

Belmont Beacon

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Much of the hype leading up to the Olympic Games was regarding the Zika virus and the disturbing political conditions in Rio, as well as water safety and the venues. Some of that conversation centered on the safety of athletes and tourists visiting a country that struggled to pay their police an adequate salary.

Now that the games are over, what will we remember? Some conversations have focused on the greatest Olympic athlete of all time: Michael Phelps or Usain Bolt? One side of that argument is that everyone can run a race and Bolt is the fastest man ever. With that argument, I tend to lean towards Phelps because I cannot swim very well. I am unable to even execute some of the swimming strokes that Phelps has mastered throughout his career.

Sadly, these types of conversations along with Phelps teaching gymnast Simone Biles how to stack all of her medals will not be what we remember from these Olympics. The story will likely be U.S. swimmer Ryan Lochte's behavior along with several other swimming teammates. When I first heard the story that Lochte and his teammates were robbed, I was upset because the safety fears for athletes were seemingly realized. Learning that the story was fabricated in an attempt to cover illegal behavior easily transitioned the distress into anger. Lochte flying home while his teammates back in Rio answering for his actions only fueled the disgust.

The fallout from Lochte's actions and subsequent apologies has not been



surprising. The sentiment in Rio turned anti-American for the remainder of the Olympic Games. Lochte's endorsement deals have ended. Japanese mattress company *Airweave*, *Syneron-Candela*, the owner of *Gentle Laser Hair Removal*, *Ralph Lauren*, and *Speedo* all ended their endorsement relationships with Ryan Lochte.

As a boy, I memorized 2 Corinthians 5:20, "We are ambassadors for Christ!" This scripture was mandatory learning for Royal Ambassadors, the boy's mission organization for Baptist churches. I was immediately drawn back to this text following Lochte's poor example as an ambassador for the United States in Rio.

What kind of ambassadors are we as Christians are ambassadors for our Lord? Obviously, Christians are not provided paid endorsements as we serve Christ, but I wonder if our behavior and choices that represent Christ would create endorsement opportunities for us? Would sponsors try to distance themselves from us because of negative actions?

Thankfully, the grace of God is present for us when we represent Christ well and those times when we fail to do so. My prayer for all of us is one of encouragement as we interact with the people in our city and neighborhoods. I hope that those we encounter may recognize a difference in the way you live and order your life as an ambassador for Christ!

Blessings,

Greg

July 10, 2016 Business Meeting

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

MOTION: That Cheryl Rodriguez is approved to serve as Chair of the Properties Committee

DEACON REPORT

The yard sale for raising funds from Stop Hunger Now was a great success. Everyone is invited to help package meals in September or October. A firm date will be determined by coordinating with Troy of Stop Hunger.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

WMU: Thanks for all items donated for the flood victims in West Virginia. We delivered the items to Kathy Fields' sister's church and some items went to another out-fit that is helping. They may request that we come help re-build when they are ready to begin that process.

Our WMU Bazaar will be held on September 30.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

We did not have a good quarter financially. Offerings for the quarter total \$65,581 and expenses were \$70,135 which leaves a deficit of (\$4,554) for the quarter. Our offerings for the month of June were \$20,562 and expenses were \$24,771 leaving a deficit of (\$4,209) for the month. Our offerings have been down, and we are showing a deficit of (\$12,012) for the year. When comparing 2016 with 2015, our expenses are down this year; however, our offerings have been down considerably.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT

We have received ~\$23,000 from Ann Wayland's estate that can be used for some projects need to be completed. We have received three bids to replace the roof on the Clothing Closet. We discussed replacing the two stoves in the kitchen. Some suggested smaller vendors and others suggested the big box stores. Suggestions were made to go with style and color people would be like when using, cleaning, etc. There is \$4,000 remaining funds Linda Wilberger's mother's estate designated for the kitchen.

An electrician checked for additional circuits) in the circuit box so not to un-plug equipment in order to use additional equipment, but e could not get the items needed. We need to continue to un-plug equipment not to over-load or get a commercial electrical company to replace all. Suggestion to get two estimates to take out the old and replace with new wiring and circuit box.

We have received 2 bids at \$4,600 each to paint the entry hall, doors, and stair wells in the kitchen area, as will as estimates for the front stair wells and the side door into the upper parking lot.

An engineer who will examine the breezeway to give a bid for repairs. Funds for that project will come from the Capital Improvement budget.

Dot Haney reported that a landscape contractor has provided a plan for landscaping the front area of the church. The price quoted for all of the plants and work in the plan is \$9,739.55. All of the plantings in the area with the exception of the large dogwood will be removed and taken away. He will install 76 boxwoods, 2 Kousa dogwoods, and liriopie will be used.

Properties Committee should secure estimates for all property projects that have been discussed,. Committee will consult with the Finance Team to determines if plans are workable/feasible, and proceed to complete the work.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Personnel Committee met with staff members in mid-May to conduct an annual performance evaluation. Dawud's 1-year evaluation will be held with the Properties Committee in July.

The Committee is working on up-dating the Personnel Guide/Regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and passed to accept the plan for electronic distribution of the monthly Beacon that was discussed and approved by Church Council be accepted.

RESULTS: A voice vote was taken with no opposition. The motion carried.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE
PUBLIC
ACCESS** 

Comcast Channel 13 **Will Not Rebroadcast**
the Worship Service during the month of August.
The broadcast will resume in September.



Please note your calendar for Sunday, October 2 for lunch after church service and the assembly of thousands of meals for Stop Hunger Now. Around 50 people will be needed to man positions around the tables. The deacons will contact you soon to

determine if you are available for this outreach. Please be in prayer for the success of this event.

The recent Olympics has presented us with some fascinating athletic achievements. The story of Simone Biles stands out for the world to view in amazement. A four foot 8 inch girl achieves three gold metals! She was an orphan with her sister, and adopted by her grandparents. Her adoptive parents must have seen something amazing in this girl. They provided for her training, and today she is the best gymnast in the world at age 19! Praise God for her adoptive parents!

This is an amazing story. How many foster children could achieve such stature if they were embraced by loving parents? All children must grow up with loving parents, who encourage them to be all that God intended them to be.

This story is a challenge for all churches. Perhaps we need a monthly needs list of children who need a foster home? Prayer for these homeless people is a first step. Yes, we are giving supplies to children at Clark School. We are giving weekly snacks and food to needy children. As Christians we know that once their physical needs are addressed, children need hugs and nurture.

I understand that there is a woman and her daughter from Ghana staying at the Salvation Army. The daughter is due to start the first grade soon. Her mom has a job and they need to save up money for a brief period to rent an apartment. They need to find shelter to begin their life journey. Please pray for them.

Richard Wharam,
Deacon Chair

Thank you to the Belmont Baptist Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, well wishes and hugs I received during my sister's hospice stay and then after her death. I so appreciate my church family. You are all very important to me, and I love each and everyone of you. Thanks for always being there.

Cheryl Rodriguez



For all you do, thank you, for the visits, cards, prayers, and blessings. A special thanks to Rev. Greg Anderson, Becky Bowers, and Norman Morris. God bless. Ressie Bailey



Thank you so much for your hospitality. The accommodations were perfect and dinner was delicious! This wouldn't be possible without you. Love, Bike & Build



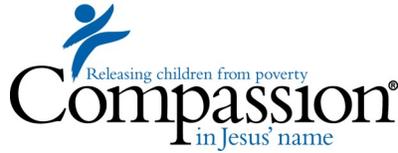
I would like to thank you for the meat platter with cheese and rolls. It was really nice to have after the service and we had some company come by after, too. I think this was such a nice thing you did for my family. Sincerely, Mae Critzer & Family



Make plans now to participate in CBFVA's General Assembly on Friday, September 23 at Hampton Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia. The theme for our gathering is

Christ's Love Compels Us. Matt Cook, CBF Moderator this past year, is our keynote speaker, and he will help us understand what CBF seeks to accomplish through the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Workshop leaders include Matt Cook, senior pastor at First Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC; Jennifer Hawks with Baptist Joint Committee; Ryan Clark from CBF Global; and Terry Maples/Mark Snipes who serve CBFVA. We launch a new year for our ministry, and you will receive a 2016-2017 Ministry Planner. Much new is happening in the life of CBFVA, so come and learn what God is doing in and through our ministry!

Don't miss this time of fellowship and inspiration! Plan to stay in the Hampton area and enjoy this part of the state. Doing so enables you to stay for closing worship, avoid heavy afternoon traffic, enjoy additional fellowship on Friday evening, and explore the beauty of God's creation.



Dear Sponsors,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to tell you that I graduated from high school already (11th grade) and I'm thinking about studying to become a secretary or go to the police academy. For now I'm working to support my mom. I celebrated my 17th birthday on June 1. I want to apply for a scholarship called "Beca 18". My family and I went to the city of Paita to visit my grandparents. I am living with my aunt and uncle. My aunt has a beautiful baby girl named Dayly Karochi. The weather in Piura is very hot and the temperature reaches 91, but winter is getting close. I have made some really nice new friends here. I have a new friend named Corayma. How are you doing? How's the weather there? I ask you to pray for me and that my family will stay close together. I will close with kisses and hugs.

Your sponsored teen,
Yeraldine GV-FPV



Belmont's 67th Anniversary Celebration

September 18, 2016

Sunday School at 9:30 am

Worship at 11:00 am

Rev, Charles Reynolds, Army Chaplain, will lead morning worship. The fellowship meal will follow the morning worship service. Bring your favorite side dishes, casseroles, salads, or desserts to share. Meat and beverages will be provided.