



heartland connection



July 2009

Volume 15, Issue 7

Dear friends,

We are back from three weeks in Brazil. What a fun trip. We were able to see new things, speak some new words and eat LOTS of new foods. We traveled over 1200 miles and joked about eating our way across Brazil. We went to beaches, went to mountains, plateaus, waterfalls and urban centers. We went to cities such as Sao Paulo, Mogi-Mirim, Uberaba, Pirenopolis, and Goiania. We spent time with Steph and Gustavo and got to know many Brazilian friends. We worshipped in two different churches in Portuguese. But as time wore on, we had an increasing desire to go home.

There is something about being home that each of us has probably experienced. We like our houses, yards, food, beds, pets and most of all, our church family. We can be away for awhile, but it is always good to return to the place we feel like we really belong. The burning desire to be at home is something we ought have in our walks with Christ as well.

Paul explained it well to his friends in Philippi. He had that deep longing to be at home with the Lord. *“But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. (Phil 1:23-24)*

Just like Paul, we are living on the edge between two worlds, two homes. Our ultimate destination is to be with our Lord for all eternity. Our hearts long for that. We desire to depart and be with Him. As I’ve said many times before, we need to remember that this world is not our home. Paul says, *“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (Phil 3:20-21)*

But Paul also had the right perspective on what to do while here. *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. (Phil. 1:21-22)*

While we are “away from home” we still have much that we can and should do. Just like I felt really helpless at times in Brazil because I didn’t understand the language or the culture, we too often feel helpless and oppressed in this world. There is so much that we don’t understand. It makes me uncomfortable.

This month, we celebrate Independence Day because we remember our being set free from the tyranny of the British during the Revolutionary War at great cost of human life. Without the godly insight and willingness to suffer for righteousness, we would not enjoy the many benefits that we do now. Those soldiers fought for freedom and were willing to give even their own lives to protect it. Even now, our brave men and women continue to fight to bring freedom to places of oppression. We should also remember the freedoms we continue to enjoy today because of the sacrifice of many men and women in service to our country. Let’s remember that as we celebrate the 4th of July. But that is not the only war that we should remember.

We also have the culture wars that surround us. If we want to win the war that rages in our city and change our society, we must get involved in that process as well. As individuals and as a church we must once again understand our responsibility in taking the gospel to a needy world. We are involved in a warfare against an enemy that continues to show itself in drugs, crime, pornography, abortion, homosexuality, corruption and division. Those are the visible manifestations that we can see everyday. But that is not the enemy. The apostle Paul reminds us that *“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:12)*

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So, just like Paul, as we live here in this other place, have much “fruitful labor” we can be involved with. It may be teaching, hospitality, mercy, missions, giving, whatever. But our God wants us busy for Him. And the greatest privilege we have is to keep sharing the great news about Jesus.

The gospel is the answer and the church is the method. Even Isaiah reminds us the one of the purposes of the Messiah was to proclaim liberty to the captives. He says, “*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives, And freedom to prisoners...*” (Isa. 61:1).

Paul states, “*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for ‘WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD will be saved.’ How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!’ However, they did not all heed the glad tidings; for Isaiah says, ‘LORD, who has believed our REPORT?’ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ*” (Rom. 10:12-17)

To make a difference, we need to be personally involved. I am so excited to see so many of our people going on short term missions and being involved in many ways both here and overseas this summer. I am so proud of these folks who are giving of themselves to spread the gospel and build the kingdom of God around the world. It is great to see how many others of us are entering into the world of the hurting and lost. May God bless our efforts with great fruit.

Let’s continue to be involved. Let’s keep praying that we can make a difference. Let’s shine out the light of Christ into our community and be known as a church that cares while not being afraid to preach the truth. Help those in your own neighborhood. Keep coming to worship our glorious, saving God. Most of all, don’t forget the greatest sacrifice, that of our Lord Jesus, who died to give you eternal freedom. Share that good news with all those around you. As C.T. Studd once said, “Some people want to live within the sound of chapel bells, but I want to run a mission a yard from the gate of hell.” Will you respond to the call?

We have a great future ahead. We have a glorious home that we will live in forever. We have a great God who has walked with us and continues to lead us. I am excited about where He is taking Heartland. It is good to be back home! Have a great month enjoying our freedom, living in His grace, reaching out with the gospel.

Living in His freedom,
George



Summer Schedule Changes!

July 6th - Church Office Closed
July 19th - No Pot Providence

August 2nd - No Sunday School
August 9th - No Sunday School
August 16th - No Sunday School & No Pot Providence

PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009

One of the beauties of Presbyterianism is its form of government. What does that look like? Each church is overseen by a group of men selected by God and the local congregation called Elders. These men form a group referred to as a Session. The Session cares for, protects and makes decisions for the local church body. (If you would like to know who Heartland's Elders are they are listed on the back of the church bulletin).

All the PCA Churches (Presbyterian Church in America) in a certain geographical location form what is known as a Presbytery. Each Presbytery meets at least three times a year and each church in a Presbytery can send at least two Elders to each Presbytery meeting to represent their local church. In much the same way that Elders oversee a local church and care and protect it, a Presbytery oversees and cares for the Sessions of the churches in its geographical area.

In addition to a local Church Session and Presbyteries, there is one more tier of our church structure and that is the PCA General Assembly. This is an annual meeting that is held once a year where all churches in the PCA can send at least two Elder representatives to this annual meeting. Some of the work that our denomination does at these week long meetings includes matters that pertain to such things as missions, church planting, education (both college & seminary), college campus ministry, stewardship, camp ministry, as well as issues of doctrinal purity and so much more.

As a PCA Elder I have the privilege to participate in all three levels of church government (also known as "courts"). This year I attended our denomination's 37th General Assembly in Orlando, FL. While it will be difficult to tell you everything that occurred during the week let me try to give you a few of the highlights of this year's General Assembly:

- * Most of the Assembly was taken up with hearing about the work of the permanent committees of our denomination such as Christian Education and Publication, Covenant College, Covenant Theological Seminary, Insurance Annuities and Relief, Mission to North America, Mission to the World, PCA Foundation, Ridge Haven Conference Center, and Reformed University Ministries. Each day's business was concluded with a worship service. It was exciting to hear that despite the economic times the ministries of our denomination continue to move forward! A few things that were mentioned:
 - * The Gospel continues to go forward as we continue to send more missionaries to the mission's field
 - * Covenant Seminary records record size attendance
 - * Mission to North America is encouraging every church in the PCA to plant a church
- * A big issue that came to the Assembly this year was an overture (request) from several Presbyteries asking for a study committee on the role of women in the PCA. Based on last year's discussion it seemed like part of the purpose of this overture was to look at the issue of whether we should have deaconesses in the PCA or not. The Overtures Committee recommended to the General Assembly that they answer the overture in the negative (deny the request). There was much debate on the floor of the Assembly about the majority & minority report of the Overtures Committee. The Assembly finally voted against a study committee by a margin of 446-427.
- * Another large issue was an overture requesting that we change the Book of Church Order (our denomination's policy manual) chapter 59 on marriage to bring it in line with Westminster Confession of Faith 24.1; which emphasizes that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Where the conflict comes in is that the Book of Church Order states in chapter 59.1:

Marriage is a divine institution though not a sacrament, nor peculiar to the Church of Christ. It is proper that every commonwealth, for the good of society, make laws to regulate marriage, which all citizens are bound to obey.

This would leave military chaplains and pastors in states that have made homosexual marriages legal, open to legal challenges. The Overtures Committee felt that the Westminster Confession of Faith was sufficient enough to address the issue particularly since the Westminster Confession of Faith carries more weight than the Book of Church Order. However, the majority of the Assembly felt that this conflict was substantial enough that they recommended that the Overtures Committee reconsider the issue.

The Overtures Committee then perfected the language of the Book of Church Order and presented it to the Assembly who approved the new recommendation. Then the moderator, supported by a vote of the Assembly made the changes to the Book of Church Order effective immediately rather than sending the changes to the Presbyteries for ratification. While the decision of the moderator seemed practical for this decision, it seemed to set a dangerous precedent for future changes to the Book of Church Order.
- * One other matter that caught my attention was that for the first time since I have been attending General Assembly, the PCA reported a negative growth in its membership from the previous year. This is somewhat of a shock as the PCA has been known for some time as one of the fastest growing denominations. (However, from what I understand, part of the decline in membership was due to several large churches purging their rolls.)

God has been good to our denomination! It is true that we face some challenges as we continue to get older as a denomination and become more diverse, but we also continue to see God's hand at work!

Thank you for all your prayers for this year's Assembly and for Robbie & I as we went to Florida. We also thank God for all the care you showed to our family while we were gone! We cannot express how grateful we are! Please continue to pray for the PCA as we seek to see the Gospel go forth!

In Christ,

Rick

Worshippers In Training Worker Schedule

July 5th: Shelden, Swigart, Haslam
July 12th: Shelden, Welles, Albert
July 19th: Trammell, Carrigan, Hetherington
July 26th: Shelden, Glass, Franks

August 2nd: Henry, Shelden, Deck
August 9th: Henry, Humphries, J. Albert, L. Johnson
August 16th: Henry, Larson, Larson
August 23rd: Henry, Swigart, Haslam
August 30th: Henry, Welles, A. Hetherington

**If unable to serve on your assigned week,
please switch dates with another worker and
contact Katie Waalkes @ 295-6633.**



ALL-CHURCH ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

*Join us Wednesday, July 15th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
at the church on the North side of the building.*

*We will be providing the toppings, tableware and
drinks, but we need to have volunteers willing to make
homemade ice cream to share with others.*



*Please email Nancy Wilson nancywilson16@aol.com or
Cindy Hanning hanfam123@cox.net or call Cindy at
218-1156.*

*We REALLY need members to bring lots of ice cream
in order for our first ALL-CHURCH event to be a
success! Blessings!*

Women of Heartland - Save the Date!!!!

Dear Heartland Women: Redeemer Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, has invited us to join them for their 2009 WIC Women's Retreat

Date: September 25th and 26th, 2009

Speaker: Arlita Winston

Topic: Contentment

Location: Youthfront Camp in Edgerton, Kansas

Cost: \$70.00 (early registration) \$80.00 (late registration) \$50.00 (non-overnight, Saturday only registration)

We had a great group that attended this retreat last fall, and would love to take even more this year - so save the date, and save your pennies!! More detailed information to follow, so watch your bulletins and newsletters! Questions? Contact Robbie Franks or Vicki Granberry.

Core Value- Stewardship

Undoubtedly many of us are wondering what is going on with the current state of the economy! What does it mean to me and my family? How do we know what is right and true? I have referred to John Piper's sermon before titled, "What is the recession for?" Below is an excerpt from that sermon. If you would like to read or listen to the sermon go to [www.desiringgod.org/http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/2009/3566_What_Is_the_Recession_For/](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Sermons/ByDate/2009/3566_What_Is_the_Recession_For/). I highly recommend you do that.

Piper: (Some of) God's Purposes in This Recession

Now what are some of God's purposes in this recession? I will mention five:

- 1. He intends for this recession to expose hidden sin and so bring us to repentance and cleansing.*
- 2. He intends to wake us up to the constant and desperate condition of the developing world where there is always and only recession of the worst kind.*
- 3. He intends to relocate the roots of our joy in His grace rather than in our goods, in His mercy rather than our money, in His worth rather than our wealth.*
- 4. He intends to advance His saving mission in the world—the spread of the gospel and the growth of His church—precisely at a time when human resources are least able to support it. This is how He guards His glory.*
- 5. He intends for the church to care for its hurting members and to grow in the gift of love.*

It is the desire of the church leadership for us to be mindful of God's sovereignty, mercy, and providence at all times, especially during times like these. There are many needs individually and corporately to be met, including helping those among the body in need of food, shelter and clothing; AND corporately covering our obligations for staff, missionary support, facility maintenance, and debt elimination. We have biblical obligations to those in need and pay the bills, and we have legal obligations to pay our bills and pay down the money borrowed for the facility. Please continue to pray for wisdom as the Stewardship Team and session continue to build strategies to meet all obligations. Please continue to be faithful in your giving consistently during the summer. We have been fortunate to be able to pay the bills and get the debt below \$1 million. Lord willing, we will have the debt eliminated within the next few years and then be able to reinvest into other growth opportunities of ministry that the Lord leads us to. The Lord has brought us far!

Need: We have a need for a coordinator to help structure Crown Ministries biblical financial planning classes. If you are interested in helping in this area please let me know. Classes can be offered 3 times per year. We would like to have classes meeting every year.

God is in control. To that we can be truly grateful. *Thank God for the recession!* It allows us to depend on him even more.

For the Stewardship Team, in Christ,

Bryan Hanning

bryan.hanning@aghlc.com

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

Heartland Calendar of Events

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>Middle School Girls Bible Study 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>High School Girls Bible Study 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Session 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p> 
<p>5</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 am</p> <p>Worship 10:40 a.m. <i>Communion & Mercy Offering</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p><i>(in observance of Independence Day)</i></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Middle School Girls Bible Study 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>High School Girls Bible Study 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor George's Day Off</p>	<p>11</p> <p>20-Something Ladies Study 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 am</p> <p>Worship 10:40 a.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor Rick's Day Off</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Middle School Girls Bible Study 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>High School Girls Bible Study 3:30 p.m.</p> <p>Ice Cream Social 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pastor George's Day Off</p>	<p>18</p> <p>20-Something Ladies Study 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 am</p> <p>Worship 10:40 a.m.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor Rick's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Middle School Girls Bible Study 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>High School Girls Bible Study 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Pastor George's Day Off</p>	<p>25</p> <p>20-Something Ladies Study 9:30 a.m.</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday School 9:15 am</p> <p>Worship 10:40 a.m.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor Rick's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Middle School Girls Bible Study 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>High School Girls Bible Study</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pastor George's Day Off</p>	

NURSERY

If you have a conflict, please notify Paul or Rayna Waalkes!
(Paul - 841-4640; Rayna - 648-8202)

Sunday School 9:00-10:35

Worship 10:25-12:??

July 5	Blackman/ Alyssa Hanning	Brinkman/ Rachel & Amy Shelden
July 12	P & R Waalkes/ Frost	Willis/ Lois Johnson
July 19	Whitman/ Jeremy Wheeler	Gertz/ Beth and Sarah Franks
July 26	Nate, Celeste, Lizzie Matthews	Ralston/ Abigail Fetzik
August 2	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	G&M Kahrs/L. Paine/S. Shelden
August 9	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Castro-Miller/A. Wegener
August 16	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Brinkman/R&A Shelden
August 23	S&C Kahrs/M. Martin/E. Sundquist	Willis/L. Johnson
August 30	Blackman/A. Hanning	Gertz/ B&S Franks

JULY & AUGUST POT PROVIDENCE

We plan to "take a break" from holding Pot Providence during July and August. During the summer, let's use this time to focus on our families and fellowship in smaller groups. Take this opportunity to get to know someone new in our growing Heartland family!

Prayer of Confession

Prayer of T/S

July 5th	Paul Waalkes	Phil Elder
July 12th	Jason Wegener	Gary Gensch
July 19th	Scott Willis	Bryan Hanning
July 26th	Charlie Wilson	Mike Hull
August 8th	Tony Woodlief	Matt Phillips

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4: Jeff Schantz
Sarah Langhofer
- 5: Clinton Gouldner
- 7: Pete Mathews
- 8: Jens Lukoschat
- 9: Paul Waalkes
Cheryl Hetherington
John-Michael Kahrs
- 10: Lesa Wischmeyer
- 13: Dan DeJong
- 14: Phillip Zimmerman
- 15: Steven Blick
Elliott Langhofer
- 17: Stephanie Shelden
Jeremiah Wegener
- 19: Suzanne Castro-Miller
Stephen Granberry
- 22: Benjamin Ralston
Hudson Langhofer
- 24: Sarah DaSilva
Amber Zimmerman
- 25: Bryan Hannaford
- 26: Cindy Hanning
- 27: Nathan Willis
- 30: Sophie Dugger

GREETERS

**for the month of
JULY:**

Barry & Janet Malcom

heartland
Community Church

Senior Pastor:

George Granberry - *Worship*

Associate Pastor:

Rick Franks - *Ministry*

Elders:

George Bruce
Phil Elder - *Evangelism*
Gary Gensch - *Prayer*
Bryan Hamning - *Stewardship*
Mike Hull - *Prayer*
Ron Johnson - *Teaching*
Jeff Morris - *Community*
Matt Phillips - *Community*
Stan Sheldon - *Community*
Rocky Trammell - *Missions*
LaVern Waalkes - *Teaching*
Brad Welles

Deacons:

Phil Challans - *Facilities*
Bary Malcom - *Facilities*
Sandy Neblett - *Mercy*
Steve Paris
Terry Peterson - *Stewardship*

heartland

Community Church
457 S. Woodlawn
Wichita, KS 67218
www.heartlandpca.org

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Worship 10:35 a.m.