



# Big Cove News

May 2014

Big Cove Presbyterian Church (USA)

## May Elder on Call

Dallas Ferneau

## Pastor

Rosemary McMahan

## Parish Associate

Houston Hodges

## Administrative

Assistant

Mary Hooper

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## *From the Pastor ~ Let's Set Sail!*

Happy Eastertide, everyone! What a glorious Easter Sunday we celebrated, from geese honking at 6:30 AM SonRise Service, to the "Victory Chant" at 9 am, to the five Public Professions of Faith made at 11 am! I am still excited by the energy and joy of Easter Sunday!

Part of my excitement also comes from discovering a new book entitled, Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice, by Joan S. Gray. Joan Gray is a former moderator of the General Assembly and a teaching elder living in Atlanta, GA. She has vast experience within the Presbyterian Church and is a spiritual leader. Rev. Gray challenges us to stop being "rowboat" churches that rely on our own agendas and hard work and instead to practice becoming "sailboat" churches that are open to the fresh ideas found using the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

At the same time I discovered this book (or rather the Spirit had Rev. Robin Palmer bring it to my attention!), I took study leave to learn how to use the Presbytery's expansive demographic tool, Mission Insite. (A computer program with lots of numbers is what every English Major wants to learn to use.) With demographics in one hand and Sailboat Church in another, I realized that God has once again given us tools to help us discern how to continue to be "disciples who make disciples," how to care for one another here, in our church community, while reaching out to the 25% of "Nones" in our own community. ("Nones" are those who have no spiritual preference.) Twenty-five percent of the people in our own community don't have a church affiliation! The harvest is ready, but the laborers are few.

The tools God has provided are more than I can handle alone! Since Jesus always operated in groups, I am putting out a call to you, the members of Big Cove Church, to join me in forming a "Spirit Group" with **the objective being a process that is both methodical and prayerful to "grow disciples," which the session stated as a main priority at its training in February.**

This group will be 4-pronged with a commitment to reading together Sailboat Church, using the prayer guide that is included, studying the demographics of our community, and discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Our findings will be presented to the session with recommended actions.

Joan Gray writes that for the early Christians, "church was a God-powered, God-led, God-resourced adventure. They found they were caught up in something much bigger than themselves. Day by day, hour by hour, they

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## From the Pastor (cont'd from page 1)

moved as the Spirit led them. They depended on the Spirit to provide what was needed to do God's work. They knew that God was really in charge of what was needed to do God's work. They knew that God was really in charge of what was happening" (1).

Please take time to listen to your heart, and to the Holy Spirit, to see if any of this resonates with you. If it does, then contact me as soon as possible. I hope to hold a first gathering in mid-June.

Let's get sailing! Blessings,  
~Rosemary

### *Praying With the Holy Spirit*

Beginning on May 4 and for the next forty days, you are invited as this Community of Christ, and together with this Community of Christ, to engage in a daily reflection, scripture reading, and personal prayer. A prayer guide will be posted each day on the church's Facebook page. For those without Facebook, seven daily reflections will be sent with the mid-week reminders. These reflections come from Joan Gray's book, Sailboat Church, and are part of her "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer." These prayers may be prayed individually, as couples, or as a family.



Big Cove Church relied on the power of prayer when we made the decision to apply for a transformation grant, when we searched for a location for First Light, and when we believed God was calling us to build. This time of prayer will help us discern where God continues to lead us so that we may live more intentionally into our vision to be disciples who make disciples. Without prayer, we can do nothing, but with prayer, and with the Spirit, we can do anything!

Please commit to this time of prayer, together. I would love to hear that you are joining me in this season of seeking the Holy Spirit! ~ Rosemary



## Christianity Uncorked

We will be introducing a new outreach program, Christianity Uncorked (for Spirited Discussion), the first Tuesday of the month starting in June from 6-7:00 pm.

There will be at least four sessions through summer.

The location is a little unconventional being in a local pub, Carson's Grill at the corner of Hwy 431 and Sutton Road behind the gas station. We will have current topics and how they relate to Christianity. These are open discussions, not studies.

The first topic will be Atheism: A Christian Response. If you have any atheist friends please ask them to come share a brew with us and join the conversation.

Also, in preparation for the meeting, please read "Atheism: A Christian Response" from *The Thoughtful Christian*, attached to the same e-mail as this newsletter.

## Your Session at Work and Ministry

From the Session, April 2014



- After opening with prayer, the session acted on the following items:
- Received updates on members/Shepherds' Groups
- Received new member, James Glenn, by Reaffirmation of Faith
- Agreed that BCC cannot logistically host the July 2015 Presbytery meeting but will offer its facilities for smaller events
- Rec'd the Quarterly Budget Report from Finance Chair. Asked the chair/team to continue to promote the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Capital Campaign
- Approved salary range for advertising for new pianist
- Approved pulpit supplies Revs Peggy McClure and Judy Rich for May 25 and June 1
- Pledged to support and join the congregation in a 40 Days of Prayer period for discernment in BCC's continuing path forward. Also approved formation of a Spirit Group for prayer, study, and planning.
- Session adjourned early due to threatening weather and will receive additional reports at its June 30 meeting. The session will take a recess in May.



### New Hope Children's Clinic needs OTC medications

The cost of over-the-counter medication is not covered under grants for medical supplies. We have been asked to help with this need. Starting NOW, we would like to begin *a quarterly drive to donate the following medicines:*

\*Children's Musinex  
\*allergy eye drops

\*Children's liquid Benadryl,  
\*Children's chewable or melt-away Pepto Bismol.

*Please place your purchases in the designated basket in the stairwell vestibule by May 4 (that's this Sunday!). Thank you for your generosity!*



### Kids to Camp - a new Outreach opportunity

In May and June, Big Cove will be partnering with Covenant Presbyterian to help send homeless children from the Huntsville area to Camp Maranatha for a week. The effort will kick off with a Minute for Mission this Sunday, May 4.

Details will be provided in the weekly updates and Sunday bulletins, so keep your eyes and ears open for ways you can participate!



## Presbyterian Women

On May 5 at 10:00, the Presbyterian Women of Big Cove will meet for the last time until September.

The meeting will be at the church, and the study will be led by Gail Birdsong.

## Big Cove Picture Directory Update

Remember that I will be correcting the directory starting May 5.

*Please review your info in the directory and be sure that all information is complete and correct!*

Some of you have sent me changes throughout the year, and I think I have noted all of those changes, but if you have any doubt about whether or not I have your changes or new information, please don't hesitate to tell me. I would much rather hear the information multiple times than get something wrong in the directory!

**If you are new to the community** or if you worship with us regularly (even if you are not yet a member), please send me any of the following information about you and your family that you want to share with your church staff and friends:

street address

phone numbers (cell or land lines)

email addresses

birthdates (years are not necessary; month and day are good!)

anniversary

Thanks! ~ Mary



## Mother's Day Event!

Please join us on May 11 during Christian Exploration as we honor our mothers, those living and those a part of the communion of saints!

Bring a picture of your mom and a favorite memory. After a gathering in the worship area, we will split into intergenerational groups. 9:55 AM.

## Bags of Blessings Pack Night

The **Bag of Blessings** pack night at the CARE Center will be on Thursday, May 15 at 6:00.

It is the last pack of the year—the summer break pack. We will need 35-40 people.

If we don't have enough people, we will need to enlist help from other churches, so **please sign up** on the sheet on the table in the back of the sanctuary so that we can get an early, accurate account of our numbers. (See Melinda Harvey if you have questions.)





Hee haw! The date is drawing closer to our SonWest Roundup Vacation Bible School! Thank you to the many volunteers who will be on the trail with us this year.

COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS AND a couple of more Volunteers **WANTED** on our rip-roaring trail as we have a good time with Jesus!

BRING YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! Four year olds through rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome.

Register by June 16 @ [WWW.BIGCOVECHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.BIGCOVECHURCH.ORG)

Anything western such as saddles, PLAY horses, hay bales, blankets, RUGS, etc. needed for decorating. Any questions, just ask Glenda harris.

Our mission this year will be the Presbyterian home for children. Donations for the Presbyterian home and/or VBS are always appreciated!



# Important Dates in May



- May 1: National Day of Prayer**
- May 5-Presbyterian Women meeting 10:00 at church**
- May 10: Men's Bible Time 9:30**
- May 11: Mother's Day: Special intergenerational Christian Exploration**
- May 12: Outreach Team Meeting 6:30**
- May 15<sup>th</sup>: Bag of Blessings Pack Night**
- Pastor's Vacation: May 19-June 2**
- May 28<sup>th</sup>: Memorial Day**

## Regularly Scheduled Weekly Events:

- Sunday Worship, 9 am and 11 am**
- Christian Exploration: 9:55-10:45**
- Sunday Night Youth (SNY): 5:30-7 PM, white church**
- Wednesday Meditative Yoga: 9:30-11 AM**
- Wednesday Night Immersion Study: 6-7 PM**
- Wednesday Night Choir Practice: 7-8 PM**
- Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 10-11 AM**

### Happy May Birthday!

- Lynn Nixon on the 1st
- Jimmy Scrimshire on the 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Don Barnhart on the 5<sup>th</sup>
- Joyce Clark on the 5<sup>th</sup>
- Ryan Worthington on the 8<sup>th</sup>
- Presley Birdsong on the 17<sup>th</sup>
- Alaina Harvey on the 18<sup>th</sup>
- Dixie Elrod on the 19<sup>th</sup>
- Conrow Book on the 21<sup>st</sup>
- Sherry Sakovich on the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Jane Rutledge on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Merrie Duncan on the 24<sup>th</sup>
- Jackie Burnette on the 31<sup>st</sup>

### Happy May Anniversary!

- Dennis & Rosemary McMahan on the 12<sup>th</sup>
- Carlos & Sylvia Romero on the 24<sup>th</sup>
- Mickey & Connie Sharp on the 29<sup>th</sup>
- Don & Brenda Copeland on the 31st





*Please Note June  
Newsletter deadline: May 27*

## Financial Corner For March 2014

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>\$13,344.00</b>
<b>Operation Expenses</b> (Includes 1 year fire alarm monitoring service-1,051.43)	<b>\$ 14,370.22</b>
<b>Donations to the Children's Home:</b>	<b>\$223.20</b>
<b>Capital Campaign Donations:</b>	<b>\$855.00</b>

Any questions relating to the above may be addressed to Diane Lee, Bookkeeper, or any of the current elders.

## ~Worship Leaders for May~

### 9AM Worship:

	<u>May 4</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>May 18</u>	<u>May 25</u>
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Kirk Finley	Nicole Harris	Savanna Harris	Alaina Harvey
<b>Host/Hostess</b> .....	Janet Indihar	Michele Pepper	Vicki Waldrop	Debbie Book
<b>Worship Leader</b> ....	Pastor	Tom Jones	Gary Indihar	Ross Rutledge
<b>Power Point</b> .....	Debbie Book	Gary Indihar	Kirk Finley	Dennis McMahan

### 11 AM Worship:

	<u>May 4</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>May 18</u>	<u>May 25</u>
<b>Usher</b> .....	Dexter Gentle	Kay Hanks	Jeff & Vicki Irons	David Lilly
<b>Worship Leader</b> ....	Neva Beasley	Mike Feehan	Tennent Lee	Pastor
<b>First Reader</b> .....	Connie Sharp	Todd Worthington	Neva Beasley	Gail Birdsong
<b>Second Reader</b> .....	Mickey Sharp	Kathy Barnhart	Tom Bell	Larry Clark

### Care Center Pick Up

<u>April 27 30-May 3</u>	Kay Hanks
<u>May 4-10</u>	Kay Hanks
<u>May 11-17</u>	Kate Hosna
<u>May 18-24</u>	Kate Hosna
<u>May 25-31</u>	Connie Sharp

### WAVE Team

Pam Worthington  
Neva Beasley  
Merrie Duncan  
Tom & Sharon Bell  
Ron Harris

## Sanctuary Flowers, Anyone?

The sanctuary flower schedule for the summer is a little skimpy, and even skimpier for the fall.

Please check the flower chart in the stairwell vestibule to see if you are moved to fill any of the empty blanks with a dedication of sanctuary flowers for a special occasion or loved one.

