



Volume 11  
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# The Newsletter

## New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw  
Presbyterian Church  
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### Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

The old song runs through my mind: "One day at a time, Lord ... " This brings some perspective to the moment we find ourselves in. Instead of dwelling on the haunting words of that tune from the 60's, "Yesterday, all my dreams just seem to fade away ... I believe in Yesterday ... ", I think I'll focus instead on today. And today I find myself in McClellanville with the wonderful thoughts of being your pastor. That in itself is enough to make me smile.

As part of our yesterday (and this is quite a contrast to beautiful McClellanville), we served a small church in Syracuse, Kansas during the 90's; and it was a classic western cow town. The people, though, bemoaned a by-gone era when harvest time brought their families to the Hamilton County lake nearby and they shared a picnic break from the scorching work of harvesting wheat. Children fished and swam in the beautiful waters of this oasis.

It was a wonderful memory in the hot, dusty town of Syracuse.

Then in 1995, a lawsuit with Colorado, over water rights of the Arkansas River, was settled and the river once again flowed through town with vigor. This water also supplied the once-dried- up spring, and 10 and behold the Hamilton County Lake re-appeared! It was as beautiful as it used to be in the 'golden yesterday'! But do you think they came back to their picnics by the shore? No, the lake remained quiet and its beauty, though a present reality, was still locked in the collective memory of the people. Years later, as we drove through on our way to Colorado, we couldn't help but notice how sad things looked. The town had all but dried up and blown away! Yet, a few miles west, the lake was still there, completely deserted!

And so, let the music play "One Day at a time, Lord, One day at a time ... Or, "This is the day the lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" We do have today, and we also know who holds tomorrow!

With love,

Steve Souther

### Meeting of the Congregation, September 11<sup>th</sup>

The congregation will meet at the end of worship on Sunday, September 11, 2011 for two purposes: (1) to elect the congregation's at-large representative on the Officer Nominating Committee, and (2) to adopt standards as to the quorum for meetings of the congregation and as to the means of calling meetings.

When completed, the Officer Nominating Committee will include the congregation's representative, two elders, a representative of Presbyterian Women, and a representative of Presbyterian Men.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a new Book of Order, much simplified over the previous Book of Order. It calls for congregations to reestablish rules for meetings. New Wappetaw has traditionally set the quorum at ten percent of membership and has required notice for two weeks prior to any meeting. These standards can be reinstated or changed.

**Remember these members and friends in prayer:** Mary Furches, Mary Tyler, Frances Graham, Denie White, Michael Bonner, Charles Thomas, Nancy Morrison, Carolyn Page, Albert Altman, Dr. Mac Moore

## UPDATE TO THE CONGREGATION ON THE WORK OF THE BUILDING PLANNING COMMITTEE AND PRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPTUAL BUILDING PLANS

On **Sunday, September 25** during worship service, our architect Cristi Schultz will present to the congregation the conceptual plans that have been developed for our proposed building addition. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this important presentation.

To put the present building plans in proper perspective, I would like to give a brief update on how we have gotten to this point. The Building Planning Committee was formed in the fall of 2008 to investigate the possibility of additional future space for our growing congregation. This was initially envisioned as about a one-year process, but due to the depth of our investigation it has turned into a three-year process just to complete this preliminary stage. Our committee has had 19 meetings, and I have been continually impressed with the dedication and energy of our committee members. Once again I would like to recognize and thank them; indeed, I believe they deserve everyone's sincere thanks! The members are Margaret Crouch, Ed Graham, Bob McCarley, Linda Shelley, Dwight Williams, and myself as Chair. Additionally, Walter Bonner and Dr. Cook attended essentially every meeting as ex-officio members and participated fully in all our deliberations. Since his arrival, Rev. Souther has given us additional valuable input. We have kept the Session fully informed of our work.

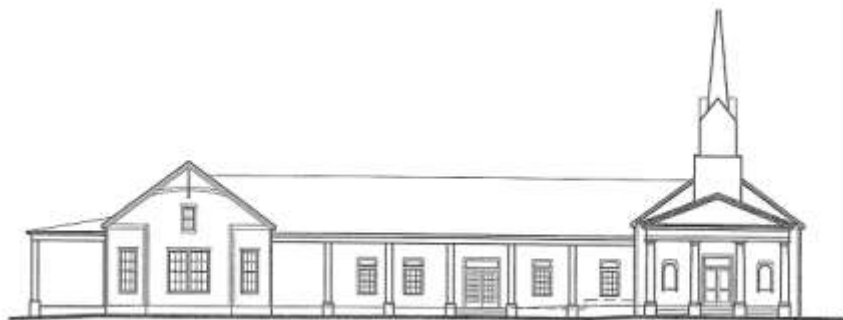
I hope that everyone can tell from the above that we have taken this whole process very seriously. In the span of time during which we have worked, our membership has increased by 17 families, many with young children. In that time, the church has baptized 22 children, 3 youths, and 5 adults. Each Sunday as we see the children in the front of the Church, we are struck by their number and also by what an exceptionally fine-looking group they are! We should all recognize how strong a responsibility we have to these children and young families as the future of our Church and our community. But our responsibility does not end there. If New Wappetaw is to serve God in the most active and effective possible way, we are going to need proper physical facilities to do so. I know we all love the relatively quiet, laid-back lifestyle in the McClellanville area, but our church must have a vision for the future and must not just simply accept the status quo.

Accompanying this you will see an elevation of our proposed addition, which I hope will excite you as much as it excites the members of our committee. On September 25 we will present floor plans and additional details. This is only an informational presentation; it is not a congregational meeting and we are not asking for approval at this time. We will also have handouts of the plans that day so that you can take them home, peruse them, and give us input.

In closing, I would like to again emphasize how prudent we are being with this whole process. We fully realize the financial challenge it will be to move ahead with this project. We would only proceed with the full support of the congregation and with funding in hand. And yes, it will take awhile, but if we don't plan ahead we will never be in a position to consider moving ahead.

We deeply appreciate your support of our committee's work. We hope to have a great turnout September 25 and are looking forward to sharing our plans with you.

Ned Jaycocks, Chair, Building Planning Committee



Proposed front elevation.

The new construction is on the readers left – the existing education building has a new entrance but is the same size as now.

## September Birthdays

Katie Scott (Jim and Sharon)	September 1	Della Marie Porter	September.15
Sam Souther	September 3	Savannah McClellan	September 17
Cade Morris Allen (Kathy, Gilbert)	Sept 3	Gene Morrison	September 19
“Hamp” McClellan (Rett and Jake)	Sept 3	Bubby Morrison	September 19
Joyce Bradshaw	September 7	Locke Mays	September 20
Walter Cook	September 8	Henry McClellan (Jenny and Palmer)	Sept. 23
Laura Leslie	September 9	Maggie McClellan (Rett and Jake)	Sept. 23
Mary Sands	September 9	Allston Leland	September 24
Gabe Stroman	September 9	Avery Grace Leland (Hayley and Rut)	Sept. 25
Bud Hill	September 9	Chase Culpepper	September 27
Kathy Allen	September 12	Jessica McClellan	September 27
Lily Crouch	September 12	Edward “Lee” McClellan (Joanna and “O”)	Sept 27
Caroline Frampton	September 12	Richard Sands	September 28
Karen B.Hills	September 13	Elizabeth Scott (Leslie and John)	September 29
Dot Best	September 14	Bette Baker Warren	September 30
Sylvan Racine	September 15		

## A walk to Emmaus

About twenty years ago on a crisp fall day, I found myself being driven to a Methodist Church conference center far out in the Virginia countryside in a town only a little larger than McClellanville. I had been invited by friends to attend a three day retreat. I knew little about what I would be experiencing for the weekend. I had been told to pack only casual clothes and not to bring a watch, cell phone or radio because I wouldn't need them. I was also given a scripture from Luke 24: 28-53. Upon arriving I met about 25 other men most of whom I had never known. I was not aware at first that there were more than fifty other men present to help create one of the most joyful and inspired experiences of my life.

These men represented a variety of ages, professions and church affiliations. Some had been active in their churches while others not at all. I would describe myself at the time as "hiding my light under the lamp stand." I had been raised to be polite and respectful of others' religious beliefs. We talked, we listened, and sang. We read letters from people we knew and from our families. There was nothing solemn about any of these activities, the people were outgoing, thoughtful and genuine. There were no sermons or lectures, just time spent with other men who were Christians. By the end of my three days, I felt I had experienced firsthand what Walter Cook always referred to as Jesus' love. I felt a special bond with these men, a bond that would continue for the next ten years until Connie and I left Richmond to come here and live.

Many of these new friends met together regularly after that. Sometimes I would see them at large gatherings, other times it would be in small groups. The "agape" love and support I felt from these men filled me with the knowledge that no matter what twists and turns life might take, I could depend on God to get me through it, putting no more on my plate than I could bear. I came to know our God as a father who wants to have a personal relationship with us and not only to be worshipped and obeyed.

Maybe, for the first time since I was a youth, Christ became real to me and not just some ephemeral concept. Most of all, I think it makes me hope that others, not just myself, can get to experience the warmth and comfort of His love that is always present, in good times and bad. I think I experienced the same feelings that those travelers identified in Luke experienced when they met Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Ed Graham

(Note – Ed consented to write about his Christian experience, and other contributions to The Newsletter are welcomed – your editor)

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### **Happy New Year!**

You're right – it really isn't a New Year, but it seems so:

- A new year at school
- A new year at church school
- A new effort at work
- A new year at home
- And, a new year at God's house

We are happy to welcome visitors, new members, and long time members.

Perhaps you would like to greet people on Sunday mornings before worship. It is a happy and meaningful thing to do. Sign up for your choice of mornings on the list on the table at the entry.

### **New Wappetaw meetings in September 2011**

**Presbyterian Women** Afternoon Circle with Kathy Leland, 3:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

Evening Circle – at the church – 7:00 P.M., Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

**Presbyterian Men's Supper** – at the church – Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

**Congregational Meeting** – following worship – Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> -- after worship

**Presentation of proposed building plans** – at worship – Sunday, September 25, 2011

**Children's Choir followed by Financial Workshop for Children with Kim Racine and Joli Donnelly** –

Tuesday, September 6, 4:30 P.M.

