

CHRONICLES

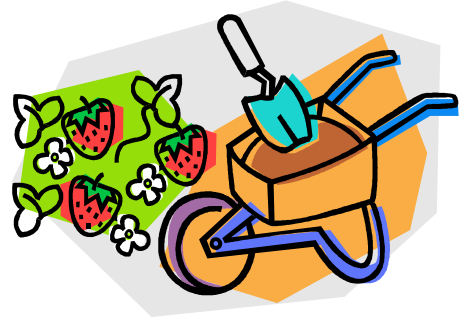
Of

Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian Church

July 2010

The Pastor's Part

VBS was a great success!! How wonderful it was to see all these children, the adults working with them, to hear the children learning the songs Deane wrote just for VBS. I have a few snapshots in my head of VBS when I was a child and none of them could have been as exciting as the one our own volunteers have come up with for this year. Growing things in the garden as they grow in the Word – what a wonderful time. I want to thank our planning and organizing team, headed up by Elizabeth Barbee, our teachers and helpers, the parents who brought the children. But, I do have one concern. It seems to be the same faces each year who plan, work, set up, clean up, etc. I wish all of us could learn what a blessing it is to serve the Lord in many ways. God has so made life, that when we give our time, money and talent to him, he really does bless us, full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over but the only way we can experience this is to get involved. I pray that more and more of our members will be part of teams, Sunday School, our fellowship suppers, etc. “Church” is not something to attend - it is a life to be lived, work to be done, and joy to be shared. Be involved. Give generously of all that you have – jump in- the waters of life are fine.



Peace,
Preecha

Church Sidewalk

Have you seen the new sidewalk in front of the church? No longer are the corners and edges of the old walk crumbling, unsafe, and unsightly. The front walk has been replaced and it looks wonderful.

Thank you to all responsible for its replacement. The Ingle family funded the project and the new walk is dedicated in memory of Waverly Ingle, Ron Ingle, and Ruth Hunter. Anderson Construction Company, i.e., Brian and J.R., provided the equipment and labor. Those who also helped with the labor were Dave Penland, Dave Bradley, Bob Nesbitt, and Bill Smart.

	Budget	
	Deposits	Expenses
January	12,094.78	15,407.59
February	8,437.41	8,853.25
March	14,356.77	10,157.64
April	10,036.87	12,450.69
May	9,383.09	10,593.30
	54,308.92	57,462.47

	Building Fund	
	Month	YTD
Offering 3rd Sunday	1,051	5,024.01
Memorials		165.00
Donations/Special gifts	25	1,275.00
Total	1,076	6,464.01

Teen Mission Trip Update

The Youth Group leaves Sunday, July 18, right after the worship service, for a mission trip on the South Carolina coast. They join youth groups from all over the nation, working with the mission organization Team Effort.

The service focus of the trip will be completing home rehabilitation projects and ramp building for low-income senior citizen housing in the area. Each evening the Team Effort staff, primarily comprised of college-aged students who function as counselors and facilitators, will lead the youth in worship and praise services. The devotion theme for the week will be building your scaffolding on a solid foundation with the main scripture reference focusing on Romans 12:1.

Mission team members are Alex Bradley, Ian Bradley, Cody Cantwell, Curtis Ginn, Kyle Snuffer, Huey Tillett, and Youth leaders Matthew Hale and Danny Fusco.

The youth group has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that we have received for the mission trip. A sincere and humble thank you to the church family for supporting us in raising the needed \$269/ per participant Team Effort cost. We're also in the process of raising funds to cover the transportation and additional meal costs not provided by Team Effort.

We covet your prayers and support as we work to provide unique and authentic service opportunities for our teens to join with teens from around the country in serving others in the name of Jesus. Please be in prayer for our safety in travel and service. Pray also that God may touch not only the people that we serve, but also move within our own hearts in the process.

Danny Fusco, Youth Leader

God's Garden VBS

Sowing seeds, planting flowers, watering vegetables, hay rides, greenhouse visits, crafts, songs, stories about Bible gardens and Jesus sowing seeds on fertile ground and finding his lost sheep. Whew! What a week of Bible school.

Twenty-four children attended our VBS in June and almost that many teen and adult volunteers helped to create a homegrown experience for all. The VBS staff created all lessons, music, and craft projects. The outpouring of love, time, talent, and donations from the church family made this VBS one of the best.

All the children helped plant our church garden next to the parking lot. Bob Nesbitt is tending to watering on a regular basis, and the children's Sunday School classes will harvest the plants.

Bob Nesbitt provided hay rides to visit neighborhood gardens and the greenhouses owned by Reems Creek Valley Nursery on Roberts Cove Road. Most classes also visited the greenhouses of Blue Ridge Valley Farms, owned by J.R. and Brian Anderson. We learned how vertical hydroponic technology produces vegetables that would require seven times the space with conventional gardening.

The children raised \$250 during VBS week to donate to Heifer International, an organization rooted in the Christian tradition that helps the poor in other countries move toward self-reliance through gifts of animals and trees.

All were blessed by the seeds planted during VBS week. Let's watch those seeds grow.



Blake Alexander Raines was born Wednesday, June 30, to Stephanie and Freddie Raines. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 inches long. Both Stephanie and Blake are doing just fine. Freddie and big sister, Emma are happy and proud. Thank you, Lord, for this family and their new addition.

Habitat for Humanity Update

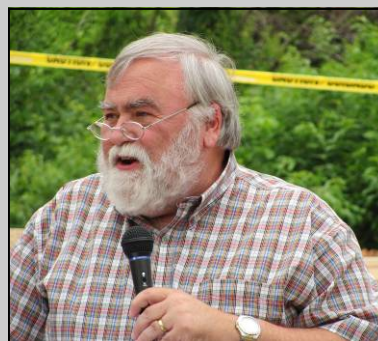
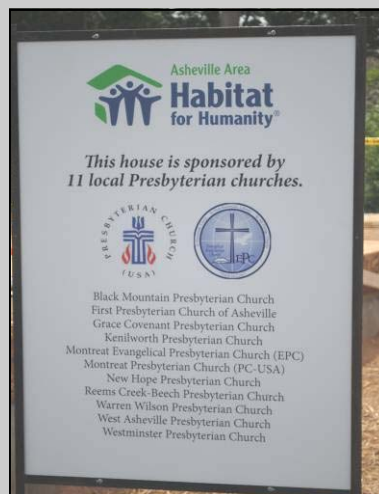
On Friday, June 4, the wall raising ceremony for the latest Presbyterian Habitat for Humanity House - the nineteenth supported by our local Presbyterian congregations - was held. Rev. Hank Scoggins spoke at the event, before volunteers raised the first wall for the home of this year's partner family, Wanda Bush. David Bradley and Bob Nesbitt were among the volunteers who framed the walls on that workday and, earlier in the week, they also framed the floors.

Wanda joined us for a worship service a little over a week later on June 13 and expressed her appreciation for our support. Wanda, who works at Walmart, is currently fulfilling her 200+ hours of sweat equity, which serves as a down payment on the home.

We have two workdays remaining. On Wednesday, July 14, Elizabeth Barbee, Dave Penland, Joe Reavis, and Rev. Scoggins will help paint the home. On Saturday, July 24, David and Sandy Cook, Brenda Hardy, and Cathy Roberts will work on the landscaping. It's hard to believe that a house can go from framing floors to landscaping in under two months, but it is surely evidence of God's hands at work.

Thanks to all of our workday volunteers and to all who donated for our Habitat offering which totaled \$1009.47. You have contributed to Habitat's value of offering a hand up, not a hand out.

Photos from top to bottom - *Eleven Presbyterian churches are supporting this year's home. *Wanda Bush stands in the frame work of her new home. *Rev. Scoggins speaks at the wall-raising ceremony before joining in to lift the wall.



Grayson Highlands State Park

When it's too hot in the valley, head to the mountains. Grayson Highlands State Park boasts about cool nights, even in summer, and I'm talking sweatshirts and snuggle down in the sleeping bag cool. But, the afternoons are warm enough for t-shirts and shorts. The park is situated just over the state line in Virginia, the southwest section, near Mount Rogers and Tom and I camped for three nights there in early June, exploring new territory.

On the trip up we enjoyed bicycling the Virginia Creeper Trail from Whitetop Station to Damascus, an eighteen mile downhill ride on a railroad bed, converted to a hiking, biking trail. This is a familiar ride for us and the easy grade takes you through forests and over numerous trestles that span the Whitetop Laurel and Green Cove Creeks. The water shushes my busy mind to concentrate on the present and enjoy what is in front of me, God's gifts. Descending to a level grade I remember, He leads beside the still water, He restores my soul.

This bicycle trip offers me a lesson to watch where I *want* to go, not where I fear I might. As we rode across the first trestle, Tom commented on the height of the trestle. "Look how far down the creek is," he said. And as I did I turned right into the railing. I've noticed when on a rough section of the trail, if I concentrate on the rut or rock that I want to avoid, I often head right for it. A lesson for life, too? Keep your eye on the right path and travel will be smoother? I think so.

That afternoon we drove through beautiful mountain pasture lands with freshly cut hay, its silky tresses shorn and shining in the sun. After many turns and twists we arrived in remote Grayson Highlands. The next morning we hiked through Massie Gap a gentle rolling bald where wild ponies are allowed to graze to keep the bald clear. We walked through God's garden here, lush with blackberry bushes in bloom, blueberry and huckleberry bushes side by side. Wild strawberries carpeted sections beside the trail, mingled with yellow flowers, waving their heads above strawberry leaves. Lots of laurel in bloom too. I wished I could have sat with our VBS kids and helpers as we talked of how God's original garden might have looked.

We left the park and headed up the trail to Rhododendron Gap on the Appalachian Trail, steep and rocky in places, but offered great 360 views of both North Carolina and Virginia mountains. This area is popular with overnight backpackers as well as the AT through hikers and all had cameras out trying to capture the oohs and aahs. Interesting rock outcroppings jut straight up causing short slots of trail through narrow passages or opportunities for rock hopping for some teens we saw. We also wondered why the name Rhododendron Gap until we reached the top. Laurel abounds on the trail up but the Catawba Rhododendron doesn't appear until just at the top. It is abundant there but we wanted to ask, have you seen Craggy?

The next day we drove just south of the NC/Virginia state line to the South Fork of the New River. We rented a canoe and paddled about ten miles on a class one section of this State Scenic River. The view from the river gives a look back in time as you meander through pastures or watch ducks tend their nests close to shore. A mama wood duck flitted in front of us, pretending to be hurt, as we floated close to her nest, and when we were a fitting distance downstream she turned and flew back, secure that she had fooled another would-be predator.

Slow down, get off the pavement, and the priorities fall back into place.

Elizabeth Barbee