

# *the* CrossRoads

*Sabbatical Story: August 19-September 1*

**Emilie and Bill Griffin will be at BCOC Saturday, August 18, through Monday, August 20.** They will lead a retreat on Saturday dealing with how Christian disciplines of Word and Story help us grow deeper in spiritual life. Emilie will preach at our worship service on Sunday, and they will teach a joint adult Sunday School class. Both will be available on Saturday, Sunday and Monday afternoon for individual sessions of spiritual direction. Please see the article on the 3rd page to learn how you may take advantage of the Griffins visit. Emilie is a professional writer and editor. She has written fifteen books on Christian spirituality. Emilie has worked extensively as a retreat and workshop leader. Bill Griffin is a writer, editor, and publishing veteran who is an authority on C. S. Lewis, and recently authored several modern renderings of Latin spiritual classics by Augustine of Hippo and Thomas A. Kempis. Both Griffins were founding members of the Chrysostom Society, a national writers group formed in the 1980s. Since 1998 the Griffins have lived in Alexandria, LA.



**August 18-20**



**Dr. Kenneth Roxburgh** is the Armstrong Professor and Chair of the department of religion at Samford University. Prior to moving to the United States in 2002, he served as a Baptist pastor in three different Scottish Baptist congregations, and then as President of the Baptist Theological College in Glasgow, Scotland. He is married to Gwen and they have two daughters and one grand-daughter, Charlize, who continue to live in Scotland.

**Guest Preacher**  
**August 26**

## **On Call Schedule**

John Duke, 482-6280

### **Week of August 19 - August 25**

Malcolm Marler, Lay Minister, 287-2040

Gail Hill, Deacon of the Week, 324-3533

### **Week of August 26 - September 1**

Mark McClintock, Lay Minister, 989-4292

Denise Jacks, Deacon of the Week, 836-9159

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM**

August 22: **Fisher Humphreys -**  
*We Are Friends of Jesus*

August 29: **Fisher Humphreys -**  
*We Are Guests in God's House*

## **Sarah's Sabbatical Highlights!**

Week of August 19 - Sarah will visit with Emilie Griffin

Week of August 26 - Sunday School with Jimmy Carter and preparation to return

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**Baptist Church of the  
Covenant**  
Where Faith Comes  
to Life



## 25th Annual Church-wide Retreat Labor Day Weekend - Panama City Friday, August 31 to Monday, September 3

**Philip Gulley, a great fiction and non-fiction Quaker writer and pastor, will be the retreat leader.** The cost will be \$92.50 per person for lodging for the three nights and food for Saturday morning through Monday morning. (If you pay by Sunday, August 19, you will get a \$5 per person discount.) Children under 2 will be \$20. For the few of you who wish to stay off campus but eat with us, the cost will be \$37.50 for meals. **The deadline for signing up will be Wednesday, August 22. All money must be paid by Sunday, August 26. A signup sheet for reservations and an order form for T-shirts are in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, call David Henderson at 281-8441.**

**Philip Gulley** is a Quaker pastor and writer from Danville, Indiana. He earned his bachelor's degree from Marian College, where he received a "D" in composition but only after promising the professor he'd never write a again. He went on to the Christian Theological Seminary where he graduated with honors due to a grading error. He is married to Joan and they have two sons. Philip is the best-selling author of nonfiction books like *Front Porch Tales*, *For Everything a Season* and the two he recommended reading before the weekend retreat, *God Is Love: Rediscovering Grace in an Ungracious World* and *If Grace Is True: Why God Will Save Every Person*, along with fiction books such as *Porch Talk* and *Home to Harmony*. All have delighted and inspired hundreds of thousands of readers. The retreat title will be *Stories of Church Life and Other Riveting Dramas*. Philip chose this title "so people would know that things will not be too serious." Below are some Philip Gulley quotes.



### **On the church:**

The miracle of the church is that we do any good at all. Being in the church hasn't caused me to question God-it's deepened my faith. Because the only thing that explains the church's endurance and effectiveness is a benevolent, gracious deity--this energy force that keeps things going despite our efforts--most of them misguided--to carry forth the mission.

### **The role of the church:**

For me, it's to help us discover what it means to be human. Then we come as close to touching the face of God as we ever do. It isn't how to be like God-which is what we think it is, this holy perfection. It's what it means to be created by God, and loved by God and valued by God. And not just for ourselves, of course, which would be narcissistic, but to really understand everyone in that light.

### **On *If Grace Is True*:**

In college I had been exposed to Karl Barth. Barth believed it (salvation) happened because of the triumphant Christ on the cross and the resurrected Jesus. That was my emphasis, until it struck me that it was probably arrogant to say to the Muslims, "Well, you're saved and it's because of Jesus and one day you'll realize that." I had been thinking about this and preaching about it and talking about it with other people, because it seemed to be the only logical conclusion of a gracious God who created all people. That ultimately the goal of this God would be the restoration of all people.

### **On *If God Is Love*:**

It's about how we would live if we took seriously the worth and value of all people. How we would live in families, what the church would look like, how the mission of the church would change, how we would live economically. And how we would govern ourselves-the political landscape, what that might look like.

### **Music Intern to begin in September**

Brittany Stillwell Krebs, who married this summer, is a senior music education student at Samford. Her home church is the Lexington Avenue Baptist Church in Danville, KY, where she has recently served as a summer music intern. We welcome Brittany to serve as music intern, and look forward to her service with our preschool and children's choirs.

### **New Candidates for Membership**

The McNeil family  
Dana and Andy by letter,  
Bailea by profession of faith  
and Allyssa  
340 40th Avenue NE, 35215  
837-2469

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

### Week of August 5

### Week of August 12

Budget	\$11,836.45	Budget	\$6,642.00
Building Fund/Property	340.00	Rogers Fund	30.00
Rogers Fund	642.29	CBF Missions	50.00
Gardner Fund	160.00		
Mt Meru Student Food Aid	100.00		
Kenya Passport	50.00		
CBF Missions	3.00		

### YTD – July 2007

YTD Receipts - \$291,416.19

YTD Expenditures - \$282,603.90

YTD Budget Requirements - \$324,236.36

## A Visit from the Griffins

As a part of the sabbatical plans, a retreat has been planned at Baptist Church of the Covenant for Saturday, August 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with Bill and Emilie Griffin. According to their description of the retreat, they will speak about how Christian disciplines of Word and Story help us grow deeper in the spiritual life. They will use biblical stories and examples from the Christian devotional classics, including some modern stories, to shine a light on our own development in the Christian life. Childcare will be provided. **Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall so that we can plan accordingly.**

**They will also be available individually Saturday, Sunday, and Monday afternoons for 50 minute sessions of spiritual direction.** These will involve one of the Griffins serving as listener and guide, and working with participants to talk about things going on in their lives, stresses, joys, or thoughts about the future, and then trying to discern God's action or will within those events. There are 16 sessions available, and there is a fee of \$50 for each session, although scholarships are available upon request. If you can afford this fee, please bring your check made out to Bill or Emilie for \$50 with you when you meet with Bill or Emilie. If you would like to have an hour of spiritual direction but are unable to afford this cost, the church will be happy to provide a scholarship for your hour; you do not need to let anyone know this when you sign up, but simply indicate verbally to Bill or Emilie during your hour of spiritual direction that you are asking that the church provide a scholarship for you. The available times are Saturday at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00, Sunday at 3:00 and 4:00, and Monday at 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00. **You may call the church office to request a session and may request either Bill or Emilie.** Whether or not you take advantage of the individual sessions, we hope you will plan on joining us Saturday morning August 18 for the retreat. **Their books will be available that weekend which will offer further opportunity to benefit from their ministry.**

At Home  
Linda Scott



Mexico  
Rosalia Marquez

**Rehabilitation and Healthcare**  
Jerry Martin  
2728 South 10th Avenue, 35205

**Hong Kong**  
Jerry and Ruth Moyer

**Peace Corps, Benin, West Africa**  
Charles Reeves



## August

19-Ginger Frost	24-Sara Hoover
21-Marian Norris	Oteel Burbridge
Margaret Ward	Julie Burge
David Goodwin	Lucas Geurs
Sara Bateman	25-Wanda Hicks
22-Marsha Henderson	28-Don Gardner
23-Jerry Marrin	31-Donna Glidewell

## Christianity After Jesus - The First 300 Years

This is the title of a new Sunday School class to begin in September which will explore how the embryonic church, begun at Pentecost, progressed over three centuries until Christianity became the state religion. It was beset by unimaginable hardship and remarkable courage. The materials are being readied now for the class syllabus by Paul Hall who will be the teacher. If you're interested in attending John Duke must know soon of your intention so your syllabus can be prepared. The course will begin after Labor Day and likely run until April or May depending on interruptions in the regular class schedule. John's number is 328-0644.

## We all have a story.....

While Sarah has been our pastor we have heard many of her stories, and she has helped us see how our own life stories can intersect with Biblical stories. During Pastor Sarah's sabbatical she is listening to the stories of various storytellers, preachers, and authors. The Sabbatical Committee (and Pastor Sarah) invites you to write down your own story (your entire life story, or parts of it). When she returns from her sabbatical in September copies of the stories members of our church have written will be presented to her during the Welcome Home party. When you have your story written, please turn it in to the church office.

## Week of August 19

**Malcolm Marler, Lay Minister, 287-2040**  
**Gail Hill, Deacon of the Week, 324-3533**

### **Sunday, August 19**

VSP Pickup - Becky Belcher

9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship: Emilie Griffin, pulpit guest

Lobby Monitor - David Henderson

Ushers - David Young, Liesl Ward

Greeters - Elaine Peterson, Susan Richardson, Karen Stephens

Offering - Bill Bennett, Sara Hoover

Preschool - Janet Goodwin

Offering Counters - Kathy Hollis

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - Denise Gardner,  
Jill Holley

10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson

Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor

Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner

VSP - Elaine Peterson

Sack Lunches - Grooms-Hairston & Quaker

Building Lockup - David Goodwin

11:30 a.m. - Deacons Meeting

12:00 noon - JIF

4:00 p.m. - Finance Sub-Committee

5:00 p.m. - COM

### **Monday, August 20**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

### **Tuesday, August 21**

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

### **Wednesday, August 22**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

Menu: Bakes Potato/Salad Bar, Baked Potatoes, Salad Lettuce,  
Shredded Cheese, Bacon Bits, Butter/Sour Cream, Chopped  
Chives, Croutons, Salad Dressings

Clean Up: Joe Dixon, Ellen Dossett, Eleanor Traylor, Rick Traylor

6:15 p.m. - Children's Missions & Youth Program

6:30 p.m. - Fisher Humphreys - *We Are Friends of Jesus*

Lockup: David Henderson

7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Choir Lockup: Joe Dixon

### **Saturday, August 25**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: Kathy Grissom

10:00 a.m. - Welcome Back Committee

## Week of August 26

**Mark McClintock, Lay Minister, 989-4292**  
**Denise Jacks, Deacon of the Week, 836-9159**

### **Sunday, August 26**

VSP Pickup - Ellen Dossett

9:00 a.m.-Morning Worship: Kenneth Roxburgh, pulpit guest

Lobby Monitor - Walker Grooms

Ushers - Daniel Evans, Bill Bennett

Greeters - Janet Goodwin, Rachel Krech

Offering - Owen Grooms, William Lovechia

Preschool - Connie McCrory

Offering Counters - Marvin McConaghy

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship - George Crear

10:30 a.m. - Sunday School

Preschool 1 & 2 - Linda Martin, Marsha Henderson

Preschool 3 - Julie Burge, Eleanor Traylor

Preschool 4 - Denise Gardner, Kit Heifner

VSP - Elaine Peterson

Sack Lunches - Travelers

Building Lockup - David Goodwin

12:00 noon - Welcome Back Committee

### **Monday, August 27**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

### **Tuesday, August 28**

1:00 p.m. - Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Exchange Club Parenting Class

### **Wednesday, August 29**

12:00 noon - Overeaters Anonymous

5:30 p.m. - Fellowship Supper

Menu: BBQ Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Potato Salad,  
Cookies and Brownies

Clean Up: Tex Hawley, Marsha Henderson, Susan Richardson,  
Suzann Smith

6:15 p.m. - Children's Missions & Youth Program

6:30 p.m. - Fisher Humphreys - *We Are Guests in God's House*

Lockup: David Henderson

7:15 p.m. - Covenant Choir Rehearsal

Choir Lockup: Chuck Rogers

### **Saturday, September 1**

9:30 a.m. - Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry: David Groom



**Baptist Church of the Covenant**  
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