

“...those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.”

The first football game of my senior year in high school was against Grand Bay Alabama. I was the center, and the entire week leading up to the game Coach Poochie Stringfellow kept telling me the nose guard was so good that the University of Alabama was coming to watch him. Several times he would just walk up, tell me I was going to get my tail whipped all over the field, and then laugh and walk away.

I knew Coach Stringfellow really was not trying to scare me. He knew that I would rise to meet the challenge and I did. Because I knew what I was facing, I pushed myself to play harder, faster, and stronger than I had before. By the end of the night, I had manhandled my opponent and kept him from making any plays.

As a nation we are facing some pretty tough challenges. The economy is affecting all of us, including the church. In case you have not noticed, we like many churches are facing a budget shortfall. Because of a combination of decreased summer attendance and a bad economy, currently we are short by \$27,000.

As I said in a recent sermon, “No it is not time to panic.” But it is a time to be smart. We are doing things like turning up the thermostats, turning off lights, and putting off unnecessary purchases. A little tightening of the belt never hurt anyone.

Besides cutting back on spending, the church needs your help. Do not be afraid to tithe. God never abandons those who are faithful. Also, if you have been blessed in this down economy, consider giving an extra gift. Also, if you are the last person out of a room or leaving the hall, turn off the lights and turn the air conditioner to 80 degrees. Make sure doors close tight behind you.

Most importantly, pray for the church every day, support ministries by volunteering, and be present with your family. This is the best way for all of us to make it through tough times. God blesses us for our faithfulness.

We are not in trouble. But I believe it is foolish to wait until you are in trouble before you ask for help. To not act is to put valuable ministries like His Way, youth ministry, children’s ministry, and community outreach at risk.

We know the challenge. Let us not shrink back in fear. Rather, let us rise to the occasion and find, “...those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).”

Because of His Extravagant Grace, Brian



A compelling Connection: Staying as One or Coming Undone

This is a nine part sermon series study of the book of 1 Corinthians by Bro. Brian. The apostle Paul was speaking to issues that were tearing the church at Corinth apart. To help them he gave them wise Spiritual advice on how to move from Christians divided to Christians united. I hope you will join us as we discover what our church has to learn from this powerful book.

October Brings the Fair!!!



Fair will be the week of October 17. We need volunteers to work at the Fair Booth and also to bake pies, cakes, make rice, potato salad and put together roux mix. If you can work a day at the Fair, please notify Joyce O'Brien. Further notice will be made regarding food needs. We also need donations of napkins, mayo, mustard and ketchup packets, hot sauce in small bottles and Condensed Milk. Please bring your donations and place in box located in front foyer by the office.

Mission Report

With the rise in the temperature, we have seen an increase in the amounts of electricity bills, and we have received many requests for help. We have also helped with several medical expenses. We were able to send a donation to the Methodist Children's Home, as well as some donations for the new ministry that Marley and Nancy Walker are heading up called "Community of Hope."

Your response to our requests for food items for the pantry has been great, and we ask for your continued support. We usually run out of meat products first, so those donations are especially appreciated. We cannot thank you enough for giving to the outreach ministries of the Church. We are looking forward to the "His Way" Ministry starting back-up in September.

In Christian Love

The Mission Committee



Serve: Webster's Dictionary explains this 'to render obedience and worship to God'. "His Way" people have always tried to serve the shut-ins of our community as God had instructed Christians to do. Jesus came to walk among people to teach them to also serve.

As most of you know, "His Way" has taken a short break for the summer, after four and a half years of continuous service. We will restart after Labor Day with the first meal being delivered on Tuesday, September 13. We ask that each of you continue to pray for us, and that you will consider supporting us with your financial donations. As of June 21, 2011, we have delivered 21,386 meals and with your prayers we will continue to increase that number. Thank you to each of you, and may God bless everyone.

"His Way" Crew

I WILL PRAISE YOU LORD WITH ALL MY HEART! I WILL TELL OF ALL THE MARVELOUS THINGS YOU HAVE DONE! Psalm 9:1 (NLT)



While reading in the Psalms, I came across this particular verse of scripture. I never cease to be amazed at the wondrous works the Lord has done, and the many blessings he has bestowed upon us here at Caswell Springs UMC. The lyrics to many of our hymns, choruses, and contemporary songs are taken from the Psalms (directly and indi-

rectly), so it can be fun to spend time reading the Psalms and looking for those references that are so prevalent in our musical traditions. May you be dedicated to telling all the world of God's Glory! School is back in session, so we're back to business (or busy-ness, if your life is anything like mine). However, that also means it's time to look forward to this Fall and

Winter, and how our ministries can grow through our plans and activities. Children's Choir is back on, and the Chancel Choir will very soon be preparing for our Christmas program, so come and be a part of these wonderful worship ministries. We're planning for some fun-filled activities this year, so come and join us!

Hot Gossip

"...the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself (James 3:5 & 6).

Reading the above scripture by James, the brother of Jesus, it is easy to see that he believes all gossip is

"hot gossip." It is hot because its source is certainly not God. Gossip is never appropriate or healthy. Churches especially need to pay attention to this because we are supposed to be a place of healing where everyone is welcome. Even a truth is Gossip if the intent is not pure. Gossip is a poison that hinders God's work.

This is how you can tell if it is gossip.

Before you say something, ask yourself: 1. Does this build up the person of whom I am speaking? 2. Will not speaking put others in danger? 3. Is this something I would want spread about me? 4. Is what I am about to say beneficial to anyone involved? If the answer to any of these is "no" then do not speak it.

Proverbs 6 says that God hates those who "sow the seeds of discord." Therefore, as a church let us speak words of grace and sow seeds of love.

Marital Martial Arts: Fight the Enemy not Each Other.

Reba J McMellon, MS, LPC and Charity Scott will be facilitating a five week class on **Marital Martial Arts: Fight the Enemy not Each Other**. This class will begin **Wednesday September 7th at 6:30**. Children's activities will be going on simultaneously.

The class will feature a video series based on interviews with Dr. Rick Fitzgibbons, M.D., the director of the Institute for Marital Healing

This class is recommended for all who have been married for more than fifteen minutes. It will also be helpful if you are between marriages, have suffered the pain of divorce or if you have never been married but plan to be.

The divorce rate is as high or higher for those who attend church regularly. Those who remain married often miss the fullness of joy the relation-

ship could give. Some believe it is from lack of sound spiritual teaching on what makes a marriage healthy. This series will resonate with Christian believers who strive to live a holy life in a divorce oriented society which celebrates shallow relationships resulting in shattered marriages.

And best of all, it will appeal to men.

Community of Hope

Community of Hope is the name of the new Ministry at Caswell Springs UMC. We have an active steering committee hard at work on getting the word out about our mission and purpose as well as developing fund raising projects. Our ministry has already repaired some electrical and plumbing issues, mowed some lawns for those not able to do so for themselves, changed a couple of light bulbs for folks, fixed a roof leak and we have performed many other jobs in our efforts to help in the community and in our church family. What we need most is prayer. None of what has happened so far would have happened without prayer. We need your prayers for our efforts to raise funds for this mission and for getting the word out to everyone; we are ready to help those that need a hand up with a project around the house. Please place Community of Hope on your prayer list. The steering committee is in the process of getting some space for storage of materials and tools. We also need people to volunteer to give us a few hours each month to help others. Some of those we help just need a phone call a couple of times a week to let them know God loves them, while others need a visit or help getting to the store or doctor. There really is something for everyone to do. We also need God's help in letting folks know it is ok to ask for help with home maintenance or other projects they are not able to do on their own, even when it may be a temporary concern. There are many ways people can receive help and then "pass it on". There are many in our community dealing with layoffs, health issues or other bumps in the road during these trying economic times. We want to help them explore ways to ride out the bumps in the road, let them know throughout the process that God Loves them and he will get them the help to get past this temporary setback. Finally, we need help with raising the funding for our work. For now, anyone that wants to help can write a check to Caswell Springs UMC and mark it for "Community of Hope." This ministry is all about community helping community something this church family knows a lot about and we want to reach out even further into the community and let folks know God Loves them and we are there with our labor and support to demonstrate God's Love for them. Soon there will be a new web site for this ministry. You can also check out our site on the Caswell Springs web page that has a copy of our mission and purpose statements.

God Bless, Your Community of Hope Team

FIRST STEPS is a new seven week Sunday school class taught by Bro. Brian

WHEN: Sunday 9/11/2011 thru Sunday 10/23/2011.

WHAT: We will be using Dr. Martin Case's Methodism 101 as a guide to conversation.

WHO: The target audience is new people at Caswell Springs, people who want to know what United Methodist's believe, and people who just want a refresher on faith basics.

WHERE: This class will meet in the dining room in the Ministry Center during Sunday school and anyone who is interested is invited to attend. Hope to see you there.

Hymnology

Where do we run? What or who do we depend upon? When situations overcome....where do we turn? Has sleeplessness bothered you in the night? Do you turn on TV, do you sit quietly, turn to scripture or to prayer? In these times our actions may vividly point to our source of confidence. There is a desirable plan called "The Theology of Resting In God" Oswald Chambers. Matt. 8:26 says "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" He rebuked the storm AND THERE WAS GREAT AND WONDERFUL CALM AND A PERFECT PEACEABLENESS. Don't we all long for that Perfect Peace? It is yours for the asking. Surrender your fears, cares, worries to Jesus. Rest in Him. Philippians 4:06-07 says "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but be thankful in every circumstance." In everything by prayer and petition [definite request] with thanksgiving continue to make your wants known to God. God's peace, that tranquil state....yes that peace will exceed our understanding and go beyond our confusion to grant us a protective barrier against our troubles and guard over the heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Jan Michael Joncas, 1951, has served as a Roman Catholic priest, musician, and scholar. He was educated at Univ. of Notre Dame and the Pontificio Istituto Liturgico Collegio of Rome. Joncas has written numerous articles on liturgical music, prayer, and the psalms and has composed and recorded collections of liturgical music.

*And God will raise you
up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath
of dawn,
Make you to shine like
the sun.
He will hold you in the
palm of His Hand.*

*Ex. 19:04
This Old Testament reading
gives another poetic picture
of God's caring for us.*

Children's/Rotation Sunday School

Now that summer activities are slowing down we are overflowing with children once again! The sound of children's chatter every Sunday morning makes my heart smile. The children just completed a unit about Timothy. Timothy was very young when he began his work for the Lord. Just like Timothy our children learned that they are never too young to be a good Christian example to others and to do work for the Lord.



We have begun a unit on Adam and Eve. It's amazing how even with such a fundamental story such as Adam and Eve we learn so much that we didn't know before. We are learning about the responsibilities God gave to Adam in caring for the animals and the garden. We are also learning how we can bring that responsibility into our own modern lives. Sin is another subject we are looking at closely. We all know Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit from

the Tree of Knowledge but there were other sins that are not looked at as closely. They tried to hide their sin not just in covering their bodies but by not taking responsibility for their actions. Neither Adam nor Eve wanted to take the blame for what they had done. We can apply that to our lives in so many ways. The children gave great examples this past week citing arguments with siblings, not being truthful at school and placing the blame on someone else for their own actions. It never ceases to amaze me how much our children can take away from a lesson.

Our next unit begins Sept 25. We will be studying "Out of Egypt." This unit uses the Bible story included in Exodus 2-14. God worked through Moses to free the people of Israel from slavery. God works through ordinary people to do God's work in the world today. The children will learn that the Exodus as the defining event in the lives of the Hebrew people. They will discover that



God wants all people to be free, to be treated with respect, justice, and kindness. They will recognize that, like persons of Bible times, they are called by God and can respond to God's call in many different ways. They will be assured that they can trust God's guidance and God's care and know that God is always with them. We will show them how God can work through people to accomplish God's work on earth. We will discuss how God is present with people in the world today, even where there is suffering and trouble and we will remind them that they can turn to God when they are troubled or afraid, and know that God hears and cares.

Parable of the Sower: Our hearts should be filled with good soil and producing fruit of faith.

Key Verse: But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit – Matthew 13:23 Read the Scripture as a family, Matthew 13:23, and use some of the activities below to get a hands-on lesson!

Activities to go along with this story:

1. Birdseed art. Fill in parts of your coloring page with glue, then sprinkle with birdseed.
2. Plant a seed. Use clear cups, put the seed on the side of the cup so the kids can watch the seedling form. Talk about the “ingredients” that are needed for growth: Soil, sun, no weeds, etc. Discuss how those conditions are needed in our hearts.
3. Make soil/mud playdough. Pretend to plant seeds in the soil dough and discuss how we can produce good soil and fruit! Recipe follows:

Soil (Coffee) Play dough

- 2 Cups of Flour
- 1/2 Cup of Coffee Grounds
- 1 Tablespoon of Instant Coffee (when it wasn't dark enough)
- 1 Cup of Salt
- 2 Teaspoons of Cream of Tartar
- 1 Cup of very hot water
- 2 Tablespoons of oil

It also called for glycerin drops. We didn't have any “drops” but I shaved a tiny piece off of a bar of soap. Glycerin Soap bars are the clear or see-through kind. A little bit goes a long way.

Mix the dry ingredients. Add the wet, stir a lot. Let it sit for awhile to thicken, then stir some more. We stored ours in a zip-lock bag and just added a little hot water after each playtime to keep it from drying out.

Blessings, Amy French



Thanks to Daniel Goodman (See Exodus 14)

03-07-2011

MOSES PARTS HIS HAIR

Opportunities for Worship Sunday

Morning Worship:

8:30 & 10:50 am

Sunday school 9:45 am

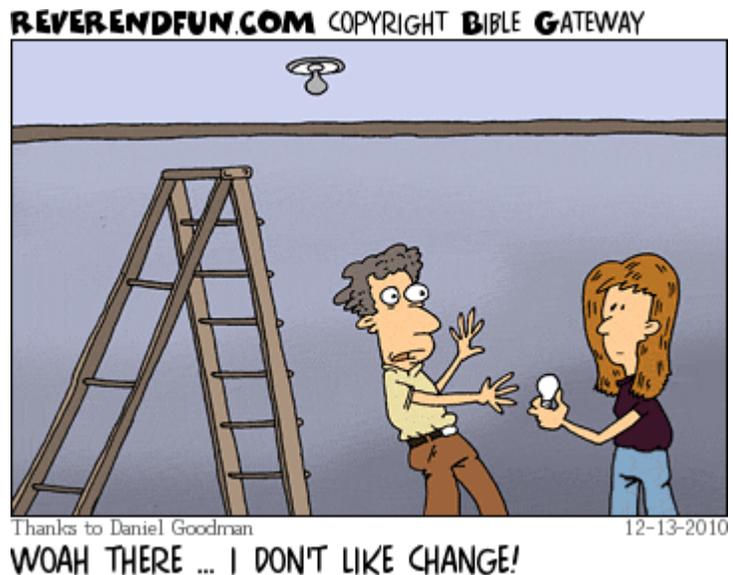
Evening Worship

6:00 pm

Wednesday night:

6:30 pm Activities

Wednesday night Children's Bible Adventures will begin Sept. 7th at 6:30pm!



Children's Sabbath

will be on Sept. 25 for Late service only! We will have various ages preaching and helping with the worship service, so please mark your calendars!



Church-wide Fall Festival

will be at Wayne & Lane Hoggards on Sept. 25, 5-7pm. Please bring a finger food and lawn chair to enjoy the activities. We will have bump-n-jumps, and many more fun activities! The Hoggards live on Gavin Hamilton; Coming from the 4-way stop in Hurley, go North on Hwy 613, then take a right on Gavin Hamilton, The Hoggard's home is the first right.



There will be no Upward soccer season this year. We will begin our Upward basketball season in the late fall. Please prayerfully consider where you can volunteer in this excellent program for the children of our community. Please contact Wendy Hadley with any questions.

Volunteer Opportunities:

1. We need volunteers to help with children Wednesday night
2. We need children Sunday school teachers
3. We need substitute drivers for His Way meal deliveries.
4. We need someone to organize cook and clean after meals on Wednesday night.
5. We need Greeters for Sunday Morning.
6. We need musicians for 1st service Contemporary Worship

Toddler Sunday school!

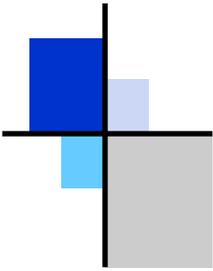
One of the highlights of my Sunday is stopping in the Toddler room and getting lots of hugs! They love to share their Bible story with me and sometimes a few goldfish and Teddy Grahams too. Our children need you in order to continue these wonderful Sunday school programs. Come upstairs one Sunday and sit in with us. We promise you will have a great time and you might learn something you didn't already know. We always need teachers in our Toddler class and in Rotation Sunday school. Its fun and it's easy! Please prayerfully consider where you can help in our Children's Sunday school area. If you have any questions please call Wendy Hadley.

Confirmation Class!

We have begun our second year of our in-depth Confirmation class. This year's class is even larger with 15 students! They are just settling in good and getting started. They are using an excellent curriculum titled "We Believe." Tammi Adams and Gabe Krebs are teaching the class again this year and we look forward to helping them get one step closer each week to their goal.



Church Directories are available. If you cannot pick up your Directory, please notify the Church Office.

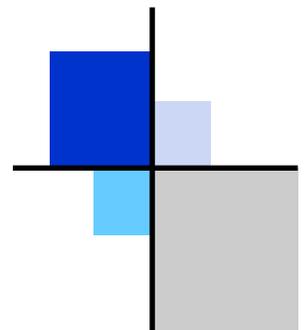


Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 01 Jeffrey Hamilton | 12 Draven Davis | 23 Abby Krebs |
| 01 Jamison Goff | 13 Jason Holder | 24 Nell Kennedy |
| 01 Valeria Richard | 14 Carla Porter | 24 Rhonda Parker |
| 01 Rayleigh Watts | 14 Cyndi Richardson | 24 Will Coulson |
| 02 Josh Moore | 15 Calvin Pierce | 24 Chester Hutchens |
| 02 Cynthia Dueitt | 15 Catherine Tidmore | 25 Joyce O'Brien |
| 03 Jamey Wachsman | 15 Brandy Hoffman | 25 Corey Ellzey |
| 03 Carley Jones | 17 Diane Trammell | 25 Ross Fletcher |
| 04 Jadelynn Rudolf | 18 Brad Jones | 25 Sarah Depperschmidt |
| 04 Kyler Seymour | 18 Mark Cumbest | 26 Hayden Parker |
| 06 Jean Bearden | 18 Willa Dean Triplett | 26 Rachel Pugh |
| 06 Christopher Goff | 19 Alex Anderson | 26 Benny Lassitter |
| 07 Darlene Treece | 19 David Usry | 27 Ryan Stockman |
| 08 Brenda Cumbest | 20 Mary Meghan Dickerson | 27 Kerri Watts |
| 08 Emily Brindza | 21 Pam Cumbest | 28 Barbara Kirkwood |
| 09 Matthew Greenough | 22 Jacob Buxton | 29 Ginny Gerrish |
| 09 Dion Holder | 22 Steve Stewart | 29 Fay Sullivan |
| 10 Macee Rawls | 22 Burton Stewart | 29 Drew Depperschmidt |
| 10 Betty Glamann | 23 Zack Webb | 30 Eddie Anderson |
| 10 Christian Balcer | 23 Bowie Cupit | 30 Ricky Brockway |
| 11 Bengie Goff | 23 Vicki Parker | |
| 12 Mattie Grace Sims | 23 Paula Yancey | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Shorty & Joyce O'Brien | 17 H.L. & Delores Porter |
| 8 Benny & Gail Lassitter | 27 Bobby & Tina Goldman |
| 9 Frank & Lavern Balcer | 28 Bobby & Sandy Goff |
| 12 Kenny & Vickie West | 28 Bobby D. & Nell Kennedy |
| 15 Alan & Pam Sward | 30 Doug & Billie Smith |
| 16 Mike & Renee McGhee | |



September 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4 Communion	5	6	7 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg. & Activities	8 5:30 am Men's Prayer Group 6:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	9	10
11 4:30 pm Administrative Board Mtg.	12	13 "His Way"	14 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg. & Activities	15 5:30 am Men's Prayer Group	16	17
18	19	20 "His Way"	21 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg. & Activities	22 5:30 am Men's Prayer Group	23	24
25	26	27 "His Way"	28 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg. & Activities	29 5:30 am Men's Prayer Group	30	

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Suggested Reading guide for Bro. Brian's Series
A Compelling Connection:

9/11-9/17: 1 Co 1:1-4:21, 9/18-9/25: 1 Co 5:1-7:40, 9/26-
10/02: 1 Co 8:1-11:1, 10/03-10/09: 1 Co 11:2-11:34, 10/10-
10/16: 1 Co 11:2-11:34, 10:17-10/23: 1 Co 12:1-14:40, 10/24-
10/30: 1 Co 12:1-12:30, 10/31-11/6: 1 Co 12:31-13:13, 11/7-
11/13: 1 Co 14:1-14:40, 11/14-11/20: 1 Co 15:1-16:24