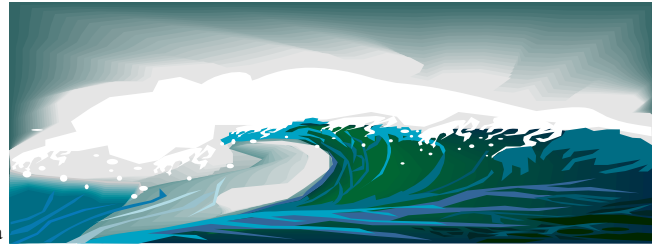




# The *July 2023* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



Galatians 5:13 reminds us, *“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* Are we not, so blessed to live in the greatest nation in the world! America, the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

As we enter the month of July, we naturally think about July 4<sup>th</sup> and Independence Day. We think of the gatherings it generates from parades and fireworks to cookouts and family reunions. Summer is in full swing. Nevertheless, through it all, we should pause to give thanks to God for living in this great land.

The founders of America believed that our rights were given as gifts to us from God. CBN has a report that said, “Washington said we need to follow Christ or we're never going to succeed as a nation.” They wrote that he said, “Unless we imitate the Divine Author of our blessed religion in terms of His charity, humility, and specific temperament of mind, we'll never be a happy nation.”

The website, GEB, added to the discussion saying that President John Adams stated that July 4<sup>th</sup> will be remembered as the most memorable epic in the history of America, noting that it should be celebrated through acts of devotion to God. They write that Adam’s belief was that, next to Christmas, this was the next most important holiday because of religious implications. GEB notes that even the Liberty Bell has an inscription from Leviticus 25:10 (KJV) that reads “...Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof...”

In our culture today, there is a movement that exists that tries to separate anything of God from anything having to do with the nation. But, interestingly, when we study the independence of our nation, we see the founders praying for their new country and having a strong desire to please God, knowing that it was His hand that was upon them, establishing a land where people were free to worship. In the Bible, 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, *“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”* John 8:32 adds, *“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*



Take time to remind your children and grandchildren that we live in a nation that has been blessed of God. It doesn't matter what the culture says, because we have evidence in the history recorded by the founding fathers – that

the imprint of God's Word is everywhere. That Liberty Bell... one of the greatest reminders. It is for this reason, we thank the Lord today, for living in the United States, a place where we have the right to worship the Lord freely.

Enjoy the month of July. Enjoy Independence Day. Enjoy the gatherings and celebrations. But above all else, thank the Lord for letting you be born here – in America. Happy Birthday America!

In His Service,

*Pastor Toby*

Sources

CBN: <https://www2.cbn.com/news/us/how-founding-fathers-who-loved-god-liberty-and-their-freedom-built-free-free-nations>

GEB: <https://geb.tv/remembering-our-fight-for-independence-the-christian-basis-of-the-fourth-of-july/>





WE have really enjoyed the last month staying off the grass! 😊 We have utilized Wendy's, Taco Bell, McDonald's, swimming pool and the City Park for our gatherings and studies. Many thanks to Fred and all who are involved with making our church yard beautiful!

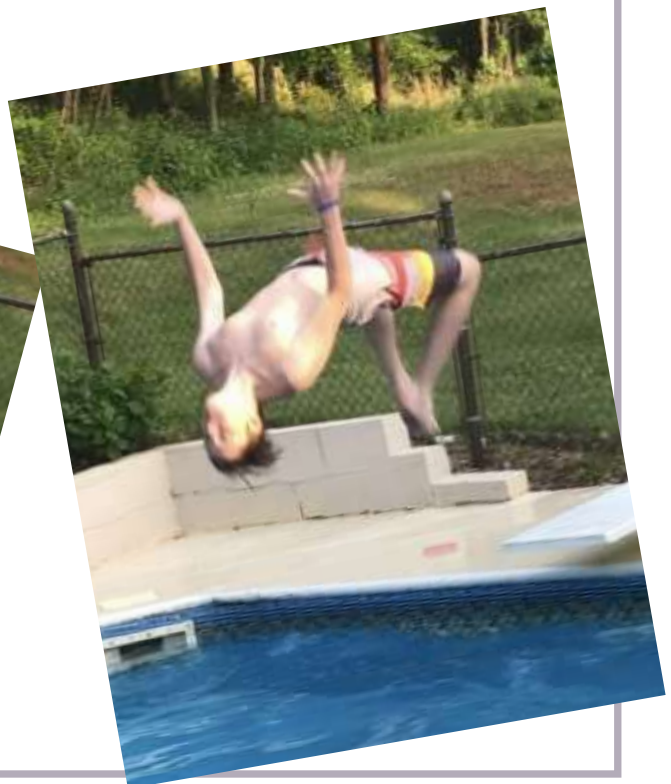
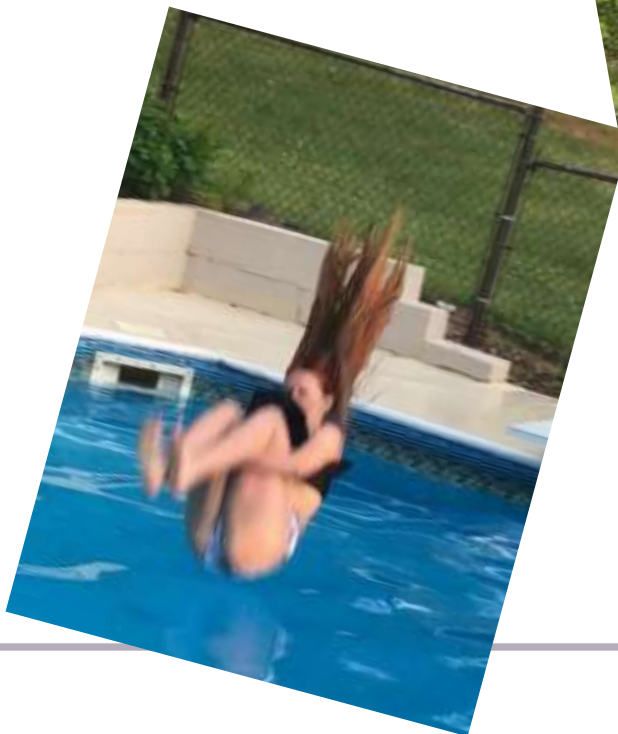
Our attendance is staying up with 17 to 22 kids each time we meet. They really enjoy going to swim and study at the Johnson's pool. Thanks Bob and Helen!

Our focus right now is the Youth Yard Sale that takes place July 6, 7, and till noon on July 8. Please bring your donated items in by Wednesday. Thanks to all who have helped with this fund raiser. We couldn't do it without you.

We have one student going to Camp Cowen this year. Please keep Hannah Wag-  
oner in your prayers as she travels to camp for the week.

As always, many thanks for all the prayers and support for our Youth program.  
We love you all.

**Blessings,**  
*Ann*



# Swimming Youth!



# Youth Yard Sale



Our Youth Yard Sale is July 6,7 and till noon on July 8. We are collecting items for the sale now. If you would like to donate furniture, clothing, knick knacks, etc., please contact Ann Johnson. Pick up is available.

# Brother's Keeper Week



# BK at Work



# Baptisms



Buried with Christ

We were blessed at FBC to witness 3 baptisms on June 11.

Welcome to God's family!

**Grayce Wagoner**



Risen with the Lord

**Staton Cooper**



**John Wagoner**



# Men's Fellowship Gathers



**Welcome Randy "Trey" Lawson!**

Born June 14 at 9:29 a.m.

7lbs 15 oz

to

Samantha and Randy Lawson

Also welcomed by sister Jocelyn and  
Grandparents Toby & Jen Wagoner

# Our Busy Young Adults





Last year, the Young Adults at FBC took the lead with the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

This year, they have taken a bigger step. Talia Martinez has accepted the area leader position and our church will be a drop off center for the community. Talia has been to the training and the group will be kicking off this year's ministry in October.

We are proud of the leadership our Young Adults have shown in many areas. Keep up the Good Work!

(pictured left - Jordan Williams and Talia Martinez)



One of the great blessings of being a neonatal nurse?

Getting to hold a FBC baby.

Destiny Thomas is seen holding one of the Mullins twins.

*What a great feeling!*

*Thank you Lord!*

# Hope Center Ministries Visits FBC



Young men from Hope Center Ministries were on hand to give song and testimony at the morning worship service on June 25. They were on hand following the service to answer questions for those interested.

*Thank you for your witness!*

## *Opportunities for Fellowship*

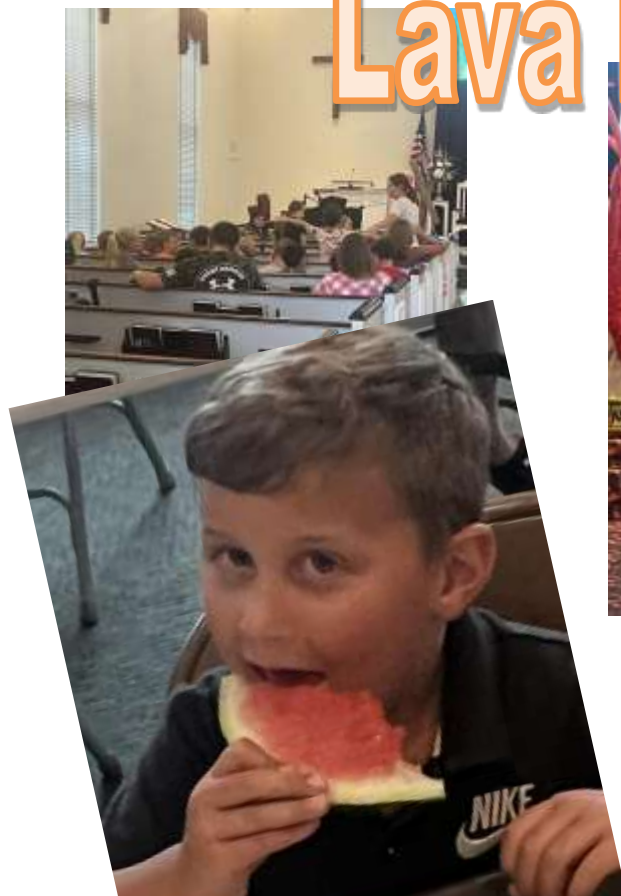
**Reds/Patriots Game with for King and Country Concert - August 5**



**Camp Global** August 11-12 at Camp Cowen. Register early!  
Featured missionaries: David & Joyce Ritchie; Rick & Anita Gutierrez;  
Reid Trutson

**Nunsence** Jackson County Players. Ripley High School auditorium.  
July Fridays and Saturdays 7,8,14,15, Sundays 9, & 16.

# Lava Lave VBS!!



# Smiles & Fun!



# Yummy Snacks!



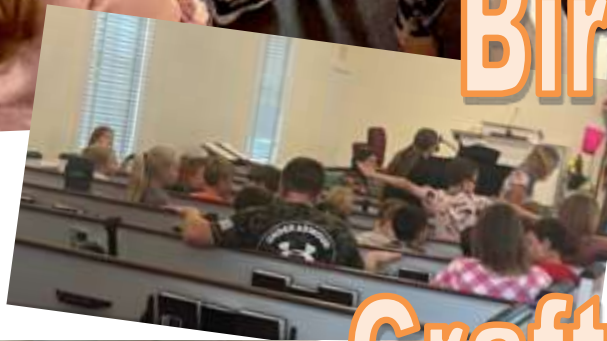
# Great Ending to VBS!



# Gideons Bibles



# Bird Is the Word



# Crafty Do-Dads



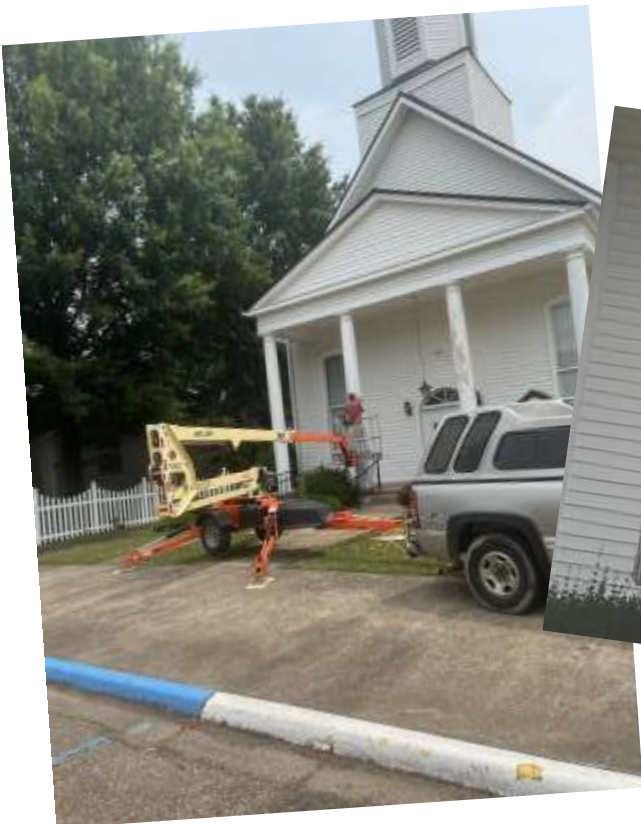




# Loving VBS!



# Old Things Made New





## US churches help sew life-changing dome covers

*Family doctors Anita and Rick Gutierrez train and equip “Health Builders” in South Africa to combat lifestyle-related diseases such as HIV/AIDS, high blood pressure, heart and artery disease, diabetes, and malaria. Health Builders also receive training in fruit tree propagation, gardening, and poultry skills to help them promote good nutrition, generate income, and lead Bible study groups in their communities.*

Do you know what a geodesic dome is? This group from the American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island (pictured above) helped build one recently while learning how we and our partners use them to raise chickens, grow fruit trees, and provide meeting spaces in our ministry in South Africa. Members of the group also sewed a shade cover for a dome that we will bring back with us to South Africa to use as part of this ministry.

Recently, I have been working with American Baptist Women’s groups and churches in Michigan, Kansas, and Colorado, to conduct these two to three hour workshops. I supply the group with enough materials to make 1.5 dome covers. If they want to make more they will spend about \$80 to purchase another bolt of shade cloth, and they will then have enough to sew another 1.5 covers, or three in total. My goal is to have groups make about twenty of these covers a year, which we will ship back in luggage ourselves or short-term mission groups can bring them. **Each cover a group makes saves me about two complete days of labor. The covers will last for fifteen years and provide true value to cost. As I am involved with health work in addition to this agricultural and economic capacity-building work, time saved on making these covers is time available for other parts of our mission.** All dome parts are cut by hand by myself, as are covers. It takes me two days to cut all the parts for a tunnel dome and two days to measure, cut, and stitch the thirty triangles of the dome shade cloth into a complete cover. It costs me eighty days of labor to make twenty per year, which means about 1/3 of my time is spent just cutting domes and making covers.

**These tunnel domes become places for life to flourish and create green space, shade, and trees for present and future South Africans, Mozambicans and Swazis.**

That is what this is about—priming the pump for human flourishing and showing people a skill with trees which does change their lives.

We thank all those churches who are participating in these workshops, and providing us with dome covers! **We are so grateful to God for the ways in which your partnership makes these ministries of new life possible.**

## Focus on Sunday School:



### Freedom Reigns

What does God's Word say about freedom?

Psalm 118:5 tells us *“Out of my distress I called to the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free”*. We have freedom from anxiety, from being overwhelmed by circumstances.

*“There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.”* Romans 8:1-2 We are no longer in slave to the sins of the world. We have victory over death!

*“For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’”* Romans 8:15 Thanks be to God! We are free to call out to Him anytime! He frees us from fear because He is our Heavenly Father and He will care for us as His children!

*“The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”* John 10:10 We no longer have to deal with Satan alone. Jesus broke his hold over us and now we can live in the glory of the Son of God. What a beautiful life we have in Christ!

*It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!*

## July Calendar

- July 2 Camp Cowen High School 1
- July 3 Trustee Meeting
- July 4 Independence Day - Office Closed
- July 5 Second Quarter Reports Due
- July 6 Deaconess Meeting
- July 6-8 Youth Yard Sale
- July 10 BOCE Meeting
- July 11 Men's Fellowship
- July 12 Second Quarterly Business Meeting
- July 17 Nominating Committee; Anchor Articles Due
- July 18 Financial Committee Meeting
- July 19 Deadline for Red/Nationals/Faith Concert
- July 20 CIRCLE
- July 25 Deacons Meeting

\* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

## July Birthdays



Pastor Toby—7/1  
Micah Arrington—7/4  
Dena Williams—7/5  
Christie Mize—7/5  
Allen Palmer—7/5  
Sherry Dzierzanski—7/6  
John Stephenson—7/12  
Roger Rader—7/12  
Jeff Flesher—7/16  
Finley Donahue—7/16  
Zach Wood—7/17  
Annabelle Flesher—7/19  
Jordan Williams—7/19  
Dale Vanderlaan—7/19  
Carolyn Brown—7/21  
Ron Starkey—7/30

Is your birthday name

## Bible Book of the Month July 2023 Colossians



## CommUnity Kitchen

July 01 Burt Lyons  
July 08 No CK Holiday  
July 15 Sherry Walker  
July 22 CIRCLE  
July 29 Calvary Baptist

*Sign up for  
CommUnity Kitchen 2023!*

## CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Nathan & Lilly Hall
2 Libby Hall	3 Mike Hall	4 Bill & Tammy Harpold, Shane	5 Jo Hendricks	6 Kenley Hickman	7 Crystal Hicks, Tara, Lucas	8 June Hicks
9 Lisa Hoke	10 Kathy Hudson	11 Bobby & Charolette Jeter Christian	12 Margaret Johns	13 Bob & Helen Johnson	14 Ann Johnson	15 Torren & Shealyn Johnson, Emrie, Kacie
16 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan	17 Matt & Kristi King, Landon, Nate	18 Steve & Rachelle Laing, Colt	19 Randy & Sami Lawson, Jocelyn Baby	20 Debbie Legg	21 Pam & Wayne Legg, Josh, Samantha, Victoria	22 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh
23 Burt & Deb Lyons	24 Philip Lyons	25 Greg & Rhonda Lyons, Cameron, Kyler	26 Peg Lyons	<b>27 Talia Martinez</b>	28 Richard & Phyllis Massey	29 Robert McCauley
<b>30 Brad &amp; Donna McCoy</b>	<b>31 Ed &amp; Charlotte McCoy</b>					

