

HORIZONS

A PUBLICATION OF MARS HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2008



I AM THE

LIGHT

OF THE

WORLD

J O H N 8 : 1 2

A Rule of Life

What are the rules by which you run your life? What are all the unspoken instructions that seem to play in our heads and work their way out into our hands? We all have them. We are not always conscious of them.

You may have heard the story of the woman who trimmed off the end of the pot roast every time she began to cook it. She had done this for years. One day her husband asked her why she did that; she replied that her mother had always done that. That set her to thinking, so one day she called her mom and asked why she had always trimmed the end of her pot roast. Her mother replied that her mother had always done that as well. That set her mother to thinking, so she called her mother as well to find out why they did that. Her mother thought about it for a moment and then remembered that when she was first married they didn't have a very big roaster, so she always had to trim the beef to fit the pan. For years they had each in turn carried out the "trim the roast" rule even though they weren't exactly sure why and even though the original reason had long since been replaced. It serves as a classic example of how we often carry on such things, even if we don't know why.

We all know that there are the big rules of society—things such as "don't drink and drive," or "two things are inevitable—death and taxes," or "click it or ticket" as a reminder that we are required by law to be wearing our seat belts. We all know the penalties for violating the big rules and how serious the consequences are.

But do we also have "rules" that govern our spiritual lives? Are we conscious of what they are and how they affect us? "Rule" comes from the Latin "*regula*" from which we get the word regulation. One of the original meanings was a "straightedge," that simple device that enabled one to build and make things that were true to a standard. And in some sense that is still what "rules" do—they keep us up to standard.

From the beginning days of the church we have also had "rules," not in the sense of strict codes that had to be enforced under penalty of punishment, but in the sense that there is a particular way that we live what we would call a Christian life. One of these is found in Acts 2:42-47 where it describes the Church and what they did with their days—they devoted themselves to teaching and fellowship, to breaking bread and to prayers. These were the things that Christians did. Another famous rule is the Rule of St. Benedict which directed the monasteries how to pray, work, and live their life together in a "school of the Spirit." Many folk today say that part of their Christian "rule" (even if they may not know or use the term) is to have a quiet time with God's word, a time for prayer, and time to be together with their church community.

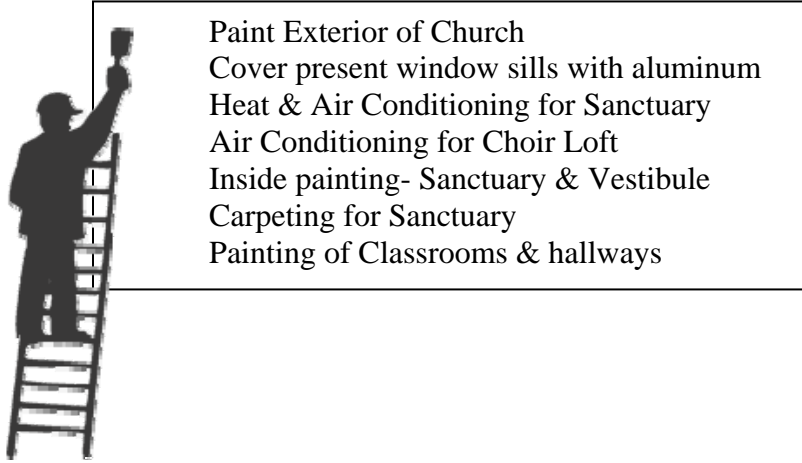
One of the tasks for my next Doctor of Ministry residency is going to be composing something of a rule of life for me and also thinking about a corporate rule for us as a congregation. I know that there are things that others have discovered that will have to be included: Bible study, prayer, fellowship, work, service. I know that my own spiritual life has been best nurtured during those times when there was a sense of balance between all these. I know that a congregation also has to balance the inner and outward, the quiet and the active.

I want you to give some thought to those "rules" that you are using in your spiritual life. Are they helpful? Are they useful? Are you including all the various practices that truly help you grow? Be thinking about them because I want us to discuss them in the days ahead.

And I have to close this now so that it can be ready and we can employ "the newsletter has to be ready by the last Sunday of the month rule."

Property Committee Projects

The property committee has been looking at numerous projects for this year. The following is a list of projects and the anticipated costs of those projects. We have funds available so that we can begin immediately. We ask your patience for any inconvenience as we take care of our church building and grounds. Thank you.



Worship Committee Needs Volunteers

We need volunteers to help with the preparation of the elements for communion. Please join us Sunday, May 18, right after church to learn how to prepare the Communion Table for the Lord's Supper. We will meet in the kitchen. Come be a part of this very special service that is provided for our church. Thank you, Carole Haynes & Sylvia Pelley



Memorial Day, May 31st
Church Office closed.



May:

1st Elder on call – Carole Haynes

2nd Elder on call – John Mackersi

Acolyte – Brook Bare

Communion Preparers: John and Lyn Mackersie

Communion Servers: Davis Haynes and Melissa Goins

Men's Prayer Group Devotional Schedule

May:

May 7 th	Les Rust
May 13 th	Doug Harrod
May 21 st	Jim Harrison
May 28 th	Marc Adams



Highnooners will be going to the Spice of Life Café here in Athens this month on Tuesday, the 20th. We will meet there at 11:30. Please let Jay or Shirley Bott know if you are planning to attend.



You're Invited!

Older Adult Ministry's Spring Program is titled, **Hey, God! Listen!** The keynote speaker is Roxie Gibson. She is the author of several children books. Registration is limited, so be sure to register early. The program is on Wednesday, May 14th, starting at 9:30 a.m. at a cost of \$10.00 per person.

Deadline to register is May 9, 2008

This is sure to be a great day; please make plans to come!



. Blood Mobile:

May 2nd at Walmart in Athens from 10 am to 6 pm.

Or May 12th at Big Lots from 10 am to 6 pm.

Treasurer's Report

Contribution Statements

The Session has considered the request for quarterly contribution statements which was brought up at the annual meeting. The Financial Secretary will be happy to send quarterly statements to any one who would like to receive them. Just call the Church Office to request it. As always any one can request a contribution statement at any time.

February & March 2008 Financial Report

Operating Fund

Income	March	Year-to-Date
Pledges	\$ 14,712.00	\$ 37,367.00
Non-Pledging Members	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 4,890.00
Friends of the Church & visitors	\$ 895.00	\$ 1,880.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 168.00	\$ 66.00
Sunday School	\$ 130.00	\$ 273.91
Other	\$ 1,301.41	\$ 2,023.58
Total Operating Income	\$ 19,016.41	\$ 46,500.49
Expenses		
Payroll	\$ 7,159.75	\$ 21,593.99
Administrative	\$ 3,954.47	\$ 12,465.49
Benevolence	\$ 185.45	\$ 8,340.49
Christian Education	\$ 121.40	\$ 3,434.42
Congregational Support		\$ 230.45
Worship	\$ 194.72	\$ 509.78
Property	\$ 4,375.31	\$ 12,414.71
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 15,991.10	\$ 58,989.33
Net Income	\$ 3,025.31	\$ (12,488.84)



Pentecost Offering

Each year we receive the Pentecost Offering for ministries with youth and young adults. This year Pentecost will be on May 11.

Please give as God directs.

Congratulations to our Graduates

Every year we are blessed to see our young people learn and grow and become the people that God is calling them to be. We want to say how proud we are of our graduates this year, and we want you all to know that you should be proud of yourselves for the accomplishments that you have achieved.



- Jordan Bare will be graduating from home schooling and enrolling at the University of Tennessee at Martin. She's planning on pursuing a career as a veterinarian.

- Blair Boyd will be graduating from McMinn County High School; she plans on attending the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and majoring in Music Education.

- Robert Nelson will be graduating from McMinn County High School; he will be attending Tennessee Wesleyan College on a golfing scholarship.

John Mackersie, Jr. will be graduating from Maryville College and beginning work on a master's degree in sports psychology at Miami University in Ohio.

- Amelia Brock, daughter of Lydia Schultz, has completed her doctorate in education this spring.



THANKS FROM.....

Dear Friends at MHPC:

First I am writing to say a big thank you for all the thoughts, cards and prayers, during my recent illness. MS is a "sneaky" little disease and I don't often see these episodes coming until they hit. Anyway, I'm doing so much better and am blessed to have friends like you to get me through. Also, as you know, Liz has safely returned from Scotland and is happy to be back at home in Athens. Thanks for all your prayers as she studied abroad. My brother has improved tremendously from his surgeries this Fall and thanks for your prayers on his behalf as well. And again, thanks for all you have done for my family.

In Christ, Pam



Youth News

What a beautiful mid-spring we find ourselves in this year! It seems the winter has finally given away to warmer temperatures and refreshing breezes. Year after year, I seem to neglect soaking up this special time, focusing instead on getting through the inherent busyness that comes with it - so as to enjoy those two months of freedom we call "Summer". I'd say we're mostly all like that. It's a busy time of year, finishing all our schoolwork, rushing our families through the last of our commitments - dreaming of vacation. Yet, what a wonderful season we have in front of us! Do we dare take time for reflection or just to thank God for this beauty in the midst of our hurried May lives? I want to challenge all of us to not let May pass us by this year in our expectation of the months beyond. There is so much to stop and be thankful for!!!

Here's something I'm thankful for: **30 Hour Famine** on May 2-3. I'm so grateful and excited that our youth are stepping up to the challenge once again. Please pray for this event, the participants, and those leading it. If you have not yet donated to the 30-Hour famine and would like to, you can contact me at 507-7492, or the church office. (Remember donations are tax deductible and need to be made payable to World Vision.) We'll post details from the event in the June Newsletter.

We're also excited that our **Youth Sundays** will be held on May 4 at Mars Hill and May 18 at St. Paul's. Please plan on encouraging our youth with your attendance at these services.

Last, and most importantly, I want to praise God for the gift of three wonderful seniors who will be graduating from our ministry:

Robert Nelson, son of Jim and Freddie Nelson // attending TWC in Fall

Blair Boyd, daughter of Michael and Sandra Boyd // attending UT-Knoxville in Fall

Jordan Bare, daughter of Michael and Debbie Bare. // attending UT-Martin in Fall

I am so proud of all three of you and will miss you more than you realize! You have been a blessing to this church and especially to your fellow students in this ministry! We will continue to hold you high in prayer as you begin this amazing new chapter of your lives. "The Journey" has not ended for you - it has just begun!

May you walk courageously with God today,

Harrison

May Birthdays

Dillon Linkous	1 st	Wesley Reed	14 th
Jennifer Ronne	2 nd	Dianne Mitchell	15 th
Conner McJunkin	4 th	Happy Powell	16 th
Dot Whitley	4 th	Valerie Hacker	19 th
Connie Allen	4 th	Jody Barr	20 th
Mary Coffman	4 th	Glen Ingram	20 th
Jody Joines	6 th	Cassandra	23 rd
		Coleman	
Don Kettenbeil	6 th	Andy Mayfield	27 th
Jim Greek	7 th	Hannah Bare	28 th
Leslie McGuinn	9 th	Tyler Boyd	29 th
Helen Kettenbeil	11 th	Dawn Lucas	29 th
Sidney Ferrigno	12 th	Murray Willis	31 st
Olga Elger	14 th		

May Anniversaries

John and Mary Coffman	16 th
Darrell and Stephanie Linkous	19 th
Don and Rosemary Den Uyl	26 th
Donald and Blanche Schubert	29 th

National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 1, 12:05pm



We are in the midst of an important season in the life of our country. We are in the process of electing who will be the next President of the United States of America. We are also involved in conflicts overseas, the outcomes of which will shape our world for years to come. We have numerous social issues here at home that are affecting the economic, social, and spiritual lives of our families, our children, and our elders. Our leaders have often turned to prayer in times that require discernment and decisions; we invite you to join with us as we ask God to be our strength and shield in these demanding days.

The Athens/McMinn Ministerial Association will be hosting a *National Day of Prayer Service at Veteran's Park in Athens on Thursday, May 1, at 12:05pm*. This is an ecumenical event with participants from a variety of churches within the area. We invite you to join with us as we *unite in prayer* to lift our nation, our leaders, and our people to God. In the event of inclement weather we will gather at St Paul's Episcopal Church adjoining Veteran's Park.

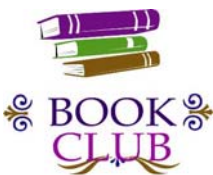
Women's gathering



We are winding down our study in The Purpose Driven Life, we will begin our last section in the book in May. Merna Jaquish will be leading the study at our May meeting. Bring your lunch and join us in fellowship hall at noon on May 12th.

Circle II will meet for dinner at The Spice of Life Café on Ingleside Avenue at 7:00 pm Tuesday, May 13th. This will be our last meeting as we take a break for the summer. We will gather for dinner in September to start a new year with our new Chairman, Sylvia Pelley.

Women's Circle II



We will be meeting at the home of Sarah Maynard on May 19th, and will be discussing the book, *Embrace Me*. We will start at 1:30 pm and everyone is welcome!

Crafty Fellowship will only meet once next month on May 28th. Bring your craft and come join us.



THANKS TO ...

All our teachers from this past year—Well done ...
Mike Jaquish and John Dyer for their work on our website ...
Reba and her crew for hosting our Easter Sunrise refreshments ...
Blair Boyd for her work with our children's choir ...
Folks who have helped with snacks and supports for The Journey ...
Flo Percy for helping with proofing and preparing our bulletins and newsletters...



*We want to extend our deepest sympathy
to the family of:
Bill Barr
April 18, 2008*

For whom death has past, and the journey of life eternal with God Almighty has begun.

A HEART FOR Mom

Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

- Caring Godly Prepared
 Hardworking Hearty Priceless
 Kind

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. caring, 6. prepared, 7. godly



May 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Dillon Linkous</i>	2 <i>Jennifer Ronne</i>	3 Presbytery Meeting
				12:05 National Day of Prayer 7pm Autism Spt Grp		
4 - Communion 9:30 Graduates Breakfast Youth Sunday <i>Connor McJunkin</i> <i>Dot Whitley</i> <i>Connie Allen</i> <i>Mary Coffman</i>	5 10am PEO 5:30pm CE Ctme Mtg 7pm BSA	6 <i>Jody Joines</i> <i>Don Kettenbeil</i> 6:30pm GSA	7 -MPBG <i>Jim Greek</i> 6:45pm Youth 7pm Choir	8 - 8:30 Athens Counselors 10am Equip Team 7pm BSA Trng	9 Youth—30 Hour <i>Leslie McGuinn</i> 10am FCE McCaslin-Blake Wedding	
11 - Pentecost Mother's Day <i>Helen Kettenbeil</i>	12 <i>Sidney Ferrigno</i> 12 pm Circle I 7pm BSA	13 9am COM 6:30 GSA 7pm Circle II	14-MPBG <i>Olga Elder</i> <i>Wesley Reed</i> OAM Spring Event 6:45pm Youth 7pm Choir	15 <i>Dianne Mitchell</i> 6-9pm Recital 7pm Trout Unlimited	16 <i>Happy Powell</i> <i>John & Mary Coffman</i> 11:30 MADCAT Derrick-Mobley	17
18 12:00 Session	19 <i>Valerie Hacker</i> <i>Darrell & Stephanie Linkous</i> 6:30pm ADK	20 <i>Glen Ingram</i> <i>Jody Barr</i> 11:30 Highnooners 6:30pm GSA	21-MPBG 6:45pm Youth 7pm Choir	22 Woods Hospital Program	23 <i>Cassandra Coleman</i>	24
25	26 <i>Don & Rosemary DenUyl</i> Happy Memorial Day Church Office closed	27 <i>Andy Mayfield</i> 6:30pm GSA	28-MPBG <i>Hannah Bare</i> Crafty Fellowship 6:45pm Youth 7pm Choir	29 <i>Tyler Boyd</i> <i>Dawn Lucas</i> <i>Don & Blanche Schubert</i>	30	31 <i>Murray Willis</i>