

◆ CHAPEL NEWS ◆

Volume XXIII Issue 9

September 2017

“OUT OF FOCUS”

Two major events have dominated the news this past week. The first event began in Charlottesville, Virginia as two groups clashed and that has resulted in tremendous division within our nation. It breaks my heart as we have seen people focused with such hatred towards each other. We have learned that there is no response acceptable, unless it is to blame one group or the other which is then used by the media to stir the pot of mistrust and bitterness.

The second event was watched by millions as the moon eclipsed the sun. Here in Sampson County the sky only dimmed, but I heard that some of us may have traveled down south to get into the direct path of the shadow. The path was only about 7 miles wide, but the effects were far wider than that. In those places, I am told, people could actually see the stars come out, the cows bed down and hear roosters crow. I was amazed to discover that even here, 95 percent of the sun was blocked out and yet the power of the sun still kept us from looking directly at it.

We can take a few spiritual lessons from these events. First is simply the size relationship. The moon is tiny in comparison to the sun. The sun measures 432,450 miles across, while the moon measures 1079 miles across; nearly 400 times larger. And when we compare mass, the sun's mass is over 27 million times that of the moon. It's hard to get a real perspective with such numbers until we grasp that 27 million moons could exist inside the sun.

The eclipse happened as this tiny sphere, the moon, comes in alignment between us and the sun. Even so small, it can blot out the sun. Sin is like that. When the smallest of sins gets between us and the Son, the Son can be blotted out.

The same is true with these events in our nation. When sin comes between us and the Son, the hatred of even two small groups brings devastating effects. It was amazing to see how many people have focused on these two events and yet fail to see the destructive power of sin. The problem within our nation isn't race; it isn't a flag; it isn't one person's right to protest; nor is it the presence of monuments. The problem is sin. The issue is a heart issue. The cure will never be in erasing our history, it won't be found in protesting, or counter protesting. The cure won't be found in removing symbols of our past. And it won't be found in our politicians.

The cure will only be found when we, as a people, come to the reality that we are a sinful people, who have blotted out God. The answer still can be found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: ***“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”***

Oh how we need to remove our focus from what blocks the Son, and place our focus back on Him. Has God so darkened the hearts of this nation, that we can no longer see? Have we let sin eclipse His light?

Pray. Pray. Pray.

Pastor Joey

Calendar

WMU DATES

Wednesday, September 6 & 20
7:00 PM - Mission Friends,
Acteens, GA's and RA's

Monday, September 4
7:00 PM - WMU

Wednesday, September 13
6:30 PM - Acteens and Older RA's
to Food Bank

Wednesday, September 27
7:00 PM - BYW

YOUTH DATES

Sunday, September 3
7:00 PM - Youth Council

Sunday, September 3, 10, & 17
6:00 PM - Youth Meeting

Wednesday, September 13
6:30 PM - Youth Food Bank

Saturday, August 19
8:00 AM
Food Bank Distribution Day

Wednesday, September 27
7:00 - Youth

Saturday, September 30
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Youth Sunday Rehearsal

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST 27

Preschool	7
Children	39
Youth	21
Adults	<u>85</u>
Total	152
Last Month	112
August 2016	130

CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

Group 4 - September 3
Simone Myers
Brandi Edge
Megan Daniels-West
Tye Mullins
Brett Stone

Group 5 - September 10
Terry Williams
Heather Williams
Sydney Williams
Lee Masters
Jessica Masters

Group 6 - September 17
Anthony Williams
Melody Williams
Abbey Barefoot
Lisa Knowles
Brittney Knowles

Group 1 - September 24
Aaron Jackson
Shannon Jackson
Jennifer Naylor
Logan Baggett
Lane Baggett

Group 2 - October 1
Troy Register
Tonya Register
Craig Holland
Caren Holland
Brooke Dienhart

**Group 3 - October 8
Homecoming**
Marshall Naylor
Stephanie Naylor
Johnnie Holland
Jill Holland
Cary Booyer

NURSERY WORKERS

September 3
Alyson Honeycutt & Melissa Stone

September 10
Emily Wrench & Donna Honeycutt

September 17
Erica Holloman & Jessica Masters

September 24
L. V. & Margaret Carroll

October 1
Lisa Knowles & Brittney Knowles

October 8 - Homecoming
Brittney Pope and Carrie Byrd

AUGUST RECEIPTS

General Fund.....	\$26,031.08
Salemburg Christian.....	350.00
Food Bank	
Youth Ministry.....	25.00
Kingdom Outreach.....	350.00
Brotherhood	200.00
Love Gift:.....	680.00
The Whisnants	
Capital Improvements	500.00
Cemetery Fund.....	50.00
VBS Offering	<u>100.00</u>
Backpack Buddies	
Grand Total	\$28,286.08



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September Birthdays

- 1 Carla Autry
Kevin Carroll
Iris Stewart
Caden Williams
- 2 Howell Edwards
- 3 Chance Hendrix
A. Wayne Wrench
- 5 Anthony Lisboa
Janice Tew
- 6 Ken Hargrove
Ethan Holland
Landon Honeycutt
- 7 Daelyn Edge
- 8 Gray Tuton
Tammy Williams

- 9 Nick Pope
- 10 Ed Jordan
- 13 Alyson Honeycutt
- 15 Sadie Williams
Sherry Williams
- 17 Linda Montgomery
Kevin Page
Linda Williams
- 18 Carol Williams
- 19 Candis Mercer
Doris Russell
Ellis Tuton
Penny Williams
- 20 Jacquelyn Butler
- 21 Larry Baggett
Tifton Pope

- 22 Ashleigh Mercer
- 23 W. E. Honeycutt
- 24 Gary Jackson
LaRue Page
- 25 Bailey Jackson
Howard Stewart
- 26 Houston Hayden
Renee Honeycutt
Marlene Oldham
Johnny Williams
Greg Wrench
- 27 Rachel Brown
Brooke Dienhart
Jeannie Goodman
Steve Stewart
- 30 Rhonda Gainey
Harrison Johnson

October Birthdays

- 2 Roger Carroll
- 3 Chesney Holland
Phillip Wrench
- 4 Susan Carroll
Kaylee Mercer
Scott Williams
Heather R. Wrench
- 5 Richard Bullard
Larry Jackson
- 6 Terry Brewington
Bethany Dienhart
Madeline Peterson
Chris Tew
- 7 Mitchell Ackerman
Derek Holloman
Marshall Naylor
Carla Nuesmeyer

IF YOU SEE A NAME MISSING FROM OUR BIRTHDAY LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE



Mark your calendars for the annual Parade of Tables on September 9th, 2017.
This year proceeds will go to help Cole Bedard with his medical expenses.

We will need table hostesses and items for the silent auction as part of the fundraising efforts.
If you can host a table or donate item(s) for the auction, please see Wanda Jackson.

BYW will provide the food for lunch.

Tickets will be available soon for Hostesses to distribute. If you have any questions, please see Wanda Jackson.