

JULY 2021

THE MESSENGER

Talbot Park Baptist Church

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JULY BIRTHDAYS

Dana Costas - 2

Linda James - 4

Jackie Kirkman - 7

Mike McNabb - 7

Karen Baril - 8

Edward Budimier - 10

Sharon Woodard - 12

Chuck Steinbruck - 13

Richard Ewell - 19

Brandon Woodard - 19

Aaron Brittain - 20

Douglas Budimier - 20

Ross Foster - 20

Bill Seibert - 22

Chuck White - 22

Craig Casper - 23

Kayli Hyatt - 24

Judy Smith - 31

SERMON TEXTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

July 4

Jordann McMahan
preaching

July 11

Mark 6:7-29

July 18

Mark 6:30-45

July 25

Mark 6:53-56

During July, Aaron will be preaching a series of sermons from Mark Chapter 6.



INTRODUCING LAURA MAXEY

We are pleased to welcome our new Office Manager, Laura Maxey. She has been serving as a preschool teacher for the last year. Laura will begin with us full-time in mid July. Please come by and introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome. Read more about Laura below:

Hello, my name is Laura Maxey and I am so excited to be starting as the Office Manager for Talbot Park Baptist Church and Preschool. After working as the one-year-old teacher here this past school year, I am looking forward to this new position within the Preschool and Church. I have grown up in Virginia and am currently in Norfolk with my husband and our two Golden Retrievers. I love spending my time off work with them and always enjoy finding new places that are pet friendly for them to come with us.

THE REVEREND'S RAMBLINGS

Two controversies in the news recently caught my attention. The first is a debate among Catholic bishops about whether to serve President Biden communion because he supports abortion. The second, which many of you have asked me about, was the recent movement within the Southern Baptist Convention to install more conservative leaders in an effort to purge a perceived creeping liberal influence.

While each situation is different, both involve a denominational body attempting to exert control over individuals in order to maintain theological purity. You might be thinking that's what denominational bodies are for. But at least for Baptists, one of our most cherished principles is that every local church is an autonomous unit that can make its own decisions. The SBC may not agree with those decisions (and by the way, Talbot Park has not been formally associated with the SBC since the 1990's. We are affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship), but we still have the freedom of conscience to act as God leads us.

But I think those arguments about whose decision it is misses the larger point and that is this —It is not the job of the church to be the morality police for the world. I am generally opposed to abortion. But if we are to start denying communion to everyone who has an opinion with which we differ, even if we believe it to be a sinful opinion, none of us will receive communion again. Likewise, the idea that we can get rid of all the "subversive elements" to make our denomination pure assumes that we should only include those based on our idea of who is morally righteous. I couldn't disagree more. While the church certainly has a role in standing up for what is right, I believe our first duty is to extend grace. We are a hospital for sinners, not a retreat for the healthy. Jesus never prayed for us to get rid of all the sinners so that we can avoid contamination by association. That's a very Pharisee-sounding prayer to my ears. What Jesus prayed was for us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

I trust that one day, God will judge us and take care of all our impurities. At that time, I have no doubt that I will be found wrong on many theological issues. So will you. I'll leave that up to God to sort out. In the meantime, let's offer the love and hospitality of Christ to everyone and remember that we are all sinners in need of grace.

UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES

Per the new guidelines from the CDC and the Governor, Talbot Park is no longer requiring masks during worship for individuals who have been fully vaccinated. Reminder that fully vaccinated means having both shots and a two week period following. We have no way of knowing if you've been vaccinated but we will abide by the honor system. Individuals who remain vulnerable or who wish to continue to wear a mask will of course be encouraged to do so. No one will be pressured to remove their mask. Those who feel uncomfortable being around others without masks should be advised that there will be many maskless folks present in worship from this point forward.

A reminder that Sunday School has resumed at 9:30am every week.

ANNUAL CANNED FOOD CHALLENGE



Many local food banks run low on supplies during the summer months. So, during the month of July, we will once again have a contest between the men and the women of Talbot Park to see who can collect the most non-expired, canned or non-perishable food items for the Southeast Virginia Food Bank.

Beginning Sunday, July 4th and continuing through Sunday, July 25th, everyone is asked to bring their items to church and place them up front in the sanctuary, on either the side marked "men" or "women." We will tally them up and whichever gender has collected the most cans by July 25th will receive a special prize. This is a good way to have fun and make a difference. We have done this for many years now with great results and hope to have equal success this year!

OCEANAIR STAFF BREAKFAST



On Friday, June 4, Talbot Park provided breakfast for the teachers and staff of Oceanair Elementary to recognize them for their hard work over the past year.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the delicious breakfast treats. It was so thoughtful of you all to think of us. It has been a challenging year to say the least. It is nice to know you appreciate us and I am certain you were praying for us! Oceanair is lucky and blessed to have such wonderful people who support us.

Sincerely,
Brenda Sheridan
Kindergarten Teacher

QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

Meeting Reminder—Sunday, July 25th will be the quarterly business meeting. Lunch will be served at 12 noon and the meeting will begin at 12:45pm. We will have a box lunch from Pollard's. **The cost is \$8.00 per person. Please make your lunch reservations by 5pm, Thursday, July 22nd.** We will only order for those who have signed up.

We will also take this time to recognize and honor Dana Costas for her years of service as our Preschool Director.



CHURCH WEBSITE OVERHAUL

The church website recently got an overhaul, including online giving. You may use the website to view previous worship services, consult the monthly Messenger, see a weekly schedule of events, and find out other information about the church. The website is a great tool for ministry communication. Check it out: talbotparkbaptistchurch.org.



Students will gather on July 7th and 14th for Youth Group in the Rec Room at 5:30.

We will be heading to Danville, VA July 16th-18th for a Youth Retreat! We are partnering with Grace and Main Fellowship, which is an intentional Christian community in the heart of the city. They are a wonderful group that cares specifically for their homeless and marginalized neighbors through regular meals, helping establish tenant's rights, a tool library, and an urban farm. We will spend time learning and working to support their mission. A few opportunities for prayer are safety on our journey as well as good fun and lots of learning opportunities!

On July 21st and 28th we will be meeting at a local park for youth group. More information to come!

Thank you for your prayers and support during my time here. It has been a huge blessing, and I'm incredibly grateful for this family of believers.

Grace and Peace,
Jordann



Preschool News

We have officially wrapped on our 2020-2021 school year! It was wonderful to be able to have all of our families for our first event since COVID in the church sanctuary for our preschool graduation. Thank you all for your support throughout this past school year. We are looking forward to many more awesome opportunities to make a difference in our community through our school going into summer camp and our 2021-2022 school year. Summer camp kicks off on June 28th and will run until August 27th. There are so many fun things planned for the students, and I know they are going to have a blast! I hope you all have a safe and relaxing summer.

Anna Selvy

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & POOL PARTY




We will meet at the home of Buzz and Sheri Foster on Saturday, July 24th, 6:00-8pm, for an ice cream social. Everyone is asked to bring a lawn chair and their favorite flavor of homemade or store-bought ice cream. Toppings and drinks will be provided. If you would like, wear your swimsuit and enjoy a dip in the pool. If you need a ride, please contact the church office.

(Foster's address is 7142 Hunters Chase in Norfolk)



July 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Celebration of the Lord's Supper	5 Independence Day Observed Church Office and Preschool Closed	6	7 5:30pm Youth Group in the Rec Room	8	9	10
11	12	13 7pm Deacons Meeting	14 5:30pm Youth Group in the Rec Room	15	16  July 16-18th in Danville, VA	17
18	19 7pm Finance Meeting	20	21 5:30pm Youth Group at the Park	22 7pm Church Council	23	24  6-8pm Ice Cream Social at the home of Buzz & Sheri Foster
25 12 Noon Lunch and Business Meeting	26	27	28 5:30pm Youth Group at the Park	29	30	31