

# COVENANT NEWS

VOL.XXX

No. 24

Week of July 1, 2018

A Publication of  
Covenant Baptist Church  
3131 Erskine Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054



Rev. Chris Hensley, Pastor  
Rev. Pamela Phillips, Minister of Preschool and Children  
Rev. Nick Clanton, Minister of Youth  
Gene and Becky Bumgardner, Co-Directors of Music  
Becky Bumgardner, Pianist  
Jerry Fulham, Organist  
Sharon Waters, Church Secretary  
*sharon@covenantbaptist.net*  
704-865-2538      [www.covenantbaptist.net](http://www.covenantbaptist.net)

## OPPORTUNITIES – Week of June 17, 2018

### Sunday, July 1

9:30 am Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service

### Monday, July 2

1:30 pm Women's Ministry Planning Meeting  
Dot Ballenger's SS Classroom

### Tuesday, July 3

10:00 am Staff Meeting

### Wednesday, July 4

*Independence Day*  
Church Office Closed

*No Choir Rehearsal July 4*

## VOLUNTEERS

### BABIES & TODDLERS

### PRESCHOOL

<b>JULY 1</b>	Susan Herd & Cathy Brooks	Pam Phillips & Assistant
<b>JULY 8</b>	Libby & Meredith McCraw	Linda Pettigrew & Dianne Duncan
<b>JULY 15</b>	Robin & Leeann Jacobs	Pam Phillips & Assistant
<b>JULY 22</b>	Renee & Hannah Phillips	Pam Phillips & Assistant
<b>JULY 29</b>	Susan Herd & Cathy Brooks	Pam Phillips & Assistant

## JULY

### DEACON

### BUILDING LOCK-UP

### USHERS

Sidney Lanier

Randy Strider

InAsMuch Class

## OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

*The prayer of the upright pleases God.*

*Paraphrased - Proverbs 15:8*

Pam Buckner

(Iris Avery, Libby McCraw's sister-in-law)

(Dennis Clark, Becky Bumgardner's cousin)

(Regina Elmore, Linda Bess' sister)

(Lisa Grigg, Debbie Strider's sister-in-law)

(Charlain Fitzgerald) (Mary Kerley)

(Lena Marston – 4 years old – Cancer)

Betty Ammons, Friend of Family)

(Wayne & Gayle Maples & Wayne's Family)

(Larry Marshall) (Ernie Smith)

(Jerry Moss, Gayle Beam's brother)

Norah Kay Summerville,

Wayne Ballenger's Granddaughter

(Salvation for a Mother)

**SUMMER  
MUSIC FEST**  
AND WORSHIP  
*presented by*  
Covenant Baptist Choir and Clover First Baptist Choir  
**JULY 15**

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**8:30am** at CLOVER FIRST BAPTIST  
117 S. Main St.  
Clover, SC 29710  
803-222-3216

**11:00am** at COVENANT BAPTIST  
3131 Erskine Dr.  
Gastonia, NC  
704-865-3336

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Adult Sunday School Classes will meet in the Fellowship Hall beginning this Sunday and will continue through July and August.

### JULY TEACHERS:

July 1 – Rev. Lynwood Lavinder

July 8 – Linda Pettigrew

July 15 – Jan Kuhn

July 22 – Debbie Strider

July 29 – Wanda McCraw





The following poem was written as a reflection on pastoral care and pastoral theology. I wrote this in response to two visits that I made as a chaplain during my clinical pastoral education (CPE) training experience. Some of you have asked to read the poem since it was announced that it will be published in the Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling.

In Christ,  
Chris

### **Where Are You, God?**

Where are you, God?

As I sit in quiet reflection, pondering the care I offered to the family of one of your children the pager interrupts, angrily shaking as if to say, “Why are you not already present, o man of God?”

The ED beckons me,

“Come, prop up this family as they process the latest tragic event in their lives, you man of God.”

I arrive to find nurses, doctors, registration, guest services, security, assistants, pharmacy, the patient, their family, but strangely You seem to be absent.

Where are you, God?

The beeping of monitors, the clamor of frantic voices, the cries of the loved ones, the stark silence of the patient.

I strain to hear Your still, small voice...

Where are you, God?

I place a hand on the shoulder of the weeping family member, the nurse plunges an IV line into the patient, the doctor tests the patient’s response by touching their feet.

I long for Your comforting presence next to me...

Where are you, God?

I introduce myself to the family. “Chaplain” carries with it many connotations: it means “hope” or “death,” “prayer” or “curses.” What does it mean to this family? I learn quickly enough as they ask between sobs...

“Where is God?”

As I reflect upon my calling, upon that calling which You have placed in my life, I search for You in my encounters with patients, family, and staff.

Where are you, God?

I ask this often. As I look back, you were there in every situation.

You were in the room with the family whose loved one died before I ventured into the ED.

Your voice whispered calmly between the clamoring busyness of the patient’s room.

Your hand was on the shoulder of the family, guiding the staff, and propping me as I stood.

You were there, God.

**SUMMER CHORAL MUSIC FEST  
JULY 14-15**



On Saturday, July 14, singers from Covenant Baptist and Clover First Baptist Churches will gather to practice select festival pieces for services for the following day.

The following day, Sunday, July 15, the combined group will meet in Clover at 7:45 am for an 8:30 am worship service in the Clover First Baptist Sanctuary.

The group will then travel to Covenant Baptist Church at 3131 Erskine Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054 for the 11:00 am service of music.

The service will include guest musicians playing 4-hand piano, brass and percussion ensemble, organ and piano accompaniment. Selections will include soloists, bass guitar and a combined men's double quartet.

The public is invited at no charge to either or both Sunday services. Please plan to be here and invite your friends to worship with us on this special day.



***Updated directories are located in the narthex.***

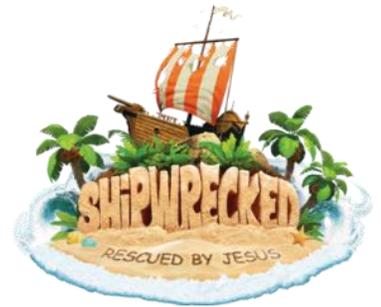
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We are in the midst of a wonderful week of VBS! We are having a great time learning about Jesus. Thank you to all the volunteers who have made this special week possible!

Even though we may be physically tired, our spirits are lifted as we see the smiling faces of the children!

Please remember VBS in your prayers.

Thank you,  
Ms. Pam



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

***Would you consider serving on a special task force for your association?***

At the 2017 Annual Meeting, messengers voted for a team to look at the different options available to the association in regards to facility location. There is a need for 3 volunteers at this time. The second week of July is scheduled for the first meeting. You may call GGBA at 704-867-7257 with questions, to volunteer, or to suggest volunteers.

**BLESSED IS THE NATION**

In the great advancements of the 21st century, it is easy for us to forget the basic truths of what truly makes a nation great. Why are we great?

According to the Word of God, the United States is blessed by the Lord because it was founded upon Christian principles, by men who loved God. As a country, we rest in our great might and power, and have forgotten that our great armies will not save us!

As Christians, we must diligently pray for our country, remembering the words of Psalm 33:12 *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD!*

Then, on a personal note, let us also remember, Blessed is the person whose God is the LORD! Again and again, the Bible commands us to return to Him, our First Love. No plans that we make can truly be blessed apart from the Lord; and no true evil can overtake us if our hearts are resting upon God, alone.

This, dear Christian, is the God we serve. *The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.*

What an amazing God we serve!



by Linda Croft (paraphrased) [dailybibledevotions.blogspot.com](http://dailybibledevotions.blogspot.com)