Piano Dedication
May 16

11:00 am
Dedication during Worship Service
6:00 pm
Piano Concert of Worship
Dear Church Family,

Whether you’re a baseball fan or not, you couldn’t help but hear the news on Sunday that major league pitcher, Dallas Braden of the Oakland Athletics pitched a ‘perfect game.’ A ‘perfect game’ as defined by Major League Baseball, is one where one pitcher does not allow a single person from the other team to reach first base. That doesn’t necessarily mean that the pitcher has struck out every opposing batter. It simply means that no one was able to reach base safely. Do you have any idea how rare such a thing is? Since the very first no hitter recorded in 1904 by Cy Young, Braden’s performance is only the 17th time a MLB pitcher has managed to pitch a ‘perfect game.’

Do you have any idea how hard it is to pitch a ‘perfect game?’ Baseball sometimes goes for decades without one. There were no ‘perfect games’ in the ‘30’s, ‘40’s, or the ‘70’s. A ‘perfect game’ is also complicated by the fact that all of your teammates must play ‘perfect’ defense as well. Occasionally, a hitter will make contact with a pitch and the ball will have to be caught in the air or the runner thrown out at first in order for the pitcher’s performance to qualify for a ‘perfect game.’ The stars must align perfectly, the moon needs to be a waning crescent, the other teams will have to stumble a bit, the pitcher’s team will have to be playing some of their best baseball…everything must go exactly right. And if it weren’t hard enough for pitchers, no hitter has finished a season with a .400+ batting average since Bill Terry did it back in 1930 – 80 years ago.

There are a lot of things in life that have pretty “long odds.” Many, many more make attempts at such things and fail than succeed. Some of us think of faith as something that some people try to have but most fail. If that’s true then faith, like sports, or hobbies, or competitions are all alike: success is dependent on us, our preparation, natural gifts, and lots of hard work. The problem with that is that if faith in Christ were like that, there would be no ‘perfect games’…ever!

Faith in Christ is not about our effort. There is not a scale of success. Faith in Christ is not about trying harder but of letting go more. It’s not about working out but working in. It’s not about building oneself up but building Christ up in our hearts. Faith is the very opposite of every other human endeavor. It is completely foreign to the human experience outside of Christ. Only by relinquishing all control of self, wealth, and ambition to the control of Christ Jesus, do we truly run well the race of life.

Oh, and about that success thing. The only thing you need to be successful as a servant of Christ is obedience to Christ, and a willingness to serve like Christ served; all the results, the measures of success or failure, belong to God alone. Maybe you’ve been running in the wrong direction, throwing at the wrong target, or swinging at all the wrong pitches. Maybe you ought to try running in the opposite direction, stop throwing at a target and for goodness sake stop swinging all together. This ‘faith game’ is not like any you’ve ever played before.

I can’t wait to see you Sunday.

Your Pastor,

Steve
Deacon of the Month
May—Irene Meade  628-2136, 628-3789

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Greeters
Upstairs entrance
Jim Hughes   Charles Grogan
Downstairs entrance
Louise Blevins Peggy Hughes

Extended Session Workers
May 16
Julia Childers & Carrie Baxter

Ushers & Greeters
11:00am
Co-Chairs:
Larry Payne, Buddy Carrier, Mike Overstreet
May
Greeters:
Carolyn Fuqua Mary Fraysier
Ray Duncan Janet Lambert
Don Salyers
Ushers:
Kevin Abel John Blankenship
Mary Fraysier Joe Campbell
Barbara VanHuss Wayne Hayter

May Worship Technicians
Morning Chuck Callahan
Evening Norman Klose & Bill Klose

Van Drivers
Sunday Morning & Evening—May
Judy Osborne  628-8126(W), 492-5444(C)
Wednesday Evenings
Bo Henderson  628-8906
Kathleen Bobinski  628-2487

Financial Update
May 9, 2010
Budget Funds
Weekly Requirement $8,716.58
Received Today 8,818.00
Year-to-date Budget $165,615.02
Year-to-date Receipts $150,298.68
Building Fund
To-date $86,326.04
Bluefield College Fund
Goal $7,000.00
To-date $1,020.00
Association Missions Offering
Goal $2,000.00
To-date $100.00

Deacon Recommendation . . .

The Council of Deacons made a recommendation on the elevator project on Sunday, May 2 and a discussion time was held in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 9 at 10:00 am for a called business session. The vote on the project is scheduled for this Sunday, May 16, 2010 at the close of the morning worship.
Prayer List: May 11, 2010

In the Hospital:
Bristol Regional Medical Center
1 Medical Park Blvd, Bristol, TN 37620
Ted Dingler (friend of Tim Browning)
North Carolina Baptist Hospital
Benny Burkett (brother of Curtis Burkett)
Fort Saunders Regional Medical Center
1901 W Clinch Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916-2307
Charles Smith (brother-in-law of Eula Smith & Virginia Smith)

Recuperating:
Beverly Eason

Treatments Continuing/Pending:
Vivian Anderson, William Austin, Ainsley Berry, Andrea Birchfield, Hope Blevins, Lucille Bradbury, Chuck Callahan, Cathy Candler, Roger Clifton, George Culberson, Bob Dorton, Frances Dover, Linda Fields, Carolyn Fuqua, Brad Gobble, Dorothy Goodman, Shirley Greene, Shirley Henderson, Jake Hill, David Holbrook, Mary Hunicutt, Bobby Jones, Jim Jones, Margaret Jordan, Ruth Keith, Janet Lambert, Peggy Lord, Eden and Emory McHugh, Jimmy Mitchell, Jane Moore, Roman Moore, Ann Mowell, Bill Munsey, Judy Myers, Bill Nunley, Taylor Oley, Hazel Pendergrass, Patricia Phillips, Ronda Phillips, V.T. Rector, Frances Roberts, George Shaffer, Peggy Shepherd, Irby Snead, Audrey South, Jimmy Stewart, Linda Sutherland, Gladys Ward, Betty Webster, Joyce Wright

Homebound of the Week
June & Leander Roberts
307 Morningside Ln NE, Abingdon, VA 24210-3934
Phone: 276/628-2502

Independent Living/Retirement/Assisted Care & Rehab Facilities:
Lydia Collins, Margaret Frayser, Gladys Greer, Helen Harris, Betty Henderson, Ruth Noe, Howard Smith, Virginia Smith, Willie Smith, Peggy Wann

Homebound:
Katherine Glover, Lola Hutton, Naomi Johnson, Mae Ledford, Jeanette Millsap, Maxie Ray, Jim Repass, June & Leander Roberts, Virginia Saunders, Sloan Southerlin, Coma Tiller, Jake Turner, Elbert Umberger

Sympathy
Our expressions of Christian love and sympathy are extended to . . .
...Marjorie Mullins and family in the death of her brother, Rev. Herbert Daugherty, on May 6, 2010
...Roy Morelock and family in the death of his brother-in-law, Larry Neal Ricker, who passed away a couple of weeks ago
...Marth Eason and other students at UVA in the death of their classmate, Yardley Love.

Happy Birthday . . .
Monday, May 17
• Carrie Baxter
• Nadine Culberson
• Helen Holliday
• Sarah Garrett Richards

Wednesday, May 19
• Pat Blue

Thursday, May 20
• Richard Foil

Friday, May 21
• Linda Kiser
• Brady Surles

Saturday, May 22
• Marie James
• Elizabeth Russell

Sunday, May 23
• Tom Counts
All About Seniors . . .

Interested in going to Shatley Springs for brunch on Thursday, May 20? If so, contact the church office to register!

*A little bird told us or maybe we saw it in the Bristol Herald Courier last Sunday...that Gladys Greer will be celebrating her 104th birthday by dining out with her family on Thursday, May 13. Happy birthday Gladys!*

wanda

Mark Your Calendar . . .

**End of School Bash**—**JUNE 11**

Please call Jill Harless for more information or to volunteer to work with the planning committee!

**May 23**

11am—Youth Sunday

6pm—PS & Children’s Choirs Recognition

**DownHome Worship**

Begins June 6!

Call the church office today to reserve a date!

Interested in playing in a church softball league? If so, please contact Ken Russell, 623-8152 and come to team practice at Latture Field on Sunday, May 16, at 5pm!
The YOUNG ADULT SS CLASS is being challenged to bring items for the month of MAY for the Stone Soup Food Pantry. So, help by bringing at least one can of food each time you come to church.
Collection baskets are at each entrance.