



Follow Jesus, Make Disciples, Transform the World

Shiloh UMC
197 Shiloh Church Rd,
Sparta, NC 28675

August 2011



**Alleghany-Grayson Charge
Welcomes
Pastor Mike Austin &
Family: wife, Lynda;
son, Caleb; and daughter,
Hannah.**



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Pastor Mike's First Service at Shiloh July 20, 2011

Pastor Mike Austin arrived at the Alleghany-Grayson Parsonage on June 21st with his wife, Lynda, son Caleb, and daughter Hannah. He grew up between Boone and Blowing Rock, NC.

His interest is in the community and he does not believe it takes a big church to effect change—a small church can make a difference. He says, "We've got a good place here. I am not here to change you...the first thing we need to do is learn to love each other." He prefers a casual service and does not like rhetorical questions. He is looking forward to being a part of Shiloh.

He invites us to call him (cell: 828-565-6016 or office (336-372-8588), to talk to him, to let him in. However, if we try to tell him something on a Sunday he will not remember it. He suggests we call, leave a message, email him or connect through Facebook.

Doc Evans welcomed him on behalf of the congregation. We greeted him after the service in the vestibule.

His first sermon was entitled "We Are Dirt" and he used Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23 as the scriptural tests from the NRSV Bible. This is the parable of the Sower.

It's about God's Word, the hearer of the Word, and how the Word is received. He pointed out that the Bible becomes God's Word when read, revealed, studied, and practiced. Every translation has its problems. No one speaks Old Aramaic or Old Hebrew anymore.

He likened us to the dirt in which the seeds are sown and to being the Sower, picking and choosing the right place and time to spread the Gospel. The dirt is what is receiving the seed or Word.

- First, is the Hardheaded Dirt, who will not let it in. They hear the Word, but no seed is sown.
- Second, the seed falls on Shallow Dirt. We make decisions, have free will and if we don't work on it and study, it will be shallow. He reminded us that there are three kinds of will: God's Preferred will for us; Circumstantial will; and Eventual will.
- Third, Selfish Dirt. These people hear the Word and grow, but only to the extent that it is being used in their own lives. The love of the world prevents the Word from growing further. There was a time when the church was the center of the community and everything went out from there. Jesus went to the well, the sinners and the synagogue. We should ask our selves, "Where are the places and people that need Christ in their/our lives." If we want God's Word to grow, start here, gain strength and then go out into the world.
- Fourth, The Last Dirt—is full of it! So full of the Spirit of God's Word, it is growing, some an hundred fold, some sixty and some thirty. Why: Because of God's Word, the study of God's Word and Prayer. He said that there was a time when people called out. Then he asked, "When was the last time you heard a testimony? When you share what God has given you others are blessed as well.
- Practice the Word. Love God. Love your neighbor.
Pastor Mike then referred to Isaiah 55. "My word will not return to me empty."

Mark your Calendar:

- Each Tuesday @ 7 p.m. meeting with all kinds of possibilities—be intrigued, come join us—let God lead you into a new adventure
- Aug. 7—Admin. Board Mtg. @ 3 p.m.
- Aug. 20—UMW 2 p.m. Fellowship Hall
- September newsletter will not be available until Sept. 11th.



Then Pastor Mike made this invitation. Think, "What kind of Dirt am I? Am I growing anything? What can I do to do more? Then, when we have the answers, we are to pray and ask God to show us when and how.

—Respectfully submitted by
Frank Bergman



Shiloh United Methodist Women

Guest Speaker Pastor Steve Zimmerman



Shiloh was truly blessed to have retired Pastor Steve Zimmerman to fill in for Pastor Pete several times in June and July.

On July 26th Rev. Zimmerman preached the Word from I Samuel 17:2-11 and 44-51. In his sermon entitled “Unwavering Faith” he told the story of David and Goliath. David picked up a stone, ran toward the giant, hurled the stone and when Goliath fell, took Goliath’s sword and severed his head.

Pastor Zimmerman reminded us that David did this because he was angered that the Philistine was defying the God of Israel. When put to the test, be bold in your faith! When something is wrong face and challenge the issue. When a champion is needed to be as David, step up! David was convinced that the stone would hit the Giant. The awesome power through God will provide the back up if we are willing to step up to the challenge.

On July 3rd, Pastor Zimmerman’s sermon was entitled “American’s Godly Heritage” and was based in part on Psalms 33:12, Proverbs 14:34, and Isaiah 33:22 with reference to several documents written by America’s founding fathers.

Among many points he made the following stuck with me:

- “Separation of Church and State” is not specifically mentioned in the Constitution.
- Thomas Jefferson, who was the author of the Declaration of Independence, referred to God four times in that document. (Author’s Note: Congress appointed a Committee of Five on June 11, 1776, to explain why the American colo-

nies decided to become independent states and wanted separation from the British Empire. The Committee consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston and Roger Sherman. However, Thomas Jefferson was asked to write the first draft even though he was the youngest of the group at age 33, his record as a dedicated patriot, he had...”a reputation for literature, science and a happy talent for composition.” As well as a...”peculiar felicity of expression.”)

- Thomas Jefferson was not a principle contributor to the Constitution. Alexander Hamilton and John Jay were the principle authors, but it was a cooperative effort among several individuals.
- The Bible was the more often referred to than any other book during the development of the Constitution.
- Isaiah 33:22 reflects the structure of our government: Executive Branch—President/Leader; Legislative Branch—Law Giver; Supreme Court—Judicial.
- Church services were held in the Capital Building in the early years.
- On October 7, 1801 the Danbury Baptist Association wrote a letter to then President Thomas Jefferson, with the concern that no single denomination should become the dominate or preferred denomination. (Author’s note: The following is a direct quote from that letter, “Our Sentiments are uniformly on the side of Religious Liberty—That Religion is at all times and places a matter between God and individuals—That no man ought to suffer in name, person, or effects on account of his religious Opinions—That the legitimate Power

of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works *ill to his neighbor*: But Sir our constitution of government is not specific.”)

- His response to the Danbury Baptist Association, On January 1, 1802 was the first instance in which the phrase “Separation of Church and State” was used. It was not until 1947, one hundred fifty seven years later that the Supreme Court made the ruling about Separation of Church and State. (Author’s Note: the pertinent statement in Thomas Jefferson’s response is, “Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should “make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” thus building a wall of separation between church and State.” (Thus assuring them that a State sanctioned or appointed religion would not be established or make dictates with regard to their religious practices.)
- John Jay, one of the principle authors of the Constitution stated that this is a Christian Nation.



Photos and article by Frank Bergman



Praise and Prayers

Praises for: Dwight Mitchell celebrating his 102 birthday on July 31st; miracles!!!; our marine, Trevor Jennings and his comrade who survived when two landmines exploded near them; excellent doctor reports for Judy Mitchell—no more meds! and Judy's sister, Barbara, who got good doctor reports also; Church and family; Grace and Salvation; good and improved health; for safe travels.

Prayers for: UMFY; Sue McBride; Linda Adams; George Haydt; Sue Fender; Lib Gasho—hand injury; Brad Boyer—phlebitis; Jaden Privett—surgery; Nancy Sheperd—health issues; Co-worker with Tabetha Williams; Vicki Sturgill; Lynda Austin's friend that baby is trying to come too early; Bill Smith; community; J.M. Sturgill—health issues; Bobby and Iris Gambill; Walt Greer, Sonny Greer; the biggest need in our community; Clara Halsey's friend, Steve, going through

difficult adoption process; elderly, the underemployed; Bill Finney; John Williams

Ongoing Concerns: Our Marines Trevor and Cody Jennings; Roger and Sue Bledsoe; Roger and Brenda Hash; Margaret McGrady; Edna Perry; Mildred Torney; Carol Pope; Lerlene Pulliam; Billie Edwards; Ruby Phipps; Frank and Ruth Bickerstaff; Mary Nell and Tom Weaver; Linda Kuppner; Tobotha Haydt; Janet Tolbert; Sara Hughes; Thelma Jordan; Maxine Duncan; Nancy McGrady; Betty and Corkey Correll; Gene Phipps; Mor-

gaine and Frank Bergman

Inside and Outside our Community: Our economy; Our Service Men and Women; The Leaders of Our Nation and the World; Safe travel for all our travelers; those who are unemployed; those suffering financial difficulty; those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month; our churches; our youth; our country



Nursery Schedule

1st Sunday—Thelia Hampton and Frank Bergman
 2nd Sunday—Sue Finney and Molly Grubb
 3rd Sunday—Melissa Fender and Madison Murphy
 4th Sunday—Lu Grubb and Katie Boger
 5th Sunday—Jill Gambill and Katie Boger

Children's Church—Mission Projects Concluded



The mission projects sponsored by the Children's Church for the 2011 second quarter have concluded with greater-than-expected gifts being made to the three projects.

The local mission of Baby Bottle Collections to support Alleghany County Pregnancy Center was chosen to coincide with the international mission project after it was begun. The Baby bottle Project which began on Mother's Day and closed out on Father's Day netted a total of \$117.98 of support for the pregnancy center. We are expecting some outstanding donations to be added for this cause. Co-captains for the two teams MacKenzie Murphy and Kinston Williams versus Madison Murphy and Kylie Williams did an outstanding job of arousing enthusiasm and aiding their teams. Initial plans ruled that the losing team would sing a special song for the congregation. However, the groups decided at wrapup time when the two teams were within pennies of each other with teach team having some bottles yet to be collected that the two groups would unite for the special in appreciation for the great support from the total church. We look forward to the treat in the near future.

Hope Gambill studied several possible national and international projects for the children's second project of the year and recommended two—Feed the Children and Make a Smile. Rather than choose one of her recommendations the children chose to work for both causes at the same time and divide

the givings equally between the two. Hope decorated the collection box and put it in frequent view of our church group as well as soliciting some special gifts from her friends in the community. Thanks to Hope and the generosity shown, a gift of \$40.00 was sent to the Make a Smile Foundation and \$40.00 to the International Feed the Children Project.

The children deserve congratulations for jobs well done, while great appreciation is extended to all of the donors and pleasant supporters.

Article by Evelyn Hash



August Birthdays

Ree Edwards	August 1
Ben Beall	August 5
Joan Boyle	August 5
Shelia Hampton	August 8
Katy Harper	August 13
Mary Beall	August 21
Dan Baxley	August 26
Sara Harper	August 28

September Birthdays

Alex Harper	September 1
Lu Grubb	September 6
Amanda Bottomley	September 13
Melvin Norris	September 13
Marshall Hash	September 15
Mitchell Hash	September 15
Joseph Hampton	September 16
MacKenzie Murphy	September 20
Drew Wait	September 24
Sara Beall	September 25
David Grubb	September 25
Sherill Bottomley	September 26
R. C. Mitchell	September 30



WWJD Sunday School Class

Our Bible Study!

All ages from young to old are welcome on Sunday morning to join in Shiloh's WWJD Bible Study group.

The varied age group makes the class very interesting as we discuss the Bible lesson and learn from each other and from their life experiences.

On July 24th the class finished up the study on the Book of Ruth. It has been said "it took us two years to study the Book of Ruth" (with only four chapters). With lots of views about what The Book of Ruth was all about, we discovered that Boaz was Ruth and Naomi's kinsman redeemer and that Christ is ours. The thing is— as we study we try to go into depth

not just skim over the top of God's Word; but, glean its meaning for us and ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?"

Our first class on Esther was this past Sunday, July 31st. It was suggested that we read the whole book of Esther before starting the study. In Esther it talks about PUR (the casting of lots) which led to one of the feasts celebrated by the Jewish people called Purim—The Feast of Lots. Jeff Boyle provided us with information on this feast which is very festive and carnival like and the only feast where gifts are given. The class was given cookies called Hamantashen which are usually served at this celebration. The cookies are suppose to look like Haman's ears or his hat. Haman—the guy who wanted to annihilate the Jews.

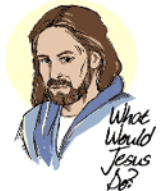
The introduction to the study was given by Jon Murphy. Jon will be co-teaching with Frank Bergman and Judy Mitchell. The class is truly blessed to have Jon on board to help out when Frank is not available. You will specifically enjoy his sense of humor.

The book we are using as our study guide for Esther is from the Coffee Cup Bible Study Series called "Espresso with Esther" written by Sandra Glahn. Other resources we use to go along with this study is J. Vernon McGee's Walk Thru the Bible and Bob Deffinbaugh's views published by Bible.org.

The class had lots of fun with the Bible study on the Book of Ruth and are really looking forward to digging deep into Esther.

So, with Esther having ten chapters—the question is: As long as it took the class to finish Ruth(2 yrs.) will it take four years to finish the study of Esther???? Come join us and we'll see.

—Judy Mitchell



Total Budget for 2011

\$48,062.04

Effective July 1, 2011 Western North Carolina Conference increased the Clergy and Health Benefits from \$805.50 per month to \$865.84 per month. This increased Shiloh's total budget for 2011 from \$47,700.00 to \$48,062.04. The total increase for six months is \$362.04 or \$60.34 per month.

Stewardship Report for July 2011

Needed Monthly	\$ 4,035.34
Needed Weekly	1,008.83
Needed to Date	27,885.34
Received to Date	26,130.08
Under Budget	1,755.26