational Care Team to serve as the New Member's Ministry Team/Class Reception Coordinator.
- ◆ Session approved a motion to add Christy Thomas to the Fellowship ministry team.

C.R.P. TRAINING

**Saturday, February 25
10 - Noon (Fellowship Hall)**

There will be a C.P.R. course for first timers and people needing recertification. Our own Kathy Wolfram, a certified CRP instructor, is donating her time to teach this class. There will be a \$5.00 charge for registration. You will receive a certification card. Please sign up on the sheet in the alcove by February 18.



Presbyterian Coalition Cobb HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Plans for 2006!

It is a new year and we are already making our plans to help deserving families in Cobb County with housing. As you know we are one of nine churches who work together every year to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. Over the past twelve years, we have built 19 houses in Cobb and funded 13 houses in Kenya.

This year we are working with Pope High School on a house in Mableton. Our workdays are every other Saturday beginning February 25. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex - WE NEED YOU! Everyone 16 and over is invited and needed to help. Even if you aren't skilled, there is plenty to be done.

In partnership with Cobb Disaster Recovery, we are also finalizing plans to "repair" homes in South Cobb County that were damaged by Hurricane Dennis. Remember that one? Probably not since Hurricane Katrina was so close on it's heels. Hurricane Dennis was the storm of the century for Cobb County.

The creeks in southern Cobb County reached levels higher than any since 1916. 84 homes had minor damage, 166 homes had major damage, 54 were destroyed. We hope to be able to supply the funds and labor to put 2-3 families back into their homes. There are at least 84 families still displaced. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

We will also have our annual fundraisers - Golf tournament, Fourth of July parking, 5K race, Dinner and Silent Auction - we need help with these also. If you are interested in helping in any way or becoming more involved in this worthwhile cause, please contact MaryAnn Gardner, 770-518-7452.

Session Minutes continues

- ♦ Session approved that The Easter Egg Hunt be held the morning of April 15th at the church.
- ♦ Session also approved the Presbyterian Women be permitted to sell the reprinted cookbooks in the alcove the month of March and the two weeks in April preceding Easter.
- ♦ Session approved a request from the Building and Grounds Team that member Barbara Enlow be allowed to use the choir room from 6:30-7:00 PM on Wednesday evenings for piano lessons.
- ♦ Session approved a motion from the Fellowship Team for a 5 week Bridge Class to be held in the Fellowship Hall on consecutive Saturday mornings from 10:00-12:00 AM beginning February 25, 2006. Member Don Fifield will be providing the instruction.
- ♦ There will be a church-wide calendaring meeting at 6:00 PM on January 26, 2006 in the church parlor.
- ♦ The next Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery will be on February 28, 2006 at First Church Cartersville. J. McIntire, L. Hall, and K. Jones will serve as commissioners.
- ♦ The next Stated Session Meeting will be held on February 19, 2006 at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Jones, Clerk to Session



BIRTHDAYS for February

1	Candy McNair	13	Bob Wiley
1	Dan Strickland	14	Phillip Morrissey
1	Davis Lakeman	14	Stephen Touset
2	Brian Melcher	15	Mike Moran
5	Jeanette Gowen	15	Lynn Durham
5	Amy Polefrone	15	Matthew Wessner
5	Kyle Watson	15	Colin Andrews
6	Rebecca Johnson	17	Karen Grigg
7	Thad Oviatt	17	Randy Gehman
8	Dennis Yu	17	Allyson Boyenga
8	Alan Gibson	18	Lisa Rish
8	Katie Crock	19	Jody Danneman
8	Rachel Nielsen	19	Emily Hishta
9	Devony Morgan	21	Ryan Will
9	John Speiser	21	Sydney Allen
9	Krissie Robinson	21	Alex Hanks
9	Katherine Byrd	22	Chris Foster
10	Zachrey Bradley	23	Janelle Welborn
10	Jacob Sphar	25	Sharon Melcher
11	Tom Candler	25	Andy Starnes
11	Madeline Kennedy	26	Sonny Hall
11	Molly Jennings	28	Fred Schremp
12	Caroline Cribb	28	Rhonda Bradley
12	Steve Dempsey	28	Mikey Mortimer
12	Marianne Danneman	28	Jay Coleman
13	Martie Pottinger	29	Fred Duda

ANNIVERSARIES

3	Bill & Melinda Freeman
6	Dan & Grey Hydrick
9	Hart & Mary Alice Phinney
11	Jim & Debbie Bussart
14	Dan & Carolyn Waters
15	John & Lynne Buchanan
15	Bob & Beth Bullock
19	Tom & Jan Conkright

GREETERS

Feb. 5

9:00 Wardlaw Family
11:00

Feb. 12

9:00 Dave & Molly Boyenga
11:00

Feb. 19

9:00 Don & Diane Preus
11:00

Feb. 26

9:00 Moultrie Family
11:00

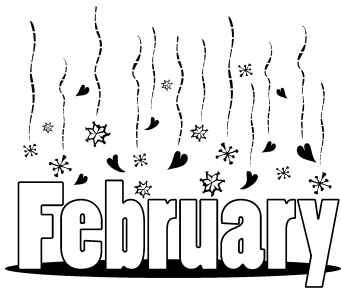
Christian Sympathy is expressed to:

Christy Thomas on the death of her grandmother, Clarissa Irving;
Steve Thomas on the death of his grandfather, Duran Campbell.

Would You Like To Know More About Eastminster?

Our next New Members' and Inquirers' Class will begin on Sunday, February 5th at 10:00 am in the church parlor. This lively and informal 7-week class is designed to help you get to know Eastminster better, especially if you are considering making Eastminster your permanent church home. The class will meet up to and including Sunday, March 19th. During the final class, those wishing to become members will have the opportunity to meet with our Session and be introduced to the congregation during the 11:00 am service.

We hope that if you have been visiting with us and have been thinking about joining our growing and thriving church that you will plan on attending. If you have any questions about the class, please don't hesitate to call Ken Jacquot at 770-794-1837.



United Mission Offering



Our United Mission Offering will be Sunday, February 12, 2006. This one-time offering funds all the programs and groups that we as a congregation support in the mission area. As our church grows so should our mission to the community and beyond!

In January you had the opportunity to read some personal accounts of the good you do when you make a financial gift to the United Mission Offering. Over the past two years you've heard congregation members and program leaders share about the wonderful work that takes place in these outreach programs. Now you've learned the impact you have made to help those in need.

Please prayerfully consider your family's "*Gift from the Heart*" this year. Your support goes far to feed people with food and hope, shelter the homeless, nurture children with love and opportunity, provide care to the elderly, and bring physical and spiritual healing to the afflicted. Gifts also renew the giver in both spirit and strength.

*"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
1 Peter 4: 10b NRS*