

God's Country Tidings

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Pastor Greg Hammer

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252-435-6209

PastorHammer@hotmail.com

From the Pastor **F**light it Up

There are some things about summer I absolutely love. I'm not too crazy about the heat or the humidity. I'm not too fond of the mosquitoes or ticks. But, I love to see all the life that stirs around in the air, on the ground, in the water, and everywhere you look. One of my summer favorites is lightning bugs. During the day they look so ordinary, like just plain old bugs. But at night when they fly and flicker it's incredible.

A few years ago an exchange student from Norway lived with my mom and dad. One summer night she saw her first lightning bug and just about flipped out. She couldn't believe it. She had never seen anything like it before. A plain, old bug, yet it has a glow-in-the-dark rear end. What was God thinking?

Why in the world did God choose to make the lightning bug glow? Now I'm sure science



gives some great explanations about this fluorescent fanny, like luminescent glands located on the undersides of the rear abdominal segments...and it's useful for mating and other stuff. I wonder when God was creating all the animals and everything around us did He come up with the idea of the lightning bug and say, "Oh this will be fun, My kids are going to love it." We know that God loves us enough to create all the things that we need to survive, but does God love us so much that He created some things just to make us smile?

Just seeing lightning bugs takes me back to warm summer days as a kid. Chasing them down, catching them, putting them in a jar and taking them into my room to watch them light up. Well, ok I'll admit to pulling off their glow guts, making glow rings, and smearing them on my face. I can still feel the joy of that time and remember the laughter echoing through my memories. Lightning bugs were just a great part of summer, like fresh tomatoes (although I didn't like those as a kid) and ice cold watermelons. God created so much diversity in the world, much more than is needed just for mere survival. He made all things for us and wants us to enjoy them and see Him in everything. Revelation 21:23 talks about heaven and says, The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light. We can become so busy surrounding ourselves with man made goods that we don't notice the living tapestry God has laid out all around us. Lightning bugs have an incredible purpose after all. They are a reminder of a creative God who loves us so much; He'd even paint the rear end of a bug...just to see us smile.



In Christ, Pastor Greg

ALL IN THE FAMILY

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- William Meekins
- Billie and John Groh

LET'S TAKE A LOOK BACK



Vacation Bible School



Thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such a great time! We enjoyed three nights of loads of fun during our Ramblin' Road Trip!

We couldn't have done it without you!

Thanks Again!

Terry and La Verne

Annual Church Picnic

Our annual church-wide picnic was held on July 17, 2005 from 3p.m. until dusk at the church. (Extremely HOT weather changed our Munden Point Park plans.)



This was an afternoon of Christian fun and fellowship that included inside and outside games and delicious food for approximately 90 attendees both young and old.

Hollie Shratwieser was the home-made ice cream celebrity! She brought both homemade Strawberry-Cream Cheese Ice Cream and Old Fashioned Chocolate Ice Cream to share. For her



splendid effort, Hollie received an ice-cream scoop and a cookbook entitled Church Suppers which includes many blessings, poems and recipes from persons throughout the United States that have prepared and shared their specialty for a church function. Congratulations Hollie and thanks so much for your participation!!

Hollie's Homemade Strawberry-Cream Cheese Ice Cream

Makes about 3 quarts

Prep: 50 minutes

Chill: 1 hour

Ingredients

- 4 slightly beaten eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups half-and-half or light cream
- 2 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 4 cups whipping cream
- 1 10- to 12-ounce jar strawberry ice cream topping (about 1 cup)

Directions

1. Combine eggs, sugar, and half-and-half or light cream in a heavy medium saucepan. Cook and stir over medium heat about 12 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Cover and chill mixture for 1 hour.
2. Beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in the cooled egg mixture. Stir in lemon juice and vanilla. Stir in whipping cream.
3. Freeze in a 4- or 5-quart ice cream freezer according to the manufacturer's directions. When mixture is frozen, remove the dasher and stir in the strawberry ice cream topping with a long handled spoon until marbled but not thoroughly mixed. Makes about 3 quarts.

Hollies Homemade Old Fashioned Chocolate Ice Cream

Ingredients:

1 1/3 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. Cornstarch
1/2 tsp. Salt
3 cups whole milk
2 eggs
3 (1 oz.) squares semisweet chocolate, melted
1 (5.33 oz) can evaporated milk
1 cup whipping cream
1 tsp. Vanilla extract

Instructions:

In a medium saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Stir in whole milk. Stir over medium heat until mixture begins to simmer. In a small bowl, beat eggs. Stir about 1 cup hot milk mixture into beaten eggs. Stir egg mixture into remaining hot milk mixture. Cook and stir over low heat until slightly thickened, about 2 min. Stir in melted chocolate. Beat with a whisk until mixture is smooth. Stir in evaporated milk, whipping cream and vanilla. Cook to room temperature. Pour into ice cream canister. Freeze in ice cream maker according to directions.

The Skylite Boys Quartet

Coming July 31 at 6:30pm



As the Lord leads, the Skylite Boys are ministering through gospel music, presenting the message in an evangelistic style. Delivering the greatest gospel

message music can offer, the Skylite Boys testify to their dependence on God through songs as written by Lowell Locklear, the quartet's lead singer.

For more information check out their website at <http://www.skyliteboys.com/>

Music Dept.

Our apologies for leaving **Sandy Lugar** out of the list of new choir members last month.

Adult Choir practice will begin again this month on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. If you enjoy singing please come out and lend your voice to praise God in song!

Scholarship Committee News

The annual fund drive for the scholarship fund is underway. Our church likes to recognize our college students and assist with college expenses by awarding annual scholarships. Applications for the scholarships are available and can be picked up from the table in the back hallway. The applications are due by August 21, 2005 and may be given to LaVerne Bennis, Jennifer Williams or Susan Creamer. August 21st will also be designated as "Scholarship Sunday" and a love offering for the scholarship fund may be placed in the collection plate on that day. The scholarships will be awarded in September. All of those who make a donation will have their name put in a "hat" and a drawing will be made for "summer time treat" gift certificates. Gift certificates will be presented when the scholarships are awarded. Please see a member of the Scholarship Committee - LaVerne Bennis, Jennifer Williams or Susan Creamer, for more information or to make a donation.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Future *God's Country Tidings* newsletters will be edited by Andrea Scott. Please have all articles in to her by the 15th of each month. You can contact her by phone at 421-2285, or email at AnnFan86@aol.com

WHAT'S NEW IN WMU

Our "local area" mission project efforts which have involved collecting items from a suggested list to help fill "hospitality baskets" for new international students that will be entering "Old Dominion University this fall have been a huge success! We have already filled 2 baskets!

This project was also the "mission emphasis" for our Vacation Bible School this year. Thus the children and leaders attending Vacation Bible School contributed much in a very special way to this project!

Project Deadline: July 31

I just know these gift filled laundry baskets will bring smiling faces to many students that are thousands of miles away from their families. More importantly, this gift provides a way for foreign students (and their families) to hear about God's

<u>Accepted donations include:</u>	
Bath soap	Shampoo
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes
Tissues (small packages)	Ink pens
Post-it-notes	Spiral notebooks
Snacks (individual size)	Band-aids
Small flashlights	Clear rolls of tape
Unscented hand lotion	Highlighter pens
Small sturdy staples	Fingernail Clippers
Long-distance calling cards	Small scissors
<u>Do NOT donate:</u>	
Sample sized items	Deodorant
Shaving cream	Razors
Make-up	Perfume
Printed stationary	OTC medicines
Gender specific items	Hair Spray
Pencils	

greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ. Again, thanks so much for your participation in our mission endeavors.

Diane Horsley
WMU Director

Centennial/Jenny McClain Circle

The Centennial and Jenny McClain circle will not meet in August but will resume on Sept.6th. We welcome new members!! For July we participated in filling the hospitality baskets for new fall students at Old Dominion University, sponsored by The Baptist Student Union. We also made dinners for a members family who was coping with an ill family member.

Luta Tebault Circle

The July meeting was held on the 19th of July at the church and was hosted by Silvia Cliver. Nine of seventeen members attended. Since our last meeting in May the Circle provided "candy bags" as treats for Father's Day, mailed 28 cards to people on the prayer list and gave a food basket and gift certificate donation to a family in need. Upcoming events include providing dinner to the Skylite Boys prior to their performance on July 31st and

sponsoring the Deacons Dinner sometime in September. Our next meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday, the 23rd of August at the home of Jennifer, Jena and Jessica Williams. The meeting will start at 6:30 and dinner will be served. The main topic of this meeting will be the election of new officers for the coming church year, which starts in September. Positions that need to be filled are: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Program coordinator, Prayer Calendar coordinator, Community Mission coordinator, Prayer List Card coordinator, Historian and Newsletter Correspondent. Members should come to the August meeting prepared to volunteer for a position of interest or to volunteer to keep the one they had last year. There is a two year limit on positions. So far we have had one new volunteer; Ashley Scott has agreed to be the Prayer Calendar coordinator for the upcoming year. Thank you Ashley! Our meetings are usually held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The September meeting will be hosted by LaVerne Bennis, the October meeting will be held in conjunction with the Ruritan Dinner (yes we are cooking again!), and the November meeting will be hosted by Phyllis Arth. Please join us - we have a lot of fun serving our church and community.

Mission Friends

Children ages 3 – 4 are invited to a special lesson during the 11:00 church service following the Children's Message given by Pastor Greg. Mission Friends has six regular attendees during each Sunday lesson. The lesson starts with a greeting from Zach, our puppy mascot. Then there is a brief bible story and a craft that teaches a lesson about our Bible Words for the week. Our The Mission Friends teacher "teams" are Suzanne and Robert Whitehurst and Jennifer, Jena and Jessica Williams. Please ask your 3 – 4 year old what the Bible Words are for the week and what they learned in their lesson. They will be very excited to tell you!!!

CROSSROADS 2005 is coming! What is Crossroads 2005? Three nights of FREE food, FREE



music and FREE stuff! Who is Crossroads 2005 for? Crossroads 2005 is for anyone going to high school or college, or starting a career and who is wondering "what's the point?" Three awesome, fun and very enlightening speakers will help you find which way to go. Plus you'll get to play

“Crossroads Challenge,” our first of three nights worth of crazy, insanely messy games you’ll absolutely love! And of course there will be a lot of cool prizes!

So come check out Crossroads 2005, August 10th, 11th, and 12th from 7pm to 9pm at Blackwater Baptist Church. And you definitely don’t want to miss Friday night, the 12th; we’ll be rocking to a live band!

If you want to help with Crossroads 2005 or if you have any questions please call Pastor Greg or Susan Highsmith.

INTERNET FOREIGN MISSIONS

Did you know that our church recently helped with a Vacation Bible School in SPAIN! While doing research for our successful 2004 Sonlight Island VBS a message was left on the internet seeking a music CD to go with the sheet music we had. Sonlight Island came out several years ago and is now only available through churches sharing their resources.

Well, this year Blackwater was contacted by a school nurse named Barbara who is serving on a Navy base in Rota, Spain. She explained that they have very limited supplies or funds. They had a music CD but no words. Our sheets were quickly put into the computer and whisked off to give the children in Spain an opportunity to sing about Jesus at their VBS. Please pray for these children and the leaders in August. And pray for Blackwater to be given more mission action opportunities to spread His word!!

Helping Out!

The members of the Blackwater Hunt Club repaired Louis Parsons’ barn that had been damaged by hurricane Isabel on Saturday July 16th. Pete Dozier, Gary Jones, and Austin Savage, along with other club members completed the repairs in a few hours. Louis was very appreciative!

JOKES & POEMS

THE POEM:

THE WORLD’S BIBLE
Christ has no hands but our hands
 To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
 To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
 To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
 To bring them to His side.
 We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;

We are the sinner’s gospel,
We are the scoffer’s creed;
We are the Lord’s last message
 Given in deed and word-
What if the line is crooked?
 What if the type is blurred?

What if our hands are busy
 With other work than His.
What if our feet are walking
 Where sin’s allurements is.
What if our tongues are speaking
 Of things His lips would spurn
How can we hope to help Him
 Unless from Him we learn.

Author Unknown

AND THE JOKE:

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy boulevard. Suddenly, the light turned yellow.

He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection.

A tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming in frustration as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer.

The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched, finger printed, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and cussing a blue streak at him."

"I noticed the 'Choose Life' license plate, the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk."

"Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car."