

NEWS FROM HOME

A Newsletter from Rich Valley Presbyterian Church
~ Summer 2006 ~

Join us for Homecoming 2006!



Please Join us for praise and fellowship at Rich Valley Presbyterian Church for Homecoming August 6! We are excited to see and worship with our church family.

We invite you to participate in the Homecoming events for this year which include worship with Jeff Monroe, special Gospel music from our newly formed Gospel / Bluegrass Band and a pot-luck lunch. Don't forget the fun and fellowship with members of our church family throughout the day!

This year is a special year for Rich Valley Presbyterian Church as we celebrate our 170th year of worship; so come to Homecoming 2006 and help recognize our rich history. Also, remember that it doesn't have to be Homecoming to come visit our church. We would love to have you any Sunday for Sunday School at 10:00am or for Worship at 11:00am.

We look forward to a day of praise and fellowship on Sunday, August 6, 2006 and hope to see you there!

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Calendar of Events:

August 6 - Homecoming 2006!

September 10 - Family Day

Celebrating 170 years of Rich Valley Presbyterian Church! For updates on the days events, check out www.richvalleypc.org.

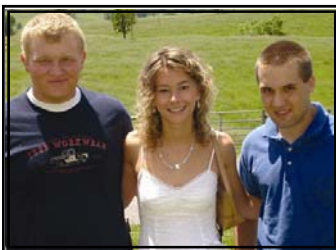
October - Youth Rafting Trip

The Youth Group will be going whitewater rafting in October. Call Lib at (276) 496-3485 for more information!

2006 Graduates

By Bobbie Harden

Congratulations are in order for Rich Valley Presbyterian Church members and youth group participants in the graduation class of 2006! Graduation exercises took place on June 2, 2006, at Northwood High School in Saltville, Virginia. Youth group members Jack Campbell, Seth Harden, Amanda DeBord and Justin Barrett were our new graduates. Seth Harden and Amanda DeBord were the valedictorians & delivered the graduation speeches.



2006 Graduates: Jack Campbell, Amanda DeBord and Seth Harden

On Sunday, June 4, these four graduates were honored at the Church. Champ Clark presented each graduate with a Study Bible and a fellowship picnic was held after the worship service where everyone had a great time. Congratulations and best wishes to the entire Class of 2006!

Youth Update

By Lib Burress

The RVPC youth group is a community youth group made up of teens from the area that meet on Sunday nights. We have fun and games, snacks, and bible study.

One of the activities the youth was involved in over the past year was our annual ski trip to West Virginia. There were 22 youth and adults hitting the slopes at Canaan Valley Ski Resort in WVA. They joined with former pastor Rich Cardot and the youth from Petersburg Presbyterian Church for a weekend of fellowship and fun! They were also involved in the Santa's Elves project at Christmas and provided gifts for kids that otherwise might not have had a Christmas.

O Savior, Where Art Thou was the Christmas play this year. The play was a great joy and lots of fun to do! We also had the privilege to take the play to the "big stage". In conjunction with the Faith in Action, Guardian Angel program, we performed the play on the stage of the Lincoln Theater in Marion. It was a huge success!



Congratulations to David and Debbie Buchanan, wed at the Rich Valley Presbyterian Church on July 15, 2006!



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Rich Valley has a Band!

By Heather Gillespie

Several months ago fellow church member and Fescue (a local band) member, Raymond Campbell, began offering music lessons to anyone who had the desire to play an instrument.



A great interest has produced Rich Valley Presbyterian's own Gospel/Bluegrass Band! However, anyone with a musical interest is welcome to play. We meet every Wednesday at 6:30p.m. and play/learn until whenever!! When it first began, it would last until 9:00pm; but for the last few lessons, we haven't left before 10:00pm. It is such a fun experience that we don't want it to end!

Current band members are: Sherry Jones-mandolin, Heather Gillespie-bass, Will Campbell-guitar, John Campbell-banjo, Lib Burress-fiddle, Laura Campbell-fiddle, Patrick Campbell-guitar, Dylan Jones-guitar, Delaney Jones-fiddle and B.J. Oakes-guitar.

Our goal is to perform special music every other Sunday at Rich Valley Presbyterian Church. Currently our play list consists of: Amazing Grace, Take a Little Time for Jesus, The Old Rugged Cross, Will the Circle Be Unbroken, Just Any Day Now, Drifting Too Far from the Shore, Medals for Mothers, Unclouded Day and I'll Fly Away.

With each week of practice we learn a new song and can see an improvement not only as individuals, but as a whole. We are very proud of what we have become so far and we could not have accomplished this without Raymond. We are so thankful for him and his dedication to helping us.



Church Unity

By Jane Clark

A few weeks ago, our Sunday School lessons were about Christian unity, based on the first two chapters of I Corinthians. These timely and thought-provoking lessons pointed out just what Jesus expects of His Church. Chapter 1, verse 10 says "that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and same purpose."

Today, that sounds like a pretty tall order, doesn't it? We have red states and blue states, liberal and conservative; each side convinced that they are absolutely right. How is this unity to come about then? Rev. Bartel, the author of the mentioned Sunday School lesson, writes that "God is good and generous and full of grace for the Corinthians. God is already at work among them, and God will continue to be by their side." Surely, God is with us, too!

The lesson writer continues; "Unity is what God creates among those who are different from one another and yet aspire to live in community." If we truly desire to have Christian unity, God will provide it through the power of His Holy Spirit. The power of Christ (which is the source of our unity) is in the cross, the cross of Christ. What does it mean to you? This question was posed to us by our Sunday School teacher, Hal

Campbell. When we think of the Cross of Christ, we often think in terms of His sacrificial death by which our sins are forgiven and we are given the hope of eternal life. But, the actual message of the cross is LOVE. Does not the Bible say that "No greater love has any human than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.?"

The lesson writer states that "This pouring out of love on the cross for others is the mark of Christ's ultimate wisdom. If we had this in our mind, then our divisions would end because we would be pouring out ourselves in love for others. Others might have struggles with us, but we would see them only as people whom God loves and calls us to serve."

Wow! Think what a difference it would make in our family, in our communities, and in our world if all of those who claim to be Christ's children could show this kind of love! We would find that as His children there are far more things that unite us than divide us. Jesus Christ—crucified, resurrected and coming again. He is the unifying force in the Christian community and if we are truly united as he wants us to be in the same mind and the same purpose, "think of the things that could be accomplished for His kingdom".

We would have nothing to fear from the nuclear warheads of North Korea, for Christ's Church—united, would be far more powerful!

Today, let us strive in the spirit of Christ, to love one another!

PNC Update

By Lynn Campbell

Have you noticed we speak in a language of abbreviations and acronyms? We eat at KFC and shop at CVS. We may bank at BB&T, listen to MP3s and watch DVDs. We're tested on SOLs. We receive higher education at VT, or UVA, or SWVHEC. Well, now you are getting a report from the PNC.

What does PNC mean? Possibly . . .

People **Needing** **Christ**
Prayer **Needed** **Constantly**
Presented **New** **Challenges**
Pressure **Never** **Ceasing**
Patience **Necessary** **Criteria**, **OR**
The **Pastor** **Nominating** **Committee!**

The PNC is the group of people from Rich Valley and Locust Cove that agreed to represent their congregations to find and nominate the best candidate to serve as pastor of these yoked churches. This committee was nominated by the Nominating Committee, and now the PNC is to nominate a candidate to the congregation. It is a process that allows the church to find a match for the church. It has been the mission of the RV/LCPNC to patiently discern God's will in seeking the one God has called to our churches. It is a process that at times has been difficult, uncomfortable, disheartening, and exhausting, yet it is a growing process that has been enjoyable, and even fun.

Churches looking for pastors complete CIFs, church information forms, while pastors looking for churches complete PIFs, pastor information forms. Once there is an exchange of names, there is an exchange of forms. Then personal contact begins. The PNC has been introduced to hundreds of names, talked with or met in person dozens of candidates, and heard many sermons or messages from God. We have been presented new ideas and gained a much greater understanding of the Presbyterian church polity.

We've said yes and we've said no.

They've said yes, and they've said no. Some have even said we're too slow. But the PNC is working hard to find and nominate the one God is sending to us. And we need to remember it will be in God's time. And hopefully it will be soon in our time.

While we are searching, our churches have been blessed with wonderful supply pastors. We have a preacher every Sunday. Our churches continue to do great things for the glory of God. **Prayers are Needed Continually** for our churches and the PNC.

"Our Father, Thy will be done." - Matthew 6:10

FYI our PNC with our CIF has reviewed 100s of PIFs to find the MDIV for RVLCPs. We're getting closer. LOL!

Your PNC members are Lynn Campbell, Lib Burress, Champ Clark & Charlie Clark at Rich Valley; and at Locust Cove: Xan Buchanan, Ben Franklin & Janet Pratt.