

MACLAND PRESS

A Publication of Macland Presbyterian Church

July 2010

Points of Interest

Save These Dates:

July 4
One Service-10:00 AM
(No Sunday School)

July 11
MUST Summer Lunches

July 18
Youth Swim Party

July 19-23
Preschool Summer Camp

July 21
Middle School
Conference-Presbyterian
College, Clinton SC

August 1
Church Picnic

August 15
Rally Day

In This Issue

- ✦ July 4th -10:00 a.m.
- ✦ Swim Party - 7/18
- ✦ Session Notes
- ✦ Interim Pastor's Desk
- ✦ Zeta's Zone
- ✦ Missions
- ✦ Kenya Kids
- ✦ July Sermons
- ✦ July Birthdays
- ✦ August 1-picnic
- ✦ VBS Thank You
- ✦ Rally Day-Aug. 15
- ✦ Middle School Conference
- ✦ Fall Leadership Event
- ✦ Book Review
- ✦ July Calendar



Sunday July 4
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
10:00 am
No Sunday School



Youth Pool Party & Cookout

for Rising 6th grade through graduated Seniors
at the Lamberson's
Sunday July 18
3:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad or dessert to share.
Hot dogs and hamburgers provided.

If you need a ride call Zeta & met at the church at 2:30 pm.
Otherwise see you at 3:00 at the Lamberson's.



The following actions and discussion took place at the June 2010 meetings of the Session.

- ◆ **Letters from Compton Elementary were shared. Compton Elementary thanked Macland for contributions made during the last school year for shoes, student incentive/awards, and field day expenses. Macland continues to serve as a Partner in Education with Compton providing tutoring and many other services.**
- ◆ **Per her request, Katie Straka has been placed on the Inactive roll. The Session wishes her well on her faith journey.**
- ◆ **The Motion was made from the Interim Pastor Exploratory Committee to negotiate a contract with Zeta Lamberson for the position of Interim pastor beginning September 1, 2010. The motion passed.**
- ◆ **The motion was made from the Worship committee to host a guest minister on July 11, 2010. The motion passed.**
- ◆ **John Chattin and Scotty McAliley were elected as Commissioners to the Presbytery meeting at KSU on July 24, 2010.**

From the Committees

Administration

Doug Michalke has agreed to head the 2010 Stewardship Campaign. The process will begin in July.

The trailers are in the process of being emptied and removed. The utilities have been cut-off to save money.

Materials will be donated for the parking lot to be striped. Amy Smith and Jim Tabb are working on the logistics of the project.

Macland will sign a 5-year lease for a new copier with terms more appealing than the current contracts on the two existing copiers.

Peter Brown is developing a new website. Since Peter will be moving soon, he is looking for someone to replace him when he leaves. If you are interested, please contact the Session or Peter Brown.

Good News

The pictures for the directory have been completed. If you did not have a picture taken and would like one in the directory you may contribute one of your own. Please call the office for details.

Missions

The garden has been planted. Volunteers are still needed for weeding and watering throughout the summer.

Mark your calendar to assist in making sandwiches for MUST on July 11, 2010. If you cannot help make sandwiches, please consider contributing supplies.

CAMP is in need of children's clothing. Contact Carla Pierce if you can help.

There are several months available for groups to volunteer for serving at the Extension on the first Sunday of each month. Contact Laura Yaramishyn if interested.

Cents-ability offering is being collected the last Sunday of each month. Remember to bring your cups.

Worship

There will be only one service on July 4, 2010 at 10:00. There will be no Sunday School.

Christian Education

Vacation Bible School was a huge success. There were over 200 children and 48 adults and youth that assisted.

The session would like to thank all adults and especially the youth that assisted in making VBS a success. We congratulate you on a job well done.

Keep in mind the Church picnic on August 1, 2010. More information will follow next month.



Dear Friends,

What does the term, “presbytery,” mean to you?

Probably not much until -

- you send your child off for a week at Camp Cherokee or
- you learn that the land on which Macland Presbyterian Church sits was purchased by Cherokee Presbytery for a new church in the 1990’s or
- you are told by someone who was there that the presbytery called Ray Jones from Alabama to come and gather a new church in his living room or
- you attend a leadership event in Dalton or Cartersville that will help you teach your Sunday School class or
- you are elected as elder and sent to represent Macland and along with the ministers and elders from other Presbyterian churches to be the presbytery or
- you hear that anyone who goes to seminary will be guided by Cherokee Presbytery in preparation for ministry or
- you were relieved, when Macland’s long-time pastor left, that a presbytery committee was on the spot to provide direction and support to the church or
- you are surprised that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA is nothing more than elders and ministers from churches just like yours elected by the 175 presbyteries or
- you want to serve the community with some new program and find a church in Dalton or Calhoun or East Cobb which has been there and done that - through the presbytery office.
- You can foresee that, when you call a new pastor, forty other Presbyterian Churches will rejoice with you and some of them will be represented on the presbytery commission which will come and celebrate his or her installation with you.

As we believe it is better for a Christian not to be alone but to be part of a supportive body, a church, so we believe it is better for a congregation to be part of a larger supportive body, a presbytery. And we are!

Jim Speed



Zeta's Zone

Friends,

Words do not do justice to the power of the last month at Macland. The mission of this church to the world has been experienced powerfully through three events.

First, thirty of us went to the mountaintop....Montreat, that is. If you have never been to this Presbyterian Mecca you may not understand but in this place we experience a love, a freedom, a simple way of life that calls to the soul. Though powerful keynote addresses, loving small groups, enthusiastic worship and lots of porch time together youth and adults communed with God in a special way. Our theme "in these waters" reminded us of our baptisms but also of the storms in our lives. In this place many found ways to talk about their lives in a new way. It is difficult to describe what happens in Montreat but I want you to know that it is powerful, life changing and renewing. Our young people are drawn closer to God and one another.

Then, we came home to a pulsating week of Vacation Bible School. With over 200 children and over 60 youth and adult helpers we welcomed the community and shared the love of Christ. VBS is always one of the weeks I am so grateful for the Family Life Center. Every space in this place (both buildings) is used and filled to capacity. Inevitably someone raises the question of how many children we can accommodate, and we could always use more adult help, but friends this is ministry at its finest - welcoming the children with the loving arms of Jesus Christ. We were sharing Christ with our community in a powerful way.

Finally, we took 37 missionaries to the hills of Virginia in Appalachia on an incredible Mission Trip. The amount of work this crew accomplished is unbelievable. We exceeded the expectations of our hosts - Wytheville Presbyterian Church and Jim and Mary Gearhart - to the point that they had to scramble to find more work for several of our crews. We had six teams that cleaned our sheds, scrubbed kitchens and Head Start classrooms, roofed a house, built a calf lot, cleared a potato field of rocks, split firewood, sheet rocked, painted and laid carpet in a basement, mulched two different playgrounds and raised a swing set, put an underpinning and porch on a trailer, visited a children's home, painted a mural on a fence for a battered women's shelter, worked in a food pantry and bought food and delivered it to needy families. I am sure I left out something! (And someone will remind me of what I forgot!) But let me tell you everyone learned something new. Our young people worked very hard and gave themselves away selflessly. We will be sharing more about our trip at a later time.

I tell you all this so that I can say something very important. We are so fortunate to have an amazing church family. The youth of our church are incredible! They are growing in their faith. They know what it means to give themselves away. They are hard workers and love life. They live their faith and are growing in front of our eyes. We also have amazing adults who give of their time and expertise to work with our children and youth. Amazing chaperones and wonderful teachers and leaders have made all three of these events successful and fun. God continues to bless this place and the Holy Spirit is alive and working in our midst. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Zeta

Reaching, Raising, Relieving

Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time



MUST Ministries Summer Lunch Program

On July 11, we will make 500 sack lunches for needy children as part of the MUST Summer Lunch Program. We have been part of this effort for many years. Because of churches like ours, children on the free lunch program during the school year continue to get a nourishing during the summer. The MUST organization delivers about 2,000 lunches a day in Cobb and Cherokee counties.

You can help by signing up to bring in any of the supplies needed to make up the lunch, things like peanut butter, jelly, bread, box drinks, etc., and also meeting us in the Family Life Center after church on July 11 to assemble the lunches. The sign-up sheets are in the narthex.



WILLING HANDS NEEDED IN GOD'S GARDEN

Our garden is growing and there are crops to harvest. Could you spare some time this summer to help us weed, water and harvest vegetables so that we can get them to the CAMP food bank for families who need them? There are still weeks without volunteers on the sign-up sheet. Directions and tools are in the plastic box in the garden, and there are alternative ways to get the food to camp, if you can't deliver it yourself.

CAMP is located at 6389 Veterans Memorial Highway (Highway 278/78) west of downtown Austell.

Thanks to everyone who has put in so much work to make this mission a success.



MACLAND HELPS CHILDREN IN HAITI

You may have read in the bulletin last month that Macland was making a \$750 donation to Mission Possible and wondered why. This is a new mission for our church. The mission team had been looking for another way to support the people of Haiti that was direct and meaningful. You'll recall that we donated the Christmas Eve offering to the Presbyterian Disaster Relief funds for Haiti last year.

The inspiration for this gift came from an article in the Thornwell newsletter. Thornwell is the children's home that our Presbytery supports in South Carolina. The article read:

Helping the Children in Haiti

Thirteen year-old Thornwell resident Alexis is on a mission. After learning that Mission Possible's LaHatte

School was severely damaged by the January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, she began making plans to help.

"In December our youth group [Hartness-Thornwell Memorial PC youth] sent presents and cards with Ms. Finley [a Thornwell Christian educator] to the children of LaHatte School. We were also raising money to provide lunches for the kids at the school. But now, they need a lot more than lunch money," says Alexis.

In January, the LaHatte School, located in the mountains north of Port au Prince, was severely damaged.

"The school needs to be rebuilt," says Alexis. "So I'm asking every cottage on Thornwell's campus to give up a weekend activity and donate the money to Mission Possible to help rebuild the LaHatte School. Our goal at Brophy Cottage was to raise \$100 in the month of February.

"It's not much, but if everyone on campus and lots of our friend and family will give up one activity, and donates that money to rebuild the school, I think we could do it."

So that donations can get there quickly, Alexis asked everyone to donate directly to the Mission Possible organization at www.ourmissionpossible.org.

"I know what it's like to need someone's help," says Alexis. "I'm glad that Thornwell is here to help me; now I want to help the children of Haiti."

So far, the Thornwell campus family has raised nearly \$4,000 to help rebuild the school and to provide lunches for the children of LaHatte.

We wanted to support her generous spirit, as well as help with this worthy mission. Mission Possible has been establishing churches and Christian schools in Haiti since 1979. If you go on the Web site, and click on Latest News, you can read about how Haitian pastors and school administrators traveled to South Carolina to thank Alexis and her friends for their support. Since then, Alexis Reese and her church youth group have had a bake sale where they raised an additional \$904.25 for the LaHatte School.



CLIPPING FOR THORNWELL

One other way that Macland supports Thornwell is by clipping Campbell's soup labels and General Mills food box tops so that the school can participate in the General Mills Box Tops for Education program. When you put your clipped tops and labels in the envelope on the mission bulletin board, Carla Pierce mails them to the children's home. Thornwell reports that last year, their GM Box Top earnings amounted to over \$3,000. So please keep, or start clipping!

Reaching, Raising, Relieving
Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

Kenya Kids Update

By McGee Spencer

Thanks so much to the Mission Team for its decision to donate to the Kenya Kids program! Our friend Humphrey Kanga returned to Kenya from attending Erskine Seminary five years ago now and, with God's blessings, he has managed to make a huge difference in his community of Chuka. The orphanage has been home to 17 children for almost two years, and the foundation has just been completed for the second dormitory. This will allow room for additional children and will also make it possible to separate the children into a girls' and a boys' dormitory. The government in Kenya has been impressed with the work at the home and has supported the project with some local grant funds. P.A.T.H. graciously continues to help us feed the children.

In addition, the Kenyan Board and our social worker continue to meet with over 100 children each month. These Kenya Connection Days include recreation, delivery of food, educational meetings for parents, and monitoring of the children's health and educational progress. About nine of these children are sponsored by Macland members. For around \$30 per month, you could be a part of this program!

When our team was in Kenya last summer, we met to discuss priorities and directions for the ministry. We continue to work toward drilling a well for the Tharaka community, a very poor area that frequently suffers drought. Also, we have recently sent money for chickens, goats, seeds and garden tools to help some of the sponsored families become more self-reliant. Many of the families have suffered the loss of one or more parents due to the AIDS epidemic, and aunts, uncles, and grandparents are caring for large families with almost no income.

This summer, a small team from Mars Hill Presbyterian will be returning to Chuka. Their hope is to deliver a month's supply of food to each of the sponsored children's families. They will attempt to visit each home and monitor them for insect infestation (jiggers), assess needs for mosquito netting, or any other medical or educational concerns. If interested, you could start planning now to go next July to help with this mission in person!

Of course, being a part of a ministry this size is an enormous responsibility and requires constant fundraising. You can help by bringing a team of golfers to the golf tournament this September 13th at Brookstone. We're also in need of company sponsorships, and donations for the silent auction or the golfers' goody bags. All donations are tax deductible.

If you would like to help or would like more information, please feel free to call McGee at 770 310-2284 or 770 974-8665.



August 1 2010
Church Picnic



Macland's Sunday Sermons via pod cast at www.macland.org



July 4

"Servants of God"

I Peter 2:9-17

Dr. James O. Speed

July 11

Guest Minister

July 18

"Sent by God"

Luke 10:1-20

Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson

July 25

"Persistence"

Luke 11:1-13

Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson

Make plans to attend the First Annual "Old Fashion" Church Picnic! The Christian Education Team is sponsoring a church wide picnic on Sunday August 1st right after the 11:00 o'clock service. Southern fried chicken will be served along with lots of cold ice tea, please bring a dish to share. We will have outside seating and tents set up along the driveway by the playground. There will be lots and lots of games and activities for all ages. We plan on having three legged races and sack races along with egg toss and water balloon toss. The kids will love the inflatable we are going to have there as well. The volleyball area will be set up along with some horseshoes for the guys. This is going to be a great family event so please plan to attend and **save the date August 1st!** Make sure to dress casual for church that day! Any questions you can contact Ginny Spain at virginia.spain@gmail.com



July Birthdays

7/1	Kaitlin Burton	7/12	Elizabeth Sakwe	7/21	Bill Lamberson
7/2	Sandra Feast	7/13	Mike Burgin	7/21	Rod Bolin
7/2	Milan Savic	7/13	Anna Wier	7/21	Don Zell
7/2	Jennifer Clark	7/15	Vivien Wade	7/21	Peter Savic
7/2	Sarah Heagy	7/15	Debbie Collins	7/24	Zeta Lamberson
7/3	Tom Walters	7/15	Brenda Hubbard	7/25	Clark Coffman
7/3	Alison Clark	7/16	Cindy Zell	7/26	Mary Alice Hunter
7/4	Harriet Davis	7/16	Eric Michalke	7/27	Wade Meldrum
7/4	Jay Nohr	7/17	Anne Thomerson	7/28	Mark Dettore
7/6	Keith Fraser	7/17	Will McLendon	7/28	Candace Lester
7/7	Tanya Alley	7/17	Audrey Tilton	7/29	Marjorie Barker
7/8	John Burton	7/18	Praveen Doluweera	7/29	Linda Blount
7/8	James Price	7/20	Sara Wier	7/30	Allison Michalke
7/10	Trinity Townsend	7/21	Buzz Sawyer	7/30	Naomi Townsend



**Mark your calendars NOW for
Rally Day
“Taking Flight”**

Sunday, August 15

9:15 to 10:45 am in the Gym

Breakfast, Displays of Macland opportunities, Overview of the Year in Sunday School and Wednesday nights, Children and Youth meet new teachers and Everyone enjoys Fellowship.



Middle School Conference

From July 21 to 25 thirteen of our rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders and three adults will participate in the Middle School Conference at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. They will join other Middle School youth across our denominations as they worship, study, meet new friends and play together. Thank you to all who supported the Youth Fundraiser so that all our young people could experience these life changing conferences. Please keep them in your prayers during that week.

Vacation Bible School Thank You!



We had a wonderful week at Vacation Bible School. This was our biggest year with over 200 registered participants. Special thanks go to **Maris Montoya** who was our Director this year. In addition the following youth and adults were vital leaders in our successful week. Please take a moment and thank them for sharing a week with the children of our church and the community. Also, if you see new families in worship in the weeks to come be sure and welcome them into our midst. We had a lot of families with no church home and have invited them to come and visit with us!

Middle School Youth who planned the Openings and Closings each day:

Gabby Barge, JP Bartlett, Abby Brake, Sydney Bolin, Nathan Brackett, Erin Brown, Jacob Brown, Cassidy Carlson, Praveen Doluweera, Jazmine Dowell, Brooks Gunn, Jake Jefferson, Ben Kraieski, Nick Kraieski, Sarah Morrissey, Taylor Polacheck, Ja'Lyn Reese, Will Samanie, David Savic, Sara Spain, Jonathan Sutherland, Courtney Townsend, Jessica Wier, Rose Wright

Youth: Hannah Bartlett, Rachel Bartlett, Jasmine Brown, Hannah Donlin, Mary Allia Endredi, Nadine Faraj, Lara Gentrup, John House, Adam Hubert, Paige Hubert, Tyler Keegan, Halle Lockridge, Sayana Mills, Adam Molander, Rebecca Morrissey, Anthony Nguyen, Jessica Patton, Autumn Prater, Kaitlin Pressley, Tabatha Rogers, Lexie Savic, Peter Savic, Frank Spain, Jake Spain, Ryan Stoyer, Courtney Townsend, Naomi Townsend, Kelly Ventura, Sara Wier, Victoria Wright, Michelle Yates

Adults: Sandra Aufderheide, Carolyn Baumgartner, Rosanna Beebe, Julie Bolin, Buddy Carlton, Shelley Carr, Jennifer Clark, Jessica Cole, Susan Hubert, Amy Kraieski, Gayle Kuykendall, Jennifer Lundeen, Marti Lynch, Marlene Michalke, Lauren Missini, Lori Molander, Elera Montoya, Lauri Moore, Meagan Morgan, Rachel Morrissey, John Polacheck, Susan Polacheck, Carol Reed, Amy Smith, Ginny Spain, Christina Tilton, Christina Wier, Karen Williams, Denise Wilson, Angelia Yates, Cindy Zell

Fall Leadership Event 2010
A Place at the Table
Saturday, August 21, 2010, 9:00 to 3:00
Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30327
8:15 – 9:00 a.m. – Registration and Check in.

AM Workshops, New Time - 9:00 – 10:30

- A1 ***Empowering Children's Faith in the Life of the Church***
Rev. Gloria N. Chough, Associate Pastor, Korean Central PC, Atlanta
- A2 ***Ready, Set, Worship! Worship and Communion Skills for Elementary Children*** – Jean Strain, Certified Christian Educator, Dalton First PC
- A3 ***Developing a Family Ministry: What Every Parent Looks for in a Church***
Rev. Penny Hill, Author; Family and Children's Ministry Consultant
- A4 ***"Jesus was really big on kids!"*** - Pastor Pam Driesell and Christian Educator Sue Jacobson, Oconee PC
- A5 ***Where Are Our Young Adults?*** - Revs. Thomas and Beth Daniel, Co-Pastors, Kairos PC, Atlanta
- A6 ***No Empty Seats: Older Adults at the Table*** - Rev. Marvin Simmers, Honorably Retired Christian Educator
- A7 ***Putting the E-word into Practice: Strategies for Being a Welcoming Congregation***
Rev. Cassandra Morrow, Assoc. Exec. Presbyter, Atlanta
- A8 ***A Place at the Table: Worship and Arts Workshop*** - Rev. Jodi Martin, Minister At Large, Greater Atlanta Presbytery
- A9 ***Blessings of a Multicultural Congregation*** – Rev. Jonier Orozco, Asst. Pastor/Director of Spanish Language Ministries, College Park PC
- A10 ***The Table Set by James: Faith and Works, Poverty and Wealth – a Contextual Bible Study of James 2***
Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Assoc. Professor of New Testament at ITC, Atlanta; Author
- A11 ***Church Websites: Changing the Face of Ministry, Engaging Culture***
Dan W. Boles, Cherokee Pby. Communications Director; Director of Campus Ministry, Kennesaw State University
- A12 ***A Preview of "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today"***
Nancy D. Collins, retired certified Christian Educator, Cherokee Presbytery PW Moderator
- A13 ***Basic Training for First/Second Year Clerks of Session*** - Rev. Donna E. Wells, Acting Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
- A14 ***Choral Music with Integrity, Part I – Basic Choral Training for Choirs***
David A. VanderMeer, Director of Music Ministries, Central PC, Atlanta

10:45 – Noon – Worship in the Sanctuary – "A Place at the Table" with a Dialogue Sermon offered by Sara Hayden and Billy Honor.

12:15 – 1:15 – Lunch in the Gym

PM Workshops, 1:30 – 3:00

- P1 ***Making Faith a Family Affair – How Parents and Children Can Experience God Together***
Rev. Julie Thompson, Active Parenting Leader; Assoc. Pastor, Athens First PC
- P2 ***Confirmation Q and A's***—John Ryan, Certified Christian Educator; Youth Director, Trinity PC
- P3 ***A Place at the Table for Emerging Adults***
Rev. Don C. Richter, Assoc Director, Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith
- P4 ***New Eyes for Christian Education in a Pluralistic World*** - Rev. Zeta Lamberson, Assoc. Pastor, Macland PC, Powder Springs
- P5 ***Is Something More Going On at the Table*** - Rev. Joe B. Martin IV, Pastor, Mount Vernon PC, Sandy Springs
- P6 ***Being Christian in a Multi-Faith Environment*** - Rev. Rebecca Blackwell, Cherokee Pby. Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk
- P7 ***Does Communication Technology Belong at the Table?*** - Mardee Rightmyer, Director of *The Resource Connection/Resource Center*
- P8 ***A Preview of "Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today"*** – Nancy D. Collins, retired certified Christian Educator, Cherokee Presbytery PW Moderator
- P9 ***The Top 10 Reasons why visitors do not come back to your church a second time***
Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell, Director of Macedonian Ministries
- P10 ***Making a Place at the Table a Place of Celebration*** - Rev. Dr. Stuart G. Leyden, Honorably Retired Minister and Author
- P11 ***Como Vivir Un Gran Amor*** – Rev. Benjamin Reyes, Immigrant Fellowship Leader for Iglesia Presbiteriana Horeb - Conyers
- P12 ***Highlights From the 219th Meeting of the PC (USA) General Assembly***
Helen Epps, Covenant PC, Athens; Elder Commissioner to G.A.
- P13 ***Presbyterian Women (PW) Leadership*** – A workshop for all PW to explore PW resources and get new ideas to revitalize PW activities in your congregation. Leader: TBA
- P14 ***Choral Music with Integrity, Part II***—David A. VanderMeer, Director of Music Ministries, Central PC, Atlanta

Registration forms and workshop lists are available in your church office and presbytery office and at www.cherokeepresbytery.org.

Pre-Registration (\$20) Deadline is Tuesday, August 10, 2010; Walk-ins: \$30

Child Care is available by reservation (\$15).

(Full booklets can be found in the Gathering Area)



The Rabbit Factory: A Novel

By Larry Brown

Book Review by Karen Williamson, incorporating comments from the following members of The Page Turners Reading Guild: Rosanna Beebe, Connie Tibbitts, Cheryl Clark, and Mary Stephens

The Rabbit Factory is the epitome of an oxymoron in literature. It is, at once, both excellent and awful.

The book is structured similarly to a daytime television soap opera. Several storylines run concurrently, each with its own set of characters but with each of the storylines and each set of characters having a tenuous connection to the others. So, just as in a daytime drama where the “stormy beach getaway” features Rachel who is having Mike’s baby while, at the same time, in the “hospital scene” Mike’s wife lies in a coma under the care of a psychopathic nurse who is secretly Rachel’s sister, *The Rabbit Factory* offers up a mini-series of events involving a host of characters whose lives and timelines are intricately intertwined.

On the **surface**, the book is a resounding “F”, with seemingly little or no cohesiveness or singular point to the work. The book – at first glance – is nothing more than a mish-mash of haphazard, **ridiculous** tales, with the most outrageous characters EVER, thrown together by the author who, himself, MUST have been in an intoxicated, drug-induced psychotic state at the time he penned the work. However, there is more to this book than initially meets the eye.

Like an onion, *The Rabbit Factory* is multi-layered, and is actually a masterpiece of literary accomplishment. The symbolism, allegory, and metaphor that pervade the work is nothing short of genius and the more that is revealed, the more a true bibliophile will find to appreciate about this book. The theme is a complex combination of greed, love, and missing home, and Brown utilizes several standard devices (i.e. humor, romance, and intrigue) to guide readers toward his intended premise, while also incorporating a number of interesting twists and unusual, esoteric/eccentric qualities to give the book an added punch.

Brown’s scenarios for his cast of players – as well as the characters themselves – are ambitious and “colorful”, to say the least. There is absolutely nothing sanitized about this work. Reality strikes the reader right between the eyes as real-life problems such as erectile dysfunction, alcoholism, murder, and other “truisms” take center stage. Indeed, some may liken the circumstances, events, and personalities of *The Rabbit Factory* to be representative of those featured on popular television shows such as Jerry Springer or Judge Judy. Brown is aptly able to evoke emotion for his characters . . . primarily sympathy . . . as he portrays the dumb things people do, how they continuously make lousy decisions and, as a result, find themselves in the most pitiful of conditions.

The technical rating of the work is “very good” to “exceptional”. The writing is straight-forward, flow and pacing are excellent, and Brown makes good use of the cliffhanger to compel bookworms to keep reading in order to find out what happens to the characters. The author also does an excellent job of separating and picking-up the simultaneously running plots so that readers have no trouble whatsoever in following each individual segment as it continues through the work. Finally, given the sheer number of players featured in the book – both stars and supporting cast – one would expect to encounter difficulty in trying to keep up with “who is who”, “who goes with whom”, and “which events are whose”. However, amazingly, no scorecard, playbill, or character list is needed . . . each person is so unique, and each tale is so remarkable, that the relationships are easily congruous. The only criticism is that Brown fails to pull everything together at the end . . . there is no “series finale” that answers all questions, ties up the loose and/or dangling parables.

Bottom line: A different type of genre; may not appeal to all readers. Given the complexity of the work, this book is best discussed in a group. A Reading Guide is included in the back of the book to facilitate discussion with other bibliophiles and is a particularly excellent tool for book groups. The Guide proposes insightful questions that help readers peel away even more layers of the work to reveal ever deepening levels of imagery. Solo – “F”; With a Group – “C+ to B-“

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Larry Brown was the author of eight previous books. A recipient of the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Award for Literature, the Southern Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the University of North Carolina's Thomas Wolfe Prize, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award, he passed away in 2004.

Macland Presbyterian Church
3615 Macland Road
Powder Springs, GA 30127
770-439-1548
(return service requested)

Reaching the Lost,
Raising Disciples
Relieving Suffering

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #4
Powder Springs GA