

FROM YOUR PASTOR

I was recently interviewed by a local student who was writing a paper for a college class. He asked about the doctrines of our faith tradition for the purpose of comparing them to the beliefs of other groups. I told him about Jesus and the Christian faith in general, as well as a few things about Baptist Christians in particular. He told me he had always assumed Baptists took their name from John the Baptist. Do you suppose that's a common assumption?

How much do *you* know about Baptist origins and what beliefs are important to us? What *is* a Baptist anyway? Truth is, Baptists aren't easy to define, in part because there are several varieties of Baptists. That variety is a result of the importance Baptists place on freedom. Limited space prevents me from going into detail, but here's a *very* brief snapshot of our Baptist identity, taken mostly from source material written by Baptist scholars Charles Deweese and Walter Shurden.

Near the beginning of the 17th century, English Separatists left behind the structured Puritanism of England to form their own churches. John Smyth and Thomas Helwys carried English Separatism to Amsterdam and became "Baptists" when they stopped baptizing infants and began baptizing only persons who professed faith in Christ, a practice known as believer's baptism.

Smyth and Helwys formed the first ever clearly defined Baptist church in Amsterdam in 1609. In America the first Baptist church was founded by Roger Williams in 1638 in Providence, Rhode Island. Deweese says these early Baptists and their congregations "ardently affirmed the Lordship of Christ, the authority of the Bible, believer's baptism, regenerate church membership, disciplined discipleship, free worship, complete religious liberty, church-state separation, voluntary confessions of faith, congregational church government, and lay leadership in church life." With some variation, most of these beliefs still typify Baptist churches, along with other beliefs that tend to include salvation only by grace

through faith, local church autonomy, evangelism and missions, security of the believer, and a symbolic understanding of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

On the importance of freedom to Baptists, Shurden summarizes Baptist identity under what he calls four fragile freedoms that are easily lost if not diligently guarded: (1) Bible freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, must be central in the life of the individual and church, and that Christians are both free and obligated to study and obey the Scripture. (2) Soul freedom is the historic affirmation of the right and responsibility of every person to deal with God without the interference of creed, clergy, or civil government. (3) Church freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation that local churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whom they perceive as gifted for ministry, male or female, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ. (4) Religious freedom is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Caesar is not Christ and Christ is not Caesar.

If you thought Baptists somehow came from John the Baptist, I hope this has expanded your understanding of who we are as Baptist Christians.

Yours in Christ's service,



Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32

CONGREGATIONAL CARE, OUTREACH, & SENIOR ADULTS

BOOK CLUB - Second Thursday at 11:00 AM in A-108

CHARLIE CRAWFORD DEMENTIA SUPPORT - Second Sunday at 4:00 PM in A-101

CURRENT MISSIONS - Third Thursday at 2:30 PM in A-108. This month's speaker will be Donna Cherry from Hushka House.

JOY CHOIR - Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in the Music Suite

SAVE THE DATE:

50+ RED, WHITE, & BLUE CHILI COOK OFF & VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION | NOVEMBER 9, 5:00 PM

Join us in the Welcome Corridor for one of the HOTTEST events of the year! Whether you want to cook and compete...or just eat, you're bound to have a whole lotta fun! We'll have special guest judges and music by PHILLIPS & BANKS!

VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE - On Sunday, November 5, join us as we honor our military with a slide show in the Welcome Corridor of those who have served and those that are presently in the Armed Forces.

CHRISTMAS AT THE COVE: SENIORSALT IMPACT CAROL SING WITH NIAH & ALLISHA MERRILL

December 11, 2023. Cost is \$50 per person. Join us to celebrate the birth of our Savior by singing your favorite Christmas carols and hearing an inspiring devotional thought from God's Word, then enjoy a delicious buffet-style lunch to follow. After lunch we will explore the story of Billy Graham's life and ministry, the Chatlos Memorial Chapel, and Ruth's Attic Bookstore at the Cove. **Limited tickets available.**

CALL TAMMY HAMMITT AT 423-232-2363 TO ABOUT ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: SIGN UP NOW!

HAVEN OF MERCY THANKSGIVING MEAL PREPARATION | NOVEMBER 22, 4:00 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Our goal is to feed 1,500 people this year! We are asking for VOLUNTEERS, donations of food, and monetary donations. A list of items needed has been distributed to the Sunday School Classes. Dried and canned goods are needed by Sunday, November 19. All other perishable foods can be brought to the church on November 22. If you have questions or need more details, call or text Edward and Julie Sorrell at 423-833-3822 or send an email to juliesorrell67@gmail.com.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER FOR CBC UPCOMING EVENTS



- Visit the Connection Central Desk in the Welcome Corridor to fill out a VIM/VOM Card.
- Use one of the iPad Kiosks at various locations.
- Contact the minister or team leader directly.

If you have any questions contact Gene at 423-232-2364.

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRIES
NOVEMBER FOOD COLLECTION

CANNED MEAT

COLLECTION BIN IS LOCATED IN
THE CATERING KITCHEN.

ADULT & EDUCATION MINISTRY

Are you interested in leading a Discipleship Group? Connect with Kirsten Borger in the church office or call 423-926-7121. She will be more than happy to assist you in accessing available curriculum and finding a suitable meeting time and location. Invest in one another!

Current Groups:

Life of King David: 6:00 PM, Wednesdays, Gathering Place, Leader: Mike McCloud

-Lessons on the life of King David and how his life relates to our understanding of our Savior Jesus Christ.

World on Fire (Ladies Bible Study): 3:00 PM, Sundays, Library, Leader: Kirsten Borger, Cost \$5

-Explore some of the polarizing issues of our day through the wisdom of Jesus, helping us to become more discerning and Christlike.

The Women of Christmas (Ladies Bible Study): Details TBD

PRESCHOOL & KIDS MINISTRY

Operation Christmas Child Packing and Friendsgiving

On Sunday, November 12, from 4:00-6:00 PM, we will be gathering together for a potluck meal and packing of the shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We will be collecting items for the shoeboxes through November 12. Find the list of items at cbcjc.org/occ. Join us as we share a meal and pack shoeboxes for children around the world. Bring a dish to share.

In Christ,
Peyton Keller

FRIENDSGIVING + PACKING PARTY OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

DATE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12
TIME 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
WHO CHURCHWIDE
WHAT BRING A COVERED DISH AND
HELP PACK SHOEBOXES



CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH
KNOXVILLE, TN

BRING ITEMS TO CBC OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 8

STUDENT & COLLEGE MINISTRY

Hello Church! I'm so excited to share with you about our Holiday Hoopla outreach event! The Student and Kids ministries are partnering to throw a Christmas party for families in need this holiday season! We'll be providing a free pancake breakfast, putting on an incredible Nativity drama & musical, and bringing our Christmas Shoppe back for a second year. Children can pick out a special gift to put under the tree for their parents! It seems like it is still a long way down the road but it will take a ton of preparation between now and December 16 to have everything in place to bless the families that we are trying to reach!

It takes many hands to make this work! If you're willing to donate your time to this event, ways you can get involved are cooking, preparing gifts, setup, clean up, or in the drama & musical. Please let me know as soon as possible and we'll find you a way to serve!

This and many other service opportunities are going to be unfolding over the next few weeks. I look forward to serving alongside each and everyone of you for Christ and his glory!

Brandon



MUSIC & WORSHIP

Wow!!! What a Mountain Top Experience!!! It was truly a blessing to participate in REQUIEM that was presented at Central Bearden Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN on October 22. Many of our own Chancel Choir members sang with 130+ voice choir. Some of our CBC Orchestra members played with the 45+ piece orchestra. If you would like to hear this fabulous time of worship, it can be seen on YouTube, search Central Bearden Baptist, Knoxville, TN.

Reserve December 10 at 4:00 PM on your calendar for our Christmas concert - "Appalachian Winter". The Chancel Choir and CBC Orchestra will present the Christmas Story in a unique way. Be sure to watch the church calendar; there are many events coming and plenty of places to plug in and get involved.

As the Pastor said Sunday, we have some bittersweet news to share. Ethan Njezic has accepted a position in Seymour, TN at Valley Grove Baptist Church as their Family Ministry Pastor. Ethan has prayed and trained for this ministry opportunity, and the Lord opened the door for him. Ethan will be missed, but I know the Lord will guide him into this next chapter of ministry. It has been a GREAT pleasure working and getting to know him over the past several months. Please pray for Ethan and his family as they make this transition.

Please keep our Music Pastor Search Committee in your prayers as they continue their task of seeking the Lord's guidance and wisdom.

Your Brother in Christ,
Jon Cardwell, 8:45 AM Worship Leader

PARISH NURSE UPDATE

Do you pray expecting an answer? God is always with us, even when the way is difficult.

It is important to remember is that God is always with us, even in the midst of difficult circumstances. We can trust Him to be our strength and our refuge when we are feeling weak or afraid. From a health perspective, we need to strive for balance. Our physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health are all intertwined. Focusing solely on one aspect of life can decrease positive growth in other areas.

As we approach the holiday season and look towards Christmas, where do we set our priorities? What are our expectations?

The Bible teaches us that we should have faith in God and trust Him to provide for our needs. We should not worry about tomorrow, but instead focus on today and trust that God will take care of us. We must always remember that God's ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts are higher than our thoughts. This means we can't always understand what God is doing, but we can trust He is always working for our good. If you are going through a difficult time, physically or emotionally, turn to God. He is with you. *"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him."* - Psalms 62:5

The Parish Nurse Program is here to assist our church family to maintain or regain wholeness in body, mind and spirit. Caring for others is an expression of God's love for us.

- Louann O'Dell, DNP, RN, Parish Nurse

UPCOMING EVENTS



OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFO

Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
CLOSED FOR LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY, 12:00 - 1:30 PM

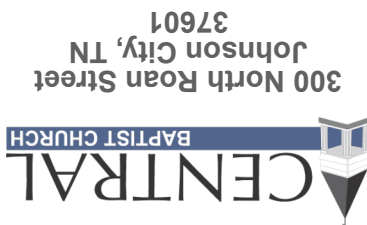
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Johnson City, TN 37601
423-926-7121
hello@cbcjc.org
cbcjc.org

PASTORS & STAFF

Dr. Tommy Hood, Senior Pastor
Gene Elliott, Congregational Care, Outreach, & Senior Adult Pastor
Brandon Salyer, Student & College Pastor
Helen Kern, Preschool & Kids Pastor
Peyton Keller, Preschool & Kids Director
Jon Cardwell, Worship Leader
David Smith, Worship Leader

ON CALL ASSISTANCE

If you have an emergency on the weekend or after hours during the week, call the church number 423-926-7121 and select 8 to contact the on-call pastor.



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