Over the past month we have experienced a huge change in our church family. Our pastor has been called to a different church. The pastor who first inspired me to consider Petsworth Baptist Church as a place to move my family and start the ministry that I have been entrusted with. The pastor who has baptized, married and buried those in this church for the past four years, the pastor who has pranked, cheat raced, and hugged the members of this church. The pastor who has had comforting words about the salvation and relationships and the sovereignty of God, the pastor who saw fit to spend hours upon hours in study in order to insure that what he said from the pulpit was worthy of the position that God had given him and the pastor who has been our friend has been called to a different place to lead in the Kingdom of God.

We must recognize that, just as sure as there are different personalities in God’s great church, there will be different reactions to the pastor leaving. The following are the broad few that I think we can be on the lookout for: the excited, the discouraged, and those who accept the situation.

Every time a pastor leaves a congregation there is a faction of the church body that is excited that the pastor is leaving. This can be for a variety of reasons such as personality clashes, power struggles, theological differences, vision differences, or just hoping to have something other than fried chicken and macaroni at the potlucks (not gonna happen, we are Baptists after all). This group will not demonstrate a sadness about the pastor leaving and will not necessarily understand those who are sad.

At the same time, every time a pastor leaves, there is a group of church members who will be discouraged. The pastor was everything that people in this group thought a pastor should be. The pastors absence in the next few months will cause this group to lose forward momentum; they will stop coming to church as often or maybe at all, they will not be excited about what is going on and they will view the pastors leaving as a serious blow to the health of the church. This group will have no idea how anyone could be excited that the pastor is leaving and probably got a little aggravated when they read the paragraph on those who could be excited.

Finally, there is the group of people who have watched the life cycle of churches for a long time and they realize that the events of the coming of a new pastor, to the event of a pastor leaving to shepherd the congregation in a different place is a common part of the church experience. While this person probably has an emotional response to the leaving of the pastor, he will emphasize the future and thank God for the leadership provided up to this point. The person who has accepted the leaving of a pastor as a norm will potentially grate on the nerves of the excited and the discouraged.

It is during this time where there is a heightened likelihood of differing views and important conversations that the church must remember what the church leaders in the Bible continually prayed for the churches that they were witnessing to and that is that they would be of one spirit and mind in order that they would be able to act out of position of unity (Philippians 2:2, 1 Peter 3:9, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Colossians 3:14, Romans 15:6, Ephesians 4:1-6, Acts 4:32. etc.).

The trick is not to assume or expect that every person is going to agree with you. The faulty logic that is often used in these situations is that “I am the standard and everyone should agree with me and my goals so that we can be unified under what is right.” When the truth is that we should all be unified under the truth of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ resulting in our ability to be a part of making disciples in Gloucester, Virginia, America and to the ends of the earth. My prayer is that we would recognize that what unifies us is not dependent on who we have in the pulpit but in the work that is already done through Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Jeremiah Verdin*
We will be awarding double bucks on the 1st for all sections completed on that night. This is a great motivational tool to help kids learn scripture and to hide God's word in their heart.

- The theme for the 8th is "Fruit of the Spirit Night". Clubbers are asked to bring in fresh fruits so that they can put together fruit baskets to be delivered to our sick and shut ins. This is 1 way that we are teaching our clubbers about caring for others at our church.

The 15th is going to be presidents night. We will be recognizing some of our past presidents that were Godly men and conducted our nations business based on their faith.

We will be having our next store night on the 8th of March. We are in need of gently used or inexpensive items to be used in the AWANA store. The clubbers buy items with the AWANA bucks that they have earned by participating in club, memorizing scripture, and during game time.

It is with great regret that we have to say good by to the Rojas Family. They have been an integral part of Our AWANA program during their time here. They have been a great inspiration to those that have worked with them and we will miss them greatly as they move to San Antonio.

Bill and Ruth (804) 824-1030

The preschool classes are busy learning a new alphabet letter each week. We took a field trip to the Gloucester Mathews Humane Society January 16 to present the money the children earned from our community service project, Chores for Animals. We were proud to present the Shelter with $268.57 earned by twenty two children. It was fun to be able to visit the animals at the Shelter while they are waiting for their forever homes.

The study of alphabet letter P brought some interesting projects. The children made hand puppets for Show and Tell; they made some very creative puppets that they presented in a puppet theater. We also had a pajama, popcorn and movie party.

In addition to our regular classroom studies for the month of February we will be studying Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day.

Both the Pre K 3 and 4 classes were proud to sing for the morning worship service at church on Sunday, February 1. We sang a combination of poems and songs with the focus on God as our Creator.
A NOTE FROM TAMMY
(Director of Childhood Education, Interim)

It is impossible to read the Bible and not realize how much Jesus loves children. That brings me great comfort to know that the creator and sustainer of the universe loves my children and your children more than we do. Let us remember that as we serve and are asked to serve in the children’s ministry here at Petsworth.

What a privilege it has been to be able to serve the Lord and the families here at Petsworth. I love your children as if they were my own. I will continue to pray for them and for their walk with the Lord. There are not enough words to express what a blessing they have been to me each week to be a part of their lives.

I also want to say thank you to all of our wonderful children’s ministry volunteers. May you be richly blessed for serving the Lord.

Through His Strength,
Tammy Miller

Teddy Bear Brigade / February
Children are suffering all around the world from famine, tornadoes, earthquakes, wars, the economy, etc. Great loss can affect children for the rest of their lives. The SBCV is offering us an opportunity to be a part of helping children know someone cares and see the love of Jesus demonstrated. The Teddy Bear Brigade collects stuffed bears to distribute to children around the world.

How can you help?
Place new or “gently loved” stuffed animals in the designated collection box in the church foyer through February 22. We will ship the toys to the appropriate ministry organization for distribution to children around the world.

For more information contact: Kathleen Thompson 804-832-7309

G.U.E.S.T. Program (Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team)
GUEST is a coalition of religious and community organizations that provide overnight shelter and meals on a rotating basis to homeless adults and families during the winter months. The program runs January through March.

How can you help?
GUEST needs more volunteers to stay overnight at the shelters. It is a one-night commitment, and provides an opportunity to minister to the homeless in our community.

For more information contact: Rev. Sven VanBaars 804-693-3035

Wednesday Nights

Daffodil Festival
The 2015 Gloucester Daffodil Festival is April 11-12, and Petsworth Baptist Church will be offering free coffee and water to vendors and festival participants. The PBC tent will be set up in the courthouse greens in a highly visible spot, which offers tremendous opportunities to minister to the community.

How can you help?
Offer a few hours of your time to help hand out water and coffee to festival participants.

For more information contact: Jim Monson 757-603-1203.
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<td>Pastor Brian White, Weekday Preschool Choir 11am Service</td>
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<td>Deacon’s Meeting 7 pm</td>
<td>Youth Fellowship Time 6 pm, Youth Crossover, Bible Study M.A.D. Activities, Women’s Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>S.A.M. Fellowship and Lunch 10 am</td>
<td>Youth Hanging with the classics 6-9 pm</td>
<td>AWANA Bible Quiz @ Bethel Baptist Church</td>
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<td>Bible Study 7 pm</td>
<td>Business Meeting 7 pm</td>
<td>Youth Fellowship Time 6 pm, Youth Crossover, Bible Study M.A.D. Activities, Women’s Bible Study 6:30-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Mission Committee Meeting 6 pm</td>
<td>Friendship Fellowship 6:30 pm (Soft Crabs)</td>
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<td>Senior Appreciation Banquet 10:30 am</td>
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February 6th
6:00-9:00 PM

Winter Jam
2015 Tour Spectacular

Winter Jam is a group of Christian concerts that will be held at the Scope Arena in Norfolk, VA. For a list of bands go to http://2015.jamtour.com/shows/norfolk-va The Youth group will be leaving directly after Sunday School on Feb. 15th. Cost will include $10 for admission at the door plus money for fast food lunch and dinner.

Date: March 27th
Time: 6:00-9:00 PM
Meet at the Church

Guys will be participating in "Isaacs Man Games" at the Church
Girls will be going to play Laser Tag in Newport News.

The Youth Group and the Deacons are teaming up to celebrate the seniors in our church body. The Deacons will be preparing a breakfast meal for the seniors while the Youth will be serving the meal from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday February 28th. All senior adults should come and enjoy a good meal and give the deacons and youth an opportunity to get to know you a little bit better.

We are doing another Parent Ministry Conference on March 14th from 5:00-8:00. This conference will be purposed to discuss some good principles for parenting in the Digital age. The truth is that your children live in a different world than you grew up in. Your children will never know a world before social media or Wikipedia. Having grown up in the age of bicycles and encyclopedias many of us could use a time like this to discuss how to reach the digital child.
November Nursery/Preschool Missionaries List

8:30 AM Service
1 Nursery/1: Tammy Smith, Amber Altizer
   Two's: Craig Smith
   3's/4's: Dale Oliver
8 Nursery/1: Tammy Smith, Connie Shaffer
   Two's: Rachel Verdin
   3's/4's: Julia Shaffer
15 Nursery/1: Tammy Smith, Wanda Stotesberry
   Two's: Debbie Myers
   3's/4's: John Myers
22 Nursery/1: Jennifer Wright, Trisha Aldridge
   Two's: Todd Blake
   3's/4's: Julie Blake

11:00 AM SERVICE
Melanie Hall, Neal & Traci Keen
Travis & Jennifer Haurand
Natalie & Andy Crockett
Sunni Belt, Bob & Susan Hinson
Melanie Hall, Dana Teagle
Heather Whitson, Zach Whitson
Melanie Hall, Rachel Curry
Staci Carpender
Sara Bressin & Angie Rojas
Richard & Sheri Henderson
Debbie Landen, Mary Johnson,
Pat Minarik
Melanie Hall, Doris Lennon
Daniel & Laurie Naff

SPECIAL NEEDS, SUNDAYS 11 am
1- Jennifer Wright
8- Laura Howlett
15- Mrs. EW Evans
22- Kinky Sawyer

CHECK-IN/OUT ASSISTANTS
1- Craig Smith, Tammy Smith
8- Craig Smith, Tammy Smith
15- Lee McDaniel, Tammy Smith
22- Janet Lineberry, Tammy Smith

CHILDREN’S CHURCH 11 am
1- Tim & Barbara Deaver
8- Jim & Kristin Munson
15- Teresa McComas, Youth
22- Carla & Troy Girard

Please contact Tammy Smith you need to make changes.
(804)-693-2152

Sunday
9:45 am Sunday School
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship
5:00-7:00 p.m. AWANA,
Youth Growth Groups

Wednesday
Youth Crossover Fellowship time
6-6:30 pm
Youth Crossover; Bible Study—
Preschool, Children & Adults,
Nursery Provided
6:30-7:30 pm

DEACON OF THE WEEK
1) Bill Weaver  8) Todd Blake
15) Jim Cason  22) Tim Deaver

James Waters  Chairman of Deacons
Kyle Johnston Director, Weekday Preschool
Faye Gibson Women’s Ministry Director
Neal Keen  Men’s Ministry Coordinator
Bill Sapp  AWANA Commander
Ruth Sapp  S.A.M. Ministry

Jeremiah Verdin, Youth Pastor,
1-815-918-8924
E-mail: jeremiahverdin@hotmail.com

Pat Eastwood, Church Coordinator
Email: pat.eastwood@petsworthchurch.org

Rebecca Autry, Interim Secretary
Church Office: 804-693-3024, Fax: 694-0964
Web:www.petsworthchurch.org

Tammy & Craig Smith, Children’s Coordinators
804-693-2151