



The Watering Can



“fill up with Christ’s love.”

Late one night I was driving a bus full of youth through the deserts of Arizona on a mission trip. As I drove, I heard what sounded like gravel being thrown into the undercarriage of the bus by the tires. Within a few seconds every warning light on the dash board came on, and I lost power steering and the brakes. Fortunately I was driving on a straight-a-way of small up and down hills that helped slow the bus as I gently put on the emergency break to bring us to a stop.

When we popped the hood our suspicions were confirmed. We lost control because the master belt which turns all the vital bus parts that make the bus work had shredded. Fortunately, we were close enough to be towed to the Navajo Reservation where we were doing VBS.

It is the Holy Spirit that is necessary to power our Christian lives. There are three key gifts God gives us to connect with the Holy Spirit’s power: prayer, scripture, and Christian community.

We have been talking about two of these over the past few months. Last November, in a series entitled *Embracing the Presence of God* we talked about the importance of a deep prayer life. In 2013 I have been preaching a series called *Opening Our Lives to God’s Word*. My desire is to use the Gospel of Mark to give you a few tools to help experience God’s word in such a way that you connect with God’s word, interact with God’s word, and allow God’s word to transform your life. A little later in the spring, I will preach a series on the third gift, Christian community.

It takes time and effort to live the life of faith, but it is time and effort that is well worth it. Like the bus on that dark Arizona highway, many people feel like their lives are out of control. There is no steering wheel to divert from a path of brokenness and self-destruction. There is no break to stop them from running head long into sin. Therefore, their lives are a series of one bad decision after another.

To restore hope, peace, happiness, and salvation we need to help people connect with God through prayer, scripture, and Christian community. First we must make these of primary importance in our lives so we can “fill up with Christ’s love.” Then we “overflow Christ’s love” as we encourage and love our neighbors to open up to God through praying with them, sharing God’s word with them, and inviting them to join us in the Christian community we call Caswell Springs UMC. Let us connect to God’s Spirit and let Him drive and control everything we do.

In Christ’s name, Brian.

Deuteronomy 15:10

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 22:9

He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

Acts 20:35

In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘



HIS WAY MINISTRY

The above verses are but a few from the Bible that reference giving and the blessings we will receive when we give freely and joyfully. As you know, His Way Ministry is totally dependent on gifts from our members. His Way is not a budgeted item in our annual Church budget nor does His Way ask for money from the Church. Do you know why? It's because our members have been generous and give freely and joyfully as we were told to do in the Scriptures. We are thankful for this.

However, we must also be proactive and search for other ways to fund His Way. The upcoming February 15th fundraiser featuring Karaoke and other forms of entertainment will benefit not only His Way but Community of Hope and Missions, both home and foreign. In order for this fundraiser to be successful, we need participation from everyone. You can participate by working the event, bringing your talents and just attending. Please help make this a fun and profitable night for those ministries receiving the funds.



Safe Sanctuaries

Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church

The 2006 Annual Conference approved a resolution that the conference “shall develop safety and risk-reducing policies and procedures for the purpose of providing protection to children, youth, and vulnerable adults that come to us, to staff and volunteers from unwarranted allegations of abuse, and to limit the extent of legal liability.” A task group developed a policy which was presented and adopted at the 2007 Annual Conference.

We are in the process of developing such a policy to protect our children from abuse. As well as protecting our volunteers and the church from any liability from abuse or alleged abuse. Please be in prayer for the Education committee and the leadership of Caswell Springs UMC as we take on this task. If you have any questions or suggestions on this matter, please call Chris Watkins (623-1733) or the church office.

Community of Hope

With each New Year that comes upon us, we all look forward to the excitement of eating black-eyed peas, and cabbage, listening to the sounds of fireworks, making New Year's resolutions, and starting over. This is exactly what Keith and Vonda Spiers experienced on January 9 when Community of Hope completed the finishing touches on their home in Helena--- a fresh start. Damaged in 2012 from Hurricane Isaac, their home was under three feet of water for four days. Forced to live in a camper for several months, Vonda found out about Community of Hope from a friend. It is through "word of mouth" that potential clients learn about Community of Hope and its mission to serve others.

After a comprehensive evaluation, Community of Hope began to rebuild and repair. Over the next four months, COH provided the help of 18 volunteers who worked a total of 1962 hours on the Spiers home. As Vonda states, "anything from four feet and below was rebuilt by the volunteers." From assessing termite damage and installing a moisture barrier to installing and floating sheetrock, COH helped in many ways including hanging doors and hardware and installing base boards. Community of Hope utilized their technical skills and expertise extensively and also provided advice to the Spiers on which materials needed to be purchased for certain projects. Our team even brought in an electrician to check the wiring of the home and referred Vonda to a great cabinet maker. By the way, she just loves her new kitchen cabinets!

The Spiers have nothing but good things to say about Community of Hope. "They were the nicest, sweetest people I have ever met. They have the client's best interest at heart." Community of Hope may have started out as volunteer workers, but according to Vonda, they have become "lifelong friends." Vonda believes that Community of Hope was God-sent.

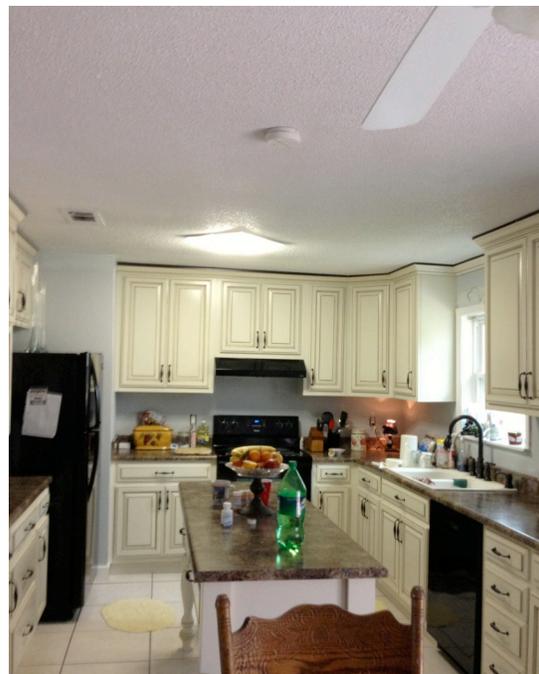
What a way for the Spiers to start their new year—a new home, new friends, and a host of blessings from the Lord.

Blessings to you and yours in this New Year!

COH



Spiers home before



Spiers home



A Note From the Music Ministry



Whether you realize it or not, a new song is sung at Caswell Springs UMC every time we gather in worship on Sunday mornings. Each time we lift our voice unto God, we are called to sing a “new” song, even if it’s one we’ve sung a thousand times before. A vibrant music ministry grows out of a church’s willingness to recognize the meaning behind the words that are being sung in worship, and to sing them with vigor. Even a song as simple and familiar as “Jesus Loves Me” can be treated as a “new” song when we sing it with new understanding.



As the newest member of the music ministry at our church, let me start by saying how much I enjoyed hearing you sing on my first Sunday. It was, indeed, a new song to my



ears! And I’m not only referring to the beautiful solo that was sung by Hollis Hoggard; I also mean the enthusiasm of the singing on hymns. I always like to stress the importance of congregational song to the churches that I serve, regardless of how much the choirs, soloists, and instrumentalists contribute toward the worship experience.

Of secondary importance, but important nonetheless,

are the goals and plans that I am making for our music ministry. I continue to learn more about the abundance of talent in this church each day I come to work, and it excites me to think about the possibilities that God has in store for this church in the years to come. You’ll be hearing from me often, and I hope that it will be a two-way street. If you have a new song that’s waiting to be sung, please stop by the church office and introduce yourself soon. I look forward to serving with you.

Daniel Banke
Director of Music and Creative Arts

Mobile women's conference to feature speaker Zoe Elmore



Zoe Elmore is affiliated with Proverbs 31 Ministries of North Carolina

MOBILE, Alabama – Zoe Elmore with Proverbs 31 Ministries will be the key speaker at the Dare to be Dangerous: 2013 Women’s Conference on Saturday, March 3, in Mobile. The conference will be held at Christ United Methodist Church, 6101 Grelot Road, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. It is the 19th year for the conference, which is designed for women ages 16 and older.

Also in the lineup are worship leader Julia Sippel and vocalist Allanda Small of Mobile.

Elmore’s website defines Proverbs 31 Ministries as a team of women who “long to encourage and equip women to respond to God’s call in their own lives.” Elmore describes herself as a “Greek girl raised in the South.” She is based in Charlotte, N.C.

Breakfast, lunch and child care are included in the registration fee, which is \$40. The fee is

\$35 for those registering by Feb. 3 and \$25 for students with valid student identification.

Participants may visit the Christ United Methodist website to register at christumcmobile.com/wc2013 or sign up at the church Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Sunday 8 a.m. to noon.



DARE TO BE DANGEROUS

Springing Up Children in the Way They Should Go

Your Family is a Gift (A Devotion for the Young Disciples)

Your family is a wonderful, one-of-a-kind gift from God. And your family members love you very much- what a blessing it is to be loved! Have



you ever really stopped to think about how much you are loved? Your parents love you and so does everybody else in your family. But it does not stop there. You are also an important part of God's family....and He loves you more than

you can imagine. What should you do about all the love that comes your way? You should accept it; you should be thankful for it; and you should share it!

Love must be without hypocrisy. Detest evil; cling to what is good. Show family affection to one another with brotherly love. Outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10

This month we are going to show our love by helping others. There are always ways to serve God and show His love by serving others.

Mission Skate Party- February 17, 5-7pm at Rainbow Skate Center in Escatawpa.

We will be collecting mayo for our Mission Pantry and Large Serving Cans of Vegetables for Our Daily Bread.

Our friends from First UMC of Pascagoula will be joining us. We will serve pizza, drinks, cookies, and chips. Please do not forget your socks. If you need a ride, please be at the church no later than 4:45pm. If

you have any questions, please see Amy French (990-5164).

Please mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events:

Easter Egg

Celebration-

March 24, at Mark and Susan Greenough's home.



Babylon (Daniels' Courage in Captivity)

VBS- June 23-26, We will start VBS on a Sunday afternoon, and end on Wednesday night.



Birthdays



01 Ramsay McCarra
 01 Sarahlyn Richards
 01 Wesleigh Watkins
 01 Wyatt Watkins
 01 Loni Fagan
 02 Isaiah Scott
 02 Lisa Holder
 03 Elaine Parker
 04 Bryce Jackson
 05 Bobby Goldman
 05 Jeff Davis
 05 Josh Shouse
 06 Heather Seymour
 06 E.J. Hamrick
 06 Heather Webb
 06 Erin Fagan
 07 Terry Adkison
 10 Pam Sward
 10 Wendy Hathcock
 10 Nell Holder
 11 Jamie Buxton

11 Carroll Rockwell
 11 Chris Watkins
 11 Jessie Lacy
 12 Jason Pugh
 13 Roy Goff
 13 Marie Ingram
 15 Noah Goff
 15 Vince Smith
 15 Sara Carter
 16 Patricia Goff
 16 Larry Pierce
 18 Jerald Goff
 19 Trey Gerrish
 19 Norilyn Cumbest
 20 Jason Sims
 20 Gary Allgood
 21 Heather White
 21 Kelly Goff
 22 Kip Grantham
 22 Alma Stewart
 23 Myrlene Shemper

23 Stephanie Crump
 23 Myrl Goff
 24 Lori Freeman
 24 Maria Stockman
 24 Dobin Parker
 24 Kirk Miles
 24 Brian Yancey
 25 Gracie Mae Seymour
 26 Paula Goff
 26 Callie Sims
 26 Marinell Cumbest
 27 Madison Holder
 28 Jordan Buxton



Anniversaries

1 Harry & Marcia Goff
 4 Scott & Barbara Stephenson
 5 Shannon & Mandy Goff
 6 Rustin & Keisha Porter
 11 Don & Betty Glamann
 14 Gary Wayne & Linda Cumbest

16 Gary & Cheryl Ann Allgood
 17 Jessie & Peggy Davis
 18 Roy & Mandy Goff
 19 Jamie & Elaine Webb
 24 Anthony & Glenda Stewart



February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 SOUPer Bowl Youth Fundraiser Lunch	4	5 His Way	6 Supper 5:30 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:15 p.m.	7 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 a.m. Trustees 6:00 p.m. SPRC Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	8	9
10 Gideon Speaker Administrative Board Mtg. 4:30 p.m.	11	12 His Way	13 Supper 5:30 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:15 p.m. <u>Ash Wed. Service in Sanctuary</u>	14 	15 Gathering by the Springs 6:00 p.m. fundraiser featuring Karaoke and other forms of entertain- ment	16
17 Rev. Heather Henslerling Kids Mission Skate Party 5-7	18	19 His Way	20 Supper 5:30 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:15 p.m.	21 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 a.m.	22 JR High Retreat @ Camp Wesley Pines	23
24	25	26 His Way	27 Supper 5:30 p.m. Activities 6:30 p.m. Adult Choir 7:15 p.m.	28 Men's Prayer Group 5:30 a.m.		

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Filling up and overflowing with Christ's Love.



HYMNOLOGY

There is a thread of excellence woven into our days. Fix your heart and thoughts on God to gain glimpses of His work among men and also His touches upon creation.

We are already thinking of Spring even though it is somewhat premature.

When we think in terms of God's beautiful handiwork what does it mean to you? Do we see the eternal goodness of God as He renews his earth in perfect timing? These words on page ninety-two in our Methodist Hymnal may help us to express our thoughts.



***"For the beauty of the earth"
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over
and around us lies;
For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight.
For the mystic harmony linking sense to
sound and sight.
For the beauty of each hour of the day
and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light.
For thyself, best Gift Divine, to the world
so freely given
For that great love of Thine, peace on
earth and joy in heaven
Christ our God to Thee we raise, this our
sacrifice of praise.***

The text of this hymn came to the author as he sat on a hill overlooking Bath, England and recounted the gifts of God displayed in a panoramic view of that elegant city and its environs.

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, born Bath, Somersetshire, England, 1885-1917. Educated at Queens College, Cambridge, was classical music master at Somersetshire College.

What does it take to bring us to the point of praising God? Is it the deep woods, the mountain ranges, the great seas, the desert, or is it our own yards? Whatever it takes, let us come to Praise Him.

Psalm 106: 48 Blessed [affectionately and gratefully praised] be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And all the people say, Amen! Praise the Lord! Amplified Version Recount the gifts of God and may they encourage you to say or sing, Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

Sincerely Linda Pierce