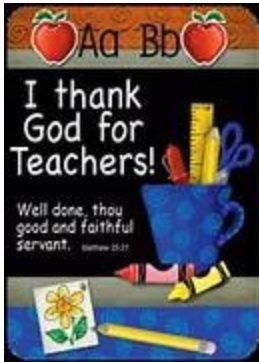
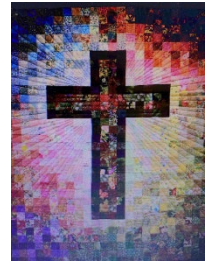




The Center Chronicles

May 2025



As the school year ends, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for those whom God called to teach. Paul writes in Ephesians 4: 11-13, “So Christ himself gave the Apostles, the prophets, the evangelist, and pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fulness of Christ.”

The vital role of teachers is equivalent to that of apostles, prophets and pastors. Married to a teacher, I am fully aware of challenges and sacrifices they make to assist and equip youth from pre-K to Senior High with the knowledge necessary to make it in this world. I have heard the laments and the prayers for students and fellow teachers. I know about teachers getting up early preparing for class and staying up late at night grading papers or receiving parent calls.

It doesn't matter if God called you to serve in a public school, private school or homeschool, God has bestowed on the teacher not only the responsibility of teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic along with the sciences, God also teachers to encourage, equip, and pray for those students under their care. Many of those students are facing the challenges of broken homes, bullying and a battered sense of worth. They are vulnerable to the dangers of peer pressure and social media influences. Some have cried out by cutting themselves while others numb their pains with addictions.

Teachers have a special calling to teach kids the importance of boundaries, cooperation, and community. God uses teachers to make students aware that they are worth loving with God's unconditional love that is greater than the conditional love that is in the world. Teachers are God's tools to tell students they are precious in God's sight and that God has a purpose for their lives. Kids don't forget those things.

Finally, teachers not only deal with the students under their care, but teachers also deal with their own personal matters whether it be taking care of their own families, getting kids to school and making sure there is food on the table. In short, teachers are amazing! I know because I am married to one.

Therefore, as the school year ends, take time to express gratitude to those whom God called to teach. There are cards and gifts you can give. You can have them over for dinner or you can simply repeat what Jesus will say to them when they come before him- Well done, good and faithful servant.....

I would like to close with a prayer of thanksgiving for our teachers. Let us pray...

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our teachers. They work hard to help elevate our knowledge, and with this prayer, we hope our appreciation for them reaches their hearts. Thank You for blessing us with teachers who are not only selfless, but motivators who help us find purpose and meaning in school. As much as our teachers look after those we love, we now lift them up that they will receive blessings and that you will care for them and give them rest during the summer break. This we pray with utmost gratitude, Amen.

Blessings,
Jon



Presbytery Wide Mission Trip Opportunity, May 7- 9 (10?), 2025

It has been 7 months since Hurricane Helene devastated parts of Western North Carolina and East Tennessee. One of the places impacted by the storm was our sister Holston Presbytery's Church camp located in Banner Elk, NC. As they prepare for the summer season, we have been given an opportunity to help them with hopes of clearing their road to one of the group rope course areas.

Who do they need? People who can safely manage chain saws, loppers, and pile brush. We have volunteers who will take a skid steer and a tractor with Grappler to move the trees and piled brush. Another skid steer would be great to have.

Where will we stay and what about food? We will stay at the camp at the retreat center. Be sure to bring bed items (sleeping bag, sheets, blankets, etc. and pillows) for your stay. In addition, the camp will provide food for us because of our willingness to help clear debris.

Is there a cost? There is no cost except for fuel and the church is taking care of part of that cost.

How and when are we going to get there? Our group will meet at the church at 12 pm at the church. We will caravan up to Banner Elk and get settled in before dinner at 6:30pm. The trip will take about 4 hours.

On Saturday, May 10, they will be having their own Presbytery wide cleanup day and we can either stay and work with them or we can head back Friday Evening. Please prayerfully consider joining us for this mission opportunity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rev. Dr. Jon Faraone via email or cell phone.

Senior Graduates for 2025

Alex Davisson

Alex has always been technically minded and very creative in the field of engineering. Quinten and Andria knew his potential engineering gifts at a young age when mastered Lego building at age 3. In time, he would get involved with Lego robotics and create amazing works of engineering art. Add to that, being blessed to travel the world and experience what God was doing in other countries and cultures, Alex's faith was broadened to understand his God given gifts in his ministry to others. He is going to Liberty University and will study mechanical and chemical engineering with the dream of engineering and designing formula one racing cars. He is a graduate of Classical Conversations and Kepler Academy.



KT Hamilton

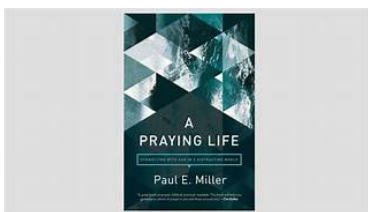
KT is the youngest child of Michelle and Travis Hamilton and grandson to Kenny and Donna Hamilton. One might say, the rodeo life was always in KT's blood. His dad was rodeo athlete in college. His mom was a PE teacher. And he was raised on a farm. All that contributed to his love for the rodeo and living life to its fullest. KT started his rodeo career at around age 3-4 with his first rope to throw and by age 6, he was roping his cowboy toy. He became so good that before his 16th birthday, he won his biggest cowboy toy yet at a rodeo which was a brand new, Dodge Dually truck which he could drive. During his High school, he took up a trade as an apprentice to be an electrician. After his graduation, KT, will go to school to get his certification. KT graduates from Tellico Plains High School.





Landon Peels

Landon is son of Amanda and Allen Peels. When he is not trying to scare people out of their shoes at the haunted house, he is very involved with FFA. He will enter the work force at this time. Landon graduates from Tellico Plains High School.



Wednesday Night Bible Study at 5pm

We will continue our study on Paul Miller's book, **The Praying Life**. We meet in the upstairs Sunday School classroom.



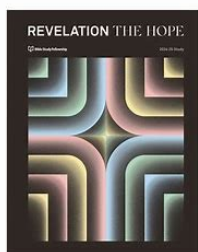
Without Limits start their season

Without Limits season is starting and we invite you to come out and join the fun a fellowship of watching kids, with special needs have one of the best experiences in their lives



The Children's bell choir

Thank you to Becky Stone and all the parents and volunteers who have made the children's bell choir possible. They are working on special music for the Fourth of July. They meet every other Wednesday at 6pm



Men's Bible Study on Revelations

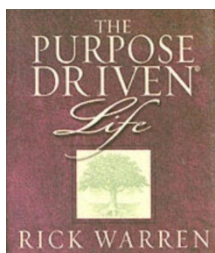
Saturday's at 9am

Have you ever wondered about the end times, God's judgement, or how Jesus Christ will come to judge the "quick and the dead"? You are invited to join us for a study in the hope of Revelation as we use BSF's study guide to help us process John's visions recorded in Revelation. We meet every Saturday at 9am in the upper Sunday School classroom.



Youth Group on Sunday at 4:00pm

They meet in the fellowship hall. Come and bring the kids for this time of fellowship, fun and study.



Adult Sunday School Update

Donald Bivens continues his class studies on Rick Warren's classic, The Purpose Driven Life. Adult Sunday Class meets at 9:15am on Sunday morning.



Dorcas Ministry meets every first and third Wednesday at 9:30am

The Dorcas Ministry is a vital ministry of Center Church. What a blessing! If you want to get involved, please contact Sandra Black at 423-253-3876

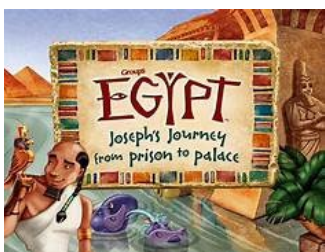


Session will meet Thursday, May 15 at 6pm



Del Rio Mission trip Update

For those who remember our mission trip to help Samantha Hurst, thanks to volunteer help, Samantha's Hurst passes the rough in inspection and the best news is that they did not tell her to raise her house. Therefore, in June or July, I am trying to plan a trip to help her put up insulation and sheetrock. We may also work on building her front porch. I don't know the logistics yet, but if you are interested in being a part of this mission trip, then please feel free to contact Jon the church office for more information.



VBS will be July 21-25

VBS is just around the corner. This year will be taking a trip to Egypt to remember Joseph and his faith journey. Stay tuned for more information.