



The Grapevine



Gatlin Creek Baptist Church



From The Pastor's Pen

Dr. Don Prevatt

Volume 1, Issue 26

May 2010

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Birthdays & Anniversaries*

<u>May 1</u> David Groover Susan Milam	<u>May 10</u> Cynthia Fallin	<u>May 27</u> Richie Marsh
<u>May 2</u> Hack & Joan Dekle*	<u>May 11</u> Gary Bothof Griffin Wilson	<u>May 29</u> Sarah Black Dale Hicks
<u>May 5</u> Josh Milam	<u>May 14</u> Charles Willingham	
<u>May 6</u> Michael Amara Rick Horton Rebecca Roberds	<u>May 22</u> Josh Autrey	
<u>May 7</u> Anna Grace Rice Manda Versluis	<u>May 24</u> Jason Kinsey	
<u>May 9</u> Rufus Roberds	<u>May 26</u> Caleb Autrey	



**Please notify the church office
of any changes or additions.
225-1154**

Gratitude is one of the enduring hallmarks of true Christianity. When one reflects on the goodness and grace of God that awakens a hell-bound sinner to her plight and then guides that sinner to the foot of cross, gratitude is the only appropriate response. My heart swells with gratitude when I think that God not only saved me, but He also called me to serve Him as a shepherd to His sheep. Who am I that God would endow with such privilege? What have I ever done to deserve such favor? The answer of course is nothing! That is what grace is all about. God gives all. We give nothing. What a paradoxical exchange. It's so unfair, yet so like our Lord. What can we do in return for such applied grace? Nothing! But grace is not impotent. Grace does a work of grace within our hearts. It produces gratitude—a gratitude that motivates one to seek, to serve and to surrender to the Author of that grace.

That's where I am today—caught up in a sea of gratitude for the marvelous grace that has been extended to me and my very dear friends who comprise

Gatlin Creek Baptist Church. The gratitude I feel is focused on three areas: your financial faithfulness, your sacrificial service and your willingness to embrace change. I will expound a little on each of these.

The past few years have been very hard on every segment of our society—the home, businesses and the church. We have experienced layoffs, extended unemployment, furlough days, cutbacks and a host of other economic woes. Yet, you have remained faithful to the Lord and His church with your tithes and offerings. Beyond that, you have given sacrificially to the Haiti rescue efforts, special offerings and to needy families in crises. Your extreme generosity during adverse times is one of the contributing streams in this river of gratitude I'm experiencing.

You've not only given of your financial resources, you have given of yourself. Many of you are serving in two or more capacities within our church. I know this is not by preference, but by necessity. I appreciate your efforts. The Lord takes note of your sacrifices and He will not allow

them to go unrewarded. The implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations will bring some needed restructuring and re-allocation of resources. That will make things better for all of us.

Finally, your willingness to embrace change is a tremendous source of gratitude to me. I'm not yet old, but I'm certainly not young. As I transition through the years, I've noticed that I do not accept change as gracefully as I did in my younger days. I find myself repeating things I've heard others say in times past—the very things I disdained back then. Phrases like: "I'm too old to change! I don't like change! I don't want to change! I don't have to change! You can't make me change! Why do we have to change?"

Continued on Page 2

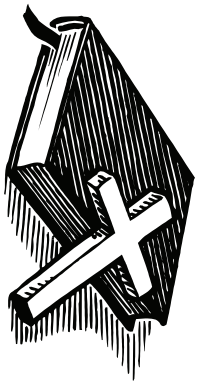


Our Purpose.....

Our sole purpose as a church is to glorify God by effectively fulfilling the **Great Commission** and actively living the **Great Commandment**.

Our Mission...

HIS COMMISSION:
Matthew 28:18-20
Go . . . make disciples of all nations.
HIS COMMANDMENT:
Matthew 22: 37-40
...love the Lord your God with all your heart...
love your neighbor as yourself.



May 2010

Gatlin Creek
Baptist Church
2031 Gatlin Creek Road
Thomasville, Georgia

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Deacons' Meeting 4:00 p.m.		Visitation 6:30 p.m.		National Day of Prayer		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day		Visitation 6:30 p.m.				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		Visitation 6:30 p.m.				Graduation
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Planning Cnte. 4:00 p.m.		Visitation 6:30 p.m.		Men's Fellowship 7:00 p.m.		
30	31					
	Memorial Day					

Dr. Richard Hughes

Family Update

Slowly but surely God is helping me realize that when change is necessary, it can have a really positive outcome. I just have to be open to it...I am trying very hard. **Krystal Marie Castleberry, Facebook Sage**

From the time our mothers first took our beloved bottles from our hand and stuck that cold, metal spoon in its place (of course I remember), change has been an unwanted guest for most of us, routinely banging at our door-wanting to take away yet another comfortable habit, friend, or “way of doing things”. We are creatures of habit. And we like things to be the way we like things to be. Familiarity breeds security. And we like feeling secure.

The problem is we serve a God who is dynamic- A God that is always challenging us, prodding us, growing us in our walk. And we cannot go with Him and stay where we are. One of Blackaby’s rules of Experiencing God comes to mind- EVERY encounter with God will call for change.

I’ve always been impressed in Biblical Studies how infrequent God does the same thing twice- only one talking donkey, only one flood, only one long-haired strong boy- the unchanging character of God, expressing itself in an ever-changing manner to his children. One of the youth pointed out in a his devotion recently, even when Jesus was asked “how can I be saved”, He didn’t answer the same.

I, myself have experienced GREAT change in my ministry as I have tried to keep the needs and gifts of my church ahead of my desire to keep things comfortably the same. I am now coming to see how God was growing me, preparing me for where He was going, and how accidentally smart I was to seek His way over my comfort zone.

New Wineskins, peeps! They are coming. They are here. They will require undesired adjustment. Let us heed the words of a young sage- it is necessary, it is hard, it will have a positive outcome, if we will just be open to it. Brother Richard

The Record Speaks

April Offerings	\$ 23,791.33
April Budget	\$ 29,998.26
April Deficit	\$ -6,206.93
YTD Offerings	\$ 202,676.55
YTD Budget	\$ 239,986.08
Budget Deficit	\$ -37,309.53

Dr. Don Prevatt

A Note From Our Pastor continued

I’ve not encountered that kind of resistance to change in regard to the implementation of the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations nor in regard to the staffing changes that are being made. So far you have accepted the recommended changes as from the Lord and I trust you will continue to do so. There will be some recommended staff changes for the summer to be voted on during the May 12th conference. There will be a detailed information sheet in the vestibule for your prayerful considera-

tion. Representatives from the personnel committee and the deacons will be in the fellowship hall at 6 PM on Wednesday night, May 5th and on May 9th immediately following the morning worship service to answer questions, field concerns you may have or accept further recommendations. Please take the time to get informed and to have your questions answered.

We will be voting on the summer youth worker and, possibly, a new administrative assistant/

children’s director, along with some realignment of duties for existing staff members. My response to all this change is—Wow! God you are awesome. Only you could have pulled this off. After all, doesn’t His word say: “. . . Exceedingly, abundantly above anything we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20).”

I’ll see you Sunday with Bible in hand.

Brother Don

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY

Early Morning Worship 8:30 A.M.

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.

Late Morning Worship 10:50 A.M.

Evening Worship & Discipleship Classes 6:00 P.M.