

Calvary Baptist Church Senior Saints Newsletter

July 2026



Historical Significance

On July 4, 2026, the United States will celebrate 250 years of independence. The 250th anniversary, also called the Semiquincentennial, commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, when representatives from the 13 colonies declared independence from Great Britain. This pivotal moment initiated the American Revolution and laid the foundation for the United States as a democratic republic. The anniversary highlights the enduring principles of liberty, equality, and self-governance that shaped the nation.



July Birthdays

02	Jack Midgette
	Mary Mullins
03	John Morriss
05	Frankie Butler
07	Butch Clopton
08	Katherine Faison
09	Bob Patterson
13	Sue Rhodes
14	Mike Barnes
	Novella Casey
16	Charlotte Crawley
17	Linda Moore
18	Janet Taylor
24	Lois Rook
27	Clayton Casey
	Shirley Edwards
28	Cardelia Seuis
29	Pamela Powers
30	Glenn Smith
31	Sheila Bullock
	Brian Simmons

July Anniversaries

01	David & Sue Rhodes
02	Lloyd & Bonnie Boyd
	Buddy & Paula Farrell
11	Mike & Bea Collier
12	Howard & Laura Ferguson
17	Clayton & Novella Casey
	Craig & Terry Mason
24	Robert & Wanda Matthews
25	Chris & Fran Conner
	Craig & Robin Griffies
27	Todd & Wendy Arthur
	John & Carolyn Carter
31	Kenny & Teresa Skinner
	Robie & Brenda Vincent

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SENIOR
Saints



Pastor Andy's Thoughts

July arrives with bright sunshine, family gatherings, and the familiar joy of celebrating our nation's independence. This year carries special meaning as America approaches her 250th Independence Day, a milestone that invites us to reflect on God's hand of mercy and guidance throughout our nation's history. Scripture reminds us, **"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)**. As senior adults who have witnessed many seasons of change, your prayers and steadfast faith continue to bless our church and our country.

This month also encourages us to remember the deeper freedom we have in Christ, freedom that no earthly power can give or take away. The apostle Paul writes, **"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free" (Galatians 5:1)**. While we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, we rejoice even more in the spiritual freedom purchased by Jesus at the cross. Your testimonies of God's faithfulness through the decades remind all generations that true liberty begins in the heart.

As our nation prepares for its 250th year of independence, July becomes a fitting time to pray for renewal, unity, and wisdom for our leaders, communities and our church. Many of you have lived through wars, revivals, cultural shifts, and seasons of national challenge, and through it all, you have remained anchored in God's Word: **"Righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14:34)**. May you be an example of righteousness, humility, and prayer that strengthens the fabric of our church and our country.

I pray this July fills your days with peace, gratitude, and renewed purpose. Whether you celebrate with fireworks, family cookouts, or quiet reflection, may your heart rest in the Lord's promises. **"The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace" (Psalm 29:11)**. Thank you for the legacy you continue to build, one of faith, courage, and unwavering trust in God's goodness.

Love you Senior Saints! Pastor Andy

Sunday School Lesson

Recently in the Serendipity Sunday School class, Freddi Davis, read a passage of scripture that went along with our lesson, using the Living Bible translation. You find many publications that warn you about aging, but we all thought that this passage of scripture says it best.

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 LBT

Don't let the excitement of being young cause you to forget about your Creator. Honor him in your youth before the evil years come—when you'll no longer enjoy living. It will be too late then to try to remember him when the sun and light and moon and stars are dim to your old eyes, and there is no silver lining left among your clouds. For there will come a time when your limbs will tremble with age, your strong legs will become weak, and your teeth will be too few to do their work, and there will be blindness too. Then let your lips be tightly closed while eating when your teeth are gone! And you will waken at dawn with the first note of the birds; but you yourself will be deaf and tuneless, with quavering voice. You will be afraid of heights and of falling—a white-haired, withered old man, dragging himself along: without sexual desire, standing at death's door, and nearing his everlasting home as the mourners go along the streets. Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young—before the silver cord of life snaps and the gold bowl is broken; before the pitcher is broken at the fountain and the wheel is broken at the cistern; then the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. All is futile, says the Preacher; utterly futile. But then, because the Preacher was wise, he went on teaching the people all he knew; and he collected proverbs and classified them. For the Preacher was not only a wise man but a good teacher; he not only taught what he knew to the people, but taught them in an interesting manner. The wise man's words are like goads that spur to action. They nail down important truths. Students are wise who master what their teachers tell them. But, my son, be warned: there is no end of opinions ready to be expressed. Studying them can go on forever and become very exhausting! Here is my final conclusion: fear God and obey his commandments, for this is the entire duty of man. For God will judge us for everything we do, including every hidden thing, good or bad.

This chapter is a call to live with purpose and reverence for God in the present, recognizing that time is short and life's vitality fades. It balances the wisdom of the Preacher's teachings with a sober reminder of mortality, urging readers to prioritize spiritual life over the fleeting pleasures of youth.

Show God's Love and Make a Difference in Someone's Life

Every minute someone
leaves this world behind.

We are all in "the line"
without knowing it.

We never know how many
people are before us....

So while we wait in line:

Make moments count.

Make priorities.

Make the time.

Make your gifts known.

Make a nobody feel like a
somebody.

Make your voice heard.

Make the small things big.

Make someone smile.

Amen

Be Positive
Be Happy

The Man In The Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
And the world makes you king for a day,
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't a man's father, mother or wife,
Whose judgement upon him must pass,
The fellow whose verdict counts most in life,
Is the man staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,
For he's with you clear to the end,
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test,
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,
And get pats on the back as you pass,
But the final reward will be heartache and tears,
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr

The McKee Family

I thank God for the Man in the Glass, in this case in the (Door) behind me, listening to me speak to our Roanoke Rapids Yellow Jackets. This man with three young sons, invested in me. His entire family became my family. Mr. Bill and Mrs. Janice McKee, along with, Greg McKee, Jeffery McKee, and Stevie McKee, became a very important part of my life. To this day, I embrace the values, generosity, love, respect, and care, that I learned from them all. They included me! I could have been left out; however they included me. My first job, my first car, my first camp at UNC, my first all-star game, my first college day visit, and my drop off at NCCU. The McKee's, supported me in everything I chose to do. They did it all with love, dignity and purpose. From 13 to 73, 1 man with 1 dream showed 1 young fella how to become a Son of God!



Mr. Billy
McKee
&
Arthur Ray
Hawkins
RRHS
Class of '71



Arthur Ray Hawkins was the first black athlete to compete at Roanoke Rapids High School where he was a three-sport athlete, earning 11 letters over four years, and was a member of the 1968 NEAC Championship Football Team. He went on to play college football at North Carolina Central University where he was a member of the 1972 and 1973 MEAC Championship Teams. He also played three years of semi-pro football for the Fort Benning Doughboys. After college, Arthur Ray has dedicated his life in service to others, first to his country from 1975 to 1997 in the U.S. Army, then over a twenty-year career in education as a teacher, coach, Associate Principal, and Principal in six different schools. He continues his career in service today through ministry with The Fellowship of Christian Athletes as the Area Director for Rockdale and Newton County schools. His 501(c)(3), All The Way and Then Some, reaches out to youth and athletes across Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas, providing inspiration through word and example, and leading many to Christ.

We never know what kindness and the witness of God's love is going to do in the long run. It is no telling how many people have been led to the Lord by one man showing a young fella how to become a Son of God.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33 (NIV)

Devotion by Charlie Carter

This is a special month in a special year. As we celebrate the Fourth of July, we will be celebrating the 250th birthday of our great nation. What a privilege!

The Fourth of July, like Memorial Day, is much more than a day for family gatherings, cook-outs on the back deck, and fireworks. It is the day we unite as Americans to celebrate our country's independence. The day we celebrate our liberty and freedoms. A day to be thankful for all who have worked, fought and died for those freedoms. The day we celebrate all that is good and right with our country. Not that everything is good and right with our country. But it is the greatest country in the world, and I would not want to be a citizen of any other country although I must say, Kenya does tug at my heart.

However, as a follower of Jesus Christ I must say that there is a greater freedom we need to be reminded of today. Jesus said in the Gospel of John 8:36, *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* This freedom is not dependent on what country you live in or what political system you live under. It is freedom from bondage to sin that is offered freely to all who will believe. Political freedoms must be won and then continually fought for. This freedom Jesus offers was won once and for all by Jesus when He died on the cross.

As you celebrate this month with family and friends watching fireworks and waving old glory, thank the Lord for all we enjoy here in the good ole US of A, but also take a moment and thank him for your eternal freedom in Christ Jesus. God bless America! God bless each of you and have a great month. **God bless you, Pastor Charlie**

Something to consider.....

A bottle of water can be .50 cents at a supermarket, \$2 at the gym, \$3 at the movies, and \$6 on a plane. Same water. Only thing that changed its value was the place. So the next time you feel your worth is nothing, maybe you're at the wrong place!

Shared by CH Powell on Facebook

10 Things Christian People Learn Late in Life

Grace is Greater Than Performance - Believers often spend their early years running on an exhausting treadmill of trying to "earn" God's love. They eventually learn that faith is a gift received, not a target achieved. Resting in grace replaces striving with peace.

Pain Brings Purpose - It is a universal realization that God rarely removes us from difficult situations immediately; rather, He sustains us through them. Spiritual growth and deep empathy are forged in the wilderness, not on the mountaintops.

Love Matters More Than Being "Right" - Zeal for theology can sometimes overshadow the command to love your neighbor. Older Christians frequently look back and wish they had traded argumentative debates for simple acts of compassion, realizing that relationships hold eternal weight over being factually correct.

God's Sovereignty Includes Disappointment - We learn to accept that even when life doesn't make sense or tragedies occur, God is still good. Realizing that faith isn't about having all the answers—but about trusting the One who does—cements spiritual maturity.

You are a Steward, Not the Owner - Everything we have—time, talents, finances, and relationships—is on loan from God. Acknowledging that it all ultimately belongs to Him removes the burden of grasping tightly to control and possessions.

Character is Tested in the "Quiet Years" - Our greatest impact is rarely made in the public eye; it is built on private disciplines. Faithful, quiet obedience in hidden moments forms the true foundation of a long-term spiritual legacy.

People are the Only Eternal Investment - When everything else fades, the souls we interact with and the love we share remain. Believers often regret getting too caught up in temporal successes at the expense of investing time into their families and communities.

Prayer Shifts from Asking to Listening - In the early days, prayer is often a long grocery list of requests. Over time, Christians learn that the deepest communion with God happens in the quiet, stillness, and attentive listening.

The Gospel is Simple, Not a Formula - Rather than viewing faith as a strict series of formulas for a perfect life, older believers learn that Christianity is simply walking intimately with Jesus. It is about yielding to His presence day by day, leaving the results up to Him.

Exerts from Multiple Sites

Uplifting Joy Filled Scripture Verses

Nehemiah 8:10b (ESV) “And do not be grieved, for the **joy of the Lord** is your strength.”

Psalms 16:11 (ESV) “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is **fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

Psalms 30:5 (ESV) “For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but **joy comes with the morning**.”

Psalms 37:4 (ESV) “**Delight yourself in the Lord**, and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalms 51:12 (ESV) “Restore to me the **joy of your salvation**, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”

Psalms 63:7-8 (ESV) “For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will **sing for joy**. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.”

Psalms 71:23 (ESV) “My lips will **shout for joy** when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.”

Psalms 84:2 (ESV) “My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh **sing for joy** to the living God.”

Psalms 92:4 (ESV) “For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I **sing for joy**.”

Psalms 94:19 (NIV) “When anxiety was great within me, your consolation **brought me joy**.”

Psalms 100:1-2 (ESV) “**Make a joyful noise** to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”

Psalms 118:24 (ESV) “This is the day that the Lord has made; **let us rejoice** and be glad in it.”

Psalms 119:111 (ESV) “Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the **joy of my heart**.”

Psalms 126:5 (ESV) “Those who sow in tears shall reap with **shouts of joy**!”

Isaiah 9:3 (ESV) “You have multiplied the nation; you have **increased its joy**; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.”

Isaiah 55:12 (ESV) “For you shall **go out in joy** and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) “The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will **rejoice over you with gladness**; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

Luke 15:7 (ESV) “Just so, I tell you, there will be **more joy in heaven** over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Annual Senior Saint's Fish Fry

**Thursday, July 16, 6pm
in Gym**

Fish cooked by Jerry Moseley,
Ernie Clemmons & Jim Rainey

Cost: \$7.00 Sign up by July 8.
Volunteers are needed to fix desserts.



Senior Saint's Ice Cream Social

Thurs., August 27, 6:30pm in Gym
Homemade Ice Cream & Desserts

No cost, bring ice cream or dessert please.
Sign up by August 19.

We will be inviting our youth and their leaders to join us at the ice cream social. Let's spoil them with lots of goodies to thank them for setting up tables and chairs for many of our Senior Saint's events.



Sunday, July 5
11am (one service)
THE
LORD'S SUPPER
Do this in remembrance of Me
9:45AM Sunday School
8:30AM & PM
Services Cancelled

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Your assistance is greatly appreciated at events we have at Calvary. We can't thank you enough to all who help set up the gym, and all who help after an event to put up tables, chairs, and clean the gym and kitchen. Many volunteers make the work fun and easier on each person who helps!



Shoebox July Collection

Crayons, Tablets, Glue Sticks

OCC Shoebox Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30 p.m.
Upstairs in OCC Storage Rooms

**Anyone who would like to help pack boxes
for ages 2 to 4 is welcome to attend.**

Be grateful
for every second of
every day that you get
to spend with the
people you love. Life is
so very precious.

Lesson learned in life



This is so true and we are finding it out more and more everyday. Another one of our Senior Saints, Mrs. Martha Wilson, experienced her heavenly homecoming this past week. We hear everyday that others are having health issues and in much need of our prayers. It would be very difficult to name each one in fear of leaving one of our precious friends off of the list. Pray for all of our Senior Saints and their families. God knows the needs of each and everyone of them!

