

The Connection

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*“A church in the heart of Russellville
with Russellville on its heart”*
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Bro. Mike Duncan, Minister of Music & Youth
Randy Whitley, Outreach Minister

FOCUS: Freedom

July, a month many of us have “big plans” vacations, picnics, family reunions, parades, and barbecues celebrating Independence Day, our nation’s birthday. A lot of time is spent having fun and enjoying summer. The USA has a lot of freedom to do as each of us and our families desire. But is freedom free still today? We have a great debt to our government today for keeping us free, and most of all, to God for allowing us to become and stay free. We owe God for our freedom and should honor Him daily with a greater commitment during this festive time. We must do this daily as Christians, not just at 11:00

A.M. on Sunday. Have a daily devotion with your family, attend Sunday school. Bring your children or grandchildren to VBS, and on Wednesday night to children’s and youth activities, and so forth. There is plenty of time to celebrate July the 4th, go on vacation, and also include God in all we do. At SBC, we have committed, well-prepared Sunday School teachers to help us all grow as Christians. Come Sunday and every Sunday at 10:00 A.M., and bring someone with you. God will bless you, and you will feel good for being obedient to what he would have you do as a Christian.

Have a great summer, and always include God in all that you do.

Gaylen Baugh
SBC Sunday School Director

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

—Romans 12: 2



Second Baptist Church would like to extend its deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May God give peace and comfort to you and your family.

To Mariecia Harper in the loss of her mother, Mildred Jenkins.
To the family in the loss of their loved one, Joyce Rogers.



KIDS KORNER

By the time you read this, several children and youth will have participated in a camp or mission trip. Three younger GA s and their moms attended an overnight camp at Jonathan Creek June 24-25. We have 5 children registered for the Mission Adventure Day Camp July 18-22. **The biggest event that**

can impact a child is coming up July 10-15. Vacation Bible School is THE EVENT. We have the opportunity to reach whole families for Christ. To do this take dedicated volunteers, people willing to give up a week of evenings to share the Gospel with preschoolers, children, youth or adults. Second Baptist is unique as VBS is offered to all ages. We don’t know the impact we have on others, but GOD does! The investment we make in families that one week will make a difference in our church for years to come. Will you be the one willing to serve during VBS week?

Love in Christ,
Konnie



Wedding Anniversaries



David & Brenda Arnold	01
James & Brenda Rigney	03
Bobby & Billie Ruth Gilliam	05
Billy & Nell Skipworth	05
Charles & Eleanor Tinch	14
Bubba & Jamie Norman	19
Bubba & Mary Celsor	27
Kevin & Terri Prince	28
Larry & Brenda Barton	29
Mike & Bonnie Goodwin	30
Jack & Loriene Thomas	30
Donovan & Holly Kash	31

Mike's Minutes



I was thinking the other day through one of my favorite verses of scripture in all the Bible. It was Hebrews 12:1-2, *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

You know those first two verses in Hebrews 12 remind me so much of the ministry that I am called to do. I have to confess that I have to remind myself that it is also a part of something that other people are aware of, too.

I love to picture in my mind this giant arena of witnesses. They are not just casually watching us on this race of faith. I can envision them standing on their feet cheering us on. We've all been to the stadiums of ballgames and concerts and we've heard the crowd as it erupts with roars of appreciation for our favorite singers or sports teams. Let me tell you that is nothing like the cloud of witnesses that are cheering you and me on as we run this race.

You know, to me, the best part is that verse is *“the race that is set before us.”* I'm afraid there have been times in my life when I have been guilty of trying to run someone else's race. The writer here in Hebrews tells us that God has designed a race especially for you and me. He has put in front of us and marked out the race that we are to run. He charted the course. He knows where it will take us. He knows when the path will be steep and when the turns and curves will be sharp. He knows even when the changes will need to be made in the course. But be sure that it is God who laid out the course for you to take!

When He built you and me, He built us with the strength and abilities to run that race. So, how do you feel you are doing? Do you feel like you've jumped track or that you're running this race all by yourself? Maybe you even feel you are running the wrong race!

In high school, I was picked once to run the 400 meter dash. I don't know how many of you have run the 400 meter dash, but you can't sprint it, and you can't jog it. You gotta do something halfway in between. I can assure you halfway through the second lap that I knew for sure this was the wrong race for me! I almost died! I bet there are some of you out there today that feel you are running the wrong race, too.

I want to encourage you today that the race that God set before you is the race He perfectly designed for you to run. Here's the key: Just look to Jesus for your strength and help! He is the one who created you, and He is the one that will bring you through!

May God bless you today! Have a great day!

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