

July 2020

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TMBC

Legacy of the D.G. Nichols Family

July 2, 2020, is the 193rd birthday of the Memorial Baptist Church. The D. G. Nichols family has left its imprint on the church's long journey of faith. D. G. Nichols (1916-1996), a native of Wilson County, moved to Greenville as a young man in search of his future. He took up residence in the Carrie Holliday Boarding House near The Memorial Baptist Church and began work in sales, namely fertilizer. In 1951, he established the D. G Nichols Real Estate Agency, Inc.

The young D. G. also found his future wife in the college town of Greenville: Thelma Rayford (1920-1989). She was a native of Sampson County and a graduate of East Carolina Teachers College—now East Carolina University. They were married in 1940 and were the parents of Ann Nichols Moore and David Grady Nichols, Jr. Thelma taught school for a brief period and then entered the field of insurance until the formation of the D. G. Nichols Real Estate Agency.

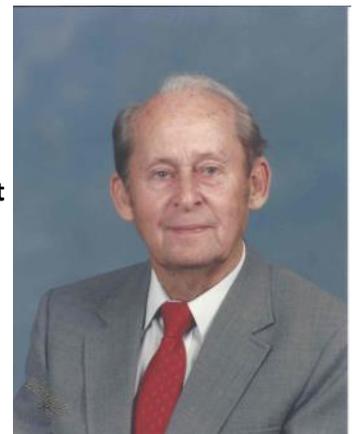
D. G. and Thelma joined the church in 1955 during the pastorate of Rev. Percy Upchurch and immediately became active and gifted members. Thelma used her teaching experience to teach Beginners (5-year-olds) in Sunday school. For years, she was the mainstay in the church's Early Childhood Sunday school program.

D. G. was a trusted and conscientious church leader. He served as a trustee and deacon; he chaired the search committee that called C. Norman Bennett (1970-1976) as Memorial's 35th pastor. Most importantly, D. G.'s expertise in real estate was a Godsend blessing. From the church's call of Rev. Percy Upchurch in 1954 to the ministry of Rev. Bennett, the acquisition of property and a building program were at the forefront of church business. Rev. Upchurch came to Memorial with the expectation to build a new house of worship and church parsonage. Property was acquired and parsonage was built on East Rock Spring Road and dedicated in 1960. When Mr. Upchurch retired nine years later in November 1969, a new enlarged church had not been built. The congregation had, however, acquired all the properties on the city block of Fourth and Greene Streets on which to erect a new church building. But the issue of inadequate parking space caused the congregation to reconsider the decision to remain on the downtown site. Fortunately, the J. H. Boyd farm had been willed to the church with the stipulation to build the enlarged church on that property; however, Mrs. Boyd did not hold the church to that stipulation. In 1970, the congregation purchased ten acres of land between Greenville Boulevard and Red Banks Road to erect its new house of worship.

Soon after Rev. Bennett's arrival in September 1970, he sensed a reluctance of the congregation to start the construction of new church. In January 1971, D. G. Nichols challenged the seemingly reluctant church to move forward on the work of building a new church. He intoned, "**We do not have money, be we do have property.**" On October 7, 1973, Memorial's congregation held its first worship service in the new church.

Son, David Nichols, Jr. served a conscientious church usher until his untimely death in March 2019. The Nichols family has indeed left an enduring legacy at The Memorial Baptist Church.

Dr. Hugh Wease, Church Historian



Preschool Outdoor Learning Environment Update

For over two years now, the preschool has been working to upgrade our playgrounds and transition to Outdoor Learning Environments. This means that much of the teaching and learning that goes on in the classroom can be moved outside allowing children to experience nature while still providing developmentally appropriate opportunities for exploring, discovering, stimulating curiosity and creativity. When we embarked on this endeavor, little did we know how important this shift to outside preschool would become in the midst of a pandemic. You may recall that last summer we were able to transition the courtyard playground for our toddlers and twos and the transformation was absolutely amazing and such a huge benefit to the children. Even the Wednesday night Glow Kids got to enjoy this play area! The cost of that project was about \$13,000 but made a tremendous difference. Throughout the school year, the preschool has raised an additional \$40,000 through donations and fundraising efforts that will go to improvements on the big playground. A big thanks to many of you that have donated to the cause through the church designated playground fund. The first of our projects included building a storage shed and a play house structure. A multitude of thanks go to John Snellings for leading and coordinating this project and his "crew" that showed up to build these structures on June 4 and 5. It was absolutely amazing and so heartwarming to see such a dedicated group of men on the playground with their big boy "toys" giving of their time and talents to begin this transition on the big playground. A huge shoutout to Andy Brown, Carroll McLawhorn, Jim Pleasants, Tim Aylor, Chad Graham, Jim Harris, Bob Speight, Jorge, and again to John Snellings for the plans and coordination to make it all happen. We're also grateful to Pattie Allen for her ongoing assistance with our planning process. There is still much more to come with another construction "play date" happening toward the end of July or first of August. If you would like to be a part of that, please let John Snellings or one of the other men know.

Kay Godwin, Preschool Director

Worshiping God Together

For over three months, our church family and others have worshiped with the help of online resources. Many of us have been able to participate in worship on Facebook each Sunday morning at 10:55, creating a "virtual congregation," together in spirit even though we have been physically separated from one another.

On July 19, some of our TMBC family and possibly guests will resume in-person worship services. You can see elsewhere in this newsletter the information from the COVID-19 Response Team with all of the details for the way this will work. For those who will not be able to join us right away in our in-person gatherings, we are making plans to live stream our services to make it possible for everyone to worship at the same time. The services will also be added to our internet and Facebook posts so they can be viewed online later.

A new ministry opportunity will be available for some individuals who would like to help deliver DVDs of our worship services to some of our homebound members who do not have a way to view the services online. Let Andy Roby know if you would be willing to be a part of such a team.

Other opportunities to be involved in music and worship arts will be coming soon. It is not yet possible to know the shape or design of our children's, youth, and instrumental music groups for this fall, but rest assured that we are working very hard to learn what we can do to bring these opportunities for worship, discipleship, and ministry back as soon as possible!

In worship we are formed as the Body of Christ to be a sign of God's redeeming work in the world. Let us commit ourselves anew to the priority of worshiping faithfully with our church family.

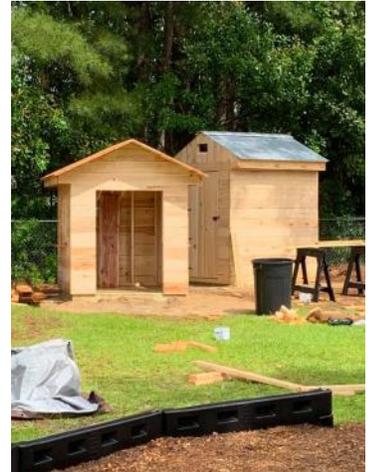
CHANCEL CHOIR ROTATING ENSEMBLES IN WORSHIP

Once we return to in-person worship on July 19, four or five Chancel Choir members will lead and share in worship in the Choir Loft. Choir members who have signed up to participate in the rotation will be scheduled and assigned to particular Sundays. Those assigned to a specific Sunday will rehearse at 10:15 on that day, just prior to the service. Each ensemble usually will consist of four-five women or four-five men. We will plan to sing mostly two-part and unison music. Since there will be no congregational singing for awhile, the Chancel Choir ensembles will be responsible for sharing the sung parts of the services. If you are a Chancel Choir member and you have not yet responded to the "Doodle" poll indicating your availability, check your email for a reminder from Andy.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Andy Roby

MEMORIAL MATTERS!

School might be out but we are so excited to announce our playground upgrades are beginning. Phase 1 began with the building a shed and a play structure.



THANK YOU to a fine group of men!!! Shoutout to John Snellings for planning and coordinating; Andy Brown, Jim Harris, Jim Pleasants, Carroll McLawhorn, Chad Graham, Tim Aylor, Bob Speight and Jorge!

In Our Prayers

A new prayer list begins the first of each month.

Gerstle Dendy (Larry Dendy's mother)
 Tyler Lumley
 Adell Prescott
 Nat Brackenhoff
 Barbara Hardy
 Pat and Joan Whitehurst
 Jim Laney
 Russ Gray
 Karen Rehm
 Charles and Adrienne Ivey and twins
 The world and its response to COVID-19.

Homebound/Shut-Ins
 Beverly Dickens
 Doris Evans
 Norman Little
 Doris Pappendick (Jimmy Bryant's mother-in-law)
 Pauline White
 Mary Frances Jones

July Deacons of the Week



Stuart Hardy
 June 28—July 4
 252-229-1261



Beth Harman
 July 5—11
 252-531-5425



Dale Newton
 July 12—18
 252-412-0011

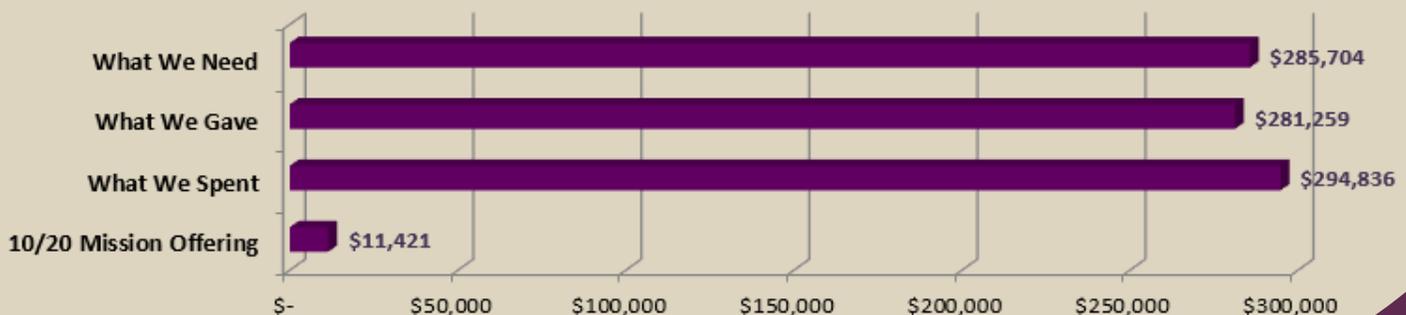


Sharon Lee
 July 19—25
 252-714-6537



Jamie Bullock
 July 26—August 1
 252-561-5993

Where We Stand June 22, 2020





The
Memorial
Baptist
Church

1510 Greenville Blvd. SE
Greenville, NC 27858
252-756-5314
www.tmbc.org

We are scheduled for a return to
in-person worship on
Sunday, July 19!

See the letter included with the newsletter
for details.



Andy Roby
July 23

Family Ministry Zoom Calls

Tuesday at 11am Glow Kids (2s-completes kindergarten):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89112859075> Meeting ID: 891 1285 9075

Thursday at 11am Shine and Blaze Kids (completed 1st-completed 6th):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87453985069> Meeting ID: 874 5398 5069

Thursday at 2:30 Youth (completed 7th-12th)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/788837066> Meeting ID: 788 837 066

Youth Sunday School: Sunday's at 9:45am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83076780241> Meeting ID: 830 7678 0241

BACKPACK BUDDIES FAMILY BOXES

Items Needed: canned meats, tuna, ravioli, peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cans of soup, snack items, apple sauce, peanut butter crackers, cereal, poptarts, granola bars, pasta, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese

All boxes will be distributed at 6:00 pm on the dates listed below.

Food is Needed for the July 1 Distribution!

Wednesday, July 1 (Note date change)

Thursday, July 16

Please let Abbi know if you are available to help.