



# God's Country Tidings

Blackwater Baptist Church



Like many of you, when I heard the news of the tragedy that occurred at Virginia Tech, I felt an emptiness within me. As the news began to roll in and kept getting worse, physically I felt ill. As a Virginia Tech alum, having walked the campus countless times, having been inside the very places that the shootings occurred, I couldn't help but feel a sense of connection and loss.

April 16, 2007 is a day that none of us will ever forget. The heartbreak and the impact was considerable and far reaching. Five continents were represented by those who were tragically killed that day.

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> was tapped as "Hokie Hope Day." I was touched and impressed by the response of thousands of people around Hampton Roads and beyond as they wore the distinctive color combination of Virginia Tech. Honestly, a color arrangement that only a Hokie could love, but worn by thousands regardless of their collegiate affiliations as a tribute and expression of compassion, love, unity and strength. This simple act was a symbol of hope. But we must never forget that our true hope and Virginia Tech's true hope for recovering and learning from this devastation comes from one source, Jesus. *Psalm 31:24, Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.*

As I read through the news line synopsis of the lives of the students and faculty, I was struck by their accomplishments, their goals, and their pursuits in life. Two particular statements seemed to make a huge imprint on my mind and in my heart. For Brian Roy Bluhm, of Stephens City, Virginia, much was made of his passion for baseball and accomplishments in school. But what Michael Marshall, his friend from Richmond, said impacted me most, *"Brian was a Christian, and first and foremost that's what he would want to be remembered as."* What a tremendous statement to make about anyone. A reminder to all of us, that our accomplishments and interests pass by the wayside and what matters eternally is our relationship with Jesus.

Lauren Ashley McCain, another victim from Hampton, Virginia, had previously listed Jesus Christ as the love of her life on a web page. These statements signify joy and peace and, I hope, comfort to the families. To be remembered first and foremost as a Christian and for others to know that the love of your life is Jesus, shows they lived what they believed. That's the true hope for all of us; that we may one day spend eternity with our Savior, Jesus.

Lastly, I can't help but have compassion for the family of the killer. They have lost a son, and have been deeply hurt by his actions. They suffer a unique and secluded pain that will linger with them for the remainder of their lives. The sister of the killer had this to say: *"Our family is so very sorry for my brother's unspeakable actions. It is a terrible tragedy for all of us. We pray for their families and loved ones who are experiencing so much excruciating grief. And we pray for those who were injured and for those whose lives are changed forever because of what they witnessed and experienced. Each of these people had so much love, talent and gifts to offer, and their lives were cut short by a horrible and senseless act."*

God answers prayer and we have a great opportunity to be a part of healing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *James 5:16 "...pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."*

My heartfelt sympathies and prayers go out to all who have been affected by this sad event.

*In Christ, Pastor Greg*





**FESTIVAL LOCATION**

Norfolk Scope Arena

Parking is available at all City of Norfolk public parking lots and garages.

**SEATING/ADMISSION**

All seats are free. Tickets are not required. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A love offering for Festival expenses will be received each night, if needed.

**FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

**May 18–20, 2007**

Franklin Graham will speak at all programs except Saturday morning. Special guest musicians will be featured each evening, along with a mass choir on Friday and Sunday.

**Friday, May 18**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Special Guests:  
Israel Houghton & New Breed  
Tree 63

**Saturday, May 19**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
*Student Night*  
Special Guests:  
Third Day  
Nicole C. Mullen

**Saturday, May 19**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
*KIDZFEST*  
Special Guests:  
Leshia Campbell  
"Go Fish"  
Chaos on Wheels

**Sunday, May 20**

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Special Guests:  
Charlie Daniels Band  
George Huff

<http://www.grahamfestival.org/norfolk/>

**Message from Pastor Greg:**

Make plans to attend and be a part of the Franklin Graham Festival. Pray about who God would want you to take to the festival.



Just a reminder, your next church business meeting is June 3rd. We will gather together for a fellowship meal at 6 pm and our meeting will begin at 6:30.

**Report on NABA Spring Meeting**

First Baptist Church, Norfolk hosted. Judge Preston Grisham presided on March 27, 2007. Business meeting included:

- Report of 860 baptisms in 2006
- Mini-international soccer camps coming in July – partner will be Virginia Baptist Mission Board.
- Disaster Relief celebrates two mobile units: a portable kitchen

that can feed 1,000 people and a mass communication unit satellite based, that will have ham radio and CB radio.

- Franklin Graham Festival received strong support from the Association.

*PJ Whitehurst & Earl and Laura Tebault*

**Thank You**

A big thank you to everyone that made donations to the Easter egg hunt. Kids loved the treats and goodie bags. Thanks also to the volunteers that helped hide eggs and clean up. Even though it was a cold, snowy day, we had a good turn out with 38 egg hunters and a few too small to hunt, and parents that enjoyed watching, having a total of 55. It was a great day for all.

*Thanks, Debbie Keller*

## Luta Tebault Circle

Our April meeting was held at the church on the 17th. We discussed the Easter Lily sale which totaled 46 lilies and a donation of \$139.38 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. We also made a donation to the American Cancer Society in support

of Sarah Scott's Relay For Life team, Blackwater Baptist Youth.

Our circle surprised Samantha with a wedding shower after the meeting. Of course great food was enjoyed by everyone.

The May meeting will be held at church on Tuesday the 15th at 7 pm. Come join us, we are always looking for new members!

## Relay Update



Our team, Blackwater Baptist Youth, will participate in Relay for Life at Chesapeake City Park on June 8-9.

Cancer Survivor forms are available on the hall table for those who would like to attend the Survivors Reception on June 8.

Thanks to everyone, individuals and groups, who have already made donations to our team.

Anyone wishing to support the American Cancer Society and help others in our community fighting cancer please contact Sarah Scott, Team Captain, at 421-2285. Checks may be made payable to the American Cancer Society and donations are tax deductible.

*Thanks again, Sarah Scott*

## Prayers Requested

Melissa Frazier will be leaving for a Mission Emersion Experience in Kenya on May 7. Until her return on May 23 Melissa will be learning about the culture and religion in Ni-robe and outlying areas of South Africa. This is part of her extended classroom studies with the Richmond Baptist Theological Seminary where she is a 3rd year student. Melissa plans to become a police chaplain after graduation.

Please pray for Melissa to have safe travel there and back. She will give a report to the church soon after her return! A copy of her itinerary is posted in the hall at church.



## VBS & Tides Game - June 30th

In conjunction with VBS Game Day Central theme this year, our annual Tide's night out will be **June 30th 2007 at 8:00 pm.**

This year tickets will cost 8.00 for each person that would like to attend however there are ways to get your tickets for FREE.

One sure way to get your tickets for FREE is to be a Student or Volunteer with our VBS this year.

See Pastor Greg, Robert or Suzanne Whitehurst for other ways that you may get a free ticket. Please see Robert if you have any questions.





## The Game Begins Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>

...and excitement is in the air! VBS 2007, Game Day Central: Where Heroes Are Made, will get kids in the game and help them learn how to become heroes both on and off the field by focusing on Jesus and following God's plan for their lives.

During Game Day Central VBS, kids will have an all-access pass for everything from the Worship Rally Arena to the Crafts Fan Zone. So, get ready for a record-setting Vacation Bible School with Game Day Central VBS-it's where heroes are made!

I would like to once again, thank you for serving last year. Regardless of how you served last year, VBS would not have been the success it was without you. I know it was hard work, but I feel confident that because of your desire to see kids learn about Jesus, it was well worth your time.

I hope that you will plan to serve VBS again this year. My prayer is that this summer you will serve in a similar position as you served last year. I know that you want to see the children in our community learn more about Christ, and I know you want to be a part of that. Please sign up to help with VBS this summer.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers is posted on the VBS board. Please take a few minutes to stop by the VBS board and see all the fun things the kids will be involved in this year and sign up to help these kids learn about Christ.

VBS will be five days this year with a special treat on Saturday night.

VBS is scheduled for Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>-Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

We will be attending a Tide's baseball game at Harbor Park at 8:00 pm on Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup>.

I know that the Game Day Central theme will be perfect for VBS this year. We will focus everyday on learning how to be heroes for God both on and off the field.

VBS Scripture:

***"Run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2 (HCSB)***

**VBS Cheer:**

**Run, run, run the race!  
Keep, keep, keep the pace!  
Run the race.  
Keep the pace.**

# May 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm Angela Gregory	2 Praise Team, 7 pm	3 Women's Bible Study, 7 pm Matthew Falls Nancy Leary Walter & Sandra Barcroft Roy & Joan Hoening	4 Earnest & Lorrie Anderson	5 Keith McClain Craig & Susan Creamer
6 Contemp Svc: 8:45 am Sunday School: 10 am Traditional Service: 11 am Jacob Newton Curtis & Cheryl Shirley	7 Buddy Stone	8 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	9 Praise Team, 7 pm Mike Shirley	10 Women's Bible Study, 7 pm Gracie Shirley	11	12 Buddy & Anne Stone
13 Contemp Svc: 8:45 am Sunday School: 10 am Traditional Service: 11 am	14 Sandra Barcroft P.J. Whitehurst	15 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm Luta Tebault Circle Mtg @ Church, 7 pm	16 Praise Team, 7 pm Stuart Louder Jim Wilkins	17 Women's Bible Study, 7 pm Norbert & Sandy Landy	18 Franklin Graham Festival (7-9 pm) Sammi Jo Loan	19 Franklin Graham Festival (10-11:30 am & 7-9 pm)
20 Franklin Graham Festival (4-6 pm) Contemp Svc: 8:45 am Sunday School: 10 am Traditional Service: 11 am Clint Hassell Brian & Julie Keenan	21 Amanda McCartney Joe Suich Billy & Carol Shirley	22 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm	23 Praise Team, 7 pm Erin Fleming Gary Gregory	24 Women's Bible Study, 7 pm Jim Barcroft Helen Lane	25 Ronnie Fleming Robert Goodman Lisa Moss Catherine Ives Clara Belle Shirley	26
27 Contemp Svc: 8:45 am Sunday School: 10 am Traditional Service: 11 am NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE Will & Pam Moreman	28 Forrest Bishop	29 Men's Bible Study, 7 pm Ethel Bryant Robert Harris	30 Praise Team, 7 pm Red Daitley Harry & Gracie Shirley	31 Women's Bible Study, 7 pm Stacey Bigelow		

**IDENTIFICATION  
STATEMENT**

**God's Country Tidings  
Newsletter**

May 2007

Published monthly by:

**Blackwater Baptist Church**  
6000 Blackwater Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23457



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