



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

- 8:45am Bible Study Groups
- 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

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Inspiration Point

This article is borrowed from a course, "Six Disciplines of Prayer" by Richard W. LaFountain.

"Are you known at the throne?" Over in the Book of Acts, the 19th chapter, Paul was preaching in Ephesus and God was doing great wonders among these spiritual people. Two Jews took it upon themselves to cast out demons like Paul, using the name of Jesus as their magic words. It didn't work. Jesus' name is not a magic word. It represents a relationship. Without the relationship, there is no power in using His name. So, the demons jumped all over these clever guys. But before doing so, the demons left us with a clear spiritual insight. They said, "Jesus we know, and Paul we know, but who are you?"

You see, Jesus was known in heavenly places because of who He is. Even the demons knew Him in His ministry as the Son of David who came to destroy them. He, Jesus, was mighty in prayer. Paul was a follower of Jesus, but he also developed intimacy with God in his closet of prayer, so that he was a familiar face before the throne of God and evidently a terrifying spectacle to demons as well. Paul was known at the throne! Paul was known in spiritual realms as a friend of God, and therefore a force to be reckoned with. God fought for him. Are you known at the throne?

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Jesus calls us to develop an intimate relationship with Him and the Father by becoming frequent visitors before the throne. This is why Paul could say in **Hebrews 4:12**, **“Therefore**, (since we are intimate with the Son of God) **let us come boldly to the throne of Grace to find mercy and grace in help in the time of need.”** The secret was not some pretended, forced, or ad-libbed boldness of “name it and claim it” before the throne, but a natural result of intimacy with God developed over long hours, days, months, and years of being a regular worshiper at God’s throne.

Worship comes before wishing, wanting, or begging. We are not beggars before the throne. We are sons. Sons who only know their father as Santa Claus are not sons. True sons revel in the relationship with their loving Father. The “stuff” is what they get as an overflow from the relationship, not a manipulation of it. Prayer is not asking. Prayer is living in the presence of God. Prayer is loving God and letting ourselves be loved by Him. We must learn that prayer is a love relationship. If it is anything else it is no different than the prayers of all other religions – it becomes merely an attempt to manipulate God for our own benefit. Only when we see prayer as a relationship can we understand the exhortation, **“Pray without ceasing.”** (I Thessalonians 5:17 KJV)

Six Steps to Intimacy With God:

1. Be Still (still your busy mind and cluttered heart)
2. Be Thankful (new mercies, your body, all creation, Blessings and benefits)
3. Be Worshipful (love songs sung to God, long after Him, lift His glory, love His worth, list His names, lively worship)
4. Confess Sins (your words, your attitudes, your thoughts, your actions)
5. Clothe Yourself (apply God’s forgiveness, recon who you are in Christ, raise the shield of faith against Satan, embrace a promise of God for this day)
6. Cast your Care (family, finances, frustrations, fears, worries, failures)

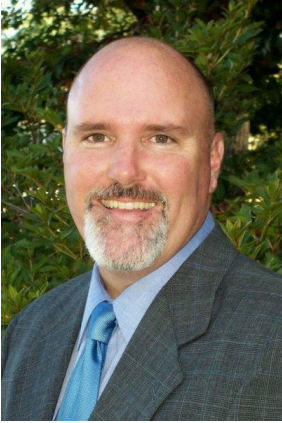
To develop a deep relationship requires that you spend a lot of time in God’s presence! A quick prayer sent up in the middle of a busy day may be good for an emergency but that does not build the intimacy we all seek to have! Ask God to let the Holy Spirit guide you in developing that relationship! Then be still and listen to your heart as He guides you!

May you be especially blessed this month!

Brother Phil

From the Pastor's Desk

MAKING THE PARROT TALK (REVELATION 2:5-6)



A woman bought a parrot to keep her company. She returned to the pet store the next day with a complaint: "This bird you sold me won't talk." The pet store manager said, "Does he have a mirror in his cage? Parrots love mirrors. They see their reflection and they start up a conversation." So, she bought a mirror and went home.

A couple of days later she was back. The bird still wasn't talking. "How about a ladder?" the manager asked. "A ladder will make your parrot happy, and a happy parrot is more likely to talk." She bought the ladder and left.

Two days later she returned. The bird still hadn't said anything. The store manager thought for a minute and said, "How about a swing? All parrots need a swing. A swing will loosen him up, and he'll be talking in no time." The woman reluctantly bought the swing and left.

She was back the next day, looking forlorn. "My parrot died," she said. "That's terrible," the manager said. "Did he ever say a word?" "Yes," the woman said, "Right before he died, he said, 'Don't they sell any food at that pet store?'"

TRYING ONE THING AND THEN ANOTHER

Isn't this just like us? We try so hard to get the things we want in so many ways, and we keep overlooking the simplest, most obvious solutions. I see it in people who seek with all their heart to be happy, going from one distraction to the next -- possessions and relationships most often -- and yet their hunger is never satisfied.

I also see it in the United Methodist Church and in individual churches working feverishly to catch the next fad, trying desperately to be "relevant", yet continually overlooking their most basic objective: bringing people to Christ and teaching them to become disciples.

Are you starving? Is your house filled with things and your life filled with activities and your ministry filled with programs -- and are you still starving?

TIME TO RETURN

At the risk of losing you with this series of clichés, it's time to return to square one, get back to basics and put first things first. These words may sound trite, but they work. The parrot died because his owner overlooked what really matters -- and many of our troubles can be traced to the same.

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Jesus said to the church in Ephesus, "***You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.***" (Revelation 2:5-6) He also told his followers to "***seek first his [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***" (Matthew 6:33)

If you're floundering, I encourage you to find your way back to square one, and never lose sight of it again. We don't just begin with the basics; we win with the basics. They are our strategy for "success" -- the key to accomplishing God's will with our lives and furthering his kingdom with our work.

*Christ above all,
Pastor Byron*



THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF:

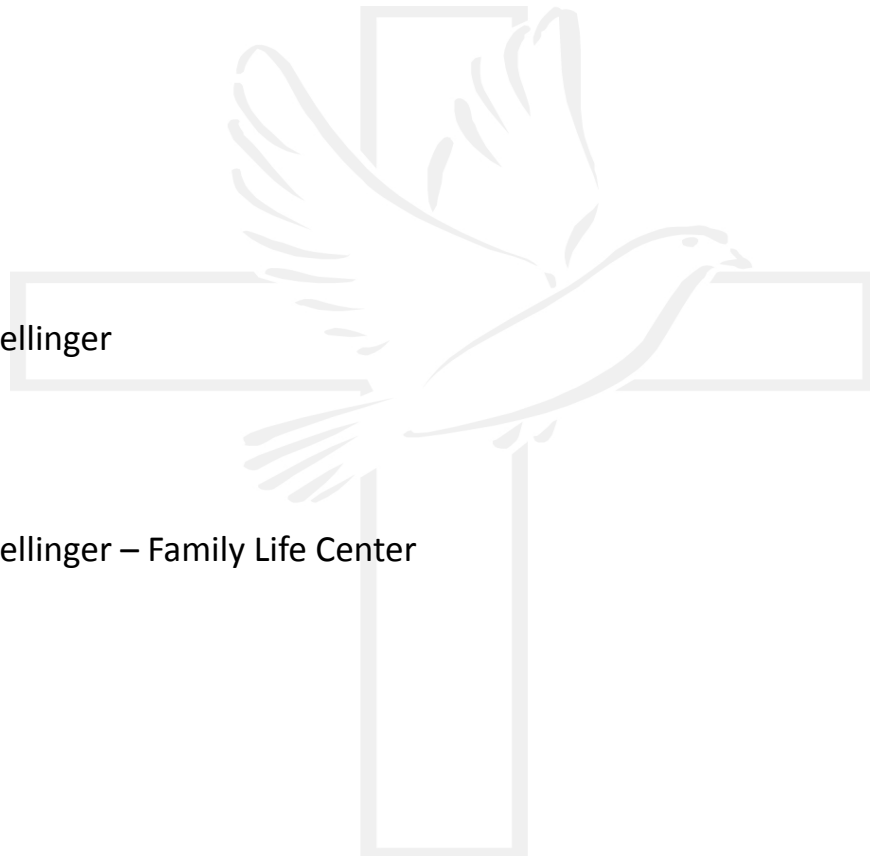
IN MEMORY

Elmer Ritch

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Herby Vanhoy

Steve and Karen Dellinger – Family Life Center





The Recipe Box

There are so many fun things that result in meeting new people and making new friends! You open up your life to new experiences and opportunities. You entertain the thought of a new hobby or a new adventure. You have the chance to share your faith and influence someone for Christ. But, one of the coolest things is that you learn new recipes and new ways to put together amazing meals! As many of you know, Scott and I moved to Waxhaw a little over a year ago. We rented in a townhome community for a year, where we very quickly made fast friends with our neighbors on either side. We enjoyed front porch visits with Barbara and Sherry and Sherry's husband D. We swapped family stories. We gifted each other with dishes that we had prepared and thought each other would enjoy. We shared our faith and encouraged one another through that year of life. And yes...we shared recipes!

Well, we have moved again...this time to our own home in Mineral Springs! We recently had these new, good friends over for dinner and Barbara brought Broccoli Apple Salad to add to the table. We all enjoyed it immensely and I want to share the recipe with you this month. It's a slightly different twist on the traditional broccoli salad and I think that you will find it to be cool and refreshing during this hot, humid month. Good friends are good to have. But when those good friends have good recipes to share...even better!!! Enjoy!!!

Broccoli Apple Salad

4 cups fresh broccoli florets, about 2 medium heads
 ½ cup shredded carrots
 ¼ cup diced red onion
 2 large apples, finely chopped (The Gala variety is good.)
 ½ cup pecans, coarsely chopped
 ½ cup dried cranberries

Dressing:

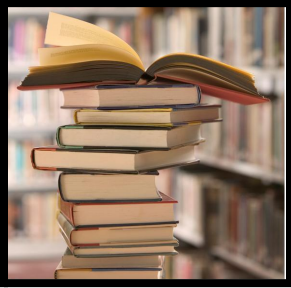
½ cup mayonnaise
 ½ cup plain Greek yogurt
 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
 1 Tbsp. sugar
 ¼ tsp. salt
 Pepper to taste



In a large bowl combine broccoli, carrots, red onion, apples, pecans, and dried cranberries. Whisk together the mayonnaise, Greek yogurt, lemon juice, sugar, salt and pepper. Add the dressing to the salad and toss to coat. Chill until ready to serve. Store, refrigerated, in an airtight container. Yummy!

---submitted by Sherri Brown

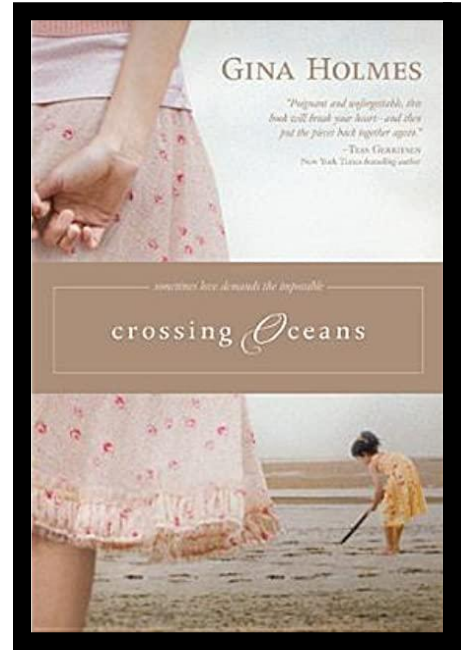
Recommended Reading



Okay...One more summer read that can be enjoyed from the comfort of your own couch (in the air conditioning!) or while sitting by the pool, the lake, or the ocean. In other words, we are recommending one more summer read for the season! It's a sweet story with lots of twists and turns that is easy to read and hard to put down.

[Crossing Oceans](#), by Gina Holmes, is a selection of Christian fiction that we think most would find interesting, entertaining, and inspirational. Jenny

Lucas, the central character of the book, vowed over five years ago, that she would never return home. But, when facing a new reality and a daunting path for her future, things have a way of changing. Jenny and her five-year-old daughter, Isabella, find it necessary to return to Jenny's sleepy North Carolina hometown to face the ghosts that she thought she had left behind. Those from her past welcome Jenny and Isabella in some expected, and in some surprising ways. She receives a warm welcome from her oxygen tank-toting grandmother (a character that you will truly come to love!). She receives exactly what she expects from her stoic and distant father. And David, Isabella's dad, who doesn't even know he has a daughter, swings from cold and uninterested, to angry and bitter, to comforting and compassionate, and back again. As Jenny navigates the rough and unknown waters of relationships and tough decisions, the unforgettable story that unfolds is a testament to the power of love. Through the story we see how love can change everything, can heal old hurts, bring new beginnings, and even overcome the impossible.



As you invest in [Crossing Oceans](#), you have it affirmed to you that love does find a way to heal scarred hearts, deal with tragedy, and provide second chances. Jenny finds in returning home, as we all would, that she must confront strained relationships from her past, while also trying to come to grips with an uncertain future. We think that in your reading you will find quirky, relatable, and realistic characters. You will find struggles that are gripping and that keep you turning pages. And although you will find many instances of Jenny leaning on her faith throughout her journey, there is nothing packaged or predictable about the story.

Spoiler Alert: This could be seen as a sad tale...but it is a sad tale with HOPE! [Crossing Oceans](#) has a strong emotional hook and will keep you reading until you wipe your eyes, blow your nose, and find your place again. It will make you think, make you laugh, and probably make you cry. But you really do need to see it through to the end for a resolution that is both realistic and inspiring. This is a work of Christian fiction that you will be glad you spent time reading! You can find [Crossing Oceans](#) on Amazon, Christianbook.com, or in our very own Lending Library at Pleasant Grove. Happy Reading!!!

News from United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

The United Women in Faith will be having their Metro District Annual meeting on Saturday, August 27th, from 8:30-11:30 AM at Harrisburg United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, NC. This meeting will be an in-person event as well as an on-line event. The featured speaker is Rev. Toni Ruth Smith from Williamson's Chapel UMC. Breakfast will be an option and will be available beginning at 8:30. The meeting begins in the sanctuary at 9:30. The hands-on mission project for this event is a

collection of school supplies for the Alliance Center for Education. Jeannie Upton has a list of the items requested and will make this list available for the Circle members at their August meeting. If you purchase any of the supplies for this effort, please bring them to the church office or get them to Jeannie. We really need to make an effort to participate in our district events so please consider attending this meeting if at all possible. Those who are going to the annual meeting need to be at Pleasant Grove by 8:00 AM on the 24th. We will take our collection of school supplies to the meeting. Registration for the meeting has to be in by Friday, August 19th so make your decision to attend soon!

The 2022 Walk for Mission will be on Saturday, September 24th. Last year we held this walk in May and had about ten members walking some or all of the two miles. We were thrilled at the amount of money we were able to raise. Plans are to walk on the 24th using the same route on Pleasant Oaks Circle...or we can create a new route if we would like to do that. Every dollar raised in doing the Walk for Mission will be used to support missions and ministries of the United Women in Faith of the Metro District. Jeannie would certainly appreciate someone from one of the Circles volunteering to take charge and plan the Walk. We need to take action on the project right away as September will be here before we know it! Thanks in advance for any help you can offer!

We believe
love in action
can change
the world.

As you can see, United Women in Faith is all about putting our faith into action. We believe that by doing so we can make a difference in the world. We can be the hands and feet of Jesus! We would love to have you join our fellowship. If you are interested in being a part of this active and dynamic group just speak with any member, or Jeannie Upton, for guidance in getting rooted in this ministry.



Our Lending Library is Here for You!!!



Don't forget that Pleasant Grove has its own lending library! If you are looking for a good read...something that will inspire, inform, entertain, or help you along on your walk with the Lord...then we just may have what you need. We are located in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. Simply choose your title, take it home, enjoy it, and return it for others. Simple, isn't it? The books await. Let's get reading!!!

Pleasant Grove Shows Up Again!!!

Once again, the church family here at Pleasant Grove has shown up to serve our homeless neighbors! During the month of July, we made an effort to collect several much-needed items that those experiencing homelessness could use during these hot, humid, Carolina, summer days. Our collection yielded the following donation:

53 toothbrushes • 57 tubes of toothpaste • 15 canisters of foot powder • 32 deodorants
21 bath towels • 25 hand towels • 26 washcloths • 4 bars of soap



When we arrived at **Roof Above** to give them our donations, we were directed to the warehouse area. The volunteer who greeted us there saw the items that we had for them and said, "Alright! Just what we needed right when we needed it!!!" The staff and volunteers at **Roof Above** wanted us to make sure that the church family was thanked...so...*Thanks to everyone who contributed and reached out to extend the love of Christ to His children.* If you weren't able to be a part of this effort, stay tuned for our next opportunity! Way to go, Pleasant Grove, way to go!!!



A Very Important Meeting

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, August 14th, at 6:00 PM. At this time, we will hold a Church Council meeting in the Chapel. All members of the Church Council are expected to be in attendance. However, council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. At this meeting we will have our various committee reports but we will also have a very important time of discussion centering on the pros and cons of disaffiliation from The United Methodist Church and just what this decision could mean for us going forward. This is such a pressing issue for us and we all need to be fully informed before we get to the point of any decision or vote. Be sure to make this meeting a priority as you do what's needed to ensure the future and effectiveness of Pleasant Grove right here in Oakdale and beyond.



Save the Date

The Pleasant Grove family has a very exciting evening coming up on Wednesday, September 28th! And we want you to be here with us!!! So, save the date!

We are calling this fun time together “Dinner with Andy” and that’s exactly what it is. We will have a catered dinner with Andy Lambert. Andy is a retired UMC pastor. He is an evangelist and a former stand-up comedian. Andy loves to re-tale Biblical stories with a humorous slant. The meal and entertainment will be provided by the church, but donations will be accepted at the door to help offset the cost. You are asked to call the church office to make your reservations as we need to make sure that we order enough food for everyone. This event is open to all...church members, their friends and family, and anyone from our community. Church members are asked to bring a dessert to share with the entire gathering.

This is one fun night that you do not want to miss. Go ahead and mark your calendar, invite your friends and family, and let us know that you are coming. We can’t wait to see you for “Dinner with Andy.”



**Dinner
with
Andy**



*Join us for a night of laughter
and BBQ. Donations at the
door.*

Sept. 28th at 6 PM

1915 Oakdale Rd.
Charlotte, NC
RSVP to: 704-392-2387



Summer Camp Post

WOW!!! Summer Camp will be over in just a few short weeks! My how time flies!

We have had a great time, along with some challenges: staffing (resolved!), pool trip cancellations due to lifeguard shortages (also resolved!), and a hiccup with transportation (which was promptly taken care of!). So, we did some quick maneuvering and came up with an idea to keep the children happy, busy, and tired! Thanks to Mr. Paul Baker at Bounce Boot Camp for helping us out on very short notice! The kids always have such a great time with the bounce house inflatables!



We have been to the pool, played putt-putt, gone bowling, visited the spray park, and gone to the play park. The gym here on campus has been wonderful...air-conditioned and big! And when we do go outside, we go out early in the day to avoid the heat and humidity.

We have devotions with Mr. Colin and the children absolutely love him and the time he spends with them. Even though we have been busy with field trips and playing, we have still done a few crafts. Mrs. Upton had them painting butterflies, drawing patterns with stencils, putting their initials on paper and practicing writing their names. Mrs. Pierce brought in seashells she found on the beach. The children made photo frames and decorated them with the seashells.



We plan for these last few weeks to go smoothly and we are already praying that our students will have a great 2022-2023 school year! We owe a great big thank you to all who have helped out this summer!

Pleasant Grove After-School Care is enrolling for this coming school year. If you or anyone you know will need after-school care for their students please call us at 704.393.7895. Pleasant Grove ASC is a small program that offers a personal touch. We provide quality, Christian care in a safe and fun environment and we look forward to serving the community by serving its students!



A Great School Year Begins on the First Day!!!



School will begin again before we know it and we have the chance to help our neighbors across the street get off to a great start! During the month of August, we will be collecting some key items to help the teachers at Oakdale Elementary School set their students up for success. We are collecting specific supplies that all teachers use throughout the year and our collection will continue through Sunday, August 21st. This will allow us to deliver the items to the school to be distributed to teachers before the first day of school on the 29th. Please bring your donations to the bins in the sanctuary and let's bless our neighbors with the love and care that flows through us from Christ.

Please bring any or all of the following to our donation bins:

- Lysol Disinfectant Spray (or comparable store brand)
- Tissues
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Sharpie markers and pens (any color)
- Mini white dry erase boards (9 x 12)
- Latex free band-aids
- Colored copy paper (any color or assortment)
- Colored card stock (any color or assortment)
- Two-sided tape
- Basic clip boards
- Treasure chest prizes (any safe, new, kid-friendly trinkets)



LUNCH TIME

PG Prayer Lunch

The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our lives and in the world around us.

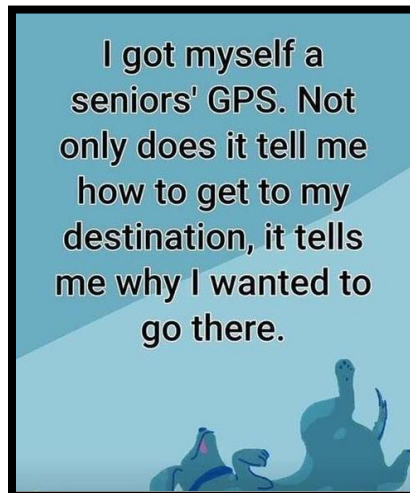
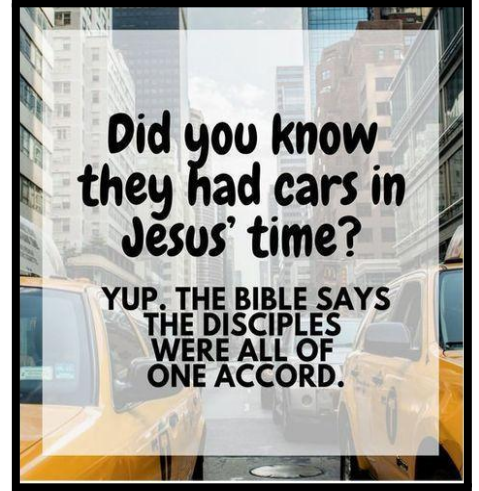
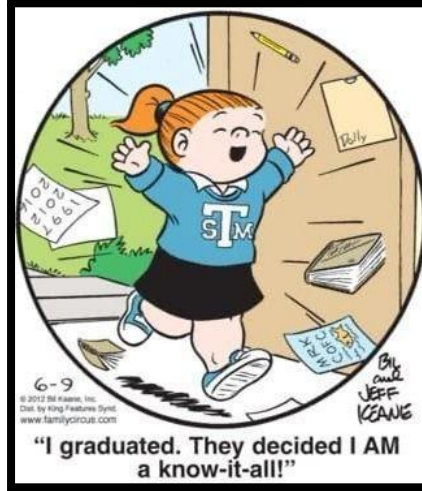
Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard

Mid-Summer Church Family Picnic 2022

On Sunday, July 10th, our sweet church family gathered in the Family Life Center for a mid-summer picnic, and a good time was had by all!!! Our picnic followed the Sunday worship service and a report on Annual Conference from our delegates, Pat James and Hazel Sanders. We enjoyed a delicious meal of hot dogs with all the trimmings, including homemade chili and slaw. Along with the hot dogs, we had baked beans, chips, and desserts...boy did we have desserts!!! We were able to enjoy some great fellowship together and spend time visiting with one another around the table and it felt right!!! Even our two youngest members here at PG were able to get to know one another after the picnic. What a beautiful time in the life of our church!!!



Just For Giggles!!!





AUGUST

Word Search Puzzle



I Z Z S S H G T R T G E Y O G B P P
A Y B U H M D A N E I W R Q V A B B
C Y C O I A W O R R A Z Y E J R E I
Z T P Q A S D Z R D W D I W T B Y K
E X O S P T W E P N E T I I K E J I
B S P W S O E I G X A N N N Z C G N
R O U S E O P N M O M F M E G U A G
D V S N N L I S L M M O R L Q E C J
C G B A S H T F I A I I A F Y I B S
F A C E S E I C E C F N Z N N A K O
H M M I A D T N S P L T G C S X S C
X P F P Q C O F M U I E I B S T F E
O R X M I I H A K U N P S L S U K A
E Z B Y T N C E S Z Y W O U O A R N
W B R A K O G M K Y B O G E Y E M I
E S C K L N I R M H P U K A V R U W
C A G N G W A J O J A A K I A S T P
V Z B E S P T Z X V L S R W F P E X

Find these words related to the month of August

BOAT
GARDEN
CAMPFIRE
BIKING
FLOATIE
FISHING
RIVER
AUGUST

KAYAK
BARBECUE
OCEAN
CANOE
PICNIC
BEACH
ICE (as in ice cream)



SUN
SHADE
VACATION
SWIMSUIT
SWIMMING
POPSICLES
READING

WARM
LAKE
TOWEL
POOL
PARK
CAMPING
SUNSET

