

Deacon of the Week:

1st Sunday: Mickey Gilliam
2nd Sunday: Kelly Coons
3rd Sunday: Josh Becker
4th Sunday: Charles Gaffigan
5th Sunday: Rhonard MacRae

July Wedding Anniversaries

Pastor Drew & Martha Dalton 12



July Birthdays

Kevin Revis 7
Maia Becker 8
Gayle Padgham 18
Hannah Dalton 23
Sherry Burnette 24



Offertory Prayer:

1st Sunday: Alex Little
2nd Sunday: Rhonard MacRae
3rd Sunday: Tony Silver
4th Sunday: Arthur Burnette
5th Sunday: Alex Little

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Old Fort, NC
July 2018
Volume 52, Issue 7

THE VOICE

**JULY
EVENTS**

SUNDAY:

9:45 - Sunday School
11 - Worship Service
5 - Choir Practice
6 - Adult Bible Study, Youth

WEDNESDAY:

6 - Adult Bible Study/Prayer,
Youth, Children in Action,
Mission Friends,
7 - Choir Practice

July 1 - Observance of the
Lord's Supper 11 am; Deacon's
Meeting 7 pm

July 4 - Independence Day-
Office Closed; No Evening
Services; Old Fort 4th of July
Parade 4 pm

July 8 - Lunch Bunch 3-5 pm

July 11 - Youth Council 5 pm;
WMU & Baptist Men 6 pm

July 15 - Called Business
Meeting-Deacon Nominations
11 am; VBS 5:30-8 pm

July 16-19 - VBS 5:30-8 pm &
July 20 - VBS Family Night 6 pm

July 22 - Lunch Bunch 3-5 pm;
Church Council 5 pm;
Quarterly Conference 6 pm

July 29 - 5th Sunday Talent Night
6 pm & Refreshments following



Reflections of a
Shepherd

In a few days, our nation will celebrate its 242nd birthday. Over the last few decades I fear that this great day has begun to lose some of its significance, particularly for Christians. Independence Day, is just that, a day we celebrate our independence. It's a day we celebrate our Founding Fathers throwing off the shackles of the tyrannical British Empire. It's a day we thank God for placing us in a nation where we have the freedom to worship God in any way we choose (wrong or right) without the fear of persecution or prosecution.

Think about how great a privilege that is. In the early church, Christians were persecuted by Gentiles and Jews alike. The Jews rejected them. The Greeks ridiculed them. And the Romans....they fed them to lions! But even after "Christianity" gained favor by Rome, persecution still existed. If you dared disagree with the Roman Church, you would be excommunicated, cut off from the Lord's Table and its ability to "purify." Then there was the Reformation when Protestants broke with the Catholic Church. But this didn't stop persecution. Luther, Calvin, and the English church was not immune from the desire to persecute those who wished to worship differently. One group persecuted was the Anabaptists, a forerunner of our own faith. It is said that the Pilgrims escaped to America to establish the freedom of religion, but in truth, they were just as intolerant as those who came before them.

But when our Founding Fathers developed the statutes on which our nation would be founded, they recognized the need to establish "freedom of religion." No longer would the government interfere with matters of faith. No longer would alignment with a state church be tied with orthodoxy. No, America would allow her citizens to worship freely, with no persecution of the government.

Unfortunately, many of us have conflated the idea of Christian and America to the extent it seems that, on some level, we do have a state religion. America is not a Christian nation, it a free nation. We are not a nation made of Christians (I would say that we never were), but we are a nation of free people. I realize that many of us lament the secular slide that our society is taking, because there is no question that it is. But we should be careful to use words such as persecution. Is the church under attack? Absolutely!! But we aren't being beheaded for not following the pope or being fed to lions for not bowing to Jupiter.

I'm thankful that I live in a nation that celebrates diversity and freedom because you don't become a true believer in Jesus Christ through compulsion of the law, fear of the sword, or pressure of society. I'm thankful that our Founding Fathers recognized that if religion isn't free then it has no meaning. I'm proud to be an American, not because it's a Christian nation; because it's a free nation.

Pastor Drew

Church Staff

Rev. Drew Dalton, Pastor
Stephen Willie, Director of Music
David Workman, Pianist
Betty Reaves, Organist
Susan Willie, Secretary
David Patton, Custodian

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*Have a Happy & Safe
4th of July!*



**We will observe the
Ordinance of the
Lord's Supper
on Sunday, July 1
at 11:00 am**



**Old Fort
4th of July Parade
July 4 at 4 pm**



Lunch Bunch
July 8
3-5 pm
July 22
3-5 pm

Firecracker Punch

Ingredients:
2/3 cup red cinnamon candies
4 cups water
1 can (6 oz.) frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
1/3 cup frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed (6 oz. can)
1 bottle (1 liter) ginger ale
6 orange slices, cut in half



1. In 1-quart saucepan, cook cinnamon candies and 1 cup of the water over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until candies are melted; remove from heat. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.
2. In large punch bowl, stir candy mixture, remaining 3 cups water, the lemonade and orange juice concentrates until well mixed. Refrigerate until ready to serve.
3. Just before serving, gently stir in ginger ale. Garnish with orange slices.

The five members elected to serve on the
2018-2019 Nominating Committee are:

Liz Lowery
Mickey Gilliam
Winston Riddle
Margie Swann
Tony Silver



**There will be a
Called Business Meeting
Sunday, July 15 at 11 am
for the purpose of:
Deacon Nominations**



July 15-19
5:30-8:00 pm
Family Night
July 20 at 6:00 pm



Sunday, July 22
at 5:00 pm
in the South Classroom

Church Council:

Pastor	Church Staff
Church Clerk	Deacon Chairman
Treasurer	SS Director
Building/Grounds Chairman	Prayer Ministry
Senior Adult Director	Security Chairman
Hospitality/Bereaved Rep.	WMU Director
Children's Council Rep.	Baptist Men's Director
Youth Council Rep.	



A Note from the Church Clerk

Sunday, July 22 at 6:00 pm will be the Quarterly
Conference Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are chair of any church committee, please bring a report
including the following:

1. Activities or accomplishments from the previous 3 months (quarter) &
2. Planned activities during the next quarter.

**A copy of this report should be available for the church
clerk before or at the meeting.**

If you or a representative will not be able to attend and present
the report, please provide the report to the clerk, who will pre-
sent the report and record it in the minutes.



**Sunday, July 29th
at 6:00 pm**

**If you would like to sing, play an instrument,
recite a poem, sign a song, a skit, etc.
in this service please let
Stephen know by July 22.**

**Refreshments following service.
Please bring your favorite finger food.
Drinks will be provided.**



Thanks!!
My appreciation goes to the First Baptist Youth Group
and their helpers who did some yard work for me. It
was a joy to have them visit and I will keep them in my
prayers.

Jean Arthur

To the Homebound Committee and the
Ladies Prayer Group:
Just a cheery little note intended to express a really
happy thank-you for all your thoughtfulness.

Bill & Elsie Robinson

Thank you very, very much for the cards, phone calls
and prayers. It is very much appreciated.

Bob Smith

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, food and
everything you did for me during my recent surgery.

Margie Swann

On behalf of the Hensley family and everyone involved
in the event, we would like to thank you for your sup-
port of the third annual Eleck Willis Hensley "Heart of
a Lion" Scholarship Car Show.

We sincerely appreciate your generous contributions to
this fund raising event which will sponsor scholarships
awarded in Eleck's name to graduating seniors at
McDowell High School each year who are pursuing 2
and 4 year degrees.



With Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is
expressed to Richard Newton
in the passing of his sister,
Catherine McEntire.