



# The Watering Can

Caswell Springs UMC

Friends,

We continue to progress through the important process of reflection and discernment at Caswell Springs United Methodist Church in preparation for charge conference. Committees have met and will continue to meet to determine church leadership for the coming year. The Finance Committee is also meeting and gathering the necessary information for the 2015 church budget.

I have previously encouraged you to prayerfully consider your past and future financial giving in support of Caswell Springs and its many ministries. I write again to encourage your continued prayerful reflection as we approach Commitment Sunday on October 26, 2014. To assist in the process, you will find enclosed a Commitment Card where you can designate your level of giving through tithes and offerings in 2015.

Having received this Commitment Card, you may be thinking: why is this important? One answer is that it helps us to make budgetary decisions about Caswell Springs. Another equally important answer is that it allows you to prayerfully determine tithing and giving in your life. We request that these be completed and returned no later than October 26, 2014. Of course, if you have already determined your stewardship commitment, you can mail or bring your Commitment Card to the church office, or simply place it in the offering on any Sunday.

I give thanks for each of you and for Caswell Springs United Methodist Church. I also look forward to the days, weeks, months, and years ahead as we share in our faith journeys together.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Kevin C. Bradley



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church**





Everyone is invited to our annual Fall Festival. It will be held October 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 at Lane and Wayne Hoggard's home. We are asking everyone to bring their favorite finger food to share.

Come join us for lots of fun!

Hay rides! Bump-n-Jumps! Volleyball!



**Salem Camp Meeting** is scheduled for October 6-12. Worship times each day are 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM. You are also invited to prayer time at 7:00 AM, children's activities at 5:00 PM, and singing at 6:30 PM.



## A Story to Tell...



By now, I am quite certain that you have noticed the words on our church sign: We've a Story to Tell to the Nations. Perhaps noticing this sign has occasionally caused you to sing (or at least hum) this well-known nineteenth-century hymn. What you may not have thought about is the importance of this simple statement. At the 10:50 service on October 5<sup>th</sup>, we will reemphasize the global nature of the Great Commission as part of World Communion Sunday. Different breads, dif-

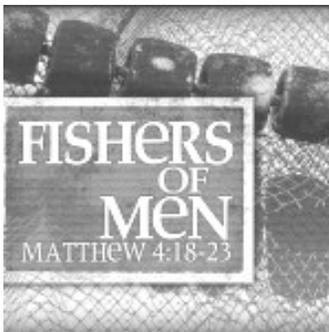
ferent languages, and different forms of prayer are just a few of the ways that our church can encounter this global mission of Christ's Church. This theme will be even more evident in this year's Christmas program on the evening of December 14<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to look for more details about this special event in the coming months.

## Grace Notes

Our newly-formed youth singing group, which made their first appearance at the youth-led service last month, has come up with their name: Grace Notes. Musicians know that a grace note is an extra note that is added to a note as an embellishment (see picture). The obvious pun, however, comes from the word *grace*. I am thrilled that they chose this name, since I can think of no better word to be associated with a group of young people that are singing for God! As is true of every group of singers in our church, I hope that they will lead you toward a better understanding of God's grace through the words that they sing as worship.



## Children's Sabbath



At the 10:50 service on October 19<sup>th</sup>, our children will once again be given the opportunity to lead us in worship. At Caswell Springs, it is our tradition to embrace the unique gifts that each of our children can offer back to God, and this service is a great time for them to creatively lead us in worship through prayer and proclamation. The children hope that this year's service will transform you into a fisher of men!

## Choir Schedule Notices

10/5 – Sanctuary Choir meets after 10:50 service

10/8 – No choirs meet (Camp Meeting)

10/12 – Grace Notes will not meet (Camp Meeting)

10/15 – Practice for Children's Sabbath (6:30) – all choirs meet at their normal time

## Missions and Evangelism

October 26 is Commitment Sunday. Have you been preparing your heart and mind for this important occasion? You might wonder why this would be a topic for a Missions and Evangelism article. You see, without “commitments” of time, abilities, and finances, many of the things we do as a church would not be possible. Just think what God could do through us as individuals; and therefore, as His Church, if each of us would make those commitments! Many in our congregation do, but what if everyone of us did. There are many excuses we can use not to do it, but if we did, the blessings received would be too numerous to count. Each of us must examine ourselves, accept who we are, be emptied of self, allow God to cleanse us, be filled and refilled with the LIVING WATER of the HOLY SPIRIT which will result in our faithful service of giving in the path that God directs in all these areas.

In many ways, each of our situations is different, but yet so much alike. Utilizing our time to the fullest and taking advantage of every opportunity God provides for us to serve Him will reap rewards. God is very aware of the time we need to renew/refresh ourselves, to study our Bibles and pray, and to care for our families, but our commitment to Him should have priority in our lives.

The first mention of a tithe can be found in Genesis 14: 20. Many of us are on a fixed income, but if we ALL remember that what we have ALL belongs to God, and we wouldn't have it if it were not for him, then giving God a tenth (tithe) would not be so difficult. Isn't it loving of Him to let us keep ninety percent (nine times what He asks of us)? As a young married couple, George and I went through a time in our lives when we did not tithe. We thought we just could not afford to give God His tenth because we needed it. It wasn't long before we realized and learned that we could not afford to keep the tenth He asked us to give! God is faithful in all things! Are we?

How many lives do we touch each day that we fail to ask, “Do you have Jesus as your Lord and Savior?” It does not matter if we are rich or poor in human terms, because we don't need money to ask that question, just the courage to do it. There's a story about an older lady who always asked (no matter the time of year) the people she met this question: “Do you believe in Easter?” The top priority for each of us should be the sharing of the message of salvation with others. Do we seize each moment we can to share God's message; and therefore, God's love through words or actions?

In addition to the tithe, what if each of us decided to “skip one thing,” in order to also give an offering. It might be that coke we just have to have every day; a new dress when we have a closet full; a new golf club when our bag is overflowing already; a new toy when the toy box won't close, or a million other things we think we need and know we want.

As Commitment Sunday (October 26) approaches, may we all ponder with our heart and mind on the following thought: “give what you can not keep, to gain what you cannot lose” and then take action as God directs.

## October Missions and Evangelism Feature

WOW! Can you believe it's already October and the air is beginning to have a hint of coolness at times. Most of us are ready for a little relief from the heat of summer, but our Feature Person for October brings a warmth and joy to those around her of which we never tire. Also, this warmth and joy, which are gifts from God, have provided a healing power and strength for her. This person is Ms Myrlene Cumbest Shemper who resides at 815 Egret Cove in Biloxi, Mississippi, and who was born on February 23, 1931, to Mr. Mack and Mrs. Florrie (Goff) Cumbest. As the years went by the Cumbest house was overflowing with "girl power"- five girls who made up the complete family. Many of us are familiar with this "girl power" which consists of sisters, Neva (Dryden); Joan (Smith); and Gail (Lassitter). They, as well as Ms Myrlene, have been very active through the years at CSUMC. The youngest of the five sisters is Faye (Sullivan) who lives away in Texas. A native of Jackson County, Ms Myrlene lived in Kreole and attended Moss Point High School until the 11<sup>th</sup> grade when her parents moved to Wade. She graduated from Wade High School in 1949, and made such an impression on the students while there that they selected her "Miss Wade".



In a short span of time a lot happened in Ms Myrlene's life. She met and fell in love with Mr. Israel "Buddy" Shemper and on August 2, 1950, they were married. God provided them with rewards of three children: two sons, Gary and Jeffery, and one daughter, Leah. In addition, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren and in-laws make up the balance of Ms Myrlene's family. Throughout her married years, Ms Myrlene was involved in the seafood business and today her sons continue to carry on this business. Besides being a business woman, Ms Myrlene (to the surprise of many of us) is an avid Saints fan, but she will tell you that the highlight of her week (when she was able) was driving over to attend Sunday school and church to worship the Lord at CSUMC.

Life presented, as it has many of us, Ms Myrlene with numerous obstacles to overcome. The loss of her husband was one such obstacle. Then in October, 2012, Ms Myrlene underwent heart valve replacement surgery and once again, she was faced with problems – approximately seven months in the hospital followed by a couple of months of rehab. Since that time, she has been confined to home, but thankfully, she is able to move around with a walker and seems to be steadily improving. Those of us who know her attribute this continuing improvement to her faith in God, to her positive attitude, to prayer and to her very supportive family, who are wonderful care givers. It seems that no matter the obstacle, Ms Myrlene's smile has always been constant.

Ms Shirley Cumbest attended Wade High School with Ms Myrlene and fondly remembers their time together. "Myrlene was such a joyful person and always seemed to be smiling. There never was a dull moment as Myrlene loved life and lived it to the fullest and as the manager for our Girls Basketball Team I think she had as much fun as the ball players. Although Myrlene has suffered great losses of her husband, her house, and was very ill for a long time, the Lord apparently is not finished with her. He still has something for her to do and I think she realizes this because she has come out on top again with all smiles. I love you!"

Mrs. Jean Goff, Ms Myrlene's friend and Sunday school teacher, shared that her Bible has lots of notes that remind her of the words of encouragement and support she received from Ms Myrlene. "One thing we have in common is our love of food. Dobbin's fish and my Broccoli Salad are two favorites she enjoyed at our class get-togethers. Myrlene has traveled a road filled with hardships with such grace and peace. She has never faltered in her faith and determination to come back and worship with us. You are loved and missed very much."

Perhaps the best way to end this article on Ms Myrlene is to leave you with the two scriptures from Proverbs that always come to my mind when visiting her: "A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance" and "A merry heart does good, like medicine". Ms Myrlene, we thank you for your example of faith and for showing us how to live life with "a merry heart." We love you and will continue to pray that God's will is for complete healing and a return to worship with us at CSUMC.

# Birthdays

1 Cory Greenough	12 Billy Joe Cothran	22 Rob Parker
2 Glenn Dickerson	12 Craig Smith	24 Jake Fairley
2 Tom White	12 Madilyn Krebs	25 Lee French
2 Irene Adkison	14 Mike Wright	25 Louise Goff
5 Nicholas Whitfield	14 Austin Kitchens	25 Kaylynn Seymour
5 Kathy Hamrick	14 Renee McGhee	26 John Rustin Porter, Jr.
5 Ched Graham	14 Greg Smith	27 Jessica L Prestianni
6 Isabella & Abigail St. Pe'	16 Eloise Adkison	27 Stephanie Dale
6 Kenneth French	16 Chase Goff	27 Krista Rawls
7 Randy Jackson	17 Brian Knight	27 William Burge
8 Kylie Porter	17 Rhett Watkins	27 Juanita Ballinger
8 Deanna Smith	18 Ellie Wierson	28 Angie Davis
8 Harrison Holder	18 Leroy Trusler	28 Stephen Messer
9 Tommy Smith	19 Darwin Kennedy	29 Janell Parker
9 Lane Hoggard	19 Dusty Watts	29 Brent Smith
10 Drew Webb	19 T.J. Golson	29 Cory (Brindza) Cox
11 Annie Miles	20 Barbara Trubee	31 Gayle McKee
11 Brody Howard	21 Emmalyn French	31 Lavern Balcer

# Anniversaries

1 Mark & Pam Cumbest	20 Greg & Vicki Smith
17 Daniel & Allison Sims	22 Jim & Madge Fisher
17 Jason & Lisa Holder	26 Eual & Eloise Adkison
19 W.L. & Nancy Jones	30 Dobin & Elaine Parker

# October 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Supper & Activities	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Baby Shower Colby Lott 3 pm
<b>5</b> World Communion Sunday (10:50)	<b>6</b> His Way	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> No Supper & Activities	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Evening at Campground	<b>13</b> His Way	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Supper & Activities	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Children's Sabbath (10:50) Board Mtg. (1:30) Fall Festival (4:00)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Supper & Activities	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Commitment Sunday	<b>27</b> His Way	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Supper & Activities	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

**Camp Meeting**

**Fair Week**

**Filling up and  
overflowing with  
Christ's Love.**

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Fax: 228-588-6542  
Website: [www.caswellsprings.org](http://www.caswellsprings.org)



## **October brings the Jackson County Blue Ribbon Fair 20th through the 25th.**

Please make sure to  
sign up to help with the  
fair.

