

Belmont Beacon

June 2015

Vol. XXIV, No. 6

Belmont Baptist Church ♦ 830 Monticello Avenue ♦ Charlottesville, VA 22902

Tel: 434-296-7111 Fax: 434-296-0509

e-mail: mail@belmontbaptistville.org or gma2anderson@gmail.com

www.belmontbaptistville.org

The noise from above prevented any further sleep. An hour before the alarm was supposed to begin that Wednesday morning, Melanie was awakened and I would quickly follow. Something was in the attic. The creature sounded like it was extremely large. Based on the volume of the noise that seems magnified when you have been awakened from a good sleep, I was convinced it was a large raccoon or perhaps a relative of the bear that collided with my car several years ago.

I made several phone calls that morning seeking guidance for how to proceed in this *Man vs. BEAST* battle that would ensue. Eventually I called Wally who I learned a while back knows how to handle most situations. He came over convinced that the *BEAST* was most likely a squirrel. He brought a trap as the most humane course would be catching the critter and freeing him somewhere distantly removed from his newly found playground in our attic.

After going into the attic, we found several boxes ripped open in an apparent quest for food and set the trap. The peanut butter would certainly be more tasty than cardboard. Over a week later the nighttime noises above indicated that our *BEAST* had returned. Inspection of the attic and the trap revealed that the peanut butter was gone and the trap was flipped over.

The next night our uninvited guest returned and again successfully avoided capture. The flipped trap necessitated lodging the lure against one of the beams. After three successive nights in our attic, we are still awaiting the creature's return.

What does one make of this situation? Other than the obvious truth that a squirrel appears smarter than a Baptist preacher, what else can we learn here? The lessons about apprehending the critter have yet to be determined, but I am waiting. The

reality with the situation is what I have learned or am relearning about myself.

I really want to catch this creature. I want to prove to myself even if I cannot convince you, I am smarter than a squirrel. I would not label my desire to catch the creature as an obsession, but when does that line get crossed?

What are you trying to catch in your life? What elusive creature is awakening you from your sleep or keeping you awake at night? What is receiving the majority of your attention and time? One helpful exercise might be logging how you spend your time for a few days or even a week. This will reveal where you spend your time and what takes precedent over all else.

That exercise reveals that I am a long way from obsession with the squirrel, but it calls me to consider what I claim and the time realities associated with those claims. What does this say about my commitment

to Christ? What does this say about my commitment to family?

I am not suggesting that we all need to spend eight hours each day praying and reading our Bibles though time spent in these disciplines will shape how we spend the rest of our time. How does your time management reflect Jesus' call to "seek first the kingdom of God?" How might that look different for you with a renewed focus on this calling? How does actively participating in the church fit into this? How much time and energy do I give to the community of faith? Does that reflect the priority I am seeking?

All these questions remind me that I have plenty to consider as I reflect on God's love and my response to that love in community with other believers. I also have a squirrel to catch.

Blessings, Greg





Dear Belmont Friends,

As I write this newsletter today I am looking at the most glorious day outside. My flowers and trees in my yard are so rich and vibrant. God's colors are really amazing. I love all the different flowers and buds. It makes me wish I took more time to stop and enjoy. I am one of those people who has a song floating around in their heads all day every day and between the music and the flowers how can it get any better than that.

Speaking of music I cannot wait to see all the children at music camp and their reaction to the choice we made this year. I think it is a winner and will be such a great time. It does not get any better than getting to learn about God through music. With music being one of Gods gifts I can truly say the two (God and music) has helped me through many a trying times. So as I prepare for camp I am trying hard to come up with a super hero that has something to do with music. Any costume thoughts for me?

I am always open to new ideas being brought to me for consideration in adding to our worship time, both in and out of the service itself. As your Minister of Music I would love to speak to all of you on your ideas, thoughts, and insights. I attend the council and deacons meetings and am always happy to bring ideas to the table and talk about them. We can address them, pray about them and bring it on around in full circle to put into practice if possible. No idea is too big or too small to be considered. I am always looking as well to bring in guest musicians so if you have anyone in mind let me know that as well. You can always reach me at phaluska@k12albemarle.org. Unless something is up at my job I am doing office hours from 5:00 to 7:00 on Wednesdays. Just come on by and visit too.

Think about joining choir for the summer and giving us a try. Folks are more in and out in the summer and there is never any pressure. One summer a song I taught to my children was "All Gods Critters Got a Place in the Choir." That goes double for adults.



If you use products with Box Tops for Education, please bring them by the church office. They will benefit Clark School.

Comcast Channel 13 will Rebroadcast the Worship Service at 7pm. on Sunday.



To the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits during my bout with pneumonia. I am feeling much better and have regained my strength. Thanks again for your expressions of concern.

Herman Bryant



Spring has finally arrived and our eleventh season of winter shelter has come to an end. Thanks you for this season's generous donation of shelter, food and compassion, and thank you for your ongoing financial support. Your contributions provide real hope and help to those who have so little. We couldn't do what we do without your help!

With gratitude, PACEM



Thanks a whole Bunch! All of you have a pure heart. Our goal was \$1,000. Between you guys and Fcde (Mom's office) I have raised \$360 for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

Thanks, Kaitlyn Wingfield.



Recently, Belmont changed Internet providers.

We are now using Comcast for our Internet, phones and basic cable TV (a first for us). We hope to get a working public WiFi for use in the church as part of this update.

The major reason for this change is price which is almost one half of our current bill. This price is good for two years.

Several members donated their time and talent to assist in completing this project. I would like to point out specifically, Mike Burton (computers/Internet) and Jonathan Lowery (phone system) that were particular generous.

Finance Team



The first weekend in May the Deacons attended a Leadership Retreat at Eagle Eyrie, in Lynchburg VA. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with other churches as well as with our own Deacon Team. Numerous speakers shared experiences from their own churches. They shared

how they brought people together to worship the Lord while creating an environment of fellowship and celebration.

This made me think about the importance of Fellowship. How fortunate we are at Belmont Baptist Church to be blessed by God with such a beautiful building in which to gather.

The bible preaches about the importance of Fellowship. The book of Acts, states it so beautifully. Acts 2: 42-47: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

We have many opportunities to "gather together" here at

Belmont. If you have not joined a Sunday School Class, I invite you to do so. Fellowshiping in this way, studying and praying together with others is so rewarding and such a blessing. Tuesday morning Bible study is another time where we have the opportunity to fellowship together. This time is not conducive for everyone; however, if you are able to attend at this time, again you will be blessed.

Of course, we have Wednesday night Cross Roads, led by our Pastor. What a wonderful opportunity in the middle of the week, when you need that little pick-me-up, to gather and pray together, and study together and fellowship with another and the Lord.

There are numerous opportunities in the upcoming months to fellowship together. We will host the Bike and Build group, Father's Day and Men's Sunday, events for the Children, Music Camp, the Church Wide birthday party, and the Sunday School picnic, to mention a few. When we gather together we bring blessings to others and we in turn are blessed.

In July we will have our second quarter business meeting. I would like to borrow something from one of the speakers at the Retreat. He said his church does not have "business meetings", they have "celebration meetings". They gather together to celebrate what God has done in their church and in their lives. So please join us on July 12 in fellowship to **Celebrate** what the Father has been doing in our church.

Cheryl and your Deacon Board

Friends of Stop Hunger Now,

We are delighted to announce that meals from your packaging event have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Lynchburg warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner CitiHope International.

With 42% of the population below the poverty line, food shortage is prevalent throughout the Dominican Republic. CitiHope provides food and other resources to schools, orphanages and other needy people and takes an active role in the distribution and monitoring. CitiHope supports sustainable educational and development programs that empower locals to create strong, self-sufficient communities. CitiHope's country director in the Dominican Republic says, "We consider this not to be 'charity' but a real investment in humanity. The school and

orphanage programs help our country so much by creating a future of responsible citizens that contribute to the improvement of our society. These children come from families that cannot supply even one meal a day for their children and don't understand the purpose of education. So the motivation comes from the food!...These SHN donations are a defining component that heals a nation, multi-dimensionally."



BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
830 Monticello Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PD.
Charlottesville, VA
Permit #36

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Music Camp is fast approaching and we are making plans. Camp dates are **July 20-24** with the presentation of the Musical at 7pm on Friday, July 24. This year's Musical is entitled *The Agape League*. It is a fun and meaningful story about super heroes who have the super powers of the Fruits of the Spirit.

We need lots of help to run this exciting camp that hosts around 60 children each year. If you would like to help please see Melanie or Peggy.

We need help in lots of different areas:

- 1st and 2nd grade teachers,
- class or skill teachers for grades 3-8,
- kitchen helpers, and general helpers.



On **June 6, from 10-12**, we will have a Music Camp Registration Party!