

THE BELL RINGER

Calling all to gather in His name

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Greetings in Jesus' Name

We are so glad you're interested in our church. We are people who love Jesus and who want others to know the joy and purpose that come with following Him. We are a friendly American Baptist Church committed to Jesus Christ and the work of His kingdom. We aim to be a loving, growing family in Jesus, and we seek to walk humbly with God, obedient to His Word. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are working to love and serve others. We invite you to join us in experiencing and sharing this abundant life.

From the Pastor's Desk



Pastor Jerry Springston
Minister-at-Large

"Challenging God"

"Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?" [Job 40:2]

In the same year the *Thirteen Colonies* of North America declared their independence from Great Britain, an English historian, Edward Gibbon, enumerated in six volumes the specific reasons for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire. His research implies specific criteria for the collapse of any and every civilization. They include:

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- The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
- Increasing taxation to support the government.
- The mad craze for pleasure, at the expense of personal responsibility.
- The building of massive armaments supposedly for the purpose of national defense when the real problem is within—the decadence of the people.
- The demise of religion, manifested in the weakening of one's faith into a mere "form" which loses touch with life and is no longer able to guide one's principles.

For sixty years now, our nation has persisted in exhibiting Gibbon's five criteria for social calamity. In the name of liberty and freedom we, as a nation, challenge God, His Word and His wisdom. How long can we expect to continue to engage in blatant disregard for the laws of God, all while we close our

eyes to the accountability of our own behavior? What justification or hope is there for a people of whom it can be said: ***“They are free, but nothing else?”*** In spite of our so-called “freedom” and independent thinking, God is still on the throne! He is in charge!

No wonder Thomas Jefferson lamented, ***“I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just!”***

Jerry Springston
Minister-at-Large

Spirited Moments

Faith is not finding shelter from the storm in a safe harbor; it is more like going out from the harbor to face the storm.

James I. Packer

Give me one divine moment when God acts, and I say that moment is far superior to all the human efforts of man throughout the centuries.

Dennis Kinlaw

The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become. . . . When I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, then I first begin to have a real personality of my own.

C. S. Lewis

Signs of Faith



LOL

A Baptist pastor waited in line to have his car filled with gas at his local service station just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of the pastor in front of the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. “Pastor,” said the young man, “sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.” The pastor chuckled and said, “I know what you mean. It’s the same in my business.”

Thanks again to Jerry Butler for keeping us laughing.

Sympathies and Concerns

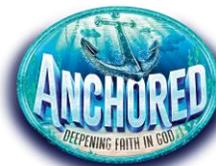


Let’s continue to keep all unsaved loved ones in our prayers, as well as members of our church family who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings due to illness or other difficulties.

High on our list of prayer concerns this month are the families and loved ones of those who perished in the recent condominium collapse in the Miami suburb of Surfside, Florida.

Children’s Ministry

“Train a child in the way he should go...” Prov. 22:6



After a long hiatus occasioned by COVID-19 and related pandemic restrictions, your Christian Ed team is thinking about and planning for the future. The team will meet on

Tuesday, July 13, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss plans for this year’s Vacation Bible School. Although this year’s program will be an abbreviated program, Allison Charles has obtained an “all-in-one” kit designed for a shortened program to be held on Sunday, August 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. The title is “Anchored—Deepening Faith in God.”

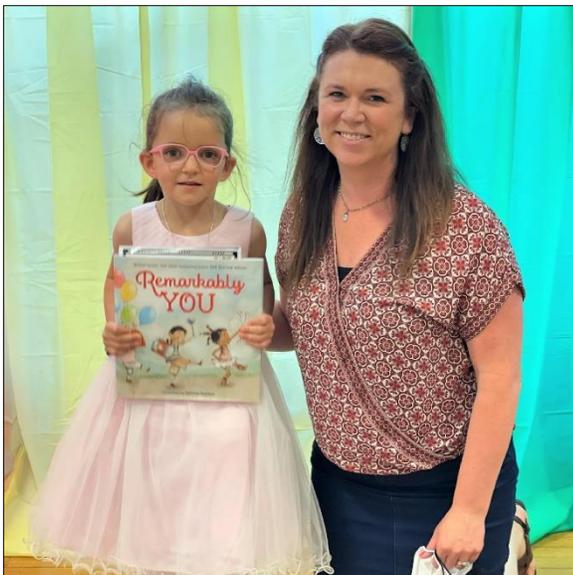
The Christian Ed team also is planning for a big “Rally Day” Sunday School kickoff September 19. Stay tuned for further details later this summer.

Member News

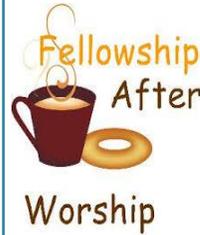
You’ll recall that the June issue of this publication included photos of Blue Hill’s Memorial Day parade. We had a late photo submission that didn’t make it into June’s issue, but was just too good to end up “on the cutting room floor.” Here’s “Pop” Mike Astbury explaining the finer points of a Memorial Day parade to grandkids Mason and Lyla.



We also have a photo of another proud 2021 graduate to share. In addition to the eighth grade and high school graduates we celebrated in June, Miss Natalie Astbury graduated from pre-school and will be a kindergarten student in September. BHCS principal Shelly Schildroth (a/k/a Aunt Shelly) congratulates Natalie on her graduation.



dates to Remember



Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a Coffee Hour after worship each Communion Sunday. Coffee Hour is a time of fellowship and socializing – a time to catch up with friends and acquaint yourself with new people of the congregation. Here at First Baptist Church, we have a wonderful tradition of fellowship and hospitality and Coffee Hour is a special part of that tradition.



Summer’s here and it’s the perfect time for us to celebrate the reopening of our beloved church with a picnic/cookout on Sunday, July 11, following our worship service. We’ll be setting up tables, chairs, grills and more on the back lawn of the parsonage. If you have extra lawn chairs, please throw them in your vehicle and bring them to share. We’ll be serving customary cookout food – hotdogs, hamburgers, drinks, treats for the kids, etc. – provided by the church. Side salads, desserts and so forth may be solicited. If you have a special cookout dish you like to prepare, please let Jackie Butler know you’ll be bringing it to the cookout. If the weather on July 11 is less than favorable, we’ll plan to move inside to Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and any others you’d like to invite to this special celebration.

Our congregation was treated to a solo performance by Katrina Walls on a recent Sunday. Katrina was accompanied by Blaine Stoner on the guitar and Sue Fenders on the piano. We are blessed to have so much musical talent among our members.



Birthday and Anniversary Greetings



Sarah Clapp
Katrina Walls
Dale Carter

July 5
July 5
July 11

Happy Birthday to

Sharrie Curtis
Blaine Stoner
Patty Clapp

July 21
July 16
July 18



Happy Anniversary to

Rob and Patty Clapp

July 5

Barry and Sharrie Curtis

July 5

Are you on our Birthday or Wedding Anniversary list? If not, please let us know by e-mail to fbcbbluehill.office@gmail.com so we might celebrate with you!

Kids Korner

Color me!



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 SUNDAY SCHOOL Returns in the Fall				1  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	2	3
4  Fellowship hour	5  INDEPENDENCE DAY Celebrated today	6  International Kissing Day	7	8  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	9	10
11  Church Family Picnic	12 Women 1 p.m.  Men 4:30 p.m.	13 Christian Ed 6:30 p.m.	14	15  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16	17
18	19 Women 1 p.m.  Men 4:30 p.m.	20 Deacons 6:30 p.m.	21	22  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	23	24
25	26 Women 1 p.m.  Men 4:30 p.m.	27 Bagpipe Appreciation Day 	28	29  Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	30	31
					<i>Knowing the bible is one thing; knowing the author is another.</i>	

Notes
