



the View from the Pew

For the people of Waleska United Methodist Church

Vol. 19, Issue 8
August, 2010

Strength in Weakness

A couple weeks ago my family and I traveled to our little beach vacation spot in the Tampa Bay area. The kids were so excited to be heading to the ocean as they are getting old enough to remember previous trips. After we got settled in I promised Aaron that we would try to catch a crab. The plan was to get a durable net and flashlight and wait for it to get dark. After a couple nights of trying we finally got a crab in our net. Everyone else had gone back to the room and was sitting out on the patio so I asked Aaron if he would like to carry the crab in the net. He was so excited that he had caught a crab and he was proud to carry the net. He couldn't stop boasting about what he had accomplished. I led the way with the flashlight and Aaron trailed behind holding the crab net. Just as I was getting to the patio outside our room, Aaron came running past me screaming, "I can't do it! I can't do it!" He was empty handed as he had thrown the crab net down. I went back and found the crab net laying on the sand and the crab sitting next to it. Aaron's screaming and jumping around scared Aiden too and the next thing we knew we had two boys crying. Although Aaron started out strong and was boasting about being a crab fisherman he succumbed to his fear of being pinched by a crab.

The Pastor's Message

Earlier this week I was reading a passage in the Bible that made me think of this story from our vacation. In 2 Corinthians 12 Paul is talking about how he could boast about his experience, yet he would only boast about his weaknesses. He mentions that he was given a "thorn in his flesh" to keep him from becoming proud. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:8-9, "Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.'"

Paul had learned that his experiences and accomplishments were not because of his strengths or because he had any special abilities. In fact he had his own weaknesses and struggles. I can imagine that Paul had his own fears and insecurities just like you and me. God reminded Paul that His grace was all he needed. God worked through Paul's weaknesses to accomplish God's will through Paul. He says in verse 10, "That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

You and I have a lot of weaknesses and struggles in our lives. Most of the time we want to keep all of that hidden from others. We might even try to hide our weaknesses from God, but God already knows what they are. In fact, Jesus told us

that his power works best in weakness. Don't be afraid to approach God because you have weaknesses in your life. You don't need to clean yourself up before getting to know Christ. In fact, you can't get yourself good enough, only Christ can do that for and through you. Be real and let the light of Christ shine through you in all things, even your weaknesses.

Aaron wanted to be tough and strong before the crab that was trapped in his net. He wanted to show everyone that he was a great crab fisherman. It wasn't until he threw down his net and said, "I can't do it" that I could help him and we could accomplish it together. Christ wants to work through you in mighty ways. Will you let him do it?

Blessings,

Sam

Pastor Sam

August Sunday Servants



Ushers

- 1st Dan & Carolyn Burkholder
- 8th Rick Whiteside
- 15th (open)
- 22nd Wendell & Kay Abernathy
- 29th (open)



Lemonade on the Lawn

- 1st Dick & Pat Summers
- 8th Joan Brosio & Nicole Lawton
- 15th Ernie & Susan Jarvis
- 22nd Robert & Karen Brannum
- 29th Eddie & Sylvia Robertson

Extreme Makeover

We just returned from a visit to Texas to see our son and grandsons. While there, we went to Galveston and toured the city, finding the twenty plus tree sculptures that had been created from the remains of the hundred year old oaks destroyed in Hurricane Ike. It was heartbreaking to think of those majestic ancient beauties being broken and killed by the storm and the residents as they viewed the remains of their beloved trees.

But, not to be beaten, they commissioned three artists with chainsaws to create beautiful art from the remaining stumps of the trees. They are incredible and quite lovely - birds, animals, statues, even a giant Great Dane. Who knew that such beauty was inside those old, old trees! God knew, the residents suspected and the sculptors chiseled away the bruised and damaged parts, bringing to light the inner beauty of each, formerly hidden beneath the bark.

I Peter 3:3-4 says, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

With all the media attention on beauty and perfection, the pressure is on to spend more and more money and time on maintaining and enhancing our appearance. Extreme Makeover shows on TV are very popular. In 2007 there were nearly 11 million cosmetic surgeries done in the U. S. alone. Some people are so obsessed with perfecting their bodies that they take out loans and go thousands of dollars in debt to achieve the look they desire.

What if we spent as much time, effort and money on becoming drop-dead gorgeous on the inside? What if we spent more time reading and studying the Word of God, following Jesus' example and teachings, becoming a better neighbor and friend, getting rid of our hate, jealousies, resentments, and greed? Do you think we would be

more beautiful to God if we were more loving, kind, forgiving and generous? I Samuel 16:7 says, "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Who knows what beauty is hidden under all that hurt and pain and protective shield we keep around ourselves. Chisel it away, break out from those layers that are imperfect and let your inner beauty shine forth. Do an EXTREME MAKEOVER!

—Carolyn Burkholder

Member Spotlight



The purpose of this feature of The View is to help members of our congregation get to know each other better. So, let's meet



Ruth and David Burgess

I would like to introduce you to Ruth and David Burgess. They have described themselves as boring and just ordinary folks, but they aren't sitting on the front porch watching the world go by! They are very vibrant, active and full of living!

Ruth and David met each other in the 8th grade; started dating in high school and the rest is history. Yes, they were high school sweethearts and have been together ever since. They both graduated from Osborne High School in Fair Oaks...two native Georgians still living close to home. They lived in west Cobb for 23 years and moved to Canton 16 years ago when they became "empty nesters". They built an "old people's home" (all on one level) and it is very beautiful home.

Listen up all of you who always dreamed of being a train engineer...

David was one! Yes, he drove a long train and got to blow the whistle at every RR crossing! After serving 3 years in the Army, Ruth's brother told David that the railroad was hiring and that he should look into getting a job with them. He is retired now from the L&N Railroad. He paid his dues to be able to blow that horn...he spent many days on the road away from home and his family.

Ruth spent 39 years as a registered nurse at Kennestone Hospital. From the time she was a little girl she knew that she wanted to be a nurse and she lived out her dream. Today she is the program person for the Kennestone Retiree's Club. She is active in working for the Cobb-Douglas Mental Health program by collecting holiday gifts and personal need items thru out the year. She also serves on the History Committee at Kennestone Hospital. Recently she dug out her uniform and cap from the 60's and participated in a parade celebrating Kennestone's 60th birthday!

They both love being retired. David enjoys fishing especially with the grandchildren (they have a boy and a girl). Ruth says that David is very handy to have around the house; he is a great one to get things done. Actually, I think Ruth tells him what needs to be done and he does it! He has built some of the set designs and wall decorations at Cherokee Christian School where his grandchildren attend.

Ruth is active in the Laurel Garden Club and her yard is a product of that activity. Once again, David helps out in the yard department (that is called hardscape).

They both enjoy traveling and have visited every state in this wonderful country. They have also traveled to Europe and the Bahamas.

They have 2 children...a daughter who lives in Woodstock with her family and a son (and wife) who lives in Massachusetts.

The next time you see Ruth and David stop and say hello. If you don't know them, introduce yourself to them. Make a new friend in Christ!

*Ruth and David Burgess
2151 Old Orchard Lane
Canton, Ga. 30114
770-720-1912*

(article and picture by Judy McCay)

Are You A Good Steward?

When I signed up to be a good steward in God’s world, I never dreamed that He would ask me to save a turtle! I was hoping for something more important and more profound but, yes, that is exactly what He asked me to do. Last Sunday as we were heading to church there was a huge turtle the size of a dinner plate right in the middle of Hwy 108. Cars were whizzing along at 55+ mph and not paying any attention to that poor turtle trying to slowly get to the other side. I knew that if I didn’t do something he would be a mashed turtle! Just another statistic in God’s kingdom! I begged my husband to please stop and turn around so that I could go back and save that turtle. He is a good man so he did as he was told! Now, can you imagine what the passers-by must have thought when they saw me wading in weeds up to my knees dressed in my Sunday best trying to get to that poor turtle!



I carried that turtle to the side of the road and gave him a little shove... little did I know that the steep embankment would become the “Slide for Life” on the Six Flags of Hwy 108! Here is this turtle cart wheeling head

over heels with arms, legs, tail and head going in all directions! As he bounced off a tree and rolled over on his back, I could hear him say, “Whee, that was fun, let’s do it again!” I slid down the hill, picked him up, carried him over into the woods, gave him a little pat and told him to be on his way...no more rides!

When that turtle goes to the great turtle heaven in the sky and stands before his maker I hope he says, “If it weren’t for that crazy lady on that particular Sunday morning I would have ended up a turtle pancake on Hwy 108. She was a good steward of God’s kingdom.”

We have all been charged with taking care of God’s world. We are His hands and feet. We are His words. When asked to do a job for God’s kingdom, do it with joy in your heart no matter how big or small that job may be. We can make a difference in this world.

(Disclaimer: This story is absolutely true. I will not divulge where on Hwy 108 that this incident took place...I wish to protect the location of that turtle!)

Submitted by Judy McCay

Family Celebrations



August Birthdays

- 1st Dan Burkholder
Ken Richardson
- 5th Martha Ayer
- 8th Bill Newsom
Danna Pendleton
- 14th Michael Newsom
- 15th Ruth Hammond
Maize Smith
- 16th Heather Robinson
- 22nd Mary Helen Lamb
Harriet Love
- 23rd Don Wisdom
- 24th Donna Golder
Nicholas Lawton
Joan Poole
- 30th Norma Patton
Rod Patton
- 31st Steve McCay



August Anniversaries

- 1st Tony & Barbara Wehunt
 - 2nd Don & Marcie Hottinger
 - 9th Ernie & Karen Beattie
 - 15th Chuck & Stacey Knight
Ken & Carol Smith
 - 24th Ray & Nancy Bolick
 - 26th Geoff & Mary Jo Smith
 - 27th Tom & Brandi Grogan
- *****
- JULIETS – Meet August 12th – Join us for lunch. For details contact Martha Ayer – 770-479-6303



ROMEOS – We’ll resume our monthly lunches in September.

Congratulations to Sam and Susie Hayes on the birth of daughter Rowan Victoria Hayes. She was born on Sunday, July 18 at 4:14am. She weighed in at 6 lbs., 10 oz. and was 20 in. long.



Rowan joins sister Darby in the Hayes household.

Waleska United Methodist Church
Hagan Chapel at Reinhardt College
7340 Reinhardt College Parkway
Waleska, GA 30183
770/479-4428
Web site: www.waleskaumc.com

The Rev. Sam Hamby
Pastor
wum1@reinhardt.edu

Patti Drago
Administrative Assistant
wum2@reinhardt.edu

Dennis Waldrep
Director of Music

DeDe Reilly
Director of Family Ministries

Dan Burkholder
Editor
danburk@windstream.net

Church hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-noon
Sunday School, 9:30 each Sunday
Worship, 10:30 each Sunday
Nursery provided

The View from the Pew
Waleska United Methodist Church
Post Office Box 8
Waleska, GA 30183

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 12
Waleska, GA