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**July-August 2007**



### ***Vacation Bible School kicks off July 21 at Virden Pool***

From John 4:14 come Jesus' words, "The water that I give shall spring up to everlasting life." It is those words that is the inspiration for this year's Community Vacation Bible School "Take the Plunge."

This water park adventure will take place daily from 6:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., July 22-26. Beginning each evening at Lifespring Lagoon, (aka the United Methodist Church) our Park Crews will explore Bible stories where Jesus uses the common element of water to teach some uncommon lessons. Kids will be challenged to plunge into obedience, worship, courage, faith, and service.

In every story, kids will soak up the Son and hear stories filled with Jesus' power and love. Kids will be encouraged to soak up God's Word as they travel to different sites: Oceans of Motion (games), the Snack Shack, Craft-Away Cove, and Bibleland Bay. And they'll "Plunge Right In" at Raise the Reef Praises and "Make a Splash!" as they discover that God is "The Source."

Tracy Lewis has graciously volunteered to teach the 5th and 6th grade class at our own church each evening. Tracy welcomes anyone who would like to help her. We will also need a craft teacher and helpers and someone who can head up the recreation time as well. And of course, we need COOKIES! Please see Debbie Kershaw on how you can help each evening.





One change you may notice from previous years is that VBS will begin this year on a Sunday evening and end on a Thursday. That means our annual pool party will be on Saturday, July 21 from 6:00-8:00 PM. Each church should bring 2 bags of chips and 2 packages of cookies--so there's another opportunity for you to take part even before VBS begins! Children can sign up for the pool party and for VBS at the ice cream wagon at this year's 4th of July celebration on the square, or look for the registration form in the Gold Nugget section of the Virden Recorder. So, let's put on our bathing suits and grab our beach towels. It's time to dive in and **Make a Splash with Jesus!**



The coolest place to be is in the Sun!



# July

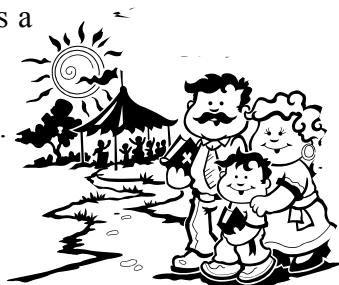
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lance Hickey Roger & Gloria Smith	2 <b>Legion's Celebration ABY Ice Cream Truck in Park</b>	3 <b>Legion's Celebration ABY Ice Cream Truck in Park</b>	4 <b>Legion's Celebration ABY Ice Cream Truck in Park</b>	5 Dale & Betty Mullen	6	7 <b>Dani, Kyle, and Jay at church camp!</b>
8	9	10 Prayer - 6:00 Deacons - 7:15	11 Kid's Club 6 PM Business Mtg 7PM	12	13	14 Audrey Price
← Erin & Ryan at Camp						→ Red Paisley
15	16	17 Prayer - 6:00	18 Linda Gerson	19	20 	21 <b>VBS Pool Party 6-8</b> Sharon Crawford Don & Audrey Price Travis Kershaw Trevor Kershaw
22  VBS Begins	23 VBS 6-8:30	24 VBS 6-8:30	25 VBS 6-8:30 	26 VBS 6-8:30 	27	28
←						→
		Alex, Cierra, and Tyler at camp Carl McKinney				
29 Worship in the Park 10:00 AM Debbie Klocke	30	31 Prayer - 6:00 Pastoral Relations 7:15				

## Worship in the Park on July 29

Bring your shades, and your lawn chair to church with you on July 29 as we head to the city park for the closing program of Vacation Bible School beginning at 10 AM.

This annual event is always a pleaser as the VBS kids sing their way through the lessons they've learned all week long.

Come on and plunge right into Jesus Christ in the Virden City park - and bring a friend!



## Freedom of religion

President Franklin D. Roosevelt knew that freedom of religion was a necessary element in a true democracy. He believed that when there is no freedom to worship God as one chooses, democracy is not a reality.

Roosevelt said, "An ordering of society which relegates religion, democracy and good faith among nations to the background can find no place within it for the ideals of the prince of peace. The United States rejects such an ordering and retains its ancient faith."





# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 High School Sports Registration	4
5 Church Picnic at the Virden Pool 6-8 PM ←	6 School Registration	7 School Registration Prayer - 6:30	8 Kid's Club- 6:00 Choir 7:45 Lonnie & Sharon Crawford	9 Kim Daniel	10	11
Joey, Ashley, and Emily at Camp						
12	13 Assemble First Day Fund Packets	14 Prayer Time 6:30 Deacons 7:15  Steve Kershaw	15  Tim Snodgrass	16  Ray & Libby Klocke	17 First Day of School	18
19  Linda Liles Richard Weerts	20	21 Prayer Time 6:30	22 Kid's Club- 6:00 Choir 7:45	23	24	25
26  Tracy Lewis	27  Libby Klocke	28 Prayer Time 6:30 Trustees 7:15	29	30	31  Carroll Morony	

## ***Charlotte Liles' family provides memorial***

The family of Charlotte Liles has generously donated the funds needed to repair the outdoor sign board.

The sign company has nearly completed the work and installation should begin in mid-July.

The original sign was sponsored by the Careful Builders Class back in 1955, a Sunday School class that Charlotte was a member of. The sign will continue to carry that memorial plaque along with a new one commemorating the renovation in memory of Charlotte Liles.

Many thanks to Charlotte's sons, John, David, and Mike and their families for this wonderful tribute to a special life long member of First Baptist Church of Virden.



## ***Church Picnic planned for August 5***

The Board of Christian Education met recently to make some plans for the rest of this year. Included in those plans is a Sunday, August 5 all church picnic at the Virden Swimming Pool from 6-8 PM.

It will be pot-luck with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs for everyone! Plan to bring your favorite picnic food to compliment the meat.

Swimming will begin at 6 PM with lifeguards on duty. There are three levels of pools from the littlest youngsters to the diving pros!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special time of fun and fellowship.

# Area III Seniors Retreat



Rev. Dr. James Middleton, Pastor Emeritas First Baptist Church of Peoria will be our speaker.

Music will be led by Sandra Setser of Ridgeview Baptist Church of Danville, IL.

Paul Weers and others will join us.

Join together for a time of fellowship, inspiration, & fun!

**Thursday, August 23**  
**Lake Springfield Baptist Camp**

9:00 Check in  
9:30 - Morning Session  
12:00 - Lunch  
1:00 - 3:00 Afternoon Session

Send check (Lunch and morning/afternoon snacks) payable to Area III for \$12 to:

Doris Kaisner  
P O Box 233  
Fairbury IL 61739

**Registration:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chippy's trauma ... and ours

A woman was using a portable vacuum to clean out her parakeet's cage, but Chippy, the bird, was still in the cage. When the phone rang, the woman left the hose in the cage. When she came back, the bird was gone. She quickly opened the canister and found Chippy alive, but covered with dust.

She took Chippy into the bathroom and ran water over his body.

When he was clean, she dried him off with her hair dryer and returned him to his cage.



When a reporter heard about the incident, he called to see how the bird was doing. "Well," said the woman, "Chippy looks okay, but he doesn't sing much anymore. He just sits and stares."

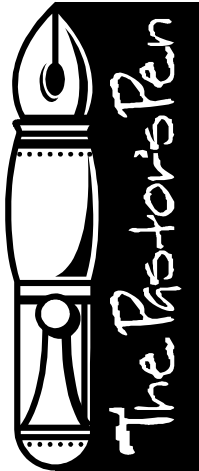
Given the traumas we may face in life, we too, may be tempted to just sit and stare. It would be more beneficial to sit and pray, or do something for someone else in need of help. Talk with a pastor or counselor and immerse yourself in the Bible. Help is always available!

## Pastoral appreciation

A pastor was near a group of his church members when he overheard them talking about various ministers who had served the congregation. His ears perked up when he heard an older man say, "Whenever someone asks me, 'Which of our pastors did you like the best?' My answer is always, 'The pastor we have at any given time is my favorite.'"

The pastor who was listening breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

God sends each pastor to us with his or her own set of spiritual gifts, and God works through each pastor's gifts to bring us God's blessings.



Dear Church Family

July and August are always big months on the summer calendar. July is the most popular time for vacations, and August is not only hot and dry, but these days it's school time.

The lazy days of summer are a thing of the past. They are, at least, unless we block it into our schedule and make sure they take place. Whether it's vacation, time off, spending time with kids and grandkids, or reading that book you've been meaning to get around to, make some time for yourself. And while you're at it, make some time for your Lord, as well. Last fall one of my pastoral colleagues told us at Pastor's Prayer that he had spent extended hours with the Lord every morning during the summer. What a great way to use precious time.

I hope your summer is relaxing and full of fun. I look forward myself to July 4 activities, Vacation Bible School, two-day getaways, and most of all, time with my Lord. Enjoy every moment God has given you.

For the praise of His glory,

*Pastor Diane*



## July and August Mission Tithe

The missions to highlight for July and August both center in the Great Rivers Region. In July our mission tithe goes to United Mission, with about 2/3 of that amount going directly to the ministry of Great Rivers Region (GRR). Without the services provided by our region, continuing ministry would be more costly and much more difficult. With the shortfalls GRR has experienced this year, our contribution is more important than ever.

The mission highlight for August is none other than Lake Springfield Baptist Camp, a ministry of the Great Rivers Region. This summer 12 of our own Wednesday night kids are attending camp thanks not only to the hard work and generosity of people right here in our congregation but also to the open hearts of the GRR staff. Every one of our 14 campers received scholarships for 1/3 of their camp tuition, even though most of them were NOT, in fact, first-time campers. As we continue to pray for our campers, let's remember to thank God for the gift that he has allowed us to enjoy for our campers.

When you give this summer, remember to pray for the ministries of the Great Rivers Region and Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. Thank you for your generous giving.



## Helpers needed!

Thanks to those who have already signed up to work the Ice Cream & Cake wagon in the park during the American Legion's celebration on July 2, 3, and 4. It's best if there are at least two people per shift. Here are the shifts and those who have signed up to help:

Monday:

6:00-7:30 - Wanda

7:30-9:00 - Sharon & Bev

9:00 to close - Cole & Sue

Tuesday:

6:00-7:30 - Libby

7:30-9:00 -

9:00-close -

Wednesday:

6:00-7:30 - Gloria

7:30-9:00 -

9:00-close - Steve & Debbie

Please see how you can help fill in the blanks to raise funds for the ABY/Camp fund during the celebrations up town. There is a sign up sheet in the sanctuary!

## Church giving record update

The last few newsletters have included information about the monthly church giving and expenses for the prior month. Below is the giving record for June 2007. It is the hope of the financial committee that in sharing this information we can all better understand the physical financial needs of First Baptist Church.

At the time of publication of this month's newsletter, the expense totals were unavailable, for a detailed report, please attend the monthly business meeting on July 11.

Please continue to pray for each giver and each gift, that the ministry of our church may continue to grow as we serve Christ together.

Giving record for June:	
June 3	\$1772.50
June 10	596.00
June 17	1932.00
June 24	839.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5139.50</b>
Camp fund	\$357.65
Miscellaneous	315.00
Required per week for budget	\$1,499.38
May average giving per week	\$1284.88
Year-to-date average giving per week	\$1,261.48
Required per week for budget	\$1,499.38

## Some Christian One Liners:

*Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited -- until you try to sit in their pews.*

**Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.**

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

*Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.*



First Baptist Church  
157 W. Jackson St.  
Virden, IL 62690

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**See you at  
VBS!!**

**Sunday, July 22 -  
Thursday, July 26**