



The Beacon

July 2021

What's inside.....

- 1** A Word from Our Pastor
Town Hall Meeting
Backpack Ministry
- 2** Ruth Campbell Update
Rice Bowls
Events for OPALS
Celebration Class
- 3** Music Notes
July Birthdays
Financial Results

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 1 – 5
5:30 – 8 PM

Registration now available
Online at
www.hillcresthanover.org
OR
Call the office at 730-1500

Adult class will be held.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

We are in the middle of summertime. The temperature is comfortable some days and others it is scorching hot. Maybe this summer you have already participated in festive gatherings ranging from cookouts with friends to family reunions. Maybe you've taken in a ballgame at the stadium in Richmond. Maybe you've ventured out to go see a movie. The number of outings that are possible now as opposed to last year are many.

Here is a question for you: Of the events you have chosen in which to participate thus far this summer, why did you choose them? Why did you go to the cookout? Why did you go to the family reunion, the ballgame, or the movie? Perhaps you felt obligated to go to some events. But maybe you went to the ballgame or movie or family gathering simply because you got something out of going; you enjoyed it. In short, there is the underlying personal positive experience we feel when we enjoy engaging in something like a ballgame.

When I was first in college, I attended Georgia College which was 30 minutes one way from my home. Georgia College also was located a few miles from Lake Sinclair, an immensely popular place to water ski. During the summer after I finished class, I

would gather up my friends, jump in my Monte Carlo that had the ski boat attached to my bumper, and off we would go to Lake Sinclair. (It is amazing how many new friends you can make when you have a ski boat. 😊) And we had a blast on the water. I am not exaggerating when I say that I wore out a set of skis one summer. They took a pounding, taking off wax and varnish and eventually splintering. But that was ok. They served their purpose.

The waterskiing story above is a great, enjoyable memory to me. That's why I mention it. In fact, most people enjoy sharing pleasurable stories from their lives. Not all our stories are boring or macabre. The good stories we tell are good because the experience of which we speak nourished us in some way.

In one of my many seminars I had while working on my doctorate, the late Dr. Cecil Sherman stated that if you want people to come to your church and have them return, they must have "good experiences." Cecil should know as he pastored two huge-membered churches with one being the First Baptist of Asheville, NC and the other being Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco, TX. Of all the work we do at church, the preparations we make, the planning we undertake, and the engaging with others we have, the common thread is very practical: Folks should have a good experience at church.

Make no mistake. The “good experience” of which Dr. Sherman spoke was not a solely “feel good” oriented theology. The “good experience” for him would include the good experience with teaching in Sunday school where learning can take place for others, would include the good experience of worship (which must be accomplished by leaders being on their A game every Sunday; slipshod antics are not acceptable according to Sherman.), and would include a “good experience” focus on children and youth, especially youth, considering they stand on the threshold between childhood and adulthood. The “good experience” is the experience that a person has at church that makes them want to come back. It is that simple.

I think you get the idea. So, let’s create those “good experiences” for others and for ourselves.

Peace,

Clarke

TOWN HALL MEETING

There will be a town hall meeting on Sunday, August 8 following the morning worship service. Bring a bag lunch.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how we can understand, minister and reach the community around us and how we will move forward with this opportunity.

BACKPACK MINISTRY - “OPEN ENROLLMENT”

As the Backpack Ministry rolls into summer, we enjoy taking a

break. Our volunteers delivered 1,014 bags of food during the 2020-2021 school year mostly to the homes of the students. A typical deliver ran approximately three hours. Everyone was so cooperative and worked hard this past year.

So, what is open enrollment? It’s sort of a play on words from the health care plans open enrollment season. What it really means for the Backpack Ministry is summer is the time to decide if you want to be a volunteer in the Backpack Ministry. But don’t worry, it will not take three hours to make deliveries next year. There will be only deliveries taken to the schools themselves and the schools will distribute to the students. A typical delivery takes about 45 minutes. Once we have all the volunteers for next year schedules will then be set for the entire year. Want to volunteer? Send me an email at jedw917821@aol.com or catch me at church and let me know. I need to know by August 15 because that is when our work of organizing begins.

Also, August is when we begin purchasing food in quantity and building our food inventory. We rely on your financial donations throughout the summer and all year long to accomplish this. Hillcrest has always done a good job providing for the Backpack Ministry and we want to thank you for the support. Please mark your donation envelope “Backpack Ministry” so we will put it in the right place.

Please consider joining this ministry to the local community. Everyone involved has found it an

extremely rewarding experience. You will too. Remember to let Jerry Edwards know by August 15. Happy summer everyone,

Jerry Edwards
Backpack Ministry Organizer

RUTH CAMPBELL MINISTRY UPDATE

Mrs. Campbell is still taking chemo. The good news is her numbers have continued to trend in the right direction. Currently Hillcrest volunteers are preparing a meal for the family on the days she gets her treatments, which is once every three weeks, until September 9th. Mrs. Campbell has asked us to continue praying. She really feels our prayers. Continue praying for her recovery. Her next scan report is June 28th so pray that her numbers will continue to improve.

Jerry Edwards

RICE BOWLS

Thank you for your continued support of our Rice Bowl ministry. Rice bowls are an easy, fun way for anyone to make a difference in the lives of hungry children around the world. Pick up a rice bowl from the basket in the atrium. Fill the bowl with your loose change. When the bowl is full, return the bowl to the church office with your name on it. Pick up another bowl and continue the support. Rice Bowl funds directly serve orphanages around the world. Make this a family ministry. Children will have fun giving their change and knowing they are helping hungry children. Thank you for your support.

Ed Wilkinson

EVENTS FOR OPALS

Lunch and a movie will be coming in July. More information to follow when movie times are posted for July. Looking forward to our fun, food, and great fellowship time.

On August 24th at 6:00 pm the OPALS will depart the church parking lot to attend a 7:00 pm concert at River Road Presbyterian Church by **Cameron Cody**, a pianist/organist from Houston, Texas. The program features great hymns and gospel music of the church. Mr. Cody also hosts a weekly Facebook Live show and has just completed an album called "The Symphony of Hymns" which was recorded with the Prague Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Hall in May 2021. The concert is free. If interested, contact Jean Sharp or Linda Wilkinson so we can keep count of how many are going.

CELEBRATION CLASS

Our focus for July will be based in the book of Mark. Come join us at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays.

Seeing and Obeying Jesus

July 4 Mark 8:1-33
July 11 Mark 8:34-9:1
July 18 Mark 9:2-14
Malachi 4:4-6
July 25 Mark 9:14-29

Jean Sharp and Todd Collier

MUSIC NOTES

*Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake;*

Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

*Our fathers' God to Thee, author of liberty,
to Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, great God, our King.
Happy Birthday, America*

Choir is continuing to practice on Thursday nights at 6:30. And we are looking forward to seeing more members back in attendance as well as new faces and the voices that come with them.

As we watch our new sanctuary being built, we will be looking forward to singing in it come the holidays. It won't be long now. This year has flown by so fast. It's time for VBS, then back to school, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you all ASAP. Let's get back to normal or find our new normal.



Love, Mary Jane.....MOM



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Doug Maupin (7-2)
Linda Lawrence (7-4)
Janet Menzies (7-4)
Virginia Barnes (7-7)
Barry Britt (7-8)
Bradley Wood (7-8)
Lauren Keeler (7-11)
Martha Lane (7-15)
Joshua Lipinski (7-16)
Carter Simmons (7-18)
Jessica Aylor (7-20)
Benjamin Aylor (7-20)
Kathy Johnson (7-24)
Brenda Kerr (7-24)
Ella Fox (7-26)

Terri Collier (7-29)
Ashley Warren (7-31)

GENERAL FUND RESULTS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Balance as of May 1 | \$28,106.97 |
| May Receipts | \$ 16,314.04 |
| May Expenditures | \$ 13,840.08 |
| Balance as of June 1 | \$ 30,580.93 |