

OXFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

143 Oxford Lane
Lexington, VA 24450

July 31, 2011
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FROM THE PASTOR

(written the week of June 26)

Every day this week I have attended the Vacation Bible School at Mt. Horeb. What a pleasure to see so many happy, healthy children....all from our little community.

The Adult Class dealt with how the church can respond to our culture's changing social environment. People seem too distracted to take time for religious activity. Church is pushed completely off the screen, as totally irrelevant in today's world.

I am choosing to take an optimistic view. I firmly believe that many Americans long for the close-knit affection found in a small church. Even though the media portray church-goers as "unenlightened", there is no denying we are doing something healthy. People who go to church live decades longer, on average, than people who don't.

Why? It's because the soul and body are interconnected. What's good for one is good for both.
Being surrounded by a loving church family like Oxford is wonderfully invigorating.

Please recognize two facts:

1. What you derive from church may be the best medicine on earth. It may be your path to a longer, happier life, as verified by recent exhaustive studies.
2. When you don't participate in Oxford Church, you are diluting the good medicine. Your presence might be the one factor that inspires and enlivens someone else.

I thank you for your attachment to our sweet church, especially if you are seen there every Sunday. Help us continue to be the "light upon the hill", to the glory of God and the good of the community.

Horace

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Oxford's Christian Education Committee is now chaired by Lynn Stewart and Ann Grunner. They are working on new material for the children's Sunday School. If you would like to help with this endeavor please contact either Ann or Lynn. The Fall classes begin September 4.

SUMMER SALADS LUNCHEON

During worship on July 31, Oxford will receive new members. Following worship we will enjoy a carry-in luncheon of salads. Bring your favorite salads to share! Beverages and table service will be provided.

What a great way to get to know each other better– over food from Oxford cooks!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Linda Leech, Will Leech, Rufus Tyree, and Carolyn Yawars will be rotating off the Session in December 2011. The process to replace them begins with an August congregational meeting where members of Oxford will be elected to serve on the nominating committee. The four elders rotating off the Session will also serve on the nominating committee, with Carolyn serving as chair. At a September 2011 Congregational Meeting, the nominating committee will give their report and four Oxford members will be elected to serve on the Session.

MISSION FOR GAIL SMITH

Oxford recently collected a Special Offering for the overseas Mission work of Gail Smith. \$1,528.00 was received and has been mailed to her account to be used for special projects on which she is working. Gail replied that she was “humbled and pleased by this amount. What a large amount from people with big hearts! Thank you for giving sacrificially! “

OXFORD EXERCISE CLASS



Here's the proof! The folks at the Exercise Class really do work out! The class is inspired by the video leader, “Leslie”, (who we follow on big screen TV) and by the Oxford leader, Trudy Melvin. As you can see, the class mainly involves walking in place. But we do leg lifts, kicks and arm movements also. If anyone gets a bit too tired they can simply slow their pace or pull up a chair and only do the arm movements. Come on out to Oxford on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at 5:30 and join us! We'd love to have you get healthier with us!

OXFORD GRADUATES

Oxford is proud of her graduates! These young people have much to offer to this world we all share. We wish them the Best as they move forward to another chapter of their lives!



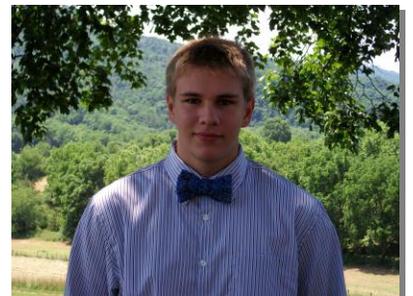
Sarah Melvin graduated from Sweet Briar College in May with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology. While at Sweet Briar she stayed very involved in campus activities. Sarah served as the Senior Class Vice President; member and Vice President of the Chung Mungs, a community service organization; the Sociology Department Academic Affairs Committee Representative; and a member of the Campus Christian Fellowship. Sarah is actively pursuing a career in nonprofit health care and planning to relocate to Richmond, VA in the near future.



Daniel Schofield received his degree from VCU in Filmmaking (Cinema) and Spanish. “However I’ve also taken a broad spectrum of classes that constitute the basis of a liberal arts education. Some of my favorite classes included Ethics and the World Religions, Intro to Anthropology, and Introduction to Research Writing. In addition to coursework, I have also enjoyed a number of other activities, especially including piano, running, yoga, and ultimate Frisbee. I’ve also developed a sense of obligation to protect the environment for future generations. I love watching the ground-breaking videos on TED.com to help cultivate an inspired world view, especially with regard to the future and the environment.

In 10 years, I see myself living off a yacht in the South Pacific shooting a film about an underwater city, set in the far off future. Although I am being somewhat facetious, I do actually see myself working on big budget feature films around the world. I have enjoyed thought-provoking sermons and warm fellowship from Oxford. I am thankful for this.”

Thomas Schofield graduated from Rockbridge County High School in June. “While at RCHS, I played on the high school lacrosse team all four years, ran cross country for three years, and served on the Student Council Board for the last two years. I was in building trades for three years, where I learned how to build a house from the beginning to the finish work, including plumbing and wiring. I was also in Electronics for three years. I will attend Virginia Tech in the fall where I will



major in Engineering. For hobbies I like to play all kinds of sports, lift weights, go for runs, and play electric and acoustic guitar as well as mandolin. I am currently learning the fiddle. In ten years, I want to be done with college, have a good job, and build my own house. I am thankful for all I have received from being associated with Oxford Church. It is filled with fine people.”



Noah Smith graduated from Rockbridge county High School this past June. He currently lives at home with his mother, Alva, and brother Jed. Jed is extremely interested in government, history and politics. This fall he will be a student assistant at the High School in History classes. Also, Noah will be enrolled in the Post-Graduate program at Rockbridge County High School for the coming school year.

Molly MacArthur Stewart graduated from Rockbridge County High School on June 11, 2011. She plans to attend James Madison University and major in the Art field and concentrate in Arabic language and culture. She feels strongly that this language will help her find a place in a career and be a part of helping her country work with others in our world. Also, she has started a non-profit organization called Pennies for Poverty. Molly strives to get students in each state in the US to head up a penny collection in order to bring the funds together to make a difference in some other student's life. Oxford members that have students or relatives that would be interested in becoming a part of this effort are welcome to email Molly at Mstewart9@gmail.com



OXFORD OFFICERS AND STAFF

Following is a listing of the Oxford officers and staff. If you have any needs, wants, concerns, etc., please contact one of the individuals listed.

OXFORD SESSION

Evelyn Ayers, Buzz Birzenieks, Jonathan Hines, Rusty Keith, Linda Leech, Will Leech, Mike Meads, Marty Rockett, Larry Sensabaugh, Rufus Tyree, and Carolyn Yawars. Horace Douty, Moderator

OXFORD STAFF

Pastor: Dr. Horace Douty
Receiving Treasurer: Monica Rexrode
Disbursing Treasurer: Heather Meads
Secretary: Linda Leech
Custodian: Juanita Smith
Organist: Patricia Donald