

Volume 16
August-September 2017

The Newsletter

New Wappetaw Presbyterian Church

New Wappetaw
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Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Brother Bryan, a former missionary from Japan, was celebrating his birthday on the day that he preached for the congregation I served in Union Springs, Alabama many years ago. Some ladies from the church, who had joined us for Sunday dinner after worship, asked him, "How old are you?" He said, "I'm eighty-nine and I feel fine; and I thank God and sing because I haven't missed a thing!"

Not only was this visiting minister entertaining, but I think everyone at that dinner took him at his word when he said this. He meant it! He hadn't missed a thing. This kept rolling around my mind, and I tried my best to understand it in the context of ministry. The idea sounded pretty strange to me. Having grown up in a very conservative home, I imagined that he must have tried everything, much as did the hippies during the 60's.

This Brother Bryan was son of the famous "Brother Bryan", whose statue sits at 12 Corners in Birmingham, Alabama. The senior "Brother," (Rev. James Alexander Bryan, 1863-1941), came to Birmingham when it was a small town with dirt roads and a wild-west atmosphere. He ministered to everyone, rich and poor alike. He became, essentially, the patron saint of Birmingham.

The younger, 89 year-old Brother Bryan was visiting in Alabama to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his father's arrival in the community.. This younger man had spent many years preaching the gospel in Japan. That very morning, in Sunday School, he had taught the children, how to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in the Japanese language. I have often wondered if this influenced our eldest son, Ashley, who was a child in that class, to later learn the language and end up living in Japan. He is there to this day raising a family and teaching school children. Clearly, Ashley didn't 'miss' that moment when Brother Bryan spoke to the children and taught them to sing in that strange language. This might be the key to understanding this little poem. From the moment Brother Bryan appeared in Union Springs, he drew people to him –both young and old. He missed not one moment to get to know everyone he met.

In the act of writing about this encounter –and it's the first time I've done this about Brother Bryan—this perspective unfolds for me after all these years. After writing the first paragraph, I asked Rene, "What do you suppose Brother Bryan meant when he said he hadn't missed a thing." She immediately said, "He lived in the moment. He was not so much focused on the past or the future; and so, he didn't miss anything. I said, "Now I see. Thank you very much!" It wasn't so much that Brother Bryan experienced so many things over time, it was the way he was present in all those moments of time.

God Bless you and I love you,

Steve

Remember these members and friends in prayer

Donna Scott, Hugh Wilson, Dot Best, Terry McKnight, Debbie Hattaway, Dorcas Marcinak, David Meyer, Junior and Joyce Bradshaw, Charles Hansen, Sara Brown, Dianne Todd, Meggan Crocker

August Birthdays

Thomas Emory Porter, Marlow Small, Jackson McClellan –	August 2	Daisy Marcinak –	August 13
Drew Allison, Beverly Bonner, Tommy Morrison –	August 3	Cody Allen –	August 17
Callie Miller, Martha Zierden –	August 5	John Horres –	August 21
Thomas Porter –	August 7	Pete Kornack –	August 22
Joanna Tisdale McClellan –	August 8	Olivia Williams Black –	August 23
Harry Watson –	August 9	Walter Bonner	August 25
		Christian Lofton	August 27
		Larry Davis	August 31

September Birthdays

Katie Scott --	September 1	Randy McClure	September 17
Cade Morris Allen, Sanders Reed, Sam Souther,	September 3	Savannah McClellan Epps	September 19
William Hampton McClellan (Hamp)	September 6	Gene Morrison, Bubby Morrison	September 20
Joyce Bradshaw --	September 7	Betsy Hansen	September 23
Walter Cook --	September 8	Henry McClellan, Maggie McClellan	September 24
Bud Hill, Laura Leslie, Mary Sands, Gabe Stroman	September 9	Chase Culpepper, Allston Leland	September 25
Kathy Allen, Lily Crouch --	September 12	Avery Grace Leland	September 26
Sandee Mosley, Joe Papp --	September 13	Robert Jackson McCarley, IV	September 27
Dot Best	September 14	Jessica McClellan,	September 28
Peggy Allison, Della Marie Porter, Sylvan Racine	September 15	Edward Lee McClellan	September 29
		Richard Sands	September 29
		Elizabeth "Libby" Scott	September 29

HANDS OF CHRIST

Wednesday, August 9 – 5 -7 P.M.

Sixth Year at New Wappetaw



New Wappetaw members and friends are encouraged to be a part of the experience of this distribution of school clothes and school supplies for children in kindergarten through grade eight. This will be the 6th year of the distribution here – over ninety children have been served at our church in each of the last two years.

Hands of Christ was conceived at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston in 2003. It is now a ministry of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery – and has expanded to serve churches in Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Colleton, and Orangeburg Counties. Supplies have been provided to over 47,000 children, and over 3000 children are expected this year.

Come to help children select their supplies – or come by for a brief visit. It is good to see how efficiently and effectively this ministry works. Giving smiles and sharing Christ's love are the order of the day.

The Jeremy Creek Sailboat is Taking Shape



Many have contributed to the construction of New Wappetaw's sailboat. Work initially was done on Wednesday evenings, but changed to mornings to allow more time and avoid the heat. Several youths are also working on sails for the boat. Launching is expected to be scheduled in September. The session is considering having a worship service on the waterfront when the work is completed.

The Great Solar Eclipse Day -- Monday, August, 21st



The session has approved, as a public service, sale of lunches on the New Wappetaw Church grounds on the day of the eclipse. A group of volunteers have arranged to provide the foods -- hot dogs, hamburgers, and other snacks. All proceeds will go to the New Wappetaw building fund. More helpers, servers, will be needed -- contact Robert McCarley or Harry Watkins to take part in this.

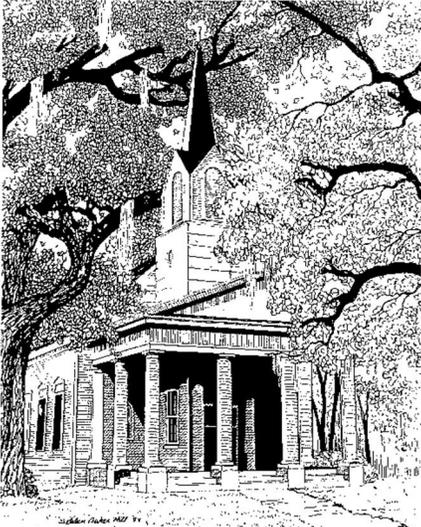
The church sanctuary will be open for visitation from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Volunteers are needed to be hosts to persons who may visit the church. Contact Walter Bonner or Rev. Steve Souther if you would like to take duty for an hour. For both situations, we will have to deny access to the church's bathrooms, as the septic tanks would quickly be overwhelmed. Two portalets will be in service.

Presbytery Meeting at New Wappetaw in May 2018

At its June stated meeting, the session approved of New Wappetaw serving as host for a meeting of Charleston Atlantic Presbytery in May 2018. This will be a meeting on a Tuesday, yet may be attended by 125- 140 persons. We have been alerted to the possibility that as many as 100 participants will remain for lunch (New Wappetaw has the reputation of serving wonderful seafood meals). Our church can seat the expected numbers for the meeting, but will need to arrange space for the lunch -- perhaps erecting a tent or using the nearby public school lunchroom. We will have good support from Presbyterian churches in our region of the Presbytery. The financial impact should not be great -- and our church will gain good will.

Bible School 2017

This year's Bible School, provided by all McClellanville churches, was held at St. James Santee Episcopal Church, from July 10-14. The theme for the week -- The Ten Commandments for Kids -- was well-received and enjoyed by over 80 children.



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Officer Nominating Committee

This year's Officer Nominating Committee has formed. The group will nominate three persons for service as elders in the class of 2920. Please think of serving the church as an elder – and let committee members know of persons who express interest in and willingness to serve. Committee members include: Mary Duke, Sweetheart Tyler, Kathy Leland, Bubby Morrison, and Russell Tyler.

New Wappetaw Services and Meetings

First Wednesday soup luncheon and devotional – at noon, August 2 and September 6

Hands of Christ distribution – Wednesday, August 9th – 5-7P.M.

Ice Cream Social – Sunday, August 13th 4- 5 P.M.

Afternoon Circle – Tuesday, September 5 – 3:00 P.M.

Evening Circle – Monday, September 11 – 7: P.M.

Presbyterian Men's Supper – Thursday, September 21 – 7:00 P.M. at the church