

Stewartsville Baptist Church

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JULY 2012

PASTORAL STAFF

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HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Independence Day is annually celebrated on July 4 and is often known as "the Fourth of July". It is the anniversary of the publication of the declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776. Patriotic displays and family events are organized throughout the United States. Many people display the American flag on their homes. The celebrations have deep roots in the American tradition of political freedom.

We will meet for mid-week prayer service at 6:30pm. See you then!

On Sunday, July 1, 2012 over one million people in thousands of churches in all 50 states will be on their knees, praying for our nation. Stewartsville Baptist Church is a participating church in the Call 2 Fall event that is simply setting aside a definite time during worship to get on our knees and faces before the Lord in repentant prayer for God to reshape our lives and renew our land.

As we celebrate the birth of our nation, we are reminded of the Continental Congress' call to prayer in 1775 that resulted in 3 million colonial Americans gathering on their knees in repentant prayer for their troubled and fledgling country. May we, too, humble ourselves in prayer before God in this pivotal time for our nation!

Our nation is in dire need. America needs change that only comes from God. It begins with the people of God praying to Him for the change we need. God promises real change- spiritual healing for our souls and our land- if we simply humble ourselves in repentant prayer before Him.

We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. (Daniel 9:5)

Please join us as we pray in a unified effort that crosses all denominations and cultural barriers among God's people that will hopefully result in God's hand of judgment being stayed and His blessing being renewed on our lives and our land.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 1 4pm Deacons Meeting
July 8 Business Meeting

CHURCHWIDE VISITATION

We will not have visitation on July 31 due to Vacation Bible School.

S.O.S. Meeting

We will not meet in July but have a trip planned to the Billy Graham Museum in Charlotte for early August. More details to come.

Everyone age 55 and up is invited and welcome!

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank the church for all the prayers sent our way during the loss of Scottie's grandmother, Charlotte Napier. The Lord truly blessed us during this time with such a wonderful church family. Grandma Charlotte was truly a godly woman and we are thankful that she is home now with our Father in heaven.

Thank you,
Kellie and Scottie Kirkley

Vacation Bible School

July 29 – August 2

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Workers Needed!

Sign-up sheets available at the Welcome Center

Registration for completed preK-6th graders has begun. You may sign your child/children up in the Welcome Center. Please put completed forms in the basket at the table. Remember you only need to register children who have completed a preK program-6th grade. Nurseries will be provided for VBS workers only.



CTCA COMMUNICATION CORNER

Psalm 86:11 (NASB) – “Teach me your way, O LORD, I will walk in Your truth”

Summer is upon us and Christ the Cornerstone Academy students are enjoying a much deserved vacation. While the students are taking time for rejuvenation, the teachers and I are working hard to prepare for next year. We have been conducting interviews with our new students, making our school calendar, ordering textbooks, preparing lesson plans, revising the student handbook as well as accomplishing many more tasks. This is actually an exciting time as we prepare to ensure that everything is ready for the first day of school to best serve our students spiritually and academically.

During the summer I have received an increased number of phone calls inquiring about CTCA with conversations ranging from general questions to explaining the play by play of a typical day at CTCA. While many of the phone conversations have been positive, there are some who are reluctant to enroll their child at CTCA. For example, one parent stated, “I don’t feel that having students in a K-2 classroom prepares them like having all the kids separated by grade level.” I explain that while I understand the concern, we have seen our students excel in this type of setting. We have several rising first grade students who are already reading at the third grade level and most of the other students are above or on target with their reading levels. This type of setting really challenges the student because we are able to teach them at a higher level or drop back when necessary. Upon listening to my explanation, many are intrigued and actually excited about the idea. With such inquiries, we must be prepared to respond to the concerns of parents with evidence of our own experiences.

This kind of reminds me of 1 Peter 3:15-16:

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. NIV

In our walk with Christ, we must always be prepared to speak with others about our faith and belief in Jesus. To be prepared, we must ensure that we are studying God’s word, praying, examining our hearts for assurance that we are leading a life that is honoring to the Lord; without unconfessed sin, and ensuring that our pride is in check to glorify and honor God. When we are prepared and living out our salvation with total trust in God, people will start asking us questions. They will want to know why we have hope in our world today, how we can handle a tragedy by trusting in God, and the list of questions will extend even further. We have to respond in a manner that shows the love of Christ. To do so, we must integrate our own experiences with Jesus by sharing with others what He is doing in our lives.

Preparation and experience – that’s the whole purpose of CTCA. We want to prepare our students to go out into this world with a sound education, but also with Jesus as their Savior and Lord of their lives. We want them to experience Jesus in everything they study and in each aspect of their respective lives. This means making sure that they are equipped with the answers to the questions they will encounter in a lost and dying world. Thus, no matter where their paths lead, we want them to be prepared to share how Jesus has transformed their lives.

Just like the students at CTCA, we also need to prepare ourselves to spread the word of God to the lost world that we come into contact with each day. Our experiences with Jesus will shape us as God molds us to be His vessel of communication.

Billy Storms