

Zebulon United Methodist Church

*Transforming life through
relationships with Jesus Christ*



September 2018

Pastor's Ponderings.....

SO Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Stages of Christian Faith

We have all kinds of ways to measure physical and professional growth-grade, age, height, rank, title, degree-we know how to advance and what should be the marks of each stage of growth. Our spiritual growth is more difficult to assess. Inward signs and outward behaviors give us clues, but those seem more subjective and harder to interpret. Are we still "babes in Christ"? Have we learned the foundational doctrines mentioned in Hebrews 6? Where are we in "Becoming mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ?" as St. Paul writes in Ephesians 4?

I have discovered a useful description of the Stages of Faith that may help each of us understand what next step to take in our growth in discipleship. The six stages, with brief explanations of each, will be a little long for one newsletter article, so I will complete this discussion in the October newsletter.

A number of Christian and Jewish writers have addressed these questions. James Fowler, a Methodist pastor and professor, and uncle to our own Trish Deal, named the six stages as follows: (1) Imaginative Faith, (2) Literal Faith, (3) Group Faith, (4) Personal Faith, (5) Mystical Faith, and (6) Sacrificial Faith. All of these writers suggest that we move forward and backward along this spectrum of growth, a few steps forward, and a step or two back. We may also digress to an earlier stage in times of high stress, like a child who begins to suck his thumb again when frightened, even after leaving that habit behind as he grew older. Crises of Faith can set us back, but they can also help us grow, right? Both are normal and necessary.

Imaginative Faith or Primitive Faith is the faith of the beginner, even including the time in life before one can verbalize any faith in God at all. This is the faith-level of small children, new converts, and of oppressed people who have little opportunity to learn and grow, but who may begin to form questions about spiritual things. Adults can also be at this stage of faith, when they feel helpless to protect themselves from imagined dangers. Concerns with security and trust dominate one's thinking and the world is perceived as a mysterious and frightening place.

***continue on page 3 ***



September Anniversaries

18	Frankie & Teresa Pulley
28	Willie & Alex Harrelson

September Sanctuary Flowers

2	open
9	open
16	Jimmy & Alice Harris
23	open
30	open

Dear friends,

We wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for thinking of our family over the past months since Jimmy's passing. This church, and all of you, were very special to him and still are to our family. We have appreciated every note, prayer, card, memory donation, and stories that have been shared with us. We are thankful for each of you and grateful for such a strong church family.

With love,

*Becky Spivey
Susan and Michael Caldwell
Philip and Kitty Spivey*



September Birthdays

1	Alice Harris Carson Lyman Willis Lamm
3	Jim Chamblee
4	Constance Corbett
5	Freddie Dent
7	Ashley Mitchell
11	Lynn Williams Jennifer Windley
12	Dot Barry Terry Matias Sani Mohammed
17	Glen Shoemaker
18	Sonya Boykin Dot Poole
20	Rexann Durham Peaches Kennemur Ali Mohammed
22	Brian Montgomery Samuel Pippin
23	Pastor Clyde Denny
24	<i>Sarah Brown</i>
25	Ralph Boykin Heber Windley III Jim Deal
27	Rusty Hawke IV
28	<i>Mason Bailey</i>
29	Preston Bailey Brandon White

August Budget Report

DATE:	Amount Given	Year to Date Monthly Amount	Year to Date Budget Amount
Aug	\$18,227.68	\$173,715.16	\$232,968.00



Hey everyone, it's that time of year again. On Sunday, September 16th we will be having our annual church wide picnic hosted by the UMM for all those who attend ZUMC regularly. In the past, this event has proven to be a great time for both young and old. So put it on your calendar and plan to be there!

Zebulon Community Park at 3:00 PM

***3:00 to 4:30 will be activities and social time.**

~ Admission One dessert per family and your favorite lawn chair.

The Jane B. Jennings Hand Bell Choir will be resuming practice on Monday, September 10th at 7:00 (in the classroom across from the sanctuary). We would like anyone that has an interest in playing hand bells to come and join us.

...continued from front cover.

People at this stage need to be helped to trust in God who loves them and can be trusted to rescue them from dangers physical and spiritual. People struggle to vocalize prayers, so the Psalms can provide a wonderful "vocabulary" and guide. They begin to wrestle with issues of guilt and shame, and can be easily swayed by powerful personalities of leaders, good and bad.

Literal Faith or Conventional Faith is the stage in faith in which we begin to embrace the stories and guidelines of the Bible with curiosity and enthusiasm. This is the time of faith development when one tries to discover what it means to be a "Good Christian", when one begins to believe that the principle of reciprocity governs our relationship with God. For instance, if we will be good, God will take care of us, answer our prayers, and protect us. Faith can be a system of reward and punishment directly proportional to our sinful or obedient actions. Persons at this faith level tend to take the bible literally and feel the need to defend the legitimacy of the miracles and signs in the scripture. "Stage 2" Christians may also fully embrace their leaders or their denomination's doctrines, and can tolerate no questions or "grey" areas of theology or ethics. Most fundamentalists fit in this level of faith, and people in this age may tend to separate from all other groups and surround themselves with like-minded believers. They may fear the loss of heaven and therefore, may become hyper-vigilant about sin and holiness. Their religious faith is still based on fear of God, rather than love for God. These folks are disturbed when their experiences don't measure up to their expectation, and can become cynical or depressed about faith. These disappointments though, are God's Spirit beckoning them into deeper trust and richer experiences of grace and mercy.

Group Faith or Synthesized Faith is the stage of faith when we desperately want to fit in and appear "normal". We become very self-aware, and long to perfectly live out other's expectations of us. We begin to become aware of the ethical and social aspects of our lives of faith, and feel the need to judge and compartmentalize religious and secular concerns. This is like the stage of life of a teenager who feels fully competent to separate from his/her parents' guidance, but still desperately needs the approval of his/her peers. Persons in this time of life are learning to say "no" to their familiar traditions, beginning to individuate and choose for themselves what doctrines and practices seem valuable, but may "throw the baby out with the bath" in their haste to embrace a new identity. God is perceived as a mysterious power too fearful to be encountered by one's self. We are beginning to think more critically about beliefs, but still doubt our own judgments and tend to go along with our tribe. To move on to the next level of faith, one must choose to have the courage to trust in the loving goodness of God who will lead and care for us, even if we get some of our beliefs wrong. Our image of God must grow beyond that of a spiteful, demanding God who is quick to give up on us or others.

At the beginning of a new "program year", it is a good time to "take stock" and evaluate our growth over the last year. I hope some of this seems helpful. I'll continue this article next month. For now, does any of this seem to fit? What stage of faith seems to describe your life now? Do you recognize yourself or some other person in these descriptions? Let us continue to grow in our faith and trust in the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

~Pastor Clyde Denny



Zebulon United Methodist Church

Presents

An Evening With

Gaylon Pope and Sweetwater

Featuring Good ole' Gaither Style Gospel Music,
Down Home Humor and Inspiration!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23th

6:30 pm / DOORS OPEN AT 5:30 pm

LOVE OFFERING ACCEPTED

For more information call:

Tom Evans 919-269-8911



The Pastor is offering two different Bible studies for the coming year.

The first will be a study of the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, using the book, Jesus' Plan for a New World, by Richard Rohr, and a video series titled Sermon on the Mount. This study will be offered after our Wednesday Night Family supper, and should last until the Christmas break. Books will be available and the format will be a discussion of each week's chapter or video lesson.

The second study will be Disciple I, a wonderful overview course of the whole Bible. This study also has a video component and includes weekly workbook readings, with great discussions. Disciple I will meet Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 9:15 PM, and will run through May of next Spring. This study asks for commitment from participants to be present each week.

2018

CALENDAR YEAR

SEPTEMBER

CALENDAR MONTH

FIRST DAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
26	27	28	
02	03 No Trustees	04 Steel Magnolias.....7:00p Tuesday Womens Study....9:00a Boyscouts.....7:00p	
09	10 HandBells Resume.....7:00p	11 Tuesday Womens Study....9:00a HistoricalSociety.....7:00p Boyscouts.....7:00p	WNF STARTS BACK!! 6
16 * Church Picnic*3:00p	17 Finance.....7:00p HandBells.....7:00p	18 Tuesday Womens Study....9:00a Evangelism.....6:30p Boyscouts.....7:00p	WNF.....
23 Sweetwater Concert.....6:30p	24 HandBells.....7:00p Church Council.....7:00p	25 Tuesday Womens Study....9:00a Boyscouts.....7:00p	
30	01	02	

SUNDAY

OF WEEK

ay	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01
05	06	07	08 Private Event.....1:00p
12 :30p	13 Missions.....7:00p	14	15
19 . 6:30p	20	21	22
26	27 UMM.....6:00p	28	29
03	04	05	06

Food Pantry Requests For September 2018

- * Cereal
- * Peanut butter
- * Bags of dried beans
- * Spaghetti sauce

Healthy snacks for children and adults
(think after-school snacks for the children)

Small bags of nuts

*Starred items are especially needed as they are
core items we give.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12



Mission Fair

Fellowship Hall
September 23rd

Cost – A few steps and a bit of your time
Parking – No shuttle bus needed

Before you attend the NC State Fair in October make plans to check out the ZUMC Mission Fair in September. The fair is being held in the fellowship hall following the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock service. Come and learn about the different missions of the church. Sorry, there will be no cotton candy, turkey legs or fried twinkies but you may find a mission that you would like to sink your teeth into.

35th Annual Fall Festival 2018

Saturday, October 13th

It's that time again folks!

We are a little over a month away from our 35th Annual Fall Festival. Wow! Can you believe it? Thirty-five years! Sign-up sheets will be up Sunday, September 2nd for the different committees so, if you haven't signed up to help, please stop in the narthex and sign up today. At the same time you can sign up to help pay for the pigs and chickens, and don't forget to sign up to purchase some of Mr. Jimmy's delicious Brunswick Stew!

Here are some other ways you can help as well. We need:

- *Items for both the silent and live auctions* (Tom and Mary Lib Evans are our auction chairs this year, so if you have items for either auction, please talk with one of them. We will have the Orthodontic braces from Dr. Brunk, so come prepared to bid on these and many other items.)
- *Jewelry* (Bring in your good used costume jewelry that you no longer wear. There will be a collection box in the Fellowship Hall.)
- *Crafts for the Craft Room* (As always, we need the crafty folks in the church to bring in their handy work for the Craft Sale.)
- *Baked Goods* (Those of you who have a flair for baking, your expertise is needed for not only the Bake Sale, but for the desserts needed for the BBQ plates.)
- *Country Store Items* (Don't forget to be making those jams, jellies and pickles!)
- *Bottled Water* (If you find water on sale, please pick some up and place them under the table that is marked in the Fellowship Hall.)
- *And for you to sell, sell, sell those BBQ tickets!* (If you haven't picked up BBQ tickets to sell, please see us before or after church each Sunday beginning September 2nd, or stop by the church office and see David. We need to presale as many BBQ tickets as we can so we know how much food to order.)

Remember, Saturday October 13th is the day we all come together as a church and show the community what our congregation can do to glorify GOD. Our community has come to expect this, let's not disappoint them. People from our community, and beyond, come every year looking for that certain pie or cake or to get some homemade jellies and pickles from the country store. Some like to get a head start on holiday shopping at the craft room, or purchase their Fall Mums at the plant sale. Some come for the excitement of the silent auction hoping to have the top bid for that item that catches their eye or participate in the live auction and see who can outbid who! All come to eat great BBQ and fellowship together as a community!

There are endless opportunities for you to help and we need you. So, THANK YOU for all you do, and let us know if you have any questions.

Jim and Trish Deal	919-435-0544
Doug and Karen Grygiel	919-404-8124
Jim and Terry Matias	919-608-9445





Fall Festival 101

At Zebulon United Methodist Church we have a Fall Festival the second Saturday of October every year, and this will be our 35th year. Fall Festival goes on rain or shine, with the exception of the year when Hurricane Matthew blew through and we had to postpone our Festival. First time in 33 years. This year Fall Festival will be Saturday, October 13th. It is a day that we sell: BBQ or Chicken plates, baked goods, crafts, jewelry, canned goods in the Country Store, plants, sometimes Brunswick Stew, we have a silent and live auction, and activities for the children. The purpose: To fund church mission projects and other needs of the church. For some of you this is old news, but for others this is new information. To help keep everyone informed, the Fall Festival Co-Chairs thought it would be a good idea to do an informational handout on how it all works - Fall Festival 101 so to say.

So ... Usually around this time of year the Fall Festival Co-Chairs get together to start planning for the Fall. This year the Co-Chairs are Jim and Trish Deal, Doug and Karen Grygiel, and Jim and Terry Matias. If you have any questions these are the people to ask. They have already been asking church members to chair the many committees that make up Fall Festival.

These committees are: Eat-in Kitchen, Dining Room, Take-out Line, Bake Shop, Craft Room, Jewelry, Country Store, Plant Shop, Breakfast, Chicken and BBQ Pig Cooking, BBQ Sauce, Potatoes, Silent and Live Auction, Finance, Yard Signs, Advertising, Festival Set-up, and **Children's Activities**

The chairs of these committees will start asking other members to help. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday in September for you sign up to help - and we always need lots of help.

If you can't be here that day you can help in other ways. You can make crafts for the craft room, donate that costume jewelry you never wear, bake delicious pies and cakes for the bake shop or desserts for the plate sales, and help secure items for our Silent and Live Auction. And you may make monetary donations to help offset the cost of buying the pigs and chickens.

Fall Festival set up is on Friday before the big day and we can use lots of help that day as well. We wrap bread, eye potatoes, get our supplies in place, put up tents and tables, set up the auction items for bidding, set up the craft room, drop off baked goods, set up cooking stations, wash pots, get our cookers ready, decorate the dining room and the list goes on.

Friday night the men are up all night cooking pork, and the chicken cooking starts early Saturday morning until mid-day, and they can always use help. On Saturday it is all hands on deck! We offer a continental breakfast from 8:00-9:30 am, the Bake Shop, Country Store, Craft Room, Jewelry Sales, Plant Sale and Silent Auction are from 8:00 am-**2:00 pm**, the **Children's Activities go from 11:00 am-2:00 pm**. The BBQ and Chicken plate sales go from 11:00 am-Until, and the Live Auction is 3:00 pm-Until.

On Sunday after Fall Festival we are all worn out, but feeling blessed. This is a Festival for EVERYONE! What can we say, we love Fall Festival!

Jim and Trish Deal, Jim and Terry Matias, Doug and Karen Grygiel
Fall Festival Co-Chairs

Wednesday Night Fellowship Kid's Program begins this month! The evening starts with a family dinner in the fellowship hall at 6:00 PM. Children go downstairs for Children's Choir from 6:30-7:00 PM and then end the evening with a bible lesson from 7:00-8:00 PM. All children are welcome! Nursery is provided for children ages infant-2. Contact Randi Chalfant for more information, randichalfant@gmail.com or 919-389-6003.

Wednesday Night Family kicks off Wednesday, September 12th

6:00 PM - Dinner (*sign up using the pink card at your pew or call the office by noon Tuesday*)

6:30 PM - Children's Choir/ Parent Bible Study/ Adult Bible Study

7:00 PM - Children's Bible Study

****Nursery is provided for children infant - 3 years old****

September WNF Menu

12th Patricia & Jane Strickland	Lasagna, Tossed Salad & Rolls <i>**Kids** Same</i>
19th To Be Announced	Roast Pork w/Rice, Green Beans, Glazed Carrots <i>**Kids** Corndogs</i>
26th To Be Announced	Assorted Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, Mixed Fruit & Chips <i>**Kids** Same</i>



On September 11th the Fun Lovers will venture back to Smithfield to have lunch at Robin's Nest and then tour the Ava Gardner Museum. We will leave church at 11:00 am. If you want to ride the bus please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions please call Anna Corbett (919-810-9709).



SEPTEMBER