



# The Pilgrim

WWW.WILSONSMILLSCC.ORG

August 2011

## A Message from the Minister

Thank you for sending me to 2011 General Assembly in Nashville, TN. I suppose that at first glance, General Assembly might sound like an opportunity to attend boring church business meetings. But, for me, it was just what the doctor ordered.

For one thing, out here in our little corner of North Carolina, I forget that we are part of a larger denomination with so many wonderful ministries and resources. The Disciples are very active in home missions ([www.discipleshomeissions.org](http://www.discipleshomeissions.org)) that address all kinds of ministerial issues from congregational transformation to AIDS to homelessness to refugees and immigration to military ministries to 'green' ministries to the Disciples Peace Fellowship to search and call. These ministries make me proud to be a Disciple.

We also partner with the United Church of Christ for our worldwide missions efforts ([www.globalministries.net](http://www.globalministries.net)). We have missionaries stationed all over the world, and we have resources to teach

our children and ourselves about sharing God's love in other countries and cultures. We have opportunities to sponsor children, to sponsor missionaries, to respond to disasters, and to build global Christian relationships. Check out their web-site. Their ministries will make you, too, proud to be a Disciple.

As you would expect with the Disciples' emphasis on ecumenical relationships, we work with many other groups to share God's love. For example, I met an inspiring woman from "Living Waters for the World," ([www.livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org)) a Presbyterian ministry that trains, equips, links and supports mission teams to share the gift of clean water with communities in need. Their representative had such passion for her work, and she was genuinely excited about serving with the Disciples and doing some good in God's world.

Perhaps that was the most meaningful thing to witness: the enthusiasm for the Gospel and the passion for sharing the Good News.

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## LOGOS NEWS: RESPONSE NEEDED!!!

The Education Committee is getting ready to plan LOGOS for the fall. We really need your input! We are considering moving LOGOS to Wednesday nights when we start back up in September. We hope that Wednesdays would offer fewer conflicts and allow more of our children and youth the opportunity to attend consistently. I have not heard from many of you so **please let me know your preference in our schedule ASAP!** The final decision will be made prior to our first LOGOS in September based on what works for the majority of our WMCC families. -

--Carrie Ragland

### Worship Attendance

July 3 — 27  
July 10 — 33  
July 17 — 55  
July 24 — 60  
July 31 — TBA

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9:45 A.M. Coffee  
10:00 A.M. Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. Worship

# Hold the Date and Get Ready to... Fall Back into Church

As a way to gather us all in after summer, we are planning a "Fall Back into Church" celebration on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. If you've been away for the summer, this will be a great time to reconnect and re-commit...to set your calendars back to church.

We will have information about all of our fall ministries at a luncheon following the worship service, and the entire day will be geared toward remembering what a blessing it is to be a part of the church. The pastor, committees, deacons and elders will

all be working very hard to make this a special day in the life of our congregation.

So, what you can you do help us prepare?

1. Plan to be there.
2. Take pictures from the fun things you do this summer and send them to Lea. We'll put them together in a slide show to share when we "Fall Back into Church" and to help us catch up with each other.
3. Pray that WMCC will have a spectacular fall!

## Message from the Minister (Cont'd from p.1)

In addressing the State of the Church, our General Minister and President, Dr. Sharon Watkins reminded us of many things...the sad statistics surrounding the American Protestant church, the great needs in the world, and the need for the church to "engage each other openly and tenaciously on matters often left to polite silence or hot debate." She reminded us that we must stay at the Table if we are to be a credible witness to the power of the Gospel. And, she said that "it is an amazing time to be Church."

Dr. Watkins is right. It is an amazing time to be church. It is an amazing time to be a Disciple. Our General Assembly theme was "Tell It!" And, I left with the thought that I needed to recommit to telling it. I left with the thought that maybe, just maybe, I could put my worries away and trade them in for a little passion. I left with the thought that maybe God is ready to do something wonderful with Disciples right here. I left with hope. It is an amazing time to be Church.

*Lea can be contacted via email: wilsonsmillscc@gmail.com.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Barbara Anderson	Ricky House	Andy Parrish	Paul Sydow
Cheryl Bryant	Lara Kelly	Betty Parrish	Melanie Thompson
Dorothy Byers	Ina Mae Lee	Curtis Ray	Tracy Ulcickas
Lydia Byrd	Shareka McCrae	Chase Rudisill	Sidney Wellons
Annette Cobb	Ed Mulderrig	Lugene Slater	Jody Wiley
Christy Creech	Kathy Mulderrig	Emmit Sugg	Gilliam Wilson
Tyler Dunn	Peggy Norris	Patti Sydow	Pete Yauch

THANKS to all who have contributed Box Tops so far! We are continuing to collect Box Tops to send to schools in Joplin, MO that

were affected by tornadoes in the spring. You can find the



list of all products on which Box Tops can be found here: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?id=3878>. Please put yours into the envelope on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. This is a small way we can help this community who has suffered from this disaster.

## Blessing of the Backpacks...

During the 11:00 worship hour on August 21st, we will have a blessing of the backpacks.

This means that we will ask God to bless the beginning of another school year. So, students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks or lunch boxes to worship.

**Sherri Yaroch**  
17 Cheltenham Drive  
Clayton, NC 27520

Joe and Lea Slaton...no longer have a landline phone. Please contact them on their cell phones.

**Yearbook Updates** →

# Youth and Children News

The youth from WMCC went to the Brian Center on June 28 to visit residents and deliver little gifts to each of them. Three of our youth and two of our children were able to brighten the day of quite a few seniors there! Angels, snow globes and lotion were the favorite goodies! Thanks to those



who made donations to this endeavor! I know it was greatly appreciated! Future activities include a Mudcats game in August, volunteer work, and delivering food to the Smithfield Rescue Mission. We are enjoying a fun and rewarding summer with our youth!

## CWF NEWS

**CWF will meet on Thursday night, August 11th at 6:30 at Janet Stephenson's home. Dinner will be served. Please invite your friends to come back! Promises to be another night of great fellowship and lots of laughter.**

## Beyond Volunteering

(From The Disciples' Advocate, Summer 2011)

We Disciples are a practical people. We like to do things – build, teach, repair, clean, counsel, and work. This desire to “do” carries over into many elements of our life together as church and it provides a powerful motivation for engaging in mission. We look for projects where we can be useful. A common mistake is made, however, when we think that whatever it is we are doing is in fact the purpose of the mission. This is especially true of Mission Trips, where our desire to help others puts us at risk for missing the point. Building or repairing houses, teaching Bible school, planting a community garden, or exposing ourselves to another culture are all worthwhile tasks. And they are all tasks that volunteers can do. Volunteers can show up at a soup kitchen and prepare mashed potatoes or ladle soup into bowls. Volunteers can swing a hammer or work a paint brush. Volunteers can do all kinds of things, great and small. Then volunteers can go home and feel good about the doing that was done and maybe start looking for the next task to do.

To be clear, volunteering is not in itself a bad thing. But we Disciples are called to something more: as a people of faith, we are called to serve. At its best, volunteering addresses immediate needs and eases suffering. But volunteering doesn't ask us to do a whole lot more than the task at hand. Serving, however, addresses immediate needs and it pushes us further: it compels us to ask why those needs exist. Volunteering lends itself to relationships of inequality where the volunteer gives and the other person receives. Serving recognizes that relationships matter and it requires us to be in community with those with whom we labor. Volunteering is something we can choose to do, on our terms, at our own time. Serving is something we are called by God to do, on God's terms and at God's time.

When we move beyond volunteering, we recognize that the task we are performing is not the most important thing. When we move beyond volunteering, we see that it's also not about the good feeling that comes with helping an-

other person – in fact, we see that at its core, it's not about helping another person at all. It's about our relationship with God: How is God calling me to use the gifts and blessings God has given? Who is God calling me to be in relationship with? What is God doing in my life as I serve in mission? What is God doing in our lives as we serve together? When we begin to understand our mission as serving, we stop looking for something to “do” and instead look for what God is doing. When we begin to think of ourselves as servants, then we are open to be led by the Spirit, to give from what God has given, to become the hands, the feet, the heart of Jesus. So how is God calling you to serve?

This thoughtful article was written by The Rev. Josh Baird, Director of Disciples Volunteering, Disciples Home Missions. Stay in touch with all the latest Disciples Volunteering news through our blog (<http://gd4jc.org/>), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/disciplesvolunteering](http://www.facebook.com/disciplesvolunteering)) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/#!/gd4jc>)

## August Worship Service

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Church Appointments	Paula Bennett, Joe and Lea Slaton, and Phyllis Creech	Paula Bennett, Joe and Lea Slaton, and Phyllis Creech	Paula Bennett, Joe and Lea Slaton, and Phyllis Creech	Paula Bennett, Joe and Lea Slaton, and Phyllis Creech
Elder	Eileen Penny	Ginger Lee	Linda Ramsey	Kevin Daughtry
Deacons	Trudy Carter Peter Wilson	Joe Slaton Rose Thompson	Carrie Ragland Whitley Stephenson	Jason Lawhorn Armando Mejia
Worship Leader	Travis Stephenson	Paula Bennett	Trey Ragland	Thomas Trogdon
Nursery	The Trogdon Family	The Ragland Family	The Dumonceaux Family	The Ramsey Family
Acolytes	Emily Dumonceaux	Kenli Esau	Patrick McCarthy	Haden Hanes
Paraments	Green	Green	Green	Green



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4	Rachel Konneker	15	Whitley Stephenson
4	Martha Youngblood	17	Patrick McCarthy
5	Linda Wilson	22	Jeff Twisdale
7	Louise Dumonceaux	28	Kamm Ellis
9	Lauren Parrish		

Please mark your calendars for a change in the Board Meeting scheduled for the 9/11 has been rescheduled for 9/18.

Join us for the WMCC Annual Ice Cream Social  
 August 21, 2011  
 5:00-7:00 PM

# AUGUST 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bridal Shower	8	9	10 Handbells 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM	11 CWF 6:30 PM	12 Craft Night 5:00 PM	13
14 Deacon/Elder Meeting 12:00 PM	15	16	17 Handbells 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM	18	19	20 Backpack Buddies 5:00 PM
21 Ice Cream Social 5:00—7:00 PM	22	23	24 Handbells 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Handbells 6:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM			

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