

August 22, 2010

Dear Church Family,

Another school year is beginning! Our great God has many exciting tasks that will involve new levels of dedication as we strive to see the impact Jesus Christ continues to have in our community and throughout the entire world!

World Missions continues to be a growing part of church life! Thirteen of us just returned from Nicaragua and we can't wait to share some exciting reports of what God did in our short time there. Joel and Stephanie Estrada are missionaries there and because of their love for this church, they have requested to have their official church membership as part of our church! We had no idea all the special things God had in store for us when they were a part of our church for several months! Also connecting us with World Missions, Keevy Harris is into her third year in Australia and right now is spending 10 weeks in Papua New Guinea serving the Lord. Amanda Talbot is also making preparations for overseas missions also! What a thrill to see Western Students find a place in our church family and then go all over the world in the name of Jesus! Devin and Ellen Wilson spent almost 3 weeks on their trip to Kazakhstan and are sorting through all they saw and heard and are looking to God for guidance on how to be available to King Jesus!

Local Missions are also progressing! Jeff Pate has a new intern to help with Baptist Campus Ministries! Andrew Hawkins (A-Hawk), Josh Bingham and Ashleigh Adams are ready for an incredible year with Campus Outreach, while Kevin and Cat Arrowood are beginning a brand new ministry at Clemson this year! Rod Brandt continues to be all over Western North Carolina serving with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and even has involvement in some possible overseas plans to reach more for the Lord through ministry to athletes.

God answered our prayers and brought us **The Widemans!** Lee is our new Student Ministries Pastor (Jr High, High School, College). He is already building teams for equipping believers to reach students and is thrilled about serving the local church while providing leadership for Thrive and being totally supportive of the college ministers! Candace is getting to know the other moms and everybody loves Ally, LeeBo and Boaz!

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Building Plans are developing as the Deacons and the Building Committee are all working hard to provide more space for our growing

needs. This summer we approved the building of a Christian Ministries Center that will provide some much needed space for educational and recreational needs. We are still on track for being able to provide a great facility for right around \$250,000. Our loan has been approved and we are making significant contacts to get all the work in order! We raised almost \$3,500 with our Summer Evening Concert and Cookout!

A few **News Items** to share: Larry Phillips is our new Deacon Chairman. The New College Sunday School Class is in the Widemanj's Basement and begins today, taught by Lee Wideman. Rick and Patti Harper are preparing for a fantastic Marriage Sunday School Class. Zeke Cooper's father, Steven, is doing better after his motorcycle wreck, but still needs much prayer for a long road ahead. Pam Tebo (yes, Tim Tebo's Mom) will be speaking at this year's Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center banquet on Sept 25th.

There are so many things happening that there simply is not enough room to mention them all. But, there is one last thing I really want to write about. This Sunday we are, for the first time, having a small choir in our **Middle Service** (9:45). Ryan Holquist has agreed to give this a try and will lead this effort two times each month. Jere Kuehn also helps us in the Middle Service by leading songs with his excellent bass voice! I have been blessed by the attentive hearts that come to this middle service. At first I was not sure if it would be of value, but now I am praying that this Fall we will begin to see some real community among those who have chosen this Middle Service with traditional music as their favorite Sunday Morning Service.

I am excited about things God is giving us to do for His glory. Thursday Night we had the deacons, office staff, church staff all over to our home along with their spouses and families. We talked passionately for a couple of hours and prayed that the Spirit of God will direct our ministries and lead us into the future plans that He has for us.

Psalms 117: 1-2 "Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him all you peoples. For great is his love toward us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever."

Christ is King!

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