

Macland Press

A Publication of Macland Presbyterian Church

Dear Macland,

I keep wondering what to do as a pastor, as a person, as a congregation, and a community to make the world a better place. As I look to some of my favorite writers, I've discovered the answer is usually far simpler than I make it – Be a Character. Try this exercise. Below are the titles of classic stories. Can you name the main character(s). The answers are at the end of the chapter if you need them.

Gone with the Wind
Moby Dick
Green Eggs and Ham
The Scarlet Letter
The Call of the Wild
A Christmas Carol

As I have studied fiction writers, the most interesting discovery was the power of characters, even on the writers of the stories. For most writers, to my surprise, plot doesn't shape characters, but instead, characters shape plot. Here is what some well-known authors said about the strength of characters,

Stephen King: *I won't try to convince you that I've never plotted any more than I'd try to convince you that I've never told a lie, but I do both as infrequently as possible.*

I distrust plot for two reasons: first, because our lives are largely plotless, even when you add in all our reasonable precautions and careful planning; and second, because I believe plotting and the spontaneity of real creation aren't compatible. ...

My basic belief about the making of stories is that they largely make themselves. The job of the writer is to give them a place to grow.

George Martin: *My philosophy is that plot advancement is not what the experience of reading fiction is about. If all we care about is advancing the plot, why read novels? We can just read Cliffs Notes.*

Ray Bradbury: *Remember: Plot is no more than footprints left in the snow after your characters have run by on their way to incredible destinations. Plot is observed after the fact rather than before. It cannot precede action... It cannot be mechanical. It can only be dynamic. So, stand aside, forget targets, let the characters, your fingers, body, blood, and heart do.*

Characters drive plot. For many of us, we have a road map in our minds of our life story: what we want to happen, expectations of life, relationships, and of individual people. What can frustrate us to exhaustion is when our life plots don't develop in the way we'd like to write them.

(Continued...)



September 2017

September 4
Labor Day
Church Office Closed

September 21
2:00-Blood Drive

September 25-29
Cobb County Fall Break

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We hope that someone, a spouse, a famous or powerful person or corporation, or even God will come along and make sense out of all the senseless drama of our lives. Apparently, neither God nor Stephen King work like that. According to these writers, not only does forcing a plot onto characters make for bad writing, it makes for bad living as well. Only looking backward do any attempts at sense making work. Even in the life of Jesus, prior to Easter, Jesus' life is amazing, yet, still a tragedy and travesty. If Jesus' life doesn't make sense in real time, why should anyone elses?

In this present age, we have become so accustomed to books, movies, and television that we want stories that resolve, plot lines that make clear sense, and stories that have meaning. That's only in Hollywood. Try as we like, we don't get to write our life or create a set to enact our drama. However, we do get to develop our character along the way.

Fidelity to God and the life we're allowed is to live as Christ like as we can, celebrating the potential and possibility in ourselves and others, developing our characters to as terrific a *telos* as we are able, and let the world respond as it will. Perhaps others will recognize the beauty in each of us, if so, wonderful. Perhaps the world will take us out and nail us to a cross. If so, then we're in good company. Many great characters have been lynched along the way. So be it. The great characters can die as easily as anyone can, sometimes even easier. The great characters are not super human. They are, however, but superbly human, each in his or her own beautiful way. They don't form the stories, but stories have a hard time not forming around them, wonders that they are.

When Jesus described himself as "The Way," he was not pointing at how to control the world or force others around you to change. He did show us what it's like to be a character so strong, that even when crucified, the world has to work hard not to be transformed. May we be among his number.

JOY!

David

P.S. Answers to Character Questions

Gone with the Wind– Scarlet O'Hara, Rhett Butler

Moby Dick– Ahab, The Whale, Ishmael

Green Eggs and Ham– Sam, I Am

The Scarlet Letter– Hester Prynne

The Call of the Wild– Buck

A Christmas Carol– Ebenezer Scrooge

**You are Cordially invited to attend
An Evening of Dining and Music at
Macland Presbyterian Church
To Support**

RESCUE REPURPOSE REDEEM

Featuring

Kayla Taylor Jazz and the 120 East Band

Saturday, October 7, 2017

6:30 P.M.

\$25 per person

Order Tickets On-line at:

<http://rescuerepurposedeemconcertanddinner.bpt.me>

Order Early – Limited General Seating

This RRR program teaches and applies business strategies to address homelessness, support veterans and improve the economic empowerment of underserved communities across Georgia. They strive to enhance the personal success of individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness, are living with disabilities, and others with significant barriers, by providing job training, employment opportunities and a place to be successful. By providing employment options to individuals generally under-represented in the work force and using primarily donated materials to design and create unique products, **Rescue Repurpose Redeem does the following:** **RESCUES** materials no longer wanted or needed. **REPURPOSES** these materials into distinctive quality handmade products sold locally and online. **REDEEMS** and enhances the value and efforts of those employed by the social enterprise. All revenue from sales is put back into the operating costs of the social enterprise, including but not limited to payroll, general overhead, and other expenses necessary to sustain a functional and healthy business. Sweetwater Mission is a non-profit charitable organization providing basic needs such as food, clothing, family services, and education opportunities, as well as its ongoing work in the Cobb and Douglas County communities to prevent hunger and homelessness. Sweetwater Mission's support of RRR is a vital part of the RRR's success. Sweetwater Mission's fiscal sponsorship of Rescue Repurpose Redeem allows the non-profit social enterprise to fundraise for its programs using traditional grants and crowdfunding. Additionally, it allows RRR to be a fully operational business that can sell the handcrafted products to the public. Volunteers, Funders and Development Work are vital to RRR's growth and success as they are with any charitable non-profit. The social enterprise is made up of its participants and supporters. We can't do it without Sweetwater Mission. We can't do it without you!

Bio for the Kayla Taylor Jazz and the 120 East Band

Kayla Taylor Jazz with her guitarist/business partner, Steve Moore will perform the first and Kayla will be joined by the 120 East Band after intermission. A metro-Atlanta native, Ms. Taylor grew up singing standards in the school chorus and gospel tunes in the choir. Everything else she sang in the shower as loud as possible! No one is certain how the singing career came about. Kayla just always sang. Period. A five-year veteran of the Georgia All-State Chorus, Kayla also appeared in productions of "Vanities"; "Guys & Dolls"; "The Pirates of Penzance" and "South Pacific". She studied classical piano for over 9 years but will be the FIRST to tell you that she is not the player that a nine-year student should be. She has plans to study piano again and this time . . . pay attention!

(Continued...)

Kayla has studied voice with many different instructors, including Virginia Wheeler, Linwood Harrison, Jan Smith and Dee Knapp. “You learn something different from each instructor – and it all works together. I LOVE LEARNING,” Kayla says. “There is always something new to learn about the voice. Always a better way or a different approach to take.” Kayla Taylor and Steve Moore have been in bands together for 22 years. In addition to jazz and standards, Kayla has performed country, gospel, R&B, classic and original rock ‘n’ roll. “I love the jazz and standards from the 1940’s and 1950’s. I always have. So, when Steven and I decided to start a jazz combo and perform this music – I was elated.” So was her husband, Scott. “Scott told me for years that he would love to hear me sing the jazz and standards. Whenever we were grocery shopping or doing housework, I would just break out into song and it was always a standard of some sort. He was right – this is the music I was born to sing.” In 2010, Kayla broadened her musical horizon once again when she and Steve Whitworth teamed up and created Retrograde. Focusing on the folk-rock hits from the late 60s - 70s, Retrograde performs tunes from such icons as Carole King, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Fleetwood Mac, Phoebe Snow, Janis Ian . . . just to name a few. An original New Yorker, Moore is now settled in Atlanta. He began playing guitar at 14, after studying and playing trumpet since the age of eight. Upon discovering a Wes Montgomery record at the public library Steve became seduced by what has become a lifelong passion for unlocking the seemingly unlimited layers of mystery veiled in the music of jazz. His early influences of guitarists Carlos Santana and Dicky Betts of the Allman Brothers may be responsible for the bluesy feel and heart imbedded in his jazz lines. He harbors a specific love for the jazz style that Blue Note records made famous in the late 1950's and early 1960's. His current sole influence comes not from guitar players, but rather sax players --- specifically Sonny Stitt and Sonny Rollins. “Studying jazz lines played by sax players instead of other guitar players forces me to uncover melodies normally hidden to guitar players because the unnatural way they lay on the guitar fingerboard.” It's all about the music!

120 East is a 10-member Classic Rock-n-Roll band with a horn section (trumpet, sax, trombone), playing songs from Chicago, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Santana, Billy Joel, Boz Skaggs, Toto, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blues Brothers and more. They will rock the house with your favorite songs, and love interacting with crowds!

The guitar and percussion sections provide a solid rock core; add the horns and harmonies and they deliver a knockout show!! They have performed at events or locations for IBM; Fox Theater, Milner; Smith, Gambrell & Russell (law firm); Children's Healthcare of Atlanta fundraiser; Indian Hills Country Club; Battle of the bands winner Wild Wing Cafe - Marietta, GA. They guarantee that the variety of music is always fun and the best for the gathering!



Come join us in the gym September 21st for the Fall Blood Drive. Many who donate are not members of our congregation so we would love to have greeters make them feel welcome at the snack table. For those who cannot donate blood your gift of hospitality is encouraged. We always enjoy the homemade cookies too!

Sign-ups can be done online at redcrossblood.org or in the church narthex each Sunday in September.

If you are a blood donor save time on drive day by going on-line at redcrossblood.org, follow the prompts and fill out RapidPass. For more information go to the Red Cross web site or call Nancy Russell at 281-253-0727. Hope to see YOU at the drive!

Men's Extension

For many years, the people at Macland Presbyterian Church have supported the Men's Extension on the 1st Sunday of each month by preparing and serving a meal. The 50-75 men who live at the Extension for up to one year work the program by attending classes, learning new skills to cope with and overcome their addictions and seeking employment to re-enter the workplace when they graduate. What a blessing it is who have served and spent time with those men who are so grateful to have the opportunity to put their lives back together.

As well, there are currently several practical needs at the Extension. The Outreach Team will have a box in the Narthex beginning Sunday, September 10th for the collection of these following items; **bleach, and used but gently used towels (both kitchen and bath), wash cloths, twin sheets, and blankets.** If you have any of these items please consider donating them to this shelter. Thanks again for your generous support.



What's Up Macland?



Macland Presbyterian Preschool

Is excited about a new year!!!
We have some spaces available
so please spread the word!!

Need a super cute gift idea??
Check out our Pasta Fundraiser

Catalog and order forms are in the Narthex
OR

Go to www.funpastafundraising.com
to order online.

Thank you for supporting our Preschool!

Come and visit us anytime and check us out at
macland.org
Questions? Email preschool@macland.org

September Birthdays

9/2 Ivy Hubert
9/2 Abbey Michalke
9/5 David Jones
9/9 Pam Carlton
9/9 Laura Sinyard
9/13 Shelley Carr
9/13 Nathan Jones
9/14 Phillips Moore
9/16 Joseph White
9/17 David McCarl
9/18 Lisa Smith
9/20 Randy Campbell
9/20 Lexie Savic
9/22 Patrick Haugh
9/22 Jason Pierce



9/25 Brian Moore
9/26 Caron Gruben
9/26 Olivia Hubert
9/26 John Polacheck
9/27 Debbie Lester
9/27 Taylor Polacheck
9/27 Linda Puterbaugh
9/28 Cole Hennings
9/28 Karen Williams
9/30 Barb Hays

Would you like to help in a classroom?
Do you want to get involved?



Please join us for a
Volunteer Informational Meeting
At Compton Elementary School

Wednesday, September 20th at 8:30am

Learn about all of the opportunities to
get involved and support student learning!

Volunteers Needed for Hillgrove Project

We are planning an Outreach/
Fellowship project at Hillgrove
High School on Friday, September
22 from 6:30 to 9:30pm to run the

Visitor Concession Stand at the
varsity football game. Ten volun-
teers are needed for this fun pro-
ject. Please wear comfortable
closed-toe shoes and be able to
stand/work for three hours with breaks. It is important
to secure parking near the field by 6:30pm using **ONLY**
the Luther Ward Road front entrance to the school---
turn into the school at light and proceed straight ahead
directly in front of the school front doors and then cross
into the furthest side parking lot to park down near the
stadium. To sign-up, please see Doug Michalke at Rally
Day or email dougmicchalke@yahoo.com.



Session News and Notes
August 2017



The Session met on August 28, 2017 in the copy room.

Team reports

Finance

	July YTD 2017	July LYTD 2016	Change	% Change	YTD Budget	Delta vs Budget	% Change
Revenue	\$229,035	\$227,674	\$1,362	0.6%	\$240,058	(\$11,022)	-4.6%
Revenue less Pam Brotherton and BQ Funds	\$214,905	\$212,188	\$2,717	1.3%	\$206,859	\$8,046	3.9%
Expenses	\$231,630	\$229,024	\$2,606	1.1%	\$248,394	(\$16,764)	-6.7%
Net Income	(\$2,595)	(\$1,350)	(\$1,245)	-0.5%	(\$8,336)	\$5,741	-68.9%
Net Income less PBF	(\$16,725)	(\$16,836)	\$111	1.1%	(\$41,535)	\$24,810	-6.7%

Christian Nurture

- **Youth**
Starting back Sunday School class on August 20th.
- **Sunday night youth/kids:**
5:30 – 7:30 Sunday nights, starting August 20th. ALL ages will participate. David and Weir’s will work with middle school. Jill & Garrett will work with high school. Kelly Barge will work with elementary.
- **Post High School:**
Averaging 4 – 6 young adults per Sunday. They are meeting in the office next to Lauren’s
- **Sunday School/Wednesday night:**
Sunday School classes will start August 20.
- **VBS**
VBS was very successful! Thank you Laura & Amy, and everyone who helped!

Worship

- Carol Thomas is planning to have the Christmas Music Program on 12/10/17.
- October 7- dinner and concert. A donation of \$25 dollars per person is requested. Kayla Taylor will be performing. The proceeds will go to support Rescue Repurpose Redeem a program at Sweetwater Mission.
- December 3-First Sunday in Advent
- December 10- Christmas Musical presented at the church under the direction Carol Thomas. Penny Estes is in charge of communion. When she is absent she will secure others to prepare the communion table.

Outreach

- Blood Drive September 21, 2017 more information to follow.
- A big thank you
We received word from First Presbyterian in Marietta that Sadaf’s tuition has been paid for this fall at Notre Dame Law School
Donations were made from Florida, Georgia and Indian
- Sweetwater Mission
Quarterly Food Pantry Program
Food pantry date is November 4
Rescue, Restore, Redeem Program
*Event will be October 7 at 6:30 to 9:30 with dinner at 6:30 to 7:30 and concert at 7:30 to 9:30
*Kayla will advertise the event on her website, Facebook and newsletter. It will also be on Macland Facebook and newsletter
*There will be two raffle items
*Church members will be asked to donate desserts for dessert bar
*RRR Materials Wish List
 - a. Storage containers, craft items, paper goods such as maps, magazines, greeting cards, old books and notions

Session Notes Continued...

- Men's Extension
Meal Schedule for rest of year is needed
October needs to be filled please contact the outreach team if you can help.
Notice will be in the newsletter as to Items needed for fall
A box will be available in the Narthex to deposit items at any time

Fellowship and Evangelism

- **Hillgrove Football Concession Stand** 10 volunteers needed for September 22. Contact Doug Michalke if interested.
- **Rally Day and Pot luck** - Huge success, thanks to all who helped. Great attendance and contagious enthusiasm. Special kudos to the Christian Nurturing Team for their organization and leadership.
- **Request from preschool** – Please drive slowly around the far side of the parking lot while preschool is in session, especially during arrive and dismissal. Little ones are hard to see if transitioning between cars to and from the building and playground. This announcement will be put in the bulletin.
- **Call to welcome new members** – Scheduled for Sunday, August 27th after worship. **In the future, we will set aside the last Sunday of each month as a time to call for new members to stay after service and meet with the Elders.**

Session Actions

- **Approved membership of Barbara and Tommy Shadix**
- **Approved Congregational meeting to nominate at large members for the 2018 nominating committee.**
- **Approved Session Meeting on August 27 to accept new members.**
- **Approved into membership of Rosalie Morgan, Tina Moran, Joey Moran, Lorelei Moran, and J. J. Moran (meeting on August 27, 2017).**
- **Approved canceling the September stated meeting due to fall breaks.**

Calendar of events

- September 21-Blood Drive 2-7 pm-gym
- September 22-Hillgrove Concession opportunity
- September 25-29-Fall break
- September 25-Sweetwater golf outing
- October 4- Etta and Bob Britt- Wednesday night dinner
- October 7-RRR Dinner and program
- November 4-Sweetwater food pantry
- November 12 – Youth Sunday
- December 3-First Sunday in Advent
- December 10- Christmas Musical
- December 17 - Youth Christmas Party
- March 4 - Youth Fundraiser
- May 20 – Senior Sunday
- June 3 – 9, 2018-Montreat

