

CAMPAIGN SCRIPTURE

*The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully....*

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity,
which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.*

2 Corinthians 9:6, 11 (NRSV)

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Most gracious Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the many blessings you have given us. For some time we have prayed for guidance concerning the direction your church should take to enhance and maximize mission and ministry here at BUMC. You have responded by placing a clear vision upon our hearts to create a new multipurpose space and to renovate our Sanctuary.

Lord, we pray that there be a mighty anointing of the Holy Spirit as we take this journey of faith. May we grow stronger in our faith as we follow your leading. As we sacrificially give of our time, talents, and gifts may it be with a generous and grateful heart. Bless our efforts as we sow seeds together for your Kingdom. May your name be glorified in all we say and do.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.



4246 Boynton Drive • Ringgold GA 30736
706-866-2626 • www.BoyntonUMC.org



Sowing Seeds Together
All for God's Glory

28-Day Devotional

Sunday, August 17

Trust

by Marie Schrader

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.
Proverbs 3:5,6



The Koinonia Sunday School class has just completed a study of the Old Testament from beginning to end. Among the many lessons to be found there, we were reminded how God, in His love for all people, chose to form a nation whose purpose was to draw others to Him through their example of love, obedience and trust in Him. Sometimes they failed to trust Him and came under judgment, but His grace and mercy were always available to the repentant.

God often used very ordinary, flawed people as leaders. Also, with His sovereign power and perfect timing, God even used pagan nations to accomplish His purposes.

I stand in awe of God's perfect timing once again as He placed in the hearts and minds of His people at Boynton United Methodist Church a vision for expansion. He knew long ago of the coming increase in the growth of Catoosa County and what our needs would be as we faithfully reached out to expand His kingdom by ministering in His name.

Today's Prayer: *Thank you, Lord, for your sacrificial and never-ending love. Increase our faith that we may trust you completely and serve you joyfully. Amen.*

Did you sign-up for a

HOME GATHERING?

If not, please call the church office to do so.

Monday, August 18

Not Growing Weary

by Kristen Smith

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



I like to have a plan, at least when it comes to my time. I try to make sure I have appointments, practices, lessons, and meetings in my calendar. If I don't have it on my calendar, I tend to forget and end up not where I had originally promised to spend my time. When we join the church we make a lot of promises. The one I personally struggle with is service. That one takes a chunk of my time, and I can be stingy with my time. When you serve, you find yourself getting more and more involved. Before you know it, you are spending more hours than you care to count attending meetings, baking for youth cake auctions, decorating for VBS, packing BLESS sacks, hiding eggs at Easter, whipping up cotton candy at *Last Blast of Summer*, serving cookies at *Christmas at the Farm*.....need I go on? It can be a lot, and it can get tiresome.

Like I said, I like to plan, but I often find what I think should be my plan isn't always what God has planned for me. In fact God seems to think I can get more done than I believe I can do. God sends me to serve in ways I never thought were talents or strengths of mine. God is also showing me He has plans to give this church "a hope and a future." I get weary sometimes at the busyness of it all and maybe some of you are feeling weary too. God expects us to be good stewards of all He has given us, including our time. We certainly have to find balance in our lives between family, church and work. While it may seem unbalanced at this very moment, our work here is important and it is so much bigger than each of us.

Galatians 6:9 encourages me: "Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." I am not going to give up. Boynton United Methodist IS doing good in this community and in this world. I believe we WILL reap a bountiful harvest. So I am going to continue to give of my prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness, and continue on this path God has placed me. Let us not become weary my dear brothers and sisters!

Today's Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, we know you have plans for us and our church. Strengthen us so that we do not grow weary and we may reap Your harvest all for Your Glory, Amen.*

Tuesday, August 19

United in Mind and Purpose

by Jim Cospier



"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose." 1 Corinthians 1:10

When I was growing up in southern Mississippi, the church was our life and our family. As a small child, our church met in a house. I remember when I was about eight years old and the church built its first Sanctuary and Sunday School classrooms. As the construction phase was happening, my father would frequently take me with him to tour the progress being made. I recall how proud he was as he walked through that building.

Over the years, I learned what church was all about from this united congregation. While I'm sure they debated some choices, they were united in purpose and mission. My parents were a wonderful example for me. I never heard them speak a discouraging word about the church, the Pastor, or the people in the congregation.

Over the years, that church has grown and purchased additional land and built many other buildings. Today, it is amazing to see the ministry being accomplished in that church that began in a small house.

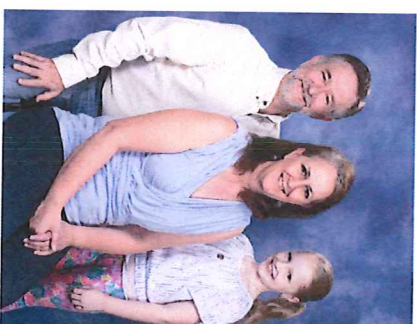
Our story at Boynton UMC is similar. Over the years, we've grown to faithfully meet the spiritual and physical needs of our community; initiating building projects in 1870, 1902, 1929, 1953, 1961, and 1986. Now that we have prayerfully worked through this long discernment process and come forward with a strong vision for the future, let us *"be united in the same mind and the same purpose."*

Today's Prayer: *Lord Jesus, we seek your guidance and provision as we boldly move into the future. Help our church to be united in the same mind and the same purpose. Amen.*

Wednesday, August 20

The Best Fruit

by Michelle Rambin



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Hebrews 12:11

To our delight, our family discovered last year that there are an abundance of wild blackberry bushes lining the perimeter of our wooded back yard. My youngest and I ventured out to pick what we could of the ripening fruit last week. Many of the fattest and ripest berries were in hard to reach places, involving venturing into tangled vines and sticking my hands into thorny places, risking encountering a scary bug or a spider web. A short time later, we had a container full of fruit. I also had arms, legs and hands full of scratches and pricks from my effort, some of them deep and painful. The scratches were later forgotten as we enjoyed delicious fresh blackberry cobbler. The end result was worth the relatively small amount pain inflicted to bring it about.

Our current endeavor to complete this project will require sacrifice and, yes, even a small amount of pain sometimes. It will require wading into some sticky places and placing ourselves into some uncomfortable situations occasionally. But this will only make the completed project that much sweeter. The best fruit requires a little pain and sacrifice, but God asks nothing less of His people.

Today's Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us to wade deeper into the prickly places in our hearts to reach the best fruit. Amen.*

Thursday, August 21

Being Lost is Not a Good Thing

by Barbara Chambers

Then Jesus said to him... "For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." Luke 19:10



We landed in London, went straight to our pre-rented apartment and, after a short rest, set out to see the sights. This was my dream trip with my husband, my sister and brother-in-law. We wanted to see everything so we hopped on a double-decker bus and climbed to the top, not to miss a thing. After seeing the well-known sights, we crossed the River Thames and soon found ourselves in a slum area. The bus stopped and the four of us decided to get off and find a returning bus. Unfortunately, the stop was not to disgorge passengers. It was just traffic. Tony, Mackie and Gene got off. The bus began moving. I'm still on the bus. Do I jump off and possibly break a leg, or do I stay on and leave them behind? I chickened out and stayed on the bus, as I saw them rapidly disappearing from view. I had left my passport in the apartment. Also, I had no idea where the apartment was. I was lost in a strange city in a strange country.

Many people today are lost- spiritually. These are persons who often don't even know they are lost. They need someone to tell them about God. There are many ways our church is helping those who are lost: through local and foreign missions, personal testimony, feeding hungry children and inviting them to visit our worship services. When they come, we must be ready with inviting and adequate facilities, so that they'll want to come back and hear the word of God.

Oh, yes, the bus eventually stopped. I got off and began walking back. There I met three friendly faces, laughing hysterically.

Today's Prayer: *Dear God, please help our church planners to remember our mission to seek and save the lost. Give us a generous spirit needed to work together to be willing to give our time, energy and funds to make this succeed. Amen.*

Don't Miss Worship This Sunday.

**Our District Superintendent,
Rev. Herzen Andone, is preaching.**

Friday, August 22

An Avid Listener

by Harvey Williams

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters... I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:16,19



I have had a strong faith most of my life. As has most everyone, I've endured events of fear, loss, tragedy, confusion and doubt. I have prayed many times for help from God and have felt him give me relief from various pressures.

In August of 2004, I was working as a consultant in the furniture industry which involved much traveling to the Midwestern states. Very early one morning, I had spent several minutes praying for God to help me decide what I should do about things at home which needed my attention. I felt pressured to try to make my own way without admitting it was not working. This day I went into a restaurant to eat breakfast at 6:00 a.m. and for the first time I can ever remember I took a legal pad into the restaurant. As I sat and drank my coffee, I continued to pray and at this exact moment my mind went into an unbelievable hyper-speed mode. Suddenly I saw a complete picture of what I should do with my life as clearly as anything I have ever seen. This was the first time in my life that I felt God obviously gave me the strength to use the gifts he gave me. In addition, he directed my mind with thoughts to show me exactly what to do. His plan for me to go back in business and everything that I wrote on that legal pad came to full fruition over the next several months. This divine blueprint was transposed from the spirit into my mind and this event continues to be one of the most memorable moments of my life. I still have this somewhat tattered legal pad where I can look upon it when I need inspiration and ever since this occurred in my life I have told God I needed to do something for him.

After being a member of Boynton UMC for over 13 years and my association with the members of this church community, I believe I was selected to chair this capital campaign because my time to do something for God has arrived. I know just as well as I knew that day God told me what to do, that I need to listen to him again. Indeed this is my time to sow the seeds for the future of our church community and the kingdom of God.

Today's Prayer: *Lord Jesus, help me to be an avid listener. Help me to know fully your vision for my life and the future of our church. And then help me to act. Amen.*

Saturday, August 23

Opening Doors

by Maggie Darraj



I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, He will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 10:9

When we first moved to Ringgold, we passed Boynton United Methodist almost every day. Each time I felt drawn to the church but I was Praise Leader at my church and had other obligations. When our church received a new Pastor, he wanted a traditional choir. I was only familiar with contemporary music and some traditional hymns. I was definitely not a choir director.

When I lost my position as Praise Leader, I decided to look at the website for Boynton United Methodist. What I found was exactly what I was looking for. God has been trying to drag me here for a while. It took a hurtful situation to push me through the door. I love the outreach programs and children's programs. This is what a church should be.

I was surprised to find that God had opened a new door for me when I started singing with the Praise Band at the contemporary service. Who would ever have thought, at 60, I would be singing in a band?!! God sometimes calls us out of our comfort zone to show us that we can do anything with His help.

Sometimes we are called to a new and exciting service but we feel that it's an impossible goal. Nothing is impossible with God. He opens the door. We just have to have the courage to enter by Him.

Today's Prayer: *Lord, open our eyes to new opportunities. Calm our anxieties as we step forward into new and exciting service to You. Let us build up the door of Your church and lead others to enter by You. Amen.*

Have you signed up for a

HOME GATHERING?

If not, please do so Sunday.

Sunday, August 24

Be Prepared

by Rev. Brett Dehart



"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25: 1-12

Be Prepared. It's the motto of the Boy Scouts. My brief tenure as a Boy Scout was most likely brief because I didn't pay heed to this creed. On an October weekend hike on the Appalachian Trail, my troop camped overnight on the top of Blood Mountain (the name should have been all the warning I needed!). It was COLD. Some of my fellow scouts told me that it was best to sleep in my sleeping bag in shorts and a short-sleeved shirt so that I could best be warmed by my body heat. That worked well...until the skies opened up at 3:00 a.m. and let out a torrential downpour. We quickly abandoned our tents and headed for the summit shelter, a stone cabin with a fireplace. I had to run hundreds of yards through the heavy rain in near freezing temperatures, in my summer clothes. It took about an hour in front of that fireplace to stop shivering. Shortly after that experience, I determined the best way to "be prepared" was to get out of the Boy Scouts!

Jesus tells this parable of the bridesmaids, some wise and some foolish. The wise ones are the ones who are prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. The foolish ones are the ones who are forced to run through freezing rain in summer clothes, I mean the ones who don't have enough oil.

Our community is expected to more than double over the next 40 years, a population growth of 76,000 people! The harvest is coming. The question before us is, *will we be wise and prepare for the coming harvest?* The alternative option is to wait and plant seeds when the people show up, but I fear that we will then be like those bridesmaids looking for oil when the party has already started. It is wise that we "Be Prepared" by sowing seeds together now.

Today's Prayer: *Lord, help us to do what is necessary to be prepared for this coming harvest. Amen.*

Monday, August 25

The Mind of Christ

by Wanda Harris



Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11

This devotion is taken from the most powerful "little" book I have ever read, I AM A CHURCH MEMBER by Thomas S. Rainer. He talks about having the mind of Christ based on the scripture above. This describes not only the obedience of Christ but is an example for us to follow.

WE ARE TO BE SERVANTS.

WE ARE TO BE OBEDIENT.

WE ARE TO PUT OTHERS FIRST.

WE ARE TO KEEP UNITY IN OUR CHURCH.

WE ARE ALWAYS TO ASK, WHAT CAN I DO FOR MY CHURCH?

SERVANTS: Willing to serve to further the mission and ministry of our church.

OBEDIENT: Being led by the HOLY SPIRIT to carry out the task at hand which is to renovate our sanctuary and construct a new facility that will allow us to continue and expand our mission of serving Christ in our community and county.

OTHERS FIRST: By giving sacrificially of our time, talent, and financial resources we will *Sow Seeds Together All for God's Glory* and increase our missional outreach beyond our dreams.

UNITY IN OUR CHURCH: Continually pray for our church membership in this endeavor.

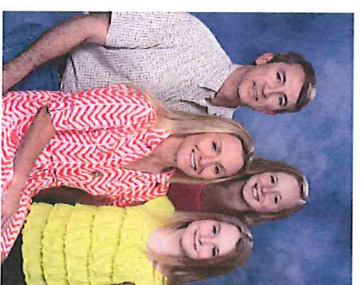
ALWAYS ASKING WHAT I CAN DO FOR MY CHURCH: Ready to do all we can.

Today's Prayer: Heavenly Father, help each of us to embody the attitude that Paul describes in this powerful scripture to be a faithful church member. Amen.

Tuesday, August 26

God's Love and Our Love

by Joe Logan



"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." 1 John 4: 7-21

Do you remember the song "They'll Know We Are Christians" by Peter Scholtes (also called "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"? It was inspired by John 13:34-35 where Jesus' command was "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John reinforced this command later in 1 John 4:7-21 and warned us that no one can truly love God if he doesn't love his brother. Boynton UMC is actively following Jesus' command through leadership and support of ministries that show God's love and our love by serving our neighbors locally, nationally and globally and drawing them closer to Christ. The goal of this Capital Campaign is to enable existing and new ministries to positively impact the lives of more people and build more disciples for Christ.

Today's Prayer: Lord, fill us with Your love until it overflows from us to our neighbors, to our community and to our world. May it be evident in everything we do. Guide this project to fulfill your purpose. In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Wednesday, August 27

What Boynton UMC Means to Me

by Sam Dill

So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2:8



It was an Easter Sunday when I first attended Boynton United Methodist. I was beginning my search for a church to belong to. The people I met that day were so welcoming and friendly. I thought I was off to a good start finding that special church that I had asked God to place me in. The next Sunday I intended to visit a church close to this one, but I found myself pulling into Boynton again. I was going to back out and turn around when someone waved to me and then someone else waved to me. I parked the car and never visited another. This church was soon to prove to me that I was home.

It has everything I was looking for- a pastor who is a good speaker and dedicated to the Holy Spirit's direction, teachers who study and know God's word, servants that are diligent in what they do, staff leaders who go beyond what is expected of them and pray about all that they do, members who are open to the direction of our Holy God and who are down-to-earth people. This truly is a church of blessing. I know I am blessed belonging here and I hope that we can continue to move forward with our plans so that many others will have the same opportunity to experience what I have for years to come.

Today's Prayer: *Lord Jesus, I am thankful for my church family. May we continue to offer your hospitality as we welcome those new people you send our way. You have blessed us so and may we share those blessings with others. Amen.*

**Don't Miss Worship This Sunday.
Greg Rambin is Preaching and
We're Announcing Our Advance Gifts Totals.**

Thursday, August 28

Raising Our Standard of Giving

by Greg Rambin

As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. 2 Corinthians 9:13



I came across the budget of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement in the 1700s. In his first year of ministry, he made 30 pounds (he lived in England). His living expenses were 28 pounds or 93% of his budget. He gave 2 pounds to the poor or 7% of his income. In his second year, he made 60 pounds. He lived on 47% (28 pounds) and gave 53% of his income to the poor (32 pounds). As his income increased, John Wesley's standard of living remained constant. It was his Standard of Giving that increased:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Living Expenses</u>	<u>Giving</u>
Third year:	90 pounds	28 pounds (31%)	62 pounds (69%)
Fourth year:	120 pounds	28 pounds (23%)	92 pounds (77%)
Later:	over 1,400 pounds	30 pounds (2%)	1,370 pounds (98%)

I wish that I could say that John Wesley's budget mirrors my family budget. It does not. Michelle and I have been blessed with so much. We have been excellent stewards of these blessings...and we have been horrible stewards of these blessings.

To what better ministry to give than Boynton United Methodist Church: the church where all three of my children have been baptized, where Michelle and I renewed our vows, where my oldest daughter was married, and the church that prayed us through many a storm. I'm sure each of you have stories of friends and family at this church and the many blessings BUMC has given. The time is now to let more know of our generosity and obedience.

Today's Prayer: *Lord, we are simply stewards of Your abundance. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Friday, August 29

Miracles

by Glenda Thomas



*And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. **Matthew 14: 19-21***

When churches are challenged with growing needs, it is our responsibility to meet these needs. Every miracle begins with one person – with a person making a gift of the best they can offer and asking Jesus to bless and use that gift. Your gift may appear inadequate, but all Jesus asks of us is the best that we can offer. Your gift will be blessed and will make more difference than you can imagine.

This Capital Campaign will allow our church to grow and provide needed space for the coming harvest of new residents to our area. In addition, we can do the needed maintenance and improvements on our 25-year old Sanctuary so that it will remain a shining example of God's presence among us.

Today's Prayer: *Bless us Lord this day with vision. May this place be a sacred place, a telling place, where heaven and earth meet. Amen.*

Saturday, August 30

God's Plan

by Kelly Jones



"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

God has a plan for all of us, as both a Church and as individuals. We have to be prepared to open our hearts to His plan. As I think about the new building project, I am encouraged of God's plan for Boynton UMC. Our Church has seen ebbs and flows in growth over the 30+ years that my family has attended. It is exciting that His plan will position our Church for the projected growth in Catoosa County in coming years. As a mother of a child in the B-Kidz program, I am excited about the possibilities the new building will create for our Children's Ministry.

As we begin this journey through the capital campaign and the building project, my hope is that every member will prayerfully ask God what His plan is for him/her on an individual basis and determine how he/she will personally become involved in the project. We are all the body of Christ and in order for this project to be successful, participation will be needed from everyone.

Today's Prayer: *Dear Lord, please help all of us know your plan for us and for Boynton UMC. Help us to carry out your plan so that our community will see your glory. Amen.*

Don't Miss Worship This Sunday.

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