



The Center Chronicles

May/ June 2017



As we enter into the summer season, there are two days set aside to acknowledge and affirm our mothers and our fathers and the roles they played in our lives. We are who we are because of our parents. With the divorce rate being at 50%, with the rate going higher for those married a second and third time, many, like myself, grew up in single and step parent homes. Some of us experienced the destructive consequences of domestic violence, addictions, infidelity, selfishness and of two people who for whatever reasons lost their love and respect for each other leading them to go their separate ways. In the wake of all this are the kids who are battling their own struggles with their own temptations, peer pressures, social media relationships, and what they want in a relationship.

Mother's Day and Father's Day are opportunities for us children to be realistic about our parents and the role they, through their strengths and weaknesses, have played in making us who we are today. I am the first to admit my parents were not perfect and in fact struggled through a lot of issues, and yet it was through them that God brought me into this world. Some of us were brought up in a Christ centered home filled with forgiveness and love while others of us were brought up by parents struggled to survive without God while trying to raise us kids in the process. Many of us didn't ask for our family situation, but through faith, we know that all things can work together for the good of those love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8: 28). As the Psalmist tell us in in Psalm 139: 13, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

In case you didn't know it, God knew you long before you took your first breath and God knew the parents who would conceive you and bring you into this world. And whether or not your parents were perfect or imperfect like mine, God used them to bring you into this world, to raise you through their achievements and adversities, to make you the person you are today. As you become the man or woman that God created you to be, on Mother's Day and Father's day, take time to give thanks for your mom and dad, learning from their successes as well as their struggles and seek to explore how God is molding you and shaping you to become, not like your mother or father, like Christ Jesus so that you, in turn, can share what you have learned with your children.



Clip Board Ministry Opportunities

On the wall outside of the church office, are four clip boards that represent four different opportunities to share in ministry. They change from time to time so it is important to periodically check on them. Above each clip board is a brief description of what the ministry opportunity is and if you are interested, simply sign your name and phone number.

The following opportunities are being offered at this time:



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

PDA is set up in Gatlinburg. If there is an interest in putting together a mission team to locally help some others in need, please sign up at the church office bulletin board outside church office and we will contact them to see what dates are available. Right now there are two people signed up. We need six to sign up if we want to do a week long trip later in the summer.



Shelter My Sheep- The block pillars have been formed and the house has been set. A mission team from Circle G ministries is coming in June to do the electrical work and plumbing. For those who sign up I will contact you when they come so we can assist. House #1 still needs some trim painting and house #2 needs to be painted and the porch repaired and replaced. If you are interested in helping in any of these projects, please sign up on Bulletin board

outside the church office.

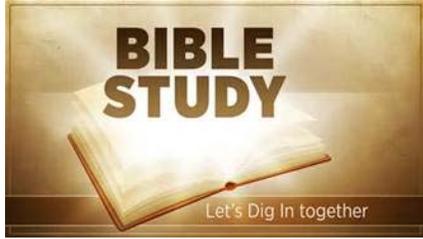


Summer camp is just around the corner. It can be a great opportunity to kids to enjoy a camp experience at the Joh Knox Center. Camp dates are posted and scholarships are available for anyone interested in going to camp. Simply sign up and we can get you to information.

Also sign up if you want to go on August 21 for the Eclipse!!



Hike around Indian Boundary lake and have lunch. An invitation is given to any who would like to go hiking around Indian Boundary and enjoy a cookout at the pavilion at the beach. Sign up on the Board marked Indian Boundary!



Men's Bible Study meets at 9am at the church with Fenton McCahill leading a study on the headship of Christ.

A **Women's Bible Study** group meets on Thursdays at 10-1:30pm. This study is led by Peggy Payne. They just started a two year in depth study on the Book of Romans. For more information, please **contact Sandra Black at 253-3876.**

Each week, the pastor sends out a study sheet with questions on the **Gospel of John** for reflection and thought. On Sundays at 6pm, there is an opportunity to gather with the pastor to share your answers, questions and thoughts in a group discussion format. For more information, please contact the church office at 253-2303.



Tellico Trail Blazers! Get on Facebook and see when the next hike is going to take place or contact Shannon Harris for more information as we prepare for our October trip to Mt. LeConte.



All those who enjoy working with needles, patches and thread who want to share in ministry. We invite you to join the **Dorcas Ladies** as they create quilts for the needy. They meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday beginning at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

YOUTH NEWS

Congrats to our Graduates:

Zach Ledford

Keri Bivens

J.W. Harris

Dawson Mitchell

Keri Bivens





All youth are invited to join us on a Summer trip to the Creation Museum and the Ark from **June 24-25**. Invite your friends and come to Youth Group meeting to get more information. We meet at 4:30 every Sunday evening at the church.



H+OMECOMING

On June 11, Center Presbyterian Church will be celebrating its annual decoration/ homecoming. Visitors will be coming to honor those saints who have passed on and will gather for food and fellowship immediately following the worship service. Please contact Donna Hamilton to help with decoration and food preparation.