

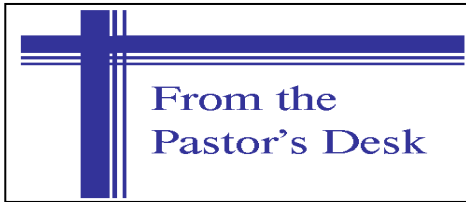


Discover A Place to Call Home

THE MESSENGER

July 2021

Volume 1, Issue 107



As we enter the month of July, and celebrate our nation's independence this Sunday, it is a good time to remember a unique thing about being labeled "Baptist." Baptists have always championed religious liberty, not just for themselves but for all people. Historically, it has been our issue.

Englishman Thomas Helwys (maybe the first Baptist pastor) advocated for full religious liberty and paid for his stand with imprisonment and probably death. He published in 1612 his *"A Short Declaration of the Mystery of Iniquity"* (addressed to King James), in which he upheld universal religious liberty, freedom of conscience for all, and declared that *"whether men be heretics, Turks, Jews, or whatever, the earthly power had no power to punish them for their views or to be intolerant of them."*

Early American Baptists Roger Williams and John Clarke co-founded Providence, RI and established it as a place of religious liberty. The first Jewish Synagogue was founded there.

The First Amendment to the US Constitution, which guaranteed religious liberty for all, was made largely upon the insistence of the Baptists of Virginia.

We may have grown to take it for granted living where we live, but I agree with Christian cultural analyst Rod Dreher, it will become the central issue of our day.

So it becomes important to ask, "What is religious liberty?"

Religious liberty is the right of every person to worship God as their conscience dictates, to include being free to not to worship God if one chooses not to do so.... It is equality before the law of all belief systems. It is also important to understand that religious liberty is not religious toleration. Toleration is a privilege granted by man, liberty is a right bestowed by God.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."*

And the First Amendment to the US Constitution states, *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech..."*

But a free state does not create religious liberty. It only recognizes and respects it.

The reality of God and the truth of the Scriptures attests that all people are created in the image of God and bestowed by God the freedom to obey or not as free moral agents (Genesis 1:27; 2:7, 16-17; 3:1-).

God continues to intervene in the affairs of men, providing ultimate freedom through the person of Jesus Christ. Those who are in Christ are free from sin, death, and the law (John 8:36; Romans 6:1-23).

In Christ we are called to be good citizens of the state, to give to the government what belongs to the government, and to never use our God given freedom to harm another person or deprive them of their rights. But we are also to give to God what is God's (which is ourselves) and if man's law and God's law ever come into conflict, we must obey God (Matt 22:15-21; Acts 4:19-20; Rom 13:1-7; Gal 5:1,13).

The ideal we seek is a free church in a free state. A philosopher stated, and I agree, that the Christian world view is the only view that can produce that.

So why does religious liberty matter?

First, it matters because religious liberty comes from God and not man. Second, it fulfills the "Golden Rule" (Matt 7:12). I am obligated to give to others, even those who disagree with me, the same freedoms I desire for myself. Third, our Baptist ancestors paid for our liberty through their own courageous acts of freedom that cost them both prison and in some cases their lives. Finally, Religious liberty aids in the mission of the church to make disciples of all nations. We are free to live out our faith in the public square and share our faith with others freely.

In Herschel Hobbs' commentary on the Baptist Faith and Message (1963), he states: "Baptist hold to certain specific beliefs... the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Scriptures and the divine compulsion to preach the gospel. But they grant every person the right to be free to believe as they want. But only insist upon the same right for themselves (p. 9-10).

Have a happy "Fourth!"

~Pastor Mark

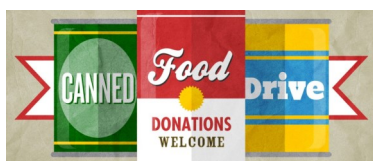


Rathgeber House Report

Thank you to all who have donated funds for meals at Rathgeber. This month a chicken dinner was delivered to a full house. Rathgeber posted on FaceBook, pictures of guests from Lubbock, Dumas, Graham, and Aubrey eating and enjoying the meal!

Thank you,
Fran Koch
940-636-8215

If you would like to contribute towards one of our monthly meals with food or money, please see Fran Koch.



For the month of June, we collected 18 pounds of food for Grace Ministries. The needs for the month of July are Beef Ramen Noodles, Gallon Size Tea Bags, and Small Pancake Mix. You can bring donations to the church office, the home of Ida Jones, or deliver to Grace Ministries yourself.

For the months of June we had 7 blankets for Hospice of Wichita Falls.

Thank you,
Steve & Ida Jones



Volunteers Needed to help mow church yard.
Contact Church Office to volunteer!



Prayer Walk
Postponed until August



YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer
Meal for Everyone at 5:30pm
Adult class in Sanctuary at 6pm
Youth & Team Kids class at 6pm

Meeting

Church Council Meeting
July 11th at 4pm
Family Business Meeting
July 14 at 7pm
JLBC Fellowship Hall



Vacation Bible School
July 25-29 5:15 pm—8:00 pm
4 year old through 5th graders
Register children at this link:

https://
form.jotform.com/200554097440148



Team Kids Camp
July 21-24



MEETING MINUTES

“Old Kitchen” remodel is complete.

We are looking at hiring a cleaning service.

Designated offerings are supported, but we are spending more than we are taking in.

Bid to finish the sound system is \$5,000 and has been put on a wish list.

Gutters on side of building have been repaired at no cost.

We are taking bids for a mowing service to maintain the church yard.

PASTOR & DEACONS

Please feel free to call any of us at any time.

Mark Simons	940-867-5066
Rick Griffin	940-249-8461
Bill Lindenborn	940-781-2504
Marvin Maherg	940-636-2207
Robert Ritter	940-631-7437
John Naas	501-607-0713

MARK SIMONS – PASTOR

jlbcburk@gmail.com
www.jlbcburk.com

Office hours: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday – Thursday

Located on Kramer Rd across from Burkburnett High School

JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  Faith Mission 7:30 PM	2	3
4  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	5  OFFICE CLOSED TODAY	6  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	7  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	8	9	10
11  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	12	13  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	14  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	15  FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING JULY 14@ 7PM 	16	17
18  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 WORSHIP & MESSAGE 11 AM	19	20  LADIES PRAYER & BLANKET GROUP	21  MEAL @ 530 BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 6 PM KIDS & YOUTH CLASS @ 6-7	22  TEAM KIDS SUMMER CAMP JULY 21-24 	23	24
25  	26  ARTICLES DUE 	27  LADIES PRAYER GROUP 	28 NO REGULAR SERVICES DUE TO VBS! 	29 VBS FAMILY NIGHT! 	30	31

June 2021 Sunday School Attendance Record

June 6	43
June 13	42
June 20	47
June 27	43

Average Attendance: 35
Average based on 4 Sundays

June 2021 Financial Report

Tithes	\$10,980.00
Estimated monthly budget needs for 2020 - 2021	\$14,304.94
Designated	\$ 4,899.02



July 2021 Deacon of the Week

June 28-July 4	Marvin Maherg
July 5-11	John Naas
July 12-18	Robert Ritter
June 19-25	Rick Griffin
July 26-Aug 1	Bill Lindenborn

Prayer Chain

If you have an e-mail address and desire to be on the prayer chain, please call the church office with your email information.

Questions? Call Jennifer @ 569-1211

We're on the web!

www.jlbcburk.com

Jan Lee Baptist Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:45 AM
MORNING SERVICE	11:00 AM
ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE	Resumes in Fall

MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

MEAL	5:30 PM
PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY	6:00 PM
YOUTH & TEAM KIDS ACTIVITIES	6:00 PM



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Jennifer Naas, Ministry Assistant
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