

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church

April 2008

April Luncheon Features Renowned Artist Jerry Miller

Cary's own Jerry Miller will present the program at our luncheon on Tuesday, April 1 at 11:30 a.m., and will create a picture "live" while speaking. Trained as a residential architect, Jerry has been working as a full-time artist since the 1970's, selling his pieces at art shows across the country and, more recently, over the Internet. His intricately detailed ink drawings capture scenes from all over North Carolina—college bell towers, small town "Main Streets", Outer Banks lighthouses. He provided the images for the local history book "Around and About Cary," first published in 1970, which begat a flood of requests from towns in North Carolina that wanted Miller to capture their local architecture with the same careful hand.

Jerry, who is now 74, has been drawing since he was a schoolboy in Sanford. He attended Elon College, Mars Hill College, and the North Carolina State University School of Design, and is the founder of the Cary Lazy Daze Arts and Crafts Festival. In most recent years, Jerry has directed his talents to the media of watercolors, showing the same expertise as in his pen and ink drawings. His work is marketed throughout the South in numerous galleries and retail shops. He has exhibited in several one-man shows as well as many other exhibitions and shows throughout the Southeastern part of the country.

Jerry Miller resides in Cary with Jean, his wife of 50 years, in the same home where they raised their three children. Thanks to the Internet, Jerry no longer has to run around the country to sell his work. He enjoys golfing and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Menu: Hot dogs, hamburgers with chili, slaw, pickles, lettuce, tomatoes, baked beans. For dessert, make your own sundae. Coffee, tea, water.

Lexie Nichols Paints Fascinating Portrait of Kenya

Many people think of Kenya as being one of the most developed and cosmopolitan of African countries. There is much truth to this, but the recent tribal unrest due to an alleged stealing of the presidential election, has cast a pall over the image of the country. At our March 4th luncheon Lexie Nichols, who grew up at Greenwood Forest, brought us a first-hand view of the geography, culture, people, and religions of a country full of contradictions. Lexie was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya for three years, serving as a public health educator for two years, and then as a volunteer team leader for her final year.

In order to learn the Swahili language and customs of the people, Lexie lived for several months with a Kenyan family. As a health educator, she instructed people in disease prevention related to HIV-Aids, polluted water, and poor sanitation. One of the most intriguing of the projects she worked on was the construction of slit-trench latrines, which was considered a luxury two seat bathroom (but without the seats), yet enclosed in a neat, small building.

Lexie related how in the large port city of Mombasa, Christians and Muslims live together in perfect harmony, where each group respects the other's beliefs. On Fridays, the Muslim sabbath, Christians visit in the homes of their Muslim neighbors following worship services, and vice-versa on Sunday. Alex Nichols assisted in showing a wide variety of slides from Lexie's sojourn in Kenya, and most exciting were shots from a safari to photograph animals. The vehicle that carried Lexie's party got stuck in the mud very near to a pride of lions, but the scary situation turned out well, with the capture of some very interesting leonine close-up shots.

Update on Travel Plans

If you haven't signed up for the trip to the Roanoke Rapids Theater and Jefcoat Museum of Americana, you have until April 11th to do so. The schedule for Friday, April 18 includes dinner at Ralph's Restaurant, a concert featuring the Oak Ridge Boys, and an overnight stay at a local motel. On Saturday the 19th, we will travel to the Jefcoat Museum in Murfreesboro and enjoy lunch on the return trip to Cary. Contact Wilma Caldwell and get your name on the list.

A trip to Branson, Missouri is planned for September 8-14 through Don's Travel Club. It is necessary to make a deposit as soon as possible to ensure that you have a seat, since this trip is not exclusive to our group. Several of our members have asked about whether the deposit is refundable in the event that those who have reservations find they can't go. The answer is "yes", provided you cancel 3-4 weeks before the trip. Again, see Wilma for details.

Coming Attractions

Friday, May 2 - Dinner with musical program provided by the Trinity Laymen, a men's gospel quartet from Raleigh's Trinity Baptist Church.

Tuesday, June 3 - Luncheon featuring GFBC musicians: Jeneal Teander, Addie Smith, Travis Hicks, and Jan Guthrie, and coordinated by Patty Webb. This is the program originally scheduled for the February meeting that had to be cancelled.

Tuesday, July 8 - Karen Helm, who grew up at GFBC and is the daughter of Dick Reinert, will be our speaker at this luncheon meeting. Karen and her husband, Todd, work in agricultural development activities in the Muslim country of Mauritania.

Tuesday, August 5 - Luncheon featuring David A. Wulff, Captain of Investigations and Family Services Division of the Cary Police Department, who will give a presentation on identity theft.

We have a new member - be sure to give a hearty GFBC welcome to Henry Lewis!