



A Place for All People

**AUGUST 2022**

# The Beacon

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Over the years I have seen or heard of “interesting” ideas for ministry outreach. Some are far-fetched and some are doable. For example, I do not see the ministry of big muscular guys breaking cinder blocks over their heads with a sledgehammer in the name of Jesus as a long-term ministry program and one that I want to implement. Most are interesting and practical, however.

I have known churches that would provide a “parents night out” ministry. It is simple. A couple leaves their child(ren) at church in a safe and fun place on a Friday night while they go on a date. The kids play games, have snacks, and even watch a movie (I think the Lion King has been worn out by now.).

There are churches that offer simple introductions to computers for folks out there who cannot afford to take an expensive class. The course introduces programs such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint as basics. There are actually some folks who could be more competitive in the marketplace with these kinds of tools that many of us take for granted.

Churches have participated in local charity fundraisers by sending participants who may walk/run or keep a log of some sort of those who walk/run to raise awareness and money.

There are other community focused ministries in which churches can participate. The limitation is one’s imagination.

Hillcrest has done very well in the community outreach area, for example, with the Back Pack ministry. It provides a needed help to children in school.

There is one more ministry that was mentioned to me recently. A Laundromat Ministry. It was not that I had not heard of this kind of ministry; like other ministries that visit my mind, it got relegated to a memory file.

There is an article in the magazine *Christianity Today* by Adam Macinnis, June 21, 2022, titled “Preach the Gospel Everywhere, When Necessary, Use Laundromats.” Macinnis mentions a few places where these ministries are currently happening, ranging from New Jersey to Texas, and even to Charlottesville, Virginia.

The church in Charlottesville that has this ministry is Belmont Baptist Church, where Trish and I were married in 1998. Belmont’s Laundromat Ministry has been around since 2010 and served the community extremely well.

Do folks who come to wash their clothes pay? Nope. The homeless cannot afford it. Belmont’s washers and dryers are set up in a house that is on the property. However, some churches send out folks with quarters to different laundromats where they

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determine when there who can use the help.

There is no guarantee anyone will accept Jesus at these places. But there is one thing for sure: the recipients of this ministry will leave with clean clothes, clothes that may have been given to them by someone in the name of Jesus. When I was naked, you clothed me, Jesus said. Perhaps Jesus' words may include when my clothes were filthy, you helped me wash them.

Peace,  
**Clarke**

Hillcrest Baptist Church  
A Place for All People

## RICE BOWLS

Thank you for your gift of \$64.00 on July 19, 2022. You are making a huge impact in the lives of some really amazing children. We can only do what we do with great partners like you!

Thank you for partnering with us!

Serving together,  
Corinna Bailey

## BACKPACK MINISTRY

Since we are in our slow period of the ministry, now is a good time to reflect on our purpose. The Apostle Paul taught us the *purpose* of faith is to bring salvation. James emphasizes the *result* of faith is to serve others. There are people everywhere in need that do not know Christ. Those are the people that need us to show the *result* of faith with actions.

The Backpack Ministry belongs to God and we are His servants. The ministry's purpose is to show

others that God loves them and provides in their hour of need. When we help someone, it gets their attention. When we help someone in Jesus's name, it draws them to the source of the generosity. This ministry is about drawing people to Jesus. It is a gift to our community rooted in faith and love. I hope you will continue to support the ministry by praying, donating financially *and* volunteering your time. It takes all three.

Jerry Edwards  
Ministry Coordinator

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY

During the month of August, we will be collecting games, jack rocks, foam balls, Etch A Sketches, puzzles, and flashlights with extra batteries. Of course, any other items you deem appropriate will be most appreciated. Also, we are always in need of empty shoeboxes.

Thank you,  
Sharon Duling  
OCC Coordinator

## BIRTHDAYS

Julie Carter (8-3)  
Barry Smart (8-4)  
Bob Althizer (8-7)  
Charlie Wood (8-10)  
Diane Taylor (8-10)  
Kim Evans (8-13)  
Kristin Riccio (8-13)  
Gary Payne (8-16)  
Hailie Blackman (8-17)  
Jason Lipinski (8-18)  
Mary Wells (8-18)  
Sandra Miller (8-19)  
Trevor Weaver (8-19)  
Mike Taylor (8-22)  
Wanda Cecil (8-23)

Wyatt Althizer (8-24)  
Casey Boardwine (8-25)  
Willie Wood (8-25)  
Lilly Hunter (8-26)  
Richard Bean (8-27)  
Dot Pierce (8-31)

## GENERAL FUND RESULTS

General Fund Balance as of June 1	\$41,674.67
June Receipts (Online giving and regular)	\$8,002.96
June Expenditures	\$13,357.54
Balance as of July 1	\$ 36,320.09