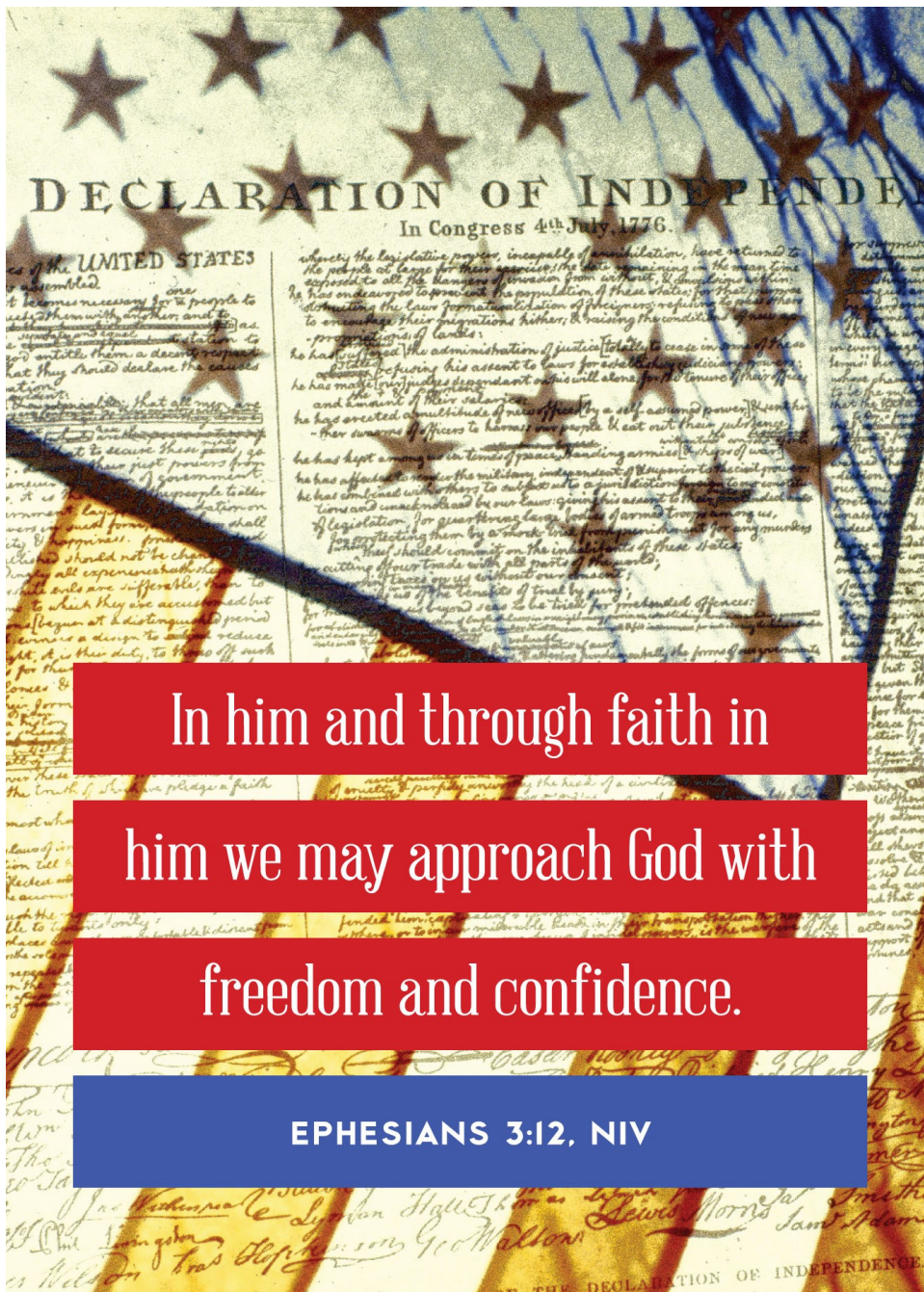


News at Forest

July 2022



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Staff:

Pastor Andrew Renfroe
Senior Pastor

Bonnie Lancaster-Johnson
Minister of Music

Camden Kendrick
Summer Youth Intern

Donna Sutton
Administrative Assistant

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

We are in the heat of summer and boy is it hot! What a great time we had prayer walking our community until we were hit with this heat wave. It is always a joy of mine to see members walking the sidewalks of our surrounding neighborhoods with the purpose of praying for those in our area to be impacted with the Gospel. The heat may have driven us inside, but it has driven us back to God's word. If you looking for some great study and conversation in the word, join us on Sunday evenings in the Chapel and you will find just that.

I would like to report that Redemption Hill Church had a great first Sunday in the fellowship hall. In preparation for their time, they had lots of volunteers helping to trim bushes, pressure wash the sidewalks and brick steps, and clean out the remainder of items that needed to be removed from various rooms. If you have an opportunity on a Sunday morning, take some time to walk through the fellowship hall area and encourage the volunteers you see along the way.

As we are at the end of our time in the Sermon on the Mount I would like to challenge you to go back and read Matthew chapters 5-7. As you read it in its entirety, I want to challenge you to see the intention behind of the words. What you will find is the message of the Savior giving loving instructions to those who seek to know Him. These are instructions of how to live as citizens of the kingdom in a manner that brings glory to God. They do not result in frustration or regret, but rather eternal life. Take these words that Jesus has given us and do not merely just listen, but apply these words to your life that not only will you be transformed, but all those who come in contact with you will be impacted because of the Spirit at work within you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Andrew

FROM OUR SUMMER INTERN

This summer has been going exceedingly well with the presence of Redemption Hill on our campus and the fellowship of our body of believers. Our student ministry has a few events left for the remainder of the summer so please be praying for hearts to be transformed and relationships to be built through those outings. With that being said, I want to show some transparency and express something we all may struggle with. Complacency and convenience may be the most silent killer of peace and joy in this Christian life because it is coated with the lie that everything is fine. When we become complacent and think the Christian life is easy, we are so often failed because the mission of furthering the Gospel includes hardship, trials, and shortcomings. Ryan Lister says it best, "When our hearts fall for the idol of convenience, the call of Jesus to follow Him in shouldering a cross feels foreign." The simplicity of thinking all is well and right in our relationship with God leaves us lost and shaken because we neglect the need to always pursue God and His will for our life. My prayer for not only my own life but for this congregation as well is to seek the Lord in all that we do and to not fall into the trap of complacency.

In Christ,

Camden

Reminder . . .

Youth River Tubing trip to Saluda, NC
July 14th - Leave FBCB at 11 AM
\$20/person + food

July Calendar

July 2

12:00 pm Red, White & Belmont

July 3

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship/Lord's Supper

No PM Activities

July 4 - Independence Day

Church Office Closed

July 5

7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study

July 6

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting/Youth

July 7

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

July 10

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Deacons' Mtg.

July 12

7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study

July 13

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting/Youth

July 14

11:00 am Youth River Tubing Trip

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

July 17

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Bible Study

July 19

7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study

July 20

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting/Youth

July 21

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

July 24

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm First Team Meeting

July 26

7:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study

July 27

6:30 pm Prayer Meeting/Youth

July 28

7:00 pm Men's Bible Study

July 30

10:00 am Back to School

Storehouse #1

July 31

9:30 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

4:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Quarterly Business/

Ice Cream Social

Worship & Music Notes



This tree caught my eye on a recent day trip;

there was something spiritual about it.

At first glance I thought of the strength and tenacity of the tree.
How in the world did it grow in the confines of this small brick silo?
I thought "poor tree". . . confined to its limited surroundings.

But then. . .the leading of the Holy Spirit shed a different light.

I've recently come across the word "stronghold" several times in my Bible study, referencing the Lord.

Two are listed below:

Psalm 37:39

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

Proverbs 10:29

The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers.

At first I saw the silo as a hindrance, limiting to the tree. But I sensed the Lord saying "look closer." The tree was healthy and green and growing. Maybe the silo was a strengthening presence to the tree --- an undergirding? Maybe it was a protection in case of storms? Could it be a barrier, preventing entrance of anything that could be destructive to the growth of the tree -- a sustaining presence?

Our strong God has given us laws for our protection, yet we often see them as limitations to our freedom. We don't like being "constrained", we like to do what we want, when we want, as we want.

I think that's why my first observation was "poor tree", rather than "fortunate tree."

I'm quick to wrestle against so called "barriers", rather than embracing them as protection from a loving Father. He could have said "do what you want, I don't really care" . . . but His commandments, along with the cross, said differently. .

Peace,

BJ

Music Notes

If you have not yet met Casey and Brandon, Pastor and Worship Pastor from Redemption Hill, please take the opportunity to do so. Their first Sunday, sharing facilities with First Baptist was last Sunday. Both have such humble, gracious spirits!! You'll be blessed. :)

Deacons of the Week

July:

- 3 Elaine Benjamin
- 10 Bobby Stone
- 17 Ken DeWalt
- 24 Chris Ross
- 31 Elaine Benjamin



- 1 Theresa Pressley
- 2 Cherie Curtin
- 3 Dewey Smith
- 6 Nancy Hyde
- 10 Alexa Laycock
- 16 Peggy Ewing
- 29 Terry Arnold
- 30 Rosemary Moore



Happy
Birthday!

www.firstbaptistbelmont.com

or check us out on

[Facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchBelmont](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchBelmont)

For Your Information

BUDGET UPDATE

For Month Ending
June 30, 2022

Revised Budget YTD
\$112,521.24

Rec'd YTD \$119,564.31
Reg. Offering \$118,694.31
Other Income \$ 870.00

Exp. YTD \$ 106,865.69

FBC, Belmont now has an account to accept securities
(stocks, bonds, etc.).

For more info, please contact the church office.

Reminder:

For your convenience, all checks are written on Monday morning early and signed by the church treasurer around 10 am. If you need a check, please submit it before Monday. Thank you.



Online giving is possible by texting FBCBELMONT to 73256,

or online at www.firstbaptistbelmont.com/giving



Back to School Storehouse Giveaway

Saturday, July 30 & August 6, 2022

The following is a list of items that may be purchased and donated for the Back to School Storehouse. Monies donated to the Storehouse will be used to purchase items for this event as well as other Storehouse needs. Thank you in advance for all your help.
Mike & Cherie Curtin

<u>Items for Elementary students:</u>		<u>Items for Middle & High School students:</u>	
Composition books	Large erasers	Single subject notebooks	Book Bags
Crayons	Pencil boxes or bags	Pens and pencils (mechanical okay)	Lunch Bags
Glue sticks	Book bags	Large Erasers	Loose paper (wide ruled)
Pencils (not mechanical)	Lunch bags		Folders (3-prong)

Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 31st * 6:00 PM



Make plans to join us for this *sweet* time of fellowship following our Quarterly Business meeting. Be sure to bring your favorite churned, or store-bought ice cream.