



The Messenger

A Newsletter from

Murfreesboro Baptist Church

July 2025

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE . . .

Independence Day—it's a time for celebration, not just picnics and fireworks! This year it's the 249th birthday of our nation and a celebration of our freedom.

For us as Christians, it's also a time to think about our relationship and responsibilities to the state. Consider 1 Peter 2:13-17 (NRSV), where Peter called on his readers to relate responsibly to government in light of their relationship to God.

For the Lord's sake accept the authority of every human institution, whether of the emperor as supreme, or of governors, as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil. Honor everyone. Love the family of believers. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

The point of this text is clear: As Christians, we must relate responsibly to the state in light of our relationship with God. Peter tells us how to do that.

First, *we must accept governmental authority in appropriate ways for the Lord's sake.* Being model citizens bears a good witness for the Lord.

Second, *we must use our freedom in a responsible way.* Our society thinks freedom means doing anything we want without the accompanying responsibility and consequences. True freedom is never a pretext or cover-up for evil, but is always balanced by responsibility. When we live as servants of God, we use our freedom responsibly, respecting the rights of others.

And third, *we must put our relationships with God, the church, and the state into proper perspective.* Peter calls us to honor everyone by loving the church (the family of believers) and honoring the emperor (the state and its leaders). But above all, we must fear God (have a reverent awe for him). Our relationship with God takes precedence over all others.

Historically, Baptists have emphasized three principles in our relationship to the state as Christians: the Lordship of Christ, individual religious liberty, and the separation

of church and state (meaning a free church in a free state, where the state neither favors one church or religion above another [the establishment clause of the First Amendment] nor is antagonistic toward religion [the free exercise clause]). Baptists in America were instrumental in the passage of the First Amendment, guaranteeing freedom of religion and speech.

As a Christian pastor in the Baptist tradition, I make a careful distinction between the kingdom of God and the United States of America. God has blessed this nation beyond measure and made it a land of incredible opportunity. *But no nation on this earth is the kingdom of God.* I love my country dearly and am deeply patriotic. I still get a lump in my throat and sometimes a tear in my eye when I see the Stars and Stripes waving, especially when it's being carried in a parade or in the presentation of colors by those who serve our country in the armed forces. But as much as I love the United States of America and pray for God's blessings on her, my first and ultimate allegiance as a Christian, and the first and ultimate allegiance of Christians from every tribe and nation, *must* be to the kingdom of God.

On the first Sunday of this month, July 6, we'll explore these ideas a little more fully as I preach a sermon from this text in 1 Peter entitled, "God and Government—Getting It Right." In the meantime, I hope you have a happy Independence Day!

Grace and peace,
Mark E. Perkins

Children's Summer Ministry

Noah's Ark, What Can We Learn?



Wednesday, July 16
5:45 Until 6:30

MBC'S ONLINE PRESENCE:

We are in the process of upgrading our online presence. We have a public page on Facebook. Facebook also has a private group for prayer concerns. Worship services are posted on YouTube each Sunday, and you can watch the service live or at your own convenience. The website is undergoing an upgrade. Until the upgrade is complete, the current website may not function properly. Now for the exciting news: MBC is once again offering an online giving option. The link to give online is:

<https://subsplash.com/u/68S5CD/give>

You may set up a recurring gift or one-time gift. You also have the option of a credit card or bank draft. The MBC app is coming soon to an Apple or Google Play Store near you. Our app will provide a tool for communication, upcoming events, online giving, and our services all at your fingertips on your smartphone. We will have more information on the app when it is ready for downloading. Check out the bulletin board outside the library across from the restrooms for more information on our online presence. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let Sarah Davis know.

Come Join Us...
For a Delicious
Breakfast & Fellowship!

Saturday, August 2, 2023

8:00 A.M.—10:00 A.M.



Pancake
And
Sausage
Breakfast

All Proceeds Benefit
Backpack Buddies of
Hertford County
Schools!



Eat-In or Take-Out

Adults....\$10 Children 12 & Under.....\$5



Anyone wishing to volunteer to cook, serve, or help with clean up, please contact the church office.

Get Your Tickets From Any Deacon and in the Church Office.
Tickets Available In Advance and At The Door!

Breakfast Located in
Church Fellowship Hall



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

July 7	Charlotte Cole
July 9	Yvonne Warren
July 11	Frances Cole
July 11	Jeff Llewellyn
July 12	Mary Welch Gallop
July 12	Linda Hassell
July 16	Ronnie Coltrain
July 20	Steve Harders
July 31	Lynette Bunch

*Don't see your birthday? Please call
the church office and let us know
when your special day is.*

July 7	Charlotte Cole
July 9	Yvonne Warren
July 11	Frances Cole
July 11	Jeff Llewellyn
July 12	Mary Welch Gallop
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Volunteers are needed Tuesday, July 15 by 1:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to distribute food.

If you have committed to help us keep our pantry filled, please remember to bring twelve of your selected items to the church before the last Monday of each month. As always, any donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

July 3	Church Office Closed
July 4	4 th of July Holiday - Church Office Closed
July 8	Deacons' Meeting
July 15	Food Bank of the Albemarle
July 16	Children's Summer Ministry
July 28	MBC Food Pantry

Aug. 2 Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
Aug. 12 Deacons' Meeting
Aug. 19 Food Bank of the Albemarle

Scholarship



USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE

Sarah Davis

Sarah Davis

July: Johnny Jenkins, Bob Lee, Hunter Brown

Aug.: Colon Ballance, Armando
Torres, Charlie Cole, Garth Faile

Susan Benthall

<i>June 29 - July 12</i>	Garth and Erin Faile
<i>July 13 - July 26</i>	Charlie and Dell Aycock

July 27 - August 9 Booker Daniel

July 20	Lynette Bunch
August 3	Booker Daniel

It is hard to believe that we are only a few months away from October and the start of a new church year, but it is that time. One key part of these preparations, as you've found in this newsletter is the work of the Personnel, Finance, and Nominating Committees.

The following committees should meet no later than the end of July so that we may begin work on the 2024-2025 church year.

Meets Wednesday, July 16 6:00 p.m.

*Mike Alston, Chair
Charlie Aycock, Frances Cole,
Ronnie Coltrain, Carole Farnham,
and Debbie Hill*

Wayne Brown, Chair
Charlie Cole,
David Farnham

*Jay Revelle, Chair,
Sarah Davis, Mariah Gallop,
Sara Frances Hill,
and T.K. Warren, III*

Please notify the Church Office once these meeting have been scheduled so that we may put them on the office calendar.

*Thank you all for your willingness to serve
our church.*

Dr. Mark E. Gaskins

PASTOR

PAULA PRESSNELL
Organist & Choir Director

TERESA MARTIN
Administrative Assistant

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday 8:30 – 1:30

252-398-3613 www.murfbc.org

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29	Monthly Total	For the Year
Weekly Budget	\$4,038.46	\$4,038.46	\$4,038.46	\$4,038.46	\$4,038.46	\$20,192.30	\$157,499.94
Weekly Tithes & Offerings	\$8,638.00	\$4,181.00	\$1,816.00	\$2,773.00	\$2,301.00	\$19,709.00	\$161,903.64
Other Income							
Over (Under)	\$4,599.54	\$142.54	(\$2,222.46)	(\$1,265.46)	(\$1,737.46)	(\$483.30)	\$4403.70

Return Service Requested