

The Witness

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Newsletter

August 2025

Navigating Change Again

Change! Oh, my! The older I get the harder it is. Yet, change is still a part of life.

So what do I do? Embrace the good aspects of the past. Be thankful. Celebrate! Value all the parts that are precious. And then look forward. Life continues, just in new ways. Ways that offer new gifts, new experiences and new opportunities. When we stop adjusting forward, we regress. We shrivel. We die.

Once again we face change within our church. Steve Couch has been such a valuable part of our weekly worship. At a time when we were uncertain about the future and what we would do, the Lord brought us Steve. An amazing guy with tremendous pastoral skills and valuable music abilities, guiding us in a worshipful presence on Sunday morning with faithfulness and godliness. I could go on. For me he was not just a co-laborer, but also a trusted friend. And while Steve and Pat will continue in the church, some of his roles will change as he retires from the demanding role of Praise Team leader. And now we once again face uncertainty with the Praise Team Leader position and a giant hole to fill in ministry.

But the Lord is still faithful. The church and its services are still

His. He will provide. We should celebrate what we have had. We can see the value that has been given. We can be thankful to the Lord for what He has done. And then we must move forward.

One of the dangers we face is that music in a church can become a divisive thing. Maybe the most problematic area that churches face relates to music. We all have our preferences. We grew up and were nurtured with styles that have become our 'heart language' of worship. Others were nurtured under other styles that became their "heart language" of worship. I feel that a church must seek to minister to all those various 'heart languages'. That is why 'blending' styles, regularly offering various 'styles' of music, is so important. Steve has done a good job of moving us in this direction. And so we will continue in this path.

It is time to put aside ourselves and focus on what the Lord desires for our future. May we not devolve into divisiveness. Nor let us gripe or complain. May we not try to compare the past and future. But may we move forward with expectations of great things that God desires to do.

Begin to pray that the Lord will provide us with a leader that will carry us into the future, able to cross 'heart languages' as he leads us in worship. A man of

godliness, humility and leadership. A man that loves people and has a passion for God. A man whose strength is worship and the ability to lead others in worship.

The search has begun. Pray with us as we seek God's man for the hour.

Pastor Danny

August Outreach

We're in the midst of summer – but summer break is almost over. How quickly time goes! School is about to begin, and with it kid/youth activities. A brown bag / DIY spaghetti supper will have been provided to the school staff by the time you read this. This is being done in cooperation with the school superintendent and Seymore Fellowship church. It will be followed by our annual teacher breakfast on Wednesday August 6, 8:00 AM for all the school staff. School starts on August 7. Wednesday afternoon kids/youth programs start on August 13. What a great set of opportunities to pour into our school system and many young lives. Thanks for all who participate. See Shi/Dennis/Danny if you would like to help out this year. Pray as we adjust the programs to accommodate the new school time schedule.

The quarterly cooking video will occur on Thursday, August 21, at 11:00 AM. Thanks to Pat for driving this and others who provide their support. It is a great time to learn new recipes and to actually try them out. Good food and fellowship. Come try it out and bring a neighbor.

Not sure when, but Tips for Tots will be coming up as well. A great time to support the needs of needy kids in Wood County. Also, Lord's Supper will be held on the fifth Sunday of August (August 31) during the morning service. Also, note that the church office will be closed on September 1 for Labor Day.

Buckle up. Things are starting to roll. Get involved. Invite others.

August Youth Update

I'll be preaching at Camp Grace in Fairmont, NC the last week of July. I will likely be back by time you are reading this!

Authentic Youth kicks back off August 13th. We're excited for a new year focused on outreach, with the parable of the lost sheep as our theme. We want to reach the lost, disciple the found, and equip students to live boldly for Jesus.

Our Teacher Breakfast is August 6th at 8 AM. Come out and help us love on our teachers and bless them as they start a new school year.

Please keep Sam and myself, Wayne and Christine, and Keith in your prayers as we lead our students. Pray for continued open doors at the school, that God would raise up students to start a

Bible study, and for See You at the Pole. Pray that the lost would be found. And most of all, pray that God will be glorified through our efforts. Thank you!

In Him,
Dennis Wagner



At-A-Glance:	
June's Gifts:	\$20,942. ⁰⁰
2025 Gifts :	\$103,561. ⁴⁷
2025 Budget:	\$286,384. ⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
Cell: 620-397-1753
Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Pastor: **Bro. Dennis Wagner**
Cell: 757-235-3766
Email: fbcy.youth@peoplescom.net

Music and Senior Adult Pastor:
Bro. Steve Couch
Cell: 903-456-4220
Email: stevecouchmusic@gmail.com

Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
In the office Mon. - Thurs.,
8:30am - 2:30pm

Church Phone: 903-383-2393
Church Fax: 903-383-2384

Church Email:
fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Church Website:
www.fbcyantispastor.com

