



# THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

*Loving God, Loving People,  
Making Disciples of Jesus*

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No.7

**HAPPY**  
*Independence*  
**★ Day ★**

*Christmas In  
July*

*Collection Sunday: July 28*

*Box Packing Party:  
July 28, 4PM*



**SHARING GOOD NEWS,  
GREAT JOY!**

Be in prayer for our youth headed  
to camp July 9-14

&

The KBA mission team going to  
West Virginia July 6-12



# Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Thanks be to God for a wonderful VBS this past month! Ben Tarver and I had the blessed opportunity to lead 19 children to trust their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Savior! We have already begun following-up with these children and their families. And we are already baptizing several this coming month. Join me in praying for their spiritual growth and in giving thanks to God for His Spirit's moving. And help me thank everyone who helped make this year's VBS such a huge success.

Last year, we tried something different with a **Christmas in July** emphasis for **Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes**. It was an amazing success, allowing us to far exceed our goal of 300 boxes! So this year, we are once again doing Christmas in July, encouraging each family to pack at least ONE physical shoebox and bringing it to worship on the last Sunday of July. Our monthly ministry bin donations this month will further support OCC shoeboxes and we'll have a packing party on that same last Sunday of this month to put together additional boxes.

What is different this year is that in addition to the ONE physical box, we are also asking people to go online and virtually "pack" a box that will enable Samaritan's Purse to get shoeboxes into countries that are resistant to Christian missions. While OCC can't bring in physical boxes like they normally do, they can bring in supplies and get them to children in need discreetly...and still have opportunities to share Jesus and strengthen struggling churches. Visit <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> to begin building that virtual box for as little as \$25.

Building on the success of last year's Christmas in July, we are expanding it this year to do two other things that will help November and December be a little less hectic. The children's ministry **Christmas Ornaments and Prints** fundraiser will begin July 1st! Keep watching the announcement slides, Facebook, newsletter, and more to see this year's design next month. We will be selling this in the atrium on Sundays and in the church office and online to support next summer's CentriKid Camp. Secondly, we are going to be recruiting our **Advent Devotional** writers this month. If you are interested in writing a devotional, contact Christy Tarver and let her know to put you down. We'd like to get these in by the end of August.

Other things to remember this month: Pray for the **West Virginia Mission Trip** team as they serve the Kingdom of God in underserved communities in Appalachia through VBS and construction projects. We have a good team going along with our sister KBA churches. Pray for the youth as they go on their camp trip to Look Up Lodge as well.

Remember our **Quarterly Church Conference on July 21st**. At that QCC we will also vote on the Nominating Committee's report of officers and ministry leaders for the 2024-2025 ministry calendar. I'm always grateful for the men and women who so faithfully and selflessly serve our church in a wide variety of ways and ministries, such as our ushers, greeters, safety team, music leaders, Sunday School teachers, treasurers, trustees, and more. Thank you all for what you do!

I'm excited that we will have two Baptism Sundays this month as we wrap-up our Summer in the Psalms sermon series. I'm also grateful for Rev. David Miller for preaching for me on Psalm 22 while I'm away on July 14th. I have the honor of preaching at my parents' and brother's church in Maryville for their 100th Anniversary Sunday. But I look forward to being back in the pulpit with you the next week!

See you Sunday!



# Dr. Matt Ward

## Summer in the Psalms

I'll say an abbreviated version of this on a Sunday morning, but here's the full rationale. The Psalms are a wonderful worship sourcebook. We have used them this summer in responsive readings, expressive readings, psalms set to music — and the choir has done that in multiple ways, tunes from old Psalters (old books of English poetry based on the Psalms), modern songs based on Psalms, and so on.

The primary takeaway I have from thinking about the Psalms as a worship source is this: God intended worship to be active and personal. We can't "take credit" for someone else's worship. Sitting in a church service listening to other people sing is about as active and personal as saying "the book of Psalms exists." This is why we actually sing together in our church services. It's one of the few things that a large group of people can do together at the same time.

Actively listening to a sermon that teaches God's Word is a part of worship — and as we've learned from our study in Acts so far, it was an important part of what the early church did when they gathered together. But when it comes to worship, listening and learning should be accompanied by speaking and acting. You recently heard a sermon from Psalm 29 — "Acknowledge the Lord's majesty and power, all you mighty beings." That's something that must be **done**. If Michael the Archangel walked up to you and asked, "Have you acknowledged God's majesty?" and you answered, "Well, I listened to that guy over there do it," would that be satisfactory? No, it's something we all must do for ourselves.

And that's why we sing together in worship.

## West Virginia Mission Trip

Our Association's trip to West Virginia is upon us. I've heard that there's some 160 people going from our Association, and 10 of those are from our church. Much of the work will be helping churches do Vacation Bible Schools in their community. Kids everywhere love VBS, and a lot of these tiny churches don't have the members to handle the number of kids who want to come. So for one week out of the summer, our churches can help those churches give a fun dose of Jesus to the kids in their communities. There are also plenty of practical needs, as you can imagine, and we're going to help with a few projects (that we're qualified to help with). Pray for safety, pray for effectiveness, and pray for cooperative weather.

## Christmas in July

I don't think you can hear too much about this. We did it last year, and it worked, so we're doing it again. To take advantage of summer sales, and to make November a little easier on everybody's checking accounts, we're collecting Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes in July, with the big in-gathering day on July 28. We've learned that in-country restrictions have gotten tighter, so the people who run OCC are asking donors to consider building their shoeboxes online (for \$25) -

[www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child/buildonline/)

Let us know you built one, and we can celebrate those numbers!



# Rev. Ben Tarver

We are halfway through the summer and so many things have happened already! We had a wonderful VBS June 10-14. Sixty-five volunteers helped with 135 registered children throughout the week. We had nineteen decisions for Jesus and other decisions for baptism – Praise God! I am thankful for our director (my wife), our volunteers, and our prayer partners and those that donated items to make our VBS a wonderful success!

Our kids recently got back from a wonderful Centrikid weekend camp at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. The temperatures started to get hot, but that didn't stop us from learning about the great gifts God gives through worship, games, crafts and other creative ways! I am thankful for our brave leaders and our children. Thank you for your prayers and support!

The youth are going to *Look Up Lodge* at Traveler's Rest, SC, on July 9-14. Please be in prayer for our groups as we gather with hundreds of other youth at this beautiful location. I cannot wait for the fellowship and fun we will have as we worship together!

Please take a look at the calendar of events for July because we have a full schedule of youth and other children's activities to finish off the summer break!

*Ben*



***Last Month***

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
June 2	277	186	228	\$20,854.00
June 9	255	211	221	\$16,380.00
June 16	283	124	241	\$15,716.00
June 23	266	101	222	\$12,907.00

**BUDGET**

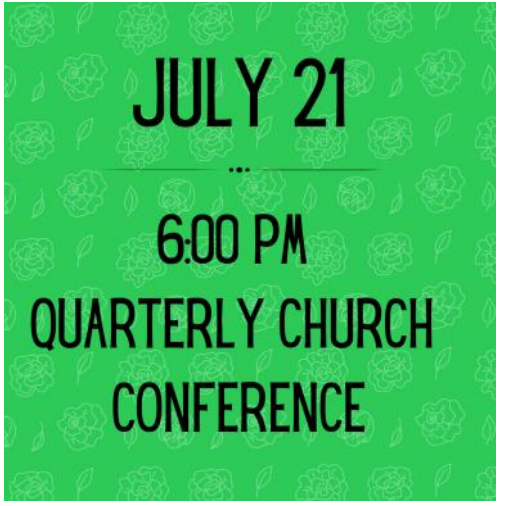
Required	\$397,215.40
Received	\$348,979.27
Disbursed	363,913.97

**NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS**

Cap. Improvements	7,259.00
Ferguson Property	1,571.00
Go & Tell Mission Fund	10,978.56

***End-of-May  
Final  
Finances***





# JULY

SUN 9:00 Cornerstone Cafe  
 9:30 Sunday School  
 10:45 Morning Worship  
 MON 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)  
 9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)  
 10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym  
 TUE 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)  
 9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)  
 1:30 Church Staff Meeting, 402  
 5:15 Firm Believers, Gym  
 WED 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)  
 9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)  
 10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym  
 5:00 Family Night Supper, FH  
 6:00 *Disciples Pathway* (Adults, Fellowship Hall)  
 7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal, S  
 THU 6:30 *Stand in the Gap* Prayer Group, Parlor  
 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)  
 9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)  
 5:15 Firm Believers, Gym  
 FRI 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)  
 9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)  
 10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym

July 3, 2024

No Evening Activities

July 4-5, 2024

Church Office Closed

July 6-12, 2024

KBA West Virginia Mission Trip

July 7, 2024

Name Tag Sunday

July 8, 2024

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

July 9-14, 2024

Youth Camp

July 9, 2024

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting  
**7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting**

July 10, 2024

No Youth Activities  
 No Choir

July 14, 2024

Rev. David Miller Preaching

July 19, 2024

12:00 PM WAFJ Chill Out Friday

July 21, 2024

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference

July 25, 2024

1:30 PM Blood Drive

July 28, 2024

OCC Collection Sunday  
 4:00 PM Box Packing Party



**COMPLETED 7-12 GRADES**

**JULY 3: NO ACTIVITIES**  
**JULY 10: NO ACTIVITIES- CAMP**  
**JULY 17: OPEN GYM NIGHT**  
**JULY 24: POOL PARTY**  
**JULY 31: END OF SUMMER PARTY**



**4 years old- 6 grade**

**July 3: No Activities**  
**July 10: Christmas in July**  
**July 17: Bowling (\$20)\***  
**July 24: Paint Night (\$15)\***  
**July 31: End of Summer Party**

**\*RSVP Required**