

MACLAND PRESS

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October 2009

Points of Interest

Article: "My Heart in Still in Kenya"

By McGee Spencer

Save These Dates:

October 3

Neighborhood Party

October 8

SAS Luncheon

October 18

Fall Festival

October 23 & 24

Men's Golf Outing

October 25

Stewardship Dedication

Fellowship Luncheon

November 5-7

Men's Hiking Trip

December 13

An Afternoon in

Bethlehem

March 12, 13 & 14

Church Family Retreat

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By: Bob Kendall

Our Neighborhood Party is just around the corner: **Saturday October 3 from 4-7 pm.** The purpose of the party is to promote the growth of fellowship within our church family, but more importantly, to invite members of our community to join us and experience the Good News. Beyond the fun and fellowship of this event, we hope to give our neighbors reason to inquire about joining us in our journey of faith.

We are going to have a cookout with hotdogs, provided by Patak meats, and we are asking all of our members to **bring a side dish (potato salad, baked beans, salad, and desserts)** to round out the meal. We will provide buns, condiments, and drinks, so all you need to do is bring your favorite sides. Plugged In is going to set up in the front parking lot and will be providing music during the activities. For those of you unfamiliar with Plugged In, we are a praise band made up from members of both the Early Service Choir and the Adult Choir. We will set up a jumping "Moonwalk" for kids to play on and will have a face-painting booth. Bring a lawn chair and join us for a fun afternoon! Please call me if you have any questions.





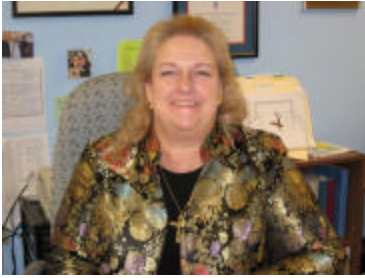
From the Interim Pastor's Desk,

I want you to know that you have lifted my spirits by the warmth with which you have welcomed me into your midst and patiently helped me to learn your names and your ways of doing things. You have managed shifts in pastoral leadership with Ray leaving, Zeta carrying a heavier load, and me arriving part time with confidence and good fellowship with each other. Your attendance in worship and your faithful giving through very difficult times would impress any Interim Pastor. Very few churches could display a list of mission enterprises comparable to yours. God is clearly at work here!

All this leads me to be confident that you can and will meet the challenges of program, mission, mortgage and staff salaries with faithfulness, joy and success and be ready to call a new pastor when the time comes. From my point of view what is needed is the committed involvement of all of you in all the ways the Lord calls to service in His church. I hope you will approach the stewardship season and the Every Member Canvass as a time of real excitement: let's see what the Lord can do with all of us together.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Speed



Zeta's Zone

What a blessing it is to have Jim Speed on board! He has come among us and we are already being gifted with his wisdom and faithful involvement. If you haven't met him yet please take time to introduce yourself to him and get to know him. He is in the office on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

As we have navigated the last five months since Ray left I have been reminded over and over how gracious and generous God is. God has continued to bless this church. You have been faithful in worship and ministry. We have continued to reach out in a variety of ways to the community. We have continued to have visitors worship among us. You have been faithful in your giving of time and money to the ministry we support. We had a wonderful summer full of activities and began the fall in full swing. God has answered prayers with the arrival of Jim to lead us into the future. God continues to answer prayers as all our ministries are vibrant and challenging. We are truly a blessed church.

And the future is bright. We have the potential in this place to really make a difference in this community and in the lives of our members. As I write this we have just experienced the devastation of flood waters. Your generous spirit has once again been seen as many of you called or e-mailed to ask how we could respond as individuals and as a church. As you will see in this newsletter we are working on a variety to ways to help the community. Remember that recovery from flooding is a long process and our help will be needed for months to come. Our partnership with Compton Elementary and Sweetwater Valley CAMP offer us unique opportunities to respond. We will have a chance to respond in ways that will give new meaning in this place to local missions! Watch for more information.

May we all remember that we are called to Share God's Generosity as we move into the future!

In Service to Christ,

Zeta

Reaching, Raising, Relieving

Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time



My Heart is Still in Kenya

By McGee Spencer

When I went to Kenya the first time, it was scary, eye-opening, fascinating, moving, and life altering. Visiting a “third world” country, in general, is enough to make any of us feel like overindulged, self-centered creatures who assume that all the world wakes up each morning to a quilt-top mattress, fresh flowing water, a toilet, shoes and clothing, our choice of food, an air-conditioned vehicle to get us where we’re going, a job, and enough money to blow \$1.49 on a giant soft drink in a disposable cup. (That’s equivalent to about 110 Kenya shillings, and it would buy soap, a loaf of bread, and some rice or dried beans.) That’s what people mean when they say their mission trip changed their lives – there’s no going back, mentally or emotionally, once you know what life is like for some of God’s children.

My friend Humphrey Kanga, who attended Erskine Seminary here and then returned to Kenya, will not be thwarted in his efforts to raise some of Kenya’s people out of poverty through education and to see that children have a safe home. Humphrey and God walk together and the words that come from his mouth and the ideas from his heart, are picking up people from the slums of Nairobi to the bush country near his native village, and are giving them hope. In addition to the 17-child orphanage, Humphrey oversees a 100+ sponsorship program for children, most being raised by a grandparent, aunt, or uncle who has escaped the AIDS epidemic. When Humphrey arrives at one of their meager homes, he touches each child’s head, looks him in the eye, asks how he is doing in school, if he’s going regularly, and why he isn’t wearing his shoes (usually because he doesn’t want to spoil them). He inspects their hands and feet for jiggers, their head for ringworm, and asks to see their schoolwork. He always tells us how each child is special and how he sees great potential in this one or that. You can see the light in the large, dark eyes of the child. Humphrey’s mission is to see these children through a college educa-

tion so that they might be able to better provide for future generations, with the support of American sponsors.

Returning to Kenya this summer was like returning to the loving arms of family. About 15 Kenyans met us at the airport for hugs and a reunion. I had the opportunity to go on an overnight safari where I slept in a tent, saw zebras, elephants, hyenas, lions, giraffes, gazelles, baboons, and a host of others. Then it was back to work, conducting seven VBS-style three-hour programs at different schools and churches, delivering school supplies, backpacks, and hygiene kits to over 2,000 children. The children sang and danced for us, drummed for us, and recited poems about what poverty and AIDS are doing to their country. Everywhere you go it is you who receives the blessing, regardless of the gifts you take. My friend Reba tearfully accepted pineapples and a rooster from her sponsored family who wanted to show their appreciation for helping a daughter be able to attend school. When they have nothing, they only want to give back. My most treasured possession is the porridge stirring stick that was made for me by the father of my sponsored son Phineas. His mother walked miles to deliver her hand-made egg basket. The food that I gave them might last two weeks, but what will happen after that in this time of drought and famine?

I could tell you a thousand other experiences - visiting the hospital where yet another baby had been abandoned on a bridge, laying flowers at the cornfield gravesite of one of our sponsored children, Mercy, who gave up her fight with AIDS and TB this year, pasteurizing my own milk, teaching Sunday School to a group of middle schoolers, learning to clean a pawpaw, walking two miles to the orphanage. But the most exciting times were those spent with the kids. Our projects this year included building a wooden playscape and picnic tables in the orphanage yard, introducing the kids to Play Dough, taking them on their first field trip, teaching them to play tic-tac-toe, and, after lugging marshmallows, graham crackers and Hershey bars in our suitcases, building a campfire and making S’mores.

Reaching, Raising, Relieving

Making A Difference One Child, One Person at a Time

During our visit to the Chuka hospital, we were able to see beds and crutches and wheelchairs that we had sent in a container being put to good use. Lines of people wait for hours outside the hospital to be seen. But the good news is that, thanks to surgical kits we had been able to get donated, our friend Dr. Nyaga can now perform more than one or two surgeries a day since he no longer has to wait for instruments to be sterilized. Since we learned on our last visit that surgical gauze was washed and reused, we have arranged with Wellstar to donate boxes of supplies, including sterile gauze.

Much of our time is spent meeting with our Kenyan Board of Directors to assess, plan, and solve problems. We all believe that one of our goals of the Kenya Connection Ministry should be to help make families more self-sufficient rather than dependent on Americans for food. We came up with plans to donate start-up money so that families could build a chicken coop, get chickens and feed, and then be able to earn a small sum from selling eggs or chicken to help buy food for themselves. We also decided to invest in some garden tools and seed, and to send out two of our board members who work with the Department of Agriculture to make recommendations for more efficient use of land. We have hopes of getting a well dug in the very dry area of Tharaka where the animals and people all use the same small stream as their only source of water. We have now raised the money to replace the mattresses at the orphanage and have purchased vinyl mattress covers to help solve some bed-wetting issues. We're working on the purchase of a motorcycle so that our social worker will be able to visit more homes rather than walking several hours to reach some of them.

If any of these projects sound interesting to you, or if you would like to sponsor a child, or even go on next summer's trip to Kenya, just talk to McGee!

There are troubled times in Kenya right now as you may have read in newspapers. The drought has caused a huge food shortage. Electricity is frequently cut off for long periods of time and there are

connectivity problems constantly with the Internet. But when our young social worker Daniel pops up on my Facebook instant chat with a "Good morning, Mom! How are you?" it warms my heart.



2009 Angel Tree

Again this year, we will participate in the C.A.M.P. Christmas Mission of providing gifts for children. The number of families that they assist increases each year. Macland Presbyterian is a major presence in helping CAMP with this project. Last year we helped over 125 families have a better Christmas with our gifts.

There will be more information about the Angel Tree Project in the November newsletter.



This year's Stewardship campaign, "Today's Foundation, Tomorrow's Vision – Sharing God's Generosity," will be different than prior years in two major respects: One - we will have one campaign combining "Operating" and "Building" pledges, and Two - we will conduct an Every Member Canvass.

The Financial Challenges ahead of us are significant which is why Church Leadership has decided to conduct an Every Member Canvass. If you are one of the many Church Canvassers, Thank you for your participation and support. If you are not a Canvasser, please welcome your fellow member(s) into your home to hear about all the Great Things we are doing at Macland as we continue to build our foundation and live our mission to Reach the Lost, Raise Disciples and Relieve Suffering.

Also, please mark your calendars with several key dates:

September 28th – October 24th Every Member Canvass

October 18th – Stewardship Sunday – Stewardship Presentation during the Worship Service with Q&A following each service.

October 25th – Dedication Sunday



Thank you in advance for your support of this important Ministry.

Hank Picken
Elder – for the Generous Living Team



Church Family Retreat

**Macland Presbyterian
Fall Creek Falls State Park
Pikeville, TN
March 12, 13, 14, 2010**

We are planning on having a great Family Retreat for 2010. Our destination will be Fall Creek Falls State Park. It has been highly recommended by many church members and is only a little further than the site of last year's retreat.

This year we are asking for a \$50 deposit per family. This will help with some of the extra expenses, such as meeting rooms and program materials. We have not asked for a deposit in the past, but it will help with the Retreat's expenses.

We have enough interest for the retreat this year, so we can be somewhat flexible with the reservations. However, we would love to know if you are interested in attending. It's not too late to sign up.

Please consider joining us for this special experience.

You can direct all questions to Linda or Andy Puterbaugh at 770-439-8487, or e-mail questions to andyputerbaugh@bellsouth.net



Macland's Calendar is on the Web

Macland now has an interactive calendar on the web.

Go to:

1. www.macland.org
2. Church News
3. Weekly Service Schedule
4. Monthly Calendar

You can click on each activity individually and the event will show you the time, place and the location the activity is held. Also, you will see the option (after opening the event) to send yourself or a friend an e-mail reminder of the event.



The next **gathering of MPC Women** will be Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm. We will be meeting at a nearby Italian or Mexican restaurant (to be determined later). Please save this date on your calendar, and let Michelle Dettore or Ginny Spain know if you plan to attend.



The Michalke family would like to express their sincere thanks for the outpouring of love and support during this difficult time in the loss of Doug's mother. All of the cards, flowers and donations to the Cancer Society mean more than you'll ever know. We appreciate being a part of such a terrific church family and love you.

-Because of Him, Doug and Marlene.

Circle Your Calendar for October 8, 2009 SAS

Time: 12:00 noon

Event: Luncheon

Horizon Band Concert

(sponsored by Al Baumgartner)

Place: Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$4.00

Reservations by October 2nd. Call or contact Frances Tucker at 770-439-0059.



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

October 4

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

"Examples of Generosity"

Rev. Zeta T. Lamberson

October 11

Matthew 6:1-23

"Adjust the Focus!"

Dr. James O Speed, Jr.

October 18

Matthew 19:16-30

"Regard Generosity"

Dr. James O Speed, Jr.

October 25

Matthew 25:14-30

"The Scariest Parable"

Dr. James O Speed, Jr.



**Fellowship
Luncheon**

**Fellowship Luncheon
Sunday, October 25**

Church will provide the meat and drinks.
Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share.



**Macland Preschool children
& the children of
Macland Presbyterian**

say a Special **THANK YOU!**
To the Middle School Youth for
spreading mulch in the Playground!



Through September 20, 2009

Revenue to date \$452,578.74

Expenses to date \$448,244.90



Heyday by Kurt Andersen

Review by Karen R. Williamson

BOOK Review

In the middle of the 19th-century, modern life is being born . . . the mind-boggling marvels of photography, the telegraph, and railroads; a flood of show business spectacles and newspapers; rampant sex, drugs, and drink (and moral crusades against all three); Wall Street awash with money; and giddy utopian visions everywhere. Then, during a single amazing month at the beginning of 1848, history lurches – America wins its war of manifest destiny against Mexico, gold is discovered in northern California, and revolutions sweep across Europe.

Amid the tumult, young British aristocrat Benjamin Knowles impulsively abandons the Old World to reinvent himself in New York. It's a fresh – and somewhat scary – start to a new life for the young Englishman . . . alone in a city of mayhem, mystery, and magic and facing a future that is at once uncertain and full of exciting potential.

It doesn't take too long for Benjamin to learn the lay of the land, however. Indeed, he acclimates quickly to his new environment and the people that surround him including, in particular, three very interesting Americans: Timothy Skaggs – muckraking journalist, daguerreotypist, pleasure-seeker, stargazer; Fireman Duff Lucking – a sweet, but dangerously damaged veteran of the Mexican War; and Polly Lucking – Duff's dazzling sister, a strong-minded, free thinking actress (and discreet, part-time prostitute) with whom Ben falls hopelessly in love.

Eventually, Ben and Polly seek to marry. However, due to an unfortunate act by Knowles and a subsequent misunderstanding between the couple, Polly flees New York to head west. Soon afterwards, Benjamin, Duff, and Timothy set out to find Polly, all the while being stalked and relentlessly tracked by a cold-blooded killer bent on revenge. It's a journey fraught with danger and intrigue, adventure and bold undertakings which, ultimately, becomes a race for survival, not just of life-and-limb but of the heart as well.

Heyday is classified in literature as "historical fiction", meaning that fictional characters are set in the midst of factual events. *Heyday* is at once an affecting story of four fictional people passionately chasing their dreams and an impeccable historical portrait of an era. The result is a brilliantly imagined, wildly entertaining tale of America's boisterous coming of age filled with bona fide heroes and lost souls, visionaries (Walt Whitman, Charles Darwin, Alexis de Tocqueville) and monsters, expanding horizons and narrow escapes. It is a sweeping panorama of madcap rebellion and overnight fortunes, palaces and brothels, murder and revenge.

The writing within the work is fair-to-good. Andersen's prose makes you feel like you are really in 1848, and his period detail is incredible. The author truly succeeds in bringing 19th-century America vividly to life. Moreover, *Heyday* serves as a walking, talking almanac. Classifications, notations, translations, amplifications, derivations, and formulations are not tangential to Andersen's story. Rather, in a very real way, they constitute the novel's main attraction.

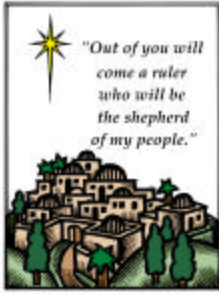
The book does have a slow, sluggish, somewhat awkward beginning. The author opens with young Knowles arriving in New York and setting upon his new beginning in America. Readers can almost feel the excitement build as Benjamin traverses the streets of the Big Apple, comparing his new surroundings to that of his native land. However, almost immediately, Andersen stops the flow of the text to interject a flashback (or two) regarding a preceding time period, relating events from Paris during the revolutions sweeping France. This regress, of course, is necessary since it sets the stage for the subplot of the vengeful stalker; however, Andersen's choice of placement for the supplemental narrative is ill-conceived. Nevertheless, those bibliophiles who succeed in slogging through the first one-third of the work will be delighted by the novel's remaining 426 pages. The last portions of the book move quickly, with historical detail that's involving but which is never a drag on the action.

The story has a handful of exceptionally wonderful and unforgettable characters. The author does a superb job in developing his small band of protagonists, as well as a few members of the supporting cast. Andersen adeptly captures the manic energy of aspiring young people – their wild, rambunctious, rowdy sense of adventure and infatuation, simultaneously discovering the nature of freedom and the meaning of loyalty, friendship, and true love. Readers will surely find themselves cheering for the triumphs of youthful exploits and enterprise, while also weeping over the tragedy of inexperience and naiveté.

Bottom line: More than a love story or a history lesson (though it is clear how much research Andersen has done); by turns funny, tragic, and sublime; an enthralling, old-fashioned yarn, and a true novel of ideas; utterly engaging.

Author Biography

Kurt Andersen is the co-founder of *Spy* magazine and the author of the wise and acerbic *Turn of the Century* (1999), a national bestseller and a *New York Times* Notable Book. He also writes a column for *New York* magazine and hosts the Peabody Award-winning public radio program Studio 360. He has been a columnist and critic for *The New Yorker* and *Time*. Andersen lives with his wife and daughters in New York.



Mark Your Calendars NOW!

An Afternoon in Bethlehem
Sunday, December 13
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

December 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Bring the whole family and the neighbors to experience Bethlehem as we prepare for the birth of the baby Jesus. More later but put it on the calendar! You won't want to miss this special afternoon with our church family and community.

October Birthdays



- | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| 10/1 | Linda Barrett | 10/11 | John House | 10/20 | Amanda Roberts |
| 10/1 | Rachel Bartlett | 10/12 | Charles Burke | 10/20 | Kevin Reif |
| 10/1 | Michael Brannan | 10/12 | Steve Alley | 10/21 | Joe Endredi |
| 10/2 | Scotty McAliley | 10/12 | Grace Egbe | 10/23 | Timmy Endredi |
| 10/2 | Steve Coulter | 10/13 | Mary Bishop | 10/24 | Julie Bolin |
| 10/2 | Noah Smith | 10/13 | Taylor Mendez | 10/25 | David Townsend |
| 10/3 | Rebecca Mitchell | 10/13 | Cole Montoya | 10/26 | Jessie Sellers |
| 10/4 | Susan Hubert | 10/15 | Mike Pedro | 10/26 | Laverne Murrah |
| 10/6 | Charity Tillman | 10/16 | Bryant Collier | 10/28 | Martha Coyle |
| 10/7 | Linda Moon | 10/16 | Kyle Smith | 10/28 | Velvet Simmons |
| 10/7 | Tad Williamson | 10/17 | Ginny Spain | 10/29 | Rebecca Pierce |
| 10/8 | Gary Aliff | 10/18 | Buck Perry | 10/30 | John Hubert |
| 10/8 | Dana Colbert | 10/20 | Dana Dooling | 10/30 | Lois DeMeo |
| 10/11 | Nancy Zorn | 10/20 | Amy Kraieski | | |

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

Fall Festival
Sunday, October 18
3pm - 5pm



Face Painting
Cake Walk
Jumpy Thing! Cotton Candy Popcorn
New Fun Games!



Donations Needed: individually wrapped candy,
Baked Goods-cakes, cookies, cupcakes, Rice Krispie
Treats, etc.- wrapped in cellophane or disposable
plates.

