

From the Pastor....

It's not often I get excited with business meetings but the meeting we had last Sunday, on July 23rd, was worthy of excitement and gratitude. Why?

We elected a new slate of officers to include all three Deacon candidates: Doug Farris, Sherry Brillhart and Charles Cushing. All three have demonstrated their love for God, and service to our Lord and Savior in many ways in this part of the body of Christ known as BGBC. Kudos to Joseph Stepp and our Nominating committee who worked tirelessly to fill almost all the spots on committees and councils. Need I remind you that we are a church that can only accomplish our mission and mandate when God's people answer the call to serve. We will be scheduling a Deacon ordination service very soon, so stay tuned.

I know this year's Deacon vote was not without a little controversy. Several of you made your concerns known. I am very pleased with not only the outcome but especially with the process that was very transparent and God honoring. While there were differences of opinion and disagreement I detected no divisiveness or a critical spirit. There was unity and respect for each other's opinions. All agreed to disagree in a spiritually mature way. Truly, this is an indication of a spiritually healthy church and while we have a long way to go, I believe we are on the right path.

I am very pleased to inform you that our Finance Committee has approved an installation of a new playground in the place of our current, older playground. The REALLY good news about this is that one of our church members has agreed to donate the playground equipment and labor for this wonderful project! It may cost the church a little money to pay for the ground covering, or it may cost the church nothing, depending on the church's decision on this issue. Either way the return on our investment, thanks to our benefactor, is very large. This playground will benefit families in our church and community for years to come! Expect a vote soon at a special called business meeting.

Also, with the establishment by church vote, of the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), I am looking forward to hearing in the weeks and months to come about how we can strategically manage our resources in order to accomplish our mission as a church. Providing a roadmap for the future is essential in positioning our church for success in the months and years to come. You can expect a report at our next business meeting on October 22.

Finally, on a personal note, by the time you read this, Terri will have completed her last chemo treatment on Wednesday, July 26. She has to endure

one more cycle of what has been very debilitating side effects for the last time. We are looking forward to some much needed R&R at a place on Long Boat Key (near Sarasota, FL) the last couple of weeks of August. We have walked through this trial, but we have not been alone. As David says, "Thy Rod and Thy staff comfort me." Our church family has been very much a part of our recovery and provided much comfort. Your thoughts, cards, food, prayers and patience have sustained us and our words cannot begin to express our deep appreciation. We love you all!

Pastor Frank

Remember the Church Picnic

on Sunday, August 20

at Pitts' Pond





At our July meeting, we enjoyed a guest speaker, Summer Simulcik, who spoke to us about the Young Life program. This is a ministry which focuses on high school students making friendships with other students and sharing with them about our Savior Jesus Christ. This student ministry is carried on to the college level, where many other lives are reached.

August begins our school supply collection. This year we are targeting the middle and high school levels as well as the elementary schools. We asked each to suggest the 5 most needed items for their students. Please put your donations either on the table in the FMC or under the benches in the back hall.

High school:

sturdy back packs (5-10 needed)
3 ring binders
loose leaf paper
index cards
ink pens/ pencils

Middle School:

book bags/backpacks
composition books
1" binders
5 subject notebooks
pens/pencils

Elementary School:

crayons
10 oz. sanitizer
composition books
glue
pencils/paper
No book bags needed.

The end date for school supply collection will be Aug. 31.

We are involved in so many areas of helping and giving as a church. Let us prayerfully consider giving from our hearts and helping in whatever ways we can, so that others may see the love of Jesus Christ in us.

Musical Connections

August Feature: Hats Off (or On) for Contemporary Christian Music

Kailey Gray and grandmother Carolyn Lane



Christian music takes many forms, yet its underlying message rings true for audiences of all ages.

Deacon Carolyn Lane and Youth Missions worker Kailey Gray have many things in common besides their commitment to the church, and a love of hats. Both named Contemporary Christian songs as their personal favorites for worship and devotion.

Kailey identified *Hold Us Together* as one that

spoke to her and had a compelling message.

Matt Maher wrote the powerful lyrics as a rallying cry to demonstrate that the love of God, evidenced by the church, can make a difference in this world. Maher references two scriptures in his musical message. The first is [Matthew 6:25](#), when Jesus is telling everyone, *"why worry about what you eat, where to stay, what to wear."* The second is [Revelation 3:20](#), where Jesus is talking about Himself coming and knocking on the doors of our hearts. He says that he wrote the song in about 30 minutes with Steve Wilson after a flight from Phoenix to Nashville. The nation's economy was pretty bad at that time and the plane was nearly empty.

(Lyrics)

*"And love will hold us together
Make us a shelter
To weather the storm
And I'll be my brother's keeper
So the whole world will know
That we're not alone."*

Carolyn identified Mercy Me's new single, *Even If*, as one she really enjoys. Bart Millard of the band says, *"Even If" is a reminder to people in difficult situations that don't seem to go away. God is worthy long before any of those circumstances even showed up. This song is a declaration to God that even if He went silent and never said another word, He's still worthy to be praised and that He's our greatest hope in the midst of the trial."*

(Lyrics)

*"I know you're able
And I know you can
Save through the fire
With your mighty hand
But even if you don't
My hope's still you alone."*



AUGUST REMINDERS

Terry Hodge	1
Garland Burchell	4
Susan Church	4
Jean Reynolds	6
Margaret M. Lewis	7
James Madison	7
Beverly McDearmon	9
Ben Carter	10
Barbara Schools	10
Carolyn Lane	11
Joseph Pack	12
Dianne Webb	12
Ashley Mallory	13
Pat Wright	14
Ellie Tidman	15
Chandler Gustard	17
Debbie Kay	17
John Markham	17
Brad Toombs	17
Mike Ulrey	17
Rick Beale	18
Autumn Kidd	18
Ronnie Kay	21
Melanie Campbell	22
Naeda Gustard	22
Emily Michael	25
Steve Michael	25
Amber Williams	25
Nolan Mallory	26
Zachary Ulrey	28
Pam Kidd	30
Robin Moran	30
Amy Bullock Parker	31

Deacon of the Week:

Aug 6 – Ed Britt
 Aug 13 – John Markham
 Aug 20 - Neal Tidman
 Aug 27 - Bob Rice

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Aug. Priscilla Shuler

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters– Jeanne Jordan & Carolyn Lane

Flowers:

Aug 6 – Jean Farmer
 Aug 13 – Suzanne Stepp
 Aug 20 – Vicky & Dirk Farmer
 Aug 27 – Susie Hicks

Coffee & Snack Schedule

August 6 Cathy Gray
 August 13 Ella Divelbliss
 August 20 Church Picnic
 August 27 Olivia Perry

Nursery Workers: *

August 6 Jake Phelix, Amy Phelix, Gabby Dixon
 August 13 Cathy Gray, Naeda Gustard, Kamryn Gray
 August 20 Ruth Judd, Sandy Taylor, Candler Gustard
 August 27 Paige Carter, Heather Diritto, Kailey Gray

* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00 service.