

GRAHAM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE QUACKER

AUGUST 2011



Dear Friends in Christ,

In a former pastorate, there was a Wednesday evening program called "F.I.S.H." which was actually an acronym for "*Fun In the Summer Heat.*" So . . . 100+ heat indexes notwithstanding, here's hoping and praying that you're managing to have some good fun and fellowship in this summer heat!

Cardiologists are warning us these sweltering days—"*Don't let the heat get to your heart!*" Counselors would also add—"*Don't let this hot weather affect your disposition!*" I'm grateful that our sense of humor, amiability, and unity are all strong here at GMPC despite Delta heat and humidity. Like the Bible puts it, "*Blessed are those who dwell in God's house in unity. They continue to praise God whatever comes along*" (Psalm 84:4, NEV)!

I overheard Matt Townsend of local BONANZA fame share this illustration with some of his diners the other day. It seems that a man was just coming to after surgery. He groggily opened his eyes and gazed upon his wife of many, many years. He then began to reminisce and said to her: "*Honey, you remember when we were on our honeymoon and that deer ran out right in front of us? I was pretty banged up from that wreck. You got out with just a scratch. But you were there for me.*"

"*Honey, you remember when our new house caught on fire? I suffered from smoke inhalation. You got out fine. But you were there for me!*"

"*Honey, you remember when we took that walk in the park—hand in hand—and I stepped in a hole and broke my leg? But you were there for me!*"

This groggy patient now paused, and asked his wife—"*Honey, you know what . . . ?*"

His wife leaned down to his face with loving anticipation, just waiting for his next words of loving appreciation. He then said to her: "*Honey, I THINK YOU'RE BAD LUCK!*"

Our being together has definitely NOT been bad luck. Working as a united close family, God has used us this past year to accomplish His will in many areas:

>Our Community Soup Kitchen under the direction of Berta Ann Elphingstone is now serving over 400 bags of food each Monday in Pettus Hall. While we anticipate this number dropping somewhat with the start of the new school year, the need for food in our community is nevertheless great. To this end, a committee composed of John Jordan (Ridgeway Baptist), Pat Hawkins (Ridgeway Baptist), Berta Ann Elphingstone (GMPC), and I will meet to compose a letter to all of the known churches in St. Francis County suggesting ways in which they can participate in our Community Soup Kitchen in terms of food, volunteer time, or resources.

>It has been our prayer that God would use our facilities to His glory. We have been privileged to host (house and feed) three separate mission groups in our Christian Activities Building this summer—an Episcopal Youth Group who engaged in repairing the homes of Delta area senior citizens; a Presbyterian mission group of youth and adults from the Mid-West who were also engaged in Delta renovations for those who could not afford them; and a group of young Christian bikers who were cycling from coast to coast in order (Continued on next page)

to raise money and awareness for humanitarian causes.

>The beautiful windows of our church have been immortalized in a newly published book by Mike and Blanche Deaderick entitled **The Windows of Graham Memorial Church**. The color photography is amazing and the history and donor of each stained glass window are clearly revealed. If you’d like to purchase a copy of this memorable work of art, please contact our church office.

>While it’s still red hot summertime, fall is coming. And that means that our “S.O.S” (“Scripture Over Sandwiches”) study will resume. Our study topic for this fall will be a DVD-based series by Max Lucado called “**OUTLIVE YOUR LIFE—DISCOVERING HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**” We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in Pettus Hall on Wednesday, September 14, for our light meal together. Our study time will then begin around 6:20 p.m. and will end at 7:00 in order for our choir members to participate! (Remember that Men of the Church will have their regular 6:00 p.m. meetings on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of each month from September through May). For further information or to volunteer to help with the “light sandwich meal” each Wednesday, please contact Claire Cranford (633-1666).

Thanking God for a good summer thus far and looking forward to all that’s in store for us as a church,
I am
In Christ’s love,
Larry

People’s stories about learning to swim often sound like this: “My dad tossed me into the water. I didn’t have a choice — I flailed around until I found myself swimming!”

But an elderly Christian tells a variation of this story: “Wanting to teach me to swim, my father threw me off the dock into the lake. I sank.” But then he goes on: “So my father jumped in with me.”

The storyteller’s wisdom shines in his application: “God doesn’t toss us into life and leave us alone to sink or swim. By sending Jesus, God jumped right in with us to save us from death, hold us protectively and help us navigate life.”



Late bloomers

The pink crape myrtle finally bloomed — two full months after every other tree of its kind in the area and just as the changing weather signaled the season’s end. Between the rocky soil, too much shade and not enough water, the tree was doing the best it could under the circumstances.

Sound familiar? Like that tree, we’re often “... afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9, NRSV). At times, everything seems to go against us.

Nothing comes easily. Life is a struggle. But in Christ, we are not undone. We can persevere. We can bloom, even under the harshest circumstances.

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A Little Christian Humor

This is one of the best clean jokes I've seen!

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering. Finally fed up, God said, 'THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job.'

So Satan and Jesus sat down at the keyboards and typed away.

They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known to man.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was so fast!!

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld.

Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers. Satan started searching frantically, screaming:

'It's gone! It's all GONE! 'I lost everything when the power went out!'

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate.

'Wait!' he screamed. 'That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?'

God just shrugged and said,

JESUS SAVES....

Contributed by Patricia Duke

**SPECIAL
DATES
IN
AUGUST**

August 2011



- 2~Alex Leftwich
- 8~Audrey Elphingstone
- 10~Jean Pope
- 12~Becky Rauth
Jessica Alderson
Smith
- 21~Ellen Alderson
- 28~Edwene
McCollum
- 31~Gay Schwartz



- 5~Mr. & Mrs. Larry
Mitchell
- 7~Mr. & Mrs. John
Casbeer
- 9~Mr. & Mrs.
Glenn Patterson
- 14~Mr. & Mrs.
Bill Scheiderer
- 24~Mr. & Mrs.
Steve Cranford
- 28~Mr. & Mrs.
Gordon Griffith

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 First Day of School	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pot Luck- Rally Day	29	30	31			

BIBLE QUIZ

How many animals did God tell Noah to bring into the ark?

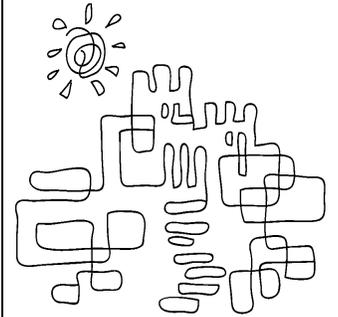
- A. Two of each kind
- B. Seven pairs of clean animals and one pair each of unclean animals
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above

Answer: C (See Genesis 6:19-20 and 7:2-3.)



Special dates

We will have Pot Luck on August 28th and celebrate Rally Day.



**"THE LORD IS
MY ROCK,
MY FORTRESS,
AND MY
DELIVERER...."**

2 SAMUEL 22:2

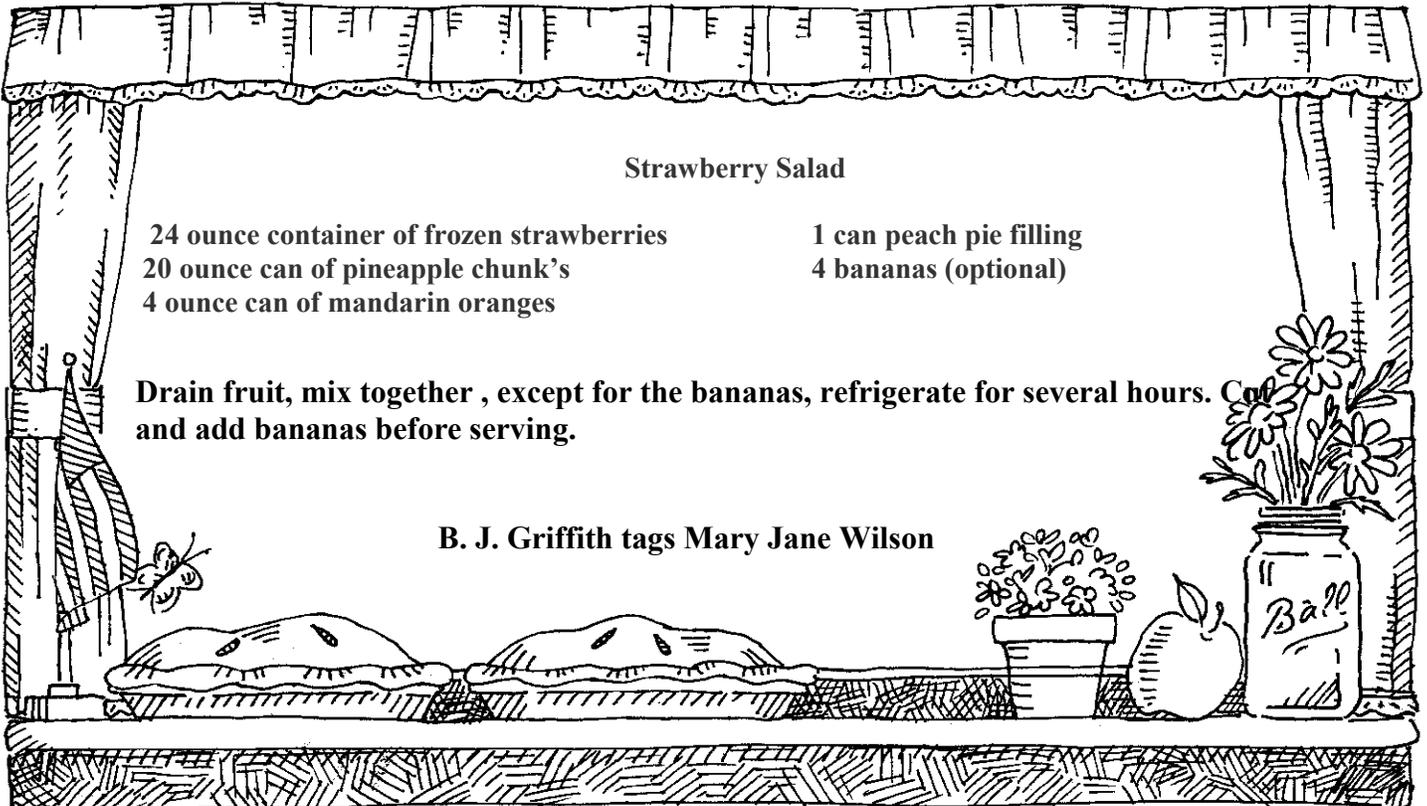
Strawberry Salad

24 ounce container of frozen strawberries
20 ounce can of pineapple chunk's
4 ounce can of mandarin oranges

1 can peach pie filling
4 bananas (optional)

Drain fruit, mix together , except for the bananas, refrigerate for several hours. Cool and add bananas before serving.

B. J. Griffith tags Mary Jane Wilson



GRAHAM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GRAHAMLIST: PRAYING TOGETHER

If you find yourself growing angry at someone, pray for him-anger cannot live in an atmosphere of prayer. W. T. McElroy

updates

Former Forrest Citian **Carole Cohen's** father, **Seymour Gerbie** of Florida, passed away Thursday, and is being buried today. Our prayers are lifted up in sympathy.

Former GMPC pastor **Shauna Silmon** remains in Tulsa with her family. Her sister and 2 nieces were severely injured in a car crash. Niece **Madison's** broken neck has caused loss of movement, and younger sister **Mikala** had to have her arm amputated. Their mother, **Marcie**, has multiple broken bones. Our hearts go out to all of them.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rujay Burke is in Germantown Methodist Hospital, room 312 W, cardiac floor, with congestive heart failure and cancer. **Sandra** and **Rujay** and daughter, **Amy**, need and appreciate our prayers. **Sandra** is dealing with gall bladder problems.

Former Forrest Citian and GMPC member **Fannie Stephenson Matthews** has passed away at her home in Oklahoma City. Our prayers of comfort go up for her family.

Betty McKinney (grandmother of **Davyon "Sleepy" McKinney**, our own Forrest City freshman football Razorback), is having some tests done.

Ruth Ann Vowan's neighbor, **Vicki Thomas**, fall and brain injury, more surgery ahead, and needs prayers for safety as she recovers.

Debbie Cockmon, **Ron's** sister in law, breast cancer

Jeannie Rolfe Espey's grandson **Isaiah**, improving, treatments helping. Mother **Samm** needs continued prayers for rest and good health.

Butch Keton, **Kathy Cockmon's** son in law **Joey's** Dad, liver cancer.

Todd, **Jeanette**, **Brittney**, and **April Nichols**. **Todd** has had prostate cancer surgery.

Johnny Alderson, knee replacement

Joyce Lieblong, now in Hospice care with cancer, kidney problems

We remember the victims of area floods and tornadoes.

Cindy Morris, **Ruth Ann Vowan's** missionary friend, multiple myeloma, in remission

Anthony Dilday, son-in-law of **Gene** and **Allison Crawley**, in Afghanistan

Felipe Mendoza, a friend of **Janet Toney's**, awaiting a kidney transplant.

Larry Long, recovering from lung cancer surgery

John Burks' friend **Gene McMahan**, stomach problems created by a blood clot

Judy Gorman's sister-in-law **Donna Aucoin**, stomach cancer surgery, and chemo.

Janice Mitchell's brother-in-law, **Ken Terrill**, severe diabetic and heart issues

Quintin Rice, **Claire Cranford's** nephew, making progress

Gordon Griffith's brother, **Graham**, prostate cancer

Carolyn (Mrs. Bill) Davis, recovering from a stroke.

Bill Manasco of Searcy, cancer treatments

Edward Homewood, **Kathy Cockmon's** cousin, Lou Gehrig's Disease

Hazel (Mrs. Jerry) Gorman caretaker, **Jerry Gorman**, Alzheimer's

Ruth Ann Vowan's aunt, **Faye Davidson**, chronic back pain and neuropathy

Alice Miller's cousin, **Carol Wadley**, melanoma

David Cohn, Lou Gehrig's disease.

Dalton Smith, spina bifida, cerebral palsy

Marilyn Cullum's cousin, **Jamie**, aggressive brain tumor.

Christine Morris, in a nursing facility in Fayetteville near daughter **Crockett Gauthier**.

This daily devotional piece was sent to Larry by John Burks. John got it off the internet from "Truth For Life Daily".

Graham Memorial Graham
Memorial Presbyterian Church

Staff

Dr. Larry Mitchell
Pastor

Judy Gorman
Secretary
Patricia Duke
Organist

Ruth Ann Vowan
Choir Director
LaToya Hughes
Nursery Attendant
Willie Hamilton
Sexton

Office Hours

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Check us out on the
Web!

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