

# The Witness

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Newsletter

July 2025

## “Standing Firm”

Do you ever feel like you face a whirlwind of opposition. Not necessarily just from people, but from life. Recently, I preached about spiritual warfare from Ephesians 6. And perhaps that is the source of some of those times of our lives. And as Paul (and James) says, in the midst of these times, we just need to stand. To persevere. To resist. To humble oneself to God by faith. And the result will be that Satan ultimately flees and the storm passes by (at least for a while). The Lord remains in control.

That has been a bit of reality for me recently. But the winds seem to be subsiding. A fresh calm and vision is emerging. It is so easy to be caught up in the chaos and disappointments of life. Especially, when the chaos is enabled from the Adversary. One more time, I am reminded of the need for focus. For consistency. For perseverance. And a renewed dependence upon Christ. The journey is too hard for any of us. But not for Him. And any opposition, from any source, has no ability to bring us down, as we look humbly to Him by faith. (I’m listening to my own sermon here).

I want to thank all of you who filled out the ministry survey. It provided me perspective. It served as a level set of where we are in the various ministries of the church (and in my own ministry).

It reminded of areas that can be improved. But the results were overwhelmingly positive. Not that we have arrived, but neither are we about to fall into a ditch.

Summary of survey results (30 forms) (ratings 1-5 with 5 being exceptionally effective):

Overall – 4.32

Sermon ministry – 4.24

Music ministry – 4.37

Special events – 4.31

Deacon care – 4.54

Pastoral care – 4.76

Sunday School – 4.46

Men’s / Ladies’ Bible Study – 4.5  
(Each had the same score)

Wednesday youth/children ministries – 4.78

In all our lives, it is easy to focus on the negative. On the things that are problems. On the things that miss the mark. But it is critical to look beyond the problems. To see what God is doing. To give thanks for where we have come. To anticipate what He desires to do into the future. And see how even in our weakness, He is not limited. In fact in our weakness we are the strongest as we look to Him.

Let us not be complacent. Let us strive to move forward. But let us not fall into discouragement. Let us not quit. Let’s be excited about what is yet to be done. What we can improve. What the Lord yet desires to accomplish through us. Even in our weakness.

Pastor Danny

## July Outreach

Summer is here. That means youth camp. The first week of July they will be at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Encampment. Pray for both kids and adults as they engage in this potentially lifechanging week. And when they return the first Sunday of July, they will conduct the entire Sunday AM service. That will be fun. Don’t miss it.

Who doesn’t like ice cream? To celebrate Fourth of July, and the dog days of summer, we will have an ice cream social, Sunday, July 6 at 5:00 PM. Feel free to bring your favorite ice cream, and if you make homemade, that is even better. But regardless, come and enjoy. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family.

Note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, July 3 for Independence Day.

Not quite in July (but close), the Men’s breakfast is set for August 2 at 8:00 AM. Danny Caldwell will be speaking and giving perspectives from his role as Director of Missions (DOM) for Rehoboth Baptist Association. Men/boys of all ages are welcome.

It’s summer. Stay cool. Stay safe. Reach out to people.

## Music Ministry

The Praise Team did another wonderful job during the month of June. Laura began the month with an organ special of "In the Garden". The next Sunday, Wayne Miles sang "All New Things". Sam Wagner blessed us with the song "Holy Forever" and Kathy Freeman sang the beautiful song "Come Jesus Come".

I also want to Thank Pat Brown and Sherri Jackson for their awesome piano playing.

It is good to have Leanne back to run the song slides and videos. Plus Ethan is doing a great job on the sound.

Bro Steve

## June/ July Youth Ministry Update

This summer has been full of meaningful moments with our students! As you're reading this, we've likely just returned from youth camp (June 29–July 4). Thank you for your prayers and overwhelming financial support—it made it possible for us to take 20 students and 3 leaders to camp!

We're especially excited to lead the service and share a recap of camp on Sunday, July 6th. We hope you'll join us to hear how God moved in the lives of our students.

Throughout the rest of the summer, we're keeping things simple with laid-back Bible studies and casual hangouts. It's been a great season to slow down, build relationships, and keep our eyes on Jesus.

Thank you for continuing to pray for our youth!

—Dennis Wagner, Youth Pastor



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## At-A-Glance:

May's Gifts: \$24,050.<sup>87</sup>  
2025 Gifts : \$103,561.<sup>47</sup>  
2025 Budget: \$286,384.<sup>00</sup>