

## The Scandal of Hospitality

One of the most scandalous things Jesus did during His earthly ministry was to eat with tax collectors and sinners. In Luke 15:1-2, we read, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

In their book, *The 9 Arts of Spiritual Conversations*, Mary Schaller and John Crilly describe hospitality as being welcoming. They write, "Welcoming is simply the act of showing unconditional acceptance to people without any expectations of reciprocation. When you welcome people into your life and activities, you are reflecting Christ's love and acceptance. When people experience the warmth of your welcome, they are drawn to it, as they would be to a light in the darkness or a fire on a chilly night. When they have a taste, like a sample of savory food, they want more. This is an action that speaks to any culture and across any language, race, or religious divide. In this way, we are following Jesus' instruction in Matthew 5 to be light and salt to people we know."

As we think about our 2019 theme "Connect," it's hard to imagine connecting with others without making room to welcome them into our lives. If we are going to help others connect with our loving Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, we can begin by welcoming new people into our lives. This type of 'welcoming' creates a safe place from which questions about faith can be shared.

Let's follow Jesus' example of welcoming others into His life!

For Him,  
Chad



**THIS SUNDAY** **CONNECT**  
OUR 2019 CHALLENGE  
at Berea First Baptist Church

9:00 am - Bible Study Groups

10:15 am - Morning Worship Service

6:00 pm - Evening Worship Service

### Wednesday Night Bible Study

6:30 pm  
In the Chapel

## School Supply Donations due by Sunday, July 28

Last year the Reaching Center gave out around 300 book bags filled with school supplies to children in need. We are confident that we will be able to help just as many families this year but we need your help. Please bring your donations of book bags and school supplies to the church office during the week or to the Welcome Center on Sunday.

**ITEMS NEEDED:** backpacks, 1 or 2 inch binders, spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled), notebook paper (wide or college ruled), erasers (pearl or cap), no. 2 pencils, pencil sharpeners, pencil holders, black or blue pens, glue sticks, fiskars scissors, crayons, colored pencils.

## Upcoming Important Dates for the Reaching Center

**Monday, July 29** will be backpack and school supply workday. We will begin at 10am and work until 2pm preparing the backpacks to be given out the next week. If you can spare an hour or several hours, any and all will be of great help.

**Tuesday, August 6** our backpacks will be distributed, 9:30-12:00. Extra hands are always needed on this day to help give out our backpacks and let the children know our prayers for them are to have a great, successful school year.

**Tuesday, August 13** we will begin our regular schedule of distributing food and clothes and household items.

## Welcome New Member



**Tyler Pappy (Son of Paul Pappy)**  
309 Wild Geese Way  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

## Armstrong Elementary Volunteers 2019-2020

What would it be like to capture the attention of a child or classroom as you read about exciting adventures? What if you could encourage some of the most amazing leaders right here in our community? What if you could convince a child they are loved and prayed for each and every week?

During the 2018-2019 school year, our church had the wonderful privilege of loving and serving the children and staff of Armstrong Elementary. They opened the door and you responded in incredible ways! A team of over 40+ workers gave around 30 minutes a week (some much more time) as they were paired up with a teacher and classroom. Will you consider this amazing opportunity?

It is up to us to respond to this open door. I invite you to join together on **Sunday, August 11 at 5pm in the Chapel** as we share the stories of God's faithfulness to use our team of volunteers *and* how we can serve during the upcoming school year. **Note:** All volunteers are asked to attend - even if you served last year. Let's embrace this open door given to us by the school leadership! I look forward to seeing all of you on August 11th as we discuss the upcoming school year. - *Michael Hodge*

## The Very Newest

Congratulations to Kent and Dianne Vinson on the birth of two grandsons:  
Harvey Alroy Suber, new son of Drew and Kayla Suber, born May 29 and Wallace Bryson Hillman, new son of Brian and Nicole Hillman, born June 29.

## Financial Report Sunday, July 14

Total Annual Budget.....\$1,429,626.76  
Budgeted Gifts Rec'd 7-14.....\$16,428.03  
Legacy Gifts.....\$187.00  
Designated/Reimbursement.....\$8,716.22  
Total Deposit.....\$25,331.25

## BFBC Mission Trips

Continue to pray for our teams as they travel to spread the Gospel this summer.

**Kentucky Mission Trip**  
July 13-19

**Youth Philadelphia Trip**  
July 20-27

**Uganda Mission Trip**  
July 25-August 6

## Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of Brenda Smith.

## Memorials

*Gifts have been given in memory of:*

Brenda Smith by:

Esther Sunday School Class  
Vivian Day  
Anne Linder

Helen Kay by:

Anne Linder

## In Need of Prayer?

- Complete the Pew Prayer Request forms and place in offering plate.
- Call 246-9182, ext. 1 and leave a message.
- Email to [prayerrequest@bereafbc.org](mailto:prayerrequest@bereafbc.org)

## Help us Restock our Reaching Center Shelves

Items needed: fruit, diced tomatoes, mixed vegetables, soup

## July Mission Project

*School Supplies for the Reaching Center*



## Opportunities

### SUNDAY

9:00 am  
10:15 am  
6:00 pm

Bible Study  
Morning Worship  
Evening Worship

### WEDNESDAY

6:30-7:30 pm

Bible Study in the Chapel

### THURSDAY

7:00 am

Men's Prayer Group

## MEN'S PRAYER GATHERING



at BEREA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**Thursday mornings 7am  
in the Welcome Center**

You'll be out the door by 8am for work or you can join us for breakfast.

## Greeters Needed

We're looking for some new smiling faces of all ages to welcome members and guests on Sunday morning. You can help each week, once a month or once a quarter. You will be scheduled to greet our members and guests at the Welcome Center doors or in the front of the sanctuary. Sign up now and help us fulfill our mission to "connect people to Christ." Please see Tracy for more information or to volunteer.

"Declare his glory among the nations" Ps. 96:3

## MISSIONSCORNER

*By Michael Hodge*

***Psalm 96:3, "Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples."***

In the Book of Acts, we see the early church making disciples who made disciples. The church multiplied as every believer embraced their role in spreading the Gospel. I praise God for the work He has done this summer in multiplying the spread of the Gospel. Whether our location was here in our community, state, nation, or other nation, our witness multiplied by everyone doing their part in each mission field. Thank you for your willingness to go and let's praise God for how He calls each of us to different places with the same purpose.