

SANDSTON BAPTIST CHURCH

His Last Command, Our First Concern

Matthew 28:18-20

SEPTEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 50 | ISSUE 9

From My Heart to Yours . . .

As we enter this season in the calendar year, I am mindful that we have an opportunity to minister to and with people in our church fellowship and community. I hope we are always open and receptive to those who may seem a bit *different* than we perceive ourselves, but who may need the fellowship of the church and the joy of knowing and serving Jesus. Who knows that unique person may be an angel sent from God to challenge and direct us in our ministry!

I received the following story for a church member years ago and now seems to be a good time to share it with you:

A true story by Malcolm Forbes . . . THE GINGHAM DRESS

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University President's outer office. The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge. 'We'd like to see the president,' the man said softly. 'He'll be busy all day,' the secretary snapped. 'We'll wait,' the lady replied. For hours, the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't, and the secretary grew frustrated and finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted. 'Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave,' she said to him! He sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, and he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office. The president, stern faced and with dignity, strutted toward the couple. The lady told him, 'We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus. The president wasn't touched. He was shocked. Madam,' he said, gruffly, 'we can't put up a statue for every person who attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery.' 'Oh, no,' the lady explained quickly. 'We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard.' The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, 'A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings here at Harvard.' For a moment, the lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them now. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, 'Is that all it costs to start a university? Why don't we just start our own?' Her husband nodded. The president's face wilted in confusion and bewilderment. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, travelling to Palo Alto, California where they established the university that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about. You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who they think can do nothing for them.

Sort of makes me remember that sometimes there are special people in our presence and we miss them because we are preoccupied with wondering what's best for me or what do they have to offer me . . . in the same way we miss the joy of serving the Lord in His church when we question what the "church" offers me rather than what service/gift/ministry I have that can best benefit the Kingdom of God.

I'm looking forward to our continued ministry together in this interim period. I'm praying that God will give us a rekindled heart for Him. Please join me in praying for an outpouring of strength and blessing on SBC as we serve our Lord together!! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your interim pastor . . . I am blessed and thankful for your gracious spirit and wonderful words of affirmation.

Thank you for your many prayers and positive thoughts and comments for Susan as she continues her treatments for cancer. She has a strong faith and is such a "trooper." God is awesome and we believe He has the absolute best plan for her!!

If you use Facebook, send me a "Friend" request so we can stay in touch . . . I will post news that might be of interest to you prior to our worship experience. You can find me at Tom Gaskins (not Thomas, that's my son!). You can also email me at pastortomnorthrunbaptist@gmail.com.

I am joyfully His . . . Yours,

Pastor Tom

In This Issue:

- **Operation Christmas Child**
Page 2
- **News for Families of Preschool, Children, and Youth**
Page 3
- **Bible Study News**
Page 4
- **Notes from Tommy**
- **New Members/ Updates**
Page 5
- **Activity Calendar**
Page 6
- **Birthday Calendar**
Page 7
- **Finance Report**
- **FISH Item of the Month**
- **Deacon's Info.**
- **Office Note**
Page 8



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OCC BOUTIQUE OPENS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

WHAT IS NEW

NEW

This year you will not find bar soap with the hygiene kits in the Boutique. In place of the soap, a pair of nail clippers has been included.

WHY?

OCC is in the process of discontinuing soap as it is causing an issue in customs in over 30 countries. This affects about 3 million shoeboxes each year so it is no longer listed as a recommended item. If you have already purchased bar soap on your own, you can still send it this year. However, it must remain in its original packaging.

NEW

We have eliminated hammers and screw drivers from the Boutique.

WHY?

Many people have been packing complete tool kits in their boxes. If these boxes are among the random boxes inspected by customs, customs may interpret it as Samaritan's Purse is sending aid to the countries. In addition, Samaritan's Purse is asking for more emphasis to be put on **FUN** items. You can still buy tools on your own and send; but the Boutique will not have them available.

WHAT REMAINS THE SAME

The Gospel Message that the children receive when they receive your box.

The love they feel when you pack a box just for them.

Prayer that is much needed for these children.

JOY, JOY, JOY!

**FUN, FULL, & PERSONALIZED
GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!**



As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, we're excited to share all the wonderful things happening in our Children's Ministry this fall. We have a lot of fun activities, events, and learning opportunities planned for the kids, and we can't wait to see how God will work in their lives during this season.

Monthly Focus: Character Traits—This month, we're focusing on character traits in children's church. Our lessons will center around how our character and decisions should be pleasing God. We encourage you to reinforce this at home by discussing traits such as humility, humbleness, integrity, gentleness, hope, and courage with your children.

Volunteer Spotlight—We want to thank all the leaders and volunteers who helped make VBS successful! Your dedication and love for the kids have made an enormous impact.

Awana Update—Awana starts next month, and we have a full year planned for the children! Mark your calendars for our registration/opening night on September 4th. Please reach out to Lynda Holloway or me with any questions.

Lastly, this month's focus has been building the bible study program and extended session workers for the upcoming year. We have multiple opportunities for you to share your time, talent, and skills with the children of our church. I would love to hear from you whether you are willing to teach, substitute, assist with crafts, Awana, read to the children, or help with supply/classroom organization. Please reach out if you can give a day, an hour, or any time to our children's ministry - thank you!

Lindsay Horne

horne.lindsay@gmail.com

804-239-5010



We had a great summer of SWAG (Summer Wednesday Activities with God).

Dorey Park, Youth Olympics, Pizza and a Movie Night, and our Youth Pool Night at Antioch to close it out! Thanks to all who came to our SWAG events through the summer! It's hard to believe that summer has come to a close, thanks to all our youth/adults who helped with VBS, and those who went with us to Huntington, WV with World Changers to rebuild and minister to the people there!

Looking ahead this Youth School Year::

- Wednesday Nights at the Youth House beginning September 4 (normal time of 6:30-7:30)
 - o Games and a Bible Study each week!
 - o Sign up for church dinners for your family if you would like, starting at 5:30 pm.
 - o Awana is starting for our children's program 3 year olds thru 5th grade.
- Sunday Mornings- 10:15-11:15 we have our Sunday School/Bible Study time.
 - o Sometimes we will meet as a whole group, others we will split guys/girls, and middle/high

Rising 6th grade parents and people new to SBC Youth:

- Welcome to the rising 6th graders and parents, I have sent out a welcome email to each of you for ways to stay connected, if you have not received one, please email me at sbcyouth.info@gmail.com.
- Ways to stay connected to SBC Youth
 - o SBC Youth Facebook Group (SBC Fusion)
 - § (updates on Youth events posted here)
 - § (send me an email/Facebook message to join OR click Join Group)
 - o Youth Updates/Emails– emails for events with the youth group (sbcyouth.info@gmail.com).
 - o Instagram (@sbcfusion)

As we head towards the start of the school year (I know some of you have already started!), please know I am here for you and our youth group for any support you may need. I pray for you all and will do what I can to help if you need me. Have a great start to this school year! —Justin Blunt

BIBLE STUDY NEWS

FROM E'BETH

I've been busy trying to fill the roster of teachers and leaders for our 2024-2025 Sunday morning Bible Study. The roster will be presented in our next business meeting. I'd love to present a full roster and so I am asking all Church members to search their hearts and minds taking inventory of what and how you give to your Church. Should you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to serve please reach out to me. I know I have a spot for you. We are attempting to rotate teachers through children's classes to allow all adults the opportunity to join their peers in a rotation. Teaching children does not require a wealth of Bible knowledge. Don't be intimidated. One must simply enjoy children and watching them learn about the Bible through provided prepared lessons. It's a great way to learn more about the Bible yourself while filling children with the Word of God.

Here is the current roster to be presented at our Business meeting (once the pending's are confirmed):

Preschool department: Amy Milby (pending), Mary Powell (pending), Heather and Johnathan Schaefer (pending), Judy and Bob Clements. Substitutes: Sara Orton (pending), Brenda Wheelhouse.

Children department: Melissa Cottrell, Rebecca Rynders, Becky Wallace, Charles Hankins. Substitutes: Lindsay Horne, Lynda Holloway, Emily Robertson, Jodi Bailey.

Youth department: Justin Blunt, Jeff Schmid, Kyleen Terrana, Doug Milby, Kassie Hayes

Adults: Les Robinson, Susan Rackley, Bonnie Abernathy, Ron Molnar, Tom Palmore, Debbie Stewart, Wayne Smith, Sandy Lambert, Alex Flannery, Michael Stitzer, Sarah Blunt, Michael Loving, Stewart Meredith, Wayne Pollard, Mike Edwards, Mike O'Neil, Troy Westerman, Traci Applewhite, Michelle Hunt, Erica Rochon, Ken Weaver, Carl Downey, Robin Fields, Vickie Hardiman, Mark Poland.

We are in need of 4 more leaders for the children department. PLEASE prayerfully consider stepping up to share the Bible with children, give to your Church family, and serve your God. Please pray for our Bible Study leaders and the committee as we continue to attempt to fill positions. If you have suggestions please feel free to share those as well.

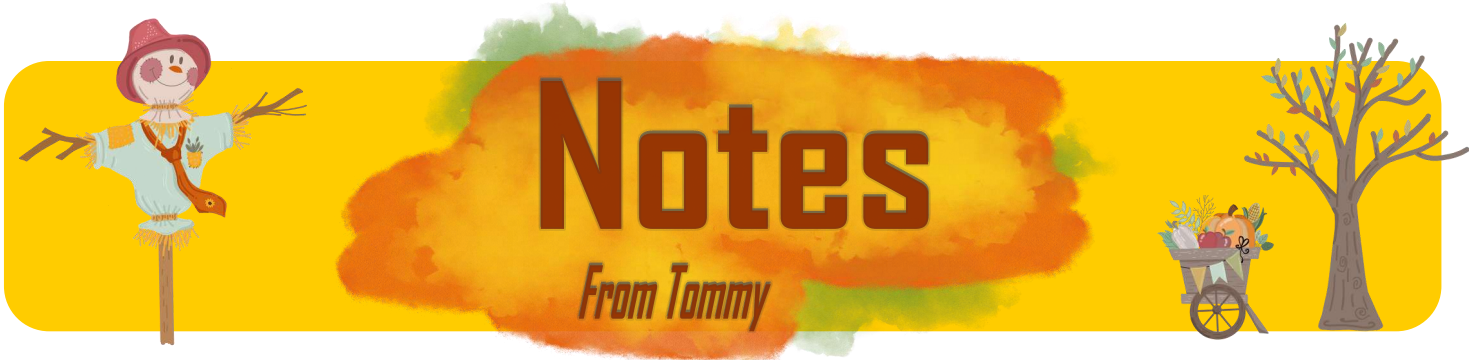
Let me share what some of our leaders have shared as their *why*.

"Teaching is a true blessing".

"I love it!...He commands us to make disciples. I love sharing how Jesus is my Savior and how He can be your Savior too! I enjoy sharing this message with children and young people."

Respectfully in His service,

E'Beth Watts



What a great summer we've had at Sandston Baptist Church! All of the activities that have been going on have been wonderful outreach for us, and include everyone in our membership, from young ones to our seasoned members.

We've had all of our musical groups sharing in our worship services, and along with that, all of the different styles that they bring. From the traditional hymns to the contemporary praise songs our worship services offer a good variety of music that lifts up the praises to our Lord.

It was a great experience on August 18th when the men of the Praise Team and Adult Choir, along with several men from the Brotherhood lead the music in the service. I had been wanting to put together something like that for a while, and the guys really enjoyed being a part of it. I'm sure we will be doing that again soon.

Again, we're so blessed to have the people in our membership that help to make all of our worship services something special.

Singing for the Savior,
Tommy



**Welcome to the Sandston Baptist Church Family
to all our newest members!**

- Mark Welenteychik**
- Joseph Cottrell**
- Rosie & Gus Terrana**
- Natalie Robinson**
- Aiden Horne**
- Emmett Ojibway**
- Jeanette Jackson**
- Makayla Ivey**
- Troy Floyd**
- Shannon Marsh**
- Tom Wootton**



Address Updates:

Larry & Gayle Meador

8366 Ryegate Place Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Linda Tiller

7080 Brooks Farm Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Tom & Susan Gaskins

8155 Travelers Rest Drive Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Angie Larson

6310 Hickory Road S. Chesterfield, VA 23803

If you have changes in your address or phone number that you would like the church family to be aware of please send an email to sandstonbaptist@verizon.net or call (804)737-2171 and we will add it to our next newsletter!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|------------------------|--|--|--------|---|
| 1 9am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry | 2 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Labor Day | 3 2pm VanLear Group | 4 6:30pm Adult Choir, Youth/Children, Prayer Meeting & HIS Group | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry | 9 10am Note Writing 11am Williamson Group 6:30pm Men's Basketball | 10 | 11 6:30pm Adult Choir, Youth/Children, Prayer Meeting & HIS Group | 12 *Church Office Opening at 11am* 11:30am Friendly/Singles Club @ Ruby Tuesday's in Mechanicsville 5:30pm Brotherhood 7pm Deacon's | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry | 16 10am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball | 17 | 18 6:30pm Adult Choir, Youth/Children, Prayer Meeting & HIS Group | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry | 23 10am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball | 24 | 25 6:30pm Adult Choir, Youth/Children, Prayer Meeting & HIS Group | 26 10am Quilters | 27 | 28 1pm Memorial Service for Mary Sargent |
| 29 9am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 5:30pm Portuguese Ministry | 30 10am Note Writing 6:30pm Men's Basketball | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

September

BIRTHDAYS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 Mildred Stevens Carsan Stevens | 2 Corey Blunt Donald Clark | 3 | 4 Michael Johnson Linda Marsh Kailey Tuck | 5 Kelly Beazley Carl Jackson Debbie Pennell Alaina Gray | 6 Frank Donkle Ashley Loving Dennis Lucas Robert Newton Patti Rimbey | 7 Rivers O'Bier Dwayne Tyler | |
| 8 Jerrie Robinson Barbara Roddy | 9 Alvin Trimyear Clyde Pitts Jr. | 10 Sue Martin Luis Paniagua Scott Wright | 11 Boyd Herrington Raymond Lewter | 12 Janet Lynn Culpepper Jennifer Doustout Nolte Irving Wright | 13 Jim Muncy | 14 Jonathan Carter Janice House Elisabeth Anne Lambert Joyce Mattson Pauline Merry | |
| 15 Matthew Ouzounis | 16 Kaitlyn Andrews Parker Bailey Rebecca Haden Dale Parrett Juanita Ragsdale Joyce Slayton | 17 Meghan Cassity Paula Digon Cindy Grover Emma Leigh Hazelwood | 18 Makenna Seamster | 19 Ronald Britton Diane McPhail Nicholas Redman Catherine Sale | 20 | 21 Crystal Anne Cavedo Levi Morgan Teresa Robins | |
| 22 Terry Senghas | 23 Frances Blanton Matthew Dixon Michael Earl Gerheart Tommy Hunkele Anita Lobrano Greg Martin | 24 Garnett Alexander Jr. Alexis Garnett Delores Jeter Gooch | 25 Audrey Frey Chris Haller Donald Alexander Tarbet | 26 Caroline Jessie Dylan Mitchell Anglea Neighbors | 27 Michael Heilman | 28 Wayne Cordle Mary Paniagua | |
| 29 Gus Terrana | 30 David Cadd Patricia Eberhard Shirley Worley |  | | | |  | |
| | | | | | | | |

Happy
Birthday

Deacon Team Ministries 2024

The deacon position in our church is biblically supported in the scriptures of Acts 6 and 1st Timothy 3. Men showing the qualifications provided in those scriptures are selected by the church pastor and if accepted, serve in that role for life. According to the church bylaws, *“It shall be the duty of the deacons to encourage and assist the pastor in his ministry and pastoral work. This is done by ministering to the needs of active church families and by serving the Lord’s Supper and assisting in Baptism.* Different teams have been established to ensure the deacons perform that duty. With Sandston Baptist going through this time of change, the deacon body wants to remind the members that the deacons are here to support them in any way possible. Please review the list below and reach out to any deacon for assistance or with questions.

Communion Team

Typically reserved for our church family & friends that are not able to attend service on a regular basis, this team of deacons will provide an in-home communion service. When requested, two/three deacons will go to the person’s home and perform a brief communion service with them.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Team Lead: | Eddie Marsh | elkobasket@aol.com | (804) 737-4078 |
| Team Members: | Donald Clark | donandnancyclark@yahoo.com | (804) 222-2930 |
| | Jim Stewart | jestew53@yahoo.com | (804) 507-0851 |
| | Kenny Cordle | kennycordle@verizon.net | (804) 920-9300 |
| | Troy Westerman | tdwesterman@gmail.com | (804) 212-8821 |
| | Wayne Pollard | paulway@verizon.net | (804) 737-9749 |

Crisis & Hospital Team

This team of deacons focuses on ministering to church family members in crisis situations such as hospitalization, death in the family, divorce, financial strain, job loss, etc. They accomplish this with visits, calls, cards, prayer and assistance.

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Team Lead: | Ron Molnar | rpmdl@gmail.com | (804) 737-5272 |
| Team Members: | Alan Watts | alanwatts@comcast.net | (804) 641-6357 |
| | Charles Hankins | charhankins@aol.com | (804) 737-2915 |
| | Darnell Hailey | dgfphailey@aol.com | (704) 763-6810 |
| | Tom Palmore | tomcarpal@aol.com | (804) 737-5130 |

Outreach Team

Collect visitor card information. If the phone number is available, thank the visitor for worshipping with us. Answer questions about programs and activities at Sandston Baptist Church. Offer a home visit if they would like additional information.

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Team Lead: | Carl Downey | carl_downey@comcast.net | (804) 512-3683 |
| Team Members: | Darren Hayes | rdarrenhayes91@hotmail.com | (804) 401-5200 |
| | Jeff Wilborn | mechanic4813@verizon.net | (804) 982-9916 |
| | Eddie Marsh | elkobasket@aol.com | (804) 737-4078 |

New Member Team

Contact new members to schedule a time/place to meet with them, review their new member packet and answer any questions they may have about our church or their new faith. Provide contact information and encourage them to contact you if they need help or have questions. Assist Pastor with baptisms including prepping & cleaning up the baptismal.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Team Lead: | Wayne Pollard | paulway@verizon.net | (804) 737-9749 |
| Team Members: | Donald Clark | donandnancyclark@yahoo.com | (804) 222-2930 |
| | Jeff Carter | mrjeffcarter44@gmail.com | (804) 840-5643 |
| | Jeff Schmid | jeffschmid2@gmail.com | (804) 380-5130 |
| | Larry Meador | larrygaylemeador@gmail.com | (804) 339-4862 |
| | Mike Edwards | edwr8m@gmail.com | (804) 514-1630 |



FISH Item for September

We are collecting Laundry Detergent!



On Thursday, September 12th the church office will open late, at 11am. One of my daughter's has an appointment that morning and it will delay my getting here. Thank you for your understanding!

Heather Meador
Church Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Offerings | 08/04/24..... | \$11,219.00 |
| | 08/11/24..... | \$7,360.02 |
| | 08/18/24..... | \$5,433.00 |
| | 08/25/24..... | \$4,428.00 |
| VANCO (July) | | \$20,318.43 |
| Weekly Needs | | \$14,073.48 |

UNIFIED MISSIONS

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|
| Offerings | 08/04/24..... | \$950.00 |
| | 08/11/24..... | \$290.00 |
| | 08/18/24..... | \$305.00 |
| | 08/25/24..... | \$60.00 |
| Weekly Needs | | \$673.08 |