

CEDAR GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER — SEPTEMBER 2013



We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed and, therefore, are the final authority for faith and life.

We have a serious need for volunteers
to work in the Nursery.
See Denise or Donna

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

I would like to start out by saying that Anita and I are very grateful for the opportunity to spend some time with Pastor Kirby and Jackelle in St Vincent. I am aware that an absence of the Pastor for two weeks is a hardship on any church. This was a great opportunity to see the ministry in St Vincent and to get a little taste of the mission field as well as spend some time with our good friends the Kirby's. I would also like to thank Cedar Grove for the very generous offering to help Grace Community Baptist Church with the building of their new building. While we are on that subject there should be other opportunities to minister to the work there in St Vincent in the coming months.

Now to change gears a bit, summer is over and school is in, for everyone this brings changes in our daily lives. At the very least there is more traffic on the road in the morning and again in the afternoon, so watch out for the kids and give yourself more time when traveling while buses are on the road. This also offers us a time to bring

more discipline in our lives, Paul told Timothy we should be of a sound mind (have discipline). For those who have lived in a summer mode of sleep in with late nights now you may find yourself giving the chickens a wakeup call. What this means is changes in the scheduling of your time, why not include God in that rescheduling. Make sure you make time for quiet time with your Lord. Also while everyone is tired and it seems like it would be understandable to miss Sunday school or maybe Sunday altogether and completely forget Wednesday night Paul tells us that it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:2). Get started having the habit of being found faithful to church attendance. There are so many things that would benefit by you getting into a habit of being faithful to attend and participate in the activities here at Cedar Grove not to mention what you are teaching others. As others see the important place that church attendance has in your life it is a tool God uses to teach them. This could be our small children or our adult children, neighbors, friends and even people we are not friendly with. So let's commit to be faithful for God in the fall of the year.

Pastor Marty

Cedar Grove Baptist Church
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MISSION MOMENT

Tony Whitley

Summer is almost over, bringing the fall season and mission offering opportunities. Christians are called to be “on mission” daily, proclaiming the gospel, the *good news*, of the love and hope found only in Jesus Christ.

These mission offerings are collected annually and support Southern Baptist works that are nearby Asheboro, through North Carolina and America and over the world.

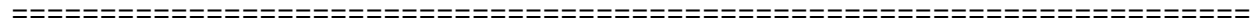
September – North Carolina Missions Offering: “Compelled By Christ, Proclaiming Release, Relief and Redemption”. This offering helps support North Carolina mission works including the NC Baptist Men, mission camps, associational projects and church planting. There are an estimated 5.8 million lost/un-churched people in North Carolina. There is a need for church planting and outreaching to people in need of hearing the Word.

November – Thanksgiving Offering for the Baptist Children’s Homes of North

Carolina: “Sharing Hope...Changing Lives”. On November 10th a speaker and some children from The Mills Home in Thomasville, NC will worship with us at Cedar Grove. The Christian staff there provide and a safe and stable environment for many hurting children.

December – Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: The theme for 2013 is “Totally His – Heart, Hands, Voice”. This offering is taken to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving in foreign lands and the International Mission Board. As Christians we are called to share the Great Commission given by Jesus, (Matthew 28: 18-20).

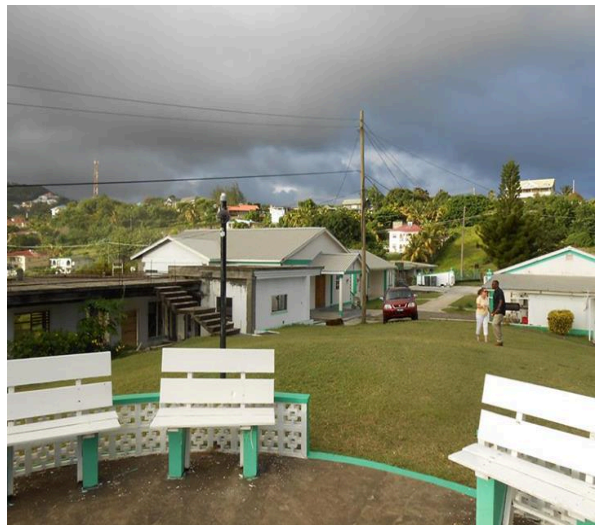
Praying is one of the first and most important things you can do as we enter this season of mission giving opportunities. Pray that God would direct you as you support these important mission works, nearby, throughout North Carolina, America and the entire world.



SPEAKING OF MISSIONS

Our Pastor & Anita took a Mission Trip to St Vincent last month where they labored under arduous conditions. How could anyone be expected to study when surrounded by such terrible scenery?

Seriously however, there is trouble in paradise. There is a shortage of trained workers, and seven Baptist Churches do not have a pastor. The local Bible College has beautiful facilities, but few students and an uncertain financial future.



**SCHEDULED EVENTS
FOR SEPTEMBER**

- September 8 Benevolence Offering
- September 15 Covered Dish Dinner
after Morning Service
- September 16 Planning meeting, 6:30PM
(no meal)
- September 21 Baby Shower for Deondia
RSVP to Tosha
- September 28 Cottage Prayer Meeting
Pastor Marty & Anita's
- October 31 Trunk or Treat @ 6:00PM
- November 10 Lynn Garner (NC
Children's Home)



ANNIVERSARIES

- Mike & Tosha Franklin September 18
- Leland & Pat Bingham September 21



BIRTHDAYS

- Andrea Carter September 8
- Sarah Bidlespacher September 12
- Phil Albright September 21
- Sue Whitley September 24
- Taylor Danckert September 27
- Kerry Bidlespacher September 30

One Sunday morning many years ago, two men rang my door bell with Watch Tower literature under their arms. Being in a hurry and not wishing to spend much times in conversation with them, I stated that I was Baptist, trusting that this would surely scare them away. But one of them said, "So was I until I got into the truth." Later I learned that the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons gain the great majority of their recruits from professing Baptists. As a group, Baptists have great respect for Scripture, but are generally ignorant of its content. Therefore, they become easy prey for fast talking cultists who have a veneer of Scriptural truth.

You owe it to yourself—and to your children—to become educated in Scripture. The Sunday Morning Service is not really designed to accomplish this. The primary purpose of that service is to exhort you to put into practice that which you already know. The ministry of this Church primarily designed for training in Scripture is Sunday School. We meet every Sunday morning at 10:00AM, and we have a number of classes for both children and adults.

Come on out next week. You will be glad you did.

Visit the Cedar Grove Baptist Church website
<http://www.cedargrovebaptistchurch.net>

LET THE LOWER LIGHT BE BURNING

Philip Paul Bliss was directing the singing for a series of services being conducted by the well-known preacher Dwight L. Moody. As he closed his message, Moody told the story of a captain who was attempting to bring his boat to the Cleveland Harbour one very dark and stormy night.

“The waves rolled like mountains,” Moody said, “and not a star was to be seen in the clouded sky.” He pictured the boat rocking on the violent waves as the captain peered through the darkness for the sight of a signal light by means of which to guide his vessel to safety. When he finally spotted a single light from the light-house, he turned to the pilot and asked, “Are you sure this is Cleveland Harbour?”

“Quite sure, sir,” the pilot replied.

“Then where are the lower lights?” the captain continued.

“Gone out, sir,” the other man answered.

“Can you make the harbour?” the captain asked anxiously.

“We must, or perish, sir,” the pilot replied.

But despite his strong heart and brave hand, in the darkness he missed the channel. With a resounding crash the boat piled up on the rocks and then settled slowly to a watery grave.

As the congregation listened intently, Moody concluded with this admonition to the Christians, “Brethren, the Master will take care of the great light-house; let us keep the lower lights burning.” That was all Bliss needed to pen one of his most popular hymns, “Let the Lower Lights Be Burning.”¹

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy from His lighthouse evermore,
but to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore.
Dark the night of sin has settled. Loud the angry billows roar;
eager eyes are watching, longing for the lights along the shore.
Trim your feeble lamp, my brother! Some poor sailor tempest tossed,
trying now to make the harbor, in the darkness may be lost.*

Chorus:

*Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman you may rescue, you may save.*

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Note that Jesus said, *ye shall be witnesses unto me*. As a Christian, you do not choose between being a witness or not being a witness—You *are* a witness. Your only decision is which kind of witness will you be. Will you be a faithful witness or an unfaithful one?

¹ Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times* (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 3848.