



JULY 2017

PASTOR'S ARTICLE

By Tom Dendy

During July, when we celebrate our Independence, I want to share the story behind one of the oldest and one of my favorite patriotic hymns found in our *Glory to God Hymnal*, No. 337; *My Country, 'Tis of Thee* written by Samuel Frances Smith (1808-1895)

First published "Celebration of American Independence, by the Boston Sabbath School Union, at Park Street Church, **July 4, 1831**: Order of Exercises," Broadside (Boston, 1831)

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside let freedom ring!

When Martin Luther King Jr. made his famous "**I have a dream**" speech on August 28, 1963, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to over 200,000 civil rights supporters, the refrain -- "**Let freedom ring!**" -- that climaxed this famous speech came from Samuel Smith's patriotic hymn.

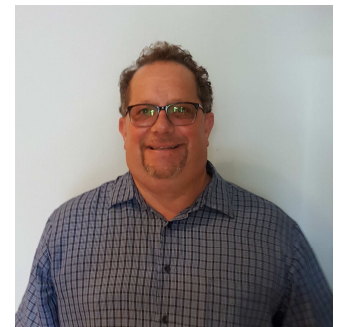
Samuel Smith wrote the hymn in 1831 and Martin Luther King's speech took place 132 years later -- a testimony to the power of a song to shape and maintain an idea. Smith was born in Boston and educated at Harvard and Andover Theological Seminary. Though inspired by Adoniram Judson to mission service, poor health forced him to give up that dream. Smith was a friend of Lowell Mason, the famous Boston music educator and hymn tune writer. According to hymnologist Leonard Ellinwood, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" was one of a group of German poem adaptations Smith wrote for Mason. Lowell Mason included it in his *Choir, or Union Collection of Church Music*, in 1832. Only four stanzas were included. The original third stanza celebrating a land free from tyrants did not survive past the original performance:

No more shall tyrants here with haughty steps appear, and soldier-bands; no more shall tyrants tread above the patriot dead -- no more our blood be shed by alien hands.

It is not until the final stanza that God and country are linked. The author offers a prayer of petition to God to maintain "**freedom's holy light**" in our land and to "**protect us by thy might.**"

Infinitely more singable than the National Anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" earned Samuel Smith a certain level of popularity. The text soon became popular for use in children's celebrations, patriotic gatherings, and other occasions. **As the oldest of the national songs of the United States**, it holds a place of special regard. It is doubtful that many United States citizens could sing the entire hymn by memory today, but, thanks to Martin Luther King Jr., the power of the first stanza continues to resonate in ways probably not imagined by the author. King transformed Smith's ante-bellum poem into a civil rights refrain in one of the most famous speeches ever given in the history of the United States.

Continued on Page 2



Pastor Tom Dendy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Session Update	2
Pastor's Article Cont.	2
Youth	3
Missions	3
LadyBug Luncheon	3
Volunteers	4
5th Sunday Offering	4
Shepherd's Table	4
Birthdays	5
Movie Night	5
Thornwell	5
PCUSA Symbol	6
Calendar	7
Vacation Bible School	8
Amazonsmile.com	8

SESSION UPDATE

By Nancy Torcivia

Holy Communion will be served July 2, 2017

Next Session Meeting is July 16, 2017 at 12:30 pm.

Here are the latest happenings from your Session:

- The Session approved a proposal to convert all church lighting to LED bulbs. Even though there is an initial outlay to purchase bulbs and fixtures, our reduced electrical consumption will pay for the project over several months. Any electricians wanting to volunteer should contact Rick Thornburgh. Work continues on the enclosure around the garbage dumpster.
- The Blood Drive was a great success and the Hospitality Committee provided soup for donors.
- The Mission and Outreach Committee planned a Pelicans baseball game night for church members on June 29. We want to especially honor our church members who generously volunteer their time and donate their wages to Celebration.
- The Preschool Summer Camp is well underway with happy campers and joyful noises in our hallways.
- The Mission and Ministry Planning Group presented their report and the Session discussed the results at length. The process has been long and many have participated to make the plan. What a joyful experience it was to see everyone working together to plot the course for the future of Celebration! We are especially blessed to have Elder Pettijohn helping put the statistics together.
- Each Elder received a list of church members assigned to them as their “sheep”. Expect to hear from your Elder and call on them if you need support or prayers from your church family.
- The Session continues to rally support for our Fifth Sunday offerings. The monies received in these offerings go to maintain our property.
- Vacation Bible School promises to be a “super” event with a Super Hero theme. Please encourage friends, neighbors, and family to attend. You can sign up and get more details on our website. The dates for VBS are August 7-10 from 6pm to 8pm Monday-Wednesday and 6pm to 8:15pm on Thursday.
- Plans are underway for Celebration’s 15-year anniversary in October.

Thanks to all of you for the many things you do to love and support each other. Being a part of this church family is a true blessing.

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED

By Tom

Sources

History of Hymns: “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” by C. Michael Hawn (Dr. Hawn is professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology.) *History of Hymns* is a column first featured in *The United Methodist Reporter* before transitioning to the resource catalog of *Discipleship Ministries*.

Glory to God: A Companion by Carl P. Daw Jr., Copyright 2016 Published by Westminster John Knox Press

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR OUR FREEDOM!

Enjoy the summer heat and join us for Fellowship (10:15 am) and Worship (11:00 am) each Sunday at Celebration!

Grace and Peace Be Yours!

Tom

Youth of Celebration

YOUTH

By Cecilia Evans and Jackie Sinnet

Mark the date of August 13 for Youth Sunday. We look forward to hearing about Camp Pee Dee and other adventures the youth participated in this summer.



MISSIONS

By Cecilia Evans

It is time for our Christmas in July Sock drive for Santa. Socks of all shapes, size and colors are collected in the month of July. These will taken to the Salvation Army in December with the sneakers we will collect later in the year. The Salvation Army distributes the socks and sneakers to children in our area at Christmas. Last year, we collected over 400 pairs of socks.



A big thank you to Celebration and the community for donating 25 pints of blood to help replenish the Red Cross Blood supply. After their donation, the donors were treated to a delicious bowl of soup made by our Hospitality Team.

Help 4 Kids will be the mission for VBS this year. In the month of August , we will collect school supplies to donate to this worthy cause.

THE NEXT
LADYBUG
LUNCHEON WILL
BE AT
BLUEBERRY'S
GRILL
JULY 6—12NOON



LADYBUG LUNCHEON

By Carol Butler

Our June luncheon took us across the "Pond" to The Old Bull and Bush, a place where we have dined before. There were 12 Ladybugs in attendance, including Karen Williams, whom we haven't seen in a while. We collected \$65.00 for charity. Thank you ladies for your generosity.

Lots of British/Irish foods were ordered, along with the usual good old-fashioned American fare. The service was great and the owner came over to check on us.

As always, there was much laughter and camaraderie going on and some of us were showing off pictures of our grandkids.

The next luncheon will be Thursday, July 6, at Blueberry's Grill located at Kings Hwy and 79th Street in the Publix Shopping Plaza. Yours truly will be your hostess. If you plan to attend, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Let me know if you need a ride. All Ladybugs, their friends and family (female of course) are invited.....hope to see you there.

VOLUNTEERS SERVING THIS MONTH

Elder of the Week:

July 2—Nanette Kelly
 July 9—Ken Krenzer
 July 16—Bernadine Lamar
 July 23—Priscilla Mulligan
 July 30—Terry Pettijohn

Liturgist

July 2—Carol Butler
 July 9—Carol Baker
 July 16—Daniel Watson
 July 23—Kathy Wechter
 July 30—Nancy Torcivia

Visitors Table/Greeter

July 2—Jade Bender
 July 9—Barbara Barranco
 July 16—Carol Lagassee

July 23—Linda Miller
 July 30—Sharon Hills

Pre K –Kindergarten Children's Church—

Tonja Paolini

Children's Church Grades 1-5

Trudy Miller

Nursery

July 2—Vicki Jacobs
 July 9—Vicki Simon
 July 16—Leslie Eckert
 July 23—Betsy Hughes
 July 30—Nanette Kelly

Media Shout

July 2—Bernadine Lamar
 July 9—Katrena White

July 16—Bernadine Lamar
 July 23—Katrena White
 July 30—Bernadine Lamar

Sound Booth

July 2—Nicklaus McIlrath
 July 9—Carol Butler
 July 16—Carol Butler
 July 23—Nicklaus McIlrath
 July 30—Nicklaus McIlrath

Ushers for the month of July—

Terry Baker, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton, Barb Johnson

Communion — Rev Tom Dendy,

Rev Becky Kiser, Terry Pettijohn, Bernie Pettijohn, Carol Butler

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE ON YOUR ASSIGNED DAY, PLEASE CONTACT SOMEONE IN YOUR GROUP TO CHANGE WITH YOU. AFTER YOU HAVE CHANGED, PLEASE LET LINDA IN THE OFFICE KNOW OF THE CHANGE. THANK YOU FOR SERVING AT CELEBRATION!

5TH SUNDAY OFFERING

With the clearing of the land, we have become a more visible church. But how are we going to make the visibility and the land work to our advantage? We have been provided with a large plot of land that gives us immeasurable dreams of what we can do for the future ministry of the church. The good news is that space is not a problem as we grow. We have awesome volunteers that keep the grounds beautiful. With this land, there is maintenance needed. The maintenance of the land is a visible sign to the community that we take pride in our appearance. We will be collecting a 5th Sunday Offering on July 30 to continue the upkeep and beautification of the property. We ask that you help us maintain the outward presence of the property as we continue to grow with God's love internally.

Shepherd's Table Teams for 2017

Team A: Nancy Torcivia, Dom Torcivia, Margaret Reeder, Beth Bruton

Team B: Roy Andrews, Laurie Andrews, Dot Crissey, Nancy Thornburg, Rick Thornburg

Team C: Kathy Wechter, Mike Wechter, Bob Stepanek, Carol Butler, Ken Krenzer

Team D: Anne Brallier, Sara Bamrick, Donna Woodard, Gerri Byrne, Mike Resnick

Team E: Jerry Rashid, Rosie Rashid, Leslie Eckert, Tom Dendy, Paul Youngblood, Patty Youngblood

THANK YOU FOR SERVING THIS YEAR.

Your dates will be listed on the calendar each month.



BIRTHDAYS FOR JULY



Take a moment to wish those who have a birthday this month birthday wishes or send them a card.

If your birthday is not listed, please let Linda Berry in the office know.

3—Corey Jacobs
5—Sara Bamrick
7—Daniel Baker
7—Dom Torcivia
13—Judy Leonard
14—Charles Schmidt
16—Art Hughes
17—Sharon Hills
22—Terrance Baker, Sr.

24—Ernest Jones
24—Bernadine Lamar
27—Roy Andrews
29—Alli Wright
21—Khloe Watson
21—Kaitlyn Watson
31—Ashlyn Burrows



Coming in August —Wednesday Night at the Movies

The Shack

August 2, 2017--6pm

Short Intermission with light refreshments

THORNWELL

Thank you! Thank you! We were able to send to Thornwell Home for Children 446 box tops for education. This equals \$44.60 they can use for different supplies and items for the children.

One person can make a difference! You can check your products to see if they have the label, if they do, cut it out and bring it with you to church. There is a bag for collection on the bulletin board.



This month Elder Pettijohn discusses the seal of the Presbyterian Church USA. Information from John Mulder's book, *Sealed in Christ* (1985) and www.pcusa.org.



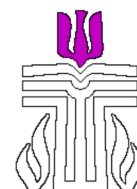
Have you noticed the beautiful cross that signifies the Presbyterian Church (USA)? When two major denominations merged to become the current Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1983, a symbol or seal was developed to celebrate and represent the new church. John Mulder was chair of a committee that looked at 4000 sketches before presenting the current design to the General Assembly. It was formally approved in 1985, and consists of the basic tenets of our faith, including a cross, Bible, dove, pulpit, fire, cup, fish, and triangle.

CROSS - The major theological element is the cross, the universal symbol of the Christian church. The cross represents the love of God in Jesus Christ and His passion and resurrection. The Celtic cross was chosen as the model due to its association with the Presbyterian Church. The empty cross represents the risen Christ.



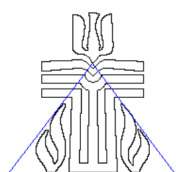
BIBLE - In the middle of the cross 2 lines emerge that represent an open book, the Bible. The Scriptures emphasize the Reformed tradition of knowing God's Word through the Bible. The open book symbolizes the Bible is available to all people of God. Authority of the Bible is central to Presbyterianism.

DOVE - At the top of the cross is a descending dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guides us in interpreting the scriptures. The dove is closely associated with the Bible. The dove also symbolizes Christ's baptism by John, when a dove descended. And a dove symbolizes God's promise to the world after Noah and the flood.



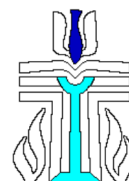
PULPIT - The Bible appears to be sitting on a pulpit, which symbolizes the importance of preaching in the life of worship. Protestants emphasized preaching the sermon. Jesus spent time teaching and preaching. The minister is called a "teaching elder". The open book on the pulpit beneath a descending dove is a symbol of the Presbyterian tradition's dual emphasis on preaching and teaching, guided and informed by the Holy Spirit.

FIRE - Integrated into the lower part of the design are 4 flames which form an implied triangle, a traditional symbol of the Trinity. Fire symbolizes God speaking to Moses through the burning bush, as well as the beginning of the Christian Church when Christ manifested himself to his apostles at Pentecost and charged them to be messengers of the good news of God's love. Fire is often used as image for divine, and emphasizes the sovereignty of God.



TRIANGLE - The implied triangle in the Presbyterian seal is formed by the base of the cross and the bottom and sides of the flames. It is a triangle of equal sides and comes to a peak in the center of the cup as well as the book, just under the dove. The triangle has always been used in Christianity to symbolize the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Triangle might also symbolize government of Presbyterian church: presbytery, synod, General Assembly. And the triangle represents the covenant between God, the church, and its people.

FISH - If you remove the wings of the descending dove you can see the form of a fish, an early Christian sign for Christ, recalling his ministry to those who hunger. The fish sign helped believers to identify each other and protected their identity from persecutors. Jesus called fishermen to be disciples and to be fishers of men and women. Jesus fed 5000 people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. Greek word for fish is ichthys, which was an acronym for "Jesus, Son of God, Savior".



CUP baptismal font / communion chalice (cup) - It can be seen by looking at spine of book and removing covers of the book at each side so the half circle remains. The cup is supported by the central horizontal line of the cross and by the base of the cross. It is both a chalice and a baptismal font, symbolizing the two sacraments: baptism and communion. Location integrated into design of book (Bible), it symbolizes reformed emphasis on relationship between Word and sacrament. Placed within the cross, it symbolizes the basic affirmation that sacraments are visible signs of God's grace in Jesus Christ given to the church.

JULY 2017

PRAYER OF JABEZ —“Oh that You would bless Celebration, indeed, and enlarge our territory, in your name. That your hand would be with us and that You would keep us from evil, that we may not cause hurt to others.” I Chronicles 4:10 (Adapted for Celebration)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Communion	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICES CLOSED	5	6 LadyBug Luncheon at Blueberry's Grill 12noon	7	8
9 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am Stewardship, Mission and Ministry Task Force 12:15pm	10	11 Quilters 10am	12	13 Team C cooks at The Shepherd's Table 2pm	14	15
		SUMMER CAMP 8AM-1PM				
16 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am STATED SESSION 12:15pm	17	18 Quilters 10am	19	20	21 Breakfast Buddies Early Riser Diner 9am	22
		SUMMER CAMP 8AM-1PM				
23 Choir Rehearsal 10:00am Fellowship 10:15 Worship 11am 15th Anniversary and Hosting Presbytery Task Force Mtg 12:15pm	24	25 Quilters 10am	26	27	28	29
30 5th Sunday Offering	31					



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Dr Tom Dendy—Pastor

Dr Rebecca Kiser, Temporary Supply Pastor

Sarah Abushakra—Music Director

Linda Berry—Office Administrator



Vacation Bible School!



Get ready to blaze your way through fantastic adventures as God's amazing HEROES beginning Monday, August 7, from 6-8pm through Thursday, August 10, from 6-8:15pm for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Come and meet Captain Shield and his friend, Flame the red panda. When we set off from Hero Central we'll be learning how to "do good", "seek peace" and "go after it". The Supersonic Shuttle Crew guided by Commander Zander, Agents Eagle and Falcon will direct us on a course of scientific experiments, Bible stories, games, crafts and tasty snacks.

Registration forms will be mailed to preschool parents early in July. You can drop off the registration forms at the church office from 9am-2pm Monday-Thursday. You can also find registration forms online on the church website www.celebrationpresbyterianchurch.org and on FaceBook Celebration Presbyterian Church.

Volunteer forms are available and are located on the bulletin board between classrooms 2 and 3.

This year we will be doing a mission project. We are asking the children to donate school supplies each night to assist Help4Kids. This is a nonprofit organization that helps local, underprivileged children with the supplies they will need during their school year and over the summer. Items such as markers, crayons, glue, construction paper, etc. can be purchased at your local Dollar Tree, Walmart, Target, etc.

Do you order from Amazon.com? If so, consider using AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Celebration Presbyterian Church. So the next time you get ready to order, make sure you are on the smile.amazon.com website and happy shopping at smile.amazon.com!