

God's Country Tidings



A monthly publication of Blackwater Baptist Church

Volume 21
Pastor Greg Hammer

July 2005
252-435-6209

PastorHammer@hotmail.com

From the Pastor **Sometimes a little ice cream is good for the soul.**

A while ago I read a story about a young boy and some ice cream. And after our recent ice cream social, I couldn't help but think about it. The story goes like this...

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for desert. And Liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer."

"Really?" my son asked.

"Cross my heart." Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remarks had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asked God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and without a word

walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes and my soul is good already."

Well I happen to agree that a little ice cream is good for the soul. So what does an ice cream social have to do with the church and God's mission? Well the Bible says we should have ice cream together... well, sort of. **Psalm 55:14 We who had sweet fellowship together, walked in the house of God...(NAS)** Churches grow warmer through fellowship, by working together and playing together. That's part of God's grand design. It's like the cherry on top. It just doesn't seem complete without it.

In Christ, Pastor Greg

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Intercessory Prayer List

 Warren & Gloria Biemesderfer

 Dave & Ethel Bryant

 Walter & Mary Cardwell

 Cherry Carey – Rev. Horn's daughter

 Waunita Cody

Make plans to attend this special afternoon for a time of Christian fun and fellowship. Playgrounds are available for the kids, and there will be games, music and delicious food for everyone! Dinner starts at 5:30 pm. All hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments and beverages will be furnished by the church. Please plan to bring a picnic vegetable, fruit, salad and/or dessert to share in addition to your favorite lawn chair! A prize will be given to those that bring "homemade" ice cream to share! Contact Diane Horsley with any questions you may have at 421-3625. Hope to see you there!

The Skylite Boys Quartet



Coming
July 31
at
6:30pm

As the Lord leads, the Skylite Boys are ministering through gospel music, presenting

the message in an evangelistic style. Delivering the greatest gospel message music can offer, the Skylite Boys testify to their dependence on God through songs as written by Lowell Locklear, the quartet's lead singer.

For more information check out their website at <http://www.skyliteboys.com/>

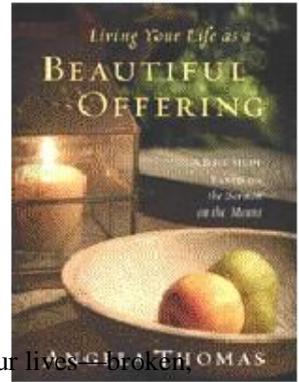
Ladies' Summer Bible Study

Do you want to return the lavish love of God with the gift of your life? A sweet offering of your gratefulness? A life that will bless your Father?

We are not perfect, but we are made perfect in Christ, if only we surrender all to Him daily. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us His compassionate instruction for everyday living and then wraps His teaching with the promise of His blessing.

Jesus wants us to learn to live in a way that reflects the kingdom of God to the world, to live as women with kingdom hearts.

In this study based on the book *A Beautiful Offering: Returning God's Love with Your Life*, Angela Thomas calls women to a more passionate life in Christ, a place of rest in the presence of God, and an understanding that our lives—broken, tarnished, ragged, or torn—can still become a beautiful offering.



This seven-week study, titled *Beautiful Offering*, will meet Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning June 30 at Blackwater Baptist Church. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway. For more information contact, Gaye Hammer at (252) 435-6209.



The early bird gets the worm and then some!!!

Beginning this fall Blackwater will have an early worship service that will run from 8:30am–9:30 am. Offering a new alternative to the traditional service early birds will enjoy a contemporary service based on a blend of upbeat music in a relaxed atmosphere. While praise to our Lord is foremost Pastor Greg will still bring us a message from the Word as in the later service. Current plans include a coffee social from 9:30am–10:00am to transition into the Sunday School hour. Our regular traditional worship service will still meet at 11:00am. Tell all your neighbors – there's something for everybody at BBC!

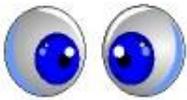
Scholarship Committee News



The Scholarship Committee is starting the annual fund drive for the scholarship fund. Our church likes to recognize our college students and assist with college expenses by awarding annual scholarships. Applications for the scholarships will be available in July. The scholarships will be awarded in September. All of those who make a donation will have their name put in a "hat" and a drawing will be made for "summer time treat" gift certificates. Gift certificates will be presented when the scholarships are awarded. Please see Scholarship Committee members, **La Verne Benns, Susan Creamer, Violet Jensen or Jennifer Williams** for more information or to make a donation.

We've updating our files

We have just finished updating the church directory. No, we didn't do pictures with our amateur efforts, but all current church members' (as well as a few non-member local friends of BBC) are included within the 15 pages. Copies of the directory are available at the church.



LET'S TAKE A
LOOK BACK

Team Kids finale

The TeamKid program began last September and ran through May 2005. The program met at church on Sunday evenings from 5:30-6:30.

Average kid attendance was about 10-20 each Sunday. The program began with a lesson, after which the children were dismissed by age group (K-1), (2-3) and (4-6) to either go to their classrooms where they reviewed their lesson and completed an activity page or went to play games. The children accumulated points during the program for doing such things as bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, memorizing a memory verse or participating in the



nightly theme. Points were spent at store, where the children could buy toys with their hard earned points. The year concluded with a GREAT puppet show put on by Fellowship Baptist Church. After the puppet show, we had a cookout for the children and their families. We would like to thank everyone for their support during this program and we can't wait to start again in the fall!

NOTE: Due to its close time frame to the publication of the July newsletter, the Vacation Bible School VBS (June 27-29) report will appear in our next edition of "God's Country Tidings."

Music Dept.

Kudos to six special adult choir members who stood strong and faced overwhelming odds throughout the past couple of years. Thanks goes out to **Irene Frost, Cheryl Dobransky, Nancy Jones, and Curtis Shirley**, as well as pianist **Gloria Whitehurst** and organist **Sylvia Cliver** for standing fast when the choir was at its lowest point. Without their loyalty and faith the choir may very well have stopped all together during that time. We appreciate their dedication.

Since that time the choir as added to its roster **Larry Bearden, Mikey Dobransky, Martha Goodman Stephanie Gwaltney, Linda Jordan and P. J. Whitehurst** with help from a few other willing souls from time to time. Special thanks to former choir member **Marie Hughes**, who now lives in Suffolk, for adding her wonderful voice to the choir's Easter presentation at the end of March. She's promised to come again real soon.

Parsonage Update

On June 14 the ladies of the church went to the parsonage to clean up all the items left by the former tenants. On June 25 the men are scheduled to meet and work on landscaping, carpentry work and upgrading where necessary. If you would like to help get the parsonage back in shape contact **Pat Riddick or Curtis Shirley**.



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Thank you to **Mrs. Clara Belle Shirley** who recently donated the new vanity cabinets, sinks, and

plumbing fixtures for each of our church's restrooms. The changes are a significant improvement over the old accoutrements and have beautified the areas to the max. And thanks to **Pat Riddick** for doing all the installation work!

In case you haven't noticed new carpet has been installed in the back halls and throughout the social hall, replacing the very used industrial orange carpet that has served us well for so long. The new carpet is patterned in shades of blue and similar enough to the carpet in the sanctuary for a close match. Our big thanks for the long hours of volunteer work that went into taking up the old carpet goes out to **Larry Bearden, Valentine & Samantha Cortazzo, Cheryl Dobransky, Mickey Dobransky, Bobby & Martha Goodman, Robby Goodman, Stephanie Gwaltney, Pat Riddick, Jim Shank, Curtis Shirley.**

At the March business meeting the church voted to sponsor and recommend **Melissa Frazier's** application to the Virginia Baptist Foundation Inc. (*a Cooperative Ministry of the Baptist General Association of Virginia*). Melissa is pleased to report that in May she was awarded the \$1,000 Julian A. Hudgins Trust Fund grant enabling her to continue her studies at the Richmond Baptist Theological Seminary for 2005-2006. Melissa extends her grateful appreciation to the caring members of Blackwater Baptist Church for your continued help and support!

Thanks to **Michael Carey** (Rev. Horn's grandson) who has been instrumental in getting plans for the new contemporary service on the drawing board. We thank Michael for sharing his technical knowledge and leadership in this giant leap forward for our church.

Special thanks to former newsletter editor, **Chris Cole** for publishing the newsletters during the past year. It was hard work and we appreciate her efforts to keep us informed.

WHAT'S NEW IN WMU

As part of our local area mission efforts this summer, I invite each of you to participate in the "Hospitality Basket" project for new international students that will be entering Old Dominion University this fall.

The Baptist Student Union Center at ODU hosts a required orientation reception each fall for all new international students. This reception has gained a reputation of being the "warm, fun part of orientation" because here they each receive a plastic laundry basket filled with useful personal items (see box).

These gift filled laundry baskets bring smiling faces to many students that are thousands of miles away from their families. More importantly, this gift provides a way for foreign students (and their families) to hear about God's greatest gift-- His Son, Jesus Christ.

A designated laundry basket is located on the hallway table at church to collect items for this project. The deadline is July 31. Please join me in participating.

Diane Horsley
WMU Director

Accepted donations include:

Bath soap Shampoo
Toothpaste Toothbrushes
Tissues (small packages) Ink pens
Post-it notes Spiral notebooks
Snacks (individual size) Band-aids
Small flashlights Clear rolls of tape
Unscented hand lotion Small sturdy
staplers
Long-distance calling cards Highlighter pens
Small scissors Fingernail clippers

Do NOT donate:

Sample sized items Deodorant
Shaving cream Razors
Make-up Perfume
Printed stationery OTC medicines
Gender specific items Hair spray
Pencils

Centennial/Jenny McClain Circle

Seven circle members met on June 7 at the home of Mrs. Chrystal Frost. The Circle recently purchased and donated a lamp for the organ. June mission projects will focus on meeting some specific community needs. Following the short business meeting members discussed a variety of mission stories gleaned from the Missions Mosaic magazine. Their next meeting will be held on July 5th at 1:30pm. New members are encouraged to attend the July meeting.

Luta Tebault Circle

The June 12th Ice Cream Social in honor of Luta Tebault's 108th June 25th birthday was a big success. More than 70 people attended and ate birthday cake and ice cream. Some of these people even had enough energy to go play volleyball afterwards! Several people were observed coming through the line multiple times to fill up on ice cream and toppings.... We won't mention any names, but some said the ice cream was their dinner!!

The July meeting will be at Sylvia Cliver's home and the August meeting will be at Jennifer, Jena and Jessica Williams home. Please join us - we have a lot of fun serving our church and community.

Mission Friends

Mission Friends officially started up the first Sunday in May. Children ages 3 - 4 are now invited to a special lesson during the 11:00 church service following the Children's Message given by Pastor Greg. So far, there have been six regular attendees during each Sunday lesson. The Mission Friends teacher "teams" are **Suzanne & Robert Whitehurst** and **Jennifer, Jena & Jessica Williams**. Zach, our puppy mascot, really enjoys seeing the kids each Sunday. This age group is a real joy to teach. Please ask your 3-4 year old what the Bible Words for the week are and what they learned in their lesson. They will be very excited to tell you!!!

Special thanks to **Earl & Laura Tebault** and **P. J. & Gloria Whitehurst** for representing our church at the recent Norfolk Baptist Association meeting. They were our eyes and ears and voted on behalf of the church.

WE HAVE NEVER DONE IT THAT WAY!
By Debra Berry

No ironing on Sunday was a cardinal rule of Grandma Jessie's household. Mother, who believed in the spirit, not the letter of the law, would allow her daughters a last minute emergency dress pressing on Sunday mornings. This was leniency of Mother's, when explained to Grandma (a diehard legalist), yielded this response, "It's never happened in this house before, and it won't start now."

"We have never done it that way" are the famous seven last words of every dying church or ministry. Jesus, never a shrinking violet, was always doing what had never been done before. His decision to carry out God's purpose for His life often put Him in direct opposition to the "We have never done it that way!" crowd.

Four of the kinds of work forbidden on the Sabbath were reaping, threshing, winnowing, and preparing; and the disciples had broken every one of them. By plucking the corn, they were guilty of reaping; by rubbing it in their hands, of threshing; by flinging away the husks, of winnowing; and the very fact that they ate it showed that they had prepared on the Sabbath.

Jesus is our Great Shepherd; He is also the courageous Lion of Judah. Jesus was defiantly committed to the overriding principle of love and compassion. Read the book of Luke in its entirety. You will see that Christ always overdrove the law, and in this case, the "We have never done it that way!" crowd in favor of grace and mercy.

Today we understand as Christ followers that it is always the right time to act with compassion. However, do we legalize the rules and traditions of missions and ministry? Are our missions and ministries victims of "We have never done it that way?"

Just because it is the way we have always done it, does not mean that it is the way it ought to be done.

From the June 2005 Missions Mosaic, pg.5



Everyone's welcome

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

10:00am	Sunday School
10:00am	Women's Bible Study Class
11:00am	Worship Hour
11:15am	Mission Friends (3-4 year olds)
11:15am	Kids' Church (5-11 year olds)