

May 2011

Overlook Presbyterian Church

The Overlooker

IN THE WORDS OF OUR PASTOR:

The time is finally upon us to celebrate our church's 50th Anniversary! This milestone marks a time of celebration for what God has been doing in the life of this OPC. This May, we will see old friends, eat great food, have a wonderful time, and testify to the wonders that God has worked in and through Overlook Presbyterian. As we have been preparing for this momentous occasion, we have been gathering the stories, pictures, and history of the countless acts of faith that have led us to this point. Looking back on it all, it is hard to miss how God has been at work in our lives: from the churches in the Presbytery who felt the Spirit move them to help our church get started to those faithful few who answered God's call to the arduous work of starting a new church.



What has become clear to me is that we are indebted first to the God who chooses to work in our midst and to those people who have gone before us. Our founders continually answered Christ's call to be faithful rather than neutral, which caused them to take risks for God's kingdom instead of playing it safe. Planting a church is an incredibly difficult task, and building up a congregation of disciples is just as hard, and both are impossible without keeping Christ at the center of all things. So when I look back on the kind of church we have been and how we came to where we are, I see Christ standing in the center of a people who are following Him and calling others to do the same.

One of the best things about seeing the kind of resilience we have shown in the past is that it gives us courage to face the challenges that lie ahead. We live in a time of uncertainty where the Church faces challenges on many sides, even from within our denomination. Many of you may have heard of the debates that have raged over the past decade about issues such as the ordination of practicing homosexuals and what it means to be the Church. As the debate goes on, I have come to the understanding that our denomination is facing an identity crisis the likes of which troubled the apostle Paul as he wrote to the church in Corinth.

Continued on page 5 ...

TENDER LOVING CARE PERSON

Betty Sheffield was born in Conecuh County as the 5th child of Butts. Living in the country the mid wife did not arrive until the day after Betty was born. Three days later the doctor showed up to find a perfect baby girl. Maybe that's one reason Betty is so strong.

The family moved to Blakeley when Betty was 3 years old. Her dad worked at the ship yard. After the war, the family moved to Prichard where Betty attended Gendale and Vigor High School where Betty sang in the Glee club.

During one Mardi Gras season, a handsome young Auburn man named Tommy came home to enjoy the festivities. At one of the parades, Tommy met the love of his life and Tommy and Betty married five months later after she graduated from Vigor.

Betty was a stay at home mother until their two children started school. During that time she was an active member of Forest Hill Garden Club and a volunteer Red Cross worker at Forest Hill Elementary School.

Betty was raised in the Methodist Church. After becoming friends with the Crowes and hearing about their love of Overlook Presbyterian, they came to see and they stayed. In the 10 years that they have been members they have been very active. Betty has served on several commissions. Fellowship was the one that Betty and I served on together.

Boy, is she a worker too and full of good ideas! She is committed to whatever she is doing.

The LUNCH BUNCH is one of her favorite projects. When we arrive on the 1st Wednesday of each month, everything has already been set up and the program has been planned. It is always interesting and different. When the lunch is over, Betty sees that everything is back in place and that the kitchen is clean. She does all this in such a manner that most people don't realize how much work goes into it.

When Betty first began working our LUNCH BUNCH, she announced that we needed an ice machine. No one paid much attention. That didn't discourage her one bit. If you stood around Betty she sold you on the idea of the ice machine. She compared prices and looked for what we needed. Then came the jar!! A fund was set up and now our church has an ice machine thanks to Betty! If I wanted something done, I would convince Betty and she would see to it.

If Betty is absent from church, she is most likely at the beach with her family enjoying God's nature. When she is in town, she is very faithful in attendance and service. Thank you Betty for coming our way!

Daisy Grimes

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Mary Sellers' class will be studying the Networking Course/Inventory of Spiritual Gifts starting in June. All are welcome, invited and encouraged to attend. Each of us has gift(s) from the Holy Spirit and this course will help you discover your gift(s) and start you on the road to using that/those gift(s) for God's kingdom!

Financial Peace ~ Finally!

When I was little, my parents gave me an allowance and taught me to give one tenth of it to the church. Then they let me do whatever I wanted to with the rest of it. They encouraged me to put some in savings and usually I did. After all, they were there to see that my needs were met as well as most of my wants. That was where the lessons ended. I guess that they thought I would be watching them to see how to actually handle money. Unfortunately, I was not paying attention.

When I was in my thirties, I decided that the key to finances was simply to make more than I spent. While that is good in theory, it is not very practical! There came a time when I was promised summer classes and suddenly, there were none available. I had to spend the summer living off of my credit cards because I did not have a savings account to fall back on. That began a spiral of credit card debt that threatened to plunge me into my own personal "Great Depression". Even though I hated it, I was living paycheck to paycheck and not sure how to turn things around.

Fortunately, through Overlook, I was introduced to Dave Ramsey's - Financial Peace University. The course made me take an honest look at my finances and then helped me to develop a plan to not only conquer my debt, but also to create an emergency fund and to add to my retirement.

This program changed my life and my future so radically, I feel an urgency to share this message with others who may be struggling. Even if you have a grip on your finances and just want some practical advice on planning for the future or making large purchases, this class is extremely valuable. The first class (on May 1st at 3:00) will be free. Come and check it out! You have nothing to lose and may gain valuable insight. ~ Terri Rice

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

- Thanks to all the volunteers who made the Mother-Daughter Brunch a wonderful success! We appreciate each and every man who served food, and we are grateful to all the ladies who decorated tables. Thank you very, very much!
- The Fellowship Committee is coordinating food for the 50th anniversary weekend! See Helen Barnett if you can help prepare food for the cookout Saturday evening. We are in need of cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans and hamburger buns.
- There will be no fellowship activity in the month of June. Upcoming events: July 9, canoe trip on the Escatawpa River; August 14, special lunch after church. Details forthcoming!
- Update from the Playground Committee: The main playhouse structure for our new playground is complete! Thanks to dedicated volunteers and many blessings from the Lord, lots of children are enjoying playing on this sturdy, fun two-story structure, which features an enclosed swirly slide, climbing wall, climbing cargo ladder and "tea party" deck! Freddie the Frog - the playground's spring rider toy is bringing smiles to lots of faces as well! Soon, the committee will install the large metal slide that was a favorite feature of the old playground. Also to be included: swings for toddlers and older children, and other features as space permits!

The playground committee is seeking donations totaling \$400 for sod. We are currently getting estimates on the cost of a chain link fence. Please see Joy McGough if you have any questions!

In the words of Our Pastor: Continued from page 1...

As we look forward to our next 50 years, the questions we find ourselves being forced to answer are: what does it mean that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior; what does it mean to be His followers; and how are we going to live our lives in answer to those questions? When I look at our history and our present, I can see plainly that we are the kind of people who did and continue to put Jesus first in our lives so that there is *nothing* that we are not willing to submit to His Lordship. As we face the obstacles that will come our way, I believe that God will continue to be faithful to us, just as we will continue to live faithfully and take risks for the sake of His kingdom. With Christ as our center and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I know that there is no challenge that we cannot overcome together for the glory of God.

Sean

Welcome to our new members!

Bryan Lewis, Leigh Mascherin, Bill & Hilda Helveston, Claude Tagert

May Birthdays

If we missed your birthday please let us know, 344-1771.



| | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 05/03 | <i>Cheryl Lassitter</i> | | <i>Michelle Alexander</i> |
| 05/05 | <i>Matthew Blanchard</i> | 05/20 | <i>John Killian</i> |
| 05/06 | <i>Lori Crenshaw</i> | | <i>Peggy Tousinau</i> |
| 05/07 | <i>Sandy Givens</i> | 05/23 | <i>Deb Futral</i> |
| 05/11 | <i>Alyssa Logan</i> | 05/24 | <i>Betty Willemoes</i> |
| | <i>Dennis James</i> | 05/25 | <i>Tom Davies</i> |
| 05/14 | <i>Wesley Lassitter</i> | 05/27 | <i>Danielle Swindle</i> |
| 05/19 | <i>Elmer Sellers</i> | 05/29 | <i>Paul Haines</i> |

Running with Grace

“Hubris”

...confess your sins one to another... James 5:16

Having tackled the “challenging” trail around Langan Municipal Park, I added it to my running repertoire. Early one morning, like 6:30 AM early, I decided to run this trail again. It was a particularly good run, one of those where I wasn’t checking my watch every two minutes. It wasn’t hot and humid yet, the park was relatively empty, and it felt like I could run for hours.

As I headed out of the park and turned left onto Gaillard, I was feeling pretty pleased with myself. I glanced at the houses across the street, many with lights still off and cars still in the driveways and couldn’t help but think, *Look at all those people still in bed while I’m RUNNING...I’ll have run, showered, and be in my office having coffee before they’ve even gotten up...*

It was right about then when I tripped on a tree root.

Fortunately, I wasn’t hurt, hands a bit scraped from breaking my fall, but no broken bones or busted teeth. The sad thing though is that at the moment, I wasn’t concerned about being hurt—I was worried someone had seen me fall. Like a cat who falls off a table, I picked myself up and acted like “yeah, I meant to do that”. There was, however, no one who witnessed my fall. I was relieved and watched where I was going for the remainder of my run.

So, what does this have to do with hubris (pride) and the confession of sins? Perhaps out of all the sins and flaws of the human race, pride is the most insidious; not only will pride lead us to ‘fall’ or sin, but pride will also prevent us from seeking help, from confessing our flaws, both to God and to others. Our human nature is to worry if anyone saw us spiritually fall and then cover it up under a mask of self-righteous. I think of the televangelists’ scandals of the nineties—self-righteous preachers condemning those who had fallen only to be exposed as committing the same sins. What if, instead of casting stones, those preachers had reached out to the fallen and said, “I struggle with the same sin”? Maybe their falls wouldn’t have been so hard.

Casting off pride and humbling ourselves before God and others is difficult at best and downright terrifying at worst. However, maybe if we make a conscious effort to do so when we stumble, perhaps it will save us from falls that have direr consequences.

Melissa Smith



| Worship | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| DATE | Leader | Ushers | Flowers | Greeters |
| 5/1 | Patrick McGough | Roy Davis | | Bryan Lewis |
| 5/8 | Patrick McGough | Roy Davis | | Bryan Lewis |
| 5/15 | Sean Hall | Roy Davis | | Bryan Lewis |
| 5/22 | Mitch Tousinau | Roy Davis | Mitch & Peggy Tousinau | Bryan Lewis |
| 5/29 | Mitch Tousinau | Roy Davis | Jett Grimes | Bryan Lewis |

- Elder of the Month: **Joy McGough**
- Deacon of the Month: **Barbara Pierce**

MISSION & OUTREACH COMMISSION


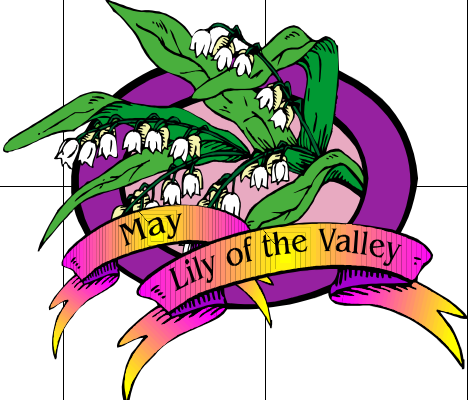
1. We are having a "LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY DAY" on Saturday, May 14th. At 10:00 am we will meet at the church and head to University Blvd to do road clean up. We will provided plastic bags and plastic gloves to help in the effort and will be cleaning both sides of University down to Gaillard Drive, it is just a little over a mile. Since we will be having so many visitors to our church we would like to make the community look nice as well as do something for others. Please join us in this effort.

2. On Saturday, May 14th we would also like to encourage everyone to participate in the National Letter Carriers Food Drive. Just put out a few items of can or dry goods out by your mail box that morning and the carriers will pick them up. Items will be sorted and made available to the community. Please help us with this worthy community service and tell your neighbors.

3. Our commission is considering making a "New" church t-shirt. Any ideas on the design? Please let us know.

May

You're all invited to come celebrate the
50th Anniversary of our church on
May 13th, 14th & 15th. We look forward
to seeing you there!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|-----|---|---|
| 1 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Financial Peace University begins! | 2 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 3 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 4 Noon LUNCH BUNCH 7:00 p.m. Choir | 5 | 6 | 7 8:00 a.m. Church-wide Work Day! |
| 8 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 9 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 10 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Joint Commission Meeting | 11 7:00 p.m. Choir | 12 | 13 7:00 p.m. Cookies & Coffee  | 14 10 a.m. Clean-up 4:00 p.m. Softball & 5:30 Picnic |
| 15 <u>No Sunday School</u> 10:30 a.m. Worship & Luncheon 50th Anniversary Celebration | 16 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 17 8:00 a.m. ROMEO's 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 18 Minutes & NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 p.m. Choir | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 23 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 24 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 25 6:30 p.m. Session 7:00 p.m. Choir | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 30 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 31 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | | | |  |

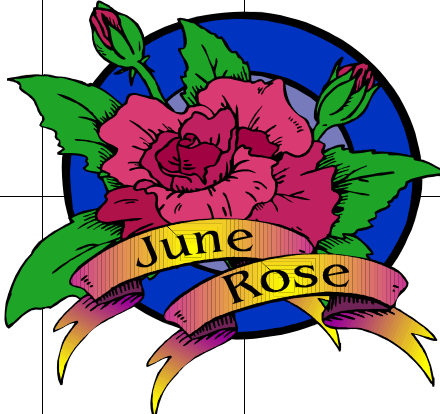
Springhill Presbyterian Church invites you to join them for *Vacation Bible School*, June 5th thru 8th for kids ages 3 to grade 5.

To register, go to www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/shpc

Please email Andrea Hall at andrea@springhillpresbyterian.org with any questions.

Overlook Presbyterian Church

June

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------|---|--|-----|---|-----|
| | | | 1 7:00 p.m. Choir | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 6 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 7 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 8 7:00 p.m. Choir | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 13 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 14 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Joint Commission Meetings | 15 7:00 p.m. Choir | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 20 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 21 8:00 a.m. ROMEO's 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 22 Minutes & NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 p.m. Choir | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship | 27 6:00 p.m. Disciple 4 | 28 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group | 29 7:00 p.m. Choir | 30 |  | |

Overlook Presbyterian Church

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**Overlook Presbyterian Church,
called by Almighty God
and empowered
by the Holy Spirit,
continues to reach out by:
worshipping God
according to his Word;
equipping the saints
to be Biblical stewards;
nurturing spiritual fellowship;
providing loving
congregational care;
and proclaiming
Jesus Christ to the world.**

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