

# Haymarket Herald

July 2010

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*Remember the days of old,  
consider the years of many  
generations; ask your father,  
and he will show you; your  
elders and they will tell you.*

*Deuteronomy 32:7*

## MEET MR. BAPTIST

In July of each year, I devote my newsletter column to the subject of Baptist history. In this day of rootlessness and historical amnesia, I believe it is absolutely essential to remember who we are and from whence we have come. I have in previous columns spoken of such people as John Smyth and Robert Norden. I'm sure that if I gave you a test, most of you would be able to identify these individuals and name their contributions to Baptist history. But I'm sure some others among us would have trouble remembering these people, if for no other reason than the fact that their names are rather common. In the hopes of giving you a "hook" on which you may hang a remembrance, I have chosen in this year's column to introduce you to a man with an appropriately memorable name. Meet Mr. Baptist.

Edward Baptist was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, in 1790. As it turns out, neither of his parents were Baptist believers. His father was not a practicing Christian; his mother was a devoted Presbyterian. Fortunately for Edward, his

mother raised him in the church and sent him off to Hampden-Sydney College, a Presbyterian-affiliated school outside of Farmville, Virginia. But perhaps the Baptist name haunted young Edward, for he soon came to question his religious affiliation. Convinced that the Baptist practice of baptism was the correct one, he professed his faith anew and was baptized by a Baptist minister in the area. He completed his studies at Hampden-Sydney and received ordination for ministry in the church.

After he married, he settled in Powhatan County, Virginia, and began his ministry in local rural churches. It was slow going at first. Baptist reported that he endured ten years of unfruitful labor. He was tempted to quit and go elsewhere but remained out of the conviction that God had called him to this difficult mission field. His persistence paid off as he eventually came to see great response to his efforts. As a result of his work, the area encountered a revival that saw many persons come to faith. He soon became known as a powerful preacher.

Rev. Baptist's larger claim to fame, though, lies on two other fronts: denominationalism and education. He is accounted the founder of the

Baptist General Association of Virginia, and the founder of an institution that is known today as the University of Richmond.

The idea for the association of Virginia churches came to him and a fellow minister on a ride home from a disappointing meeting. He and the Rev. James Fife were riding home from a Charlottesville meeting of Baptist churches where he and Mr. Fife had been joined by only one other participant – Rev. Thornton Stringfellow. To this point, the Baptists in Virginia had associated for the purpose of winning religious liberty. That precious good having been secured, they no longer felt a need to continue coming together. Although the three men were alone, they did what comes naturally to preachers – they preached to each other for three days. But they left dispirited all the same. It was on the way home, along the banks of the Rivanna River, that Baptist came up with the idea of forming a new association of Baptist churches in Virginia, centering on the issue of missions work in Virginia. He and Fife approached Stringfellow with the idea later, and then shared it with several other ministers. An organizational meeting was set for June 23, 1823, at Second Baptist Church in Richmond. On that day, the Baptist General Association of Virginia was born. (Our church is a member of this association and send the largest amount of our missions dollars to support its work.)

The idea for an institution of higher education for ministers was born about this same time in the heart of Edward Baptist. Rev. Baptist was a well-educated man, and was known as an eloquent and thoughtful preacher. He believed strongly in the need to provide instruction for Baptist ministers in Virginia and pushed for the establishment of The Virginia Baptist Educational Society and Seminary in 1830. At the urging of his fellow board members, he undertook to begin instruction himself in his own home that fall. He had a building constructed on his property for the purposes of housing the students and carrying out their studies. Baptist had an advertisement placed in the *Religious Herald* soliciting students. He began classes in October with five young men. Poor health prevented him from continuing in this capacity longer than two years, but the seeds of Richmond College (now the University of Richmond) had been securely planted through these efforts. Further, the legacy of strong support for

education among Virginia Baptists had also been firmly established.

Edward Baptist was not able to remain a Virginia Baptist all his life. It is believed that his poor health necessitated the move he made to Alabama and a warmer climate. But there in that state he continued to have an impact on Baptist life through continued emphasis on missions and education. Though he had many calls to serve larger pastorates, and even a call to serve as the inaugural president of Howard College (now Samford University), he declined them all, continuing to serve only in country churches.

In many ways, Edward Baptist is “Mr. Baptist” for Virginia Baptists. He leaves a rich legacy that should make us all proud, and that should inspire us in our work for the kingdom in this day.

Dr. Stewart



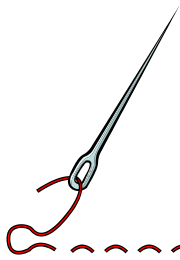
## *New Adventures*

**T**he New Adventures group went to Washington to the National Cathedral on June 15. There were seventeen in attendance and all enjoyed the day.

Our next meeting is July 20, at the church. We will meet for a potluck lunch at 12:00 p.m. Some will be going to Riverside Center in Fredericksburg to see *The Complete History of America* on July 11. Please check the bulletin board across from the kitchen for updates and pictures from previous trips.

If you would like to know more about the New Adventures group, please call Jerry at 703 873-9092. We would love for you to join us for lots of fun!

Jerry Gentry  
Chairperson



## **The Loom – Weaving our Congregation into Community**

*How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness?*

Psalm 116:12

**R**ecently, when I pray, I have found myself saying thank you to God. This is not due to some special “spiritual high.” Rather, I find myself saying thank you to God because, like everyone else, too often I begin to think the grass is greener on the other side. Too often I dwell on the things I don’t have but want; the things I am not instead of the good things that make me who I am.

To remedy this nagging frustration, I have found the only thing that works is to go to God in prayer. In prayer, I try to not dwell on asking God for things. Instead I count my blessings. I have a wonderful family. We all have good health. My wife and I have good jobs. We do not lack for food. We have a nice house. We have more than enough. We live in a really exciting place. The list goes on and on. It’s hard to get too down on all my unfulfilled wishes when I thank God for my blessings because in reality, my blessings outweigh my disappointments.

We all fall prey to this way of thinking from time to time. Churches, consisting of people, can think this way too. Too often, churches get fixated on the things they are not and lose sight of the many blessings that are right in front of them. They spend more time wishing they were something they are not and lose precious time and energy that could be spent on developing the unique gifts that make them who they are and valuable to God’s Kingdom work.

What helps me when I become frustrated can also help the church – counting our blessings. Haymarket Baptist is a wonderfully unique church that is blessed to be sitting in the midst of great growth, prosperity, and people. Weekly, we have new visitors among us. Some churches only have visitors darken their doors once or twice a year!

The church has a wonderful mix of all ages and races. We are committed to developing and expanding ministry to every age, from our children to our newest ministry – the New Adventures group. In the past year, we have sponsored two mission trips to South Africa, one trip to Costa Rica, and we continue a strong sponsorship of Nepalese pastors in their native land of Nepal. We are sending two groups to summer camp this year – our older children and our youth. We currently have a beautiful garden that is the result of a number of our people; its produce is going to benefit the underserved of our community. Like our garden, we are thriving and growing!

Counting our blessings not only helps relieve anxiety; it can also help us better understand our identity and sharpen our focus. Counting our blessings does not conclude in a pat on the back, as if our job is complete. Rather, it should strengthen our resolve to continue in the ministries to which God has called our church. It should be a source of excitement that calls our people to new heights in these areas. Our strengths of discipleship, worship, and mission must continue to grow. This requires a renewed commitment and excitement from our congregation. It means we all need to find a ministry to commit to with the whole self.

God has blessed us with a traditional main street church. We have a history. We also have a future – a future of ministry to and with a beautiful blend of all ages and backgrounds. Our strength is our diversity, our particular style of worship, and our growing commitment to missions in our backyard and around the world. During this period of nomination, where and how can you commit yourself to see our blessings continue to flourish and grow?

Matthew Hensley  
Minister of Christian Education

### **CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**

The Church Business Meeting will be conducted on Wednesday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m., in the church fellowship hall. All church members are encouraged to be present.

# DEACONATE

Summer vacations are rapidly approaching and many of us will be absent from our church family for some period of time. This is good and allows us time to refresh and get a different perspective on life. However, Haymarket Baptist Church goes on in our absence and we want it to be here when we return, in the same shape it was when we left. Please keep this in mind and make arrangements to have your duties covered while you are gone.

I'm told that we still need help for Vacation Bible School. Please find time for this as it is most important. We are very good at VBS but it's a major undertaking and many people are needed. We still are looking for assistant teachers and help in the kitchen. Patty Carey will be happy to find something for you to do.

Recently our church recognized several persons in our fellowship who had graduated from various levels of schooling. Completing a course of study is a big accomplishment, worthy of congratulations. I have often thought that this is sort of what life is like. We are in a learning environment all of our lives as we try to understand God's purpose for us and what He has in mind for our lives. At various stages of our lives we understand in different ways and hopefully as we mature we find deeper meaning and understanding of what is expected of us and how we can accomplish God's plan for our lives.

We are now approaching the end of the year for our church and we have various positions which need to be filled in order that God's church may function here in Haymarket. The Nominating Committee is hard at work trying to fill these positions with people who will give of their love and time to fulfill the needs of the church. Don't be afraid to commit, to trying something new; you may find that it's one of the most challenging, and thus rewarding things that you have ever done. If there is a position you would like to have call the Nominating Committee members and tell them. Don't be afraid to volunteer.

Love one another and be kind to one another as we toil in God's Vineyard.

Max Loudon  
Chairperson



## HOME TOUCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Home Touch Committee met at the home of Guerry Gordon on May 23rd for a meeting and light supper. All members were present with their spouses. Also Dr. Charles Stewart and Rev. Matthew Hensley and family attended. Ann Whitney and her husband Dwight attended.

We had an excellent meeting including "brain storming." Home Touch will continue to visit the permanent home bound and we will be visiting the "temporary" home bound as well. We will be

asking members of the church to help with that ministry. We have started a new ministry. We will now also visit "home bound" who are not members of our church. but who have attended. Please let me know of any shut-ins that you may know. Members of our church will come first.

Evelyn Guiliani has crocheted afghans for the shut-ins and recently she has crocheted shawls. She is an invaluable member. We have a new ministry. Elizabeth Pruitt, the mother of Linda McVeary, who is sending cards for all occasions. This is a most needed service.

We now have 3 couples and 9 people on our Committee. Our newest couple is Alex and Ruth Nagy. We appreciate their interest in Home Touch. If you would be interested in becoming a member please call Guerry Gordon at 703-754-1594 or see her at church. Our purpose is to let these home bound folks know that the church has not forgotten them, that the visitor loves them, and most of all that God loves them.

Guerry Gordon  
Chairperson

## ON PRAYER AND THE GLORY OF GOD

In a recent sermon, Dr. Stewart quoted from this passage. It is part of a prayer penned by the French scientist and philosopher Blaise Pascal (it is referenced in Philip Yancey's book, *Where Is God When it Hurts?*, p. 114). It is a challenge both to our praying and our living.

*I ask you neither for health nor for sickness, for life nor for death; but that you may dispose of my health and my sickness, my life and my death, for your glory. You alone know what is expedient for me; you are the sovereign master; do with me according to your will. Give to me, or take away from me, only conform my will to yours. I know but one thing, Lord, that it is good to follow you, and bad to offend you. Apart from that, I know not what is good or bad in anything. I know not which is most profitable to me, health or sickness, wealth or poverty, nor anything else in the world. That discernment is beyond the power of men or angels, and is hidden among the secrets of your Providence, which I adore, but do not seek to fathom.*



## THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

Please help us to fill our pantry as the shelves are practically bare. The food that we collect is used as a ministry of the church to feed folks in our immediate area who are in need of food.



## LORD'S SUPPER OBSERVANCE

*I*t is a sacred privilege for every disciple to remember his Lord in the observance of the Supper, and it is his solemn duty as well. Few signs more effectually tell of spiritual decline in the individual soul or in the Church than a neglect of the sacred Communion. It is the duty of every believer to be baptized, and the duty of every baptized believer to commemorate the dying love of his Lord at the Supper... Let no disciple who loves his Lord lightly esteem or neglect this sacred rite.

(from Edward Hiscox's, *Principles and Practices for Baptist Churches*)

We will observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper on July 11 during the worship service.



## PASTOR'S JULY SCHEDULE

**D**r. Stewart and family will be away on vacation the week of July 3-10. Rev. Hensley will preach on July 4. Dr. Stewart will be away again the week of July 18-25. He will be in Atlanta to visit with family and to conduct the wedding of one of his nieces. Dr. Stewart will preach on July 18 before heading out later that afternoon. Rev. John Carey will preach in his absence on July 25. Please keep the Stewart family in your thoughts and prayers as they travel this month. And please prayerfully remember Matthew and John as they lead us in worship this month.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Last minute preparations are in the works as we get closer to VBS. Our school will run from July 26-30. Please pray for Patty Carey and all the teachers and workers. We will host 140 children during the week and there is always room for more volunteer help. Contact Patty if you would like to join the team. Let us all pray that God will use this week to sow seeds of faith in the lives of these children and their families.



## BIRTHDAY WISHES

The following people have July birthdays:

- July 1 Daniel Haynes
- July 3 Patty Carey
- July 4 Chuck McClure
- July 9 Jackie Cafferty
- July 12 Dana Merritt
- July 13 Gene Allue, Dottie Swain,  
Guerry Drey
- July 15 Sharon Jinks
- July 19 Lauren Cafferty
- July 21 Beckie Thompson
- July 22 Paul Shelton
- July 24 Kayla Kelley, Bill Thompson,  
Amy Carter-Stewart
- July 26 Jodie Sullivan, Jeff Davis,  
Christie McClure
- July 27 John Workman
- July 28 Katie Duryea
- July 29 Elizabeth Thompson, Cole Johnston
- July 30 Megan French

## YOUTH TO PASSPORT JULY 10 - 17

Please remember our youth as they travel to Macon, Georgia, for Passport! There they will encounter God through Bible study, mission work in the local community, worship, and new friends.

The youth will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 10, to leave. The group will stop our first night in Clemson, South Carolina. There, they will spend the night at First Baptist Clemson and worship with the congregation the following morning. The youth will arrive at Mercer University in Macon Sunday afternoon to begin the week of camp. After camp lets out the following Friday, the youth will spend some time in Atlanta before heading home the next day. Please keep the following youth and chaperones in your prayers.

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Youth:            | Adults:         |
| Tori Carpenter    | Brenda Knighton |
| Claire Olsen      | Diane Pyles     |
| Carter Richardson | Alan Stanton    |
| Derek Terrant     | Matthew Hensley |
| Meredith Morgan   |                 |
| Erin Cafferty     |                 |
| Megan Pyles       |                 |
| Ashley Pyles      |                 |
| Brett Pyles       |                 |
| Robert Wood       |                 |
| Quinn Snyder      |                 |
| Tyler Gass        |                 |
| Larry Ralph       |                 |
| Ryan Bayol        |                 |

Matthew Hensley  
Minister of Christian Education



# PreSchool News

**H**ello Church Family,  
Things are quiet down the preschool hallway, as we wrap up summer camp and begin to settle in to the office work that needs to happen in preparation for the next school year. Lots of computer work, scheduling, organizing, purchasing of supplies, cleaning and data-base-building fill our days. We are blessed with a full enrollment when many schools are struggling to stay afloat. We have a very long waiting list of students and families desiring what we offer at HBCPK...a loving, nurturing Christian environment where children can discover the joy of learning and the love of God (part of our mission statement). In planning next year, we covet your prayers for health and safety for all students and staff. We look forward to participating in ministry with you through various mission projects and we welcome your attendance and participation at many of our annual events. We are hoping to add a Children's Performance/Travel Choir on the Kindergarten level that will minister to our community and the church in the upcoming year. Always something new and fun on the horizon at school! Please consider attending a preschool program or event this upcoming school year. Some are during the day, and a few are held in the evening...we'd love for you to see all the wonderful things that happen with young children during their experiences at HBCPK. Have a wonderful summer.

In His Service,

Mrs. Laurie Frasz  
Director,  
HBC Preschool & Kindergarten

## MORE ON COMMITMENT AND ITS ADVERSARIES

Dr. Stewart recently preached on the theme of Christian commitment and the challenges that deter believers in living up to their commitment. A source of inspiration for the sermon was the book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, written by Eugene Peterson. A key passage from the book for Dr. Stewart in preparing the sermon is provided here for your continued meditation.

*One aspect of world that I have been able to identify as harmful to Christians is the assumption that anything worthwhile can be acquired at once. We assume that if something can be done at all, it can be done quickly and efficiently. Our attention spans have been conditioned by thirty-second commercials. Our sense of reality has been flattened by thirty-page abridgements. It is not difficult in such a world to get a person interested in the message of the gospel; it is terribly difficult to sustain the interest. Millions of people in our culture make decisions for Christ, but there is a dreadful attrition rate. Many claim to have been born again, but the evidence for mature Christian discipleship is slim. In our kind of culture anything, even news about God, can be sold if it is packaged freshly; but when it loses its novelty, it goes on the garbage heap. There is a great market for religious experience in our world; there is little enthusiasm for the patient acquisition of virtue, little inclination to sign up for a long apprenticeship in what earlier generations of Christians called holiness.*

(If you would like a manuscript copy of the sermon, contact the church office.)



## CHILDREN'S NEWS

**T**he Children's Ministries Committee invites children 4 years old through grade 5 to come enjoy **SIZZLING SUMMER FUN** on Wednesday evenings. Each Wednesday will feature a different theme. The first Wednesday evening will feature water sports, so come prepared with a towel and appropriate swimsuit!

Sizzling Summer Fun Wednesdays:

July 7

July 14

July 21

July 28

August 4

August 11

**VBS week; No children's evening meeting**

Matthew Hensley  
Minister of Christian Education

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