



A Congregation of ECO
A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

TOCCOA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating Jesus | Growing Together | Serving in Word and Deed



“Lord, Raise Up Leaders!”

Nothing is more vital for the future of our church than the development of spiritual leaders who are united in a common understanding of the true faith, a shared vision for our church; and who together are humbly seeking to represent the mind of Christ for our community while providing leadership for its gospel mission.

The initial step in this process is to seek those who are biblically qualified and willing to enter into a period of discernment and preparation for the office of Elder.

The congregation is invited to submit recommendations over the first few weeks of September, of active members they consider to be suitable candidates for Elder. Submissions can be made to any member of the ENC. The recommended candidate does not need to be contacted by the congregant as the ENC is tasked with making the contacts. These are the qualities you should be looking for in your candidate:

CRITERIA FOR ELDER CANDIDATES

- Active in our church for at least one year. (Not necessarily having been a member for that long.) Special consideration can be given to newer members coming from Presbyterian backgrounds and already ordained to the office of elder.
- Has the support of his/her spouse and is coming from a committed Christian family.
- Displays the fruit of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22,23).
- Expresses a longing to see others come to the knowledge of Christ, and demonstrates this through sharing the gospel with others and/or caring for the needy with the hopes of drawing them to Christ.
- Conveys enthusiasm regarding our church

and its leadership. Demonstrates an encouraging, non-critical, uplifting spirit.

- At least a basic understanding of the Bible’s story of redemption and an ability to express the gospel. (These things will be presented in the elder training class.)
- An ability to lead in public prayer. (This will also be discussed in the elder training class.)
- Agreement to enter into a period of elder training in order to develop a deepened understanding of our particular church and denomination, our Reformed doctrine, and the responsibilities incumbent upon an elder; so as to better discern our Lord’s calling.

Even if you do not have a candidate in mind, please be praying that our Lord will be granting such leaders. The work before us is great! “Lord, raise up leaders who will be like you!”

Inside this issue:

Presbyterian Women; Music Notes; Discipleship Ministry	2
Columbarium; Mercy Ministry; From the Secretary	3
Thanks You: VBS 2019	4

Special points of interest:

- This fall the Presbyterian Women will study “The Daniel Prayer” by Anne Graham Lotz.
- September Fellowship Dinner, Wednesday, September 18th at 6:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women

Bible Study

The Presbyterian Women will resume Bible Study at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 3 and 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4th. Janice Parker will lead the study of the book *The Daniel Prayer* by Anne Graham Lotz. Books can be purchased for \$9.00. We hope you'll plan to participate in the evening or morning sessions.

Prayer Night

Join us on Thursday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m. for a night of prayer.

Ladies, Save the Date!

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD
(Right in Your Backyard)!**

You're invited to a

PW LADIES LUNCHEON

11:30 A.M., OCTOBER 5, 2019

at

**PARADISE MOUNTAIN MINISTRIES
OUTDOOR GAZEBO**

Hwy 17, near Toccoa Falls College

Meet at the church at 11:15 to carpool.

Many of you may remember our luncheon which featured Carolyn and Susannah of Paradise Mountain Ministries last year and their invitation to come for a luncheon at their location. Now we will have the opportunity to experience their hospitality and tour their facilities which offer a year around "home away from home" for missionary children and international students attending Toccoa Falls College. Weather permitting, we will enjoy a meal prepared for us in their outdoor venue.

We can bless these kids and this ministry by once again bringing donations of goods they can use: paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates and napkins, zip lock bags, trash bags, sugar, and CHEESE. I was told that they rarely get donations of cheese!

Music Notes

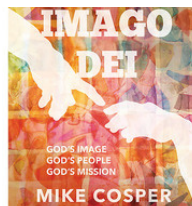


"Singing. Transcendent. Unconstrained by time or space. Linking hands with disciples who were, who are, and who are yet to come. Denied to no one. Sounding from the smallest country parish and heard in resplendent cathedrals. We sing because we can. We sing because we should. We sing because we must. Therefore, let us enter his gates with thanksgiving, and lavish his courts with praise."
—Benjamin Harlan

Discipleship Ministry News

New Adult Class Offered

In addition to the ongoing Adult Education Class, the Discipleship Ministry is offering a second elective class, taught by Chip Hayner and Angie Ramage, beginning September 8th at 10:00 a.m.



This Bible Study will help you:

- understand what it means to be created in the image of God;
- discover renewed purpose in serving others for the glory of God;
- be better equipped to participate in the mission of God.

If you are interested in participating and are willing to commit to the full six-week study, please sign up on the Pond Street bulletin board.

VBS Workday

On Saturday, September 7th, at 9:00 a.m. we will meet to move VBS items to the third floor for storage and to begin work in the craft room.

Columbarium

A Columbarium is a free-standing burial structure that is constructed with a number of small niches that are designed to hold urns containing cremated remains, called cremains. Niches are generally designed to hold one or two containers of single cremains, such as a husband and wife or mother and child. A Columbarium becomes a part of a living church. It is a visible sign that our church cares for its members from birth and baptism through death and eternal life. It provides a place of interment near the sanctuary offering our church members and families the opportunity to select their final resting place in the church environment. Housing a loved one's cremains in a Columbarium at the Church will provide our members with a place of remembrance where they can go to honor and mourn their dearly departed family member.

Sometimes following cremation the cremains of a loved one are kept in their closet or on a shelf in the home. Families want a proper place of respect to secure the cremains. More and more families are choosing to have their loved one's cremains placed in a Columbarium.

A Columbarium eliminates the pressures of choosing a burial site, casket, vault, and monument. The combined cost of a Columbarium Niche and cremation are much less than the cost of a casket, burial site and gravestone. And a Columbarium eliminates the need for dual services at the church and at the cemetery.

Several years ago the idea of a Columbarium was not fruitful. Hiram McDonald always wanted his ashes interred at his church. So his memorial gifts were earmarked for an Adhoc Committee to study the need and costs. With the changing of our Presbyterian denomination the process was slowed. After the passing of our Pastor David Keister, the process was renewed and his memorial gifts were earmarked along with Hiram's.

The Adhoc Committee formed in 2014 consisted of Beth McDonald, Lynn Newsom, Larry Shaw and Wiley and Shirley Winters. In 2017 Bill Newsom, Cherri Shaw and Mona Keister joined the efforts. Much travel and many meetings later Property Ministry delivered a recommendation. After much discussion in Property Ministry, then by Session, Session approved the con-

struction of a Columbarium on our Church property.

The Toccoa Presbyterian Church Columbarium is installed. It is on the east side of the church between the Sanctuary and First Franklin Financial, behind the crepe myrtle tree. It is positioned facing the Church office (the back faces Tugalo St). It is American-made. It is a gray Elberton granite structure (matching our church sign) with black granite doors. It is a 24 niche unit with a gable roof.

A Dedication Service was held following morning Worship on Sunday, August 18th. The Prayer Garden will be developed. Plans call for a bench, section of fencing, bird bath and brick paths.

Rules and guidelines are developed and available in the Church office if you are interested in pre-need purchasing.

Thanks to all Covenant Partners for your support.

Beth McDonald

Property Adhoc Committee Chair

Mercy Ministry

The Mercy Ministry will not meet during the month of September.

September Fellowship Dinner

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18th for the September Fellowship Dinner hosted by the Mercy Ministry. An entrée and beverages will be provided; the congregation is asked to bring sides and desserts.

From the Secretary

Bulletin Deadline

Due to upcoming vacations, please plan to submit your information for the September 22nd and 29th bulletins as early as possible, but not later than 8:00 a.m., Thursday, September 12th.

Newsletter Deadline

Also, I would ask that you submit your October Newsletter information as early as possible with 8:00 a.m. Monday, September 16th as the final deadline.

Thank you so much!!

TOCCOA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Preaching the hope of Christ!

We're on the Web!
www.toccoapresbyterianchurch.org

The Ministry of this church is to support God's family through mission, evangelism, worship, care, education, fellowship, and stewardship. You are invited to join the members and friends who serve and support the church in these areas. All persons are invited and encouraged to become active participants in God's Family.

Thank You!! VBS 2019

Below is an edited excerpt from the VBS Thank You. The complete article will be posted on the bulletin board.

Our journey to ancient Athens was fun, inspirational, and instructive, thanks to the combined efforts of our wonderful volunteers and energetic participants.

As usual, planning began a year ago when we decided to repeat a VBS theme from 2013—**ATHENS: Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth** (Group Publishing). Responses from 2018 *Shipwrecked* volunteers helped us to decide to repeat a Marketplace format, plus we really liked the music and daily stories about the apostle Paul. We welcomed 28 lively participants, shepherded by 42 adult and 17 youth volunteers!

Our global mission for the week was Operation Kid-to-Kid (World Vision)

that is raising funds to help improve the healthcare for mothers and their babies in Zambia. We also supported Toccoa Life with our "baby bottles" of coins collection totaling \$282.30! Locally, we brought in baby items to go to help mothers and babies in Stephens County. Our donations to TOCCOA LIFE *Pregnancy Resource Center* had an estimated value overall of \$300! The Bible verse for Friday was "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." (John 13:34) Our Bible point was "God loves us and wants us to share his love." We believe we were successful through our missions for the week in sharing God's love.

So much time and dedication is necessary for VBS to happen, that it is especially meaningful for all of us to celebrate the mission and the message of Bible School together as volunteers and

as congregations. We give thanks to God for the generous outpouring of support. We appreciate each of you who answered God's call to serve. Two churches—one VBS. May God help each of us to bravely share the truth of Christ's love.

YES, IT'S TRUE

(Athens Theme Song) by Jay Stocker

We know he loves us.

Yeah, he loves us.

God loves us---yes it's true.

We'll never doubt it.

Stand up and shout it.

God loves us---yes it's true!

P.S. SAVE THE DATE! VBS 2020 will be July 20-24 at Trinity.