

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
GULF BEACH  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
271 S. HWY. 79  
PANAMA CITY BEACH,  
FL 32413**

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Liz's email:  
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Vision Statement:  
**“Transforming Lives by the Love of Christ Jesus  
through Witness, Mission, and Evangelism.”**

# BEACH TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GULF BEACH PRESBYTERIAN

**AUGUST 2015**

**Special points of interest:**

- Summer Picnic
- From the Pastor's Pen
- Ministry updates
- Session Minutes
- Calendar

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Articles for the Newsletter can be email to lizpinkchurch@hotmail.com or leave it in the Newsletter Box in the church office. Articles must be received by the 15th of the month.

Sunday School  
9:00AM

Coffee and  
Donuts  
9:45AM

Sunday  
Worship  
Time  
10:15 AM

*Summer Sunday Picnics*

There will be potluck picnic lunch immediately following services on August 2nd. The church is providing the meat. Grilled by our own Doug Gilmore. Bring a covered dish to share and come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Covered dishes can be brought before church and left in the walk-in cooler in Gulf Treat. Food will be set-up in Gulf Treat after worship and you can choose to eat inside or out.

## Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church

### STAFF

**Rev. Bonnie Wilkins**  
Pastor/Head of Staff

**Dr. Larry Tyson** –  
Music Director

**Norma Davison** -  
Accompanist

**Liz Creswell** –  
Bookkeeper/  
Admin. Assistant

### SESSION

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schoppepcb@aol.com

Lenny Zacher- 867-3770  
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Beve Lutz- Treasurer  
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Ron Coleman-890-1172  
dirtft.coleman@gmail.com

Wanda Pflugfelder-  
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Wanda\_griffin@hotmail.com

Jim Price- 850-830-3612  
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Betsy Balmer- 850-348-2890  
aprilfoolb@yahoo.com

Rev. Bonnie Wilkins  
870-415-2082  
gbpcpastor@gmail.com



## JOURNEY OF FAITH

### BACKGROUND:

I was born and raised in Germany in 1937, while Hitler was in power. World War II had started for Germany in 1939. The Nazis had taken over all of Germany and were running not only the government but all aspects of our society.

During the course of this war we were living in Gottwollshausen, a small village in Southern Germany on the outskirts of Schwaebisch Hall, near Stuttgart. After the Nazis had drafted my father into the German army and sent him to the Russian front, my family, including my mother and two older brothers, experienced the terror of Hitler and his Nazi regime. In addition, we were subjected to day and night air raids and bombings, followed by artillery attacks by the advancing Allied troops.

My father had survived the hardships of the war in Russia for three years, only to be killed in the last week of the war, in April of 1945. During that same week the American troops had advanced significantly on their push from Italy and came through our village, essentially ending the war for us.

About two months after the war's end a man came to visit us, and he told us that our father had been killed on the ship *Goya*, going down with that ship. The *Goya* was a rescue ship, carrying East German refugees and German soldiers, all trying to escape from the advancing Russian army.

### JOURNEY TO AMERICA:

Having lost her husband in the war, along with her life savings due to run-away inflation, and with Germany lying in ruins, our Mama prayed earnestly for God's help and guidance for our future. After much thought and many prayers, she began considering the possibility of emigrating to the United States. *Wow, what a radical idea*, I thought, *to move to the country that had just conquered our country!*

We had bought some books, which in detail described the United States, its people, and their way of life. We harbored none of the popular illusions, such as the streets paved with gold and the fried chickens flying through the air, but we did have expectations of a better quality of life. Our mother clearly wanted us boys to have a chance for a better future in "the land of unlimited opportunity." And so we applied for a visa in 1947, but found out that we needed a sponsor since we had no relatives to vouch for us in the new country.

Then Mama had an idea. Since our grandfather was the last living minister in the Old Apostolic Church (a small sect also known as the Catholic apostolic Church), Mama thought that perhaps we could find a connection in the US through this church and locate someone to sponsor

## Journey of Faith Continued

us. After talking with her Dad, she typed a letter to this church at a general address in Philadelphia.

By chance Grandpa was visiting us the day she finished the letter, and he just happened to have the official church stamp in his coat pocket, which he affixed to the letter, making it more official. Mama has always felt that the ready availability of the church stamp on that day was not just a coincidence, but a sign from God that He approved and blessed our decision to emigrate to the USA.

The church in Philadelphia circulated this letter to other churches, including the one in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where two single people, a nurse and her brother, were willing to write to us to learn more about who we were and vice versa. After some back-and-forth correspondence, they were receptive to the idea of sponsoring us, being responsible for us financially for the first year.

Finally, in 1951, we received approval for our visa, about four years after we first applied. Mama sold most of our belongings, including two orchards, to fund our trip to the USA via train and then via ship across the Atlantic ocean. The voyage on an ancient Greek ship named *Neptunia* took about twelve days, with stopovers in Southampton, England, then Calais, France, and finally Halifax, Canada, before arriving in New York on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1951.

Next, we boarded a train, to take us from NY to Pittsburgh, with our many boxes and luggage following us later. Elmer Handte, our sponsor, met us at the Pittsburgh train station in a green 1941 DeSoto and took us to their house on the Garfield area of Pittsburgh. Elmer's sister, Louise, welcomed us upon arrival and showed us to our apartment in the attic of the house. An elderly housekeeper eyed us with suspicion, fearing her job might be in jeopardy, with us new immigrants on the scene.

After we settled into our new apartment, and after a good night's rest, we explored the area on foot and found that we were living in an older area of Pittsburgh where the streets were dirty and lined with litter. We felt quite disappointed, I remember. This place did not look at all like the cities we had seen in our *America* book!

We stayed with our sponsors through the summer of 1952. During that time I went to High School and my two brothers found employment as daytime laborers in various businesses. We all learned American English (and slang) in a hurry, which was quite different from the British English we had learned in school. Our mother, being older, had a hard time and never did learn too much English.

To cut the story short, all three of us brothers thrived in our new country, following differing careers and finding wives and starting our own families. Our mother, on the other hand, contracted bone cancer and passed away in 1957, to our great sorrow. As she had throughout her life, she held on to her firm faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, even in her illness and her death.

It was that steadfast faith that had transported our little family from war-ravaged Germany to our new country, the United States of America!

The complete story of our World War II experiences, including a history of the entire war of Germany vs. Russia on the Eastern front, and Germany vs. the Allied forces on the Western front, is contained in my book titled ***World War II Through The Eyes of a German Child***. This book was published by Xlibris in 2011 and is available from Barnes and Noble and Amazon in hard cover, paperback or electronic form.

Reinhold (Ron) Pflugfelder,

Member of Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church in Panama City Beach, Florida



## **Part 2: Building Community and Communion— A Poured Out Life**

*During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples: Take, eat. This is my body. Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, God's new covenant poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. 'I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father.' They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives. (Matthew 26:26-30, The Message)*

So, what does it mean to pour out ourselves for others? We pour-out ourselves for the sake of others when we care about a neighbor or stranger's needs even to the loss of something in our own lives. Pouring-out happens when we listen, befriend, invite, work for justice, peace, and reconciliation. These and countless other pouring-out actions and priorities in our lives do use up our time, our energy, and our resources. It depletes us. We are emptied for others. That's what makes it difficult to commit to this aspect of discipleship.

But when we remember the bread and the cup of communion (the body and blood; the salvation of Jesus Christ) those communal actions of love and forgiveness and provision that Jesus instituted for us, then our faith is strengthened and renewed. We are assured through word and symbol and action that God always provides for us. God is always replenishing our body, mind, soul, and strength through the pouring out of Christ's own body, mind, soul, and strength for us; replenishing and providing for our life together as the church-the body of Christ on earth.

This means we don't have to be afraid of not having enough of whatever we are called to give or whatever we truly need for life and for ministry and service. We can pour out ourselves for others. We can give freely knowing that this very act will bring us into a deeper and more fulfilling communion with God and with others. This is the real community we all seek. This is the "Community of God" that will unite peoples and nations, neighbors and strangers; that will unite the body of Christ.

This is the kind of community and communion that Jesus modeled for us and we model, in our best moments with God's help, to the world. Being in "real" communion with others is essential to living a faithful life in communion and in covenant with Christ. There's nothing "virtual" about it. We are called to be the body of Christ in the world. This means we really see, touch, and invest our life in one another. When we do this with the expectation that God is in that space between us, we just may feel like we know a little something more about who God is because of it.

The world needs us. The people need the church. Both need the reality of God's love and forgiveness. We can be relevant and real in people's lives if we are willing to take the step Jesus did-the selfless step of pouring-out ourselves for others.

So how can you bring about communion and community in a real way in your life and in the life of this congregation? Sharing your faith with others is a huge step towards fulfilling both. Our faith doesn't always have to be shared in words alone. But that is very important. Have your faith story ready to tell. It

can be a few sentences that leave others wanting to know more. It can be a story about an experience of God that really changed everything for you.

Jesus used words and actions to bring his disciples into full communion with him: actions of blessing, breaking, pouring, drinking, and eating. He used words as stories, command, encouragement, and sending. His words and his actions together poured-out the gift of salvation for all of us. They made real the promise of eternal communion with Him and all his followers when he says, “I will drink the cup, new with you, in my Father’s Kingdom.”

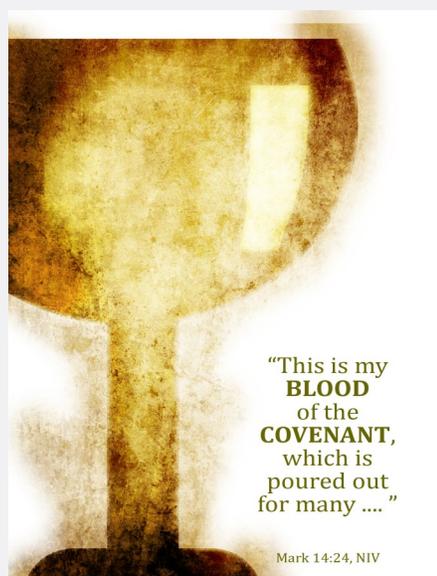
When we give thanks and remember and live as people called into holy communion with Christ and with one another, it reminds us that God is indeed in control of life; God is always providing what we really need; Christ’s undying love and presence is always present in the people of God and the community and communion of God’s people through words and actions as we pour-out our life for Christ and for others.

I pray and hope that we will become more passionate as a congregation to be a model of God’s faithfulness and love to our community. Our real actions, words, and relationships with others will bring more people into communion with Christ as we are unafraid to pour-out ourselves; as we “fear not” about how much or how little we think we have to use and to give; as we selflessly love and serve others.

Pray that we commit to faithfully seek God’s will and way as a “church poured-out” in serving this community. I am asking God through prayer every day to bring opportunities to us to do just this. Sometimes they will be very risky, very different than anything we have done before. They may be things we once did but have forgotten about or quit doing because of the “cost” to us. Remember God’s command: “Be not afraid...” to pour-out yourself for others; to lose your life for others. In doing so, expect to realize the fullness of God’s desires for you and for your church. Be ready to experience a deepened communion with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and one another when you live a poured-out life. Remember, Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

In Christ’s love and service,

*Pastor Bonnie*



## Gulf Beach Presbyterian Stated Session Minutes June 8, 2015 5:30pm

### Call to Meeting and Opening Pray

Rev. Wilkins opened the meeting with prayer and a reading from 2013-15 Book of Order; the reading was in regard to the responsibilities of Councils of the Church.

### Moderator's Report

Rev. Wilkins received a letter from Bea Hopkins regarding a painting she did for GBPC. The painting titled, Feed My Lambs, is hanging in the Sanctuary. Mrs. Hopkins asked that if GBPC no longer desires to keep the painting, please return it to her. Rev. Wilkins will reach out to Mrs. Hopkins to let her know how much we appreciate and treasure the painting and also to assure her that if for any reason GBPC no longer has a place for the painting it will be returned to her.

### Clerk's Report

There will be a Called Presbytery meeting on June 28 at 4pm in Chipley, FL.

### Treasurer's Report – Beve Lutz, Treasurer

For the month ending May 31, 2015 GBPC recorded net loss of \$2,483.54. The total income was \$10,896; \$9,205 regular givers, \$251 loose plate, \$1,400 in rental income. The general operating expense was \$4,429.81. The payroll expense was \$8,462.15.

In the month of May, the long term debt of GBPC was reduced by \$3,590, leaving a mortgage balance of \$459,008.

For YTD 2015 as of May 31, 2015: income was \$71,961, operating expenses were \$33,513 and payroll expenses were \$44,709. Year-to-date net loss is \$6,568. Year-to-date, the long-term debt has been reduced by \$17,745.

The Treasurer informed Session she will need to move money from Regions money market account into checking account to pay monthly expenses.

### Committee Reports:

#### **Ministry of Care: Wanda Pflugfelder (class of 2016):**

The Committee wants to welcome and reach out to the church community that will be renting Gulfstream Chapel. It is the will of the Session, GBPC offer to host a fellowship reception for our new renters.

The Rev. Wilkins stated the Gulfstream tenants would like to have an open house to celebrate their new location and introduce themselves to the community. They are interested in using the Gulfstream Family Center for the function. If the tenants are agreeable, the Ministry of Care would like to host the reception during their open house. If our tenants prefer the open house be strictly a function of their church, we would like to host a welcome reception for them at another time. If they choose to use Gulfstream Family Center on their own, the Session agrees to rent the space to them. The tenants will sign the standard rental agreement; The Session agrees to allow them to rent the space at the same rate as GBPC members. These rates and terms are defined in the GBPC rental agreement on file in church office.

#### **Ministry of Spiritual Development and Education: Jim Price (class of 2017)**

A VBS will take place the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. It will be held July 20-22 from 4-6pm. July 23 will be a dinner at 6 for the families who attended VBS.

#### **Ministry of Compassion: Beve Lutz (class of 2017):**

Food pantry report May 2015 our food pantry served 216 people a total of 1944 meals.

There is a need for 3 to 4 volunteers

#### **Ministry of Building and Grounds: Lenny Zacher (class of 2015):**

There will a clean-up day on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June

### Ministry of Stewardship: Betsy Balmer (class of 2017)

The committee completed the lease for the Gulfcreat chapel tenants. A motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> were made, to approve the lease of Gulfcreat chapel and adjacent efficiency unit to Maria Orozco and Carmen Mancia on behalf of the Church of the Nazarene. The motion carries. A copy of the lease is included with these minutes.

### Special Committees:

Property Committee – A motion was made and seconded, to reduce the listing price on the parcel currently listed with Counts Real Estate to \$660,000. The parcel includes the 4 cabins and the white house, east to the property line. The northern boundary is Hernando Ave, the western boundary of the parcel to be the west wall of the cabin closet to family center and follow a straight line to the southern property line; the eastern boundary will be the property line. This parcel does not include any Hwy 79 frontage. It does not include the Gulfcreat Family Center, the Gulfcreat Chapel or 2 efficiency units adjacent to chapel. The motion carries.

Fall Art and Music Festival – Wanda Pflugfelder, chair of Ministry of Care, will be heading up the Fall Festival. A motion was made and seconded, to grant the committee's request of \$300 as "seed money" for the festival. The motion carried.

### Adjournment and Prayer

A motion was made and seconded, to adjourn the meeting; Rev. Wilkins adjourned the meeting with The Lord's Prayer at 7:25pm.

**Next stated session meeting will be on July 14, 2015 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.**

Tracy G. Schoppe, Clerk of Session

## The road of life

God of our life,  
 there are days when the burdens we carry  
 chafe our shoulders and weigh us down;  
 when the road seems dreary and endless,  
 the skies gray and threatening;  
 when our lives have no music in them,  
 and our hearts are lonely,  
 and our souls have lost their courage.  
 Flood the path with light,  
 turn our eyes to where  
 the skies are full of promise;  
 tune our hearts to brave music;  
 give us the sense of comradeship  
 with heroes and saints of every age;  
 and so quicken our spirits  
 that we may be able to encourage  
 the souls of all who journey with us  
 on the road of life,  
 to your honor and glory.



# Ministry News



The Men's ministry will taking a break until OCTOBER.



## To all the women of the church

Sara Circle will meet this fall season one month earlier, **on August 5th**, 9:00 to 11:30, for a annual planning meeting. We will reconvene at Mike's for lunch following the planning session. Newly elected officers of Sara Circle are: President, Wanda Pflugflender; Secretary: Tammy Price; Treasurer: Beve Lutz.

## Rummage Sale Reminder

When you are cleaning out your garage, closets, etc. this summer remember the Sara Circle Rummage Sale. Sara Circle will be happy take those old items of yours any time. We have a special storage room designed for that purpose. All monies generated at our Rummage goes to help finance major Church building repairs and upkeep, send our children to Church camp, and support the Thornwell Children's home. We appreciate all the rummage you give us.

## PW and PDA Opportunity

Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance have joined forces to offer Disaster Preparedness workshops for churches across the nation. This "Train the Trainer" event will give women the tools needed to conduct Disaster Preparedness workshops for churches, presbyteries and communities. When: Saturday, August 29, 2015, 9:00 - 5:00 Tims Memorial Presbyterian Church Tampa, Florida. ***This training is for women only. You do not have to be a member of Presbyterian Women.***

***Training expenses will be reimbursed by PDA.*** Registration deadline is August 10. For more information, please contact: Kathy Broyard, Florida PDA Network 941-483-0675 [fla.pdan@pcusa.org](mailto:fla.pdan@pcusa.org)



## The monthly Spruce up Day at the Church.

will be the third (3rd) Sunday of every month (August 16th) after 10:15 service, from 12:00-2:00 PM. Bring work clothes and work gloves.

Pizza will be provided. Bring your own beverage.

Let's work together to take care of God's House!



## Heart and Hands CAREGIVER SUPPORT

We meet every Thursday at 1:00PM in Gulf Treat.

There is a vast amount of knowledge available to caregivers and we are striving to share information and love with these folks as they journey to care for a loved one. Do you know someone who would benefit from this support group? Please tell them about our meetings, or better yet bring them to a meeting. They may be more comfortable with you there. Reach out your hand in Christian Love.

# Caring for Each Other



*The SHEPHERDING TEAM is available to you at anytime for member care. Please feel free to call on them.*

John Skelton 706-436-4288 [ratpack219@gmail.com](mailto:ratpack219@gmail.com)

Lenny Zacher 850-867-3770 [tennis850@ail.com](mailto:tennis850@ail.com)

Wanda Pflugfelder 850-249-3396 [reinholdwanda@misn.com](mailto:reinholdwanda@misn.com)

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Beve Lutz 850-35-7349 [meinschaatz406@aol.com](mailto:meinschaatz406@aol.com)

Adrian Wynter 850-691-7529 [yoitsadrian@me.com](mailto:yoitsadrian@me.com)

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Ron Coleman 850-890-1172 [dirtft.coleman@gmail.com](mailto:dirtft.coleman@gmail.com)

Suzanne Burke 850-867-5371 [suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com](mailto:suzannegilmoreburke@gmail.com)

Lorraine Gilmore 850-867-5370 [lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainegilmore46@gmail.com)

## First Together



A new ministry at Gulf Beach Pres. dedicated to building relationships, fostering spiritual growth, and providing assistance through socializing, visiting, resource building, loving and caring. Our activities together will seek to deepen our relationship with Christ, each other, and our community. Activities throughout the year will include day trips, concerts, movies, service projects, forum discussions, "Food, Fun, & Fellowship" (10 a.m. every Friday in the Fellowship Hall) and "First Tuesday" (monthly lunch at area restaurants-dutch treat). We are having our monthly lunch fellowship at **Montego Bay Seafood House Tues. August 4th at noon.** (Shoppes At Edgewater, 473 R. Jackson Blvd, Panama City Beach, FL 32407). We have had a great time talking, laughing, eating, and getting to know one another. Usually about a dozen or so of us each month. Come join the fellowship!

The "Love Line" is available for your prayer needs, announcements and celebrations. Just email your requests to Mary Foist at [myseclusion@gmail.com](mailto:myseclusion@gmail.com)

Report from Food Pantry- June 2015 our food pantry served 120 people a total of 1080 meals.

**Needs: Canned Chili, Peanut Butter and canned fruit**

## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry's mission is to increase access to food for hungry people, and empower them to help each other.

## Forty-year legacy of eco-justice flourishes at Ithaca, New

**York, congregation:** Development of interfaith network propels climate action beyond policy statement. PC(USA) April 15, 2015



Becoming an Earth Care Congregation Church wasn't a radical notion for members of the **First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, New York**. Its history of caring about eco-friendly initiatives goes back to the early 1970's. One of its members, William E. Gibson, was an early strategist in the eco-justice field, an ethical code that fosters environmental activism and social justice while promoting solidarity with people and creatures and ecological sustainability. Gibson – a member of both a Presbyterian and Baptist church in Ithaca – drafted policy documents for the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) that ultimately helped form the environmental ministries office at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

“We certainly have a strong history that’s been guided by Bill Gibson,” says Brad McFall, a member of First Presbyterian’s Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) committee, the church’s social and environmental witness group. “But even with our climate-friendly legacy we discovered that participation in the Earth Care Congregation (ECC) gave us additional ideas to consider implementing and helped place more focus on the JPIC committee within the congregation.”

First Presbyterian became the first church in New York state to be designated an ECC in 2011. And despite earth care being part of the church’s mindset and education efforts for so many years, there were things in the ECC criteria that the church needed to improve upon, namely energy and lighting system audits, composting and recycling programs, and nature walks for congregants. “We have a broad spectrum of congregants, so ECC designation actually helped bring earth care issues to the entire church, not just the activists in our population,” says McFall.

Gibson contributed to some of the earth care policy documentation that was created at the highest levels of the national church, but one of his beliefs and goals was to initiate change at the local community level and within the church itself. It was in that spirit that McFall and his colleagues on the JPIC committee reached out to the larger faith community in Ithaca to try and create momentum on the issue of climate change. They were able to generate action from activist volunteers among various churches in town, which eventually developed into the Interfaith Climate Action Network.

“God is both a redeemer and a creator, and earth care is a way to ground your faith in other aspects of your life. It’s an integral part of our worship and fellowship mission, so we’re pleased when others get as excited as we do,” says McFall. “It really benefits the whole community when you can form a bond of faith worshipers into a common goal.”

2015 Panama City Beach

Gulf Beach Community

Music  
ARTS &  
crafts Fair



**Saturday Nov. 14th 8-4p**

Arts & Crafts Sale, Music,



Storyteller, **FOOD**

Family events, Community Booths,

Blessing of the Animals,

**271 S.Hwy79**

Gulftreat @ Gulf Beach Presbyterian  
Church

Panama City Beach, Fl.  
32413



## August 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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2 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Coffee and Donuts 10:15 AM Worship Summer Picnic following worship	3	4 12:00 PM First Together Lunch	5	6 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Caregiver Support Group	7 10:00 AM Food, Fun & Fellowship	8																																																																																			
9 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Coffee and Donuts 10:15 AM Worship	10 6:00 PM Session Meeting	11	12	13 10:00 AM -12:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Caregiver Support Group	14 10:00 AM Food, Fun & Fellowship	15																																																																																			
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30 9:00 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Coffee and Donuts 10:15 AM Worship	31	<p><b>Our God is visionary...</b>and He is walking with us and has a radical vision that pulls us forward and advances His Kingdom. (2015 GBPC Session Retreat)</p>																																																																																							



### August Anniversaries

- 13 Bob & Bev Lutz
- 14- Jimmy & Paige Wiselogel
- 15- Sonny & Edith Doherty
- 20- Karl & Linda Wiselogel
- 21- Jim & Darlene Dilamarter
- 24- Thaddeus & Bonnie Wilkins
- 25- John & Betty Brydon

### August Birthdays

- 3- Kent Miller
- 4- John McClung
- 6- Tom Creekmore
- 7- Ann Offord
- 9- Audrey Birkliid
- 18- Karen Ferguson
- 20 Nathan schoppe  
Ken Waringa