From the Pastor’s Pen...

We wrapped up our “Trowels and Trumpets” campaign with a testimony service on Sunday. It was great to hear from so many different people who have seen God at work in their lives. I’m sure there were dozens more of you who could have shared a testimony of what you have seen about God and ourselves during our 35-day commitment to prayer. There are three words I would like to share as we turn the page on this official campaign.

POWERFUL! I hope you have been reminded during the last five weeks that prayer is the most powerful weapon we have in our arsenal. James 5:16 says, “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as is working.” You may be tempted to think, “Well, I’m not exactly a righteous person, so my prayers aren’t as powerful.” Remember, we have the righteousness of Christ given to us at the moment of conversion, and then we grow in practical righteousness as we mature. Never underestimate the power of prayer, because prayer’s power is God’s power! Nothing is impossible with God. No person is too lost to be saved. No problem is too big for God. No marriage is too dead to be resurrected. So pray! But don’t forget what Kathy Mabry said about confession during her testimony, and notice what the first part of James 5:16 (quoted above) says, “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” If God is leading you to confession of a particular sin or struggle, it may be for the purpose of giving your prayers more power.

PERSEVERING! As I mentioned during my wrap-up of the testimony service, it is critical that we persevere in our prayers beyond this 35-day commitment. The “Trowels and Trumpets” campaign may be over, but our journey to God’s heart through prayer is just beginning. Let’s remind you that Nehemiah prayed “day and night” for four months before he had an opportunity to ask King Artaxerxes for permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. If you have still have unanswered prayers from the campaign (as I do), keep persevering in prayer. Don’t give up your daily prayer time with God. Build on it. Add to it. Grow in it.

PARTNERSHIP! We probably could have talked more than we did about the “trumpet” part of the “Trowels and Trumpets” campaign. The idea came from Nehemiah 4:20, which says, “In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there.” The people were asked to blow the trumpet to indicate there was an enemy attacking, and thus God’s people would come together. We desperately need to do that as we grow in Christ together. Utica cannot be a place where we put on our “church masks” and pretend that we are God’s people.

Women’s Bible Study Lunch Bunch

We will meet on Mondays, July 22 and 22 at 1:00 pm at the Pizza Buffet located in Dogwood Plaza shopping center in Seneca. Call Sheron Hayes (888-0819) for more information or just come and join us!

Christmas in July event

Join us on Sunday, July 28 from 4:00 to 4:00 pm for a cookie swap, recipe exchange, cookie decorating & ugly sweater contests with prizes. Details to come about this event! Sign up on the bulletin board or email lindsey.laye@gmail.com.

Fall Bible studies

Two Thursday studies will begin Tuesday, September 5. Signups will begin August 4. Books are $10. You can purchase your book when you sign up at our table in the lobby. The Bible study just Open The Door will be held Thursdays at 10:00 am at the home of Pam Shipe. God Of Creation will be held at the church at 6:00 pm on Thursdays. Contact Lindsey Laye (lindsey.laye@gmail.com) for more information.

Secret Sister Reveal Event

The reveal is tentatively planned for September. Make sure that you pray for secret sister and get to know your of prayers.

Look for details on these events in the newsletter, on the bulletin board, or on our Facebook page (Utica Baptist Women’s Ministry).

Men’s Ministry Prayer Breakfasts

All men are invited to join us in the Dining Hall to share breakfast and a devotional on Tuesdays (7:00 am) and Saturdays (8:00 am). No breakfast meeting on Saturday, July 6. Contact Mark Johnston for more information. (mejohnston@171.387.9759)

Summer Bible Study Experimenting God will meet at 6:15 pm in July in room #39 (Trusheekes SS Classroom). Workbook is $10. Contact Mark Johnston for more information.

Utica Library

We are excited about the transition to our new library computer program. From your computer, ipad, or phone, you will be able to see what materials are in the library and if they are available.

Utica Ladies Book Club will be reviewing Whatever The Cost by David and Jason Benham on Monday, June 15 at 1:30 pm at the home of Bette Taylor. Please let Bette know if you plan to join us.

Pictorial directories can be purchased in the Library for $5.

Thank you notes received:

Denise Shirley, Dan Alexander, and Seneca High School (for AP test hosting) *Posted on board outside of the church office.

Finish With Faith

No monthly lunches will be held during July and August. We resume the lunches in September.

Utica’s prayer team meets every Tuesday at 10:00 am in room #13 (senior adult). Everyone is invited to come pray!

We have a separate group of volunteers that are ready to pray with you on Sunday mornings. They wear green name tags, and you can find them up front during the response time of the morning service or in the main lobby afterwards.
Our Weekly Schedule

**Sunday**
8:30 am  Orchestra Rehearsal
9:15 am  Bible Study
10:30 am  Morning Worship
5:00 pm  Evening Worship

**Tuesday**
10:00 am  Morning Prayer Time

**Wednesday**
5:00 pm  Evening Meal
6:00 pm  Kids Activities
6:15 pm  Bible Study, Youth, Orchestra Rehearsal
7:30 pm  Adult Choir Rehearsal
(check your calendar for other activities)

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**Church Staff**

*Ministers*
- Every Church Member
- Ryan Goodroe, Pastor  ryan@uticabaptist.com
- Chuck Traylor, Music Minister  chuck@uticabaptist.com
- Joe Steele, Student Minister  joe@uticabaptist.com
- Karen Bennett, Children & Families  karen@uticabaptist.com
- Lisa Jenkins, Ministry Assistant  lisa@uticabaptist.com
- Tim Rackley, Custodian  tim@uticabaptist.com
- Gayle Steele, Kitchen Administrator

**Church Telephone Number:** 882-9402
**Church Office email:** lisa@uticabaptist.com
**Web Address –** uticabaptist.com

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**Independence Day Offering for International Students**
During the month of July, Utica will be accepting an offering for Ministry Support for Jon & Alana Varner, NAMB Mission Service Corps missionaries with Friends of Internationals at Clemson. They must raise all their funding support. Please use the Love Offering envelopes. Write “Friends of Internationals” on the front of the envelope.

**Assisting New International Students**
Preparations are underway for families to assist new international students coming to Clemson in the fall. Be a part of this global ministry. Contact Jon Varner for more info.

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**Important Summer Dates**

**SummerSalt July 8–12** (6th-12th grade)
**KidSalt July 15–18** (3rd-5th grade)
**Family Mission Trip July 20–27**

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**FAMILY MISSION TRIP**
July 20-27, Indianapolis, Indiana