



MCMBC

**BI
MONTHLY
NEWS**

JULY/AUGUST 2012

MAPLE CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 609 S. MAIN ST, GREER, SC 29650

LIFE'S TEMPTATIONS



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello Saints, and welcome to Summer. What an enjoyable year we've had so far as our church family continues to grow and develop in Christian maturity and spirituality. One of the most rewarding experiences in life is to witness God's blessings of spiritual growth within His people.

Ephesians chapter 4 verses seven through thirteen (4:7 – 4:13) tell us "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men. (What does "he ascended" mean except that he, also, descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who

ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

Thank God for the grace and mercy He bestows upon us. My prayer is that each of you will pursue God's Will and seek His wisdom for your life. In doing so, your service and trust in God shall not be in vain. God has many plans for you and our church family. Keep your head up; focus on Jesus; and, stretch your vision. He will see you through!

Temptation

Almighty God, our Father, the

source of the light that never fades, of the love that never fails, and of the life that never ends, we look to Thee for courage and strength. Grant us self control. Help us maintain the integrity of our lives in these trying times. We are ever compelled to meet a difficult world, a tempting world, a discouraging world, a world that so often appeals to the worst and not the best in us. We are afraid that amid handicaps and hardships we will not do our best for Thee. O God, knowing that trials and temptations bring out the weakness of the weak, and the strength of the strong, we pray Thee to help us that we may be strong. And make our friends and neighbors strong in their sickness and suffering, sorrow and sadness, temptation and frustration. O God, we believe in Thee. Help us to believe in ourselves and in our fellow men. Help us to believe that we are the sons of God, and enable us to live in that faith every day. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen,

A Smile

A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometime lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and none is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrow-ed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

It's one thing to disagree, but it's another to be disagreeable!!

When is the Time for Estate Planning

NOW! Estate planning is the process by which a person arranges the transfer and disposition of ones property in anticipation of death. People often assume estate planning is for retirees or those close to retirement. Parents of all ages can benefit from creating an estate plan. It's essential that we let our family know just how we would like to

see our assets distributed, and to whom. We should name a guardian for minor or "special needs," children if both parents die. If you die without a "will" the state could end up distributing your property.

Legal documents we should not be without!

1. Durable Power of Attorney.

This document grants legal rights and power to another person. Choose someone you implicitly trust, such as your spouse or an adult child, to act as your agent. If you become incapacitated, a durable power of attorney allows your agent to act for you in financial and business matters.

2. Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions.

If you can't make health care decisions yourself, another person of your choice can make a broad range of decisions for you. These decisions cover virtually everything that relate to medical matters, such as selecting doctors, hospitals, treatments, procedures or medications. The South Carolina Health Care Power of Attorney has a section to allow you to, also, make known your decisions regarding whether or not life support should be withdrawn under certain conditions, such as being terminally ill, similar to a Living Will.

3. Will. Many times this document may need to be updated or redrafted, especially the will of the spouse who is not ill, in case that spouse dies first. Without the power of attorney, you may need a court appointed conservator to handle financial matters and a guardian to handle health care ones. In that event, a court would control your personal and financial life. A judge would have to approve your decisions and expenses.

Like your car, your estate plan

needs "servicing" if it is to perform the way you want when you need it. Your estate plan is a snapshot of you, your family, your assets and the tax laws in effect at the time it was created. All these change over time, and so should your plan. It is unreasonable to expect the simple will written when you were a newlywed to be effective now that you have a growing family, or now that you are divorced from your spouse, or now that you are retired and have an ever increasing swarm of grandchildren! Over the course of your lifetime, your estate plan will need checkups, maintenance, tweaking, maybe even replacing. So, how do you know when it's time to give your estate a check-up? Well, instead of having mileage checkpoints, your estate plan has event checkpoints. Generally, any change in your personal, family, financial, or health situation, or a change in the tax laws, could prompt a change in your estate plan.

The Washington Monument

At the time of its construction it was the tallest building in the world. It is still the tallest building in Washington, D. C., and due to a 1910 law restricting new buildings' height to be no more than 20 feet (6 meters) greater than the width of the street they're on, it probably always will be (there is a popular misconception that the law specifies that no building may be taller than the Washington Monument, but in fact the law makes no mention of it). Ordinary antique obelisks were seldom taller than around 100 feet (30 meters), making this monument vastly taller than the obelisks around the capitals of Europe and in Egypt.

With all the uproar about removing the Ten Commandments etc..... This is worth a moment of two of your time. Most of us are not aware of this historical information. On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington, DC, are displayed two words: "LAUS DEO seven letters." No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less. Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know. These words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet from the ground, 5.125 inches high, perched top of the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, Capital of the United States of America. Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most successful nation in the world. So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!"

Though construction of this giant structure began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation; from atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city, with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can, also, easily see the original

plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L'Enfant...a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape. The view north of the Washington Monument includes the White House and The Ellipse, a large field where the National Christmas tree is displayed. The large building with the red roof is the Herbert C. Hoover Building, the headquarters of the U. S. Department of Commerce. The view from the south includes the Jefferson Memorial along with the Tidal Basin. In the springtime, the flowering cherry trees are a great tourist attraction. Beyond the Jefferson Memorial is the Potomac River, and the 14th Street bridge into Virginia. The U.S. Capital can be seen from the east along the left and right sides of the National Mall are the Natural History Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Castle, the Air and Space Museum, and many other famous landmarks. To the west is the circular World War II Memorial, the reflecting pool, and the Lincoln Memorial. Beyond the Lincoln Memorial a bridge spans the Potomac toward the Arlington National Cemetery. A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of state and church was not in the Constitution. How interesting, and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice. Praise be to God! Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the city of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 14th Landing; a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs

10: 7, Luke 18: 16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God! When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848; deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy.... "One Nation, Under God."

The following is a prayer by the first President for our nation:

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of "Laus Deo", its location, or the architects but no one should forget these words: "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches

over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

Thanks

The heirs of the late Leila LuSenna Durham (Mary, Willa, Patricia, Maryland, Daniel, David) and other family relatives, wish to express our deep appreciation and thanks for your calls, cards, flowers, food, prayers, and support during our recent time of bereavement.

The Durham Family

"God Is Good All The Time"

Thank God for you and your support, prayers, and other expressions of love, during my recent stay at the "Village of Pelham Hospital." Continue to pray for my future treatment at Spartanburg Regional Hospital.

Rev. Mary L. Durham

HELP, HELP!!!

The Agape Ministry of Maple Creek Missionary Baptist Church needs you!. Please volunteer according to your ability and time. The sign-up forms are located in front and on each side of the church where the communication boxes are located. After filling out the forms, give them to Pastor Simmons or Rev. Mary Durham.

Men's Conference 2012 "Mighty Men of God..Soldiers of the Cross"

Highlights

Friday June 8th. Conference was opened by our own Male Choir. Visiting Brothers read the scripture and gave the opening prayer. Dea. Willie Graham gave Occasion and Trustee, David Durham gave the Welcome. A spokesman from the

Fatherhood told us about what they are doing in this area. They have been in existence more than 13 years. Rev. Jerry Jones warmed our hearts with two songs. Rev. Dr. Edward G. Brantley brought the main message for the conference. His theme was Rise Up O Men of God. He emphasized we should be trained and praying men; able to fellowship with each other; and support all programs of the church. He also stated that there is only one church just different congregations! Two inspirational videos were shown by Pastor Simmons. Closing remarks were given by Deacon Lawrence Williams, and Rev. Brantley gave the benediction (Brother Melvin Smith was the MC for the Friday night Conference). The Saturday morning session June 9th was well attended. Our own Male Choir opened the program with music.

Rev. Allen Bruton Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church was the instructor for the day. This was a teaching, not preaching session! He talked about "Men on a Mission". He told the group that no mission is impossible if we put God first in everything we do. (Matthew 10: 1, 5-8) We have to make this world a better place. Every man has a mission, because we are examples for those who are coming after us. He also stated that we are here for a purpose; that we must make a mission statement, and have a vision and an action plan.

C.O. Jackson Oratorical Contest

Let us give a big *congratulation* to our Junior Deacon, Christen Bennett for winning first place in The C. O.

Jackson Oratorical Contest!

We know that Christen was well coached for the contest by Brother Clark Nesbitt who works hard to get the young people to do their best in whatever they are doing.

Christen will represent the Enoree River Baptist Association in the State Congress July 9th competition this month.

We all need to support Christen with our prayers and any other way we can.

Greer High in 3A State Track Meet

Greer High finished 10th and was led by the 4X400 meter relay team of Malek Johnson, Brook Chapman, Synquez Nesbitt and D' Ante Fleming with a second place finish (42.39) Takeyra Jenkins-Dodd won the 400 meter race (55.72), and came in second in the 200 meter (24.92) She also place 6th 100 meter race.

Dental Health is Close to Your Heart

The health of your mouth may be a clue into the health of your heart. Gum disease and heart disease have been linked in studies that show gum disease patients are nearly two times more likely to have coronary artery disease, one of the leading causes of death in the U.S.

Are you at risk for heart disease? It's sometime difficult to tell, but research beginning in the 2000s suggests that you see your dentist to find out.

How Do You Spell Concern

In thinking of ministry to members and prospects, a natural question to ask is "How do you spell 'concern'?"

The following are some ways;

C Calling, Cheerful, Compelled, Caring, Compassionate

O Open, Often, Observation, Obedient, Obligation

N Name, Need, Nourish

C Consistent, Continual, Conscientious, Communicate

E Effort, Earnest, Energy Essential, Enthusiasm.

R Relationship, Real, Remember, Responsibility, Reach Out.

N Near, Necessary, Nurture, Now

How do you spell "work"?

Concerned!

Congratulations Class Of 2012

Congratulations! You've made it to graduation day. Reaching the end of one journey, you have arrived at the bright, new beginning of your future. Turn your tassel and toss your cap! YOU DID IT!

Each ending presents a new beginning. The future holds new adventures to experience, new mountains to climb. Finding your way may be confusing at times, but rely on your faith, and trust God as your guide. Take his hand and let him lead the way.

The future belongs to those who dare. So, dare to dream. Dare to believe. Dare to try to exceed all your expectations. Strive to give your best, and you will reap the rewards of success.

It's a brand - new chapter in your life. Take the time to enjoy your success, but remember that life stretches before you with a variety of paths to follow, and many

decisions to make. The time has now come to set new goals and reach for new heights. A world of opportunity awaits.

As you reach your goals, remember to thank each of those who sacrificed for your opportunities. No one is self - made.

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Go out there and live your dreams.

Beginning Today

Beginning today, I will no longer worry about yesterday. It is in the past and the past will never change. Only I can change by choosing to do so.

Beginning today, I will no longer worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will always be there, waiting for me to make the most of it.

But I cannot make the most of tomorrow without first making the most of today.

Beginning today, I will look in the mirror and I will see a person worthy of my respect and admiration,

This capable person looking back at me is someone I enjoy spending time with and someone I would like to get to know better.

Beginning today, I will cherish each moment of my life.

I value this gift bestowed upon me in this world and I will unselfishly share this gift with others.

I will use this gift to enhance the lives of others.

Beginning today, I will take a moment to step off the beaten path and to revel in the mysteries I encounter. I will face challenges with courage and determination.

I will overcome what barriers there may be which hinder my quest for growth and self-improvement.

Beginning today, I will take life one day at a time, one step at a time.

Discouragement will not be allowed to taint my positive self-image, my desire to succeed or my capacity to love.

Beginning today, I walk with renewed faith in human kindness.

Regardless of what has gone before, I believe there is hope for a brighter and better future.

Beginning today, I will open my mind and my heart. I will welcome new experiences. I will meet new people. I will not expect perfection from myself nor anyone else: perfection does not exist in an imperfect world.

How does God's Word give power to the Christian life?

GOD'S RESPONSE:

The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word.

I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it. Isaiah 55:10-11

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. Colossians 1:6

I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes. Roman 1:16

God's Word is not just for our information; it's for our transformation! Becoming a Christian means beginning a whole new relationship with

God, not just turning over a new leaf or making up our minds to try to do what is right. New believers have changed purposes, directions, attitudes, and behaviors. They are no longer seeking to serve themselves; they are seeking to bear fruit for God. How is the Good News transforming you?

GOD'S CHALLENGE:

Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the Word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. James 1:21

Create a great day!

Mark Cleveland

Monthly Scheduled Activities

July 2012

Saturday, July 7th, Pastor and Deacon Meeting, 9:00am
 Sunday, July 8, Choral Union 4:00pm
 Tuesday, July 10th, Noon Day Prayer and Bible Study
 Tuesday, July 10th, Maple Creek will be going to Prigrim Rest Baptist Church. Rev. Simmons is preaching The van will leave the church at 6:15
 Wednesday, July 11th, Prayer and Bible Study at 7:00pm
 Friday, July 13th, Enoree River Assoc Brotherhood Family and Friends Day From 4:00 to 7:00pm (Enoree Center)
 Saturday, July 14th, Senior Missionary Meeting, 10:00am
 Saturday, July 14th, The Family Life Center Committee will meet -12:00pm
 Saturday, July 14th, Usher Meeting, 1:00 pm
 Saturday, July 14th, Pastor, Deacons, Deaconesses, and Trustees will meet at 2:00pm
 Tuesday, July 17th, Noon Day Prayer and Bible Study
 Wednesday, July 18th, Prayer and Bible Study at 7:00pm
 Saturday, July 21st, Youth Fund - raiser at 10:00am

Sunday, July 22nd, Men and Women's Discipleship – At Pastor Simmons home 3:30pm
 Tuesday, July 24th, Noon Day Prayer and Bible Study –Last meeting before the summer break
 Wednesday, July 25th, Prayer and Bible Study – Last meeting before the summer break
 Thursday, July 26th Holy Land Trip-Return at midnight July 28th
 Saturday, July 28th, Enoree River Association meeting at 10:00am
 Sunday, 29th, The Association Fifth Sunday Services at the Enoree Center 4:00pm

August 2012

Saturday, August 4th, Pastor and Deacon Meeting, 9:00am
 Saturday, August 4th, Deaconess meet 11:00am
 Saturday, August 11th, Senior Missionary will meet at 10:am
 Saturday, August 11th, Usher Meeting, 1:00pm
 Sunday, August 12th, Rev. Simmons will be preaching at Enoree Fork Baptist Church, 3:00pm
 Saturday, August 18th, Annual Church Picnic at Northside County Park in Travelers Rest-10:00am to 3:00pm
 Sunday, August 19th, Annual Women's Day,
 Saturday, August 25th, Back to School 11:00am

NOTICE!!!

SCHEDULED CALENDAR EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH PROPER NOTIFICATION

Want to know what all the buzzings about?

Come to ENOREE RIVER BAPTIST BROTHERHOOD

Family and Friends Day

421 Dallas Road

Greenville, SC

Friday –July 13

2012

From 4:00

To

7:00 pm

All proceeds will support the

"Back to School Event"