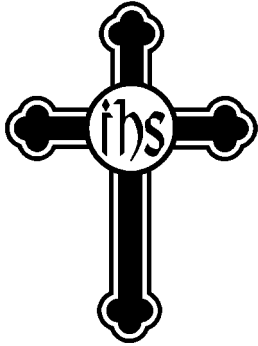


# The Valley Viewer

July 2007

## Honoring the Flag, Honoring God, Finding the Balance



Independence Day is upon us. That day brings a keen awareness of the wonderful freedom we experience as Christians in this country and the terrible cost of that freedom in the lives of people who have served our nation in the armed

services. For most of us, and especially for those who have lost friends and family in our wars, that cost attaches to the Flag of our country with an emotional power that demands respect.

As a church in America we have a history of displaying the American Flag in our sanctuary. Yet, though we are united in our respect to the Flag, we have disagreed as to where to display it. It is not that some of us wish to dishonor the Flag. Rather some of us worry that we may be elevating the Flag to the same level as the symbols of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lord, who rules above every nation, including our own.

Lately the Flag has been a vagabond symbol in our sanctuary, moving from one place to another as various people decide on their own where to put it. This has caused division and misunderstanding among us. Some are certain that some places the Flag has stood dishonor it. Others struggle with a desire to keep our worship area God-centered.

In June the Worship Committee and, after them, the Session dealt with the pastoral and

theological issues involved in placing the flag. They did this in response to Pastor Wayne's desire that the American Flag find a stable home among us, with all appropriate honor, and in deference to our Lord. Please note that several proposals were made, all of which Pastor Wayne declared he could heartily support for pastoral as well as theological reasons. It is our hope that in giving it a settled and honorable place, that we can end this controversy and bring greater peace to our congregation.

### Flag Etiquette

According to Flag etiquette there are three places that the American Flag may be honorably displayed. As you are seated in the congregation it may be displayed on the chancel (stage) on the left hand side, in the congregation on the right hand side or at the entrance to the sanctuary on the right hand side if inside the doors.

In each of these instances the flag stands "to its own right". And this is important. When it is on the chancel (stage) it is near the pulpit and cross "facing" the congregation. When it stands next to the congregation or the doors it is "facing" the pulpit and cross.

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## Flag Theology

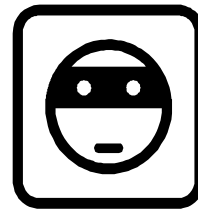
This symbolism is important. If the flag stands on the chancel (stage) it stands symbolically with our Lord Jesus, facing the congregation. If it stands with the congregation, it faces our Lord as He addresses the flag, and our nation for which it stands, under God.

While we all love our country, I doubt if any of us would say that we have always stood "with the Lord." So many things we as a people and we as a government do still do not conform to God's will. We may disagree as to what those things are, but we can agree that as the mightiest nation on earth (in freedom, economics and military power), we continually need the Word of the Lord spoken to us.

Therefore, Session has decided to place the flag on the wall beside the congregation by the front row, in a place of honor before us, and a place of submission before God. The front row is the place where honored guests are seated when we wish to give them prominence. The front row is also nearest the pulpit to hear clearly the Word of the Lord proclaimed to us and our honored guests. We want this balance of rejoicing in the wonderful heritage we have as a church in America and under God, and in continually calling our nation to greater Godliness and Christ-likeness.

This issue evokes great emotions. Please know that all involved in this decision love our country and honor our flag and especially honor those of you who have secured our freedom with your service. May God's grace fill your lives this day and may we all celebrate with great joy being Americans this July 4<sup>th</sup>. †

# WANTED!



We need a driver once a month to take the residents of Teays Valley Manor to the Christian Community Cupboard. The driver will retire at the end of July, so we will need a new volunteer for Friday, August 17. Please contact the church office (757-6073), or Jean Summerfield at (937-2684) if you are interested.

## ACOLYTE TRAINING



There will be training for new acolytes on Sunday, July 8th immediately following the 10:30 worship service. This is for anyone who will be going into the 2nd grade in the fall or for anyone who just wants some practice.

See Ms. Susie if you have any questions!

## Worship: A Life of Love

It seems strange to say, and yet it is true that in churches today few understand “worship”. We treat it like art: “We don’t know how to define it, but we know it when we see it.” Or do we?

Sometimes we define worship by what we do: prayers, sermons, songs. Other times we think of a particular emotion: reverence, joy, peace. And lately churches fight over style: traditional, contemporary, high-church, non-denominational, etc.

In the Bible God clearly defines worship.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is true worship. – Romans 12:1*

Worship is a response to God's mercy, in which we dedicate our whole being to God. Worship is life and life is worship, if you live a life of love in response to God's love shown us in Jesus.

So, what is that thing we do together on Sunday mornings and evenings (and occasionally at other times)? We call that a “service of worship”. Obviously, as with all of life, it can be an act of love in response to God's love. At the same time it is something different from the rest. I call it “a dress rehearsal for life”.

You see, what we do in a “service of worship” is rehearse those things which we will do in a life of love lived in response to God's love. And at the heart of this lies becoming a “*living sacrifice*.” Thus, worship lies, first of all in what give, not what we receive.

The English word “worship” really means “worth-ship” or “worthiness”. In it we declare that God is worthy to receive all that we are

and all that we have; that God deserves everything we can give Him.

This comes out in the Bible. One of the most common reactions to God's presence is to bow down before Him. In fact, about half the time our translations of the Bible use the word “worship” it really means to “bow down on your knees”. Bowing down with your face to the ground before someone makes you very vulnerable. When bowing down before a king (and God is the King of Kings) you expose your neck as if to say, “If you wish, you may take even my life from me now. I am yours.”

No matter how we “worship” – style, emotions, activities – if we have not offered ourselves completely to God, we have not worshiped. We may have enjoyed the music, message and prayers, we may have received. Remember, worship is about giving.

The other most common word for “worship” in the Bible means “to serve”. Indeed, sometimes we talk about the “liturgy” of a worship service. “Liturgy” comes from a Greek political office, the “leiturgos”. This was a rich person elected once a year to maintain and improve the public works of a city (roads, water, defenses)... at their own expense.

Indeed, the Biblical words translated “worship” (meaning “service”) often indicate what slaves and servants do for a “Master” or “Lord”. They do not serve themselves or arrange their lives to please themselves. They serve the Lord. What is the primary Christian confession? “Jesus is Lord.” (Romans 10:9)

So, the purpose of our “service of worship” is to assist us to dedicate ourselves totally to God in Jesus. Have you worshiped this week? †



**SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE**  
2nd and 4th Sundays each month  
6:00 p.m.

Join us in a relaxed atmosphere of contemporary worship. Invite your fiends and neighbors to a unique worship experience.

### It's a "Picnic" at the Christian Community Cupboard

The Mission Outreach Committee is collecting picnic items during July for the Christian Community Cupboard. Our church volunteers serve at the Cupboard the last two Tuesdays and Thursday of July, and we would like to have these picnic foods available for the families needing food at the end of the month.

A picnic table is set up in the narthex to collect donated items. Bags are available on the table with a convenient shopping list.



The committee is asking for a donation of ketchup, mustard, pickle relish, a can of hot dog chili, and money to purchase hamburgers and/or hot dogs and buns. An envelope will be available in the bag for your money donation.

The collection will continue during the month of July with items being taken to the Cupboard during TVPC's volunteer days. If you have any questions, please speak to Linda Hansen.

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### **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY** **6:30 P.M.**

**The Wednesday night adult Bible Study will use the book "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren as its next study topic beginning July 11. If you have copies of this book that you would be willing to donate, please contact Helen Stevens at 562-3499 or call the church office.**





## **SONFORCE KIDS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

For anyone who has not been around the church the past couple of weeks, you have missed an amazing event in the life of our church. SonForce Kids Headquarters descended upon TVPC last Monday evening. We had an amazing turnout of kids, a whopping 81 for the week!! The church was transformed into Training headquarters for the SonForce special agents. The kids entered the week as Level One agents and were given a special assignment by their Commander, who they learned was none other than Frances Arthur. The agents were led by Special Agent Gary Sims, who excited and got the kids ready for the night to come. Throughout the week, the agents went to various stations and learned lessons in training to be one of God's servants. The leaders of these stations were as follows: Gary Sims, Becky Hayes- Training Center; Jean Summerfield, Ivy Wallace- Craft Station; Reggie and Najie Lowe- Bible Games; Snacks- Judie Smith; Janet Sims- Out of This World Music; Recreation Games- David Worrell. These fine leaders were contagious in their enthusiasm and love for the Lord. How blessed our children were to be with these teachers.

Another group of people that made an important impact on our SonForce Agents were the Crew Leaders. These were the people who led our agents from station to station. Talk about needing energy and enthusiasm! The Crew Leaders were as follows: Kindergarten- Eric Wagoner, Helen Stevens; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade- Nicole Prince, Jordan McKinney, Lucy Canterbury; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Jamie Slack, Susie Konstanty; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade- Kathy Brown, Kim Gray; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Mary Brawley. Janet Allison headed up the Preschool agents, assisted by Kim Browning and Michelle Worrell. For someone who thought she was only going to have 3 kids, Mrs. Janet was pleasantly surprised by an amazing turnout of 11 kids! One of the largest groups of agents we had was the "Tweens" group, headed up by Pastor Sharon and assisted by Mike Hayes and Jodie Myers. With a group totaling 19 throughout the week, those 3 had a wild time.

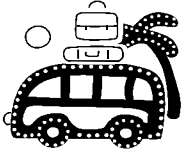
We definitely could not have made it through the week without our extra special helpers, Billie Lilly, Sara Sowards, Linda Chafin, Sarah Stump, Brittany Spence and Christy Wagoner. Our hats off to the Drama team who portrayed the people in the Bible stories. They did a marvelous job! The team was headed up by Laura Boggess, assisted by Paul Konstanty, Ted Boggess, Jeff Boggess and Chuck Stump! Thanks guys!

For all of those mentioned above, any that we may have forgotten and all of those that prayed for us during this time, you are the mighty agents of God and may He bless you mightily for this work you have done for His Kingdom. THANK YOU!!!!!!

# Leaps and Bounds Early Learning Center News



The first session of Summer Fun at Leaps and Bounds was a huge success. Children began the session the week of June 11 with a bug hunt and bug discoveries. The next week the children learned the ins and outs of gardening. Then, the final week of the session was devoted to the USA in preparation for the Fourth of July.



The second session of Summer Fun at Leaps and Bounds will begin on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The second session's topics for discovery are travel and vacation, circus and carnivals, and beaches and oceans. It is not too late to join the fun!



Fall preschool for Leaps and Bounds begins on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. The preschool has openings for children to come discover God's world for the fall term. Please call the church (757-6073) for more information or visit us on line at [www.teaysvalleypresby.com](http://www.teaysvalleypresby.com).

Leaps and Bounds is an outstanding preschool in its eleventh year of serving God's children. The preschool and its staff are dedicated to lots of individual nurturing and guidance. Developmentally appropriate activities enable children to learn and grow at their own individual pace.

## ***Hey Kids!***

### ***Join us for Free Movie Thursday!***

Ms. Susie and Ms. Janet want to take you to the movies! Join us for a free movie showing at the Teays Valley Cinemas. Parents, feel free to stay and watch the show or let us take them off your hands for an hour or two. FYI—the movies are free, but snacks are extra.

Contact Ms. Susie at 757-1151 with any questions.

Thursday, July 19, at 9:30 a.m.

***Over the Hedge***, rated PG

Thursday, August 2, at 9:30 a.m.

***Night at the Museum***, rated PG



# Prayer Concerns

## **TVPC MEMBERS AND CLOSE FAMILY**

ELLEN ALLISON – Evelyn Kimberling Stewart's sister; melanoma, heart condition  
WAYNE BRUMBACH – Spinal muscular atrophy, hospice at home  
DWIGHT CLAGG – Mike's father; cancer treatments  
JOANN COBB - Recovery from colitis, upcoming surgery  
IVA DEAN COOK - Recovery from knee replacement surgery  
MICHAEL DAVIS - Bruce & Barb Davis' son, brain tumor  
HELEN HALL - Upcoming tests  
LINDA HARMON – Leo & Frances Arthur's sister-in-law, cancer  
RONNIE JACOBS – Recovery from liver transplant  
PERRY & ELLEN MANYPENNY – Cheryl Thrift's brother and sister-in-law; cancer  
BRENT RANDOLPH – Stevens' son-in-law; Mayo Clinic 7/9 for eval.  
ADDISON MARIE RANDOLPH - Jean Edwards' great-granddaughter, born 3 months early  
PAULINE ROLLINS - Barbara Dawson's mother, throat surgery  
DORIS ROUSSEAU - Judie Smith's sister-in-law, cancer surgery  
CHRISTIAN SMITH - Judie's grandson; continuing abdominal pain  
DAVID SOWARDS – Lymphoma, chemotherapy  
JOYCE SWANSON - Still's disease  
RICH TOLLEY - Jim's brother; pain  
MOLLY GAINES - Severe arthritis and pain  
CATHY PAYNE - Recovery from surgery and infection  
CLARA SLACK - Asthma  
ELEANOR SCOTT- Recovery from strokes

## **FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

LINDA BLAKE - Friend of the Claggs; cancer, hospice care at home  
WAYNE & CATHY CARR – Friends of the Allens; cancer  
AMANDA CREW – Melanoma  
RAY & ANITA GANDY, BOB & DIANNE PEDLEY - Requested prayer for family members  
BENNY MAYNOR – Paul Konstanty's secretary's husband; congestive heart failure & kidney failure  
VICKI MEDLEY – Lloyd Cobb's cousin; Cerebral Palsy and ulceration of bladder  
DELORIS SPENCE – Lung cancer, receiving new round of treatments  
TERESA STEPHENS – Frances Tolley's friend; recovery from surgery and illness  
JIMMY THORNTON – Najie Lowe's brother-in-law's brother; rare form of leukemia  
ROBBIE WHITE – Son of a friend of Ed Dawson; cancer

## **FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN MILITARY**

Lt. Col. Jennifer Bedick – Bedick's Daughter  
Max Blizzard – Judy Summers' nephew  
David Dean – Rick & Rosita Jenkins' son-in-law  
Chris Farmer – Dottie Bader's grandson  
Chris Gautier – Harriet & Sparky Adams' son-in-law  
Matthew Hannah – Son of PCS nurse  
Lawrence Moore – Cathy Conaway's cousin  
William Price – Lydia Godby's grandson  
Brent Randolph – Bill & Helen Stevens' son-in-law  
CodyVest – Ben & Gayle Vest's son, **deployed to Iraq**  
LTC Kerrye Glass - friend of the Moons, **deployed to Iraq**

## **HOMEBOUND MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

Ruth Allen – Frances Arthur's sister, Teays Valley Center  
Anna Dunlap – At home  
Dallas Harper – Broadmore  
Wilma Mack – Demi's mother, Broadmore  
Wally Pierce – At home  
Pat Reynolds – Harriet Adams' mother, Angel Avenue  
Eleanor Scott - Regency Place  
Warner Sheets – Regency

calendar

# CALENDAR

## **Church Giving and the Government by Pastor Wayne**

Three letters in the English alphabet can cause more heartburn, confusion and struggles for churches than any other: IRS. The “tax man” has more ways to tie a person or church in knots than any fifty professional wrestlers combined. Because of this the Session has asked me to clarify for you some basic rules which churches must follow when dealing with the IRS.

### ***The Issue: charitable giving***

Every quarter and at the end of the year the IRS demands that the church put out an official report to every person giving to the church. The IRS considers these reports official “receipts” for “charitable giving”. In them the church says to the IRS, this person has given this amount of money and/or goods which, by IRS regulations, are considered charitable giving and therefore tax-deductible.

Unfortunately not everything given to a church counts as “charitable giving”. The IRS gives specific rules regarding what is and is not “charitable giving”. People can donate whatever they want in whatever form they want to a church and a church can accept and use that money. However, the church may only document on their quarterly and annual reports those donations that the IRS states are “charitable giving”. Here are a couple of their most important guidelines

### ***Who controls the money?***

Under IRS rules a person giving a charitable contribution must give up all rights to control that gift once it is given. That means that if someone gives money to a church that money ceases to be their money. They cannot direct the church how to spend the money once it is given. Nor can they manage the money for the church. Churches can allow this to happen, but the donation then no longer qualifies as

charitable giving and cannot be recorded on the quarterly and annual reports.

Now note that the IRS does recognize designated giving. Say you want to see a 30-foot cross erected on the lawn of the church. You can give the church money to put up that cross. If the church accepts that donation, that money can only be used for putting up that cross. However, in order for the gift to be a “charitable donation” you may not tell the church where on the lawn, what the cross should look like, when it should be put up by or any of the other details. Nor may you have your own private committee to manage the funds. You have given the gift and you no longer control it.

Note again, the church may set up funds still controlled by the giver. The church may not, however, count those gifts or any additional gift to those funds on the quarterly reports as “charitable giving”.

### ***Who receives the money?***

Even if you give over control of the money to the church, that does not necessarily make the gift tax-deductible “charitable giving”. “Charitable giving” may not be designated for a particular person. That is we cannot report as tax-deductible giving on the quarterly and annual reports any giving collected for the benefit of a specific person.

The IRS has a pretty common sense reason for this rule. If the gift goes to one person, you could give that money to that person without the assistance of the church. Therefore, giving it through the church only masks what, to the IRS, is simply a gift from one individual to another. And so:

The Session can institute a “benevolent fund” to be used whenever anyone has an emergency financial need and count those on the quarterly giving reports. But if the Session collects monies to meet the emergency

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money is not tax-deductible and cannot be reported on the form.

The Session can establish an enduring “student fund” for the support of any college or seminary student which meets specific guidelines and open to all such students and report gifts given to that fund on quarterly giving reports. However, the Session may not count as gifts monies given to a fund created to support a specific student.

Finally, a church may support the ministry of a missionary and report giving directed to that ministry as tax-deductible giving. But, a church may not collect funds for a specific missionary, pastor or church employee as a personal gift or bonus and count such giving as tax-deductible. Furthermore, churches must be careful to note that any bonuses, gifts or other benefits given an employee through a church are all taxable to that person and must be reported on their w2 form.

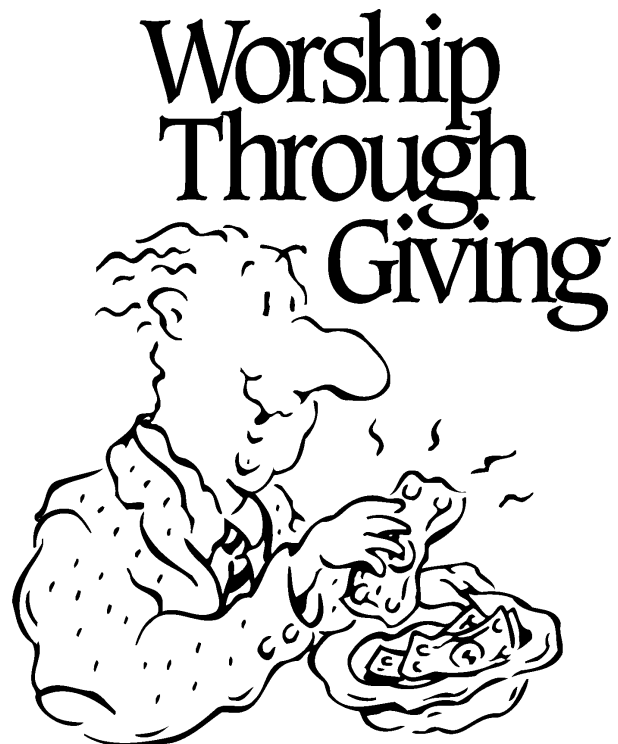
Note that one of the tests the IRS uses for determining if a gift is given to a fund or to a particular person is whether money is collected for that purpose in a regular and on-going fashion. Thus if our “benevolent fund” or “student fund” only receives money when there is an apparent need by an individual, then that giving still does not count as “charitable giving” and cannot be reported on the forms.

### ***What are the consequences?***

Now for most of us this will have little impact. Unless you itemize your deductions on your federal taxes this will not impact your taxes. If you do itemize your deductions, this will probably have a small impact on you unless you plan to give a large, non-tax-deductible gift in the near future. This will be mostly a record-keeping headache for the church and will mean that Session will design funds more carefully in the future.

We could, of course, ignore all of this and keep reporting all the giving as if it were, under IRS rules, “charitable giving.” This would be both a sin (lying to the government for our personal gain) and a fraud against the IRS (not a wise thing to do). Personal audits are rare, and the IRS does not go after churches. If, however, someone who gave to our church was audited, and the IRS questioned their charitable giving, and we were found to have violated IRS rule, we could have our tax-deductible status revoked. Then none of the donations to the church would be tax-deductible.

More importantly, God calls us to be better than that. We are his children and his love and justice are the marks of our “family resemblance.” God will not prosper us if we intentionally defraud others... even the IRS. The Session will seek to begin to record giving correctly starting this quarter (July-September). If you have questions, please speak with me or with one of the Budget-Finance Committee members. †



## Highlights from the meeting of Session

June 24, 2007

### Session Organization

Session considered 3 plans for reorganizing the work of Session proposed by Pastor Wayne. All of these plans have two goals:

- ✓ increase the amount of focus Session members can give to individuals and families in our congregation
- ✓ improve the ability of Session to seriously consider the issues that come before the elders by working in smaller groups.

In short, the three choices are:

1. Continue as we are with 15 elders and reassign about 5 of them to visiting members
2. Create three subgroups in Session focused on “Shepherding Ministry”, “Diaconal Ministry” and “Administrative Ministry” and have the Session as a whole meet only 4 times a year to give these subgroups more time to do the shepherding and diaconal visiting needed.
3. Restore the office of Deacon and recreate a Board of Deacons in order to give a group more focused on visiting those in need inside and outside the church.

The motion the Session is considering first is whether to ask the congregation to restore the office of Deacon and implement proposal 3. No decision has been made and the discussion will be continued at the July meeting.



### Worship – of flags and dismissals

Session considered a proposal brought by Worship Committee (at Pastor Wayne’s request) regarding where to place the US, “Christian” and West Virginia

flags in our church building. (Please see the article at the front of this newsletter regarding their decision.)

They also considered a motion from Worship Committee for moving the Benediction (the final blessing spoken by the Pastors in worship) to the very end. Some members, visitors and Pastor Wayne have notice that there is sometimes confusion about when those worshipping (especially visitors) are dismissed at the end of the service. This makes visitors feel uncomfortable and may cause some not to return.

Both Worship and Session identified the main problem as occurring when we have “performance” music at the end of the service – postludes including particularly striking groups such as the brass trio and bell choir. Rather than change the order of worship, Session directed the Worship Staff to not have those kinds of postludes in the future and for the Pastors to make clear in their benedictions that the congregation is dismissed after the congregational response (presently “Go Now in Peace”).

### Building and Grounds

We have two major repairs we must undertake: mulching the play area and repairing the roof.

The play area will receive a new coating of mulch. The present mulch needs to be thicker in order to provide the children with a safe place to play. The mulch must be special-ordered because most mulch has chemicals and herbicides and are not appropriate around little children who might put it in their mouths.

The flat roof over the offices, choir room and Hedrick room has been leaking. Building and Grounds asked a contractor to give us initial ideas of short-term and long-term fixes for the problem. There are no short-term fixes. The roof is actually the “floor” of an anticipated 2<sup>nd</sup> story and therefore has drains in it which allow any lead to flow into the offices. The seams on the roof have pulled apart and cannot be completely sealed short of replacing the roof. Building and

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Grounds will take bids regarding replacing the roof and will report back to Session.

Budget-Finance noted that we are presently debt-free and so, if necessary, we can take out a loan for the purchase of the roof.

### **Budget-Finance**

Giving is ahead of budget presently. We do have large expenses from the fire (totaling presently \$20,000), which will be reimbursed by our insurance. We are coming into the "lean months" of the year when attendance and giving often dips. Pastor Wayne has instructed our Executive Assistant that if our checking account dips below \$15,000 to transfer the \$5,000 from our savings set aside monthly in our budget for that purpose. We have **not** had to transfer any fund from savings this year. Session affirmed those instructions.

Pastor Wayne also distributed for information an article (found in this newsletter) which Budget-Finance had read, which deals with the church and IRS regulations

### **Locked doors and offering counters**

There is a policy in the past Session decisions that when the offering is counted the door to the office is to be locked. This is to insure the confidentiality of those who give by check. The Session affirmed that they want this policy to be re-established so that everyone can feel comfortable that their giving is between them and God (and our budget software). A sign will be posted telling people when counting is occurring. We ask everyone to not try to enter the office while the offering is being counted.

### **Nominations and Personnel**

Because Session ran out of time, several issues in Nominating Officers and in supervising our Personnel were deferred to the July meeting. At that time the Session will consider:

1. A process of nominating church officers proposed by Pastor Wayne which focuses on the requirements of the office and is both inclu-

sive and transparent.

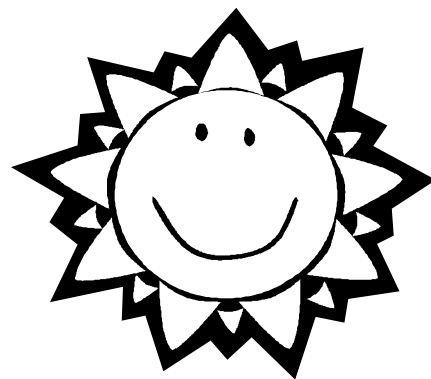
2. The annual review of Pastor Sharon Bell's performance as (for last year) acting Senior Pastor. (The committee did state that it would be a positive report.)
3. Certain statements required by the IRS that the Session needs to make regarding the housing and utility allowances of the Pastors.

The next meeting of Session will be held July 22, 2007 at noon in the Hedrick Room. Excepting executive sessions (such as when we review Pastor Sharon's performance) all meetings are open to the congregation and visitors are welcome. †



The Christian Community  
Cupboard would like to  
thank the SonForce Kids,  
Vacation Bible School  
2007 for their very  
generous collection for the  
food pantry.

# Kid's Page



## THERE IS NO ROCK LIKE OUR GOD

Try this fun summer craft that transforms rocks into beautiful waxy jewels! This craft can remind you that "there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2).

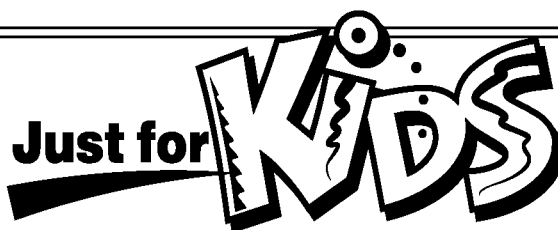
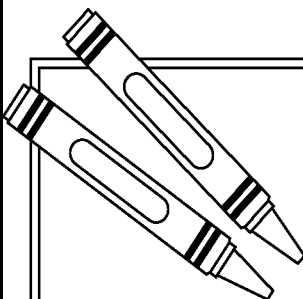
### What you need:

- Smooth flat rocks
- Aluminum foil
- Oven mitt
- Newspapers
- Old crayons
- Cookie sheet
- Black permanent marker (optional)\*
- An adult to help



### What you do:

1. Clean off the rocks.
2. With an adult's help, set the oven to 225 degrees and bake your rocks for 15 minutes on a foil-lined cookie sheet.
3. While the rocks bake, remove the paper wrappers from the old crayons.
4. With an adult's help, use an oven mitt to remove the rocks from the stove and set them on a pad of newspapers. The rocks will be VERY HOT, so be careful!
5. Draw on the stones with the crayons. The heat will melt the crayons into vibrant liquid wax. For a swirl effect, hold each crayon against the rock in one place to create a puddle of color, and continue to swirl the color around with the end of the crayon.
6. \*After the rock cools, use the marker to write "God Rocks," "The LORD is my Rock" or "My God is my Rock."



## THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Skipping stones, rock climbing and hiking are all fun summer activities. What do they all have in common? Rocks! Look at Psalm 18:2 to see the strength in the ONE rock we can depend upon.

Search the puzzle for the **BOLD** words from Psalm 18:2, and circle them. The words **MY** and **ROCK** only need to be found once.

"The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, **MY FORTRESS** and **MY DELIVERER**; **MY GOD** is **MY ROCK**, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is **MY SHIELD** and the **HORN** of **MY SALVATION**, **MY STRONGHOLD**."

S	T	R	O	N	G	H	O	L	D	T	S
O	L	O	B	K	I	E	Y	E	J	S	A
R	E	F	U	G	E	I	Y	N	T	V	L
R	O	G	H	A	R	L	Q	R	A	Y	V
S	X	C	T	T	I	M	T	K	K	M	A
H	O	R	N	C	E	Y	R	A	E	D	T
I	G	F	V	L	O	L	K	E	N	S	I
E	N	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	G	O
L	T	U	R	G	Q	A	C	K	J	Q	N
D	C	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	E
K	Y	U	X	O	C	N	O	O	Y	Q	S
X	H	X	A	R	K	L	R	C	N	H	Y
G	O	D	T	D	K	A	D	K	U	D	X

**GOD ROCKS.**

# Being Presbyterian: God to the Rescue

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except  
by the Holy Spirit  
12:3 – 1st Corinthians

At a beach once I noticed a father playing with his pre-school age son. Dad was kneeling in the shallow water up to his waist. He splashed his arms and called to his son, "Help me! Help me!" The boy ran with great glee to his father, grabbed his hand and "dragged" his father out of the water.

Of course, his Father could have gotten out on his own if he had wanted to.

Now turn this scene around. Imagine the boy out in the water with the undertow dragging him out away from shore. The boy cries out and the father charges into the water and lifts the boy to safety.

These two scenes illustrate a primary difference between Presbyterians and some other Christian traditions. Presbyterians see clearly the fact that we are little children caught in the undertow of sin with no way of escape... not on our own. Rather the Father sends Holy Spirit to use the sacrifice of Jesus to save us.

Did you catch that? Every person of God (the Trinity as we call them together) is involved. Jesus died for our sins.

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*  
– 1st Corinthians 15:3

The Father seeks to save us.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life* – John 3:16

The Holy Spirit causes us to believe.

This means that the Holy Spirit must change us before we can confess faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit comes into us and only *then* do we become a Christian.

This last point becomes a problem for many people. "Don't we choose to become Christians? Aren't we free to do with Jesus what we want?" The Bible says, "No."

## Dead in Sins... Alive in Christ

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. – Ephesians 2:1,4*

Notice what the Apostle Paul writes here. We were dead in our sins. Dead people can do nothing for themselves. They cannot choose to change. They have no hope of reviving themselves. If they are to live, someone needs to revive them. Someone outside themselves needs to come to their rescue.

God comes. Notice the words Paul uses. "...God... made us alive..." God gives us spiritual life (a life run by the Spirit), because of the sacrifice of Jesus, through the activity of the Holy Spirit. If God does not act, we do not believe.

This forces us to our knees in prayer, since we know people who do not believe. Only God's intervention will make the difference in their lives. And in prayer God shows us how He will use us to bring these people in contact with the Holy Spirit to accomplish His act of mercy, saving them. †

**TEAYS VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Sharon Bell—*Associate Pastor*

Lynn McLeod—*Administrative Assistant*

Scott Woodard—*Director of Music*

Janet Allison—*Children's Ministry (Nursery—Preschool)*

Susie Konstanty—*Children's Ministry (K—5th)*

Frances Arthur—*Organist*

Mary Smith—*Director of Preschool*

Elizabeth Thompson—*Session Clerk*

Ray McKinney—*Treasurer*

Kathy Brown—*Children's Choir & Bells*

Jerry Harrah—*Pastor Emeritus*

**Mission Statement**

(Adopted by the Session, April 2003)

*"Teays Valley Presbyterian Church is a community of faith that seeks to be more like Jesus, to worship God, to serve God's people, and to share our faith."*