



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

August 2026

Something To Think About



Photo Courtesy of Baptist General Association of Virginia

“DISASTER RELIEF BEFORE THE DISASTER”

Months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the southeastern United States, I traveled as part of a mission team to Gulfport, Mississippi to replace a roof on the home of a retired woman. As we drove around Gulfport each day, I was struck by the number of homes whose roofs were still more tarp than shingle. Most of the hotels were filled with construction workers and electricians and plumbers who were still working in the area. I also remember the large number of businesses that were closed and how little traffic was moving around the area because so many residents had to temporarily or permanently evacuate because their homes were completely lost or extensively damaged and not yet able to be repaired. It was a sobering reality that stays with me to this day.

Recently, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has been asking churches to consider what it would mean to be “disaster ready.” In other words, if a natural disaster was to impact their community or a nearby community, is there a way that the congregation could be ready to respond to the needs that would arise? Being “disaster ready” can mean anything from having cleaning buckets on hand to having a plan for the church facility to be used as a feeding station. The effectiveness of the church’s witness and ministry can be so much greater when we take steps to prepare before the disaster strikes.

That is why I am really excited about a partnership we are entering into this fall with Bonsack Baptist Church. Through our mutual relationship with the Baptist General Association of Virginia, we are sponsoring a “tiny home” build starting in September. This home will be built on the property of Bonsack Baptist Church and made ready to be deployed to a region of our state in the aftermath of a disaster. In recent years, we have seen the devastation of flooding in our mountain communities due to strong storms and hurricanes. Such disasters dislocate

families from their homes for weeks and even months at a time. The purpose of “tiny homes” such as the one we will be building will be to provide a home that can be placed on site within days and allow an individual or family to live safely and comfortably on their property or close by as reconstruction and repair work is ongoing. This is an opportunity to do disaster relief before the disaster.

There will be different work days scheduled over the course of the fall, and you will have an opportunity to sign up to work any number of shifts. There will be opportunities for all levels of skill and experience to help with this project. More information will be coming out in the weeks ahead, but I hope you will consider now donating some of your time to this worthwhile effort.

We cannot control when and where a disaster will strike. However, we can take steps to be ready to respond when the call goes forward and help provide healing and hope to those in need. I hope you will join me in taking part in this initiative!

- Pastor Mark

Partnership Perspective: CBF Global



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Each month through the summer, Pastor Mark will share a brief overview of several of our major denominational mission partners so that you can have a better understanding of the work of these partners and how Melrose Baptist Church participates in their work.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, or CBF Global as it sometimes referred to, is a network of over 1,800 congregations in the United States and around the globe. Led by the love of Christ, CBF invites churches and individuals to partner in transforming God's world, working together as a global community to spread good news, justice and hope through impactful ministries, missions and resources.

Work that CBF has engaged in recently includes:

- Supporting 31 missionary field personnel in North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa
- Endorsed 928 actively serving chaplains in healthcare, military, prisons, and community service
- Provided "Cultivating Generous Congregations" cohorts for 16 churches
- Served 3,979 migrants through CBF-sponsored ministries
- Offered over 100 Peer Learning Group opportunities for ministers
- Over 14 years, helped 106 ministers transition from seminary to congregational ministry through the CBF Fellows program
- Provided scholarships at 12 different seminaries
- Offered a giving portal to support disaster relief efforts following the earthquakes in Venezuela

CBF holds an annual General Assembly in June each year. The next General Assembly will be June 23-25, 2027 in Dallas, Texas. Anyone is welcome to attend this one-day event – you do not have to be elected as a messenger to attend and participate.

Highlights of Melrose Baptist Church's support of CBF

- Financial Support: 2025 - \$27,019.88; 2026 (through June) - \$15,419.24
- Pastor Mark recently attended the CBF General Assembly in Jacksonville, Florida
- Pastor Mark and Pastor Connie attended a lunch and discussion with Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator of CBF

Global, about the future of CBF

- The WMU promotes each year the Offering for Global Missions, which directly supports CBF field personnel serving all over the world
- Each Sunday morning, we pray for different CBF mission field personnel and support staff
- Individual members, families, and Sunday School classes are invited to "Adopt-a-Chaplain", where you can directly offer words and gifts of encouragement to CBF-endorsed chaplains in the military and their families.
- Many of the 1000 Disaster Relief Buckets that we created in 2025 are in CBF's possession and continue to be distributed to churches and locations in the aftermath of disasters.

For more information about CBF, visit www.cbf.net.

Hymn of the Month

Hymn of the Month: #365 Song for the Nations

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

(Matthew 28:18-20 ESV)

All nations. "He's got the whole world in His hands"....and has given us the task of using our hearts, hands, and voices. Sounds like an impossible task if we don't remember that we are family. It's like Pastor Mark's children's sermon on July 26: everyone can bring something to contribute and it adds up. I like the words of Shirley Crowder, a inspirational writer born on the mission field in Nigeria, and now has a page called "Through the Lens of Scripture". As we ready, study, memorize, contemplate and meditate upon God's Word, we learn who God is and what He requires of us. That knowledge and understanding of God is the source of the light that shines in and through us (Matthew 5:14) as the things we do not only show who we are, but WHOSE we are. James 1:22 gives us a hint for how we can make disciples as we are doers of the word, and not hearers only (ESV).

May we join her in singing this prayer in this month of new things to do and hear.

May we be a shining light to the nations, A shining light to the peoples of the earth, Till the whole world sees the glory of Your name, May Your kingdom come on earth.

May we bring a word of hope to the nations, A word of life to the peoples of the earth, Till the whole world knows there's salvation thro' Your name, May Your mercy flow thro' us.

May we be a healing balm to the nations, A healing balm to the peoples of the earth, Till the whole world knows the power of Your name, May Your healing flow thro' us.

May we sing a song of joy to the nations, A song of praise to the peoples of the earth, Till the whole world rings with the praises of Your name, May Your song be sung thro' us.

May Your kingdom come to the nations, Your will be done in the peoples of the earth, Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord. May Your kingdom come on earth.

May we all ask God to enable His light to shine brightly in and through each of us. Song for the Nations – Through the Lens of Scripture About – Through the Lens of Scripture

- Pastor Connie

Children & Youth Updates



SAVE THE DATE- BACKPACK SUNDAY

During worship on Sunday, August 9 we will be recognizing our students, teachers, and faculty who are preparing to return to school for the new year! If you are a student, teacher, or faculty member we welcome you to bring your backpack with you to worship so we can bless everyone's bags for a wonderful upcoming year. We also have a small back-to-school gift for everyone!



YOUTH & CHILDREN POOL PARTY

Our youth and children and their families are invited to a last splash of summer Pool Party at Read Mountain Swim Club (59 Downing Street, Cloverdale, Virginia) on Sunday, August 9 from 5-7 PM. Pizzas and drinks will be provided, but everyone is asked to bring a side or dessert item to share. If your family is planning to attend, please let Pastor Mark know (mofield@melrosebaptist.org; 540-366-6631, ext. 2) by Monday, August 3. Come out and join the fun!

Ministry Updates & Upcoming Events

MINISTRY UPDATE: BACKPACK MINISTRY

Year 8 of our Backpack Ministry to area school children is complete, and we are already gearing up for the next school year. As you know, this ministry provides supplemental food for the weekends for students identified by their teachers and school counselors as needing additional food help. We continue to partner with two Roanoke City Elementary Schools providing as many as 100 food bags per week.

This past year our totals included 3,401 bags representing 17,005 meals and snacks for these children at a total cost of \$11,463.67. Again this year the Pastor's Challenge, VBS missions donations, and grants from Feeding SWVA totaling \$873.14, in addition to the generous gifts of our congregation in providing food items and funding for this ministry have enabled the continuation of help to these children.

Thank you for your prayers, your gifts, and your hands on help in continuing to serve the children of our community.

MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT- BURLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

We are partnering with Genesis United Methodist Church to help provide a hot dog dinner on Tuesday, August 11 for Burlington Elementary School's Back to School Night. We will be serving from 5-7 PM that evening and will also need some help before 5 PM with set up and cooking. If you would like to volunteer to help with this great mission outreach partnership, please contact Pastor Mark and let him know!

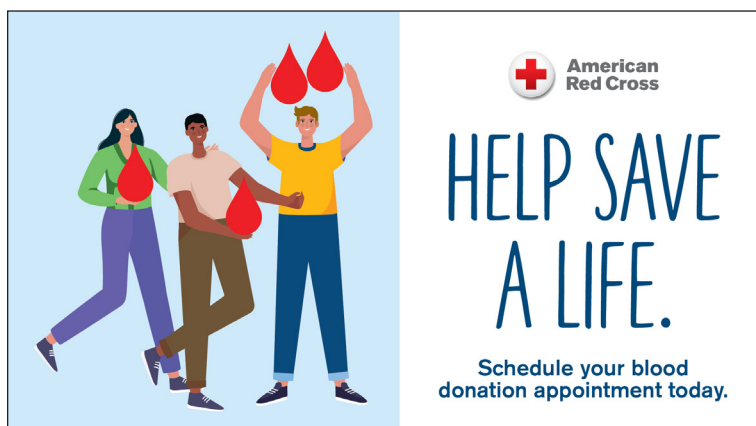


RSVP NOW- SINGLE SENIORS BANQUET

Looking for a wonderful afternoon of great food, laughter, and community? Join us for our Single Seniors Banquet! This special luncheon is designed specifically for single seniors! It is a warm, welcoming space to connect with new and old friends, while enjoying an uplifting afternoon together. Come hungry and ready to have fun on our tropical getaway! Please RSVP by calling the church office at 540-366-6631 by Monday, August 3! If you are in need of transportation, please let the church office know.

LIVING ABUNDANTLY AFTER FIFTY MONTHLY GATHERING

Those over the age of 50 are invited to this month's LAAF gathering on Tuesday, August 18 at 10 AM. The program for the morning is a nostalgic Broadway-style program revisiting the beloved LAAF presentation first publicly shown on October 16, 2012. A warm and lively celebration of Southern charm, treasured memories and theatrical fun featuring "Gone with the Wind" and "Present Day Senior Angels." After the meeting all are welcome to enjoy lunch together at the New Yorker Deli on Williamson Road.



SIGN UP NOW TO DONATE AND HELP US SAVE LIVES!

We are hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, August 22 from 10 AM-2 PM. Our goal is to collect 18 units and we need your help to make that happen. Register now to donate by going to the church website [HERE](#).



CREATIVES NIGHT: DIY PLANT STAND

Creatives Night returns this month on Friday, August 28 at 5:30 PM. This month's activity is a DIY plant stand. Everyone will have their own blank wood plant stand that they can paint however they would like. All materials are being provided! The cost is \$10 per person and you can register by going to the church website [HERE](#).



COME JOIN US FOR SONGS & SWEETS

Join us for Songs and Sweets on Sunday, August 30 at 6:30 PM as we come together in song, praise, and fellowship! Come and enjoy a traditional hymn sing in the Sanctuary followed by a time of fellowship.



COMING SOON: NEW SEASON OF CHURCH PODCAST

During our previous sermon series, "The Heart for the Not Yet", we received some questions that we decided needed to be answered. This season we will be alternating between episodes that focus on topics like dinosaurs, death, and the afterlife and at-home worship experiences. If you are interested in hearing more about these topics, download the church app today in the Google Play Store or The App Store or go to the church website at melrosebaptist.org/media.



BIBLE JOURNALING LIVE

Over the past year and a half, the Melrose Creatives Ministry has hosted monthly gatherings on Saturday mornings for individuals to come and learn various Bible journaling techniques. Starting this month instead of meeting in-person we will begin sharing instructions on Bible journaling techniques by offering weekly live video sessions on Friday mornings at 10 AM on the Melrose Baptist Creatives Ministry Facebook group. ([CLICK HERE](#) to join the Facebook group.) Our hope is that by offering these sessions virtually more people can join us and begin to learn more about this fun and creative way to interact with God's Word.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Peggy Spickard by The Truth Seekers Sunday School class.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$9.00 per person or \$20 for a family up to 4 people. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631, on the Melrose Baptist Church mobile app, or the church website **HERE**.

July Menu

- 8/5: Hamburger steaks, ranch potatoes, green beans, cherry delight
- 8/12: Baked spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, dreamsicle cake
- 8/19: Baked ham, ranch potatoes, broccoli, eclair cake
- 8/26: Chicken tetrazzini, mixed veggies, pineapple zucchini cake

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Ushers

8/2: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham
8/9: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham
8/16: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth
8/23: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth
8/30: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill

Courtesy Team

8/2: Barry Wickham, Donnie Daniels
8/9: Tracie Conley, Allen Journell
8/16: Steve Kennedy, Larry Hicks
8/23: Annie Richerson, Steve Kennedy
8/30: Don Altice, Gerald Willis

Safety Team

8/2: Larry Hicks, Steve Kennedy
8/9: Allen Journell, Jeff Poore
8/16: Danny Jarrett, Suzanne Moses
8/23: Gary Hurd, Jeb Wallace
8/30: Gary Dixon, Barry Wickham

Youth Dinners

8/2: Norma Engel, Becky Tobey
8/9: No meal- Pool Party
8/16: The Sloane's, Tracie Conley, Stephanie Cook
8/23: Diana Hackworth, Rhonda Kessler
8/30: Kathryn Pankey, Susan Matney

MOST RECENT FINANCE REPORT

June 2026

Monthly Income: \$51,615.25

Monthly Expenses: \$61,180.65

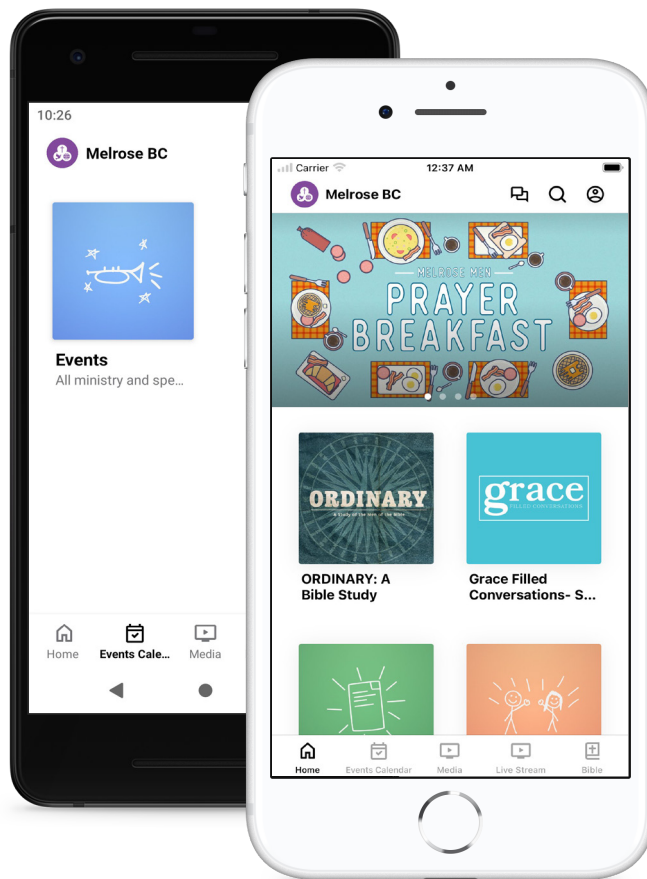
Year to Date

Total Income: \$356,255.20

Total Expenses: \$396,253.73

Melrose Baptist Church

Available in App Stores



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<http://get.theapp.co/ab23>

SUBSPASH®

August Church Calendar

August 1-2

SATURDAY- 8/1

10 AM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 8/2

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
12 PM Children's Committee
5 PM Seeds of Youth
7 PM Youth Council

August 3-9

MONDAY- 8/3

10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness
1-8 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

TUESDAY- 8/4

10:30 AM WMU Council Meeting
2 PM Staff Meeting
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 8/5

10 AM Beth Calloway
2:30 PM Stitch & a Prayer
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY- 8/6

6 PM Softball Field in Use

FRIDAY- 8/7

6 PM Softball Field in Use

SATURDAY- 8/8

10 AM- 2 PM Softball Field in Use
12 PM Single Seniors Banquet

SUNDAY- 8/9

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Back to School Pool Party

August 10-16

MONDAY- 8/10

10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 8/11

12 PM Staff Meeting
5 PM Missions Event
6 PM Softball Field in Use

WEDNESDAY- 8/12

2:30 PM LAAF Council
3:30 PM SAM Council
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Finance Meeting
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 8/13

10:30 AM Alma Hunt
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use
7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

SATURDAY- 8/15

9 AM-4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use
10 AM- 2 PM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 8/16

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Seeds of Youth

August Church Calendar

August 17-22

MONDAY- 8/17

10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 8/18

8 AM-4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use
10 AM LAAF in Sanctuary
2 PM Staff Meeting
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 8/19

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth in Mission
6:15 PM Business Meeting
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY- 8/22

10 AM- 2 PM Softball Field in Use
10 AM-2 PM Blood Drive

SUNDAY- 8/23

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Seeds of Youth

August 24-31

MONDAY- 8/24

10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness
6:15 PM Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY- 8/25

2 PM Staff Meeting
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
6:30 PM Music & Worship Arts

WEDNESDAY- 8/26

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth in Mission
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 8/27

5-8 PM Softball Field in Use
6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

FRIDAY- 8/28

5:30 PM Creatives Night

SATURDAY- 8/29

10 AM- 2 PM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 8/30

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Seeds of Youth
6:30 PM Songs & Sweets