

Mountain Messenger

August 2018

Newsletter

SCHOOL
is
STARTING

ARE YOU READY?



Pastor's Pen...

Leaving Well...

Last week, we took a much-needed break in order to spend some time with our family. Everyone came to our house as a part of their vacation and we had a wonderful time catching up, spoiling the grandkids, and just loving on our family. For a few days, everything in our house, our schedule, and our lives was turned upside-down or placed on hold. And, we loved every minute of it until it was time to say "goodbye". Then, there were hugs and kisses and that strange feeling you get when you watch them head out the driveway to begin their journey back home.

Now, we are just trying to get back to normal; whatever that is.

The same thing often happens in the church when there is a staff change or someone leaves... Saying good-bye and leaving, well is hard for staff and church members alike. It's hard trying to figure out what the "new normal" is going to be when there is a vacancy and a void left behind that needs to be filled.

By now you probably know that Betty Jones, our Children's Minister, has resigned and will be leaving us as of August 5th. Betty has done a great job for us during her time here as a volunteer and as a paid staff member. I personally want to thank her publicly for helping us bring new life into our children's ministry. She came to us during a challenging time for our church and has helped us lay a good foundation for the future. Thank you Betty!

Now, we begin that process of trying to figure out what the "new normal" is going to be. Who will step up and step in to fill some of the gaps that she will leave behind? Who will take her place? Even if I can't answer all of those questions right now, I know God has an answer for us and He most certainly will lead us in the right direction just as He has Betty. Listen to what the Bible says,

Trust in the LORD with all of your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Right now, our prayers are with Betty as she seeks God's direction for her next leg of the journey. I want us to send her off with our blessing, our love, and our appreciation for what she has done for us and for our children. On August 5th, there will be a basket in the Welcome Center for you to leave a note or a card for her. In between, be in prayer for your staff, your children's volunteers, and the personnel committee as we try to figure out what the "new normal" is going to be. I am pretty sure there won't be anything "normal" about it and that's exciting!

In Christ ,

Pastor Steve

Welcome New Members!



**Rob & Sylvia
Chassner**



**Vickie & Kelley
Harris**



Logan Kerlin

Church on the Hill

Join us on Sunday, August 12th, at 6:00 p.m. for our **Church on the Hill Back to School Event, "Fruit, Faith & Fellowship,"** at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, Lower Pavilion. Bring your favorite fruit or fruit dessert and your lawn chair and enjoy an evening of fellowship by the lake.

Celebration Cafe

Join us for our quarterly **Celebration Café** in the Family Life Center Sunday, August 19th at 8:00 a.m. We'll have coffee, a light breakfast and some good fellowship!

Annual Corporate Meeting & Called Church Conference

will be held on Sunday, August 19th immediately following the Evening Worship Service to approve the new Deacons and Servants in Ministry for 2018/19.

Guest Services Meeting

If you are an Usher, Greeter, on the Golf Cart Ministry or volunteer at the Welcome Desk, please plan to attend a service meeting on Sunday, August 26th at 4:30 p.m. in the Worship Center lead by the Pastoral team.



Picturing Our Heroes

If you or a loved one serve, or have served in any branch of the Armed Forces, the Music Department would like a picture in uniform. Your pictures must be turned into the Music Office or emailed to sue@mcconnellchurch.org by October 1st. We will use them during our Veteran's Day Service and will be sure to return your physical picture!



Loving God Loving Kids

Thank you, McConnell!

It is an honor and blessing to be called to serve the Lord as a children's minister and it has been an honor and blessing to serve the past three years here at McConnell as your Children's Ministry Director. Planting seeds in a young child's life begins a ripple effect that will reach out into the world infinitely. Today's children are our future church so wherever God sends me next, I will continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and pray for the ones He places in my life.

Thank you to all who have served with me and touched my life. May God continue to richly bless McConnell Baptist Church.



*Blessings,
Miss Betty - Children's Minister*



Promotion Sunday will be held on August 12th for all graded Children's and Youth Sunday School Classes.

WELCOME 6TH GRADERS!

School starts back this month and that means some of our kids are taking some big steps! Not only do we have students moving from Elementary to Middle School, they will be moving from PEAK Kids to Summit Students. We are so excited about these new students in our ministry and want to celebrate. August 12th we will welcome them publicly during our Sunday morning worship time. If you have an upcoming 6th grader, please contact Pastor Jeremy at (706) 599-6242.



Laundry Pods Collection

The Young Harris College Ministry is collecting HE (high efficiency) laundry detergent pods in August for the Young Harris students beginning August 5th. Look for the collection bin in the Welcome Center or drop them off at the church office. The pods are given out at an on campus event where the students get a chance to get acquainted with the community, giving us the opportunity to introduce the students to our church.

Hope Room Clothes Closet In Need of Children's Clothing

The Hope Room Clothes Closet is in need of all sizes of Children's clothing for Back to School. Please bring your donations to the Hope Room on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your generosity.

Caps for Operation Christmas Child

If you're working on knitted or crocheted caps for the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, or have an interest in helping, join us Wednesday, August 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Suite (Back Room) for a time of fellowship and sharing. If you've completed any caps, please plan to bring them with you.

Operation Christmas Child The Greatest Journey

For the last 25 years Samaritan's Purse has reached 157 million children in over 150 countries with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The journey one of these shoeboxes takes to reach a welcoming child is remarkable. Using McConnell as an example, a family donates a shoebox to the church-wide collection. It leaves the Hiawassee Drop-off Center and travels west of Blairsville to the Collection Center. From there it's trucked to Atlanta for processing, then to Savannah for shipping overseas. After reaching it's destination abroad it travels to a local church (sometimes by canoe, camel, yak, elephant or even on foot) where the pastor invites children from his village, shares the gospel and concludes by explaining the "gift" of Jesus. The shoeboxes are then handed to each child to demonstrate this. Those who make a profession of faith are invited to be a part of a 12 week discipleship study called *The Greatest Journey* where each lesson encourages students to share what they've learned with no less than five others. (Additional information on Operation Christmas Child coming next month.)

Returning in August

English as a Second Language (ESL)

will begin again on Thursdays starting August 23rd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Open to the community this ministry teaches English to people from other countries as well as provides child care for their children during that time. If you'd like to substitute teach or volunteer as a childcare worker, please call Mary Dolvin at 828-389-9451.

GriefShare

is a thirteen week course offered twice a year to offer help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. GriefShare is offered on Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Room #219 of the FLC beginning August 23rd. If you would like to volunteer to help or have questions, contact Frances Alwine at 828-389-4021.

Awana

Is offered after school on Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for children kindergarten through 5th grade. Awana teaches God's word and how to apply His truth to their lives. If you have a love for children and are interested in volunteering for this important ministry, please contact David Keating at 706-897-0378 or onesparky@mail.com.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Ladies Night at the Farm

Plan to join us for our Women's Fall Event Thursday, September 20th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ledford farm. We'll have an evening of fun, food and fellowship! More details to come in the September issue of the Mountain Messenger.

An Evening with Alan Kendall and Friends

Mark your calendar for an evening of music with Alan Kendall and Friends on Sunday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Worship Center.



Servants in Ministry

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 8.5.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

B. Rutan, D. Heard, S. Watson

GREETERS – Team # 12 **SECURITY** – S. Giles

FIRST TOUCH - J. & M. Dolvin

WELCOME DESK - P. Driskell

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman

D. Bennett, J. Barco, T. Lindeland

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 8.12.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

L. Ledford, S. Childress, K. Townsend

GREETERS – Team # 12 **SECURITY** – S. Giles

FIRST TOUCH - M. & L. Avery

WELCOME DESK - M. Chaney & M. Ashley

WELCOME CARTS – Capt. - G. Wright

J. Jessup, R. Hanks, A. Lawrence

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 8.19.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

C. Pearson, G. Wilson, J. Cone

GREETERS – Team # 12 **SECURITY** – S. Giles

FIRST TOUCH - M. & M. Hedden

WELCOME DESK - B. & J. Cone

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - N. Stickeler

W. Benson, C. Baggett, D. Wilson

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 8.26.18

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Adams, S. David

GREETERS – Team # 12 **SECURITY** – S. Giles

FIRST TOUCH - R. & S. Moody

WELCOME DESK - L. & R. Wark

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Viduna

L. Hartley, B. Keilhotz, M. Wallace

August Ushers

Morning Service: J. Hyatt **Head Usher**

Balcony Usher: L. Hollingshead

P. Turner, J. Webb, M. Hedden, S. Ledford,

B. Childress, T. Bouma

Evening Service: F. Witkowski - **Head Usher**

J. Kimsey

Our deepest sympathy to

Lori Hill and family on the loss of her father, Richard Norman.

Glenn Herreid and family on the death of his sister.

The family of Betty Joann Bennett Mitchell.