



MELROSE

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

June 2026

Something To Think About



THE SECRET

“To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven...” - Matthew 13:11

One year for Halloween we decided to get out of town as a family and take the boys to one of those hotels that has an indoor water park attached to it. We kept it a surprise, but we figured they would figure it out when we pulled into the parking lot. However, to our shock, they did not recognize the place for what it was. The secret was still intact. I remember the way they shuffled into the lobby, thinking Mom and Dad had taken them to some strange place where the only thing it seemed there was to do was go to pottery stores like the one we stopped at on the way. But then, they rounded the corner of the front desk and saw the gigantic water slides and the wave pool. They pressed their faces up against the glass looking over the water park and excitedly pointed out to each other every activity they saw going on. Eventually they turned to Amy and I and said, “Can we go do that?” Amy and I laughed and said, “Boys, that’s the whole reason we came in the first place.”

I will never forget the sight of our sons standing in front of those glass windows, the sighs of boredom transformed to the gasps of wonder. We could have sat the boys down and told them where we were going and what we would be doing, even shown them pictures on the Internet, and I think they would have still had an amazing time. However, there was something about sharing with them in the joy and awe of the experience of discovery that still marks those days as one of the most special experiences we have shared as a family.

Earlier this year, I heard the Christian author & teacher Beth Moore say, “We have forgotten the secrets of the Kingdom.” I have been thinking about those words for a while now. It sounds odd to talk about the Kingdom of God as a “secret” because so much of our life and work as the Christian church is based on the Great Commission of going and telling the world. I

wonder, though, if the call to share openly has led us to an assumption that what we are sharing about is common, maybe even ordinary. Perhaps Jesus talked about the “secrets of the kingdom of heaven” not because he was trying to withhold something but because he wanted us to experience the joy and awe of discovery, to press our noses up against the glass in excitement as we discover what our journey with Christ is really all about.

I want to invite you to spend time this summer considering “The Secret” that Christ says is ours as I begin a new sermon series on June 21 that focuses on the parables of the Kingdom of God in Matthew 13. Have you and I forgotten “the secrets of the kingdom”, and what joy and hope might be recovered when we rediscover them? If you can’t be with us in person on a Sunday morning, you are always welcome to watch the livestream of our worship services on Sunday mornings or any time. This also might be a great opportunity to invite a friend with you to church who is searching for faith or understanding themselves or walking alongside a loved one who is seeking good news for their life. Let’s remember and recover the joy of “The Secret”!

- Pastor Mark

Partnership Perspective: CBF Virginia



Each month through the summer, Pastor Mark will be sharing a brief overview of several of our major denomination 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 of Virginia currently identifies around 150 congregations as partner congregations. CBF of Virginia defines its purpose through 3 main pillars of ministry: advocacy for changing systems and meeting community needs, theological education for ministers and for laypersons, and nurturing partnerships that allow churches and institutions to fulfill their God-given mission.

Work that CBF Virginia has engaged in recently includes:

- Mission Madness: a weekend long retreat for youth that saw hundreds of youth serving in various parts of Richmond, Virginia
- Children's Retreat: a weekend focused on fun and spiritual formation for children at Eagle Eyrie
- Pastor's School: 1-day seminars at 2 different locations in Virginia focused on helping pastors with sermon preparation and sermon writing
- Granted scholarships to seminary students
- Announced a mission trip to Puerto Rico where CBF Virginia is building relationships and working with local congregations in that country
- Continued facilitating the opening of a Welcome House in Richmond that will provide short-term housing for immigrant families when they arrive in our state
- CBF Virginia holds an annual Assembly in September each year. 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 Virginia:

- We support CBF Virginia financially through our support of CBF Global, which provides an annual block grant to CBF Virginia.
- The 2026 CBF Virginia Annual Assembly will take place at Melrose Baptist Church on Tuesday, September 22
- Pastor Mark currently serves as the Treasurer for CBF Virginia, holding a position on the Advisory Council and Coordinating Council.

- Blair Thurman received one of the CBF Virginia scholarships to support her continued seminary education at Baptist Seminary of Kentucky.
- Pastor Mark, Pastor Greg, and Pastor Connie participated in the Pastor's School that took place in Roanoke in February
- CBF Virginia provided mission grants to Melrose Baptist Church to support our Disaster Relief bucket project and this year's Women's Conference.
- Our youth participated in the CBF Virginia Youth Retreat last November at Eagle Eyrie.
- Amy Mofield is currently the Event Support Coordinator for CBF Virginia.

For more information about CBF Virginia, visit www.cbfva.org or www.facebook.com/cbfva.



JUNE 8-10 • 9 AM- 12 PM

CHILDREN IN PRE K- 5TH GRADE

WORSHIP • MUSIC • CRAFTS • GAMES

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE
& REGISTER:**



Camp Ward Haven

A road trip of faith!

* **Grade levels (rising) 2nd - 9th**

* **What will the kids
do?**

* **Where? @ Camp Ward
Haven in Salem, VA**

**Bible Study
Bible Verse games**

* **When is Camp?
June 22nd - 25th**

Recreation

Dance

Puppets

and more!

* **Cost: \$100 per kid
late fee: \$25**



* **Counselor drop off
is on June 21st**

* **Teen and adult
volunteers needed!!**

* **All applications may be mailed, emailed, or
handed in person**

Please contact AsheleykShepherd@yahoo.com if interested

Children & Youth Updates

YOUTH YARD SALE UPDATE

After much discussion and thought, Pastor Mark and our youth volunteers have decided that there will be no yard sale this year. We are continuing to discuss planning a yard sale for next summer. Due to our limited space, please refrain from bringing donations for the yard sale to the church. If you are able, please hold on to them until next year or take them to another local donation center.



PLEASE BE IN PRAYER

Our youth and adult volunteers will be traveling to serve with Impact Mission Camp from June 15-21. We are asking that you please be in prayer for our youth, adults, and the Impact Missions Camp staff. We pray they have a wonderful week full of service, worship, and fellowship.

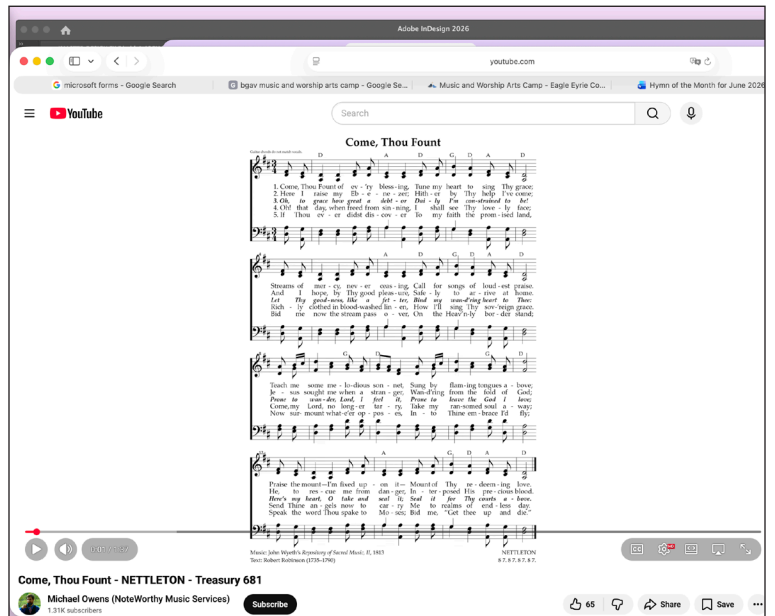


REGISTER NOW- MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS CAMP 2026

This year's Music and Worship Arts Camp is being hosted at Eagle Eyre Convention Center from July 13-17 and registration is now open!

This camp is open to children and youth in grades 4-12 and offers a great selection of classes for all interests! If you are interested in attending, please pick-up a welcome packet from the Fellowship Hall and see Pastor Connie ASAP! Registration must be done as a group through Pastor Connie, not individually! The sooner you register the better chance you have of getting the classes that you want!

Hymn of the Month



HYMN OF THE MONTH: "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"

A few weeks ago in worship on Memorial Day Sunday, Pastor Mark discussed in the children's sermon the meaning of "Here I raise mine Ebenezer" and its translation in this well-loved hymn "Hither by Thy help I'm come." As you will remember, "eben" in Hebrew means "stone" and "ezer" means "help" in Hebrew; thus, Ebenezer is "stone of help."

For this section of the year, we will soon be enjoying a trip through the parables of "The Kingdom of God is like..." in Pastor Mark's coming sermon series. To weave our worship songs into that Kingdom tapestry, I have paired the traditional NETTLETON tune with the later American folk setting of the hymn and the WARRENTON tune, first seen in publication in 1822 in The Young Convert's Pocket Companion. Its short chorus has a Kingdom focus. Click on the link below to hear it.

"I am bound for the Kingdom, will you go to glory with me?
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!"
(Come Thou Fount (WARRENTON))

I am prayerful that our focus on the Kingdom will help us each to become a "stone of help" to others' in Jesus' Name.

Blessings,
Pastor Connie

[CLICK HERE](#) to listen to the NETTLETON Early American hymn tune which first appeared in print in 1813 in John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part 2.

Ministry Updates

PLEASE MAKE NOTE- ALTERED SUMMER SCHEDULE

Due to the numerous programs and events happening at our church this summer, we have altered the church calendar for June and July.

Traditionally, we would take a break from Wednesday night activities during the month of July. This year, instead, we will **not** be having any Wednesday night activities during the month of June. The last Wednesday night dinner and prayer meeting will be on Wednesday, June 3 and will resume on Wednesday, July 8.



SONGS & SWEETS RESUMING

Pastor Connie is resuming Songs & Sweets on Sunday, May 31 at 6:30 PM. Songs & Sweets is a traditional hymn sing-along followed by a time of fellowship and sharing of a sweet treat. Come and let us share our voices in praise together! Mark your calendars with the following other dates for Songs & Sweets- June 28, July 26, and August 30.



DEACON NOMINATIONS

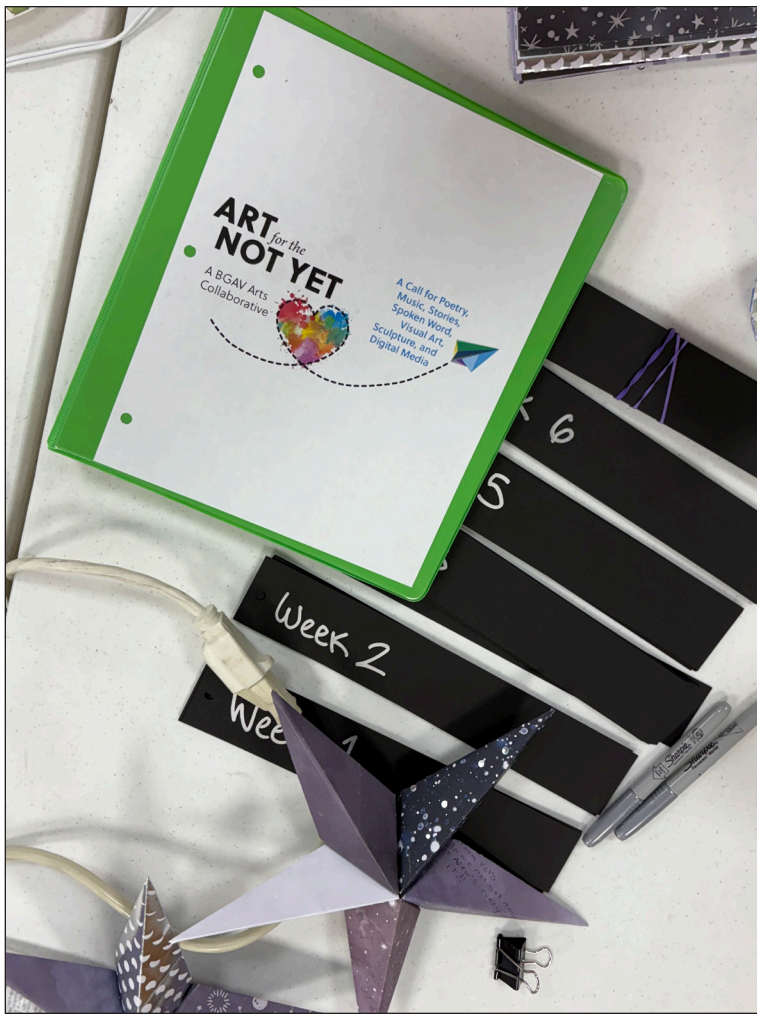
We are asking you to begin thinking now about who you would like to nominate to serve as a Deacon at Melrose Baptist Church. We will receive nominations June 14-21 through paper forms you can return in the offering plate or through an online nomination form that will be sent out via email that week.

The practice of choosing Deacons goes back to Acts 6, when the church in Jerusalem selected 7 of its members to serve the needs of the congregation so that the apostles could focus on preaching and prayer. Paul would later advise that deacons should have good character, a deep faith commitment, and responsible in the church and in their personal lives. At Melrose, we state that Deacons should be individuals who demonstrate commitment to the Kingdom of God and the mission and ministry of our church.

Please be in prayer for who you would like to nominate to serve as a Deacon and also prayerfully consider how you will respond if God and your church family ask you to serve. Many people feel they are not worthy or qualified to serve as a Deacon when asked. I like to remind folks that Moses spent 3 chapters of Exodus listing off to God all the reasons why he couldn't be the leader God was asking him to be only to hear God say, "But you are who I want. I will be with you. We will do this together." As you consider who you will nominate, please remember that those who are currently serving as Deacons are not eligible to be nominated again. Their names are listed below. Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity to serve our church and our Lord!

Current Deacons

Don and Linda Altice
Lois Bailey
Jack and Joan Batten
Robin Bennett
Stephanie Cook
Glenn and Robin Echols
Diana Hackworth
Dom and Darcy Havens
David and Jan Heath
Derek Hicks
Larry Hicks
Patty Huffman
Lori Kangas
Rhonda Kessler
Steven and Teresa Kennedy
Ty Lawson
Billy Martin
Tracie Overstreet
Joyce Poore
Tom and Sheri Tickle
Annie Richerson
Chris and Sandy Sloane
Don and Edna Slone
Jeb Wallace
Abby Wilson



PLEASE JOIN US- ART FOR THE NOT YET RECEPTION

What does it look like to imagine God's heart for people and places still waiting to be reached? *Art for the Not Yet* is inviting painters, photographers, poets, musicians, and creatives of every kind to create original work inspired by the theme *Heart for the Not Yet*.

Selected pieces will be featured at the BGAV's 2026 Annual Meeting and shared to help the church imagine what God is still doing.

We are inviting local churches and Christian artists to join us on Thursday, June 18 at 6 PM at Melrose Baptist Church to learn more about this creative initiative and how to get involved. The evening will include refreshments, a time of learning more about *Art for the Not Yet*, and a short creative activity to help participants brainstorm.

If you or a group from your church is planning to come, please let Blair (communications@melrosebaptist.org) know via email or text so can properly prepare!

Interested in learning more? [CLICK HERE](#) to watch a short video about the Art for the Not Yet.



THIS MONTH'S LAAF GATHERING...

Those 50 and older are invited to this month's Living Abundantly After Fifty (LAAF) gathering on Tuesday, June 16 at 10 AM. John Tillery will be the guest presenter and will be sharing about his trip to one of the largest hot air balloon shows in the country. Lunch will take place after the meeting at Bellacino's in Daleville, VA. The Mission Action Project is asking for donations of snack packs for Good Samaritan Hospice.

IMPACT MISSIONS CAMP HOSTING

Please be aware that during the week of June 21-27 Melrose Baptist Church will be hosting Impact Missions Camp. During the week some activities will take place in a different area of the church or will not meet that week. Please check the church calendar for the most up to date information. During the evening our guests will be using most of the building for recreation, eating, and sleeping.

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**.

May and June Menu

- 6/3: barbecue, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, berry oatmeal bars

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Ushers

6/7: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham
6/14: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham
6/21: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth
6/28: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth

Courtesy Team

6/7: Tracie Conley, Allen Journell
6/14: Larry Hicks, Don Altice
6/21: Steve Kennedy, Larry Wirt
6/28: Annie Richerson, Gary Dixon

Safety Team

6/7: Danny Jarrett, Barry Wickham
6/14: Gary Hurd, Larry Wirt
6/21: Gary Dixon, Steve Kennedy
6/28: Larry Hicks, Jeff Poore

Youth Dinners

6/7: No youth- VBS set-up
6/14: No youth- leave for Impact Missions Camp
6/21: No youth- Father's Day
6/28: Pat Nagel, Debby Hill

MOST RECENT FINANCE REPORT- APRIL

May 2026

Monthly Income: \$51,532.22
Monthly Expenses: \$67,638.90

Year to Date

Total Income: \$252,655.90
Total Expenses: \$271,862.98

June Church Calendar

June 1-7

MONDAY- 6/1

10 AM Bible Study
11:30 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 6/2

11:30 AM Staff Lunch
2 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 6/3

9:45 AM RVBA Finance Committee
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
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 6/4

6:30 PM Church Council
6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

SUNDAY- 6/7

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
Communion
12 PM Children's Committee
12 PM Fork Fellowship

June Church Calendar

June 8-14

MONDAY- 6/8

9 AM- 12 PM VBS

TUESDAY- 6/9

9 AM- 12 PM VBS
12:30 PM Staff Planning Meeting
6 PM Nominating Committee
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 6/10

9 AM- 12 PM VBS

THURSDAY- 6/11

10:30 AM Alma Hunt (offsite)
11:30 AM Staff Lunch
7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

SATURDAY- 6/13

9 AM-4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 6/14

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship

June 15-21

MONDAY- 6/15

11 AM Stewardship Committee
11:30 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 6/16

10 AM LAAF
2 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

THURSDAY- 6/18

6 PM Art for the Not Yet Reception
6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

FRIDAY- 6/19

10 AM Art for Not Yet Workday

SUNDAY- 6/21

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship

June 22-30

TUESDAY- 6/23

2 PM Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY- 6/24

6:15 PM Business Meeting

SUNDAY- 6/28

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

MONDAY- 6/29

10 AM Bible Study
10 AM Art for Not Yet Workday
11:30 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 6/30

2 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study