



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

The General Assembly of the PC(USA) convenes later this month.

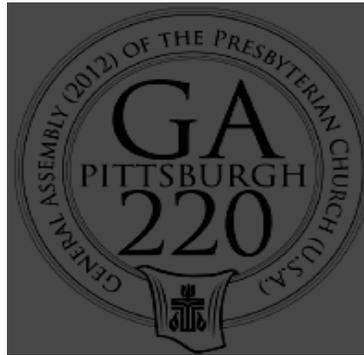
Generally such national gatherings of churches – Presbyterian and otherwise – may be described with one or more of the following adjectives: Spirit-filled, joyful, loving, worthwhile, exciting, but also they can be tense, anxious, argumentative, difficult, nervous, and even disappointing. I have used all of those words to describe past General Assemblies.

Can you imagine bringing nine hundred people together from all fifty states and the territories to make decisions? I can only imagine that working when the Spirit of God is present and the Assembly spends regular time in worship and discerning the will of God in its business.

That was my experience when I attended a General Assembly as a seminary student. I was there as a worker. My job for the week was to control the clock used to time speeches. When a commissioner wanted to speak, I would start the clock and a light would signal their time begin. The light would start out green and then change to yellow then to red when the allotted speaking time was

over. With a push of a button, I was able to control how long someone could talk! (I have never had such authority since.)

My experience from that General Assembly was that commissioners are a diverse group of people, who take very seriously the work they have been elected to do. While they don't agree with each other, they are all nevertheless trying to be faithful followers of Jesus.



Each Assembly since the first one I attended has confirmed that for me. Does that mean I have been in favor of all the decisions they've made? No, not all of them, but when decisions that impact the entire church need to be made, the entire church needs to have a say.

In the local church and at the national level, we believe that groups of people will always make better decisions than individuals. That's part of our Presbyterian heritage.

So commissioners from all 173 presbyteries across the USA will meet in Pittsburgh from

June 30 through July 7. Some of those decisions I will like and some I won't; that's how it always goes. No matter what, please remember to pray for the General Assembly that week.

Abingdon Presbytery, which includes fifty-three Presbyterian congregations in the counties of western Virginia, is sending an elder from the Big Stone Gap church and the minister from the Wytheville church.

Our commissioners have already been reading over the material that will be discussed at the Assembly.

The theme of this Assembly is from Isaiah: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

I like that verse because it's about hope. And we need hope in 2012: hope for peace where there is war, hope for relief where there is suffering, hope for healing where there is disease, and hope for the mind of Christ where there are decisions to be made.

Hope is our long-range assurance that God's sovereignty shapes all creation including the church and that our ultimate trajectory is defined by God's faithfulness.

Together in Christ, Jon

## Nursery Helpers -July

July 1- Sam & Erin Evans

July 8- Barbara Quesenberry and  
Bonnie Keller

July 15-JoAnn Kilbourne and  
Jennifer Puckett

July 22-Sylvia Keller and  
Sue Gibson

July 29-Linda Hall and  
Angie Cooper

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## Flower Calendar Openings!

Sign up for a Sunday in the church office.

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## Prayer List

Janet Martin, Karen Combs, John Blake, Sally Brown, Ann Lowry, Meredith Haga, Donna Abel, Lois Gillespie, Carter & Emerson Hale, Kitty Pelfrey, Leroy Jones, Helen Garland, Elizabeth Ponder, Barbara Adams, Doris Poe, David King, Emma Barton, Tia Hensley, Bob Lowe, Lynn McConnell, Nancy Thompson, Barbara Knight, Jim Groseclose, Sara Lawson, Carolyn Deaton, Virginia Thompson, Tom & Connie Counts, Edna McConnell, Bill & Marge Margerum, Sandra Wimmer, Lena McVey, Janet McCauley, Erma Combs, Rhonda Moore, Barbara Blevins, Edith Ratliff, Eva Bailey, Bo Miller, Phyllis Garner, Nancy Greary, Rickey White, Terry White, Roberta Richey, Jackie Cantrell and Helen Carter.



**The Annual Church Picnic,**  
will take place

**Saturday, July 21st at the Washington County Park Shelter #3. We will be gathering at 4:00pm and will eat at 6:00pm. Make plans to be there!**

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# Happy Father's Day on June 17

## Homecoming

August 12, 2012

11:00am

Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Miller Liston

Covered-dish lunch to follow.

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## Vacation Bible School

July 9 – 13, 9:00am to Noon



**Now issuing boarding passes!**

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## The Church in South Sudan

A Webinar (A web-based seminar)

June 21, 1:00-2:00pm in Jon's Study

Hear from a pastor of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and U.S. Presbyterians who are making a difference in God's world. Hear how we can be in prayer for our sisters and brothers in Sudan and South Sudan, and other practical ways you can support them.



June 17 - Bill McCall and  
Major Pounders

June 24 - Sapling Grove

July 1 - Chosen Harmony

July 8 - Green Spring Harmony

July 15 - The Virginians

July 22- Joyful Noise

July 29- Eddie Shelton & Christi

...at Watauga Chapel. Sunday evenings at 6:30pm.

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## From the Choir Director Kevin Flannagan

The Choir is taking a break from offering a weekly anthem in worship. During the summer, the anthem will be solos, duets and other small groups. If you are interested in offering your talents in worship during the summer, please speak with me. The choir will sing for Homecoming and on that day the choir will be offering two anthems that I am sure you will enjoy. A huge thanks to all the choir members for your hard work and dedication in offering your musical talents to lead us all in worship on a weekly basis!

**Birthdays--June/July**

- June 2-Emma Faith Hensley
- June 3-Tom White
- June 4-Bob Kilbourne
- June 7-Charles Presley, II
- June 7-Audriana Jackson
- June 7-Roger Tignor
- June 12-Nancy Abel
- June 12-Jane LaRue
- June 13-Marge Margerum
- June 18-Bonnie Keller
- June 22-Lindsey Lowry
- June 23-Elizabeth Phillippi
- July 2-Emory Robinette
- July 3-Elizabeth Wade
- July 3-Preston Brown
- July 9-Susanne Martin
- July 10-Kolby Jackson
- July 11-Sally Brown
- July 16-Lois Gillespie
- July 17-Kevin Flannagan
- July 20-Maria Briscoe
- July 21-Patty Clark
- July 21-Jonah Martin
- July 24-Mary Jane Crosby
- July 25-Loni S. Reynolds
- July 26-Mavis Brown
- July 26-Sue Elkins

**Anniversaries--June/July**

- June 1-Bill & Jane LaRue
- June 5-Lee & Grace Garrett
- June 6-Tom & Edna McConnell
- June 8-Joe & Bonnie Keller
- June 12-Bill & Marge Margerum
- June 16-Preston & Yvonne Brown
- June 17-Blair & Gilda Keller
- June 20-Larry & Judy Mullins
- June 23-Leighton & Ann Sprinkle
- June 28-Sam & Jeanie Evans
- July 2-Tim & Holly Briscoe
- July 4-Earl & Lea Combs
- July 7-George & Barbara King
- July 14-John & Linda Dickens
- July 16-Jasper & Rita Reynolds
- July 18-Christopher & Teresa Halsey
- July 24-Eric & Melissa Eller
- July 25-Mack & Lisa Bailey

# Sunday School SCHEDULE

July 2012

9:45-10:40am

Pre-school	<i>We Learn to Follow God's Ways</i> Teacher: Jeanie Evans
Primary	<i>We See God's Power at Work</i> Teacher: Patty Clark
Middle School	<i>All About the Bible</i> Teachers: Jane Prater and Erin Evans
Adult Bible Study	<i>Justice Enacted</i> Teachers: Tom Deaton and Jasper Reynolds
Warner Room	<i>Heaven!</i> Teacher: Tim Briscoe

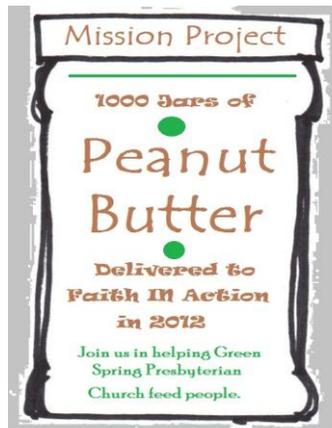


Find us on Facebook:  
Green Spring Presbyterian Church,  
Abingdon, Virginia



[www.greenspringchurch.org](http://www.greenspringchurch.org)

## Peanut Butter Offering



May 6	43
May 13	29
May 20	16
May 27	18
May Total	106
So far in June	97
Overall total	705

### Responding to the Good News

Date	Attendance	Offering
5-06-12	103	\$4176.00
5-13-12	138	\$5895.00
5-20-12	109	\$3343.00
5-27-12	119	\$3459.00

The "Pot Luck Picnic" for both Circles will be Tuesday, June 19 at 6:00pm at the home of Patty Clark. If you are thinking about joining a circle or would like to meet with us to see what it's all about, please feel free to come.