

# Stained Glass Gazette

First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, GA

January 12, 2012

Some of you may be aware that our family adopted a dog this past weekend. His name is Joe and he is a beautiful 8 year old Springer Spaniel...who also happens to be totally blind. Joe, believe it or not, is a rescue from Jacksonville and his story will break your heart. You see, Joe's eye disorder developed over time and his owners decided that his handicap was too much trouble. They dropped him at a local clinic with a \$70 check and asked for him to be euthanized.

The vet, however, couldn't do it. When she opened Joe's crate and gave him some affection he began to howl uncontrollably. She cried, called Springer Rescue, and a few months later Joe has a home!

But here's the rub. We have another rescue animal we "inherited" while in Seminary. His name is Charlie...*the cat*. Now, I know first hand that Charlie and dogs don't get along. How? Well, I was the one who used to climb up and get Charlie down from the 2<sup>nd</sup> story ledge of our apartment every time he would scramble up, via the privacy fence, to escape the wrath of the neighborhood dogs.

Joe, however, has no interest in Charlie... other than he knows something is in the room. But Charlie, on the other hand, has no clue that his "nemesis" is totally blind and totally harmless. So, Charlie goes slinking around the house in total fear simply because he assumes Joe is a threat. If Joe gets within 5 feet, Charlie begins to squall like a Tornado Siren, and if Joe is not careful...one of these days Charlie might strike...not because he is mean, but simply because he is afraid.

So what does all this have to do with faith? **Fear**. Biologically it is there for those circumstances when it can actually save our lives. Fear keeps us from entering where we should not, following where we don't need to go, and instinctively tells us to "RUN!" when we need to flee. It even produces adrenaline to help us get away...or in the case of one black and white cat...climb an 8 foot privacy fence in a single bound.

Yet, at the same time, fear can be the most debilitating and dangerous emotion we have. How often do we hold ourselves back, "slinking" around the edges of life, petrified of some perceived threat that's probably not a threat at all? How often do we strike out at others simply out of our own insecurity, which at its core is fear's fraternal twin? How often do we keep our distance from people and events simply because we fear the unknown? At that point, fear, I think Jesus would say, has become an impediment to true life. And that, my brothers and sisters, is where faith steps in.

"Fear not!" the Old King James Bible says...and it says it more than 60 times! From God in Genesis "*Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.*" (15:1) To Jesus in John's Revelation "*Fear not; I am the first and the last*" (1:17). Faith is the conqueror of fear, and faith in God's good grace is what Paul says defines our freedom in Christ, "*For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.*" (Rom. 8:15). Faith is both a healer and an emancipator. Faith is the anti-venom to fear's ability to poison our lives and faith frees us up to live **FOR** God...instead of **IN** fear's grasp.

So "Fear Not, Charlie!" for Joe will not hurt you. And "Fear Not, Joe!" for we will not abandon you. And "Fear Not, God's children!" for God has chosen you through Jesus Christ and in Him we have received the promise of God's faithful care. And, God...is *always* faithful.

Grace and Peace - Richard

## CONCERNS

\*Thomas Yogerst (Laabs' son-in-law) \*Dick Aycock  
\*Patsy Miller \*Jason Edwards Family \*Bobby Harnage  
\*Doris Van Dyke (Denise Pope's Mom) \*Frances Grimm  
\*Betty Smith (Jim Soos' niece) \*Ron & Betty Tauber  
\*Pat Dalton (John Mercer's sister) \*Jason Blanton  
\*Debbie Morse (Susan Kirkland's mother) \*Tom Holman  
\*Sandra Edwards \*Sharon Harnage  
\*Trey Newsome (Alice Griner's grandson)  
\*Louvera Walden's mother

*Flower dates still available:  
January 29, February 12 & 19,  
March 25, July 22,  
September 30, &  
October 14*

Greetings:

Happy New Year! The children's choir has started back - we would love to have new members!

The Chancel Choir continues to prepare music for worship.

Be encouraged to take our preacher's charge: Wake up, pray and read scripture!

God WILL make a difference!

Be blessed this week,

Kathy

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### JANUARY

15 Rexanne & Greg Yarbrough  
Hunter Yarbrough & Rachel Waller  
22 Amy & Ricky Griffin  
Katie Wynn & Gloria Beard

## WELCOME

### NEW LEADERSHIP

Ordination and Installation of our new Deacons and Elders will take place during worship on Sunday, January 15th. Be in prayer for these individuals as they prepare to become part of the leadership of this congregation.

Deacons: Robert Bartosh, Kevin Blanton, Diane Herndon, Susan Pearson, Bud Stringer

Elders: Andrew Christensen, Dan Jeter, Gary Lodge, Fred Rossman

## YOUTH

No Youth Fellowship this week due to MLK Holiday. Juice and Jesus will resume the following Monday as well.

### FUN STATION TALLAHASSEE

Friday, January 20th

Deadline to sign up is Wednesday

January 17th!

### PARENTS & YOUTH MEETING

Sunday, January 22nd 5-7 PM

Includes supper

Please let Connie know if you will be attending by Wednesday so supper can be planned.

## SECRET PAL 2012

Applications are now available for the 2012 Secret Pal ministry. Open to youth and up, gals or guys. This is a fun way to honor someone in the church without them knowing who you are! Applications are on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

**The Secret Pal Tea for 2011 participants will be Sunday, January 22nd at 3 PM in the Parlor. This is also the deadline to register for 2012.**

## CORNERSTONES

### PLEASE NOTE

The Thursday night we will go to the High School Play is Thursday, February 9th not the 16th as printed in your newsletter. Sorry for any confusion.

### LEADING LADIES

#### Valdosta

Deadline to join the group for dinner and the play on February 2nd will be January 17th.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Deacons Meeting

Sunday, January 15, 8:30 AM

### Installation of Officers

Sunday, January 15th

### Session Meets

Sunday, January 22, 8:30 AM

### Strengthening Our Church

Sunday, January 22, 8:30 AM

### Pulpit Swap

January 22nd welcome Jerry Long

### Congregational Care

Wednesday, January 25, 4:00 PM

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, February 1, 4:00 PM

## FLOWERS

The new flower chart for 2012 is at the church and ready to be filled! If you would like to give flowers this year, please contact Sandra Plant or come by the church office to check availability.

## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The church is publishing a new church directory. Olan Mills Studio will be taking family and individual photographs on Tuesday, January 17th through Sunday, January 21st. There is no charge for the photos, but you may purchase packages at the time of your sitting. Please contact Melody Jenkins to make your appointment- 985-3464 or 985-6540.

## BACK PACKS OF HOPE

Don't forget to add a few items to your grocery list for the Back Packs. Cost per week per back pack is \$10 (provides six meals and snacks) and we fill 22 each week for a total of \$220 per week for this mission. Lists are on the bulletin board.

## **New in the Church Library, The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle**

Rooted in the observation that massive transitions in the church happen about every 500 years, Phyllis Tickle shows readers that we live in such a time right now. She compares the Great Emergence to other "Greats" in the history of Christianity, including the Great Transformation (when God walked among us), the time of Gregory the Great, the Great Schism, and the Great Reformation.

Combining history, a look at the causes of social upheaval, and current events, *The Great Emergence* shows readers what the Great Emergence in church and culture is, how it came to be, and where it is going. Anyone who is interested in the future of the church in America, no matter what their personal affiliation, will find this book a fascinating exploration.

This is the book that Richard wrote about last fall. Check it out.

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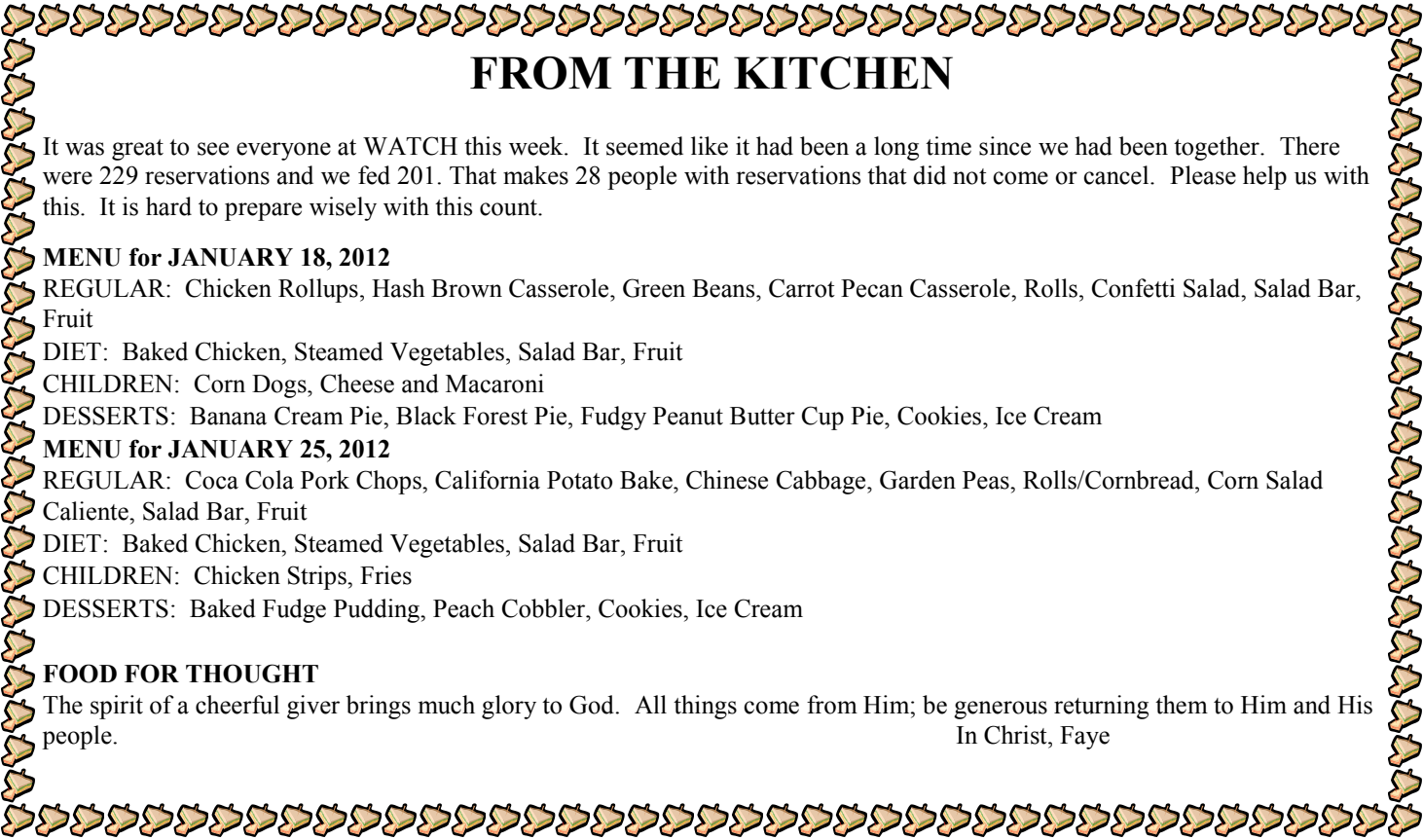
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**FROM THE KITCHEN**

It was great to see everyone at WATCH this week. It seemed like it had been a long time since we had been together. There were 229 reservations and we fed 201. That makes 28 people with reservations that did not come or cancel. Please help us with this. It is hard to prepare wisely with this count.

**MENU for JANUARY 18, 2012**

REGULAR: Chicken Rollups, Hash Brown Casserole, Green Beans, Carrot Pecan Casserole, Rolls, Confetti Salad, Salad Bar, Fruit

DIET: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar, Fruit

CHILDREN: Corn Dogs, Cheese and Macaroni

DESSERTS: Banana Cream Pie, Black Forest Pie, Fudgy Peanut Butter Cup Pie, Cookies, Ice Cream

**MENU for JANUARY 25, 2012**

REGULAR: Coca Cola Pork Chops, California Potato Bake, Chinese Cabbage, Garden Peas, Rolls/Cornbread, Corn Salad Caliente, Salad Bar, Fruit

DIET: Baked Chicken, Steamed Vegetables, Salad Bar, Fruit

CHILDREN: Chicken Strips, Fries

DESSERTS: Baked Fudge Pudding, Peach Cobbler, Cookies, Ice Cream

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The spirit of a cheerful giver brings much glory to God. All things come from Him; be generous returning them to Him and His people.  
In Christ, Faye