



THE BEACON

July/August 2014 Newsletter

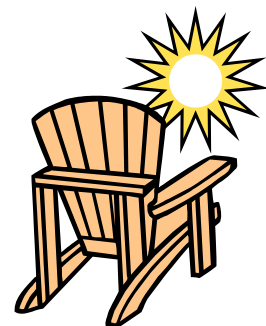
Pastor's Message

It's hard to believe that half of the year is gone already!!! I know every year has the same 365 days (except for leap year), and each day has the same 24 hours, but it seems like the older I get the faster time passes! It is also hard to believe that come the first Sunday in December, Tammy, the boys and I will have been here at Victory 10 years!!

We've had a busy summer already! Our "Agency D3" Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success! We averaged 90 students and helpers a night, saw several children come to Christ, and have had a couple of new families check out our church because their children came to VBS. The students took in just under \$1000.00 in our nightly Penny Rumble for Missions. Thanks to all who prayed and helped with any aspect of VBS or Family Fun Night.

On **Sunday mornings** we are currently in a message series going through the **Old Testament Book of Malachi**. We are seeing that during Malachi's time people were much like people are today. Many were just *going through the "motions and mechanics" of religion and ritual, thinking that in doing so they were right with God*. All the while God was telling them they were wrong and calling them into authentic relationships with him. Israel had the audacity to call into questions God's motives and his love because of this. Some things never change! We must always remember that a relationship with God is not about a check list of do's and don'ts. It is about drawing near to God, being in his presence through corporate worship, prayer, meditating on God's word, and allowing His Holy Spirit to live through us. If anyone is negligent in any of those areas, or not doing anything in those areas, one should really take an inventory of themselves, come to God and ask Him if they are truly saved. If the answer is "yes," then that person should repent of the sin of neglecting God and turn back to Him. If the answer is "no," then that person should cry out to God to save them! Malachi has some great but challenging stuff, but you can't learn about it if you are not here! Hope to see you this Sunday!

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Pastor's message- Continued from page one

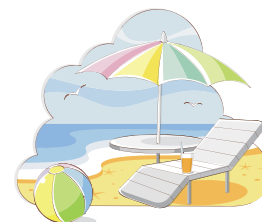
Here are some ongoing/upcoming things going on in July and August at Victory-
Christmas in July is under way. We are collecting shoe boxes for Franklin Graham's "Samaritan's Purse" ministry. The drive will be going on through **July 27** with a *packing party* ending the drive during our **6 pm service**. If you need any information on this, please see Rick Griffis, or go to the Samaritan's Purse website.

Back to School Back Packs- We will again be gather items for back packs for needy students in our church family and for children at Widewater Elementary from **July 27 through August 17**. For more information, see Linda Griffis or Crystal Passley.

Annual Church Picnic. We will be having our church picnic on **Sunday, August 3** after the morning service. This year the event will be held in **Aquia Harbor at the Lion's Park**. See Helen Tibbetts for more information.

TeamKID events. We will be having our "End of the Year Awards Ceremony" on **Wednesday, August 13 at 7 pm**. There will not be any TeamKID or Youth activities on August 20 or 27.

Have a great rest of the summer, but don't forget to put Christ in the forefront of everything you do! As the old hymn tells us, "Take the name of Jesus with you..."



If you are interested in having your ministry or events included in the September/October newsletter, please submit your article to Terri Palmer by August 17, 2014.

Back to School Backpacks

From July 27 through August 17, we will be collecting back to school backpacks and school supplies. These backpacks and supplies will be distributed to children in our church who are in need of our help in starting a successful school year with the required materials. There is no better feeling than knowing you helped a child start school off on the right foot. There will be a collection bin in the church foyer for your donation. Anything you do to help will be greatly appreciated! For more information see Linda Griffis or Crystal Passley.



TeamKID News



Summer vacation is here and the kids are excited to be out of school. We have had a great time in TeamKID.

We are always in need of additional help with TeamKID on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in being a teacher or teacher's assistant or just want to check us out to see what TeamKID is all about, please feel free to join us any time. We currently have three children's classes: PreK &K, 1-3 grade and 4-5 grade.

Congratulations!

High School Graduation
Stephanie Passley—Brooke Point
Kristin Cramer—Brooke Point



Congratulations!

Christmas in July Now through July 27

Join us for Christmas in July. We are collecting shoe boxes for Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. The drive will end on July 27th with a packing and wrapping party during our 6 p.m. worship service. See Rick Griffis or go to Samaritan's Purse website for more information.



Happy Birthday!

July

6– Durinda Carro
19– David Newago
20– Joshua Hodgen
27– Kaci Topping
28– Neil Ghadiali
29– John Roberts



August

5– Dylan Six
13– Brandon Rabren
14– Tammy Hodgen
22– Stuart Swink
26– Kenny Urf

Please forgive us if we left you off the birthday list. These lists are a work in progress. Please let Pastor John or Terri Palmer know of any additions and corrections.

Church Picnic August 3rd

Join us immediately following the morning worship service on Sunday, August 3rd, for our annual church picnic. The picnic will take place at Aquia Harbor at Lion's Park, and we'll enjoy the games, fellowship, and great food. The church will provide the meat, but please bring a dessert, side dish, and drink to share. If you would like more information, or would like to help, please see Helen Tibbetts.



Upcoming Events
(Please check website and bulletin for updates)



- 4– Happy 4th of July!
- 13– Vision and Progress Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 21-25– Youth camp at JMU
- 27– Wrapping Party for Samaritans Purse gifts 6:00 p.m.
- 27-31– Back to School backpack drive



- 1-17– Back to School backpack drive
- 3– Church picnic (immediately after morning worship. No p.m. worship)
- 13– End of Year TeamKid awards
- 31– Potluck lunch after morning worship. No p.m. worship





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Victory for Life!