



Seventh Notes

SEVENTH & JAMES BAPTIST CHURCH

June 2009

CHAUTAUQUA 2009

“What is *Chautauqua*?” you ask. Chautauqua began in upstate New York in the 1870’s as a vacation school for Sunday school teachers. Very shortly it became a national forum to open discussion of the latest thinking in politics, economics, international relations, literature, science and religion.

Each summer we bring this type of diverse discussion among our own members and guests to Seventh & James. Diversity is an important attribute of Seventh & James Baptist Church — diversity among the members of the unified body of Christ, diversity of gifts, diversity of theological thought, and diverse opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Chautauqua provides a context for dialogue can be held on issues current and old, and the universal questions that emerge from living in an unfinished world. In the middle of the last century, Paul Tillich identified the problem of the church as one of answering questions no one is asking. In many circles, little has changed but true evangelicals must engage the issues that affect human existence.

The problems of evil — war, hunger, injustice, innocent pain and suffering — cannot be ignored nor can they be dismissed as irrelevant to the Christian mission in the world. The answers are not easy; indeed, answers often evade our finite minds but we struggle with reason, spiritual discernment, and imagination to understand how to be Christian in the world. Serious encounter with the issues of our time and living motivates meaningful engagement with the Scriptures, Christian tradition and the living Word.

Summer Chautauqua provides an opportunity for you to probe the Scriptures in some unique ways and ask questions both old and new about the ways God intends us to live as God’s children, relating to one another as well as to God. We hope you will be enriched spiritually for having participated in Chautauqua, Seventh & James style.

CHAUTAUQUA—JUNE CLASSES

Bible in Context

Lynn Tatum

The events of the Bible took place at real places in real time. Our Chautauqua time together will be spent looking at the geographical, archaeological, and historical context of the Bible. We will begin at looking at the geography of the Holy Land and how it impacts upon Hebrew thought and theology. We will then spend time looking at the archaeology of Palestine and how it illuminates our understanding of scripture.

Baptist History

Jonathan Lindsey

A hop, skip, and jump through 4 centuries of Baptist history, with an emphasis on Baptists in the United States, ending with a prediction of what the next quarter-century will possibly produce.

Poetry and Faith

Ann McGlashan

How do we live in this material world while figuring out our right relationship to the spiritual? In this four-week series, we will read together poems by poets who have asked themselves this question, and we will explore their understanding of the conundrum.

Spiritual Life of (our) Children

Mark Osler

The children of Seventh & James are bold, intellectually curious, and articulate. While we may assume they have questions, surprisingly often what they have are answers — ideas about God, Jesus, and the church that are well-defined. In these sessions we will discuss with some of the children their ideas about these issues, and then in a more general way consider the best ways to understand and guide them as they grow.

Moderator Ann McGlashan called the church into conference. **A.A. Hyden** moved to accept the Known Agenda, **Rosalie Beck** seconded the motion, and it passed. **Bill Hillis** moved to accept the Requests for membership and Transfers of Letter, **Becky Griffin** seconded, and the motion passed. Consideration of minute for the March 2009 meeting was deferred until the May meeting.

Raymond Bailey reported on behalf of the Administrative Council. Income for March exceeded expenses, somewhat reducing the year to date deficit. In response to a request, the Administrative Council had discussed designated funds, identifying two types of designations. One consists of funds donated for a specific purpose. Another consists of funds set aside by the church and/or the Council for a specific purpose. The Dunn House accounts and the Livengood Estate account fall into the second category, making it appropriate for the church and/or the Council to transfer those funds. The Council has decided to transfer all but \$500 of the Dunn House funds to the general deficit. The remaining funds are designated for the ongoing Dunn Ministry. The Livengood Estate funds were transferred in accordance with an earlier congregational vote for repairs and mortgage reduction. Ray Deaver continues to work with the landscapers on the green space where the Dunn House stood. The work is to be completed in May.

No old or new business was brought forward.

Raymond Bailey presented a staff report. He reported:

- Holy Week services went well.
- Youth Sunday is April 26.
- Chorister Recognition will be in May.
- Chautauqua is almost ready.
- This year marks the 400th anniversary of Baptist beginnings. We will have a series of Wednesday evening speakers on Baptist history. They will include Jim Vardaman, Jonathan Lindsey, Doug Weaver, and Rosalie Beck. Chautauqua will also include offerings on Baptist history and distinctives.
- In following up on a concern expressed about a church caught in the Oklahoma fires, the pastor had contacted Dan Williams who works with Oklahoma churches, but could not locate any church that needed assistance.

David Pennington moved to adjourn, **Ashley Cruseturner** seconded, and the conference adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Kennedy

WITH GRATITUDE

Dear Seventh Family,

You have truly been church to me following the tragic death of my brother, Matt. This has been a very difficult time for my entire family, and your words of encouragement, hugs, cards, and prayers have meant so much to me.

Thank you all for your love and continued prayers for our family.

Sincerely,
Reggie Williams

Books for Youth Mission Trip

The youth group is collecting new or slightly-used children's books, books for teen readers, fiction or non-fiction, good condition, with text in English for helping both children and adults learn English. These books will be donated to the newly-established church library of Iglesia Menonita Buenas Nuevas, San Juan, Texas (next to McAllen), where the Youth Group is going on their Mission Trip June 21. For more information, please see Matt Rosencrans.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, JUNE 6
8:30 AM

HARPER HALL
PLEASE INVITE A FRIEND!

Sunday School Fellowship

Join us for goodies in Harper Hall
before Chautauqua on

Sunday, June 7th at 9:15

Don't miss this chance to fellowship
with friends!

XYZ SUMMER PLANS

June 25th, 10:30 a.m.
 Dominoes & Potluck
 Lunch
 Harper Hall

July 23rd, 10:30 a.m.
 Da Vinci Exhibit,
 Mayborn Museum
 Meet at the church to
 carpool to the Mayborn
 and then to lunch.

Ashley Gill
will be ordained to the
Gospel Ministry
Sunday, June 14 • 4:00
University Baptist Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

DEACON OFFERING COORDINATORS

DATE	DEACON
June 7:	Carl Hoover
June 14:	COMMUNION
June 21:	A.A. Hyden
June 28:	Mike Jones and Pat Wilson
July 5:	Carol Kamperman-Smith
July 12:	COMMUNION

MEETINGS SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION
Sunday, June 14:	Administrative Council, 4:00
Wednesday, June 17:	Education Council, 5:15
Wednesday, June 17:	Outreach Council, 7:00
Saturday, June 20:	Church Cabinet / Staff Calendar Planning, 9:00-12:00
Wednesday,	Worship Council, 5:15
Wednesday,	Inreach Council, 5:30

The Children & Youth Council will not meet in
June.

YOUTH CALENDAR

DATE	LOCATION
June 7:	Chautauqua begins in the Youth room (Melton, 3rd floor). Youth Fellowship at the church at 5:30 with the Tatum family providing dinner.
June 8:	Mission Monday at the Church, 9:00-1:00. Bring money for lunch.
June 14:	Multi-Church End-of-School Youth Party, Hewitt Park
June 15:	Mission Monday, location TBA
June 21-27:	Youth Mission Trip to San Juan, Texas
June 28	Youth Fellowship at the Church, 5:30-7:30

This Little Light of Mine: VBS 2009
Wednesdays,
June 10—August 19
6:00-7:00

WORSHIP CARE VOLUNTEERS

Date	WORSHIP CARE
June 7:	Annette Lindsey
June 14:	Barbara Hills
June 21:	Missy Kittner
June 28:	Bert Wilson
July 5:	Donna Kennedy
July 12:	Becky Griffin

EXTENDED SESSION VOLUNTEERS

Date	EXTENDED SESSION
June 7:	Mark & Anne Osler
June 14:	The Kittner Family
June 21:	Ashley and Angela Cruseturner
June 28:	Marie Cleverley and Mike Jones
July 5:	Bob and Mary Darden
July 12:	Rob and Julianne Best