

Mountain Messenger

McConnell Baptist Church - June 2019

Freedom

F O U N D H E R E

The Pastor's Pen

Gains and Losses

By the time you get this newsletter, summer will be into full swing. The world is green and the rains that have fallen upon the ground over the winter and the spring is doing its work. With the combination of long days and sunshine, things are growing. But if you pay attention to the seasons, you know that spring and summer don't always last. Seasons change and eventually everything cycles back around to fall and winter.

I don't know about you, but I love all of the seasons; spring when new life is blooming, summer when everything is growing, fall when the world is ablaze with color, and even winter. Winter has a beauty that is different than all the other seasons but I know that not everyone likes the winter. In fact, many find winter depressing because it seems that nothing is happening but death and loss.

I understand that sentiment completely. I don't know what season you are in right now but it seems as if there has been more fall and winter in our lives lately than spring and summer. On the surface, it seems as if there has been more losses than gains lately and it would be easy to assume that nothing good is happening and not see what is doing beneath the surface of our lives. We could be more wrong.

Think about it. Every season is different but without the fall and the winter there would be little or no new life and growth in the spring or summer. Short-term losses in the winter and spring are necessary in order to make long-term gains when harvest time comes in the fall. Listen to the words of Jesus as he explained it.

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24 (NIV)

And herein lies the challenge. Whatever season you find yourself in today, if it seems as if there are more losses than gains, trust God and let each season do its work. A harvest is coming if we do not lose heart and give up.

In Christ



Pastor Steve

Welcome to the Awtrey Family



I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. "Sweet Home Alabama." I lived there until I was 41. My parents and brother still live there.

I committed my life to Jesus Christ when I was 13 on a mission trip to Pennsylvania. I still remember asking Jesus to come into my life in a small

dorm room in Pennsylvania.

I have been married to the most awesome girl, Virginia, since 2000. We have two wonderful kids, Ashlyn, 11 and Alex, 8. I love my kids so much but Alex is an Auburn fan which means he has to pay for his own college.

Before joining the Crossroads team, Virginia and I were houseparents at Eagle Ranch in Flowery Branch, Georgia. We served there for 3 years. God taught us so much while serving there. Before Eagle Ranch I led worship and served in our children's department at my home church in Alabama.

Hobbies: Alabama football (ROLL TIDE), playing guitar, golf & watching sports.

Favorite Movie: *Hoosiers*. I always get excited and start cheering at the end of the movie.

Favorite Verse: *Romans 5:8*. This verse helps me realize how much God loves me.

Favorite Book: *Twelve Ordinary Men*, by John MacArthur. God used ordinary people like me to change the world. (That's pretty exciting)

Favorite Superhero: *Aquaman*. He could breathe underwater. That's so COOL!

BUCKETLIST: Take Virginia on an Alaskan cruise, watch Alabama win the National Championship in person, retire in Estes Park, Colorado. (Wake up every morning with a cup of coffee & mountains around me.)

Goal for Children's ministry: To see every child commit their life to Jesus Christ & seek His will for their lives.

I am excited to be called as your Children & Discipleship pastor and our tentative plans are to join you at McConnell in mid July!

Pastor Steve Awtrey

FIRST STEPS / NEWCOMERS

June 9th, 11:45 am, The Lodge

If you are new to the church or want information on joining the church, please join Pastor Steve & Pastor Danny as they share information about McConnell, who we are and our vision. A light lunch will be served. Please call the church office to register. This class is a prerequisite for joining the church.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

There will be a directory proof at the Welcome Desk June 2nd through June 23rd. Please stop by and make sure **your** information is correct. If your info is not correct, please contact Connie in the Church Office at 706-896-2281.

Those with smart phones, computers and iPads are encouraged to access the directory online as the online directory will be kept up-to-date as changes are reported to the church office. If you need help with this, there will be a Directory Help Desk located in the Welcome Center area on June 2 & June 9th.

For those without online access, tentative plans are to print and distribute the directory in July. Please sign up for a hard copy directory at the Welcome Desk. The cost per directory is \$5, limited to one copy per family.

DEACON SERVANTS

Our deacons serve for terms of three years after having been nominated and elected by the church. If you are a McConnell church member, you will be asked for your input by prayerfully submitting up to five names for consideration. Nominees must have been a McConnell church member for at least one year and meet the biblical requirements for serving. Recommendation forms, as well as the biblical qualifications to serve, will be available at the Welcome Center beginning June 2nd. The deadline for submitting nominations is June 23rd.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, July 8th thru Friday, July 12th

9 am until Noon

Pre-registration is open for kids (preschool to just completed 5th grade) and volunteers! Go to www.mcconnellchurch.org and follow the link. It helps us to be able to plan more effectively if the children are pre-registered so please take a moment to do this and encourage all of your friends and neighbors to do this as well. You may also complete a paper registration form at the Welcome Center or at the church office.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Worship Center & The Lodge

Roof Replacement Project

Hopefully, by the time you read this, this project will be complete! However, in case weather delays the progress, please be aware that work may be ongoing and entrance to the church may be restricted to the Family Life Center or the Drive Thru Portico Entrances during the weekdays.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebration in Music

Sunday, June 30th, 10:15 am

Join us for a celebration of our freedom with special patriotic music by the choir, directed by Chris Adams.

There will be no evening service here but you are invited to the Hiawassee Baptist Association's 5th Sunday Night Sing at **Woods Grove Baptist Church** at 6 pm.

Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, July 7th, 6 pm

GA Mountain Fairgrounds, Lower Pavilion

Join your church family for fun, fellowship, food & corn hole! Bring your favorite dish to share, a lawn chair and enjoy this beautiful time together!



Save the Date!

Big Stuf Camps, July 15th - 19th

GriefShare, begins 8/22

English as a Second Language, begins 8/29

Sons of Jubal, October 3rd, Concerts at 4 pm & 7 pm

TC BASKETBALL CAR WASH

Saturday, June 8th, McConnell Parking Lot
10 am - 3 pm

Come out and support Coach Hunnicut and the Towns County Girls Basketball Team!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The Church Council exists to assist in planning, coordinating and evaluating various church and ministry activities.

The church council will meet on Tuesday, June 11th, at 7 pm in the choir suite. All standing committee chairmen, program directors & ministry team leaders/coordinators are invited to attend this important Meeting to discuss planning for the fall.



Our Deepest Sympathy to

Todd & Vicki Turner, at the death of Vicki's brother, Joe Veal.

Dwayne & Lisa Phillips, at the death of Lisa's mother, Mildred Woody.

Jonathan & Anna Nelson, at the death of their infant daughter and **Wayne & Dianne Nelson's** granddaughter, Olivia.

Duene Brown, at the death of her son, Edwin Tate.

Tracie Anderson, at the death of her mother, Mary. The **Ina Kozesky** family.

Mary Dolvin & Judy Naylor, at the death of Mary's husband & Judy's step-father, John Dolvin.

Our services are streamed live on Facebook every Sunday morning at 10:15 am!

Find us on 

Servants in Ministry

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 6.2.19

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

LT - K. Clark, T. Clark, S. Childress, S. Kendall

GREETERS - Team #10 **SECURITY** - L. Thorpe

FIRST TOUCH - M. & L. Avery

WELCOME DESK - C. & D. Barry

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman
D. Bennett, T. Wade, H. Goddard

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 6.9.19

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

LT - B. Rutan, L. & M. Avery, A. Rogers, V. Turner

GREETERS - Team #10 **SECURITY** - L. Thorpe

FIRST TOUCH - B. Arnett, N. Donegan

WELCOME DESK - R. & S. Moody

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - S. Casey
R. Bennett, D. Wilson, D. Oliver

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 6.16.19

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

LT - S. Adams, B. Bailey, H. Adams, K. Clark

GREETERS - Team #10 **SECURITY** - L. Thorpe

FIRST TOUCH - H. & C. Harnage

WELCOME DESK - J. & J. Armstrong

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - N. Stickeler
D. Shively, M. Wallace, C. Nicholson

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 6.23.19

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

LT - C. Therrel, M. Thomson, S. Nichols, B. Adams

GREETERS - Team #10 **SECURITY** - L. Thorpe

FIRST TOUCH - W. & J. Naylor

WELCOME DESK - J. Benson & S. Turner

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - J. Sanderson
D. Rudder, R. Engert, S. Berkstresser

SUNDAY SERVANTS - 6.30.19

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

LT - L. Corn, G. Corn, T. Brown, H. Adams

GREETERS - Team #10 **SECURITY** - L. Thorpe

FIRST TOUCH - A. & A. Lawrence

WELCOME DESK - P. Driskell, K. Long & E. Arnold

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman
C. Baggett, B. Childress, P. Waggoner

June Ushers

Morning Service: - Lee Wroten, Head Usher

Balcony Usher: D. Shively

H. Goddard, A. Driskell, B. Keilholtz, C. Nicholson, J. Kelley, S. Ledford, J. Wagener, R. Shattles

Evening Service: - Ron Moody, Head Usher
G. Denton