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The Churchland SPIRE

Volume 60, Issue 8



August

Birthdays

1 Katie Lynn
4 Melisa Coleman
LuAnne O'Neill
5 Kristin O'Neill
6 Eric Mouillesseaux
8 Taylor Shiembob
10 Joe Wetherbee
11 Michael Smith
12 Brian Lauer
Bob Pettry
Lynette Whitehead
Sarah Wren
13 Dylan Freeman
Stephanie McRae
14 Duff Porter
15 Rachel Blake
JoAnne Fisher
Ken Wren, Jr.

16 Eddie Duke
17 Jean Oast
18 Wade Broughman
Chris Francis
Patrick Ocheltree
20 Bailey Schollhammer
Christian Schollhammer
Susan Shiembob
21 Kyle Sawyer
22 Joey Mouillesseaux
23 Wilson Adams
Elizabeth Respass
Joe Wise
26 Shelley Ullom
27 Dannika Noyes
28 Deana Otwell-Clinton
29 Liz Machant
31 Mary Baker

Anniversaries

7 Natalie and Eric Mouillesseaux
Shirley and Stan Felton (64)
JoAnne and Steve Fisher (46)
12 Dorothy and Joe Wise (17)
Elizabeth and Ryland Saxby (11)
13 Ginney and Keith Freeman (29)
15 Shirley and Regis Lauer (53)
25 Nancy and Kenny Wren
29 Claudia and Jimmy Hawks (47)



Church Staff

JoAnne Fisher
Custodian

Jenny Hodge
Minister of Children/Youth/
Young Adults

Ramona Kirsh
Records & Financial
Secretary

Dan Koger
Pastor

Dennis Price
Director of Music

Patricia Price
Organist/Pianist

Trudy Smith
Director of
Weekday Preschool

Our vision is to be a missional church family who welcomes people of all walks of life into our fellowship.

We will:

- Deepen our relationships with God and each other and grow disciples to spiritual maturity
- Discover our God-given gifts and talents and equip ourselves for ministries in the church, the community, and the world
- Serve our local and global communities with the love of Christ
- Grow the kingdom of God through relationships developed inside and outside our church walls.



Passport Youth Choices



Mission Trip NY, NY





“Who Are We?”

What makes a Baptist a Baptist? There are all kinds of Baptist groups and Baptist churches. So what are the spiritual and theological marks of a Baptist church? What are the distinctives, convictions, and ideals that Baptists rally around and that make a Baptist a Baptist? What is the shape and feel of Baptist Christianity?

The Baptist style of faith is a particular posture of faith, a peculiar attitude toward the issues of faith. The spirit that pervades Baptist distinctives is freedom.

The Baptist passion for freedom is a major reason why there is so much diversity in Baptist life. Baptists differ, and their differences are often broad and deep. But this has always been the case. (Walter Shurden, The Baptist Identity)

Somewhere in the past, it was more clear. Or less fuzzy. Or less confusing. You might say it was easier. I would say it required less and expected less of a local Baptist church. I’m thinking about churches that were a part of the Southern Baptist Convention. In its heyday (1950s-1970s), the SBC operated like a well-oiled machine. If your church was a part of the SBC, 90% of what your church did - including what you used for Bible study and discipleship, came from the SBC. Every few months, a box arrived at church from the main headquarters in Nashville, TN. From the Baptist Hymnal to Baptist offering envelopes to the annual Baptist planning calendar. Pretty much all SBC-type Baptist churches were the same.

In practice, this was easy. In reality, about all this asked a local Baptist church to do was to complete the quarterly order form. The churches entire “identity” was determined by the SBC denomination. Well, that was then. This is now. The SBC that some of us knew in our earlier years ceased to exist in the 1970s. In the 1990s, our church chose to disassociate from the SBC because of the shifts in SBC theology. Shifts with which our church disagreed, shifts we could not support. This was especially true in terms of how scripture was interpreted and around the support of women in ministry.

For churches like ours, we could not longer base our identity on what someone else said. We had to take on that responsibility for ourselves. Yes, we are still a Baptist church. The difference is that now it is up to us to discern our identity as a church and to express that identity in ways that reflect who we think God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. In many ways, we are going back to our beginnings. We began long before the SBC was even in existence. So, for decades we had to carve out our own unique identity as a Baptist church.

This is why the words from Walter Shurden are more important for us than ever before. We are a church first. A gathering of people on a journey that centers around our relationship with Jesus Christ. And we gather together out of our values and convictions as Christians who are Baptist.

So, who are we? Who are we as Churchland Baptist Church? What makes us unique among the churches around us? Is it just Baptist in our name? Or is it how being Baptist informs our understanding of being church and doing church? For some time, most of our conversations have had, at their core, a challenge for us to be more clear about our identity. From mission to vision, from values to principles, to how we relate to each other and how we expect that relationship to happen. These are questions of identity.

It is easy to focus on other issues, but those issues distract us from the hard work we need to do in order to be clear about our identity. As a Christian church. And as a Christian church of the Baptist persuasion. As we move into the fall, there will be opportunities for us to give thought to our identity. To discuss our values and principles. As Baptists, we can anticipate differences of opinion. This goes with being Baptist. We allow one another the freedom to be clear about our own convictions and to state these out loud. We encourage this. We even expect this. And we approach our differences of opinion as Christians, allowing the spirit of Christ to guide us. Which means we both agree and disagree out of mutual love and respect. The work is not easy, but the work is important. As is the attitudes and behavior we express to one another as we do the work.

Grace and peace,
Dr. Dan



Sunday Morning Hymn Sing Morning Worship on September 3

Worship on September 4 will focus on YOUR favorite hymns from our hymnal. Come prepared to “call out” your favorite hymn. We’ll sing one verse from as many as we can. We will share the Lord’s Supper together as well in a relaxed and informal setting. Dress comfortable for about a 45 minute time of worship.



Sunday Morning Narthex Greeters

August 6- Barbara Crowson

August 13- Dee Sword and Steve Fisher

August 20 - Debbie Fehrm, Beverley Byrd

August 27 - Mark and Bonnie Vinson

Sunday Extended Session

August 6

Heather Pruitt, **need 1 volunteer**

August 13

Michele Leonard, Alice Ftiscar

August 20

Linda Francis, Marsha Perry

August 27

Need 2 volunteers

YOUTH NEWS

To help us finish out the summer strong, here's some activities the youth said they wanted to do together:

July 25th: Movie Day

Meet at church at noon. Bring \$5

August 1st: Top Golf

Meet at church at 6:00pm. Cost: TBD

August 10th: Bowling

Meet at bowling alley (Taylor Road) at 6:00pm. Cost: \$10

August 11th-12th: Lock-In!

Meet at church at 6:30pm. Cost: TBD

August 15th: Beach Day!

Meet at church at 10:00am. Cost: free!

August 24th: Youth Choice/Surprise

Time: 6:00pm. Cost: TBD

Let me or Will know if you or your student needs a ride to any of the events!

Thanks, Jenny



“Operating Account”

Income vs Expenses
as of July 23

Income: \$ 228,152
Expenses: \$ 262,281



Oasis Food Drive

"Feed My Sheep" Oasis Social Ministry Food Drive: Thank you for helping to provide food to our neighbors in need. The **August** food pantry focus item is: **Canned Veggies and Rice**, but any non-perishable food item is always appreciated! **Adult and baby diapers** of all sizes are always needed. Please be sure food you bring is not expired.



August 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Staff 9:30 Choir 7:45	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> Communion Missions 4:00 #107	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i> No Choir Deacons 12:30	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Staff 9:30	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> Social Hall reserved
<i>20</i> No Choir	<i>21</i> Newsletter Deadline	<i>22</i> Staff 9:30	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Social Hall reserved 7:00	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i> No Choir	<i>28</i> Care-a-Van	<i>29</i> Staff 9:30	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		



To my friends at CBC: Thank you so much for your lovely notes and especially your prayers. I believe my body is healing because of the prayers. My leg wound is showing signs of healing going on. Thankfully I have good caregivers to help me and I still have my mind. I do appreciate what is done to keep the cemetery plots cared for and all the church workers do for the community that I love.
God Bless you all, Margaret Gaskins

To my church family, Many thanks for all the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers and meals during my recent surgery.
JoAnne Fisher



Prayers and Support for the Coleman Family. Larry Coleman can possibly receive a telephone call at any moment to get to the hospital as soon as possible for his bilateral lung transplant. The family is thankful to be surrounded by a dedicated support system of family, friends and church members from several congregations. As summarized below, Larry needs your prayers and your help as he faces this serious medical procedure. The procedure and recovery will cost upwards of \$800,000. Even with good medical insurance, he faces significant expenses related to the surgery. The Colemans, between hospital stay and follow-up time, will need to stay near the hospital for four to six weeks for frequent check-ups and rehab. For the rest of his life, he will need follow-up care and expensive anti-rejection medications. Ongoing expenses will include a \$3500 deductible each year, medication copays, ongoing higher deductibles after Kim retires in 2021, and travel expenses to the hospital, which is some distance away. Cost estimates assume the medical insurance goes unchanged. The National Foundation for Transplants (NFT at www.transplants.org or <http://give.transplants.org/goto/larrycoleman>) provides a way to give a gift in a simple and very clear way. NFT allows for a one-time gift, several ongoing gifts, or regular smaller contributions of \$5 or \$10. The administrative cost of the foundation is very small (95-97% of the donations goes directly to support the Colemans and their associated medical expenses

Contributions made will post directly to a website, where Larry and Kim will see your name moments after you make a gift. Whether in a hospital waiting room, an ICU, or an extended stay hotel, they will experience your prayers, your presence and your support first hand. This gift is tax deductible, easy to prepare and easy to deliver. It is so valuable and needed.

Young Adults: Rising College Costs

During the summer of 1978, a young adult could work a minimum wage job (lifeguard, summer counselor, fast food worker, etc) and be able to pay for a year's tuition at an in-state, public university of their choice. On average, college tuition was \$688 and equal to less than seven 40 hour work weeks at the minimum wage in 1978.

Fast forward almost four decades, and the average college tuition for an in-state, public university is \$9,650. To afford that, a young adult in a minimum wage job would have to work over 33 weeks at 40 hour a week to afford just tuition for a year.

Prior to the 1970's, college tuition rose with inflation at less than 1% every year. Post 1970's, tuition rates have risen on average 3% each year but have risen as dramatically as 14% in some places. College tuition costs have greatly outpaced wages and a student's ability to pay for college in a timely manner.

Thus, the average Class of 2016 graduate has \$37,172 in student loans. Monthly repayment loans can range as low as \$100 a month for 10 year or as high as \$700 a month for 20 years.

What does this mean for the church? Well, it means that some young adults pick up second or third jobs that require them to work everyday (including Sundays). It also means that college tuition and student loans takes up a large portion of their income so tithing is harder to maintain. Ultimately, it may mean that if young adult spend 10-20 years missing from church and being active members of the body, they're probably not be coming back.

What does this mean for our church? I'm not sure, but I hope the answer isn't to blame young adults. To say that it's their fault and they shouldn't have gone to college if they couldn't afford it. Such a simple answer to a complex issue will only confirm to young adults that church is not a place for them. Instead, I hope we can listen to the young adults already with us for how we can continue to become a place that welcomes and supports young adults in our area.

Down to the River.... on July 16!

About 50 of us gathered at the river near Respass Beach for our baptism. What a holy moment!!



Then we had a picnic
at the home of
Deana and Mark Clinton!



Mission Trip: Clue Camp in NY, NY

A few short weeks ago, 11 of us traveled to New York City and Brooklyn to help lead a day camp for close to 20 pre-school/elementary age children. It was a week filled with bright smiles, silly songs, and learning about how we can help solve problems like climate change. As a group, it was an amazing opportunity to not just see all the NYC sites, but also spend time getting to know each other better. Sharing a meal or getting lost with acquaintances can quickly turn them into friends. Many a good conversations happened while riding the subway or walking down the beautiful Highline. All the group members left NYC feeling both that they had made a difference AND a difference had been made in their lives. Here's one example from Linda Francis:

In early July, I traveled to New York City on the church mission trip. On the 4th of July, Chip Turner and I headed out to visit historical sights in the city. Across the street from the Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace we passed a group of homeless people asleep on the sidewalk. They may have been a family, or just a group of individuals. I didn't want to stare. What I do know is that the person sleeping on the street side of the group, in the most vulnerable position, was a man. Next to the man, wearing a harness, was a sleeping cat. Chip and I noted how unusual that seemed and we went on.

Over the next few days I thought about what we saw. My first thoughts related to why. It is a shame that I didn't question why the people were homeless. I suppose that most of us have become used to seeing homeless people in our world, but isn't that a sad statement on our world? What made the situation stick in my mind was the cat. Why did the man/group have a cat?

Maybe the cat was also homeless and this man could relate and decided to help.

Maybe the man saw that one of God's creatures needed to be saved, and he stepped in to do it.

Maybe the cat was the family pet before the man became homeless. Just how much was this man able to give up - or not able to give up - when he lost his home.

Maybe this man needed to take control of a situation, and the cat served this purpose.

Maybe the man needs to love something. Or needs love himself.

Whatever the reason, I glad that the cat was there to put a different perspective on homelessness, and to help me look at that man/group in a different way. Just how many ways can our homeless population feel loss when they are forced to live on the streets? And what do they need to once again feel like functioning members of our society?



Each Sunday as we worship, we try to involve as many people as possible. It is important for us to "hear" the different voices associated with our church. Different ages, girls and boys, youth, women and men. Some of you have expressed a willingness to help as worship leaders and we have a core group of people we use.

We want to enlarge this group of worship leaders. If you are interested in learning more, or are willing to help, contact Dan Koger [dwkoger@gmail.com or 484-2351] or Jenny Hodge [churchlandbaptistyouth@gmail.com or 484-2351]. We are putting together orientation resources to help those who lead each week.

