



'Neath the Steeple

*Quarterly Newsletter of Roberts Presbyterian Church
Organized 1789*

*'Neath the steeple at Roberts Presbyterian you will find a **community** of real people who are more concerned about where you are going than where you have been. Our purpose is to ask the right questions, not provide easy answers. Here you will find unconditional **acceptance** and acts of **love**.*

Volume 10, Issue 2-3

Second & Third Quarters 2013

Assurance

Bring your attention gently back to me whenever it starts to wander. Find relief in the truth that I look for persistence – rather than perfection – in your walk with Me.

Are you amazed at how quickly and how far your mind can wander from Me? When you recognize this has happened, don't be shattered by disappointment or distracted by discouragement. Instead, simply return your attention to me and to the truth that I accept you in all your imperfection.

Not only do I accept you as you are, I love you as you are. I died a criminal's death so I could adorn you with my own perfection. That's why bringing your thoughts to me is so important. It is my perfect righteousness that saves you, and it will never be taken away from you!

You can easily fall prey to self-rejection if you have unrealistic expectations for yourself. When you fail, I want you to bring your focus back to me gently, without judging yourself. Instead of doing further harm by putting yourself down, persist in setting your sights on me. I always welcome back with unfailing love!

*How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of our wings.
~Psalm 36:7*





Reflections by Becky

There is a nostalgic feeling about this time of year – summer is winding down, fall will be upon us, and then winter. I love seasons. . . . I guess that is why I have only lived as far as Greenville. . . . but the ending of summer has always been a time when I feel this way.

It's not like the song says, "Lazy, hazy days of summer. . . ." It is like hard work. So, what is it that makes me feel this way? Could it be I will cocoon in my home with books and no longer have to worry about yard work, feeding the fish, etc.? I wouldn't call that making me nostalgic. . . in fact, I would call that making me smile and be happy because I have a helper with the leaves and yard work goes to sleep for a season. . . and so do the fish!

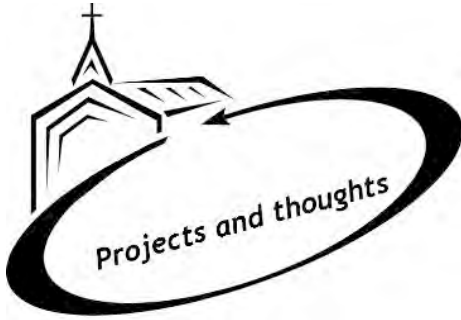
*When I look at our yard, I see years of us working there, planting, making **HUGE** mistakes, digging up and then replanting. Now the koi pond was not my idea and I just have to say I had to have a moment with Lewis the other day (no disrespect for the dead intended). I had showered, begun dressing for work and went to let our dog, "Mags" out. Well, the pump on the pond had gone down, eight, mind you now – **EIGHT** – bird feeders totally empty with birds fussing, Mags was barking at the cat and that list could go on. I just sat down on the deck and had a moment. . . . maybe it was more than a moment. . . but I let him know that I didn't want that pond to begin with – that was his passion. I love bird feeders, you all know that, but eight? **NO!** So, I just told him I was mad – mad that I had a pond which I would not get into, even though I may have no choice but to become the "pond woman" on top of being the "yard woman" and eight feeders for the birds? Well, I could fix that project – I pulled them up, spread their joy to our neighbors and now have only two left. Oddly enough, I smiled with my task of yanking those things out of the ground and dragging them down the road. I noticed this morning we don't have as many squirrels as we did which is **GREAT**. So, getting angry, getting into this place, helped.*

My neighbor on the other side of the fence was having a quiet (she thought) bit of time with a cup of coffee when all of this happened. . . so she quietly went in and told her husband to not go on the porch. . . I needed space. So, why nostalgic over not having to do the things that I don't enjoy doing? I have no idea and that would be a session on a sofa in some counselor's office. . . but it's still there and there's not much I can do other than know through the grace of God even my mistakes can be recycled into something good through his transforming grace. When I know I've made mistakes, it's easy to start fantasizing about what might have been if only. . . however, I really don't feel I can ever become a "pond woman."

*Now, let's be theological- the strategy for me to accept me as I am when mistakes have been made, anger has been voiced, or whatever I've done that I have regretted, is to retreat and draw nearer to God. This nearness helps me see things from God's perspective. I tend to view myself as someone who should almost be perfect, making very few errors. . . **HA!** However, because of grace, God's view of me is quiet different. He sees me as his beloved child and when I am prone to wandering, waywardness and many other human frailties, his infinite wisdom enables me to weave intricate work out of these errors and become a better person. . . like sharing the joy of bird feeding to others who didn't have feeders. So, I learned a wonderful lesson in this moment of being angry and totally human. . . God loves me unconditionally, and that grace brought me back on track. . . plus I made a few neighbors smile.*

*Grace and peace,
Becky*

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." Ephesians 1:7-8



from your Session

Congregational Care & Church Growth

It never ceases to amaze me how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. Clyde Cummings gave me a book to read months ago. It is "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman. I was so impressed with the book, I used excerpts from it in the Lenten Bible Studies we had here at Roberts. Later, I was visiting my sisters in Summerville and went to church with them. Their pastor officiated at our mother's funeral, so I had met him and several times before and we had very interesting conversations. His sermon that Sunday morning was taken from "Not a Fan". He told me his congregation was not satisfied with his series of sermons from this book, they had voted to have a Bible Study this fall and study the complete book.

All of this is leading up to the fact that our Sunday School Class, which meets at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall, is reading and discussing this book.

While I was home after my dental surgery I watched the Spartanburg First Baptist Church Sunday service. Their Youth Pastor preached and guess what? His sermon was from "Not a Fan". I'm going to share just one verse of Scripture he used with you: *Luke 9:23* – "When he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'"

These are the words of Jesus and he tells us how to become "from a fan to a follower!"

1. "Come after me" is a **singular direction** – one way only.
2. "Deny Himself" means to lose sight of your own interest at all times. Try thinking about others.
3. "Take up his cross" means to publically identify with Christ.
4. "Follow me" actually means to cleave to and conform to Christ's leadership – true life.

Unfortunately it seems, the world is evangelizing the church instead of the church evangelizing the world!

Do we ask ourselves?

1. How would others describe you and your lifestyle?
2. Is your life different than the world around you?

3. Do you take up your cross daily?
4. Are you unashamedly living for Christ?
5. Are you a part of the fellowship of the unashamed? Pat Jones, Elder

Christian Education



Breaking Free Youth

Breaking Free Youth's name came from the idea of youth having a place to come and for them to be comfortable. I wanted to create a place for them to be able to celebrate God and completely forget about their troubles and what society thinks. Everyone deserves a place to escape reality and have time to connect with God. This was my thought process to prepare for a Youth Room.

I want to thank Jon and Amanda Vancil for involving me in this huge project. It was their idea to show me the Youth Room and to let me design it. Next, I'd like to thank Jim and Doreen Hoegler for helping me paint the room. Jim Welborn has definitely had a big part in all of this also. Thank you, Manella Calhoun, for cleaning out the room.

Last, thank you Roberts Presbyterian for allowing me

to be creative in the Youth Room and for all the support you have given me. Julieanna Middleton

Julieanna deserves a *huge* thank you for all of her hard work and creativity. We are a blessed congregation to have her and her family a part of this church. Julieanna, thank you!!!! Jon Vancil, Elder

Fellowship

In July we were blessed to have Joy hold a piano concert for us. Afterwards we all gathered for an ice cream social. Tugalo Holler performed their inspiring bluegrass gospel music in August after our meal of hamburgers and hotdogs. Yolanda Archuletta of Family Promise will speak to us at our September Wednesday Night Supper. We will be going to gather apples for the Fall Festival and all are invited to go with us to Bryson's Apple Orchard.

It is early but we will be collecting items for shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child to be turned in by November.

The third Thursday of every month is Game Night in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for Mexican Train dominoes or other games you would like. Let us know of any other fellowship activities you would like to see at Roberts. Kim Holmquist, Elder

Worship

There will be communion served on the first Sunday in October. Prepare for a worshipful fall and be at church on Sundays. When you are absent – you are missed and miss a wonderful message and time of Christian fellowship! Ann Miller, Elder



Fall Back - Don't forget to set your clocks back on November 2nd since the official first day of time change is Sunday, November 3rd.

Your Session Members and Responsibilities

Class of 2013

Ann Williams, Finance & Stewardship
Pat Jones, Congregational Care & Church Growth
Ann Miller, Worship

Class of 2014

Ryan Faulkenberry, Cemetery

Jon Vancil, CE, Children, Evangelism & Missions
Jim Welborn, Clerk

Class of 2015

DuPre Calhoun, Grounds & Facilities
Kim Holmquist, Fellowship
Mike Seaborn, Administration, Personnel & Long Rang Planning

Cemetery Trustees

Class of 2013 – Bruce Ford
Class of 2014 – Shirley Holmquist
Class of 2015 – Ryan Faulkenberry

Treasurer

Manella Calhoun
Kim Holmquist, Financial Secretary

Elder on Call Schedule

Sept. 1 – Mike Seaborn
Sept. 8 – Pat Jones
Sept. 15 – Ann Miller
Sept. 22 – Ann Williams
Sept. 29 – Ryan Faulkenberry
Oct. 6 – Jon Vancil
Oct. 13 – Jim Welborn
Oct. 20 – DuPre Calhoun
Oct. 27 – Jim Holmquist
Nov. 3 – Mike Seaborn
Nov. 10 – Pat Jones
Nov. 18 – Ann Miller
Nov. 24 – Ann Williams

Sanctuary Flowers

Sept. 01 –
Sept. 08 –
Sept. 15 – Dickie Jensen
Sept. 22 –
Sept. 29 –
Oct. 06 –
Oct. 13 –
Oct. 20 – Barbara Dunlap
Oct. 27 – Jim & Mary Welborn
Nov. 03 – Al & Ruth Amos
Nov. 10 –
Nov. 17 – Steve & Judy Stevanovich
Nov. 24 –

Ushers

Sept. 01 – Ron & Joyce Carrier
Sept. 08 – LeAnn Wilson & Eunice Bailey
Ushers, continued
Sept. 15 – Barbara McLees & Ann Miller
Sept. 22 – Ron & Joyce Carrier
Sept. 29 – Jim & Doreen Hoegler
Oct. 06 – Lee Halleck & Evelyn Bolt
Oct. 13 – Keith & Shirley Holmquist
Oct. 20 – Shirley & Ann Huitt
Oct. 27 – Bruce & Alice Ford
Nov. 03 – LeAnn Wilson & Eunice Baiey
Nov. 10 – Barbara McLees & Mildred Law
Nov. 17 – Ron & Joyce Carrier
Nov. 24 – Betty Pearson & Ann Miller

Worship Greeter:

Pat Jones



First Sunday Reminder - Please bring food for the Food Pantry at AIM. Please pick up some extra staple items at the grocery store and place in the wagon as it comes down the isle. The Henderson's will get this taken to AIM. This is a much needed ministry since so many people in Anderson are unemployed and need our help in keeping food on their family's tables.



For the Babies
Third Sunday Reminder – Please bring in your items For the Babies and place in the wagon as it comes down the isle. This is a wonderful help to many parents who are struggling during this difficult time, as well, and they need our help!



Let DuPre or Kim know of suggestions and ideas!

November 6
December 4 - Music Special!

2014

January 8 (2nd Wednesday because of New Year's Day)
February 5; March 5; April 2; May 7; June 14

Membership Drive – Visitors Team Report

This committee continues to work hard to keep our church a pleasant place to enter.

A special thank you goes to Jim and Doreen Hoegler for the great job they do keeping the flower beds blooming and weeds pulled. They have added color to the front of the church adding beautiful iris and other flowers to the beds. Jim keeps the trees pruned, all making for a beautiful setting to this wonderful church.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to the following people who make worship even more meaningful: Ann Miller. She adds fresh flowers to the front door wreaths, makes certain the front porch is swept and window sills are clean. Mike Seaborn helps by keeping spider webs and bugs off the ceilings and windows. Le Anne Wilson makes the front door decorations, changing them seasonally.

If you miss two or more Sundays consecutively, you will receive a beautiful postcard from Nita Radcliff telling you how much you are missed when you are away.

We will make plans to receive new members after Dr. Taylor returns. Also, we can anticipate with great joy the baptism of Ellie Grace Vancil in September.

The Visitors Team
Pat Jones, Chair



Our neighbor lost his wife after many years of marriage. He would sit on his front porch by himself and cry. One day I looked over to his front porch and saw my six year old son sitting in his lap. The neighbor was holding my son and they were rocking. When he came home, I asked him what he and our neighbor talked about. He said, "Nothing mommy, I just helped him cry."

A thing to remember.....sometimes you just have to cry!
~drawing by Ann Williams



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN The Roberts Circles are beginning this month. The "Good Morning Circle" will meet the second Tuesday of each month and the "Annie Rainey Circle" will meet the second Wednesday of each month. So, come, meditate, study and fellowship together as we begin a new year. The Good Morning Circle meets Tuesday, September 10th at 9:00 am and the Annie Rainey Circle meets Wednesday, September 11th at 3:00 pm. This month both circles will be meeting in Ellenburg Hall.



This lively evening begins again, meeting the third Thursday of each month. Join us for fun and fellowship – Next time is September 19th!

The WOW Group begins again on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am. Join this fun group for lunch on September 18th....for more information see Barbara McLees or Sarah Walls.



AnMed Health Medical Outreach Van Health Screenings

Free Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar and Total
Cholesterol Screenings

Roberts Presbyterian Church
2716 Highway 187 South, Anderson

Thursday, September 19, 2013
(please note change of date from Sept 10th)
9:00 am - 11:00 am

A Lipid Profile is offered at a cost of \$15
(includes the breakdown of cholesterol into HDL,
LDL & Triglycerides).

Please do not eat or drink anything other than water
for at least 8 hours
prior to being screened.

Take all medications as directed by your doctor.

For more information, please call the Medical
Outreach van hotline:
[864.512.6253](tel:864.512.6253)



Let's start a new quote to be featured in the Newsletter....I'll collect them and if we get one - we'll publish it and if we are lucky and have more than one...you'll see how talented Roberts Church is with its knowledge of the right or wrong things to do or say.

This quarter the quote is:

"Knowledge is knowing what to say; Wisdom is knowing what not to say." Kudos to this one.

I've pasted it in my diary!



The Fall FOR ALL Festival is just around the corner, and the festival staff has been working hard since May planning and preparing. They have also been praying ... for a beautiful, rain-free day on **Saturday, October 5th**. The festival hours are 10 am – 2 pm.

Come browse the Bargain Barn and Country Store for terrific bargains, special homemade treats and fresh produce. While you're in the Fellowship Hall, check out the Silent Auction and place a bid!

Bring the kids and grandkids! They will enjoy the Kid Pit which will be chocked full of FREE fun things to do. The Williford Fire Truck and the Fire Safety House will also be here.

The Pumpkin and Flower patch plans to offer mums, pansies and violas as well as hay bales and corn stalks. They are working hard to locate a source for pumpkins – the rainy weather has created challenges for everyone on the pumpkin front!

A new offering this year is the Quilt Show – all made by members of the UFO Bee members. A gorgeous handmade, queen-size quilt will be given away, so be sure to purchase tickets for a chance to win.

Do come hungry! The Breakfast Bar will be open first thing in the morning in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen offering continental breakfast items. Lunch will be served at the County Corner Café located under the tents along the drive beside the church – grilled burgers, brats and dogs!

Be sure and stop by the Information Booth, too. You can register there for a free \$25.00 Bi-Lo gift card!

Proceeds from this year's Fall FOR ALL will benefit the Roberts Community Walking Trail and other church and community projects.

A new endeavor this year, and in an effort to reach more people, color postcards are being sent to over 2100 households and businesses in the 29626 zip code. Color posters have also been printed and are being distributed by festival staff throughout the Anderson area.

So, plan to join us, rain or shine! And if it should rain – we've got it covered!

Mary P. Welborn, Fall FOR ALL Chair





News from the Trail

- With your donations through designated gifts and loose change in the worship offerings, the trail fund has cash in the bank of \$10,300+ and gifts in kind of \$2,000 and commitment from 2013 Fall For All Festival proceeds of \$3,800 which in total is over 20% of the Phase One Estimated Costs to provide a pervious entrance drive way with parking spaces and a 1 mile 8 feet wide asphalt trail.

The Roberts Church Community Trail Committee members (Barbara Watson, Brenda Dixon, Joyce Miller, Lisa Carter and Manella Calhoun) are grateful and feel blessed to have your support! Thank you!!!!!!!

With your continued support and the support of others, this project will provide opportunities for church and community members, adults and families with children and youth to spend more time together to promote healthy living activities as we exercise, provide for our pets (for those who have pets), learn more about nature, gardening and sharing while caring for creation; all to enhance physical, emotional and spiritual development; for opportunities we may not otherwise have.

- Inspired by the Anderson Independent newspaper article, Ed Waggoner, a Holocaust Survivor who lives on Centerville Road, made a donation for a bench in memory of his wife to be placed at the butterfly garden when the trail is laid. His health is failing and he would like to see the bench placed into action as soon as possible. The bench is being prepared for dedication in the near future and Mr. Waggoner is planning to attend. The bench will be placed at the outside right corner of the playground and close to where the butterfly garden is to be located in the trail plan.

- To promote our progress to the community, the Trail Committee has received Session's approval to design, buy and install a modest "Future Home of the Roberts Church Community Trail" sign to place along Highway 187 or Providence Church Road.

- Trail committee members have been asked and plan to present programs to garden clubs and other groups on the Community Trail project. Let us know if you know of opportunities to spread the word.

- Trail Committee members are identifying grant opportunities, applying and/or sending letters of intent to apply.

- Specific (encouraged and appreciated) donation, memorial and honorarium opportunities include:

	Gift Amount
1/40 th Mile Asphalt Paved Trail	\$1,375
1/20 th Mile Asphalt Paved Trail	\$2,750
1/10 th Mile Asphalt Paved Trail	\$5,500
Trail Border Pavers (Engraved \$25)	\$100
Bench (Engraved \$150)	\$550
Swing (Plaque \$50)	\$300
Entry Pervious Concrete Entrance, Driveway & Parking	\$10,000

\$ 70,000
\$ 65,000
\$ 60,000
\$ 55,000
\$ 50,000
\$ 45,000
\$ 40,000
\$ 35,000
\$ 30,000
\$ 25,000
\$ 20,000
\$ 15,000
\$ 10,000
\$ 5,000



View from the Bird Feeder

- It has been one more rainy season and we ***are not complaining!*** You may not believe this, but we love water – not only to drink but to bathe in. We can splash all over Roberts property.
- Singing about Roberts' property, the choir has started practicing on Wednesday nights again. We are ever so glad to sing with them before the shorter days come rolling in.
- Some farmer told another farmer that because there had been so much rain, we would have as much precipitation in the winter....just a different kind. Stock up on bird food....we need our good food outside the church office window.
- Good news – Dr. Jack is on his way back to preach at Roberts. We are so thankful that God has helped him....well we will give the doctors a little of that credit....but we know that the prayers were going up for him. Welcome back – we will be glad to hear that voice again.
- There is a lot of activity going on the first Wednesday of each month. The meals are wonderful and the fellowship better. However, last month, Tugaloo Holler was absolutely great. We hope they make a return visit soon. Mrs. Manella, that is our suggestion for the Guy & Gals First Wednesday dinner or even if it is on Saturday, we'll make our appearance and applaud the entire time!
- Speaking of good things – there was a wedding here and Bill and Jessica Faulkenberry are now husband and wife. They bring two sweet children to Roberts, Maddie and Willie. Good things come in four's and that is not just in golf. Congratulations to you both.....we will celebrate you for the rest of the year and look forward to your joining the church soon, Mrs. Jessica!
- There also is a sweet, sweet baby – Ellie Grace Vancil. She will be baptized soon and we will be on the window sills watching this beautiful time of her baptismal and introduction to the church. It also reminds us of our own baptism, and yes, we baptize also, and causes us to remind ourselves, as we say, to nurture this child in her faith also.
- Let's pray the rain keeps falling and the grass keeps getting cut to throw us a little feed from the earth and give thanks that God has blessed us with this wonderful summer. May you enjoy what is left of this season and prepare for the fall and then yes, winter!
- Happy, happy, happy.....can you tell we perch on someone's window sill and watch TV with them?
- See you next time!





Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

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