

# The Link

## “GEAR UP” IT’S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TIME



We are excited about this summer’s VBS! Our theme this year is “**Maker Fun Factory**” where kids will learn that they are “**Created by God**” and “**Built for a Purpose!**” Spark Imagination with Faith-Building Fun! Maker Fun Factory VBS transforms the church into a place buzzing with excitement!

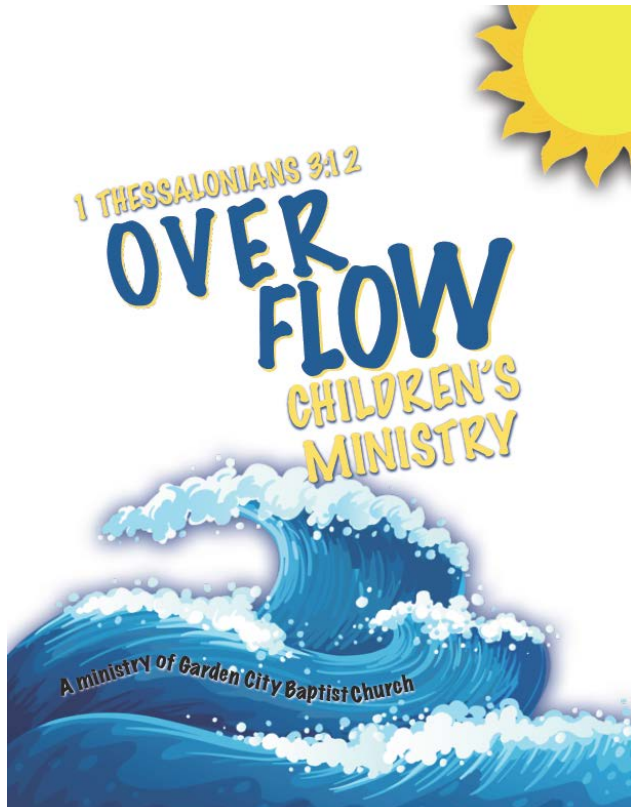
It starts **Tuesday, July 18th through Friday, 21st from 9 am to 11:30 am**. All children from **age 3 through 5th grade** are invited, so spread the word! Tell all the kids you know and make plans to volunteer—there are so many jobs. Go to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/66be10> to register a child or to volunteer. Also, registration forms are in the front foyer and side hall. Volunteers can sign-up in the office.

**CHURCH CONFERENCE Sunday, July 16 at 6 p.m.** If you have an item that you want to raise/discuss at the Conference, please bring the topic and a short description of what you intent to cover to the church office by the Wednesday before the meeting on Sunday. Your item will be listed in the agenda. This should make the meetings run smoother. Also, be prepared to hand the Church Clerk a written summary of what you presented.



One item to be included in the agenda is the playground improvement People have so generously donated and the team has been working hard to research options and choose the best option for our money and needs. We look forward to seeing what we will get.

## Happy Independence Day



## OVERFLOW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by: Timothy Laurent, Next Gen Minister

God is good, and in His goodness He has blessed this church greatly. Kids have been coming to our children's hallway with bright smiles on their faces and an eager look in their eyes every Sunday that I've been here as the Next Gen. Pastor, and it is with the same eagerness and excitement that I am happy to announce that our children's ministry at GCBC will now be known as: "Overflow Children's Ministry"! Paul writes to the church of Thessalonica in 1st Thessalonians 3:12 that he hopes their love will "abound" or "overflow" for each other, just as his does for them. At GCBC, we want our children to learn how to overflow with love for each other, their families, and most importantly Jesus Christ.

There will be some changes taking place in our children's hallway (some not so visible, some very visible) as we seek the Lord to know how He would have us minister to our Garden City kids...and we hope and pray that in all we do our Father is glorified. Our purpose in Overflow Children's Ministry (OCM) is best represented by our vision statement:

—In OCM, we want to teach our kids how to let the love of Christ "overflow" in their hearts so that it is evident in their lives, just as our love "overflows" for them! We strive to be a church where our kids are learning and memorizing Scripture, visibly loving each other and their families, and developing a passion to live for Christ. As this happens, we will have an "overflow" of children at GCBC as well!

Won't you join me in praying for our children at GCBC and our leaders who selflessly serve them for God's glory?

### SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

by: Tim Hutto, Sunday School Director

Since January we have added 11 new Sunday School members!! We have 306 SS members and the average attendance is 179.

A class that has shown a lot of growth is the children's 4-5 year old class. It has 8 members.

I am sure you enjoyed the SS lessons last quarter from Matthew and learned a lot following Jesus from introduction to death & resurrection.

Our SS quarterly for June – August is taken from Psalms. I look forward to some of the writings of David and other writers about thanksgiving, wisdom, comfort, prophesy, and more.

Would you believe our church year ends in 2 months? **We still need teachers and substitutes teachers at all level.** If you would like to teach or substitute please notify a person on the Nominating Committee, Timothy or me?

Thank you and have a blessed day.

**SOUTH STAND HELPING HAND (SSHH)** Thank you to everyone who brings non-perishable foods. Also, thank you to everyone who spends a part of your Saturday collecting food from the real estate offices. We get a variety of food and sometimes it's very interesting.

### CHURCH EVENTS

**July 2**

Church-wide Breakfast  
Youth Pool Party

**July 4**

Independence Day  
Office Closed

**July 7**

WM Lakewood Concert

**July 9**

Church-wide Lunch Quigley's

**July 10**

Finance Committee  
Deacons Meet

**July 13**

Feed J1 Visa International Students  
at FBC Surfside

**July 14**

Rockin' Jump (Youth)

**July 16**

Church Conference

**July 18-21**

**Vacation Bible School**

**July 19**

Movie Night (youth & children)

**July 28**

Ladies Luncheon

**July 30**

Lord's Supper  
Deacon Relief Fund Offering  
COM Luncheon



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** - It's time to start planning for our **Operation Christmas Child** shoebox collection in November. In preparation for a **packing party in October**, please contribute monetary donations so items for the boxes can be purchased. As we donate, **for each \$27 donated, \$9 will be set aside for shipping to the final destination and items for the box will be purchased with the remaining money.** All donations are appreciated. **This isn't to replace our own personalized boxes that we build each year!**

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### WIDOW'S MINISTRY

We are celebrating the birthdays of Sandy Shell and Esther Holland on Sunday, July 16 at Springhouse Restaurant. We will meet down front after the service to carpool. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Pat Hample at 843-748-0163 or 704-460-4056. And as always we give God all the glory and praise for all He is doing through this ministry.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY- CONCERT AT LAKEWOOD CAMPING RESORT

Come join us on Friday, July 7 to hear the Gospel Harmony Boys. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 6:30p.m. The concert is free but they do accept a love offering. Contact Pat Hample at 843-748-0163 or 704-460-4056--leave a message to sign up.

## NEW MEMBERS

**OLDAKER**, Bonnie

**HUTSON**, Harriet

**PARKER**, Brandon, Lisa  
Mason & Katelynn

**LANIER**, Rev. Charlie,  
Ashley, Alayna, Julianna &  
Josie

**LAURENT**, Rev. Timothy



- 1 – Dotty Farrell
- 1 – Cliff Richardson
- 1 – Lois Skelton
- 2 – Pam Lampley
- 7 – *Shirley Campbell*
- 7 – *Margaret Stewart*
- 9 – Kaye Huffstetler
- 11 – Lorrie Beri
- 11 – Callie Lee
- 12 – Tom McDowell
- 12 – Jerry Rook
- 12 – Sandy Kirk
- 14 – *Michael Walters*
- 15 – Makinzie Stoll
- 15 – Georgia Burgess
- 16 – Arthur Langlo, Jr.
- 16 – Cathy Still
- 16 – Harriet Hutson
- 17 – Dorothy Vinot
- 19 – Shirley Lowe
- 20 – Joan Dalton
- 20 – Terry Hawes
- 20 – Lynn Harris
- 21 – Hope Brown
- 22 – Elsie Turner
- 22 – Ken Broz
- 23 – Richard Giusti
- 23 – Sandy Shell
- 23 – Ian Graham
- 24 – Lenny Hamblen
- 24 – Jeff Still
- 24 – Milton Eblen
- 24 – Dennis Johnson
- 24 – Scott Walker
- 26 – Betty Jones
- 28 – Carrie Elliott
- 29 – Bette MacDonald
- 29 – Barney Harris
- 29 – Mark Hays
- 29 – Michael Jackson
- 29 – Zachery Taylor
- 30 – Jim Clamp
- 31 – Esther Holland
- 31 – Matthew Huffstetler

# Varina's

We are excited to worship with Campus Outreach. We have several students and leaders who have shared and continue to share their talent to praise the Lord. They will be with us through Sunday, July 30.

## JOYFUL PRAISE KIDS (Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and JOYFUL SOUNDS (open to all who are interested in visiting our homebound members)

- Neither group is meeting during the Summer.
- Rehearsals will begin in September. Please check the bulletin for dates and times.

## CHANCEL CHOIR (High School-Adults)

- Please consider joining the Chancel Choir for rehearsal on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. We also lead worship each Sunday morning during our 11 o'clock service. We would love YOU to join us!

## ADULT PRAISE BAND

- Rehearsals have begun! We rehearse Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- If you are interested in joining the Adult Praise Team, please see or call me. Vocalists are needed (male and female)

**LADIES LUNCH** Jellie Beans on business 17 in Surfside on **Friday, July 28th at 12 noon.** All ladies invited. Sign-up sheets are in the side hall and front foyer. Last day to sign-up is July 21.

**Join the deacons the first Sunday of the month for an amazing breakfast at 8:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Donations go to the Deacon Relief Fund to help members who encounter a problem.

### **SOUTH STRAND MOBILE MEALS**

July 10-14 ❖ Van 2

To volunteer contact Esther Holland or  
Phyllis Melton

Organizations/Groups not meeting during the summer

JOY Fellowship  
WMU  
Ladies Circle of Friends

## *From the Media Messenger...*

**Irene Hannon** is an award-winning and bestselling author who writes inspirational and romantic suspense novels. She is a former Fortune 500 business communications executive who holds a B.A. in Psychology from St. Louis University and a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Missouri.

In bookstores you'll find her novels in the Christian fiction section. When she started her career as a novelist 50+ books ago, she never set out to be a "Christian fiction" writer, but she soon discovered, Christian fiction meshed with her faith. She found she felt right at home there and hopes you will, too! What will you find in her novels? Characters who are dealing with formidable challenges. Diverse settings, from a sun-kissed lane on Nantucket to a deserted railroad



Books by **Irene Hannon** in  
the Garden City Baptist Media Center:

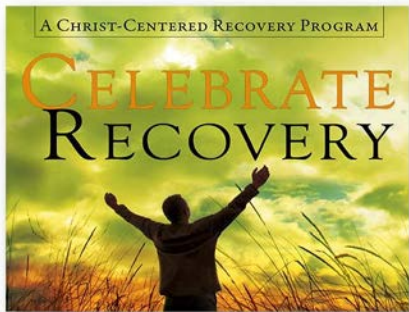
Against All Odds  
Lethal Legacy  
Trapped  
Hope Harbor  
One Perfect Spring

An Eye for an Eye  
Deadly Pursuit  
Vanished  
Sea Rose Lane

**CHURCH-WIDE LUNCH** at Quigley's at 257 Willbrook Blvd. in Litchfield on **Sunday, July 9th** directly after worship service. Open to all young and old. **Limited Seating (40) sign up ASAP** so we can finalize arrangements. **Last day to sign up is Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Any questions you can call Shirley Oesterle at 843-748-0465

## Mission Report from Lynch, Kentucky – Eric & Sissy Rutherford

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY



With the economic challenges, unemployment, and despair that is all too common here in the mountains following the decline of the coal industry, unfortunately, many people have turned to drugs and alcohol as coping mechanisms. In response to this local blight, Community Christian Center (C3) held its first public Celebrate Recovery meeting on the June 22. More than 35 people participated in this Christ-centered recovery program.

I facilitated a small group intended for men affected by loved ones battling chemical dependency. I expected to meet with other 50-something year old fathers whose adult children were heading down self-destructive paths. I was surprised and humbled to find myself sitting across from two brothers, ages 12 & 15. Their father is reportedly an alcoholic and their mother a recovering drug addict in the program. Anonymity is one of the cornerstones of the program so I can't say more, but I'd ask all who read this to pause *right now* to lift up these young men and all of the leaders and participants taking part in this new and desperately needed endeavor.

### BIKE BLESSINGS

Another honor I have had here is representing Jesus at "Bike Blessing" ceremonies. A Bike Blessing is an evangelistic outreach to the motorcycle community. Typically, a local church or motorcycle ministry (in our case both) is allowed time at a motorcycle event or rally to pray on behalf of the riders in attendance; asking for, among other things, God's protection as they ride. We have led Bike Blessings as Christian Motorcyclists Association members and with the support of Community Christian Center. After our time at the microphone sharing a brief devotional message and praying for the group as a whole, we make a deliberate effort to then mingle among the crowd offering individual prayers, building relationships, and sharing the love Jesus with bikers, a ministry close to our hearts as motorcycle riders ourselves.



Earlier this year we held a Bike Blessing at an Autism Awareness fundraiser ride. Last night, I was able to lead a second one at the monthly Black Bear Bike Night, where we have been allowed to kick off the riding season for the past three years. One of the men I have reached out to and shared with at previous Bike Nights (nicknamed Stray Dog) and his "Old Lady" and new wife Stephanie recently started attending Community Christian Center with us! It was awesome to see them show up in church; and again, to see their faces light up at Bike Night as they cheerfully introduced me to their fellow club members. She posted the picture above with the cool sun beams shining on us this morning on her Facebook page (pictured L to R: me, Stray Dog, and fellow club member Chuck) with a message reading, "Thank you for doing the Blessing of the Bikes for us tonight."

*Thank you to all who continue to support our ministry here through prayer, encouragement, and giving!  
– We love and miss you, Eric & Sissy*

**SUMMER CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**  
**@ GARDEN CITY BAPTIST**

Bible study  
for kids of  
all ages!

6:30-7:30pm every  
Wednesday night  
over the summer!

**3 FAMILY FUN NIGHTS!**

~~6/7: Game Night~~  
7/19: Movie Night  
8/9: Group Outing to  
Broadway @ the Beach!

We'll see you this  
**SUMMER!**

# Reflections

## The Ultimate Display of Love

By Pastor Charlie

A demonstration of love can be measured by the degree of sacrifice that is involved. Preparing a steak dinner for my wife on her birthday is one degree of love. Buying her a costly diamond ring takes the level of love up a notch. Following through on the commitment to stay by her side in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer, till death do us part is yet another level entirely. The ultimate display of love is to offer your life for someone else.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13)

Back in December of 2014, Jonathan Robertson, a 42 year old Navy veteran was faced with a terrifying prospect. He and his wife were able to escape from their burning home that caught fire in the middle of the night. However, they quickly realized that John Jr. was still trapped inside. This loving father, without hesitation, ran through the inferno to rescue his son. He succeeded, but the father died from his burns that evening. A family member was quoted, "The legacy that my father has left my baby brother will carry with him forever and will shine and prosper." (The Daily Report) The actions of this father took tremendous courage and were an incredible act of love.

We recently celebrated Memorial Day. We remembered those servicemen and women who have given their lives for a greater cause. We honor their sacrifice, their courage, their valor.

We display similar honor to fallen police officers, firefighters, and Good Samaritans. If duty calls or the situation arises, we like to think that we could be as noble(?). However, there is a sacrifice that defies comprehension. I can think of no one who would willingly lay down his life for his enemy. I can't imagine that any freedom loving person would have voluntarily taken a bullet for Saddam Hussein or Osama bin Laden. That would truly be undeserved love. This undeserved love is the picture of Christ's love for us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8

While we were God's enemies (Romans 5:10) Christ died for us. When we were at war with God, the Son of God demonstrated the greatest act of love ever possible. God sent his Son to lay down his life, to take our punishment, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

This great demonstration of love leads us to turn from our wicked ways and follow Christ. Experiencing this great love leads us to repentance. Experiencing this great love enables us to sacrificially love others, even our very enemies.