



THE CONTACT

July 2016 Volume 51, Number 23

Baptist's Contribution to Religious Liberty and American Freedom

The Fourth of July is the day our country celebrates its independence from England. That much, we all know. But perhaps what you did not know was how much Baptists have influenced America's story.

James Madison, the man often referred to as the Father of the U.S. Constitution, originally proposed the constitution *without* any reference to freedom of religion. But Baptists ought to get the credit for James Madison going back to the drawing board and coming up with the very first amendment to the United States constitution.

John Leland, was a Baptist minister – but he was more than that. He was a leader who many people throughout Virginia and North Carolina respected. After Madison's original draft of the constitution was written without any reference to freedom of religion, John Leland demanded a meeting. Leland was such an influential figure in Virginia that Madison had no choice but to make time to attend that meeting.

The two met in the hills of Orange, Virginia. It is rumored at that meeting Leland threatened to have his Baptist people throw their support to Patrick Henry as the representative of Virginia if Madison did not give the Baptists what they wanted. Whatever happened in that meeting, very soon after, the first amendment to the constitution was put in writing:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

This famous quote from John Leland should be a reminder of what it means to be Baptist: *"The notion of a Christian commonwealth should be exploded forever...Government should protect every man in thinking and speaking freely, and see that one does not abuse another. The liberty I contend for is more than toleration. The very idea of toleration is despicable; it supposes that some have a pre-eminence above the rest to grant indulgence, whereas all should be equally free, Jews, Turks, Pagans and Christians."*

Perhaps there is no denomination that are more American than Baptists. Baptists were founded on the concept of religious liberty for *all*, not only for Christians; It was Baptists who fought for freedom for even the folks who worship different than us. As we celebrate our independence this fourth of July, let us also celebrate our freedom to worship as we feel led by God; let us celebrate our contribution to American history: Freedom.

PASTOR'S CORNER "PRAYING THE PSALMS"



I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone

down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Psalms 30:1-4, 10-12, NRSV

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Christian pastor in Germany during the time of the Holocaust. He was opposed to the Nazi regime and appalled that the majority of those driving the agenda against the Jewish people were self-proclaimed Christians. This really challenged

Bonhoeffer's thinking and he spent a great deal of energy pondering how people who prayed to the same God that he did, the same people who studied the ways of Jesus, could possibly draw the conclusion that our task is to annihilate people of an entire race in order to "purify" humanity.

Bonhoeffer essentially drew the conclusion that we humans do not innately know how to pray. He found his rationale in the Holy Scriptures, in Luke 11:1 when one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray." Bonhoeffer recognizes a problem that all of humanity faces, but he also offers a solution. The solution, he says, is first of all, know very well the Lord's Prayer, but also commit ourselves to "Praying the Psalms."

If we are finding ourselves like Bonhoeffer, confused with the world around us and pondering, "How is this happening?" We might be wise to follow Bonhoeffer's advice and seek to pray the Lord's prayer and the Psalms during our devotional time.

God desires very much to bless his people and bless his Holy Church. We will do well to seek his blessing – but that blessing will only come through diligent prayer.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU., PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND FUTURE".

JEREMIAH 29:11 NRSV

MUSIC NOTES

During the months of June, July and August we set aside time for vacation and recreation. This is a time we all enjoy and look forward to. It is also a time for us to recharge and refresh. It is a time for us to re-create.

There is a well known hymn that was made popular during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The third stanza of *Morning Has Broken* uses the word recreation as God's re-creation. We know the first stanza well. Here is the last stanza:

Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
Praise ev'ry morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day!

May God bless you and your family with a time of recreation and re-creation this summer.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Psalms 51:10 and 12

The Chancel Choir will take a rehearsal break during the month of July. They will continue to sing each Sunday in worship.

JULY MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

3 Grayanna Young
10 Wendy Hensley
17 Katherine Jordan Scott
24 Tricia Sanderson
31 Sherry Waters

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETER

Jackie Jones

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

3 Jerry Wilson & Jim Warlick
10 Melvin Ezzell & Sylvia Walker
17 John Sauls & Joann Hinson
24 Brownie Cook & Charlie Duncan
31 Hilda Ray & Emory Worley

NURSERY

3 Genie & Brenda Carter
10 Marty & Anna Ezzell
17 Tricia Sanderson & Gina Morningstar
24 Ben & Sharon Sauls
31 Sandi Floyd

SOUND & VIDEO

3 Jason Schoolcraft
10 Wil Ezzell
17 Kirby Sanderson
24 Eric Kronenwetter

31 Kirby Sanderson

OFFERING TELLERS

Ben & Sharon Sauls

PEW STOCKER

Charlie Duncan

DVD DISTRIBUTION

3 Peggy Walters
10 Hilda Butler
17 Rose Langston
24 Frances Price
31 Juanita Stanley

USHERS

Chairperson: Joe Hooks
3 Ellis Jordan, Jerry Wilson, Clint Grainger, & Buster Carter
10 Travis Harrison, John Sauls, & Emory Worley
17 Jerry Carter, David Heath, David Tedder, & Ben Sauls
24 Joe Hooks, Lewis Sauls, Glenn Walters, & Harry Ward
31 Youth

HOSPICE MEAL FOR MONTH OF JULY

Janice Young

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2	Joanne Wall	16	Betty Carter	27	David Fulp
4	Juanita Tedder	17	Tiffany Murray	28	Harrison Fowler
7	J.C. Hyatt	18	Anne Claire Powell	31	Sharon Sauls
8	Doris Davis	19	Penny Obrecht	31	Catherine Cook
8	Walton Dozier	20	Barbara Long	Please accept my sincere apologies for forgetting to publish a birthday announcement in the June Contact. I would like to say Happy Birthday to Elizabeth Prince, who celebrated a birthday on June 2nd. I am so sorry for the oversight. With My Sincerest Regret, Stacy Pukl	
9	Jason Schoolcraft	20	Delores Harrison		
10	Tracie Galloway Allen	20	Grace Mishoe		
12	Gayle Powell	21	Mara Love		
12	Billie Jayroe	22	Jerry Strickland		
15	Myrtle Cartrette	23	Hollis Salyer		
15	Donna Prince	23	Roger Gilbert		
		24	James Warlick, III		

SUNDAY SERMONS

- July 3: "The Art of Perspective:
Abundance or Scarcity?"
Luke 10:1-11
- July 10: "Go and Do Likewise"
Luke 10:25-37
- July 17: "Distracted"
Luke 10:38-42
- July 24: "Lost Keys"
Luke 11:1-13
- July 31: "Insurance & Security"
Luke 12:13-21

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Worship Attendance Average: 120
Sunday School Attendance Average: 71

June Financial Update:

29: \$8,625.00 (May)
05: \$7,475.00
12: \$6,266.00
19: \$2,089.00
26: \$4,139.00

Amount Received for June: \$ 28,594.00

Amount Needed to make Monthly budget: \$ 43,975.75

Under Budget for the Month: \$ 15,381.75

Budget Needs to Date: \$ 343,010.85

Budget Received YTD: \$ 244,971.31

Budget Under YTD: \$ 82,657.79

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Please remember to email or turn in a copy of your reports for the July Church Conference to the church office by July 22, 2016, so we can have the packets ready for everyone by July 27, 2016. Thank you for all of your help and dedication.

MISSION MOMENT

A special thanks to all who have volunteered for June, July and August to prepare the meals, deliver the meals and most importantly making visits to our homebound members. Thank you for all of your hard work and compassion: Martha Senter, Betty Jo Prevatte, Jackie Jones, Sylvia Walker, Rose Langston, Ann Sauls, Merle Worley, Peggy Norosky, Brenda Carter, Genie Carter, Mary Alice Stanley, Mary Jean Prince and Sandy Floyd! If you know of a member who would benefit from having a home cooked meal on Wednesdays and a visit, please call the church office so they can be put on the list.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Charles Lee Price on his Ordination on June 19, 2016. Charles will be pursuing his Master's Degree in Christian Ministry at Campbell University Divinity School. Charles acknowledges and appreciates growing up in our church where he was spiritually nourished by so many members. The Price family is so very grateful for all the love and encouragement shown in so many thoughtful ways, especially during this significant time in our lives. Plans are being made to show the DVD of the Ordination Service, if anyone is interested in watching it, please contact Frances Price.

First Baptist Church would like to take the opportunity to thank the family of Grady and Betty Waters, who graciously donated Mrs. Betty's punch bowl to the kitchen. The family felt that our church kitchen would be the best place for the punch bowl since Mrs. Betty enjoyed spending her time there.

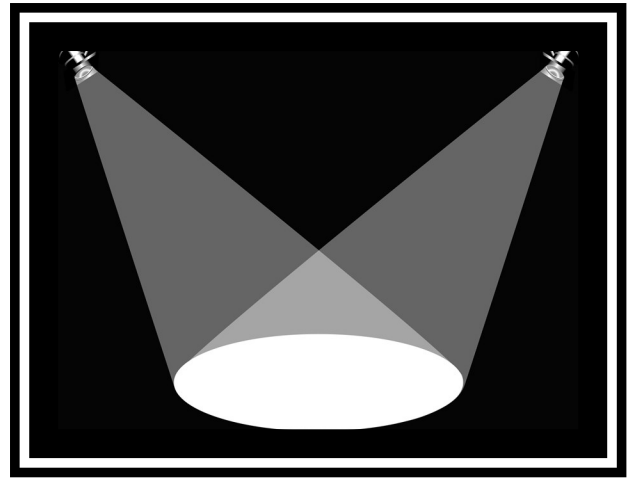
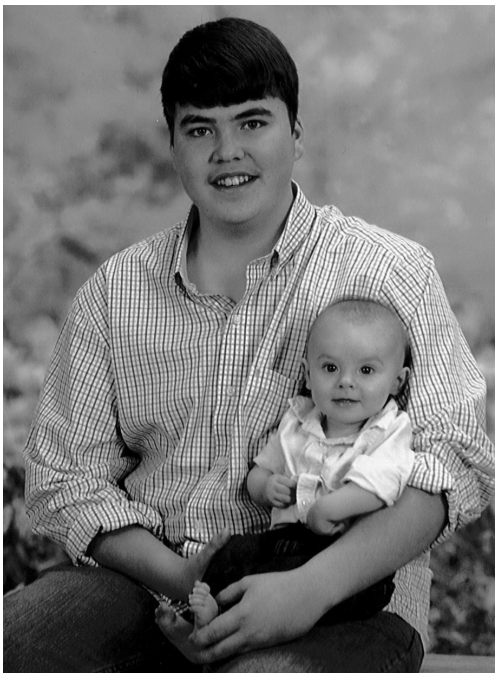
FBC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BRIDGER WARLICK

This month's Member Spotlight is written by Bridger Warlick. He is a longtime member and friend of FBC.

I am a rising Freshman at Whiteville High School. My interests include sports, band, church activities and music. I play trombone in the Marching Band and Concert Band. I was first chair in All County Band and All County Jazz Band. One of my hobbies includes flying drones. I enjoy being outdoors and hanging out with my friends. I also enjoy spending time with my family, including my new baby brother, Ryder. My accomplishments include completing freshman math and science in eighth grade, receiving the Band Directors Award, and Music Excellence Award.

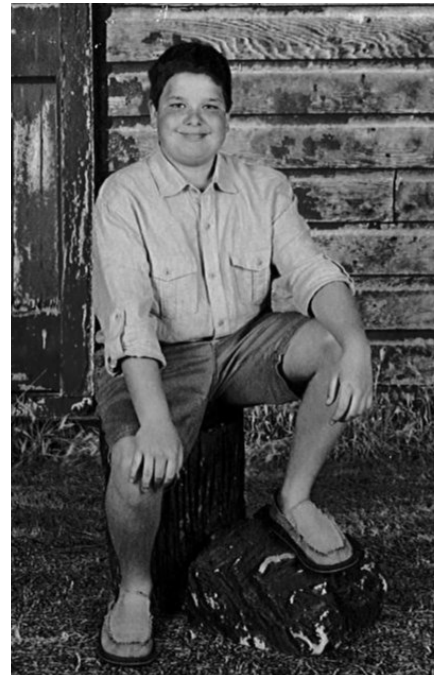
As you are reading this I will be on a mission trip to Nashville, TN with other youth from the church. I loved going on my first Mission trip last year, it impacted my life in many ways. It means a lot to me to serve on these missions. I enjoy participating in all of the activities at First Baptist Church.



FBC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BRYCE RUSSELL

This month's Member Spotlight is written by Bryce Russell. He is a longtime member and friend of FBC.



I am a rising eighth grader at Central Middle School. I have taken piano lessons from Nan Leggett for six years and I enjoy music. I have been playing trumpet for the Central Middle School Band and would like to start guitar this summer as well. I enjoy choir, handbells and riding roller coasters with Reverend Eddie. I play tennis at the racket club in Lumberton weekly and I hope to be able to play on the high school team. I also enjoy playing soccer, swimming and skateboarding with my friends. This summer I am attending two Boy Scout camps and working very hard on my merit badges. In my free time, I enjoy helping out at our family business, All Creatures Great and Small.

2016 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS— FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Preschoolers enjoyed a corral with lots of farm friends.

Staff: Reverend Ryan Clore Minister of Music Eddie Fort
Ministry Assistants: Stacy Pukl and Dinah Reaves

Teachers and Assistants:

Class 1	4 & 5 year olds	Yvonne Bass, Sue Jordan music and Bryson Johnston
Class 2	6-8 year olds	Karen Dawesy, Donna Prince
Class 3	9-11 year olds	Hilda Ray, Carol Greer



Gina and Kate make sure the crafts fit our theme.

Team Leader(s)* and Assistants:

Banner – Emory Worley, Jerry Wilson, Kate Carter

Crafts – Gina Morningstar*, Pat Hyatt, Maggie Hensley, Wendy Hensley, Kate McNeill, Emily Sauls

Snacks – Mary Jean Prince, Genie Carter, Brenda Carter, Myrtie Sellers

Decorations – Co-chairs Leigh Cook*, Carolyn Grainger*, Brownie Cook, Kyle Cook, Rose Langston, Frances Price, Mel Ray and Fred Senter

Music – Eddie Fort

Recreation/Games – Trisha Sanderson*, Elizabeth Hensley, Andrew Sauls, Mitchell Sauls

Photography and Slide Show – Glenn Waters and Taylor Jordan

Publicity – Jenny Clore

Registration – David Jordan*, Jolene Lewis, Jerry Wilson and Merle Worley

Supper – Muriel Hill*, Martha Senter*, Kate Carter, Charlie Duncan, Steven Prince and Mary Alice Stanley

Sound – Bridger Warlick

Story Teller – Katherine Scott

Request Tag Supplies – Charlie Duncan, Jennifer & Charlie Hall, Taylor Jordan, Jolene Lewis, Peggy Norosky, Betty Jo Prevatte, Hilda Ray, Ann Sauls, Martha and Fred Senter, Mary Alice Stanley

Volunteer Thank Yous: Hilda Butler, Gayle Powell, Frances Price

Our additional Thanks to: Melvin Ezzell, David Heath, John Sauls, Bill Floyd & Floyd's Insurance, Ethan Scott and Chadbourn Feed Store, Sherwin Williams, Cox Discount Furniture Warehouse and Angie Melvin



We also thank our entire congregation for your prayers, cooperation and support of this ministry of our church.

Mitchell helped children herd sheep



Snack Time

Our VBS Mission Project was our local food pantry, The Harvest Table, Inc. The children and their families brought bags full of staple goods to help feed the hungry in Columbus County. They also contributed \$235.00 directly to The Harvest Table.

We thank each of you who supported this ministry by giving your time, talents, energy and love to make this a successful VBS. We also thank our congregation and those who made separate donations for financial support. Even more so, we thank you for your prayers. We felt their impact. We've attempted to list those involved in this ministry and ask forgiveness for any who may have been omitted.



Addison Grant and Emmie loading up canned goods for the Mission Project.



Church members came to see what we did in Barnyard Roundup.

We would be remiss if we didn't send a special shout out to our youth and our staff for their participation and encouragement. We couldn't have done this without you.



Please continue to pray that the message that was shared during VBS will grow in all our hearts.

In His service,
Janice Young & Sandi Floyd

In line for Ice Cream Sundays. YUM YUM!!



Mr. Eddie always makes music fun!



Our Bible Challenge rooms were awesome!!



God blessed us with precious children, willing & capable workers for this year's VBS. We had loads of fun with our Barnyard Roundup theme reminding us that Jesus cares for all people. A total of 29 precious children attended over the three days.

	July 2016					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship	4 Office Closed for Independence Day	5	6 All Wednesday Evening Activities have been cancelled due to the 4th of July Holiday.	7	8	9
10 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship	11 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	12	13 6:30 Prayer Meeting	14 10:00 Peer Learning Group for Pastor-Bladenboro	15 12:00 Hospice Meals to be Served	16
17 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship	18 10:00 Staff Meeting 1:30 Finance Committee Meeting 4-6pm Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	19 7:00 Deacons meeting	20 6:30 Prayer Meeting	21	22	23
24 9:45 Sunday School Ruth Believers Class to Visit Liberty Commons 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship	25 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	26	27 5:45 Covered Dish 6:30 Church Conference	28	29	30

Sunday Morning Worship www.wtxy1540.com, Audio Streaming Live.....at 11:00 am

Scroll to the "Click to Listen Live" link

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