



Big Cove News

July 2014

Big Cove Presbyterian Church (USA)

July Elder on Call
Ray Waldrop

Pastor
Rosemary McMahan

Parish Associate
Houston Hodges

Administrative Assistant
Mary Hooper

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From the Pastor ~ *What's in The Word?*

Since the outcome of General Assembly 2014, people have been asking me, “What does the Bible say?” As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the challenge in answering that question is that the Bible contradicts itself in many places. For example, check out the two creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2. Read the two birth narratives of Christ in Luke and in Matthew. Review all four Resurrection stories in the gospels. For every place that Paul discounts women in his letters, I can show you two more where he builds them up! So, what DOES the Bible say?

Several years ago, when studying scripture and how to teach it, I happened upon a Reformed (that’s us) understanding of how to interpret Scripture that is based on our historical creeds, those writings that have survived time and helped determine who we are as Christians, reformed, and Presbyterian. I continue to find these guidelines very meaningful and sensible as I wrestle with what the Bible says in preparing to preach, teach, listen, lead, discern, and provide care:

Rules for Biblical Interpretation in the Reformed Tradition

1. Scripture is to be interpreted with confidence in and openness to the *guidance of the Holy Spirit* (not just what we think we hear.)
2. Scripture is to be interpreted in light of scripture, comparing scripture with scripture, with openness to hear the whole Word of God, not just selected parts of it. (*Can’t pull out a single line and ignore the rest of the book.*)
3. Scripture is to be interpreted in light of God’s central self-revelation in Jesus Christ. (*Is our interpretation in line with how Jesus lived and what he taught?*)
4. Scripture is to be interpreted in light of the one commandment of God that summarizes all other commandments, love for God and for all our neighbors. (*Does our interpretation reflect the love of Christ?*)
5. Scripture is to be interpreted with respect for the church’s past and present interpretation of scripture. (*What has been the “experience” of scripture and its effect?*)
6. Scripture is to be interpreted in light of the literary forms and *historical context* in which it was written. (*How are times, people, culture different today than thousands of years ago?*)
7. Scripture is to be interpreted *seeking the word and work of the living God* in our time and place. (*Is our interpretation helpful to building up the kingdom?*)
8. Scripture is to be interpreted with awareness of our limitations and fallibility and with openness to change our mind and be corrected. “Reformed” means always *being reformed afresh by the Word of God*. (*We could be wrong!*)

From the Pastor (continued)

Where these rules are discussed in the Presbyterian Book of Confessions:

- *Scots Confession, Chapters XVIII and XIX*
- *Second Helvetic Confession, Chapters I and II*
- *Westminster Confession, Chapter I*
- *Shorter Catechism, Questions 89 and 90*
- *Declaration of Barmen, 8.10-12*
- *Confession of 1967, 9.27-30*

When I read these rules, I am reminded that by myself, I don't have the one and only correct interpretation of scripture. I need to hear the voices of others under the prayerful guidance of the Spirit. I need to read other interpretations. I need to be aware that much of scripture was written to a certain people in a certain place in a certain circumstance and so hear with "fresh ears" what it is saying today as the LIVING Word. And I need to be respectful of those who hear differently and be open to learning from them, even if I disagree.

One of the things I most admire about the Presbyterian tradition in regard to interpreting scripture is that it is always to be done in the "light of love," in order to build people up, not diminish them, and in order to be obedient to Jesus' commandment to love God, others, and ourselves. When Scripture is read thematically, as a love letter from God to his people, there is always hope, always invitation, always redemption.

May the Spirit continue to guide us in our understanding of the great gift we call The Bible.

Blessings,
Rosemary

Christianity Uncorked

The topic for spirited discussion at this month's Christianity Uncorked gathering (***note change of date: July 8th*** at 6:00 at Carson's Grill) is "*Drones: Christian Ethics and Remote-Controlled Warfare.*"



SAVE THE DATE



September 20, 2014

Day of Service & Unity
On the International Day of Peace



www.interfaithmissionservice.org *The Power of We*

Watch for more information in future Big Cove publications or on this website:

www.interfaithmissionservice.org

Remember: You can order Christmas cards from the Presbyterian Home for Children and support this worthwhile cause at the same time.

Notice: Order now through August 15 for cards to be delivered in September.



To celebrate our 10th year of selling Christmas cards featuring the artwork of children, we are offering a box of our 5 most popular designs (shown above). Each package contains 10 cards, 2 each of 5 designs. Each features a different greeting and a verse of scripture. The name of the child who drew the artwork is on the back.

By purchasing cards from the Presbyterian Home for Children, you will receive a high quality card at a reasonable price while supporting an important ministry to the children of Alabama. The proceeds will make a difference in the life of a child.

Cards ordered before August 15, 2014, will be delivered in September. Cards ordered after August 15 will be delivered as long as they are available.

You may order online at the PHFC website www.phfc.org

OR mail a check for \$15 per box (includes shipping) with the order form below to
PRESBYTERIAN HOME FOR CHILDREN

P.O. Drawer 577
Talladega, AL 35161

Presbyterian Home for Children Christmas Card order form

How many packages? _____ Ship cards to: _____
(10 cards per package) _____
x \$15.00 each (includes shipping) _____
Total enclosed: _____



Important Dates in July



Note: Thursday Prayer group will not meet on July 3rd
July 4th: Happy Independence Day!
July 6: One Service at 10:00
July 8 (Note Date change!!!) Christianity Uncorked 6:00
Men's Bible Time is on vacation for the month of July; see you in August!
July 14: Outreach Team 6:30
July 14-18: Meet Maranatha campers at 4:30 in church parking lot
July 15: Presbytery Meeting
July 21-25: Meet Maranatha campers at 4:30 in church parking lot
July 29: Session Meeting 6:00

Regularly Scheduled Weekly Events:

(summer schedule)

Sunday Worship, 9 am and 11 am
Wednesday Meditative Yoga: 9:30-11 AM
Wednesday Night Choir Practice: 7-8 PM
Thursday Morning Prayer Group: 10-11 AM

Happy July Birthday!

Tate Finley on the 1st
 Debbie Book on the 11th
 David Nunn on the 18th
 Kevin Wilson on the 20th
 Robyn Birdsong on the 24th
 Lenora Lee on the 26th
 Hartwell Lutz on the 28th
 Mary Burnette on the 29th

Happy July Anniversary!

Hartwell & Pat Lutz on the 3rd
 John & Kerry Isom on the 14th
 Donnie & Nicole Harris on the 14th
 Kirk & Christie Finley on the 16th
 Gary & Janet Indihar on the 17th
 French & Jennifer Salter on the 18th
 Charles Boley & Mary Hooper on the 24th



*Please Note August
Newsletter deadline:
July 28*

Financial Corner

For May 2014

Receipts:	\$11,866.00
Operation Expenses	\$11,186.53
Donations to the Children's Home:	\$160.00
Capital Campaign Donations:	\$730.00

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

~Worship Leaders for July~

9AM Worship:

	<u>July 6</u>	<u>July 13</u>	<u>July 20</u>	<u>July 27</u>
Greeter	Kirk Finley	Nicole Harris	Savanna Harris	Alaina Harvey
Host/Hostess	Vicki Waldrop	Michele Pepper	Debbie Book	Merrie Duncan
Worship Leader ...	Debbie Book	Don Barnhart	Nancy Bass	Christie Finley
Power Point	Dennis McMahan	Gary Indihar	Katrina Pepper	Gary Indihar

11 AM Worship:

	<u>July 6</u>	<u>July 13</u>	<u>July 20</u>	<u>July 27</u>
Usher	ONE	Pat Lutz	Larry Clark	Dexter Gentle
Worship Leader	SERVICE	Neva Beasley	Mike Feehan	Mickey Sharp
First Reader	WITH 9:00	Gail Birdsong	Tom Bell	Tom Bell
Second Reader	LEADERS	Larry Clark	Tennent Lee	Mike Feehan

Care Center Pick Up

<u>June 29-July 5</u>	Gary Bass
<u>July 6-12</u>	Gail Birdsong
<u>July 13-19</u>	Gail Birdsong
<u>July 20-26</u>	Pat Burke
<u>July 27-August 2</u>	Pat Burke

WAVE Team

Linda Wheeler
Pam Worthington
Neva Beasley
Tom & Sharon Bell
Merrie Duncan

GOD BLESS



AMERICA!