



Handfuls of Purpose

Ruth 2:16 (KJV)

Volume V

P O BOX 309 * SWORDS CREEK, * Virginia * 24649

July - August 2006

From The Pastor's Desk

What Happened To The Summer Time Lull?

It has been a great summer at SCCBC. In May Bro. Sherrell Dunn came and brought down the fire during our spring revival. We had numerous decisions and he challenged us with great messages. During one of his powerful messages he asked that we have one unsaved person on our mind that we would commit to pray for. I have been told by some who were in that service that the person they were praying for has already accepted Christ as their personal Savior. If your person has not, are you still praying faithfully for them?

Our Vacation Bible School was also a wonderful experience this year. We were expecting to be down because of so many other Bible School's scheduled for the same week, but our enrollment was up substantially. We had a total enrollment of 243! I really appreciate our VBS committee and everyone who helped this year.

Our youth ministry is also booming. They have been very active this summer. We had over twenty attend Rick Coram's youth camp this year. I was able to spend some time with them on Thursday and Friday. We are blessed with youth who are on fire for the Lord. They represented our church and our Lord very well. Two youth made decisions while at camp! The trip was very exciting; maybe a little too exciting for one young man because of one skateboard and a large area of concrete. OUCH!

I also had the opportunity to go on an excursion with our Seenagers to Shatley Springs. Those folks are lots of fun. I always enjoy my time with them and appreciate their support and encouragement.

Recently we had our church picnic. The attendance was great and we had an amazing amount of food (no surprise). God has really blessed our church with many great cooks. The highlight of the day was our river baptism service. Eleven people were baptized! What a joyous occasion.

I appreciate the prayers and encouragement you offered to me as I had the opportunity to preach the annual sermon at the Appalachian Ministers and Wives Retreat. It was a great honor for me and went well because of the Grace of God and your faithful prayers.

As I write this article I am in Richmond for a meeting at the Virginia Baptist Mission Board. About a dozen pastors from across the state of churches about our size were invited for a meeting to discuss church growth. What God is doing at SCCBC is being noticed across the state. How amazing!

We have had a busy summer and we continue to see new faces, witness lives changed, and experience growth. Why? What happened to the summer time lull? Why all the excitement during what is expected to be a down time? Because God doesn't take vacations! That's right, He's always at work. God transcends time. He's the same yesterday, today and forever. He's the same spring, summer, fall and winter.

Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal:

1 Kings 18:27 (KJV)

And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

He asked if their god was sleeping or possibly on vacation. But when Elijah called on The Living God, He responded with immediacy and power.

like we do in spite of me, not because of me.

In His Service
Gregg (Shoney) Johnson

The psalmist said this about the God of Israel:

Psalm 121:2-4 (KJV)
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

Our God never falls asleep on us. He never forsakes us. He's never on vacation. While for us rest and vacation is important from time to time we can't afford to fall asleep on Him. He has too much planned. We must remain faithful because there's no time for any lull in His Kingdom Work.

Church Web Site

In an effort to reach more people and provide additional communication, our church has developed a website. On our site you find our service schedule, upcoming events, announcements, information about our ministries and missions, and much, much more. We ask you to visit our new site at www.sccbaptistchurch.org and we welcome your comments and suggestions for other items that would make the website more beneficial. The site is up and running. Please visit our web site.



Pastor Chris



**From The Desk
of
Gregg Johnson, Minister of Music**

A Singing Church

I doubt few churches in the area are as blessed as we are when it comes to talented and willing people who want to worship their Christ through music and song. It certainly tickles me pink to be able to pick from a long list of individuals who want to just sing. And even greater that it's just not the old but the young alike. I'm sure there are churches in the area with talent, but not quite as blessed as we are to have people that are more willing. I can count now up to 20 different people that are willing to sing. The Bible says a lot about singing. In Psalms 30:4 it says "Sing to the Lord, you saints of his; praise his holy name." In Ephesians 16, while Paul and Silas were both in jail, after being dragged, beaten severely flogged, and thrown in the stockades they both prayed and sung hymns to God. Imagine your worse day at work, headaches and all and singing praise to God. For me that is utterly amazing. Its one thing to sing when everything is going good, you're feeling well but to sing after getting beat half to death would not be one of the things I would want to do. I could go on and still only touch the tip of the iceberg when it comes to singing in the Bible. I thank the Lord every Sunday that we have singers and beautiful spirit in our church

Over the past several weeks Impact Youth Ministries has been very busy in the Lord's work. In June we attended Power Life Youth Camp. We had a wonderful time in fellowship, worship, games and other activities. While there, one of our own rededicated her life and one accepted Christ as his Savior. Each night when the invitation was given, the altar was full of teenagers on their knees talking to God. I believe each of us returned with a refreshed soul and a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

In July we began fundraisers for our trip to Cedar Point in Ohio. We sold pizzas, prepared lunch after a Sunday morning service and participated in a car wash at New Peoples Bank. To me, it seems that these events bring us together as much as the actual missions that we take part in. We are able to work together as a team washing cars or unloading and distributing pizzas, and as Christians that is what we must do. We must function as a team, working together, not blaming each other when something does not work out, but acting as the body of Christ to glorify our Lord and Savior.

The trip to Cedar Point in August is not only a fun time for the youth and adults, but a time to take part in missions. We plan to hand out tracks to others while at the theme park and out in the surrounding towns as well.

We are beginning some new bible studies such as a Discipleship training led by Pete Melchor on Tuesday nights beginning August 22. We feel that God is calling us to dig deeper into His word and begin functioning as leaders, as each of us are in the Christian body. Please pray for our youth and leaders that we may

make an **IMPACT** on our community and fulfill God's plan for us.

In His Service
Jacob and Tiffany Musick

All Hail The Power
By
Hazel Hale-Bostic

Welcome New Members
January 2006 – To Present

Wanda Gent	Glenn Hubbard	Dorothy Hubbard
Steve Young	Robin Herndon	Selena Woodward
Aaron Feeser	Rita Feeser	Keshia Feeser
Bebo Feeser	William Cole	Gail Cole
William Cole	Kristen Cole	Karen Feeser
Pauline Feeser	Tracy Hart	Roger Young
Melissa Kiser	Tonya Hart	Andy Clifton
Cathy Clifton	John Clifton	Amber Clifton
Ashley Clifton	Diane Harmon	Richard Bostic
Karen Bostic	Sharon Honaker	Lindsey Honaker
Jason Plaster	David Hess	Madison Goodie
Kali Grace Smith	Amber Osborne	Anthony Gilbert
Penny Glibert		





A Note From The Associate Pastor

Hey Everyone,

I guess by now you can tell I am no writer. We use a lot of things as excuses not to do what God wants us to do. God has called all his children to a certain line of duty in his army, are you willing to put on the uniform of God? That uniform is the whole armor of God, we find that in Ephesians 6:13 – 17. We as individuals and as a church need this armor. God is working in wonderful ways in our church. Satan will fight hard against God's work and God's people. It will come from inside our church as well as from outside. Beware of Satan. We need to keep our focus on Him and protect ourselves from the wicked in the world. We do this together by putting on GOD'S ARMOR. I challenge each of you to stand firm on what you believe as long as it is biblical sound. Final challenge is, as a church and as individuals all that we do and say needs to glorify God. Let God guide us in all we do.

Serving Christ,
Bro. Aaron Feeser

 **SPIRITUAL VICTORY** comes only to those
who are
Prepared for Battle. 

A Note From The Church Office

If your address, telephone number has changed please let the church office know so that we may up date our records. If we do not have your birthday or anniversary let us know.

*"I'll tell you right now," Lettie hissed, "I'm not sitting beside Stella. Why, that woman can't hear herself cough!"

*"Lettie, don't you realize where we are? Just about ready to step inside church, and you're talking about a member. I'm ashamed of you!"

*Irene shook her head in dismay as she and Lettie made their way toward the front of the church the two of them had attended their entire lives. A creature of habit, it disturbed her to know that Stella had deliberately chosen to occupy hers and Lettie's usual seats. Years ago the sisters had purchased a pew. It bore a bronze memorial plaque dedicated to the memory of their parents. It was there for all to see but apparently Stella's vision, as well as her hearing, was failing her.

*Irene quietly slipped into a spot two row behind, and not too quietly jerked Lettie, who was charging on ahead, in beside her. I'll not enjoy service today, she thought as she observed the determined set of Lettie's shoulders.

*Leaning toward her, Irene whispered, "Act your age. Remember, you're sixty-five, not sixteen."

*Lettie was busy rummaging through her navy blue handbag. She pulled out a large white linen handkerchief, blew her nose and glared at Irene over the top of wire-rimmed glasses. She snorted, "What's age got to do with that old biddy stealing our seats? And I'll tell you another thing, I'm getting sick and tired of hearing you tell me, 'act your age.' What about you, little sister? All diked out in that hot-pink suit, that hair dyed so bright it rivals Easter Sunrise Service. You fool with me and I'll stand right up and tell the congregation you'll be sixty next Wednesday, provided I don't kill you today."

*Irene, face flushed, self-consciously patted a curl as people turned to stare, "Keep your voice down, Lettie! People are beginning to stare."

*"Let them, answered Lettie as she stuffed the handkerchief into her cluttered handbag, and loudly snapped it shut.

*The widowed sisters stared straight ahead as Stella turned to look behind her. As soon as she again faced the front, Lettie muttered, "The nosy witch. Wonder where she parked her broom?"

*"I'm warning you," began Irene.

*"Brother and sisters, grab your hymnals, come on up and lift your voices in praise," Pastor Daniels invited.

*Irene stood and motioned for Lettie to join her.

*"You go on," Lettie said. "I can lift my voice right here."

*"And Irene," Lettie cautioned, "don't stand directly underneath a light. The glare would kill us all."

*Irene ignored Lettie, daintily falling in place behind Stella. They joined the singers, and paper rustled as the old Baptist hymnals were opened.

*"All Hail the Power" rang out with gusto as Irene tried unsuccessfully to stifle a giggle. Lettie had her unfamiliar seat and reclaimed their territory while Sister Stella raised her voice in song, determined that her rendition be the first to reach the portals of Glory.

Note: Received First Honorable Mention for short-short fiction--published in Northern Stars Magazine, January/February 2006 issue

EVENTS

- Aug. 6: SCCBC Singpiration 6:30 PM
Aug. 10: Seenagers Get To Gather 11:30 AM
Aug. 12: Associational Back To School Bash
 4:00 – 8:00 PM
 Here at the church, for more info
 Contact Aaron Feeser
- Aug. 13: Finance Committee Meeting 9:00 AM
 Building Fund Offering
- Aug. 15: Nominating Committee Meeting 6:30 PM
Aug. 19: Deacon Breakfast & Visitation 9:00 AM
Aug. 20: Deacon Meeting 5:00 PM
Aug. 28: Diabetic Support Group Meeting 7:00 PM



Heart of Prayer Circle

We have a circle of prayer at our church. If you need prayer please contact Darlene Howard (873-5329) or Edna Hughes (991-0290). If you would like to join our prayer circle please see or call Darlene Howard. WE NEED YOU!

God is not only a present help in time of trouble, but a great help in keeping us out of trouble.

Swords Creek Community Baptist Church
 P.O. Box 309
 Swords Creek, Virginia 24649
 Address Service Requested

<u>O P P O R T U N I T I E S O F T H</u>	
<u>E W E E K</u>	
<u>Sunday</u>	
AM	Sunday School 10:00
AM	Morning Worship 11:00
6:00 PM	Children's Church Adult Choir Practice
PM	Evening Worship 7:00
<u>Wednesday</u>	
PM	Bible Study 7:00
	Youth 7:00 PM
	Children's Program 7:00 PM

God Finds Us

I protest the constant phrase, "finding God." I have never heard that he was lost. Let us speak not of "finding" but of "being aware." God is playing no game of hide-and-seek. It is not his hideness; it is our blindness. --Thomas Merton--

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