

Macland Press

A Publication of Macland Presbyterian Church



August 2016

August 3
6:00-Welcome New
Pastor Reception

August 7
Rally Day
11:30-Potluck Lunch

August 17
Wednesday Night Dinner
& Classes Begin

In This Issue

- Pastor's Note
- Mission
- What's Up Macland?
- Birthdays

Dear Macland,

Trying to stay up on current events, I watched the Republican National Convention last week and will watch the Democratic in the weeks ahead. As a studier of rhetoric, I watch these events and often yell at the speakers similar to the way I shout at the referee during college football season. In both, I want speakers and umpires alike to call it like I see it.

Though differing in the focal points of our anxiety, each party and their nominees seem to agree that we ought to be afraid – very afraid, if not from our enemies from the other candidates. The other night, getting a little tense, I turned from the convention over to PBS, home of my old friends Ernie and Bert along with Big Bird on *Sesame Street*. They weren't there. Instead the show was *Cosmos* with Physicist, Neil deGrasse Tyson. I thought science might be a little more assuring than politics, but then Tyson described how a giant meteor might hit the earth and pretty much wipe out all life and then added that the sun will one day inevitably just go out. I guess everything ends and the nightly news or latest lesson can stir that anxiety that resides so readily inside us to spring out at any moment.

So, as the 'new' pastor of Macland Presbyterian, my word to you is, "Relax." God is still God. God will be still God, long after you, I, Macland Presbyterian, the good old US of A, and the sun go out.

"Relax," again I say, "relax." Just breathe. Inhale. Exhale. Repeat. Or, as the angels put it at the beginning and the ending of the gospels, "Fear not!" Both when Jesus was born and when he rose from the tomb, angels show up to frightened men and women and say, "Relax," or "Fear not, for the terror you thought that had come upon you isn't near as great as you thought. God was and is God, in life, in death, and in all that is to come."

In our time together, you'll probably hear me say something like, "Doubt isn't the opposite of faith, fear is, which is why we need one another. Leaps of faith can be quite scary."

Watch what you want on television. If it gets a little freaky, turn over to *Sesame Street* or *Mr. Rogers Neighborhood*. Come to Macland and let's grow in faith together as we serve as angelic messengers saying, "Fear not!" for has there ever been a time when the world needs to hear good news of great joy for all people? Yes, there has been those times. This is one of them. There will be more to come. So as disciples of Christ who calls us out of fear to lives of faith, we have job security regardless of the economy or residents of national capitals.

JOY!

David

Reaching, Raising Relieving
Making a Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

MISSION MINUTE

I've been thinking that it's a good time to reacquaint ourselves with what I like to call the 'pillars' of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Take a moment to read the following article to help inspire each of us to a new passion and commitment in our mission work here at Macland. We work diligently to provide and care for the needy with a variety of programs. As well, we support our wider community so generously through the Presbyterian Special Offerings that help our global neighbors. My hope for Mission planning into 2017 is that together we will seek to find fresh ideas for extending our reach into our community. I'm asking each of you wherever you are, to take a moment and join me in prayer at 4 PM each afternoon. As this article states, we will ask for God's leadership and guidance to strengthen our resolve, faithfully working together to serve more, inspire more, equip more, and connect more in its many expressions to serve Christ in the world through new and existing communities of faith, hope, love and witness. I hope you find this information a helpful. In the apostle Paul's words: "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Our heritage, and much of what we believe, began with the French lawyer John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that came before him.

Calvin did much of his writing from Geneva, Switzerland. From there, the Reformed movement spread to other parts of Europe and the British Isles.

Many of the early Presbyterians in America came from England, Scotland and Ireland. The first American Presbytery was organized at Philadelphia in 1706. The first General Assembly was held in the same city in 1789. The first Assembly was convened by the Rev. John Witherspoon, the only minister to sign the Declaration of Independence.

WHAT WE DO

For over 200 years, Presbyterians have been responding to the call of Jesus Christ, taking the gospel into all the world and bearing witness to Christ's saving love to the ends of the earth. Today the Holy Spirit is still on the move, calling us to share in what God is doing in the world. As your partner in Christ's service, the Presbyterian Mission Agency is faithfully working to inspire, equip, and connect all Presbyterians to do Christ's mission, bringing together congregations, worshiping communities, mid councils, mission networks, and other parts of the church ecosystem as they nurture and shape disciples and serve Christ in the world.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is the ministry and mission agency of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#). Four ministry areas carry out our work: Compassion, Peace and Justice; Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries; Theology, Formation and Evangelism; and [World Mission](#). We work together to inspire, equip, and connect all Presbyterians for the church's work.

WHO WE ARE

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What's Up Macland?



Macland Presbyterian Preschool

Has a few spaces left!!
Spread the word and come
and visit!!!

www.macland.org

Important dates:

Parent Orientation
August 8 7pm
Student Open House
August 9 10:00 - 11:00
First Day of Preschool
August 10



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES! - SCHOOL SUPPLIES! -
SCHOOL SUPPLIES!**

It's that time again! Our partner in education, Compton Elementary in Powder Springs, needs help stocking their supply cabinet. This is a year round project that the generous folk at Macland have supported for a number of years. Once again your Mission Team is requesting your support. A complete supply list with additional information and a distribution box have been placed in the narthex for your convenience. Please contact Sharon Dold, our Compton Ambassador, at 404-219-4186 or Freida St. Germain at 770-861-0807 if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support.



Rally Day is August 7th!

Immediately following the worship service, will have a potluck to celebrate and welcome our new pastor, David Jones and his family. Please bring a dish to share... A-H: Side Dish, I-P: Dessert, Q-Z: Main Dish. Look forward to seeing you all there.

**Wednesday
Night**



Wednesday night dinners resume August 17th.
We serve at 6:00 PM in the Family Life Center.
Join us as we kick off the season with home
cooked food to nourish the soul.

GRIEF SHARE®

GriefShare will begin its fall series on Monday August 15, 6:30pm to 8:pm in the church parlor and run for 13 sessions each Monday through November 7th. Invite your friends and neighbors. On November 14th at 6:30 There will be a session at 6:30pm called "Surviving the Holidays" for those who have lost loved ones recently. For more information call Carolyn Baumgartner 770-222-8350



Financial Update:

2016 Income: \$233,337.83
2016 Expense: \$228,997.82
2016 Total: \$4,340.01



Macland Session did not hold a stated Session meeting during the month of July. The next stated meeting will be Monday, August 22nd.



Sunday School classes for the fall begin Sunday August 14th and Wednesday classes begin August 17th. The following choices are available for those interested. On "Rally Day" August 7th, you will be able to hear from our instructors. Please don't hesitate to contact them if you need additional information.

Christian Education Fall Classes

Christian Doctrine: Sunday morning 8:45 to 9:45 and Wednesday afternoons 4:30 to 5:45 in the Family Life Center. Both classes will look at how Christians have understood some doctrines that have served the church for two centuries, with all the differences in the ways it has been presented and understood by such a diverse group of believers. What are the strengths and what are the weaknesses of each approach and are there better ways to present our understanding to a younger generation who see the world in a different way than the way the doctrines were first formulated? Has our understandings of some things changed so much that we no longer can explain them to a very different world? Are there some things we even need to let go of and rethink? Join our discussion and bring your own ideas to contribute to the diversity of beliefs. Book used *Christian Doctrine*, by Shirley C. Guthrie, Jr. **Instructor: Buddy Carlton** [770-944-9468](tel:770-944-9468) (home) or bcandpc@att.net

The Present Word: Sunday 9am in the Family Life Center. We will follow the set denomination curriculum, discussing different Bible passages. Book: *The Present Word*. **Instructor(s) Marlene and Doug Michalke** Contact: mmichalke121@yahoo.com or dougmicchalke@yahoo.com

Revelation: Sunday start time: 8:30 (Early time to accommodate choir members) meets in the Church Parlor. This is an intense 14 week study of Revelation using a work book. Students will be expected to spend time preparing each week for the class as this is not a lecture course. Lively student discussion is the norm! Book used: *The Book of Revelation Visions for the Church in Crisis*. **Instructor: Al Baumgartner** [770-222-8350](tel:770-222-8350).

Spirit Born Bible Study: Wednesday, 10 am – noon, in the Church Parlor. This Bible study meets for fellowship with each other and to study books of the Bible, currently Matthew. We follow the book loosely, but because we wish to study every verse, the discussion is often based on research and notes compiled by Rebecca. We are a diverse group with often disparate points of view. When we are born of the Spirit and accept the love of God, we can set aside ourselves, stop judging ourselves and others, love ourselves and others, look for God's movement in our lives, and align our will with His. Drop-ins welcome. Book: *Interpretation Bible Studies – Matthew* by Alyce M. McKenzie. **Leader: Rebecca Mitchell** (rebecca@datadist.com)

CSI: The Bible: Wednesday Night, 7 pm in the Family Life Center. This is an intergenerational class for Middle School-Adults. See next page for more information! **Instructor: David Jones**, maclandpastor@gmail.com

Youth and Children's Fall Classes

Jill Puterbaugh will be teaching our preschool through 5th grade Sunday School Class. We will split out 3rd through 5th grade when we have students for that class. So stay tuned to watch how we grow! Jill will be teaching from the Feasting on the Word Curriculum. This curriculum begins with a solid scriptural and theological base for leaders and invites leader and learners deeper into the rhythm of the church year. It is a lectionary based curriculum. Jill may be reached at 678-525-4312 or jillputerbaugh@hotmail.com.

Garrett Campbell will again be teaching Middle and Senior High Sunday School. He will be using the Feasting on the Word Curriculum, but also designing some of his own lessons based on current events and events in the life of the kids. He has learned over the years to be prepared with a lesson and ready to revise at a moment's notice. Garrett may be reached 404-374-1703 or gpc1987@yahoo.com.

Garrett encourages all Youth to come to dinner on Wednesday nights and stay for David Jones' new class for everyone. After this class concludes, Garrett will begin a Wednesday night Bible study for all Youth.

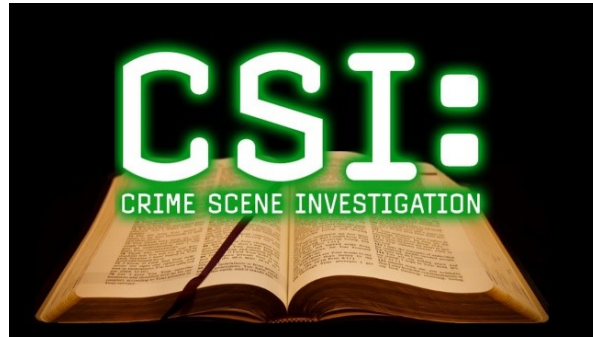
Sunday nights:

Middle and High School Youth will meet each Sunday evening at 6 PM. After a dinner supplied by our wonderful parent volunteers, the groups will meet together and then split up for discussions. Sunday nights will also include planning for Youth Sunday, serving at Presbyterian Village, serving the Extension Shelter, planning for the fundraiser, and other activities. The Senior Highs will be led by Jill Puterbaugh and Garrett Campbell. Middle School will be led by Kelly Wier. Kelly may be reached at 770-355-7791 or ktwier@hotmail.com.



CSI: THE BIBLE

Beginning August 17th



*Now it seems to me the place to start
is at the beginning.*
Perry Mason

In the beginning, there was murder.

The Bible is a library of sixty-six books, with over eleven hundred chapters and even more characters. Yet, before we can get to chapter five of the first book, Genesis, which means *Beginnings*, before there are more than four named people in the Bible, one brother murders another. In the beginning, there was murder, brother against brother, one killing the other.

The conflicts in the Bible, and in the world, aren't simplistic dramas where the evil characters try, and often succeed, killing the good. Start reading the Bible and within a few chapters God will destroy the world in anger and before you reach the end the world will kill God incarnate on the cross.

Read the Bible like a judge, and you'll declare guilt and innocence, good or evil. That dualistic mind set was attempted by Adam and Eve and it didn't go so well. A better approach not the juror but the detective, one who see that even the truest testimony can have a bit of deception and the greatest lies can have a touch of truth. To read the Bible this way is to look first for motivations. As one of the founders of modern psychology, Alfred Adler, observed, "All behaviour is motivated." Understand the motivation and you'll understand the behaviour. Every detective searches for motivations. Readers of the Bible should as well. Each character, from Cain to Pilate, did what was right in their own eyes for human creatures are not rational, we are, however, great rationalizers. To investigate the Bible, inquiring about the motivations of the characters, to explore their motivations is to seek to understand not just the people of the Bible, but the people of the world... and ourselves.

Come join us on Wednesday Nights. Bring your magnifying glass and all the curiosity you can dare. Bring a friend as well but make sure he or she is someone you trust for what would Sherlock have been alone?



August Birthdays

8/4 Linda Neighbors
8/7 Linda Koval
8/8 Joyce Jones
8/10 Hot Hutcheson
8/11 Hannah White
8/12 Ken Collins
8/12 Michelle Dettore
8/15 Kelly Barge
8/16 Peggy Ingalsbe
8/16 Frances Tucker
8/17 Katlin Hubert
8/18 Sharon Dold
8/18 Alex Jones
8/19 Jay Mitchell

8/19 Christina Wier
8/24 Tom Camp
8/24 Lauri Moore
8/25 Bill Thompson
8/28 Dave Heagy
8/28 Beverly Martz
8/28 Rachel Williams
8/29 Jessica Cole
8/29 Dianne Hutcheson
8/30 Paul Bartlett
8/30 Wonda Hubert