



Ye Fourth Creek Journal

First Presbyterian Church



August 2016

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God Renews Us Through Worship

Experiences some of us have had this summer will contribute to enriching the worship of First Presbyterians in the year to come and beyond. As has been true in many recent summers, some of our choristers, under the leadership of Melody Morrison Beaty (Wes Pitts was there too), got to take part in the Montreat Worship and Music Conference. Some of our youth, along with Wes Pitts, Liz Whittington, and Melody Beaty, went on pilgrimage to Taizé, where they worshiped along with others from around the world. David and Sally Parker, Laurie Scott, and I attended the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Portland, where we experienced a variety of styles of worship and real inspiration too.

Change is evidence of life. A truism we sometimes quote reminds us if life is about anything, it is about change. Yet we're not always open to change, and sometimes we resist it. In the church's worship life a lot of us like familiarity, preferring songs we remember fondly from our childhood; we find ourselves depending on the changelessness of God. We like the verse, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" (Deuteronomy 33:27, KJV). We like the assurance from the Letter to the Hebrews that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 11:8). But worship need not be static; it can't be the same every Sunday. God is ready to break through our habits and everything we are accustomed to and comfortable with to speak to us in new ways. Among resources we will use – we've already done this some – is the rich treasury of music from Taizé. We've begun to take increasing advantage of the new Presbyterian hymnal, *Glory to God*. One song from the new collection we'll use soon includes these words:

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

In Isaiah God says, "I am about to do a new thing; / now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" We might be surprised to find God doing something new in our hearts and spirits too. Join us for worship on these summer Sundays!

Grace and Peace!
Steve

Preparation for Worship

August 7

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

Steve Scott Preaching

Sermon: "Seamless Life and Worship"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

August 14

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:7-7 Psalm 80:1-2,8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56

Wes Pitts Preaching

Sermon: "A House Divided"

August 21

The Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6

Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17

Steve Scott Preaching

Sermon: "A Call"

August 28

The Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 8:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Steve Scott Preaching

Sermon: "The Ones to Remember"



Stained Glass Windows from Taizé

These stained glass windows are part of the Church of Reconciliation, built in the 1960s to accommodate the increasing membership of the Taizé community. The design of the stained glass was created by community member Brother Eric.

Today the Taizé community's ministry focuses on housing young Christians who gather for celebrations and pilgrimages. The brothers' focus is nurturing and strengthening the youth with their message of peace and reconciliation across religious and ethnic boundaries, so as the young people return to their lives in the world, they may be sustained by the blessings of the Taizé community.

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VBS—Surf Shack



Mission Ministry

SEPTEMBER MISSION MONTH—A MONTH OF WORK AND SERVICE

Dear Congregation Members.

Your Mission Committee has designated September as Mission Month. Our theme is a month of “Work and Service,” and the objective is to encourage all congregants to select at least one mission opportunity to get involved with during September. We will cap the month with our Second Annual Mission Golf Tournament, to be held on September 23.

Our committee will prepare a list of opportunities, which we will post on Realm, Facebook, email, and church TV monitors. Prayerfully consider accepting one of these opportunities as your personal mission commitment. It could be something as simple as calling out bingo at King’s Grant or as involved as participating on a work team helping rebuild homes for West Virginia flood victims.



Having an effective mission program requires two things, 1.) a gift of money, goods, or services, and 2.) energy and effort. Our congregation has been incredibly responsive to the needs of ICM, Habitat for Humanity, Fifth Street Ministries, Yokefellows, etc. We have sent mission teams to Oklahoma, New Jersey, and Taizé, just to name a few and have had excellent participation in our Inaugural Mission Golf Tournament.



But we can do more. Mission is a matter of need, not convenience. It often requires extraordinary effort. The young mother who lost her home because of flooding and needs diapers for her toddler doesn't have an appreciation for work schedules, vacation schedules, or weekly trips to Wal-Mart; she just knows she needs diapers for her baby. Recognition of and reaction to that need can make a tremendous difference in her life.

So please get involved and select an opportunity for work and service in September. For those who can't physically participate, a prayer and a phone call to a neighbor, friend, or relative who can help you fulfill your mission wish is welcome. Or communicate your wish to a member of the Mission Committee, who will be happy to assist. Committee members are Kim Austin, Lamar Austin, Richard Boyd, John Downs, Susan Hollingsworth, Teresa Kutteh, Katie Long, Joy Morrison, Dick Sears, Jane Tarman, Tricia Wilson, and Lew Wilson.

So let's live up to our potential and make a commitment to help another human being in September. As the Gospel says, “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask more.” (Luke 12:48)

Sincerely,
Your Mission Committee

Montreat Memories

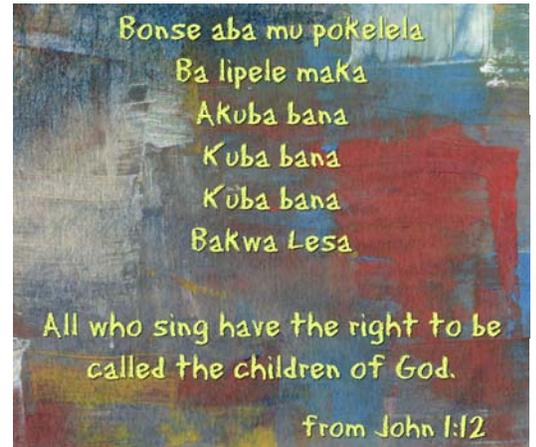
Montreat has become an important part of every summer for me. I have gone every year for as long as I can remember, and the thought of growing up without getting to experience Montreat seems absurd. Being a part of a choir of over 50 voices all singing to praise God is a powerful experience that not enough people will ever get to have. Goosebumps and cold chills seem to be a common sensation at Montreat. You can see God's presence in the scenery, beautiful music, and atmosphere. Community is an important part of Montreat as well. People from around the country come to Montreat for the week, each with unique thoughts and views. Reuniting with old friends from years past and making new friends each year adds to the experience. Possibly the most powerful part of the week is the last day when everyone is reflecting on the week and busily preparing for the final concert. When you walk into Anderson Auditorium for the final concert on Friday night, there's a bittersweet feeling and an urge to say "until next year."

— Violet Beaty



My Favorite Song at Montreat

"Grace Flows Down"
"Bonse Aba"
"Stop by Lord"
"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"



My Favorite Activity at Montreat

Enos and singing ~ Going to The Huckleberry ~
The Living Bible class where the teachers were fun and knew how to connect with the students
Choir ~ Hanging out ~

My Favorite Thing at Montreat

The friendships you make ~ The Huckleberry Lake Susan and hanging in my Enos by it ~
Choir ~ Singing, Bible class, fun and games ~
Chill time in the Enos ~

Montreat has had a very special place in my heart for about ten years. There are just so many beautiful things here whether it be the music, the meaning of scripture, and people's hearts. My favorite song we sang at the concert was *"Stop By Lord."* Rachel Setzer was the soloist, and she really made the song special for all of us FPC kids. I hope that more people will come experience the music and friendship that happens in this wonderful place loved by so many.

— Annie Shippee

Montreat is the best place on earth, and my experience this year has only further convinced me of this. There is nothing better than making memories with good people and creating friendships that will last a lifetime. I owe so much to Montreat and the music conference for all the memories and gifts it has given me. I can never wait for the next year, as each year just gets better than the last. The feeling you get when your choir is performing on Friday night is unlike any other and to have the chance to work with such amazing directors/composers is an honor. My favorite part of the conference is being able to share the experience with friends I met at Montreat five years ago and have stayed close with over the years. What makes all of this so amazing is going back to the house every night and sharing the day with my church family during devotion.

— Caroline Downs

Taizé Reflections



In Taizé, everything happens at a slow pace. I live an active life where everything I do has to have a purpose or accomplish a goal; however in Taizé, there is no underlying drive to make every minute count for something. That alone was a strange experience for me. The purpose and the goal was to just be there with 800 other people from around the world and with God. Every morning, afternoon, and evening we had a service to attend. Each service contained a time of silence. At first the silence was awkward as I live in a world full of sound and stimulation, but as the week went on the silence became something I looked forward to. It was an opportunity to focus on God and what I was learning about my relationship with God in Taizé. There were candles spread across the stage in the front of the room and during the silence I would watch the same candle flicker and dance to help me focus on my thoughts. After each service there was time to socialize with people from just about anywhere in the world. As different as some of the opinions and views we had about the world might be, we shared a genuine interest in wanting to know the others' thoughts and respect them. Taizé was an experience that I am so thankful for getting to have. It is a beautiful area filled with equally beautiful people and getting to travel to this place was a blessing I am so grateful for.

- Violet Beaty

Taizé was an adventurous trip with beautiful scenery and good conversation. My favorite part about exploring deep into the morals of the Bible was that there was no right or wrong answer. Everybody will have a different perception of who God is. I enjoyed reading Bible stories and relating them to current social and political issues. Everything was open-ended. It helped me to better understand the Bible and Christianity. It can be very confusing to me when thinking about a higher power. A concept as big as God is very difficult for me to wrap my head around, but I really appreciated learning from the monks in the workshops and searching for a clearer understanding of what God means to me.

-Brody Petree

I felt that when I first went to Taizé, I felt right where I was supposed to be. When I was in church service three times a day, I felt very close to God. The silence was very peaceful and it allowed me throw away all my thoughts. Taizé was very spiritual, and I think it made me feel very welcomed.

-Isaac Kauffman

My experience at Taizé was wonderful. The atmosphere was very relaxed, and everything was very peaceful. I met a lot of interesting people from all over the world who provided me with different perspectives on life. The services were quiet and serene, which allowed my mind to rest and reflect. I feel like the friendships I made will last, and that this experience has made a lasting impact on my life.

-Elise Kauffman

In Taizé I met so many people from all around the world. At first it was hard meeting new people because I was shy and didn't know what to say. But after a little bit it was very fun going up to everyone talking to them and getting to know some of them. Through these people I met it taught me how to open up and not be so shy around new people. Getting to worship with the people I met and hearing what their opinions are on different topics of Christianity got me to change the way I think and look at things. Overall it was an unforgettable experience and is going to be my favorite for a very long time.

- Andrew Setzer

Our mission began with a vision none could fully understand until we arrived. We are all aquatinted with the fast-paced world in which we live and work; our mission trip began in the same sort of way. Preparations were made, bags were packed, legal documents in hand and lists checked off. There was much anticipation for what we knew to expect and some nerves for the unknown.

After our two day visit to Paris, a train and then bus ride landed us in Taizé. We filed off the bus, collected our luggage, and "hiked" over to a tented waiting area with benches and a dirt floor. Groups of youth with leaders began to arrive speaking different languages. Our boys spotted a soccer ball and began to plot a plan for making friends, a small object of commonality and off they went. Our next first experience was a thirty minute service of silence for peace, which the Brothers exercise every Sunday evening. Enter in silence, sit in silence, and exit in silence - disciplined exercise. Meal time; we quickly learned the rhythm of meals. Stand in one of three or four lines with a few hundred people, show your meal ticket, take a tray, a bowl, two pieces of bread, the entree of the day, a small wrapped spreadable cheese, a red drinking bowl with the offer of a peach, a spoon, and a cookie. We sat together on benches with trays on our laps where we discussed our Bible classes, worship, and practical work assignments. At the first of the week, we sat at worship and meals together, and by the end of the week we were spread among the many groups as friendships were formed.

Worship was an experience in which to grow. The tower bells would ring morning, noon, and evening to alert the Brothers and visitors to put away their business and make their way to worship. I kept a journal of worship as there was no bulletin to follow. Song books and scripture sheets were stationed at each entrance as were shawls for covering bare shoulders or thighs. The floor or concrete steps and a few backless benches was the offer for sitting. I found that the floor was most comfortable after a few services of 60 minutes sitting on concrete. Praise through the repetition of songs made of a few phrases became like breath and heartbeat during worship and the hours which followed. Silence was difficult at first but through the course of the week became soothing and peaceful. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to grow in worship in this way and to have had the experience of sharing this amazing journey with my daughter, Violet, seven other youth, and Wes and Liz! Most of all is the anticipation of seeing the growth of spiritual seeds of faith which have been planted in each of us.

- Melody Beaty

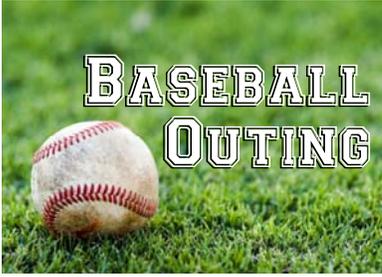
As I prepared for Taizé, I wasn't really sure what to expect. I expected lots of silence to which I was really looking forward. I expected simple meals, space sharing, and people from all walks of life. However, I was not prepared for how much I looked forward to the prayer services - three times a day even. Singing and praying in multiple languages, sitting next to strangers who became acquaintances and then friends in some cases was life-giving. The silence was never long enough. It was renewing, calming, and comforting. It's when I felt the closest to God. I loved learning from and along with people from other places, cultures, and backgrounds. I'm thankful I had the opportunity to go on this pilgrimage. I find myself thinking about it often, and the longing to be back there is strong. It's an experience I hope I have the privilege to do again one day.

- Liz Whittington

I really enjoyed going to Taizé with the youth. Although the food wasn't amazing, and my sleep schedule was really messed up, it was an unforgettable trip. The thing I probably enjoyed the most about Taizé was making friends with people from different cultures. I made friends from Sweden, Norway, England, Germany, and I even made more friends from here in America. Taizé also helped my spiritual growth in a big way. I became more open-minded to Christianity. People explained why or why not they held certain beliefs, and as the conversation went on, I listened more closely. I guess I've always seen Christianity as kind of black and white, but after listening to people from different countries speak on their beliefs, the black and white picture I imagined became a picture of 1,000 colors, and it helped me take a step forward in my faith.

-Dylan Sutton

Youth



Youth Baseball Outing — August 14, 5:00 pm., when the Hickory Crawdads play the Rome Braves. Bring a church bulletin and it gets us in the door for only \$6 (the Crawdads will donate \$4 of that back to the church!). Bring friends and family - everyone is welcome! We will meet in Hickory. If you need, a ride, please see Wes.



Youth Kick-off — August 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the home of Brandon and Cindy Sutton (610 Nelly Green Circle). Come ready to have fun, and feel free to invite friends. Don't forget a bathing suit and towel!



Fifth Street — Youth are sponsoring the meal for Fifth Street on Tuesday, August 23, so come out to help serve. Cooking begins at 3:00 p.m., at Fifth Street, serving at 5:00 p.m.



Youth Calendar and Desserts — August 28, 3:00 p.m., Wes' house (220 Maple Street). Get an overview of what's happening with youth for the year, plus parents can sign up for youth meals.

Regular Youth begins September 9



@youth.fpcstatesville

Keep up-to-date on youth activities by following us on Instagram or Twitter!



@youthfpcsville

Session 2016-2017

Stephen W. Scott
Moderator

David Parker
Clerk of Session

Class of 2017

Lamar Austin
John Childress
Joy Morrison
David Parker
Jane Tarman
Lew Wilson

Class of 2018

Toni Conger
Sarah Davis
John Downs
Sloan Goforth
Sandra Milholland
Dick Sears

Class of 2019

James Cartner, Jr.
John Gilbert, III
Jane Lentz
Bill Long
Joan Scott
Ann Speaks



Conversations about Christian Community:
What is it? What should it be?
Is it even needed anymore?

Join us for 3 more sessions of discussion about the evolution of the church and community, what new things God is doing, and our relationship and engagement in our faith.

Open to all interested in frank, personal conversations of Christian faith.

Monday nights at 6:30
August 1 August 15 August 29

Wine Maestro, Downtown Statesville
(Cash bar available with house wines
and draft beer)

Discussion facilitated by
Wes Pitts, Director of Christian Education,
First Presbyterian Church,
and

Carrilea Potter, Associate Pastor,
Broad Street United Methodist Church

Support Services

The Fourth Creek Meeting Hall project is now complete! Thank you, Donnie Haynes, for all your effort and time in the completion of this project. We are exploring avenues to paint the hallway downstairs and the Young Men's Bible Class! Look forward in the future to more exciting updates on improvements to our historic place of worship!

— Dick Sears, Support Services Chair

Montreat Worship and Music Conference, 2016, was a wonderful experience! Fourteen youth and three adult chaperones attended this year! We were especially glad to be able to experience this week in Montreat with our very own Wes Pitts. Our numbers were so great that we needed a second cottage. We had a great time learning new music, visiting with old friends, and making new friends. We look forward to sharing new anthems, handbell pieces, and worship ideas from our Worship and Music Conference experience. Next year's dates are Week 2 – June 25-30, 2017. Registration will be due in November in order to register for popular classes and ensure sufficient housing.

Cherub and Junior Choirs

Cherub and Junior Choirs will begin regular rehearsals starting Wednesday, September 7. Cherub and Junior Choir dates:

Sept 11 – Rally Day, Sing in Worship

Sept 25 – Baptism, Sing in Worship

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will begin on Sunday, September 11. Youth Choir dates:

Sept 9-10: Youth Choir Festival, Charlotte, NC

Adult and Youth Handbell Choir

Adult and Youth Handbell Choir rehearsal dates will be announced at a later date.

Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday Choir Rehearsal dates for August are August 3 and August 10 only. Sanctuary Choir dates:

Sept 24-25: Choir Festival at FPC, guest clinician and area church choirs

Preschool News



We are excited about the 2016-2017 school year at First Presbyterian Church Preschool! We are thrilled to welcome many new families to our preschool this year and we would like to welcome back all of our returning families. It is going to be another exciting year at FPC Preschool as we continue our Kindermusik@school program with Mrs. Gina Terry and our Letterland child-friendly phonics program, both school-wide. Open House will be Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-7:00 p.m., and our first day(s) of school will be Tuesday, September 6, and Wednesday, September 7.

We have a few spots left in our Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4 year old class, however all of our other age groups and classes are full. To register your child we need a completed registration form (preschool website) and the registration fee. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Falon Speaks, the Director, at 704.873.9054 or email at preschool@fpcstatesville.org..



Congregational News

Congratulations to Laura and Eric Hanson on the birth of their son, Lochlan Paul Hanson, born July 14. Richard Hanson is the proud grandfather.

Sympathy: We share the hope we have in the Risen Christ with Bert Holt and family in the death of Maxine Potter Holt, who died July 2, in Statesville.

Maxine Potter Holt

November 4, 1937

July 2, 2016

"I am the resurrection and the life."

Memorials

Memorial Fund

In memory of Maxine Holt
... David and Jeannie Benbow
... Class of 1956, Morristown, Tennessee
... Esther Cole
... Joanne Dodick
... Good News II of Statesville
... Mr. and Mrs. Norman Harris
... Linda and Louis Huffman
... Costi and Teresa Kutteh
... Audrey Montgomery
... Rhonda Newton Waddell
... Mary Helen Walker
... Becky W. and Wesley E. Waters

In memory of Bill Howard
... Good News II of Statesville

Thank You

Thank you for your contribution to SCAN of Iredell! We truly appreciate your support. Your generosity along with others will help prevent child abuse through education and awareness. For that we are genuinely grateful.

SCAN of Iredell works every day to help children and heal families. As the only center of its kind in Iredell County, SCAN offers programs that are proven to break the cycle of abuse through Support, Coaching, Accountability and Nurturing. Thank you for helping to make a difference.

— Amy Eisele, Executive Director
SCAN of Iredell, an Exchange Club Center

Fifth Street has come a long way in its 26 years. From the little church building to the old school and now this wonderful facility we now occupy, what has happened within this organization has been because of a community that cares for those in need. You are very much a part of that success.

Being able to offer shelter for those without a place to lay their head, food for those who have no idea where their next meal will come from, case management to help them gain their footing, and training to help lessen their chances of becoming homeless again are just part of what is offered to our guests. Last year, over 29,444 shelter nights were provided to those who were homeless. In excess of 80,753 meals were served to the hungry. Your gift will enable us to continue these services, as the apparent need is greater during these harsh economic times.

We're honored to have you as a part of this big Fifth Street Family where we work together to provide a strong safety net for some of our most fragile citizens. Every day your gift will continue making a difference. Thank you!

— Patti West, Executive Director
Fifth Street Ministries (Diakonos)

I want to express my appreciation for your generous gift. I am grateful you share our concern for the children and families in our care.

The lives of the children are shaped in part by the values we hold dear as part of our past, present and future. The values of academic preparation, a strong work ethic and physical education are taught daily by a dedicated and caring staff. Your faithful support is responsible for the many successes that take place in their lives.

One life at a time, we are making a difference. Peace.

— John Koppelmeyer, President/CEO
Children's Hope Alliance

Clinkers

Clinkers will be starting up in September, so please consider hosting. You may contact Susan Hollingsworth (704/872-4689) to sign up. The calendar is wide open, so check your schedule, pick a month, and plan ahead. Looking forward to a great year of Fun, Food, and Fellowship.

Fifth Street Team

Calling all Cooks and Servers to help cook and serve at Fifth Street, August 23, at 3:00 p.m. If anyone has an abundance of fresh squash (yellow or zucchini) please let us know. We would like to cook something fresh and healthy. Call Susan Hollingsworth (704/872-4689) for more information.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
125 N. Meeting Street
Statesville, NC 28677
(Return Service Requested)



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August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 Water into Wine	2	3 10:00 Staff/Prayers 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	4	5	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	8 7:00 Advisory Council	9	10 10:00 Staff/Prayers 7:00 Sanctuary Choir	11	12	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	15	16 5:30 CE Ministry	17 10:00 Staff/Prayers	18	19	20
21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Pennies for Hunger Offering 5:00 Youth Kick Off	22 6:00 Support Ministry 7:00 Session FJC Deadline	23 3:00 Fifth Street Team	24 10:00 Staff/Prayers	25	26	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 3:00 Youth Calendar and Desserts	29 6:30 Water into Wine	30	31 10:00 Staff/Prayers 6:00 Congregational Life			

August Birthdays

If you do not see your birthday listed below
be sure to let the office know the special day!

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Millie Rogers | 16 | Esther Cole |
| | Joyce Webb | | Cam Land |
| 3 | Addison Childress | 17 | Bill Long |
| 4 | Andrew Bell | 18 | Suzannah Davidson |
| | Jay Steele | 19 | John Nicholson |
| 5 | Pam Aman | 20 | Carolyn Warlick |
| 6 | Nicholas Foster | 22 | Rachel Setzer |
| 7 | David Jones | | Andrew Setzer |
| 8 | Mary Bruce Stallard | 24 | Allen Brawley, Jr. |
| | Amy Spears | | William Warlick |
| 9 | Bo Oliphant | 26 | Charlie Onsrud |
| 11 | George Keesbury | 27 | Doris Worthington |
| 13 | Anne Ellenburg | 28 | Stamey Holland, Jr. |
| | Addie McElwee | | Davis King |
| 15 | Ginnifer Scott | 31 | Zeke Sipprell |



August Responsibilities

Elders on Call

Joy Morrison

Sanctuary Guild

Harriet Gilbert, Audrey Thomas

Open/Close the Church

Tommy Kincaid

Nursery

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 7 | Teresa Kutteh, Kortney Kappel, Audrey Thomas |
| August 14 | Janice Searcy, Lauren Oliphant, Don Searcy |
| August 24 | Sherry George, Melinda Childress, Liz Petree |
| August 28 | Natasha Austin, Margaret Kincaid, Falon Speaks |

Ushers

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| August 7 | Matt Austin, Blake Bush, Donnie Haynes, Nate McElwee, Billie Meeks |
| August 14 | Dennis Setzer, Matt Carbone, Dick Sears, Sara Setzer, Judy Watts, Wendell Worthington |
| August 21 | Jim Tarman, Lamar Austin, Sloan Goforth, Jason Petree, Bob Spencer, Rada Spencer |
| August 28 | Roy Morrison, Hewitt Linyard, George Moody, Nate Neely, Libby Weaver, Lew Wilson |

Sanctuary Flower Donors

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| August 7 - Open | August 14 - Open |
| August 21 - Mattie Meech | August 28 - Open |

**Please call George Moody at 704.880.6651 if you
would like to put flowers in the sanctuary.**