

Belmont Beacon

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This summer has been quite surprising in regards to the weather. The temperatures in many parts of the country, including this one, have remained at relatively comfortable places. This is summer and we have experienced heat, but temperatures in the 80's are far more pleasant than recent years when we were able to count the number of days that the temperature stayed above the 90 degree range.

Despite the temperatures being a bit milder, something strange has been happening. Have you noticed all the people getting ice water dumped on their heads? Have you noticed some of these people have even dumped the ice water on their own heads?

You probably have heard about or seen the "Ice Bucket Challenge" that is causing people to dump buckets of ice on their heads for a cause. You may have participated in this effort. The challenge benefits research for the disease ALS that is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Participants are challenged to take the ice bucket and if they refuse the challenge they are supposed to donate \$100 to ALS research. If the person accepts the challenge, he or she is still supposed to make a donation along with challenging someone else to participate.

The participants are to record the event and to share it on one of the social media outlets: Twitter or Facebook. Normal folks are participating. On the way out of our neighborhood this evening I noticed a man holding a cooler over his head while someone with a camera was filming what was about to happen. The famous are joining the challenge. Former President George W. Bush, Oprah Winfrey, Michael Jordan, Bill Gates and many others have taken the challenge for this cause. As of August 21, 2014 the "Ice Bucket Challenge" has raised over \$40 million for ALS research. Total donations for the same time frame in 2013 were \$1.9 million.

The attraction of the "Ice Bucket Challenge" is obvious and has raised lots of money for ALS research with many new donors giving to this cause. Many reasons might exist for why this challenge has become a



phenomenon. In a recent commentary, Mark Wingfield, Associate Pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas offers several lessons church leaders might learn. (<http://www.abpnews.com/opinion/commentaries/item/29115-ice-bucket-do-gooders>) "People like to be challenged. People will do much stupider stuff than you ever imagined. People want to be generous when given an easy way to do so. Cooperation still works."

That insight, "Cooperation still works" is one that jumps off the page when I read it. Wingfield states that this is something Baptists have known for a long time. Another way we might name this reality is that we want to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves. The "Ice Bucket Challenge" offers that, just as being a disciple of Jesus Christ and being part of Belmont Baptist Church.

We have much to celebrate as we continue to minister to the community around us through the food pantry, the *Loads of Love* ministry, providing space for the Central Virginia Baptist Association Clothing Center, the prayer shawl ministry and other ways. We continue to seek opportunities to love those around us as we proclaim the hope we find through Jesus Christ.

Do we need a bucket of ice water dumped on us to get excited about the opportunities before us? Do we need something else of this nature? Sometimes such stunts might inspire. My hope is that each of you who are reading this will find that place where you can share the gifts that God has given you to serve others instead of sitting on the "sidelines" and witnessing the blessing that others receive.

Remember that you are part of something that is bigger than you can imagine. The gospel of Jesus Christ continues to change our world and individual lives.

Blessings,

Greg



As I listen to the news of late from the far reaching to the local tragedies that are effecting so many people I thank God for the gift of music. It is a place I can go to and sing out loud or quiet in my head to just escape the worst and bring the calm.

Pastor talked in his sermon about your place to pray. I have a few places but I believe my strongest prayer is in my music. I remember when my children were young. We would sing all of the children's songs from many VBS years, Sandi Patty, Serendipity and more. It not only brought us closer to God it gave us time to slow down and be together. If just one person is touched by the voice of the choir each Sunday a blessing has been given.

With moving on from Music Camp to the school year I can take with me the happy faces of the children and the words of the songs said many times in their heads and out loud too. As you are listening to the same song for the hundredth time remember they too are praying. Some of them may have yet discovered the power that music has but they will and I hope they too will continue to make a joyful noise.

Come join us anytime and help spread the joyful noise.

Musically yours, Peggy



At the church's quarterly business meeting on July 13, 2014, several items were addressed that affect our finances. First, the church voted to proceed with the next phase of painting the downstairs portion of the sanctuary. The decision to move forward with the painting was based on a bid for \$14,500. A vote was taken to utilize funds from one of the church's certificates of deposit.

During the meeting we also addressed the need for a new pictorial church directory. Our previous directory in 2006 was provided for us by the generosity of Jim Carpenter and Rodney Thomas. Discussion on this project offered the pros and cons for using an outside company. The benefits include a free photograph to each family unit in the church along with the directory being published at no cost. The negative for doing the directory this way is the aggressive tactics these companies use to sell pictures to "break even" and to make a profit. The discussion included the price tag (somewhere between \$3000- \$4000) for doing the project in a similar manner to the previous one. A vote was taken to do a new church pictorial directory and to make sure the amount needed for the project could be a part of the certificates of deposits to be withdrawn.

An update is in order for these items. During the first week of August the church was contacted with the news that Lacy and Bessie Frazier had left a gift to the church in their estate. That gift in the amount of **\$75,000** is a true blessing to the church and a reminder of the faithfulness of many that have gone before us and specifically the Frazier's commitment to ministries of Belmont Baptist Church. One request with this gift is to use a portion for the choir and music ministry.

This gift was put into the memorial fund as decisions are yet to be made in regards to the music request. As payment for the painting was due and with the potential of an early withdrawal penalty, the Finance Team made the decision not to withdraw the certificates of deposit and to pay the painting bill with these funds. The cost of the pictorial directory will also come from memorial gifts.

The Finance Team wants to thank each of you for the commitment and support you demonstrate to the church as we strive to share Christ's love in our neighborhood and throughout the world.

Finance Team



Dine With The Deacons

Sunday, August 10 your Deacons served 9 members of the Belmont Congregation in the

Bishop Fellowship Hall. This was a blessed experience for the Deacons since we were allowed to be servants to our congregation. The meal was delicious and after we ate dinner, we opened a discussion asking each attendee, "What is your vision for Belmont Baptist Church?". The majority said "to be able to grow in the numbers of young parents and children". This is a subject that BBC has been wrestling with for years. Our final decision was to form a committee with Rick Wharam and me (Rodney Thomas) with the next step to add more members of the congregation to this committee. This committee will help us build on the existing young people we now have in the church. We also plan to visit other churches and get ideas from them on how they have increased their youth numbers. Also, we will look at how our church can plan programs for the youth we now have in our church.

THE NEXT DINNER

The sign up sheet for the September 14, 2014, "Dine With The Deacons" is in the vestibule. Please sign up as soon as you are able. We have 12 slots for Dinner. We also have an October Dinner the calendar.

ALL YOU NEED TO BRING IS YOUR APPETITE.

Deacon Chair, Rodney Thomas



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Worship services** will resume broadcast on Channel 13 beginning on Sunday, September 7 through the CPA-TV network. The specific time for our broadcast will be determined on Saturday, August 23, 2014. We will announce the time when we know it.
- **September 21 is our 65th Homecoming Anniversary** beginning with the 11 am Worship Service. Bud Dyer will be our Guest Minister and Faithful Praise (Shari DeLange, Tommy Fortune, and LaDena McCann) will share their music talents during our worship service along with an afternoon concert at 1:30pm following our Homecoming meal.
- **On Sunday, September 28** Vincent and Robin Lambert will be worshipping with us. Vince and Robin are currently leading the Prayer Shawls 4 Fallen Soldiers. They will attending a conference in Richmond and wanted to come by and meet the Belmont congregation since we have been so faithful in supporting the fallen soldiers families with our prayer shawls. We will bless prayer shawls and bears for Dover Air Force Base at the conclusion of the service.
- **Needlework Guild** - the WMU ladies will be collecting new clothing items from infants to senior adults on Sunday, September 28 and Sunday, October 5 All items can be left on the tables at the rear of the sanctuary.
- **The WMU Bazaar** will be held on Saturday, October 11 in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone wanting to order Brunswick Stew or Chili can contact Becky Bowers to place an order.

Church Directory



A new pictorial directory is coming soon. As a part of the process, Jim Carpenter will be available to take family portraits following worship on September 28 and October 5 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm at Gitchell's Studio, 618A Forest Street. Your smiling face is needed for this very important project.

BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

65th Homecoming
Belmont Baptist Church
Sunday, September 21, 2014
11 am Worship Service



*Roger
"Bud" Dyer*

Please join us for a special time of worship, praise and fellowship with our Guest Minister, Roger "Bud" Dyer and Special Musicians, Faithful Praise - Shari DeLange, Tommy Fortune and LaDena McCann.

In addition to sharing in worship, Faithful Praise will perform at 1:30pm following the Homecoming meal.



Faithful Praise