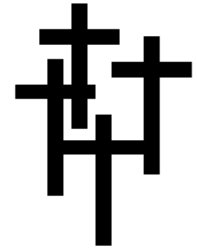


Northside News



Volume 41

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Number 8

From the Pastor

Babel would have been so much easier. One language, one culture, one people: there would have been no confusing miscommunications. There would be no need to learn from others an entirely different way of seeing the world. You could drive from one part of the city to the next and be confident that you would feel very much at home – eating the same food, singing the same songs, sharing the same stories.

Eventually I suspect that the very shape of the earth would have conformed to Babel. No longer would there be mountains and hills here, plains and desserts there. It would have all been much more accessible and predictable. I'm guessing flat.

And it would have been so much more efficient. You could specialize if you wanted: one region could grow all corn. Another region could develop industry. Another region could raise all the animals in giant lots, according to careful scientific measurements. And then there would be a carefully coordinated system so that we could all eat the same food with no variations of taste.

Wait, that looks a lot like the world we inhabit. Have you noticed that wherever you go, things now look the same? We eat the same food everywhere, watch the same TV shows, wear the same clothes. We're even losing our accents. Do we live in Babel? Have you seen the damage we have done to this world through our attempts to control it? There is an awful lot of finger-pointing over who should have done what to protect the Gulf from an oil spill, but the whole event as a sign of a reckless, hasty people who are living in Babel.

If this is Babel, let's remember that God chose another way. Babel rose high in the air, but God chose to work much closer to the ground. God chose Israel, one particular people called to inhabit one peculiarly fragile land. They were called to live obediently in the land, in covenant with one another and with God. They were called to tend and keep the land as if every distinct corner of God's creation were sacred.

Are we not learning how much we are dependent on small fragile landscapes, like coastal marshes? Every place is sacred, but Babel sees every place as fuel for the machine.

And then out of Israel God called the Church and gave them the Pentecostal power to inhabit every land, speaking every language. God calls the Church to spread the Gospel in every place by "becoming native to that place," loving it for what it is, learning its stories, speaking its language and embodying the gospel there.

As of Sunday we are in the season after Pentecost, and our church has been asking a question: What is the one gospel ministry we can offer to our neighborhood or community. We've been looking for something very small. We're not looking for a vast one size-fits all solution for the world; we're looking for a way to communicate the gospel in our own peculiar setting – Northside Drive, the Briars, Clinton Park, Cascades, Traceway Recreational Park ...

There are two immediate answers. First, there is Vacation Bible School. Last week twenty of us walked two of our surrounding neighborhoods, trying to spread the word ... and also trying to learn just exactly who are our neighbors. Please try to find a way to get your hands in on Vacation Bible School. If all you can do is pray, do that. But you can also invite children, pass out flyers (we have 400 more), or volunteer. If you can't come every day, you can come one morning and we'll find a good job for you.

Second, we now have a lot of food growing. A number of you have been planting and keeping one small but lovely garden, with the hope that someone in need will enjoy the fruit of it. Now we've hired Ezekiel McCall to plant a second garden, and he's looking for three or four families in our neighborhood that would partner with him. For an hour of sweat per week, they will get a bag of groceries, some friendship, and some beauty. You can help also by calling to arrange a time to pull weeds or harvest vegetables. You can help us find a family or individual, who would like some healthy food and be willing to join in this unique partnership. Any family, in the church or in the community, is eligible.

These are very small, but we must not be afraid to be small. The Spirit blows where it will, but has been known to work in small communities, committed to small localities, taking lowly, humble ways.

Grace and Peace,
Stan

Vacation Bible School June 7 - 11 Egypt

This year in Vacation Bible School at Northside we will be experiencing Egypt, following the story of Joseph. There are signup sheets available each Sunday in the bulletin for you to let us know how you will be willing to help, or you may call the church office. Remember this is an important outreach of our church and we need the help of everyone who is able.

Please join us Tuesday through Friday, June 1-4 as we decorate in preparation of Vacation Bible School.

Gardening Opportunities

Our newest Community Garden is taking shape. Peas and beans are sprouting, tomatoes are growing, weeds are appearing ... Our garden manager is Ezekiel McCall, a member of the MC Singers and a friend to many of you. He has been at work creating two things: First, a garden which will grow vegetables for 3 or 4 neighboring families. Second, he is calling on area gardeners to contribute to a booth at the Olde Towne Market. The proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity, and the booth will contribute much-needed produce to our market.

We have opportunities for several types of service:

1. Arrange a regular, weekly hour of work in the garden. Sweat, pray, and enjoy the beauty.
2. Help us recruit and support "partners" in the garden. Partners are neighboring families or individuals who will receive a share of the produce in exchange for one hour of work per week. Your job might be to help someone learn to freeze or put up vegetables, how to fry okra, or the proper way to eat butter beans. Or you may simply be a friend who agrees to show up during their hour of work.
3. Volunteer to sell produce at our booth at the Olde Towne Market on June 12, June 26, July 10, or July 24.
4. Does anyone have a set of scales we could use in our booth?
5. Volunteer to create a sign for our booth.
6. Help recruit area gardeners to donate produce which we will sell at our booth, to benefit Habitat.
7. Donate some of your own garden produce to this worthy cause.

One Book – One Parish – One Summer 2010

Here's an idea from our friends at Church of the Creator: Let's all read one book this summer and then get together to discuss it. Based on the popular 'One Book One City' and 'Big Read' programs, the National One Book + One Parish + One Summer 2010 event is designed to help America's parishes of all denominations (or no denomination) experience a spiritually deeper summer and stay connected by reading one great book together. David Miller has volunteered to lead our discussion of the book, *Forgiving Ararat* by Gita Nazareth in which a young lawyer dies unexpectedly and, arriving in heaven, learns she's been chosen to join the elite lawyers who prosecute and defend souls at the Final Judgment. Already being compared to books like *The Shack*, *Life of Pi*, *The Secret Life of Bees* and *The Lovely Bones*, *Forgiving Ararat* is a miraculous and mesmerizing novel about life, death, healing, justice, forgiveness, and what it means to be both human and Divine. In other words, it is the perfect summer 2010 novel. Sign up if you want a copy (we might be able to get a group discount) or just get a copy and start reading. The discussion night will be announced later in the summer. Good reading!

Calling for Help

I would like to bring a "stewardship for the earth" focus to our children and youth, about once a month or so, through a variety of hands-on activities—including recycled art projects, videos, and growing things. If anyone is interested in helping do these simple activities, please let me know. Call or email Marijane Whitfield at artteacher8@yahoo.com or 601-924-7941 and leave a message. ANYONE, ANY AGE can do this; all you need is an interest. Besides, I am a fun person...

For everyone else: Please help us and the planet by saving the following "trash" items. Just put anything you have in a trash bag, put a sign for Marijane on it, and place bags in the back half of Jim Jenkins' Sunday school classroom:

Old cd's
Plastic bags
Old yellow pages books
Greeting cards
Old puzzles, pieces can be missing
Coffee cans
Baby food jars
Milk jugs, ½ and gallon
Small flower pots
Any and all old hardware
Scraps of wood, especially old painted wood
Material or clothing scraps, old buttons
Old t-shirts for paint shirts
Bottle caps, especially metal ones
Old magazines, especially nice slick ones
Food and drink metal cans
Old window screens
Old picture frames, prefer 8" X 10" or smaller
Scrap wire—especially old colored telephone wire
Glass bottles, like ketchup, etc.
Old detergent, birdseed, dog food, kitty litter, etc. buckets with lids
2 liter soft drink bottles
Shoe boxes
Plastic water bottles with cap
Dryer lint (yes, that is dryer lint!)
Old neckties
Any other odd or unusual things of which you have several

Meet Me at Luigi's

Love Italian food? Love theatre? Love the NBC Youth Group? Then you'll love Meet Me at Luigi's! Join the youth for an interactive dinner theatre at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 19 in the fellowship hall. E-mail Solon Smith for ticket information at mrsolonbsmith@yahoo.com. Proceeds will go toward Passport Youth Camp expenses and a donation to The 4 C's.

A Look Ahead

May 31	Church Office Closed
June 1-6	VBS Work Days
June 7-11	VBS
June 19	Youth Dinner Theater
July 11-17	Youth Passport Camp

Extended Session

May 30

Infants	Marijane Whitfield
Toddlers	M. D. Whitfield
Preschool	Cindy Ringler

June 6

Infants	Trina Cobb
Toddlers	Lindy Ringler
Preschool	Trey Jones

Sunday School for Babies

May 30	Ruth Randman
June 6	Daphne Myers

Caregiving Concerns

Ellen Brewer, recovering from surgery
Martha Nell Cotton, aunt of Stan Wilson
Nancy Hancock
Mrs. Abby Jones, moved to The Orchard in Ridgeland
Rick, Diane and Jenna Meadows, moving to Baton Rouge
Charles Moore, father of Ed Moore, recovering from surgery
Bernice Rook, charter member, leukemia
Bill Strum, receiving chemotherapy
Betty Gordon Watson, sister of Emily Fokeladeh
Roy Williams, grandfather of Graham Carner,
recovering from a head injury after a fall

On-Going Caregiving Concerns

Helen Breedlove, aunt of Jackie Wright
Evelyn Brewer, mother of David Parks
Shirley Campbell, sister of Jo Ann Pope
Howard Cohen at home, dialysis
Callie Cole, in a coma, friend of Sara Campbell
Jamie Franks, daughter of Lynda Cook,
Marjorie Gore
Becky Harrison, aunt of Beth Dickinson
Clarissa Hickman, friend of Edith Kennedy
Carolyn Hisaw, wife of Tony Hisaw
Lake Jones, moving to Seattle
Tommie Myers, uncle of Mary Etta Carner
Ruth Parker, daughter-in-law of Lynda Cook
Clayton Powers
Linda Stark, sister-in-law of Bill Stark
Margaret Stephens, John Marquez' sister
Sue Thayer
Merle Thomas
Freddie Weeks, cancer, friend of Graham Carner
Johney Williams, mother of Roxie Parks

Members at Home

Clyde and Wilma Hemphill
Mrs. Margaret Hensley
Chrys Ray



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Clinton, MS 39056

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Church Staff

Alicia Butler	Secretary
Jamie Meaders	Minister of Music
Susan Meadors	Minister of Family Life
Mack Murriel	Custodian and Chef
Troy Murriel	Custodian
Jo Ann Pope	Organist
Dottie Serio	Pianist
Solon Smith	Minister of Youth
Stan Wilson	Pastor

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