

## **A Strong and Durable Bond**

It always seems that when you need something to stick to something else it never does. You get the correct glue and clean the surfaces to be bonded. Then you follow the directions to affix the pieces only to find that they have come apart in an inordinately short time. Yet, if you're trying not to let something else touch the glue, it invariably will get stuck and in a way that won't let go. I suppose that's one of the many facets of Murphy's Law.

There is a glue that will hold and hold lastingly. It's really not literal glue but glue that is nevertheless real and available. The apostle Paul, in describing the potential for maturing churches and individual Christians, had many things to say about bonding and holding firmly. This glue is God's power and it's application is toward us seeking to have Christ in us. Growing up in Christ produces a bond between God and ourselves, but as that vertical bond connects so does the horizontal bond between fellow Christians.

It's toward the relationship that is formed between the saved ones that the subject of bonding is important. Unity of faith in the knowledge of Christ growing unto perfection is where our advancement towards being like Christ comes from (Eph. 4:13). This brings us to a point where we aren't children anymore, but mature adults who think and act like Christ (vs. 14). This Christ like life is characterized by speaking the truth in love (vs. 15), and growing into a functioning working relationship with all likeminded people. We grow up to be like our Head, Christ, and we do that in a special way.

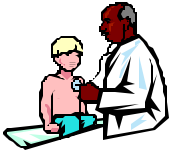
Through Christ all believers can be united in a common body. The "whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16). The body bonds well by certain things. Those things are the individually supplied abilities of the members. Every joint functions, every muscle works, every nerve is utilized, and the whole body is served. At the beckon of the Head, the body, the church, works. In so doing every part has a hand in the increase in whatever form it comes.

The bond between God and ourselves is strong and durable because God is faithful to his promise. What about our contributions to the body? Are we strong and durably bonded to the brethren with whom we worship and serve? Are they closer to God because our work has been done?

-Dennis Curd

# Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Jonnie Charles, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Euline Gilpin, Sandra Wood, Bill Pugh

- Bob Garby will have eye surgery on July 9.
- Lyn Anderson is back home.
- Lori Whitlow and baby are experiencing complications.
- Neil Richey and Chuck Webster, son-in-laws of Bob & Wanda Martin were taken to the hospital this past week due to illness and broken bones.
- Jim Dorsett is now home.
- Glenn Hartman Sr. is now home.

## Happy Birthday this week to :

Katelyn Brown—7/5  
 Jean Argabright—7/9  
 Ethan Rogers—7/9  
 Audrey Gabbard—7/9  
 Elsie Smith—7/9



### JULY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:



Instant plain Oatmeal, Sweet 'n Low packets. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

### Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan



"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence...with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness."

### Upcoming Events:

Big thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated the 4th at the building. Special thanks to Squeaky!!



## Teens

July Events:

Horizons—7/4-10  
 SYD @ Christiansburg—7/13  
 Teen Devo - 7/15  
 VBS—7/24&25  
 TBS—7/26  
 SYD @Dale Ridge—7/27  
 Guy's Nite—7/30  
 Girls Retreat—7 Hills—7/31

Big thanks to all the adults who traveled down the river with the youth. We had a total of 37 floaters and 7 more joined us for lunch on the shore. If you missed it, check out the pics—ask Luke!!



Check the Youth Board for any information you may need about upcoming events.

## WOW

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, July 14 at 10:30.

# Weekly Reminders

## For Your Information

### 2009 SUMMER SERIES

Our annual Summer Series will feature Mitchell Floyd this Wednesday. Make plans to be here to hear all of the speakers that are lined up for this summer.

### MENS BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 11, at 8 AM at Famous Anthony's.

### CHRISTIAN TRAINING SERIES

The CTS Bus will be leaving bright and early next Saturday morning at 6:45. Be here at 6:15 so your luggage can be loaded and remember small bags!!

### BABY SHOWER

There will be a Baby Shower for Amanda Brown on Sunday, July 12, at 4:00 in the fellowship hall. It's a girl and she is registered at Target and Babies 'r Us.

Prayer list:

Marguerite Charles  
Lyn Anderson  
Martha Keith  
Miriam Majors  
Betty Jenkins  
WJ Wood  
Margaret Kratz  
Jonnie Charles  
Jim Dorsett  
Bob Garby  
Euline Gilpin  
Patty Gwaltney  
E.V. Wimmer  
Sandra Wood  
Lori Whitlow  
Chuck Webster  
Neil Richey

---

## 2009 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Children will go on an adventure through TrueRassic Park learning in each session about God's Word. As the children progress through the park, they will learn the Biblical version of Creation and the truth about dinosaurs.

July 24, 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

July 25, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Ages 4 through just completed 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

Volunteer recruitment is underway, volunteer sheets are being given out. If you want to volunteer, please see Jim or Charlotte Harrington.

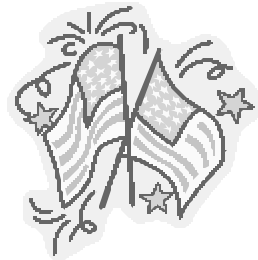
Registration forms and online registration available.

---

On **Friday July 10th 6-9 PM** Paul Mays (stage name: *neanderpaul*) will be playing live at the beautiful Taubman Art Museum downtown at 110 Salem Avenue SE, Roanoke, VA 24011. This is a **free show** at the outdoor/indoor cafe. Paul will be playing outside if it is clear or inside if it rains. Paul plays a wide variety of music, from Elvis Presley to John Mayer to the theme from Andy Griffith. He does rock, pop, A Capella, instrumental, rap, spoken word, etc, etc, etc. About half of his songs are originals and half covers. Come on out and support *neanderpaul*!

Activities:

Horizons—all week  
CTS—7/11-18  
Men's Breakfast—7/11  
Baby Shower—7/12



July 2009

## Our "Declaration of Independence"

### Announcements

Roger Mays  
David Brown

### Song Leader (AM)

### Opening Prayer (AM)

7/5 Luke Guard  
7/12 Don Pettit  
7/19 Wayne Dixon  
7/26 Barry White

### Preside at Communion

Jim Harrington  
Serve Table Josh Whitlow George Mellon  
Mitch Jearls Glenn Hartman

### Closing Prayer

7/5 John Black  
7/12 Eric Earnhart  
7/19 Mike Durham  
7/26 Charlie Puckett

### Song Leader (PM)

Adam House

### Opening Prayer (PM)

7/5 Charlie Gwaltney  
7/12 Paul Mays  
7/19 Jeff Durham  
7/26 Jeremy White

### Scripture Reader

Cameron Brown

### Closing Prayer (PM)

7/5 Tom Rogers  
7/12 Collin Gregory  
7/19 Ben Nikkel  
7/26 Herb Baker

### Serve Table (PM)

Ethan Rogers & Ben Munsey

### Song Leader (Wed)

Luke Guard

### Prayer (Wed)

7/8 Marc Laplante  
7/15 Tom Richardson  
7/22 Jeff Durham  
7/29 Don Pettit

### Open/Close Bldg Greeters

Jim Harrington  
Peverall/Gabbard

Nursery Attend Gloria White Jean Argabright

Ushers Danny Guard Jim Bush

Handouts Mark Brooks Garrett Durham

Alternates Lyn Shrader

### Prepare communion

Tammy Reed Cha Guard

### Cards & Pencils

Jimmy Harrington Dylan Tyler

### Last weeks attendance 6/28& 7/1/09

Bible Class—148 Worship Service—194

Sunday Eve.—133 Wednesday Eve.—148

Contribution—\$6561

On July 4<sup>th</sup> our nation celebrated its 233<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the declaration of its independence from British rule. The Declaration of Independence itself (written primarily by Thomas Jefferson and signed by 56 delegates) was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, but was not signed until August 2, 1776. However, it is the July 4<sup>th</sup> date that is remembered and celebrated as the day in which tyrannical rule was pronounced as being no more, and liberty was proclaimed.

For those who were once bound by sin (Rom. 6:16, 17) but are now covered by the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5), there has been a "declaration of independence." We have determined to throw off the bondage of Satan, declaring that "sin shall not have dominion over" us (Rom. 6:14). Our allegiance has changed from Satan to the Savior. Our constitution is the Word of the Lord and no longer the ways of the world. We have determined to yield ourselves to "obedience unto righteousness" (Rom. 6:16).

Having been "the servants of sin," we have "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered" us (Rom. 6:17). At that point we were made "free from sin" (Rom. 6:18). That "form of doctrine" is gospel obedience. It is revealed in Romans 6:3, 4 thus: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." This is the only means by which one can make such a declaration of independence from sin and it be recognized by the Giver of all good and perfect gifts (Jas. 1:17). One cannot declare his independence from sin in any other fashion. Having made such a declaration (i.e. obeyed the gospel), one must "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Gal. 5:1).

As this time of year causes us to reflect upon the founding of this nation and its declaration of liberty from the bondage of men, let us consider our spiritual lives and make sure we have declared our independence from the bondage of sin.

-Eddy

July 5, 2009

Number 3027