

1838



THE HERALD



2012

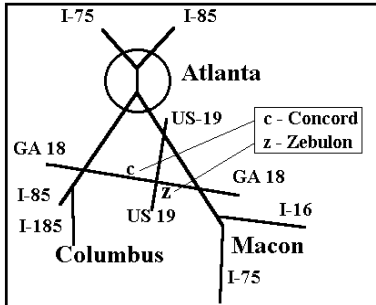
“Trumpeting New Hebron’s 174 Years of Faithfulness to God’s Good News!”

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH

“Yesterday’s Memories, Today’s Message, Tomorrow’s Mission”

570 New Hebron Church Road, Concord, Pike County, Georgia

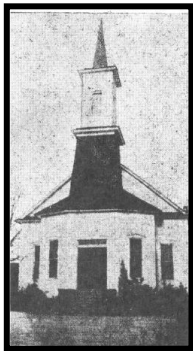
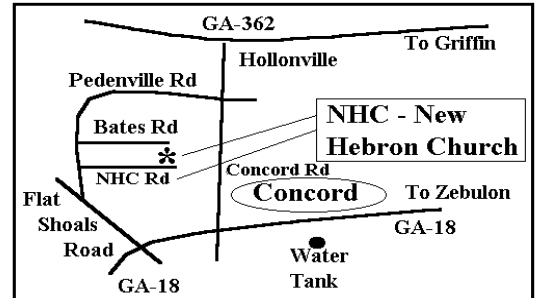
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Hebron Baptist Church
Established October 6, 1838



New Hebron Baptist
Established October 26, 1907

New Hebron Baptist Church
“Meets every Third Sunday, 3 p.m.”
P. O. Box 101
Concord, Pike County, GA 30206

WINTER 2012 VOL 13 NO 4

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Sep – 12 (\$40), Oct – 1 (\$0), Nov – 46 (\$224)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS: J&M Marshall \$100

CALENDAR

Jan 15, 3 p.m. – “What One Could if One Would”

Feb 19, 3 p.m. – Charles Dickens

Mar 18, 3 p.m. – Congregational Singing

Singers needed! Listeners welcome!

The Sacred Rites of Foot Washing and Communion
will be offered on a voluntary basis!

BUMPERSTICKER BUSINESS REPORT

It has been three months since the shipment of bumper stickers have been received. To date, sale of the decal has been slow, but it will take time to get this business off the ground. We received 1,028 decals. It was my plan to give away 100 as free samples. Everyone who sees the sticker likes it, but only one has been sold – to Rev. Fred Blackmon.

Dwain W. Penn, Preacher

email: dwarrenpenn@hotmail.com

www.thegospeler.org

Dear Friends:

Thirteen years have come and gone since the first published newsletter back in 1999. As I have been busy trying to formulate ideas to attract new visitors, the years have passed quickly. In pondering what difference there is between today and “back then,” I can come up with only one answer or explanation – the economy.

You will agree that the price of gasoline has tripled and the increase has affected the price of almost everything else – especially groceries. Despite these notions of gloom and doom, we carry on and freely open our arms to welcome this most delightful season of Advent with all of its magic, cheer, good will and thoughts of compassion for others.

At no other time of the year does humanity, on a global scale, pause to show kindness toward others. I do believe Mr. Charles Dickens expressed it best in “A Christmas Carol”, published December 1843, when Scrooge’s nephew gave this philosophic view: “I’ve always thought of Christmastime, apart from the veneration due its sacred name and origin, as a kind, forgiving, charitable time – the only time in the long calendar of the year when men and women seem by one consent to open up their shut-up hearts then and think of others as fellow passengers to the grave.”

Pages later, the “storyteller” says “It is good to be children sometimes and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a child himself!” Mr. Dickens wrote with a devoutly wise pen. I can only hope to emulate such prose!

Anyway, as we bask in the warm glow of the true holiness of Christmastime, let’s clasp, with grateful hearts, that cup of eggnog or mug of warm cocoa and see what topics will be discovered herein.

Just a year ago, I was truly gratified by the phenomenal attendance at the September and November services. What a difference a year makes!

[Before embarking into our encounter with the Ghost of New Hebron Services Past, let me insert a disclaimer here. As a devoted minister of the Gospel, it has always been my desire to share only good reports. However, since that same calling requires complete honesty, I am obligated to print just the facts. If the truth seems less than stellar, please understand that I am not attempting to finagle the circumstances to create any guilt among our faithful

readers. If a positive message is to be gleaned from this letter, please let it be that this dedicated country vicar is willing to carry on, as God gives him strength, despite the good and bad situations which arise in operating a fellowship that depends on the graciousness of others. Thank you!]

Using attendance data from 2010 as a gage for 2011 may be a recipe for disappointment, but it allows me to hone my intuitive skills to see if the status quo should remain just that – as is, or if some event or church tradition should be changed. Please, let me say up front that the Dickens Carolers’ concert in November will be an annual event. After the **November 20** concert, I teased the group about engraving future engagements in stone! But don’t be disturbed when I write later and mention a concern I have about the November event! That should keep your attention awhile!

The **September 18** service, the Andy Griffith Trivia Contest, fell far short of 2010 data. Last year we had about three dozen visitors with a field of twelve players. This year there was only a dozen visitors and three players (two teams). Beth Almand saw the “free ad” in the Macon Telegraph “Out and About” insert and she called quite early in September to reserve her seat as a contestant. She came with her friend Lynn Bedgood. [It was an honor to meet Mr. Bedgood as I have only two male acquaintances with the unique name – Lynn Sanderlin, a professional engineer in Atlanta and Rev. Lynn Wood, former Baptist association director.] Now I know three Lynns!

The father-son team, Mitchell and Michael Vaughn of Pike County came and won the contest in less than 20 minutes. With only two teams, it didn’t take long to whittle down one or the other to crown a champion. To determine which team went first, I asked a general TV trivia question and was delightfully surprised that Mitchell knew it!

The question was – what was Lucy Ricardo’s maiden name on “I Love Lucy”? [Answer at the end of this letter] The query had a tenuous tie with the Andy Griffith Show – over half of the TAG shows were filmed at Desilu studios in California.

September 2011 marked my 13th anniversary at the church. The afterglow of contestants and their friends and family enjoyed a nice pound cake and lemonade as part of the commemoration.

October 16 was the third 2011 service without attendance. I changed my plans from a bor-

ing sermon to an encore presentation of Robert E. Lee. Few, if any, found it appealing. I thought about stopping by the Concord Jubilee in my Lee uniform to remind the public of the event, but I decided against it. It may surprise some of you that many southerners do not hold General Lee in high regard. They feel he was a ruthless traitor when he surrendered to Grant in 1865.

Hosting Lee again in October was a selfish move on my part. Shocking, isn't it?! With my 25th anniversary as a drama minister looming ahead in 2013, I am looking to push my total of engagements as close to 500 as possible. I just passed 450 last month and when the dust settles, I may be a dozen or so shy!

With no one in attendance, did I perform a legitimate Lee presentation? Yes! I shared the drama most comfortably as if the church was full!

Our sixth annual Bible Conference came treacherously close to becoming a total failure, redeemed by only three speakers, kind enough to invest their time to uphold their generous offer to participate in what should have been a great series of meetings with a very important theme – authority!

As I announced in the last letter, I mailed invitations to quite a line-up of local leaders - former Governor Perdue, a few mayors, two police chiefs, the county sheriff, a school superintendent, the pastor of New Hebron's sister church, Old Mount Calvary Baptist and a retired Navy commander. Despite my letter offering to pay a modest fee for Sonny Perdue to speak, we never did get a reply from him. One mayor declined outright, another expressed interest but never followed through and the third didn't reply at all.

Within weeks of posting an announcement, we had Commander Warren and School Superintendent Dr. Michael Duncan scheduled for Monday night and Sheriff Jimmy Thomas and Zebulon Mayor Mike Beres set for Tuesday evening.

Warren, an East Thomaston Baptist Church member, brought a fellow church member, David Smith, and Dr. Duncan's name in the paper attracted a Board of Education member, Rev. Fred Blackmon. Some of you remember Brother Blackmon spoke at a previous Conference and has a strong tie with New Hebron as former pastor of Old Mount Calvary and as an extra in the filming of "Mama Flora's Family" at the church in 1998.

Both speakers were eloquent, inaugurating

the conference with their individual faith-filled stories of how God's hand of providence was ever-present in their life's pursuits and success with their careers. One thing Dr. Duncan said that is worthy to re-echo [a word used by Dickens] here concerns the local Pike County High School. For some time the school has offered several Bible courses in its curriculum. According to Dr. Duncan, when plans to start the program were introduced, almost half of the faculty volunteered to teach the subject.

With dedicated and devout educators such as these, doesn't it renew your faith and hope for this great country? Personally, I cannot help but to shed a few tears when I think of the wonderful work the Pike County School system is doing, fulfilling God's Word by training up children properly!

Much like in 2009 when I paired Rev. Joey Smith with Dr. Ted Moody to speak on Thursday evening (Smith was saved at a revival Moody preached years earlier), God had his hand in bringing Commander Warren and Dr. Duncan together in the hallowed sanctuary of New Hebron.

Commander Warren recently retired as the Senior Navy Instructor and Department Head of the Navy Junior Reserved Officer Training Corps at Upson-Lee High School in Thomaston. Since Dr. Duncan started as school superintendent, the high school in Pike has been shopping around for an Army or Navy training program. Cdr. Warren has agreed to advise Duncan on the project.

Years from now, when the unit is up and running at PCHS, someone can say with hazy recollection, "Plans for this began to bear fruit after Vicar Penn invited Warren and Duncan to speak at a small Bible Conference at New Hebron." From tiny acorns doth mighty oaks grow! Glory!

The lamps glowed brightly through the windows of the church on Monday night. Tuesday night was a different story, derailed by a tragic event. The weekend before the conference was to open, a two-car collision (one driver was dui) killed two Pike residents. Sheriff Thomas wisely chose to renege on his speaking obligation to minister to the grieving families. I saw Jimmy weeks later at a birthday reception and I thanked him for making the right choice in the situation. Mayor Mike Beres, despite trying to contact me all day Tuesday about the service, came out to see if he would be able to speak. Unfortunately, no one showed up. I pray Mike won't think that was a referendum on his

popularity as mayor of Zebulon and civic leader in Pike County.

Mike and I visited over thirty minutes after the planned 7 p.m. service was to begin. He told me his personal testimony that he was to share that evening. I was impressed that he teaches Sunday school at Zebulon First Baptist Church and, like the Monday speakers, felt God's leadership throughout his life. Truly Pike County and surrounding areas are blessed with great leaders! Thank you all!

Oh, by the way, I don't know which local church Sheriff Thomas attends, but I did learn that Dr. Duncan is a member of Fayetteville's New Hope Baptist Church, a fellowship so large, they have two campuses! [I was honored to be invited back in December 1996 to share the message of Saint Nicholas with a large Sunday school class at New Hope. Scott Johnson was pastor.]

I tout the spiritual affiliations of these local leaders to reconfirm our thankfulness in having such strong men in positions of authority.

Looking overall at the 2011 Bible Conference, one could conclude that it was a dismal failure and as such, should be our last one. I could never put the burden of this reputation on these fine folks who did and could have participated in the event. Therefore, I truly feel led to sponsor one more conference in 2013 and try to end this tradition on a high note. Besides, the next conference will be our seventh one – the number of completion.

Attendance at the Dickens Carolers event on **November 20** as compared (once again) with 2010, was off by almost fifty percent. Last year, we had 81. This year, 46 dear souls came, which included the chorus of 13. The caliber and quality of talent was undiminished as usual, thanks to the servant-hearts of the singers and the enthusiasm of the visitors, expecting a glorious afternoon and not being disappointed in the least.

A local resident and friend told me that Christine Curry was asking about the possibility of the group coming to perform for the Zebulon Christmas program, which is always in early December. Personally, I felt it would be rude to ask on such short notice, so I proposed an inquiry for the 2012 calendar. [Brother Ebert, if you forward this to the other choristers, pray about it and I will send you contact information early next year.] In defense of New Hebron protecting its exclusive rights to host the carolers locally, I did mention that the

Thomaston First Baptist Church has an exquisite quartet of mixed voices, excellent for special events. I don't mean to be selfish, so we'll see!

Several friends have told me that they wanted to attend the Dickens Carolers event but they were not able to because their church had their annual Thanksgiving meal after the morning service. This conflict concerns me, but with a 3 p.m. concert, they could bring their leftovers for our afterglow fellowship!! That would be quite a treat.

I decided to change my recent hosting of Saint Nicholas in December and bring back those two classic southern Christmas stories read by the vocal charms of Rev. Walter Dubois. Either way, I get another event in my ministry total! Much like November, the prevalent custom of celebrating an "early" Christmas the Sunday before makes it difficult to attract folks on third Sunday in December.

Two years ago next month, a dozen folks came to the church to vote on the future of the fellowship. You know who you are and I praise God for your participation. Do you remember an informal poll I took about me incorporating more of my ministry into the monthly services? Most of you wanted to see more of my portrayals.

Well, with a cornet fanfare, I'm announcing here that the 2012 calendar will be brimming over with many of my dramas. The schedule has already been printed and one copy caught the eye of someone attending the caroler concert. She asked about Charles Wesley, who is slated for later in the year.

We will see if the offerings of this unique ministry will attract any new faces to the church.

February 7, 2012, is the bicentennial of Charles Dickens' birth. I will be portraying Dickens that evening at the Upson Archives in Thomaston and at New Hebron on **February 19**. Dickens was paid \$100,000 for a lecture tour (public readings) in the United States in 1867 and 1868.

January 15 will be a new, new year sermon and **March 18** will be our congregational singing.

Come to see us as your schedule permits.

With heartfelt gratitude for all things that have happened in 2011, I want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very exciting and prosperous New Year. As Christians, it is our duty to strive to make each year better than the one before. With God's help and blessings, we can.

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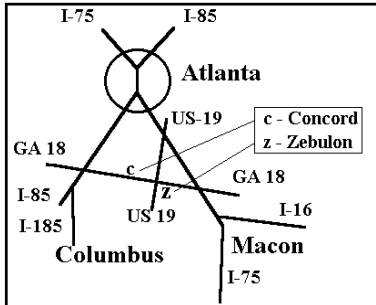
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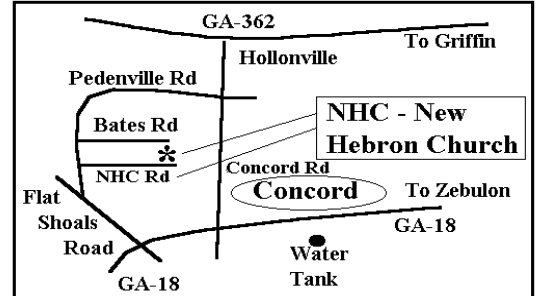
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P. O. Box 101
Concord, Pike County, GA 30206

SPRING 2012 VOL 14 NO 1

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Dec – 6 (\$77), Jan – 3 (\$55), Feb – 4 (\$50)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

J&M Marshall \$300, D. Russell \$100,
J. Walker \$20

CALENDAR

Apr 15, 3 p.m. – Abraham Lincoln on the
147th anniversary of Lincoln’s death

May 20, 2 p.m. – Founders’ Day Catered Picnic

May 20, 3 p.m. – Rev. Walter Dubois returns with his
rousing “Lay Your Whiskey Bottle Down” sermon

Jun 17, 3 p.m. – Father Abraham

BUILDING A WHEELCHAIR RAMP

Ever since a disabled visitor sat in the yard of New Hebron during a wedding a few years ago, I have prayed about building a ramp on back of the church. The 15% pitch ramp would slope toward the west and not disturb the “historic profile” of the building. The railing could be removed for any future movie projects. If a brotherhood of a nearby church would like to take this on as a mission project, please let me know. New Hebron will pay for the materials.

Dwain W. Penn, Vicar
email: dwarrenpenn@hotmail.com
www.thegospeler.org

SPRING 2012 VOL 14 NO 1

Dear Friends:

Giving all praise to God's mercy and sovereignty, we have yet another season of increasing warmth to delight ourselves in with anticipation of more blessings as the days march forward amid life springing forth with verdant colors. This is the season to plant and tend gardens of both flowers and vegetables and this timeless custom is a powerful link back to that lush garden which God pre-ordained for his greatest creation "in His own image" – "us-un" humans! Let's not fail this time!

With a publication shortened by the financial report, I don't want to waste too much space on musings. There will be some serious discussion on what was, what is and what will be for the church.

Let's get started. As I was preparing the winter letter, we received a few weeks apart, two generous checks from our good friends Joseph and Mary Marshall of Eatonton. Their generosity is truly commendable and I pray that mentioning them will not be an embarrassment. Writing about their kindness is a two-edged sword. It may inspire others to do the same OR inspire still others to think "the church has enough and doesn't need my gift."

While on the theme of abundance, I was rather foolish this year to increase the Christmas bonuses for the pianist and vicar from \$50 to \$75 each. It was a "one-time" lapse of judgment (or use of wisdom) due to the generous movie fee the church was paid last spring. The locations manager hinted that there could be a "contingency fund" from which the faithful vicar could be paid for his time spent at the church during the three week contract period. I saw no extra pay, but I did take the liberty to let the church pay my transportation costs.

The **December 18** service had a modest attendance of six folks. Regulars Martha Johnson, Virginia Crowder and Bobbie Collins filled half the total. Bobbie brought two new visitors, her daughter Pamela Anderson and grandson Connor. Although the Christmas stories featured were entertaining, their lengths could wear on the patience of a young listener. Connor was well-behaved.

The three Scrooge programs on Boxing Day, **December 26** were totally avoided by the public. It could be that the day after Christmas is hectic as much as the "holiday" since many folks take advantage of sales. Saving money is indeed more im-

portant than watching Scrooge talk about saving money! This year, the programs will be held on Friday or Saturday, **December 28th or 29th**.

The year 2011, as previously mentioned, ended with generous special donations. In addition to the Marshall's gifts, David Russell sent a year-end donation of \$100. He included a nice card about how much he appreciates my efforts at the church, as long as I don't get too political! Our friendship and Christian faith allows us to agree to disagree. Thanks, David, and thank you Joseph and Mary! [There are three great Bible names!]

The **January 15** service was entered into the church records as having 3 in attendance – Martha, Virginia and me! Refraining as much as possible from bragging, I hesitate to say that my sermon that day was remarkable. The sermon was "What One Could if One Would." "Could" and "would" are past tenses of "can" and "will." This enlightenment alone brings powerful potential of the message!

January was a busy month for me, trying to get the church schedule off to a good start while preparing for my newest portrayal of Charles Dickens on **Tuesday, February 7** in Thomaston. If you missed seeing Dickens in February, you, well, missed Dickens forever. He will not do any encore performances. When Dickens toured America in 1867, he finished all of his lectures with: "In this brief life of ours it is sad to do almost anything for the last time. Ladies and gentlemen, I beg most earnestly, most gratefully, most affectionately to bid you, each and all, farewell. May God bless you and God bless this country in which I leave you."

For the **February 19** premiere at New Hebron, sadly, only three attended the service [sadly for those who missed it]. There were Martha, Andrea Noel, and a friend she invited, Joy Walker. For weeks, I was torn about the aspect of recording any of the performances. Like the real Dickens tours back in 1867 and '68, I wanted these today to be experienced and remembered only by those who attended. However, to honor the rich history of New Hebron, I made a DVD of the service.

Several years ago, I posted on the church's webpage items about "renting the church for weddings" and "hosting senior bus tours." On **Tuesday, March 6**, New Hebron hosted its first bus tour – a seniors group from Barnesville.

Rev. Allen Newman, his wife and son, from Calvary Baptist, attended the Dickens Carolers in

November. Brother Newman called me earlier this year and testified that they plan to make the November concert an annual tradition. He also booked the church for **March 6** for his seniors group.

With a choice of Charles Dickens or Charles Wesley for their entertainment, I decided to give them my best with Rev. Walter Dubois!! [They may never return to New Hebron again!] Brother Dubois, after introducing himself and telling a few jokes, shared his message about Clothes Pins – a nostalgic sermon for seniors! Hot tea and ginger-snaps were served to send the group back east to Barnesville. Attendance that day, like monthly services, was modest – only five. Brother Newman said some had to cancel due to doctor appointments [or rumors about Dubois?].

Sunday, April 15, will be the return of Abraham Lincoln, bumped in February by Dickens. It worked out well this year because **April 15** is the 147th anniversary of the death of Lincoln. He was shot on **Good Friday, April 14, 1865**, and died early the next morning.

Friday, April 20, will be the premiere of the movie “The Wettest County”. If the movie’s rating is stronger than a PG-13, I will be very upset with Kai Thorup. The last shot on my roll of film last year was a current image of the church from the west that will be in the movie when the Labeouf character runs out of the church. My photo will be used in the “corn kernel placards” that will be auctioned on eBay. Any money raised from the auctions will be divided between me and the church. I should get a share because it was my idea (God’s inspiration) to save the kernels as I swept the floor on the morning after the shoot. That will be my “pay” from “contingency funds” for putting up with the movie people for three weeks. Amen?

If the kernels sell well, I will be able to pay the church what I owe from last year. I floated a loan of \$150 to pay my self-employment taxes in March. I was expecting over \$500 back from the IRS. That failed to materialize since self-employment income cannot be used to figure earned income and making work pay credits. I plan to “pay” the loan back by purchasing all church snacks for this year. After qualifying for food stamps last December I get a \$200 food allotment each month and I can’t eat that much!

Also, last August, in a fever induced by summer heat, I designed and ordered 1,000 bumper

stickers, feeling confident they would sell quickly. I guess I’m not a salesman. Only three decals have sold for an income of \$12. It will take time to get the word out about this product. For now, I am looking to sell with the goal of breaking even.

I beg your indulgence to be patient with me since I am unable to pay half of the investment as anticipated. An unexpected clutch repair bill of \$300 absorbed all of my funds intended for the project. To offset some of that debt, I will cut my salary and gas allotment this year from \$170 to \$100. All totaled, the church should benefit in the amount of over \$250 for 2012. In addition to the monthly snacks, I will “purchase” food for catered picnics in May and September (for the trivia contest).

May 20 will be our Founders’ Day Picnic at 2 p.m. and Walter Dubois at 3 p.m. sharing his classic sermon “Lay Your Whiskey Bottle Down.” The picnic will be sandwiches, heavy salads, chips and drinks. The customary costume contest and lost coin contest will be featured.

June 17 will see the return of Father Abraham. He first came several years ago in August and had an audience of one – Andrea Noel. Despite it being Fathers’ Day, a few more may show up!

This year is the 105th anniversary of the church charter. I would like to start the tradition of holding a homecoming every five years. September has five Sundays, but I don’t want to conflict with Friendship’s fifth Sunday luncheon. How about adding an extra service in October every five years? In 2012, I could hold the regular third Sunday service on **Oct. 21** and then have our homecoming dinner and service at 2 p.m., **Oct. 28**, which would be closer to the historic **October 26** charter date. In all calendars, 4th Sundays in October would range from the 22nd to 28th. If this sounds like a good idea, let me hear from you by emails, phone calls or notes.

Recently we came close to having dozens of subjects in those 1948 church photos identified. A friend of the church brought her copies out at a family reunion over the holidays and numerous names were written on the images. Sadly someone thought the record was too valuable and took the copies home. As promised, I gave the friend clearer copies and she will try again to identify the folks. If you still have your copies I sent to some of you again last year, do your best to help with this effort.

Come to see us as your schedule allows!

New Hebron Baptist Church Financial Report ~ January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011

EXPENSES

Flint River Baptist Association	\$ 125.00
Southern Rivers Energy – Jan. \$180.00, Jul. \$180.00	\$ 360.00
Snacks – Monthly service \$144.95, Checkers Tournament \$29.79	\$ 174.74
Newsletters – Win \$8.10, Spr \$7.56, Sum \$7.56, Fall \$7.56	\$ 30.78
Picnic Miscellaneous – Floor wax \$26.98, Photos/frame \$15.35, Flowers \$6.40, Gold coins \$2, Costume prizes \$20, Food \$41.20, Construction paper \$2.07, Concert fees (Violinists) \$150	\$ 264.00
Church Supplies – Pine Sol \$3.21, Antifreeze \$2.45, Envelopes \$6.28, Trash Bags \$5.75, Paper towels \$5.35, Bath Tissue \$7.90, Insecticide \$4.84, Newsletter Paper/Mlg Labels \$79.13, Cups \$2.74, DVD/CDs \$80.19, Vinegar \$1.90, Rags \$4.28, Hand Soap \$3.03, Lemonade \$3.47	\$ 210.52
Movie – Gas (Trips to Church) \$70, Fax Fees \$5	\$ 75.00
Miscellaneous – Stamps \$137, Mail fees \$2.41, P.O. Box \$42, Lee Ads \$170.30, Mop \$4.23, Mailing Tape \$1.07, Bleach \$1.29, Sandwich bags \$2.14, Duster \$8.53, Extension cord \$4.20, Super glue \$1.80, Step ladder \$73.83, Lynn Cunningham (church history) \$10, Website \$70, Herbal tea (Ladies Hat Day prize) \$3.59, Christmas gifts (pianist, D. Penn) \$149, Ann Yearwood book \$10, Loan (Penn for self-employment tax) \$150	\$ 841.39
TAGS Contest – DVD Set \$125, Cash Prizes \$50, Snacks \$26.19, Post Cards \$2.73	\$ 203.92
Vicar Salary – Salary \$120, Gas \$60, Benevolence \$150 (From DHPenn donations)	\$ 330.00
Offerings, Gifts – Dickens Carolers \$150, Doris Barker Lawrence Flowers \$79.50	\$ 229.50
BumperSticker Project – 1,028 Decals \$692.55, 100 Forever postage stamps \$44	\$ 736.55
Maintenance – Signs \$15.40, Work food \$22.46, Window \$10.68, Podium \$15.80, Toilet \$5.33	\$ 69.67
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3651.07

INCOME

Offerings (2010)2011: Jan. \$(385)65, Feb. \$(102)42, Mar. \$(30)0, Apr. \$(30)184, May \$(120)124, June \$(20)0, July \$(30)0, Aug. \$(45)50, Sept. \$(97)40, Oct. \$(0)0, Nov. \$(554.45)224, Dec. \$(73)77, E. Scrooge \$(20)00	\$ (1506.45)	806.00
Other Income: DPenn \$30.78, SRE rebate \$8.10, BumperSticker \$5, Dickens CDs \$15		\$ 58.88
Special Offerings – E Anderson [\$50], V Crowder [\$100], T Hadaway [\$100], R Humphries [\$25], M Johnson [\$285], J&M Marshall \$700, T Oxford \$150, DH Penn \$320, D Russell \$200, Bible Conference \$30, Bootleg Movie, LLC \$2000 [Amounts included in Offerings above]		\$3400.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$4264.88

CHURCH ACCOUNTS BALANCES

<u>CHECKING:</u>		<u>SAVINGS:</u>	
January 1, 2011	\$ 779.67	January 1, 2011	\$ 13.57
Church Income	\$4264.88	Interest paid for 2011	\$ 0.04
TOTAL INCOME FOR 2011	5044.55	TOTAL	\$ 13.61
Church Expenses	\$3651.07	Transfers	\$ 000.00
December 31, 2011	\$1393.48	December 31, 2011 BALANCE	\$ 13.61

ATTENDANCE (Centennial Services*)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec -	TOT	AVG
2007	16	9	3	12	7	3	18*	3*	23*	15*	8*	3*	- 120	10
2008	15*	24*	17*	15*	19*	9*	14*	10*	9*	31*	40*	12*	- 215	18
2009	2	4	2	10	17	3	2	2	7	16	79	4	- 148	12.3
2010	13	7	2	2	18	2	4	3	37	3	81	13	- 186	15.5
2011	3	9	2	16	12	1	1	2	12	1	46	6	- 111	9.3

Scrooge (Dec): 2007 – 20, 2008 – 0, 2009 – 4, 2010 – 4, 2011 – 0

1838



THE HERALD



2012

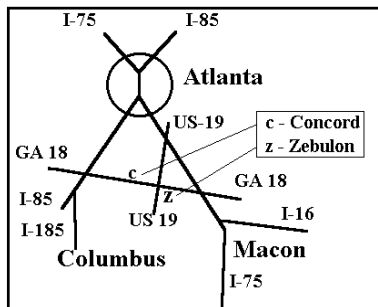
"Trumpeting New Hebron's 174 Years of Faithfulness to God's Good News!"

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NEW HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH

"Yesterday's Memories, Today's Message, Tomorrow's Mission"

570 New Hebron Church Road, Concord, Pike County, Georgia

770-567-4113



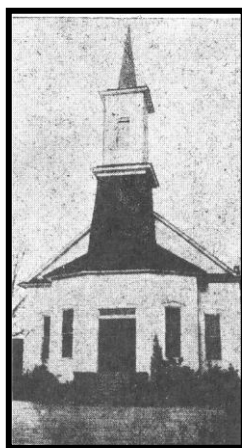
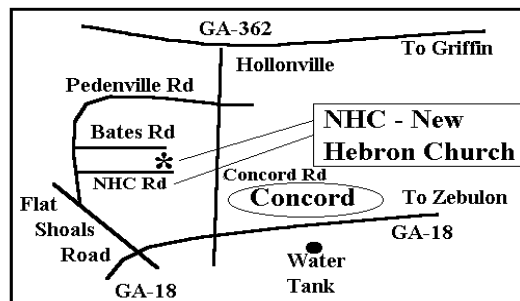
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Hebron Baptist Church
Established October 6, 1838



New Hebron Baptist
Established October 26, 1907

New Hebron Baptist Church
"Meets every Third Sunday, 3 p.m."
P. O. Box 101
Concord, Pike County, GA 30206

SUMMER 2012 VOL 14 NO 2

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Mar - 4 (\$130), Apr - 2 (\$30), May - 2 (\$30)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

E. Anderson - \$100, J&M Marshall \$300,
P. Raines \$60

CALENDAR

Sat, Jun 30, 10 a.m. - Singing Convention / potluck lunch

Jul 15, 3 p.m. - Jonathan Edwards, Puritan theologian

Sat, Jul 21, 10 a.m. - Checkers Tournament; cash prizes

Aug 19, 3 p.m. - Winston Churchill, Lion of Britain

Sep 16, 3 p.m. - The Andy Griffith Show Trivia Contest

TAGS Fellowship Picnic at 2 p.m. Over \$200 in prizes.

RSVP for picnic and pre-register for contest

INVITED TO HOST A TAGS TRIVIA CONTEST

Beth Almand, who competed in our contest last year, called me this spring to see if I would host a special trivia contest in Macon, Georgia, as a fundraiser for an animal shelter/rescue ministry. The honor would not have been any greater if a noted film director had called to see if I would appear in one of his upcoming projects. I am geared and truly prepared to be the Master of Ceremony for such a function. Call me if you want to travel there to participate.

Dwain W. Penn, Preacher

email: dwarrenpenn@hotmail.com * | * www.thegospeler.org

SUMMER 2012 VOL 14 NO 2

Dear Friends:

What a happy time to be back here at the keyboard to visit with you through this letter. I am honored to announce that this is the 55th letter in my brief tenure at New Hebron. Time has the talent and ability to pass quickly when one is doing work for God and enjoying every moment and experience that comes one's way.

Unfortunately, the challenges we have faced in the past are still persistent in their attempt to discourage this equally persistent vicar, but since I am firmly rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I will remain content to be, as Paul admonished, steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, in as much as I know that my work is not in vain. Vain work has its own reward such as a tired body, weak mind and bitterness of spirit that no one seems to appreciate what is being done.

With resounding clarity, I know and confess that such a fact is simply not true. I have heard from many of you who have expressed verbally or in writing that you are proud of [in my own words] my "dogged determination" to stay the course despite what circumstantial winds may blow this way. And I want to take this moment and space in this particular communication to convey that in this current "season" of New Hebron's existence, it is in good and capable hands. The finances are strong, the building is in good shape and the vision to persist, if only to exist, is clearly in focus.

Although my covenant with the community is clearly stated above, I will change that tone slightly before ending this letter to share some thoughts from my heart. Several things happened this last quarter that prompted me to seek prayerful ideas and I would like to inform you of them to get your opinion and/or approval.

One thing that happened was an email I received from Bill Thompson of McDonough. Time did not allow me to answer the note, so he may think that I was offended by his message. In truth, I was blessed to hear that he has a heart for this modest little church and desires for it to endure. Brother Thompson very carefully and elegantly offered to become the new preacher at New Hebron if, for any reason, I decide to give up the work.

It was my intention to respond to his note and thank him for his expressed interest in the

church. However, I feel that there exists an unofficial list of preachers who would like to step into this pulpit on a permanent basis.

At the top of that list is Rev. Terry Ison, the pastor of the church that was formerly Nazareth Baptist Church in Pike County. The church is now Open Arms Baptist Church. Brother Ison has been there almost 20 years.

For New Hebron's second Bible Conference, held in 2003, I invited Brother Ison to speak one night and I paired him with Rev. Robert Ferguson of Molena's Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. During Ison's message, he told the story of how he first learned about New Hebron when he drove a school bus in the neighborhood. He testified that he would come over to the church, park in the yard and pray about God opening a way for him to become the preacher here. When I invited him to speak at the conference, he was quick to say yes.

Since Terry Ison lives in Pike County and he and his wife, Teri, both have a servant heart, I feel they may enjoy the work, if I offer it to them. Before the end of this year, I will visit Open Arms and speak with Terry about New Hebron to see if there is still an interest. If he agrees, I'll place him at the top of a list with Bill Thompson second and attach the document to my will. One must be prepared!

I suppose some of you may wonder why I took almost two columns in this letter to discuss this matter. Well, first, I feel that it is important to be honest with you about what may or may not happen at New Hebron, and second, if you peeked at the cover page, you would discover that the last three services can be described in a few words – a total of eight people attended, and six of those were repeat appearances by the vicar and piano player!

Before moving to the reports, which will include a special observance at the Founders' Day service, I have some sad news to share. Two gentlemen who had profound links to the church passed away a day apart in February.

Mr. Thomas Palmer, formerly of the Birdie community in northern Spalding County, died on February 9. He and his wife Mace were very regular visitors to the church early in my ministry here. After Mace died about twelve years ago, Tom later married the director of the Women's Christian Center in Griffin. Brother Tom was a dear man and he was very interested in my ministry both at the church and my drama pursuits. He opened many

doors for me at the First United Methodist Church in Griffin. His passing in February was so sweet to learn as I remember Mace's funeral was held on Valentine's Day.

And then on February 10, Mr. Warner J. Raines, formerly of Fort Valley, passed away at Wesley Villas in Macon. Brother Raines' wife, Pearl, is the sister of my fourth grade teacher, Louise Scott. They all had an abiding interest in me as a friend, a minister and the preacher [vicar] at New Hebron. The Raineses gave several financial donations to New Hebron over the years and Warner offered a suggestion that a new preacher be hired back when we were assembling to vote on the church's future. Pearl sent \$60 when she mailed a note about Warner's passing.

To visually honor the memory of Warner Raines in the church, I have decided to use part of that donation to purchase seasonal bows for the front pew. The bows will be the same colors as the seasonal newsletters. Later, the church will contribute to the Rebecca Louise Traylor Scott scholarship at Mercer University in Macon. It's the least we can do to pay homage to his fine friendship and years of expressed interest in this modest church!

Since time began the ongoing process of God calling His saints home to their eternal reward is a reality that we who are left view with mixed emotions. Shakespeare referred to it as "sweet sorrow" yet, as Christians, we take heart in knowing that these precious folks have only left this world to enter the next and await our soon arrival. We miss these folks, but God, in His infinite love, always sends someone to make a noble attempt to fill that void. In the months ahead, God will send a gentleman to sit in that pew once occupied by Tom Palmer and God will also inspire another to correspond with this fellowship from a distant city.

Let us pause a moment as I refill my inkwell of thoughts before moving on to the reports of services, past and future.

March 18, originally advertised as a "sermon service", changed in early March to another presentation of the Passover Seder. This was part of my ongoing attempt to achieve 500 ministry engagements before my 25th anniversary on June 14, 2013. The change probably appealed to our extra visitors, as Martha Johnson and I were glad to see Elsie Anderson and Carol Barton arrive that afternoon. It seems that Carol has a heart for our Judaic

roots as Christians since she also attended the special Friday night Messianic service during the Bible Conference in 2005. This is not to diminish Elsie's or Martha's appreciation for Hebrew history.

After a lengthy demonstration of the Passover celebration, the ladies also gained insight into the recipe for roasting eggs. I appreciate their understanding for the last minute change in the service and for their faithful attention during that fairly warm spring afternoon.

April 15, the Sunday after Easter, was a complete overhaul of my annual schedule with the Abe Lincoln portrayal. You will remember the bicentennial of Dickens' birth pre-empted Lincoln's February gig, so I moved this noble president to **April 15**, the very anniversary of his death in 1865.

With the unique attachment to history, I was expecting the service to attract a few folks. Unfortunately, only Martha showed up. The phrase "only Martha" is not meant to slight the importance of her appearance. It is always nice to be blessed by her faithful monthly pilgrimage to the church that her ancestors helped to charter. If three o'clock arrives with no one else at the church, we always wait a few extra minutes for any possible latecomers.

Then, with an understanding that we should always be faithful to God, we forge ahead into a regular service as if the pews were packed with souls hungering to hear the Word.

Before Martha left in April, I told her about my plans to cater a picnic in May and that she was welcome to arrive early for a light meal.

A week or two later, a notice was placed in the papers of three counties about the Founders' Day Picnic and Service. After a five year absence, Rev. Walter Dubois was returning to share his classic sermon "Lay Your Whiskey Bottle Down."

My custodial schedule was kept again this year as I arrived late on Mother's Day and stayed until around noon Wednesday to thoroughly clean the church for **May 20**. This year, I did some special cleaning for the first time – I swept down the ceilings and walls throughout the entire church. When I locked the door to leave on Wednesday, I was truly grateful to bless this beautiful building with a sheen of glorious cleanliness unlike any of recent years. She was a sight to behold!

With no calls, emails or notes reserving places at our picnic, I contacted the few [like Martha] that were offered a verbal invitation to cancel

the meal. I took the time to visit my good friends at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Piedmont (southwest Lamar County) on the morning of **May 20** for their annual all-day singing and dinner on the ground.

Their church sparkled almost as brightly as our lady. They are winding up some extensive remodeling there and the work to polish the interior for the special day was much in evidence. I want to tip my cap to Pastor Ken English's wife for the extra mile she went to finish the cleaning at the church and prepare some dishes for Sunday dinner.

I left Mt. Zion around 1 p.m. and arrived at New Hebron before 2, just in case someone showed up based on the newspaper notice. The only thing I had to feed him or her was a block of cheese, a coconut cake and our after-service snacks. Martha, once again, arrived to share in my sadness for our woefully vacant church.

As it turned out, I won first place in the costume contest with my Dubois knickers suit. It was nice to receive the \$20 cash just for being myself!

The usual Founders' Day rituals included the presentation of the December 2011 service attendance photo and the reading of the church's charter members. I excused Martha from standing when I read the names of her family.

This year, sad to say, I was able to update our memorial picture frame by adding two photos. Tom Palmer's picture joined his wife's image in the frame and Sister Jeanette Torbert Brinkley was given a place of honor among the others. So, to date, the frame has Fred Johnson, Dan Stribling, Doris Lawrence, Mace Palmer, Harold Crowder, Isma Scoggins, Opal Holston, Tom and Jeanette.

Please let me take a few lines to explain who Jeanette Brinkley is. She was a member of Mt. Zion, previously mentioned herein. I met her about ten years ago when I was organizing history books for June Bartlett. She started receiving my newsletters and she and her husband, Henry, visited us first on the third Sunday in July 2005. They came on the right day of the year because we had our ice cream sociable after that service. Two weeks later, they returned to the Singing Convention. Brother Henry died in September 2007 and two months later, Jeanette brought her brother and daughter to see Ed Grisamore at our Bible Conference. That third visit qualified Sister Brinkley to be placed in our memorial picture frame. She passed shortly after Mt. Zion's annual singing in 2011. I was honored to be

part of a trio of ministers to speak at her funeral.

I will always hold a place of honor in my heart for Sister Jeanette. I truly believe that she was my biggest fan. Every time I visited the church's monthly singing (first Saturdays) I would be asked to sing a song. After I finished, she would get up and tell the folks about my many talents and abilities and, most precious to me, how I was keeping a church with no members open and successful.

The next three months at New Hebron will host two services that feature one of my portrayals and another "edition" of The Andy Griffith Show Trivia Contest. **Sunday, July 15** will be the Puritan theologian Jonathan Edwards. It has been almost 12 years since his October 2000 premiere at the church. **Sunday, August 19**, will be the inimitable Winston Churchill. Some folks may recall this program was rather long. Since it will be near the middle of summer, I will have compassion on any visitors and give an abridged version.

The third annual TAGS trivia contest will be held on **September 16**. Once again, I would like to try and host a picnic for local fans of the show. This will allow us to fellowship and discuss our appreciation for this classic TV series. Please contact me to reserve your place at the picnic and all participants in the contest must pre-register, too, especially if they are unable to attend the picnic.

The following is shared only to solicit your prayers. April 2008, the church hosted the Franklin family to come and perform period music as a drums, fife and bugle ensemble. Recent news from middle Georgia reveals that parents Sam and Diana Franklin have been accused of locking their teenage daughter in a shed with limited food and water. The Franklins are devout Christians and any disciplinary actions could unfortunately be misunderstood.

A final thought before closing. To keep friends of New Hebron from feeling an obligation to support the church by even occasional attendance, I am prayerfully thinking about holding third Sunday services on odd numbered months only.

Read carefully: **This is only prayerful thinking.** Nothing will happen until I discuss this with some of you who have proven that you are an integral and important part in the history and future of this fellowship. Read more on it later in these newsletters.

Come to see us as your schedule allows!

1838



THE HERALD



2012

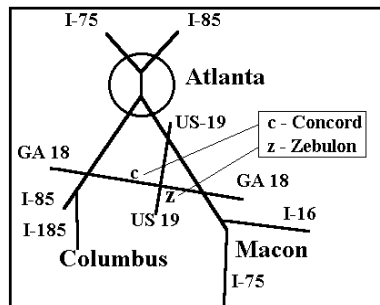
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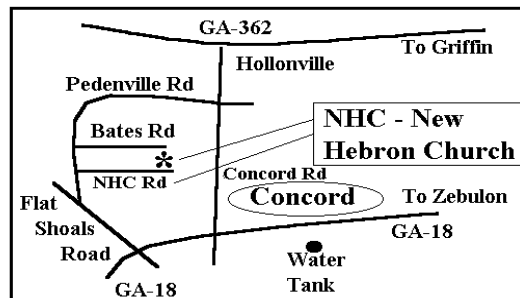
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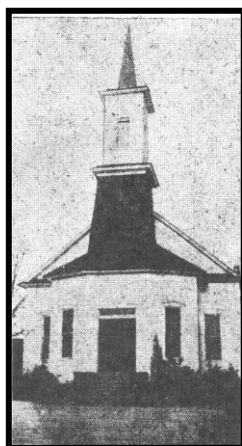


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Established October 26, 1907

New Hebron Baptist Church
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Concord, Pike County, GA 30206

AUTUMN 2012 VOL 14 NO 3

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS:

Jun - 2 (\$30), Jul - 5 (\$130), Aug - 2 (\$30)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS: J&M Marshall \$300,
D Penn \$75

CALENDAR

Oct 21, 3 p.m. - Reformer Martin Luther

Oct 28, 2 p.m. - Homecoming dinner and service

Nov 18, 3 p.m. - Rev. Charles Wesley

[The Dickens Carolers have cancelled their 2012 season]

Dec 16, 3 p.m. - Composer Ludwig van Beethoven

This great composer's life was a contradiction!

Dec 28, 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. - Ebenezer Scrooge
Annual romp through this delightful classic!

FIFTY YEARS AS PUBLISHED WRITER

November 22, 2012 will mark my fiftieth year as a writer. A simple published letter to Santa, which won a prize, hurled me joyfully into this lifetime pursuit. In celebration, I am publishing a book which contains pertinent early works as well as literary pieces from the last ten years. A dozen or so stories were published in the Pike County newspaper. Reserve your copy today by contacting me. Books will be autographed on November 22 before delivery!

Dwain W. Penn, Vicar

email: dwarrenpenn@hotmail.com

www.thegospeler.org

AUTUMN 2012 VOL 14 NO 3

Dear Friends:

Another summer has come and gone; I pray that we have redeemed the time wisely and can look back upon some grand memories of trips, celebrations and just simple quiet moments at home with family and friends. There is nothing quite like a balmy summer evening after sunset with an appetite sated by grilled meats and veggies, when weary participants settle in with a frosty drink (lemonade for the kiddies) and share stories of days-, even hours-gone-by to the chorus of nature's musicians chiming in, croaking and chirping their little hearts out.

Summer is undeniably the season for seeking out the best that life has to offer and grasping every sensation and emotion available, wringing them dry to saturate the corridors of the mind for safekeeping and access when one's life is coming down the home stretch. Farewell old friend and welcome, its more temperate successor – autumn.

If you quickly glanced over the cover page or skipped it entirely to plunge into this prose, you missed some sad news, for the moment. Please don't go back to find it. The announcement will be formally shared later in this document.

Quite a few items of news can be described as depressing within the realm of our church family at New Hebron. If you are reading this letter, then you have been grafted into our fellowship and even though many months see only two in attendance, we realize that others are thinking of the fellowship on Third Sunday afternoons and perhaps have a tug of the heart, a longing to be present at the services. Smile at this page if this is true and know that complete and full understanding of the matter is all we can hold in our hearts and minds as Christians.

Before embarking, setting sail to relate the details of the last three services, please allow me to dedicate this portion of the letter to formally announce that two tried and tested events at the church came to an end this summer. In order of their genesis, the Piney Woods Singing Convention and the Piney Woods Checkers Tournament have permanently closed and are preserved in church history for what was and what may have been.

Still touting these up to the final season, I felt the events were good ideas to open the church to the community and allow folks to come and experience something of the past. The singing con-

vention started on August 30, 2003 to honor the memory of my dear friend Walter Cornell of Rochelle, Georgia. Cornell dedicated over a half century of his life singing gospel music. He was tragically killed ten years ago this past January.

Attendance during the first few years was good, but with the exception of two ladies visiting three years ago, no one else came in over five years. With great honor and nobility, the tenth and final SiCo adjourned late Saturday morning, June 30, 2012, on one of the hottest days of the year.

Three years after the convention started, I came up with the idea to host a checkers tournament. I set my sights high and inquired about renting the Strickland Store in Concord. You can read the inspiring second year press release on the website. I was convinced (some may say deluded) that hundreds would make the pilgrimage to participate. When entry forms didn't pour in, I had to back away from the Store and move the event to the church. Two local men registered and paid to play in 2006, but their work schedules prevented them from attending.

Over the next six years, only two souls showed up – not to play, but to watch and photograph the event. Andrea Noel came to watch and then another year Tamra Jarrett from the local paper came to photograph the event. Both were shocked that no interest was shown in the tournament. I offered the kind ladies a chance to choose their favorites from among the snacks purchased for the gamers. The seventh annual tournament closed this year early Saturday morning, **July 21**.

The church purchased three checker sets from Fred's and all three boxes still have the shrink wrap. I will look to donate the games to a local nursing care center in memory of a dear departed former member or friend of the church. Are there any suggestions? Was Fred Johnson a checker fan?

This is a great segue to another sad note – a dear friend of New Hebron's and a descendant of a charter member died this summer. Mr. John Cochran Caldwell passed away on the second day of summer, **June 21**, after contracting the mrsa virus during a hospital stay for pneumonia. His great-grandmother, Angeline Simerly was a charter member who donated a large Holy Bible back in 1908.

Of all the faithful visitors to the church, I felt Brother Cochran would outlive them all. He was a cattle farmer, carrying on the family tradition

into the second century of work.

If you looked up “Christian” in the dictionary, his picture was there! He was the gentlest, kindest, most considerate person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing; a true saint. Those who knew him carry a legacy of memories of his influence on everything from church to the public marketplace.

His dear wife Inell, not in the best of health, is carrying on, if only for the sake of the family. They were close, almost inseparable, so it won't come as a surprise to perhaps hear that she has followed his blazed pathway to heaven.

It will be a task of sweet sorrow to place Cochran's photo in our memorial picture frame. And after Inell passes, in God's time, I will consider placing a photo of the two in our hall of history.

Let us step away for a spell to share details about the monthly services. **June 17**, Father's Day, had only two in attendance, Martha and me. The encore of Father Abraham did not draw in any other visitors. My natural beard served the Bible patriarch well and, combined with the costume, created quite a striking figure – if I do say so myself.

The program four days later at the Upson archives attracted a noted photographer Ellen Tew who did an exquisite job of preserving images of Abraham from start to finish. Later I received a CD with some five dozen digital photos!

Back to Piney Woods: what happened in Thomaston on **June 21** with the attendance of a photographer happened again at New Hebron on July 15. Three – count 'em – three photographers came to photograph my portrayal of Jonathan Edwards. Of course, faithful Martha Johnson returned to witness history at the quaint old barn. Among the photographers were, in order of arrival: Marilyn Rogers, Don Miller and Marcos Caceres. Rogers and Miller are from Fayetteville and Caceres, from Smyrna.

Rogers' explanation was that after she spent time photographing places in Pike County for the annual Slow Exposures Exhibit, she visited the A Novel Experience bookstore in Zebulon and announced, tongue-in-cheek, that she had shot the very last barn in the county (perhaps with a gun rather than a camera). She asked about other places in the county that were truly unique. Co-owner Christine Curry (part of our “church family”) immediately mentioned the church out near the Flint River. She brought out that week's copy of the lo-

cal paper and found a church bulletin announcing the July service. Curry showed Rogers where the church was.

With the information gleaned from the news notice (place, time, website), Rogers returned home and went online to learn about the fellowship. The second week in July, she attended a photography club meeting and informed the members that she planned a trip to Concord that weekend to photograph a famous church; Caceres was at the meeting.

Marilyn came in the church that afternoon with a Christmas-morn expression on her face. She was very pleased with what she saw. As Don Miller followed her, she introduced him as her husband. They were a delightful couple, very complimentary of all they saw, especially the items in our hall of history.

Marcos Caceres arrived a few minutes late. Perhaps he used a Google map or was misdirected by GPS instructions over the rustic location: “Turn left at the rabbit hole in the kudzu patch”!?!

Marilyn, Don and Marcos spent the entire service taking numerous photos of the action, which at times was not much. After about 20 minutes of standing hunched over behind the pulpit, I felt that I needed to give these gifted artisans more. So I picked up my bounded sermon and walked about the podium, and even disembarked to floor level. As I read the text verbatim, I used various hand and arm movements to provide variety to the drama. It worked. The cameras started clicking again.

As the message lingered beyond the three quarter hour, it finally sprung from my spirit that this was something special and would never be replicated again in this building. The summer weather, warm but not hot, made the sanctuary air modestly uncomfortable. The humidity caused beads of sweat to pop out on my face. Even my hair, parted down the middle and treated with mousse, began to collect beads of sweat.

What a perfect visual for the subject of Edwards' sermon – hell and final judgment! If no one else in the room perceived what was happening – I did, most profoundly and powerfully. I couldn't truncate the sermon out of pity for the congregants, so I forged on, my voice raging with the stern warning of potential doom and devastation. Fortunately, the tone of Edwards' message softened to bring the listener to the feet of a merciful and forgiving God.

At the close of the service, a smattering of

applause was heard as if they didn't know whether an outward display of appreciation was proper. Marcos asked me if he could retrieve his "umbrella light" from his car and take a few staged shots. I agreed and within minutes, the church became a photography studio, with Marilyn and Don taking advantage of the extra lighting. Of course, the rule is, when DaVinci is at work, one must not usurp his focus in any way. However, in all honesty, I'm sure Caceres didn't mind sharing the subject with others.

Sunday, July 15, 2012, will be vividly remembered by this meek vicar for years to come.

August 19, 2012, it was back to business as usual – almost. Yes we did have only two in attendance, but unlike previous services, the church had a minor plumbing problem. If there was a large crowd there to see Sir Winston Churchill, we could have overcome easily, to Winston's approval! The exterior pipe to the church had a small leak, which could run an hour to supply water to the building.

Five days earlier, when I arrived very early at the church (my cleaning schedule during hot weather), I noticed as I entered the yard that the grass had been cut. I thought perhaps the grass cutter had miscalculated the date and cut early or his family was planning a trip and he would be out-of-town on his regular Friday before Third Sunday job. As I inspected the yard, I saw patches of dead grass, like un-baled hay, scattered about. It wasn't the regular grass cutter because he faithfully used a mulching mower that leaves the yard pristine!

I turned on the power which started up the well pump. Minutes later, as I went to fill my work bucket in the bathroom, there was no water. I walked outside to find the vertical supply pipe with the outdoor spigot broken at both ends. Water was gushing out of the ground. I went immediately to open the well spigot and close the valve shutting water off to the church. I then closed the spigot, which allowed the well pump to cycle off.

Inspecting the damage at the church, I deduced that the grass cutter had hit the pipe. If he had left the pipe on the ground, I would have thought he didn't know what happened, but he placed the broken piece in an upright position to disguise the damage.

Cleaning the church was still possible, but when I walked out to the well with the bucket, the pump would not engage. [I recalled a problem several years ago when the well company came to

check the pump and found the relay switch had attracted ants which closed off the flow of electricity.]

Just before noon, I decided to take my nap on a church pew and try again and even check and clean the relay switch if necessary. After 1 p.m., the well pump started up when I opened the spigot.

I took the broken pipe with me to buy parts and glue needed to fix the plumbing. I returned two days later and did what I could with what I had. The elbow joint at the top of the run was cracked and when I pushed the new pipe into it, the crack could be seen. Hoping the glue would seal any leaks, I put extra coats of it on the entire elbow.

When I powered up the well on **August 19** and turned the water on, there was minor seepage in the elbow and spigot. I plan to have the work finished before our trivia contest on **September 16**.

Yes, our third annual The Andy Griffith Show Trivia contest will convene at 3 p.m., **September 16**. I believe we will have a good crowd since Andy Griffith passed away on **July 3**. A special fan picnic will be held at 2 p.m., so if you want to lunch with us or compete in the contest, call to confirm which you would like to do. Like last May, if only a few call for the picnic, it will be cancelled.

October 21 will be the return of Martin Luther, the German monk and father of Protestantism.

Plans for our Homecoming service are taking shape even as I type this. It will begin at 2 p.m., Sunday, **October 28** with a covered dish dinner. The church will provide the meat, drinks, plates and flatware. Just bring your favorite vegetable, salad, bread or dessert. The sanctuary will be our dining hall as was the case for two wedding receptions.

I have invited Rev. Charles Clark, director of missions for the Flint River Baptist Association, to bring the message at 3 p.m. An autoharp player may come to sing and play a few hymns. This will be our 105th anniversary, worth celebrating!

November 18 will be Rev. Charles Wesley. An early August email from the **Dickens Carolers** said they are **canceled** the 2012 season due to limited voices. They hope to return in 2013.

December 16, Beethoven's birthday, will appropriately feature my portrayal of Ludwig himself. If you love music, Shakespeare and a life lesson, don't miss it. Look for Scrooge to return for 11 a.m., 3 and 7 p.m. shows, Friday, **December 28**.

Pray before you vote on November 6.

Come to see us as your schedule allows!