

# **PULSE**

*The heartbeat of*  
**Flora Presbyterian Church**

**AUGUST 2017**



**AUGUST  
20  
PICNIC @  
The PARK**



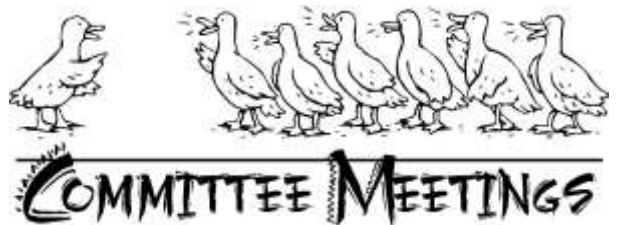
**Session  
Mtg. Aug.  
13 @ 12:30**



**Oasis Cookout  
&  
Mini- Golf  
Outing  
August 6<sup>th</sup>**



**School Starts  
August 9th**



**Oasis  
Every Wed. in Aug**



## Notes From the Pastor

### **How have you had to defend your faith?**

Recently I heard a pastor on the radio and was confronted with a conundrum. The preacher was reviewing a passage from scripture regarding the work of the church. He posited that these guidelines were no longer relevant for the church because of what is going on in the world in this day and age.

Christian churches are low in numbers throughout the US. We are under persecution from all sides. How can God expect us to follow these stringent guidelines under these circumstances?

The minister then began to relate the circumstances that these guidelines were written under. Christians were the minority and under persecution from Pharisees, (Jewish religious leaders) as well as the Romans.

Declaring Christ as the Son of God and Messiah was punishable by severe beatings, thrown to the lions, made to fight a gladiator to the death or death. While we here in America do not face this type of severe retribution for our faith, we take for granted our ability to serve God or to not serve Him.

Throughout our nation, churches are faced with an aging population which proclaims that they have done their part already. It is time to let someone else take over the work.

While many career paths give a retirement option after age 60-65, for Christians there is no retirement. Even upon our death we enter into Heaven to praise God and serve Him forever.

Perhaps the reason for the church aging out of popularity is because we have not done a very good job in training our replacements. Below I give you an example of real modern day persecution of Christians. More can be found through the Voice of the Martyrs website. <https://www.persecution.com/>

### **SUDAN**

*Life for Christians:* Conversion from Islam is punishable by death. The government prosecutes those accused of apostasy, applies a strict interpretation of Islamic law and harasses the country's Christian community. Recently, the government has confiscated church property and supported attacks on churches. In the Nuba Mountains, the government carries out an ongoing bombing campaign against the Christian population.

**What is the worst punishment** that you have received for proclaiming faith in Christ? Which of the scriptures do you feel are outdated regarding the guidelines churches are to follow? Do you really think that God is surprised by what is going on or do you believe that perhaps those guidelines were written for just a time as this?

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Grace

## **Christian Education**

*by Barbara Wilkinson*

### **Sunday School**

Sunday school will resume on September 10, 2017 at 9:00 AM. Pastor Grace will be leading a Teen Confirmation Class. The Adult Class will be studying "Just Walk Across the Room", which is a video-based Bible Study inspiring us to extend our hands in care and compassion to people who might need God's love.

### **Update on VBS Mission Project**

We are pleased to announce that the current total raised to help ship an ambulance to Africa through ECWC Burkina Faso, which stands for "Empowering Care for Widows and Children in Burkina Faso" is \$3,140.83!! This includes money collected at the block party, during VBS, and from the 3 congregations who hosted VBS – us, the Cutler Presbyterian Church, and the Flora First Christian Church. Thank you for being life savers!

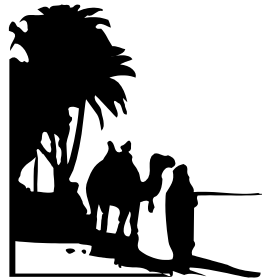
**Oasis –**

### **Cook-Out and Putt-Putt Golf**

It is time for our annual Oasis Family Cook-Out and Putt-Putt Golf. Oasis Children and their Families are invited to this August 6<sup>th</sup> evening of fun which will start at the Mayfield's (209 N. Connelly Street, Delphi) at 5:30PM for outdoor eating and fellowship. This will be followed by Putt-Putt Golf at Hollow Acres Miniature Golf Course in Yeoman.

### **Oasis's 16<sup>th</sup> Year.**

During the month of August Oasis Leaders will be meeting on Wednesday(s) at 7:00 PM to make plans for another year of leading our community children to God. Anyone interested in being a leader is more than welcome to join. The more help we have the more children we can introduce to God's Love. Oasis is where YOU can make a difference with your prayers, your service and



your donations. There are also openings for anyone interested in assisting in classes and assisting with nightly meals.

### **Safe Child Renewal**

Pastor Grace will lead the Safe Child Class that will be held on Wednesday night, August 30<sup>th</sup> during the Oasis Planning Meeting (that will start at 7:00 PM).

### **Mark Your Calendars!!**

All are invited to the Oasis kickoff on September 6th. Come and enjoy food, games and music.



### **Volunteers Needed!!!!**

**We would like to have Activity Bags made up for children in the sanctuary during worship time on Sunday mornings. These bags could contain coloring items or anything small that would keep the children busy. Please contact Barbara Wilkinson if you are interested.**



### **August Library Corner**

*by Laraine MacLauchlan*

"The Library is on break for the summer" There will be no Library Corner in the Pulse from September- December. The librarian will be away for 4 months.

### **Clerk of Session**

*by Lauraine MacLauchlan*

The next Session Meeting will be August 13

### **Congregational Life**

*by Sally Schmidt, Tammy Moss*

August 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a picnic at the park after the morning service.

Cutler Presbyterian is having a shredding company on Aug 13 all are welcome to bring papers needed to shred out there.



### **Presbyterian Women**

*by Jane Bishop*

The Mary-Martha Circle will meet August 15 in the basement dining room at 7:00 pm. The

Hostess will be Marlene Smith; Year Book of Prayer, Laraine MacLauchlan; Horizons, Sally Schmidt; Bible Study, Grace Hammer. We welcome and invite all women.

### **Thrift Shop Schedule for August**

August 5...Grace Hammer

August 17...Marlene Smith

August 24...Laraine MacLauchlan

### **Stewardship and Missions**

*by Joe Mayfield*

Summer is in full swing! All of the church committees have been meeting to plan for new activities and for ways to try new ideas. One idea that involves the Stewardship and Missions committee is a Mission Trip! We will be exploring ideas for that on a continuing basis. If you have ideas let me know.

The latest numbers for our VBS African Ambulance Project are outstanding! Check the totals in the Christian Ed report. A very big thank you is in order.

Currently much planning is going into preparing for this year's Oasis. All the community outreach, the block parties, bowling, putt putt golf, and each week's meals are made possible with generous giving from the congregation. If anyone feels led by the spirit to give some money, the designated Oasis Fund could use a boost. This September will be our 16th consecutive year!!

In closing, I ask each of us to pray for our church and path into the future. Pray that each of us finds the dedication and energy to serve, and we are graciously flexible about change.

In Christ,  
Joe Mayfield, Stewardship and Missions  
Committee

### **Worship Committee**

*by Terry Langston*

Due to the excessive rain we have encountered, the annual Adams Mill service was held inside at the Cutler Presbyterian Church on Sunday, July 16th. A carry-in picnic was held after the service.

Communion will be served on Sunday, August 6th.

If anyone is interested in joining choir, please let me know. I have received word that there will be two less members in choir for this fall. I have purchased new music and need extra voices to sing these beautiful songs.



### **Usher Schedule**

Aug 6	Joe & Barb Mayfield
Aug 13	Doug & Laraine MacLauchlan
Aug 20	Doug & Laraine MacLauchlan
Aug 27	Barbara Wilkinson, Marlene Smith



### **Nursery Volunteer for August**

Laurie Brower

### **Scripture Readers for August**

Aug 6	Jay McMillin, Gerry Hollis
Aug 13	Susan Hollis, Ann Brown
Aug 20	Joe Mayfield, Bill Kearns
Aug 27	Barb Mayfield, Mark Good

### **Session Leaders**

Laraine MacLauchlan- Clerk  
Terry Langston- Worship  
Tammy Moss & Sally Schmidt-  
Congregational Life  
Barbara Wilkinson- Christian Ed.

Joe Mayfield- Trustee

**Worship 10:15; Sunday School as announced**

# *Flora Presbyterian Church*

*August 2017*

**B=Birthday**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 B=Denise Good B= Marlene Smith	5
6  Oasis Cookout & Mini Golf Outing	7	8 B= Stanley Langston  CCPC @ 7pm @ Delphi	9 B=Dick N. Bishop  First Day of School Oasis Mtg. 7pm	10	11  Women of Joy Conference	12  Women of Joy Conference  Farmers Market
13 Session Mtg 12:30  Cutler PC Shredding Day	14	15 Mary Martha Circle 7pm	16  Oasis Mtg. 7 pm	17	18	19
20  Picnic after Service	21 Pastor Grace On Vacation 21-27	22 Craft Night @ Cutler PC 7pm	23  Oasis Mtg. 7pm	24  Baconfest	25	26
27	28	29	30 B= Ed Sholty  Safe Child Training @ Oasis Mtg. 7pm	31		

**Scripture Readers and Usher Schedule on Page 4**

**CCPC- Carroll County Presbyterian Churches**

