



CHURCH EVENTS

August 6

Church-wide Breakfast

Widow's Luncheon

August 8

Charity SS Class Meeting (FH)

August 9

Children-Water Night

Youth-Broadway at the Beach

August 10

1 pm Missions Committee

August 11-13

Camp Pinehill Retreat (Youth)

August 13

Children's SS Teacher's Mtg

August 25

Women's Ministry Concert at

Lakewood Campground

August 27

Sunday Night Youth Gatherings

August 30

Fall Kick-off

August 31

Feed J1 Visa International

Students at FBC Surfside

September 5

Church Council

From the Pastor . . .

It is already August! Can you believe it? It seems like yesterday our two new staff members were just beginning here at GCBC. I have been extremely impressed by both Charlie and Timothy with their willingness to be a part of our team and give 100% effort all the time.

With the recent growth we have been experiencing, it seems like no better time than now to focus on a vision and mission for the church. Starting, August 20th, I will be preaching a vision series entitled "Beyond." After praying about the direction for our church, and conversing with the Long Range Committee this past spring, I believe our vision and mission should be as follows (wording may change a little):

Vision - Garden City Baptist Church exist to see people go beyond where they are and take their next step for Jesus.

Mission - Garden City Baptist Church looks to fulfill the Great Commission by living out the Great Commandment.

Please be in prayer for this series. It will last roughly eight weeks. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us this fall. He is doing great things!

Serving Him,
Jordan

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

by: Tim Hutto, Sunday School Director

For our current Sunday School year, we are averaging 181 attendees with an enrollment of 307.

At the time of this writing, 7-23-17, for the first time in recent records, we have had at least 200 in SS 3 Sundays straight!!!

In September, due to growth, we will revive a young adults Covenant SS class. It will be taught by Larry Conn, Foundations substitute teacher. Sandy Conn will assist him.

God continues to bless our church.

SOUTH STRAND MOBILE MEALS

August 21-25 ❖ Van 1

To volunteer or for information see
Esther Holland or Phyllis Melton

Organizations/Groups not meeting
during the summer

JOY Fellowship

WMU

Ladies Circle of Friends

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



“WOW GOD!”

by: Timothy Laurent, Minister to the Next Generation

This joyful exclamation highlighted our week of Vacation Bible School as nearly 60 different kids from our community were ministered to at Maker Fun Factory. Children were taught that God is our Great Maker and that each one of them is created by Him and built for a special purpose, the above exclamation being shouted each time the day’s Bible point was spoken. Bright eyes and big grins moved up and down our hallways as kids from ages three up to fifth grade (not to mention a couple in the nursery!) enjoyed using their imaginations to create in our “Imagination Station” craft area, stretching their muscles in recreation, tasting God’s blessings in snacks, and most importantly growing their minds and hearts in the “Bible Discovery” Bible study station. This is itself would have given us a week to remember, but our children and their families didn’t want the blessings to remain in our church walls. In the four days of VBS, nearly eight hundred food items were donated for South Strand Helping Hand...and these children directly played a part in being a blessing to other families in need.

So, with VBS 2017 in the books, we are continuing to say “WOW GOD!” at all that He is doing in our children’s ministry at GCBC. I personally would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and invested in our children during the week. Your love for our children and desire to see them grow is appreciated by myself and many others, and is needed as we continue to grow!

Watch for God



PRISONER PACKETS

Please place the following items in a one gallon Ziploc bag:

- One black non-retractable pen (no wire clip, no other ink colors allowed)
- One 5.8 oz. or larger toothpaste
- One adult individual factory-sealed toothbrush (no multipacks)
- One 3.8 to 6 oz. bar of soap
- One junior legal or **no larger than 5½” x 8” writing tablet** (no wire bound)
- Five first class stamp embossed #10 (long) envelopes (purchase at Post Office)
- Two rolls of candy (Lifesaver, Mentos or BreathSavers type)
- Bring to the office by August 31

Caring Hearts . . . Caring for those who care for others and more.

We have been able to give several caregivers a much needed break from their 24/7 job. This two-four hour break gives the caregiver an opportunity to get out to run errands and get a breath of fresh air and rejuvenate themselves. We have numerous families still in need of our help. Would you please consider joining our wonderful team?

Our ministry has expanded to include visits to our people who have been shut in. It is so necessary to check with those who live by themselves, especially if you haven't seen them around church for a while.

Adding more people to our team means you would probably only be called upon to help once a month or possibly less. We are in great need for a few men to step up. If you have any questions or would like to help us please call Shirley Oesterle at 843-748-0465 to join the Caring Hearts team.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WIDOW'S MINISTRY

Luncheon at J. Peters Grill in Litchfield on **Sunday, August 6** immediately following the worship service. Meet down front 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, August 27 to hear the Carolina Boys. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 6:30 p.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.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY August 3 Priscilla Shirer's the Armor of God--an action plan for putting on your armor and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory against the enemy. **Meets 10 a.m.-noon and 6-8 p.m.** in Room 109. Sign-up sheets are on the Women's Ministry bulletin boards in the side hall and front foyer.

NEW MEMBERS

MARTINEZ, Cynthia
Eva Marie & Jeremiah
Johnson

PARKER, Brandon, Lisa
Mason & Katelynn

HUTSON, Harriet

PIERCE, George & Jane

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

October 21 – Packing Party
November – Shoebox Collection
To prepare for the Packing Party,
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!**

SOUTH STAND HELPING HAND Of the
families helped during June only five didn't
need food. **We thank all the children who
faithfully brought food to Vacation Bible
School. It will help feed many more boys
and girls.** Other help included: electric,
water, clothes, diapers, dog & cat food,
prescriptions and gas. Twenty peoples
were referred to other agencies for
additional help.

We recently applied for and received a
\$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart. If anyone is
aware of available grants, please let Jo
Anne know.

HAIRE, Steve & Carol

Varina's

Exciting News! We are going to have a "SONG OF THE WEEK" each week on our church's website. You can click the link to the song to listen to it and sing along with the lyrics. We will then use the song in our worship the following Sunday. Looking forward to worshipping with you!

JOYFUL PRAISE KIDS (Kindergarten-5th grade)

- Fall Kick-Off will be Wednesday, August 30. Check the bulletin for details.
- Rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m.

JOYFUL SOUNDS (open to all who are interested in visiting our homebound members)

- Not meeting during the Summer.

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!
- Please prayerfully consider joining the Choir for our Christmas Cantata which will be Sunday, December 3 during the 11 o'clock worship service. **Rehearsals will begin Wednesday, September 13 from 7:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

PRAISE BAND

- Rehearsals have begun! We rehearse Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- If you are interested in joining the Praise Team, please contact me.

LADIES LUNCHWe are going to Raves on Business 17 in Surfside **August 25th at 12 noon**. All ladies are welcome. Sign-up sheets are in the side hall and front foyer. Last day to sign-up is August 20.

From the Media Messenger...

School will be beginning soon so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of reading. As a former media specialist reading has always been a priority. If you are a parent I encourage you to make reading a part of your child's day. Perhaps you can read a few minutes before bedtime or extend it by 15 minutes to give your child an opportunity to read. Research shows that students who read have better tests scores and improved vocabulary. This leads to higher developed language skills and improves a child's ability to write well. While exercising the brain, it improves concentration, imagination and is a form of entertainment.

Reading is not restricted to age or gender. Reading books and magazines, no matter what your age can help stimulate your memory and thinking skills. Research found that people who regularly participate in mentally challenging activities have a slower rate of decline in memory than those who do not engage in such activities. Based on this we shouldn't underestimate the effects of reading and writing on our children, ourselves, and our parents.

Interesting note: Jonathan Kozol quoted in "The Teacher who Couldn't Read" three main reasons people give for wanting to read:

1. To read the Bible
2. To read books and newspapers
3. To help their children



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – James Schlueter
- 3 – Noah Schlueter
- 4 – Norma Tuck
- 5 – Shirley Oesterle
- 7 – Jase Riker
- 10 – Kay Simmons
- 11 – Pat Chenault
- 12 – Calvin Dame
- 12 – Deb Snider
- 12 – Walker King
- 13 – Sandra Klinke
- 14 – Frank Oesterle
- 15 – Wayne Stewart
- 15 – Lacie Gandy
- 16 – Pat Hardee
- 17 – Sue Hedge
- 17 – Harvey King
- 18 – Danielle Thompson
- 18 – Sandra Webster
- 20 – Alta Rimer
- 21 – Don Barron
- 21 – Tammy Michael
- 21 – Chris Arnold
- 24 – Mildred Hughes
- 24 – Cayla Owens
- 24 – Carole Dillard
- 24 – Clara Davis
- 25 – Carl Howie
- 25 – Shawn Sholtes
- 26 – Ric Beelendorf
- 29 – Nora Pierce
- 29 – Terry Thompson
- 30 – Cadence Stoll
- 31 – Joel Reedy
- 31 – Kayla Patton
- 31 – Charlene Johnson
- 31 – Linda Purser



Reflections

Treasures on Earth

By: Pastor Charlie

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” -Matthew 6:19-21

There are certain times when it becomes blatantly obvious that a man’s life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions. As my Dad’s health was declining, I began the slow process of cleaning out the garage. Over the course of a few months, I spent several afternoons sorting, trashing, and selling fifty years worth of stuff. Buried underneath the webs of black widow spiders and skins of molted snakes were multiple shovels, rakes, racquets, paint brushes, chain saws, weed eaters, fishing rods, broken rifles, you name it. . . so much stuff! A lifetime worth of stuff.

I opened the locked wardrobe closet. Tucked away in the corner was a container that was placed as if it contained valuable treasure. I peeked in almost expecting to find gold or coins. Instead, it was full of rusted nuts and bolts.

During this process, I learned a life lesson. My things too are going to rust. Bugs will take over. Most of what I work hard to acquire will have to be left behind to be sold or thrown away. I started taking an inventory of my own possessions. Why in the world do I have sixteen coffee mugs? Why are there over one hundred shirts, some over fifteen years old, in the closet? Why do I continue to add more and more to my possession when there are so many people around me in need?

Going through the Gospels, the teachings of Jesus concerning what we value and treasure are really starting to stand out to me. Jesus admitted that he was a homeless man, *“Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Mt 8:20)*. He once told a rich young ruler that if he wanted to inherit eternal life that he must sell all that he had and give it to the poor. When the man walked away from the offer, Jesus taught, *“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mt 19:24)*. Jesus told a parable of a man who tore down his barns to build bigger barns after an abundant harvest. The point of the teaching, *“One’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15)*.

So I’ve given some thought to paring down my own things in order to give away to others. Maybe while I still have time, I can somehow exchange the treasures of earth for treasures in heaven.

“Don’t work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life.” – John 6:27

Mission Report from Lynch, Kentucky – Eric & Sissy Rutherford



VISITING & A LITTLE R&R! Each year our grandsons, Talon & Cade, who live in Surfside Beach come to spend two weeks with us in the mountains. We were excited that their dad, our son Travis, was able to spend a couple of days here when he dropped them off. He had never been here before. While he was here some of the visiting missionaries showed up on our doorstep bringing cookies and a card encouraging us. They thanked us for our ministry here and prayed with us on the porch. It was wonderful encouragement to us and nice for our son to see how important the work God is allowing us to do here is to others.

During their visit we also got to do some good “mountain stuff”. We taught the boys to shoot with a .22 rifle; we went camping with some friends they have made here over the years; and, we even got to go tubing down the Clinch River.

Two weeks later we brought them back to Surfside where we got to visit with more friends and family. We are so grateful we had the chance to see so many of you at church. We can't tell you how much your love, support, and prayers mean to us.

TRI-CITY TROLLEY I (Eric) am still driving the old Garden City Church bus weekly as the Tri-City Trolley, providing rides to places like the grocery store, the technical college, and doctor appointments. Last week we were the only available transportation to carry an expectant mother to her prenatal appointment. She is not only pregnant, but is battling addiction. On the ride home Sissy was able to offer her some Spiritual counsel, to encourage her, and to invite her to Celebrate Recovery, our ministry's Christ-based recovery program. Please remember this young lady and her baby in your prayers. While we were at GCBC, Roberta Collins replenished our baby quilt supply. We will be presenting one to this mother-to-be to let her know that she and her child are loved and that they have already been in someone's prayers as the quilt was made.



STILL GETTING OPPORTUNITIES TO PREACH Even though our local body, Community Christian Center, has called our new Solomon's Porch director Terry 'Brother T' to be the lead Pastor (a position I did not feel called to or equipped for, by the way), God has still allowed me to take the pulpit on occasion to share what he is showing me.

Recently, I was able to deliver the message at both Community Christian Center when Brother T was out of town, and again at Eolia Baptist Church, filling in for Drew Baldwin who many of you know is the director at our ministry's Stables at Cereekside Glen and the Pastor of Eolia Baptist Church.

GREATER VISION -The newest business outreach under the Meridzo Center Development Corporation (that Sissy and I help lead) is another amazing example of God's provision. The missionaries who ran Loaves & Fishes, a feeding ministry here that was originally part of Meridzo Center (as Manna House) recently retired. They had two mission houses and their home for sale. An investor has purchased all three and we will manage them as vacation rentals (there are none in the area, which is trying to develop a tourism-based economy so they are desperately needed) and mission housing/overflow.



The money the houses take in will be used to repay the investor who will then deed all three over to Meridzo Center! So, God provided the Fitwaters a buyer for all three of their houses; thus another way to serve the community, local economy, and visitors; and even replaced the Fitwaters by moving one of the local churches to continue operating Loaves & Fishes! He is so good!

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