

The Good News Letter

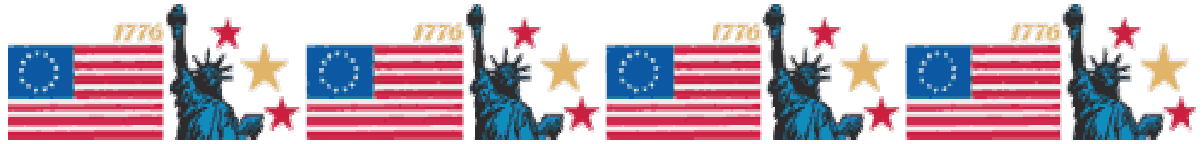
July 2011

A monthly publication of First Baptist Church, Gaston

“The Caring Place”

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July 4, 1776 “Happy Birthday America” July 4, 2011

Review of First Baptist Church of Gaston’s History



First Baptist Church of Gaston was constituted in 1824 as Sandy Run Baptist Church, with 21 charter members. The first pastor was the Rev. George Scott. Though records do not exist to document the church's entire history, traditions, memories of older church members, and existing records serve to provide a sketch of our rich history. On September 14, 1955 the Church's name was changed to First Baptist Church of Gaston.

The church has had five houses of worship, the first two were destroyed by fire. The third building was constructed on the space of land on which the rear of the newer educational wing now stands. When the church constructed its fourth house of worship in 1939, the third building was kept intact except for the columns inside and the built-out room for the pulpit. The exterior was simply brick-veneered and covered.

At 8:00 AM on October 18, 1938, some 100 men, women, and children met for prayer and the groundbreaking for the church's fourth house of worship. These 100 people joined hands in a large circle. After several prayers, they sang together "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." Then, with the pastor throwing the first shovel of dirt, the deacons following in point of age, the president of the WMU, and on and on until each one, young and old, had thrown a shovel of dirt, ground was broken. Construction was completed in 1939. In 1972, a fellowship hall was constructed across the street.

Ground was broken in 1981 for the church's current worship center. The church moved into this building in February 1985 and dedicated it to the glory of God in October 1985. When space was needed for an educational wing, the church began the new building process in 1997. Upon completion, it was dedicated August 30, 1998.

Pastor Larry Harrison and the membership of First Baptist Gaston are looking to the future to see what **“amazing things”** God will do through this body of believers...come be a part of this “Great Movement.”

Afresh and new we sing “Bless Be the Tie That Binds.”

SAVE THE DATE ~ HOMECOMING AUGUST 28, 2011
DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS
OLD AND NEW!!



**HAVE A SAFE AND JOYOUS 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY
NO MEETING IN JULY...SEE YOU IN AUGUST!! KEEP COOL!**



JULY MUSIC NOTES WITH SHERRELL OTT, WORSHIP LEADER

“We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.”
~Stacia Tauscher

I think our children are so important. We were so blessed during VBS by the sweet faces and smiles! And thank you to all of you who served in VBS.

We served over 1,000 meals... probably at least 2,000 hugs... and countless laughter. Children really did see Jesus in each and everyone of our workers and teachers.

One of the songs that we sang said..." I love you more than a really sweet car... I love you more than any ROCK STAR.. but that's not enough.. I wanna love you more...." Let's all make that our prayer... Jesus...I want to love You more...show me how to love You more! The more we fall in love with Jesus, the more we serve Him.

Let's keep the main things - the main things! God left us here to seek and to serve those which are lost... let us be about our Father's business.

We will be announcing times to visit with the children who made decisions during VBS and those who are not churched. We will work with Deb Harrison and the Outreach team, but we can use anyone who would be willing to help with Follow-Up for VBS... Keep on the look-out!

Joyfully Serving,

Sherrell 😊

MAKE HASTE

“Life is short, and we never have too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. O be swift to love, make haste to be kind!” —Henri Frederic Amiel

"Storing our treasures up in Heaven"... praise the Lord for His great blessings!

“OUR BIG APPLE ADVENTURE” and “THE CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY BLOCK PARTY” were such blessings...we had lives changed for eternity.

A special thanks to each volunteer who served in VBS here at First Baptist Gaston and the Columbia area block party...we say thank you...some of you served sacrificially in both. You have impacted lives for eternity. Many of those you led to Jesus may indeed be the vessels God uses to lead others to Christ.

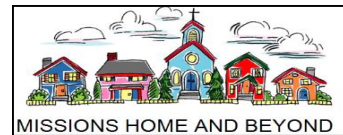
THOSE WHO TRUSTED JESUS AS SAVIOR

**BLOCK PARTY IN COLUMBIA ~ MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
90 plus preteens ~ 9 teens ~ 4 parents
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ FIRST BAPTIST GASTON
6 fifth graders ~ 3 sixth graders ~ 3 youth**





*Celebrate our nation's independence
and help in upcoming mission projects
during the month of July.*



The GAs & RAs are having a joint Bible study that started in June. Beginning in July we will do a study on the "Fruit of the Spirit" geared to a child's level. Due to having a large combined class on Wednesday's from 7:00-8:00 pm, I would like to invite anyone who would like to help to join us. Sometimes that large of a group can get rowdy and it's great to have extra workers.

Our BIG EVENT for the summer will be the **BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH** scheduled for **July 30**. Faith Baptist is the host church this year. They are working on a location to have the Bash, but all school supplies are needed. We will have notices posted in the Sunday Bulletin of specific items our church will be asked to provide. There will also be a sign-up sheet available in July if you wish to participate in this project.

Sometime later in July or early August the GAs and possible the RAs will be having a car wash and bake sale to raise money for the "**Pure Water/Pure Love**" project. This is to purchase a water filtering system for a needy area. The girls voted to send the system to Haiti since that country has had such problems with their water system.

The GA Recognition will be **August 31** with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Girls will be recognized for the projects they have worked on and will receive their badges earned this year. Please be in prayer for these children as we prepare for this service.

The Lexington Baptist Association Office still has mission opportunities available to everyone. Ms. Linda Hite will be coordinating many Prayer Walking events. Please keep the following dates on your calendar and be in prayer for how you may wish to participate.



Prayer Walking in Lexington, SC.....August 3; Dec 7, 2011
Prayer Walking in Atlanta, GA.....November 1-3, 2011
Prayer Walking in London, England.....July 7-14; October 6-13, 2011
Prayer Walking in Halifax, Nova Scotia.....September 2-8, 2011

Many of these events are both Prayer Walking and Mission Trips. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Linda Hite or David Lee at the Lexington Baptist Association Office at (803) 356-2543.

"If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under."
—Ronald Reagan



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

No matter the forecast, weather can remind us of God's presence:

- When it's sunny, remember that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12).
- When it's cloudy, remember that God often spoke to and guided His people from a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22).
- During a thunderstorm, remember the thunder and lightning when God beckoned Moses to Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
- When it rains or snows, remember that God's Word serves His purpose just as precipitation does (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- When it's windy, remember that "a wind from God" came at Creation (Genesis 1:2), and God's Holy Spirit arrived at Pentecost like a mighty wind (Acts 2:2).

*"The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy"
Psalm 126:3*

Every Christian has a unique story to share. This story can become a **significant discipleship tool**. This summer step out and share with family, friends, and new friends you purposefully make. If God is working in your life, the work will not be complete until you give Him the glory for it, every chance you get.

This summer, my story is about how God has answered prayers for my daughter to become a mother. Having grieved heartbreaking loss six times and then experiencing the miracle of the birth of Ellaree Rose with my daughter and her husband, I know without a doubt that God was working through it all. When my faith was weak, God's grace was sufficient. When He chose to answer in His time, it was so big that His divine intervention was undeniable. When a reproductive endocrinologist's diagnosis was that a surrogate was needed (to which they would not agree) to produce the baby my daughter longed for, God intervened. It was not doctors, or medicine, or medical science ... it was GOD. The story is a great lead into a conversation about God's sovereignty. God has proven faithful a multitude of times in my life. However, first He gave me a never-ending hope through His son, Jesus. It is a marvelous story to tell. Consider the following ideas:

If you are a teacher in Sunday School or Discipleship, encourage your students to share with the class stories of God working in their lives.

- Start a Journal as a personal record of what God has done in your life.
- Ask other Christians to share with you how God is working in their lives.
- Create a Faith Book and scrapbook the time line of your faith in God.

GriefShare in JULY

July 3 ~ God's Prescription for Grief July 10 ~ Stuck in Grief
July 17 ~ Top Twenty Lessons of Grief July 24 ~ Heaven
Check Sunday Bulletin or call church office for times.



A VERY WONDERFUL AND SPECIAL COUNTRY

What a country this is! To my way of thinking, there is nothing like it anywhere in the world. I have visited many beautiful lands, but upon returning to the United States, there is always the feeling that Almighty God carved out here a very wonderful and special country.



We need to recount the stories of the great souls America has produced and who produced America. We need to tell and retell these stories beginning with the Pilgrim Fathers. Bibles under their arms, setting forth in little ships across a stormy sea, driven not by the winds that raged the Atlantic and caught the sails of their little boats, but by the mighty conviction that as sons of God no one could make slaves of them.

Something within drove them across trackless wastes to an inhospitable shore, where unhampered by the autocracy of men, they could worship God in all the dignity of free men.

We, too, need that spirit of freedom in our hearts. We need to recover the cleanness and manhood and power and might of the United States in our minds. We must reemphasize morality, decency and honesty. We need more of God and more of Jesus Christ. **Deeply rooted in the American tradition are the sovereignty of God and the sacredness of human personality. Upon these two pillars rests American freedom.**

-Dr. Norman Vincent Peale from his sermon "I Pledge Allegiance" (Newsletter Newsletter July 2003)

The Gentle'man'date

In His 'Sermon on the Mount' (Matt. 5-7), Jesus opened with eight qualities or virtues of a righteous person that makes them happy or blessed. Each of the virtues produces a spiritual reward that is counter intuitive to the associated physical or psychological stress. The 'poor in spirit' become rich in spirit, 'mourners' find comfort, the 'spiritually hungry' are fed, the 'merciful' receive mercy, the 'pure in heart' see God, 'peacemakers' are called the children of God, the 'persecuted' receive spiritual reward, and the 'meek or gentle' inherit the earth.

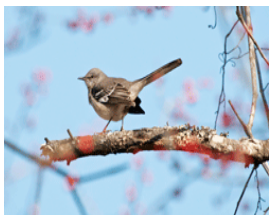
The people listening to Jesus that day did not see any of these things in their world. They were people living in a world where Rome imposed harsh punishment for opposing Roman laws and beliefs, and where their leaders imposed harsher punishment for disobedience. When Jesus said, 'Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.' there probably was a lot of head shaking. For them 'praeis' (the word Jesus used meaning a gentle nature) was not the way to inherit the earth. For them 'skliros' (cruelty or harshness) was necessary not only for ruling the world, but for survival.

You may think that in today's enlightened world of individual rights that harshness or cruelty is not normal male behavior. In the July issue of National Geographic, a feature article titled the 'Child Brides' describes the practice in western Asian countries of girls (as young as five) being married to older men (10 to 15 years older). These child brides become virtual slaves of their husbands who often beat (and kill them) for disobedience without fear of interference by the girls' families or authorities. In 'The State' newspaper there is an article nearly everyday describing a killing of a woman or child by a man for trivial reasons. Men are more likely to be abusive not because of cruelty, but because of a misdirected response to our need for respect.

The key verses for this series of articles are Micah 6:8 and Genesis 2:15, which combine to mandate that men actively pursue or work at being merciful or gentle. This gentleness is not overlooking or ignoring bad behavior or moving to 'namby pamby land', but is the active control of our response to what we perceive as disrespectful. An uncooperative child does not need beating or shaking, a wife with concerns or questions does not need beating, a driver who cuts you off in traffic does not need to be run off the road, a co-worker who disagrees on process or method does not need to be cursed. We should not bully those who can be bullied and subvert those we cannot bully.

Gentleness is not just the lack of 'skliros' (cruelty), but the active pursuit of 'praeis' (a gentle nature). This is best done by remembering that as men of honesty and integrity we need to remember to not '...think more highly of (ourselves) than (we) ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.' Romans 12:3 NASB and '...consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.' Hebrews 12:3 NASB

PRAYER FOR JULY 4TH

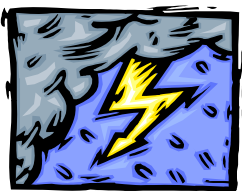


Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly praise you for the nation in which you have allowed us to live. We cherish its wonder and its beauty. We are thankful for its fruitful lands, its bountiful waters, its great resources and its unlimited opportunities.

We thank you for our founding fathers and mothers, and for their foresight, special wisdom, and steadfast courage in establishing freedom and a lasting document of fairness.

Stir up within each of us the will to be good stewards of all the blessings of the land we love.

Amen.



STORM WARNING

Stop telling God how big your storm is;
instead tell the storm how big your God is!





YOU WERE MADE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By

MAX LUCADO & JENNA LUCADO BISHOP



Although this book is written for teens the companion book for Adults, *Outlive Your Life*, carries the same important lesson. Max Lucado and his daughter, Jenna, assert that the God who made the universe made you to make a difference! You will read stories of real-life teens just like you and discover that you are never too young to make a difference in your community, and the world.

Three thought-provoking questions in the book will catch your attention in a big way. The three questions are:

1. "If you had been a German Christian during World War II, would you have taken a stand against Hitler?"
2. "If you had lived in the South during the civil rights conflict, would you have taken a stand against racism?"
3. "When your grandchildren discover you lived during a day when 1.75 billion people were poor and 1 billion were hungry, how will they judge what you did to help?"

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

PATRIOTIC PARFAIT

On the 4th of July, make this healthy, festive dessert to share with family and friends.

What you need:

- Clear glasses or plastic cups
- Spoons
- Vanilla yogurt
- Cut strawberries
- Fresh blueberries
- Coconut, whipped cream, red and blue sprinkles (optional)

What you do:

1. Place a couple of spoonfuls of vanilla yogurt at the bottom of each glass or cup.
2. Add cut strawberries to cover the yogurt layer.
3. Add more yogurt over the strawberries.
4. Add a layer of blueberries.
5. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass or cup.
6. For extra fun, add coconut, whipped cream and sprinkles. Enjoy!

CHILDREN'S NEWS WITH RHONDA PARRISH, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Jesus...Your Best Friend

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S



Summer is great time to spend time with friends doing special things like going swimming or going to the zoo, or to the park. Having friends is a good thing, but do you know Jesus wants to be your very best friend? He loves you so much that He came to earth and died on the cross for you. It's as easy as "ABC" for Jesus to become your best friend.



Admitt to Jesus that you have disobeyed Him.

Believe that Jesus is God's son and receive Jesus' gift of forgiveness from sin.

Confess your faith in Jesus as your Savior to others.



John 3:16 "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."



Make Jesus your BEST FRIEND today!!

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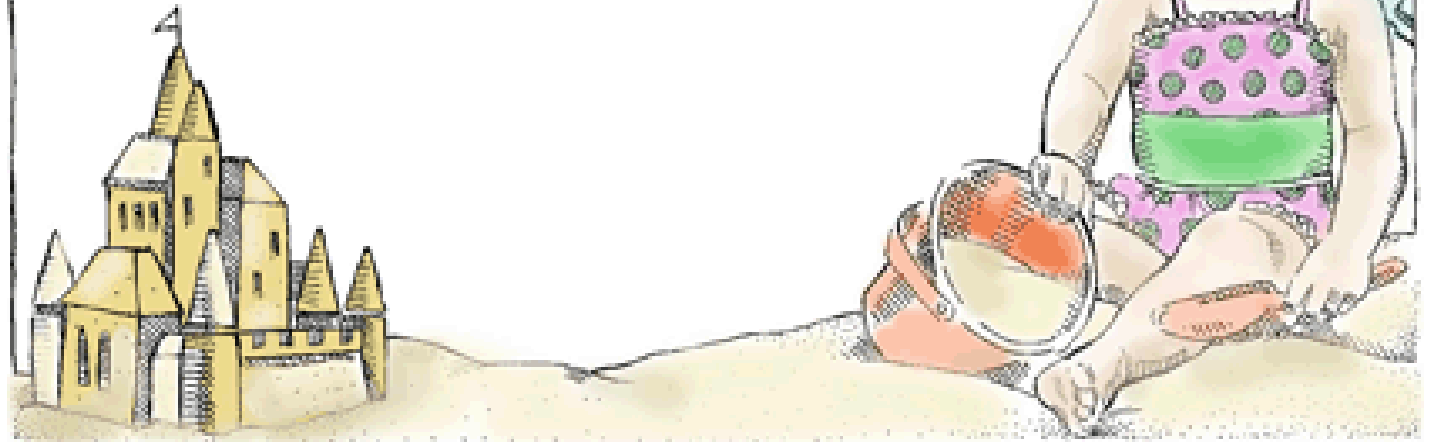


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pam Aultman Angel Bobo Patsy Dowd ♥Thomas & Pasty Dowd ♥Eric & Louse Mack ♥Ronald & Mary Moore	2 James Edge Joyce Watkins ♥Roy & Linda Jackson
3 Crystal Bivens Marion Marks Mike Parrish	4 Jimmy Bobbitt Edward Cooper Jason Hutto Perry Leonard Corey Redding July 4 Office Closed	5 Kim Ayer Allen Rish	6 ♥Kevin & Connie Spire No Spiritual Warriors Luncheon All Mission Groups 7:00 PM	7 Kathy Singleton Harry Wilson	8 Marie Fredrickson	9 Lucious Chavis George Meetze Damon Redding Samantha Robinson
10 Curtis Deming ♥Wayne & Shirley Watts	11 Chris Sprinkle	12 Roy Davis	13	14 Debra Harrison	15 ♥Alton & Ruth Sighler	16 Betty Barwick Juliet Haynes Ann Shuler
17 Noah Pound ♥Matt & Sandy Drawdy	18 ♥Steven & Brandy Ramey	19 Glenn Clark Bryan Rampey Harvel Sightingler	20 James Jeffcoat Christopher Phillips, Jr Drew Pound Aaron White ♥Joel & Sally Hicks Conference News Articles Due	21 Christiana Cornette Crystal Diener Eugene Thomas	22 Clayton Barber Rebecca Cox Melissa Dowd	23 May Sue Alsbrook Jarid Aycock Judy Lowrey ♥Shannon & Elisa Edwards
24 Reid Baker	25 Derrick Brown Haley Greene Matthew Murtaugh, Jr. ♥Tony & Britta Kelly	26 Caylie Kirkham Jimmy Watts Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM	27 Shelly McKay Ian Spradley Ashley Watts ♥Perry & Sherry Leonard ♥Allen & Sherrell Ott	28 Hope Cartner Brittany Gantt Buster Gleaton Danny Herron	29 Doris Knight Cynthia Smith Daniel Tackett ♥Buster & Cindy Gleaton	30 Paula Stewart Alyssa Vella  Back-to-School Bash
31 Ginny Henderson ♥Wendell & Phyllis Templeton						

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday
9:45am.....Sunday School
11:00am.....Worship
11:00am..Children's Worship
05:00pm.....Adult Choir
05:00pm.....Discipleship
06:00pm.....Worship
Monday
3:00pm....Ladies' & Men's
Prayer Time
Wednesday
6:00 PM Joyful Noise, Jr &
Youth Choir practice
7:00pm.Prayer Service
7:00pm.....GA, RA &
Mission Friends

Monthly Meetings:

1st Wednesday all mission
groups meet 7:00PM
3rd Wednesday Conference/
Prayer Service 7:00PM
3rd Monday Women on
Mission Home Meeting 6:15
Last Tuesday Deacons Meet

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GASTON WELCOMES YOU!!

"THE CARING PLACE"

We are here to minister to you and your loved ones and to help strengthen your faith in the LORD JESUS CHRIST. If you are not currently attending a church, we invite you to join us. See our weekly schedule to the left of page.

SPIRITUAL INSOMNIA



Studies show that most Americans don't get adequate sleep. Whether an overcrowded schedule or insomnia is to blame, the short- and long-term effects are alarming. It's tough to maintain a healthy mind and body when you're sleep-deprived.

Likewise, we require sufficient, regular quiet time with God to stay spiritually healthy. Even Jesus needed time alone with God. Luke 5:16 says Jesus withdrew to deserted places to pray. Think how much more we need to listen for God's voice and learn from His Word!



Campbell

"They joined the Fruit-of-the-Month Club, and everything was fine 'til they got to apple."