



Goshen Messenger

Wow, God!

Our VBS curriculum is shipped to us mid-January. It arrives in a popcorn-sized tin with leader guides, samples, DVDs, and everything you need to know about every second at each station we have throughout the week. It has a list 5 miles long of supplies and craft items, ideas for leader costumes, songs that will forever be remembered, and meticulous snack ideas. Essentially, this tin has the answer for every question you may have in running a week of VBS at your church. What can't be placed inside this tin is the love, grace, and power of God. Those are brought to life through our volunteers, dedicated leaders, and the Holy Spirit shining through each aspect of the week. God showed us what Goshen Baptist Church is capable of that week. He showed me that even with every hiccup and last-minute adjustment that had to be made, He was always going to be there faithfully, providing for our needs, loving us deeply, and extending abundant grace.

In 2021 Goshen Baptist Church had 30 children registered for VBS. 2022-2024 we stayed consistent with 40-43 registrations. Last year in 2025 we had 47 children registered, with our highest attendance that week right at 40. This year we hit a number that I never would have expected. 67 total registrations with our highest attendance night of 59. Wow, God!

Going into the week, we weren't necessarily prepared for this number of children, as we haven't seen numbers like this before. But God provides. It was a gentle reminder that we need to leave it at His feet. 1 Peter 5:7 is beautiful reassurance that we don't have to do this alone. God has a way of showing you that He genuinely cares for you, even if it's something as simple as making sure you have enough pipe cleaners and cotton balls for the night.

Watching the children all come to the sanctuary to sing songs and get excited for events happening throughout the week was one of the biggest blessings to see. Seeing children come back that I haven't seen since last summer because "we had so much fun last year and wanted to come back" made my heart so happy. Knowing that a majority of these children do not attend Goshen but were brought here for a very specific reason and allowing God to give us the wisdom and strength to plant seeds of His love in every heart that walked through the doors, makes you quickly forget all of the stress you may have had leading up to the event.

It is very, very easy to get caught up during the week in the logistics of it all. Name tags, check lists, schedules and paperwork. We, as Christians, know that we need to give it to Him first, but do we always remember to do so in such hectic and chaotic moments? This week was a humbling reminder to me that our first response should be to place it in God's hands. He provided, He strengthened, He comforted, and He answered. What a privilege it is to have such a gracious and loving God!

Laura Bonner
Children's Ministry Director

2026 SBC Report

Goshen Family,

One of the things I love most about our church is our generous and sacrificial giving for the sake of the gospel. Our primary channel for that giving is the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). As I teach in our new members class, the SBC is not a top-down denomination. Instead, each SBC church is fully autonomous, and we have voluntarily chosen to cooperate together for the sake of missions and theological education.

In 2025, our giving as a church through the SBC totaled \$81,283.05. That number includes Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, Vision Virginia, and our direct giving to the two church plants we support. That's why it's important that you send me and other messengers from our church each year to the annual meeting of the SBC. If we're going to invest in our cooperative work as Southern Baptists at such a high level, it's important for us to have a say in the direction of that cooperative work. This year we had six messengers from Goshen: Mark and Karen Jones, Sarah Martin, Mahea Thomas, Travis Earley, and me.

I wish I could take each of you to an SBC annual meeting. You would see very clearly that the news reports coming out of the meeting each year do not come close to giving a full picture of what takes place. There are always a couple of things that grab the headlines, but there are many more things that give a far more accurate representation of the important gospel work we are doing together as Southern Baptists.

The highlight of the meeting is always the International Mission Board (IMB) sending celebration where new missionaries are commissioned to take the gospel to the nations. This year 63 missionaries were commissioned. Many of them are going to difficult places where it is not even legal to be a missionary. Therefore, their identity is hidden as they share where they are going and what they will be doing. Your giving to Goshen and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering makes this possible.

I also had the privilege of attending two events put on by the North **American Mission Board (NAMB)**. I shared on Sunday about a church planter in Wyoming who is working to raise up preachers to send throughout Wyoming to preach the gospel in places where there are no gospel preaching churches. Your giving to Goshen and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering helps make that possible.

Another highlight of this year's annual meeting was **celebrating the retirement of Dr. Daniel Akin who has served as the President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** for 22 years. We had the privilege of having Dr. Akin lead a marriage conference at Goshen back in 2019. Dr. Akin also served as my supervisor for my doctor of ministry project. I am thankful to God for his impact in my life and ministry. In addition to Southeastern, Southern Baptists have five other seminaries that are doing the important work of training and preparing pastors, missionaries, and other church leaders for the work to which God has called them. Your giving to Goshen helps make that possible.

In addition to all the reports about all the wonderful things that are happening among Southern Baptists, I wish you could see and experience the spirit of unity and love in the gospel that exists when we get together. I have friends around the country that I typically only get to see each year at the SBC annual meeting. I am thankful for the opportunity to reconnect and celebrate what God is doing in our respective ministries and our cooperative work.

The big headline that came out of this year's annual meeting was an amendment to the SBC constitution regarding the office and function of pastor. (cont. on next page..)

Let me start by saying that Southern Baptists have always overwhelmingly believed that the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. That position was enshrined in our statement of faith, the Baptist Faith & Message, in 2000. The Baptist Faith & Message is Goshen's statement of faith and accurately represents our church's position when it comes to the office of pastor/elder/overseer. We believe that 1 Timothy 2:8-3:7 clearly teaches that only qualified men should serve in the office of pastor/elder/overseer and preach to the gathered congregation on the Lord's Day.

We also believe that men and women are equal in dignity and worth, need for salvation through faith in Christ, and value to God's kingdom. Women serve the Lord at Goshen in many ways. In fact, the only area of ministry where women are limited at Goshen is the office of pastor/elder/overseer and preaching to the gathered congregation on the Lord's Day. We have women serving as deacons, Sunday School teachers, ministry directors, office manager, treasurer, hospitality, and much more! Where would we be without our sisters? I shudder even to think about it. God gifts, equips, and calls both women and men in service to Him. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Cor. 12:21).

The constitutional amendment that was proposed states that a cooperating SBC church does not "act to affirm, appoint, or endorse a woman serving in the office or function of a pastor/elder/overseer, specifically preaching to the assembled congregation." The amendment passed with just under 75% of the vote. It needed and received a 2/3 majority to advance. It will need to receive at least a 2/3 majority again at next year's convention to be adopted into the constitution.

I am in full agreement with the theology of the amendment. I do, however, have concerns with the fact that we are continuing to talk about this issue year after year. It would be much more beneficial to focus our attention on all of the wonderful ways that women give of themselves in service to our Lord and His church. I also believe that our statement of faith should focus on our theology, and our constitution and bylaws should focus on governance. They are separate documents with separate purposes. We do not need to delineate certain "super doctrines" in our constitution. And even if we did, there are a lot of doctrines in our statement of faith that are far more fundamental to the Christian faith than this one.

The question of whether women can serve as a pastor is relevant to our cooperative work of missions and theological education, but Southern Baptist messengers agree on the theology of this issue. Our seminaries all teach that the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture. Our mission boards both require that pastors be qualified men. There is no creeping theological liberalism in the SBC on this issue outside of perhaps a very small number of outliers. While there has been some confusion at times, that confusion has been almost completely cleared up. It's hard to understand why a constitutional amendment is needed. I do hope that we will be able to move past this issue after next year's convention.

One of the big things that happens at every SBC annual meeting is the election of a convention president. As I teach in our new members class, this matters because the convention president appoints the Committee on Committees who nominates the Committee on Nominations who nominates trustees for the mission boards, seminaries, and other entities. If you want to ensure that the convention stays on the right track, you have to elect trustees who will keep things moving in the right direction.

There were two candidates this year for SBC president, Willy Rice from Florida and Josh Powell from South Carolina. My preferred candidate was Josh Powell, but Willy Rice won the election with 57% of the vote. The big difference between the two candidates was really the question of whether reform is needed in the SBC. Willy Rice was the self-professed reform candidate, while Josh Powell generally believes that things have been headed in the right direction. (cont. on next page..)

It remains to be seen what kind of reform will result from Willy Rice's presidency. The SBC presidency has the authority of appointments and the opportunity to speak to issues he believes are important, but one SBC president cannot institute sweeping reform on his own.

My biggest concern with both candidates and some other SBC leaders is the way that they have spoken about the issue of sexual abuse in SBC churches. There are some who say that the issue of sexual abuse in SBC churches has been overblown and that some of the convention actions to address the issue in recent years were a mistake. Both presidential candidates would fall somewhere in that group. There are others who say that the SBC hasn't done anything to address the issue of sexual abuse in SBC churches.

I think both of those perspectives are wrong. Sexual abuse has been an issue in SBC churches, and sadly, it will continue to be an issue until Jesus returns and makes all things right. Southern Baptists voted a few years ago to create a database of convicted and credibly accused abusers with connections to SBC churches. The database has never been created, and there does not seem to be any appetite among Southern Baptist leaders for creating such a database. While I do have questions as to how much benefit such a database would be, if the messengers vote to do something, it should be done. No one in Nashville should be deciding not to do something that the messengers voted to do.

However, while it is true that we have not done enough to address sexual abuse in SBC churches, it is not true that nothing has been done. We now have a standing Credentials Committee that is interacting with churches on a number of issues. The vast majority of reports received by the Credentials Committee have to do with the response of churches to situations of sexual abuse. Those issues are being addressed. Churches that want help are being helped, and those that continue to demonstrate apathy regarding sexual abuse are being removed. In addition, Baptist Press is proactively reporting on instances of sexual abuse by people connected to SBC churches, in effect creating an unofficial database that anyone who knows how to Google can access when hiring staff or receiving a new member or volunteer.

Goshen has been doing background checks and sexual abuse awareness training for all children and youth ministry volunteers for quite a while now. The church was already doing background checks ten years ago when I arrived, and we began requiring the training in the years since. We take very seriously our responsibility to protect the children and youth that God and parents entrust to our care as a church.

There is so much more I could say about the Southern Baptist Convention and this year's annual meeting in Orlando. But if you've read all the way through to this point, you already deserve a gold star. If you have questions, please let me know. I am happy to discuss with you and try to answer any questions you may have. What I would really love is to have you join me in Indianapolis next June for the SBC annual meeting so you can see in person our cooperative work in action. Perhaps a more formal invitation and plan for that will develop in the coming months. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending, please let me know. Goshen gets the maximum of twelve allotted messengers each year. We never fill all those spots. And even if we do, you can still attend as a guest.

Thank you again for your generous and sacrificial giving to our cooperative work as Southern Baptists.

God bless you,

Pastor Adam

Summer Office Hours...During the summer, when school is not in session, our office manager Laura's office schedule will be limited. You will still be able to reach her via email at goshenchurch@goshenbaptistchurch.net. Should you have an in-person need, please make arrangements to meet someone prior to coming to the building since it is possible that no one will be present. You can also reach Pastor Adam at pastoradamblosser@gmail.com.

Sermon on the Mount...Join us on Sundays at 10:45am for our new sermon series through Sermon on the Mount. Scripture journals for Matthew 5-7 are available.

Wednesday Night Youth...Join our youth ministry on Wednesday nights during the summer at 6:30pm for youth group! Contact Sarah Martin at goshen.sarah.m@gmail.com for more information.

Online Giving...We offer convenient online giving through our website at goshenbaptistchurch.net and in the Goshen Baptist Church app.

Prayer Requests...One of the groups we offer in our new Goshen app is our Prayer Community. We encourage you to join this group and use this tool for your prayer requests. This is an easy and great way to get requests out immediately without having to go through the church office. If you have any questions about the app or how to join one of the groups, please contact the office.

Youth Adventure...The Student Ministry is headed to Westmoreland State Park on Friday, July 3! Rising 6th graders through seniors in high school are invited to join us for a day in the sand and sun and maybe uncover some shark's teeth! For details or more information please contact Sarah Martin.

Summer Book Club...The summer book club will meet 3 times this summer for book discussions, all at 5pm. The meeting for *Everyday Revolutionary* by JD Greear will meet on July 5, *Even Better than Eden* by Nancy Guthrie will meet on August 2, and *Desiring God* by John Piper will meet on August 30.

Friday Food Bags Donations...During our week of VBS we always have a fun competition of boys vs girls to see who can raise the most money for our Friday Food Bags Ministry. This year all the kids really pulled together and ended up raising \$766.86! Way to go everyone!

Guest Preachers in July...We're excited to welcome Darrell Webb from SBC of Virginia on July 12 and Mannie Bekele from Remnant Bible Church on July 26.

Homecoming...Mark your calendar for Goshen's Homecoming 2026 on Sunday, October 4! We will be celebrating Pastor Adam's 10-year anniversary as Goshen's pastor.

Children's Church...Please note that we will not be having children's church this month. We are giving our volunteers a much-needed break for the summer. If you would like to be a part of our team when we resume in August, please contact Laura Bonner at laurabonner511@gmail.com.

Puerto Rico Mission Trip...Please pray for our Puerto Rico mission team as they serve in Guarbo, PR from July 6-13. Tema members are Adam Blosser, Addie Blosser, Mark Jones, Karen Jones, Bob Kelly, Michael Martin, and Susan Schubel.

Standing Rock Mission Trip...Please pray for our Standing Rock mission team as they serve on the Standing Rock Reservation from July 18-25. Team members include Linda Shrum, Lona Butcher, Kimberly Kelly, and Donna Overstreet.

New Member Class...Pastor Adam will be having a New Member Class after the service on August 2. You can sign up on the bulletin board or on the church app. Please contact Pastor Adam if you have any questions.

Red Cross Blood Drive...We will be hosting a blood drive here in the fellowship hall on Thursday, August 13 from 10am-3pm. There are still plenty of spots available to schedule an appointment or to donate. You may schedule online at redcrossblood.org.

Red Cross Volunteers...Goshen will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, August 13 from 10am-3pm and we are looking for volunteers to be at the check-in table to handle the registration of those coming in to give blood. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to the church office at 540-786-7500 or goshenchurch@goshenbaptistchurch.net.

Youth Conference...Save the date! We will be having our annual youth conference on Saturday, September 12.

Baptism Celebrations...We are so excited that we have had the chance to celebrate 4 baptisms in the past couple months! Vivian Scanlan and Enrique Galido were both baptized on May 31. Toni and Jacob Mallory were both baptized on June 14. We will also be celebrating the baptism of Jaylene and Jayden Addison on June 28. Take a minute and welcome them as your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Christmas Cantata...We're excited to invite you to be a part of a special combined Christmas Cantata with Goshen Baptist Church and Piney Branch Baptist Church on Saturday, December 12. If you enjoy singing and would like to join this meaningful celebration, we would love for you to participate. Rehearsals are planned to begin in August, with more details coming soon. If you're interested, please contact Travis Earley at tsearley91@gmail.com or 434-420-8536.

Emails From Goshen...Are you on our church email list? If you have not been getting our emails, please let us know so we can add you to the list.

Sermon & Bible Notes...You can take sermon and Bible notes in our church event using the YouVersion Bible app. It will save your notes for access at any time. When you are in the app, select More>Events and search for Goshen Baptist.

Goshen Merch Shop...We now have an online Goshen Merch Shop which you can find at <https://thechurch.shop/shop/goshenbaptist/>. The shop has various clothing items in multiple colors with our Goshen logo and new items have been added. You will pay for your items directly at the link and they will ship directly to you. If there is something you would like to see in the shop, please let the office know, and we may be able to make it happen based on availability.

Goshen Baptist Church Mobile App...Have you downloaded our church app (available from the app store) on your device? Search for Goshen Baptist Church in the app store. Make sure to enable push notifications through the app. You can also listen to or watch past sermons, share prayer requests, connect with a group, and access online giving. Contact the church office with questions.

New to Goshen?...Are you new to Goshen? If you have not had an opportunity to have a visit with Pastor Adam, he would love the opportunity to sit down with you, get to know you, and answer any questions you may have about our church. Would you send him an email at pastoradamblosser@gmail.com? Please include your name, the names of other family members, and the best way to get in touch with you.

Groups at Goshen...Have you gotten connected to one of our Bible study and fellowship groups at Goshen? Growth in our understanding of God's Word often happens in the context of a small group Bible study. We all also need fellowship with other Christians. At Goshen, we have lots of options for getting connected. See the following list and contact the church office with any questions.

Small Group Options...

- **Sonshine Class (Mary Vakos, Connie Laskowski, Mark Jones)**
What: Master Work Bible Study
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **The Seekers (Josh & Haley Grimes)**
What: Study of the Epistles
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **The Seniors (Robert Daniel)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Bible 101 (Wade Haney & Bob Kelly)**
What: Basic Bible Study
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **PreK-K – Ages 4-Kindergarten (Laura & Aaron Bonner)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Elementary – Grades 1-2 (Kaitlin Laskowski & Serenity Hague)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Elementary – Grades 3-5 (Dale Trigg, Laura Dye, & Mary Eure)**
What: The Gospel Project
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Youth – Grades 6-12 (Sarah & Michael Martin)**
What: The Book of Matthew
When: Sundays at 9:30am
- **Evening Ladies Bible Study (Linda Shrum)**
What: Study of the Book of Acts
When: Thursdays at 6:30pm (offsite)



Please visit or call and make their day special too!

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|---|--|
| 1. Aurie McGee
540.582.2892
P.O. Box 539
Spotsylvania, VA 22551 | 5. Donnie & Carolyn Wheeler
540.786.0606
10027 Piney Branch Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22553 |
| 2. Carol Walker
540.848.1942
9208 Mill Pond Road
Spotsylvania, VA 22551 | 6. Margaret Stanchik
540.898.6069
10111 Hillside Lane
Fredericksburg, VA 22408 |
| 3. Rose Rudd
540.786.6520
6355 Autumn Leaf Circle
Fredericksburg, VA 22407 | |



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- July:**
- 01 Luke Neuberger
 - 02 Dale Trigg
 - 03 Tracy Osborne
 - 05 David Chambers
 - 11 Travis Earley II
 - 15 Carol Walker
 - 16 Kaitlin Laskowski
 - 18 Wade Haney, Donald Ashley
 - 19 Coby Thomas
 - 22 Margaret Stanchik
 - 26 Terry Falls
 - 30 Ed Carter



TELLERS...

Dee Dee Stevens & Sharon Houston

Deacon/Elder of the Week...

- 7/5 – Bob Kelly
- 7/12 – Mary Vakos
- 7/19 – Al Bonner
- 7/26 – Gay Britt

Greeters...

- 7/5 – Ted Schubel & Kelly Ashley
- 7/12 – Chip & Theresa Brubaker
- 7/19 – Terry & Linda Kerr
- 7/26 – Christina Mikolajczak & David Chambes

Nursery...

- 7/5 – 9:30am – Lenora Brothers, Ashley Blosser
10:30am – Lenora Brothers, Karen Jones
- 7/12 – 9:30am – Lenora Brothers, Ashley Blosser
10:30am – Lenora Brothers, Linda Kerr
- 7/19 – 9:30am – Karen Jones, Ashley Blosser
10:30am – Karen Jones, Sabrina Perry
- 7/26 – 9:30am – Lenora Brothers, Ashley Blosser
10:30am – Cookie Sodergren, Eve Bonner

Children's Church...

There will be no children's church this month. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

If you have a heart for serving and want to join our team when we resume in August, we'd love to have you! For questions or information, please contact Laura Bonner at laurabonner511@gmail.com.