

# CHALLENGER 2024

Second Baptist Church 201 N. Houser St. Cherryville, NC 28021

## A Word from Matt

If there is one word that I could use to describe the times in which we are living it would be the word anxious. In conversations with folks and just in the general mood of our time it seems as though people are more worried than perhaps they have ever been. This anxiety has caused people to be angry and stressed. This anxiety has also caused people to develop apathy and a sense of hopelessness about the future. The presence of this anxiety has caused me to wonder about its source and what we can do to alleviate this fear that is so prevalent right now.

I believe the main source of anxiety is that we have allowed so many things over which we have no control over to dominate our thinking and our lives. Whether it be the political climate, the social unrest we see in our world, or just the fear of the unknown we seem to be obsessed with things far outside of our control. Perhaps it is a reminder that we are more fragile than we realize, perhaps it is a reminder that we are not the Masters of the Universe that we often want to be. I have been struck by what is in reality perhaps a deeper source of this anxiety. At the root of our anxiety is our inability to trust that God is really in control. When we believe that things are outside of God's control we are prone to worry. When we believe that God is not the master of his creation, that he is not Lord over everything then we are prone to worry. As I was thinking about this reality and how we can settle this issue once and for all in our own hearts I was reminded of what Jesus said in Luke 12:32 he said, "Fear not little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." I love that Jesus starts by saying "Fear not." In saying that he acknowledges our tendency to fear and also reminds us that unhealthy fear is something we can remove from our lives. Fear or anxiety comes when we take our eyes off the fact that God is in control. Fear and anxiety come into our lives when we think that we are the ones who have to control our circumstances, that we are the ones who have to control what goes on around us, and that we are the ones who are in charge instead of God.

He reminds us of who we are by calling us little flock, little, not in the sense of small or insignificant in number but little in the sense of being precious to him. You see you and I need to remember that God loves us far more than we could ever imagine. Because he loves us more than we could ever imagine, we can rest in the confidence that because he is in control and we are loved we have no reason to fear.

We also need to be reminded that it is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. In the verse before this Jesus tells us to seek his kingdom above all else. When that is our focus, when that is our priority, then we can rest knowing that if the world falls apart, if the mountains were to fall into the sea, then God's kingdom will still stand forever. As Martin Luther said in his famous hymn. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God: Let goods and Kindred go, this Mortal life also, our body they may kill, his truth abideth still, his kingdom is forever. So in this world of anxiety and in this world of uncertainty let us not fear what comes our way because we know that we serve a king who will never ever leave his throne.

For His Glory,  
Matt

*In Honor and  
Memory*

**GIDEON BIBLES**


In Honor of Chris & Tammy Kiser  
By: Bill & Kathy Black

In Memory of Brenda Eaves  
By: Bill & Kathy Black  
By: Judy Hinson  
By: Chris & Tammy Kiser  
By: Vickie Walker  
By: Second Baptist Church

**CARE TEAM**

In Memory of Randy Ford  
By: Joette Ford

*Second Baptist Church would like to extend our sympathy to:  
Crystal Stewart and family on the death of her mother....Brenda Eaves*



<b>A U G U S T  10</b>	<p><b>Back to School Bash</b></p> <p>Second Baptist 201 Houser Street Cherryville, NC 28021</p> <p>10:00am - 12:00pm</p>
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*August 7*

*The Happy Hearts will leave for Strawberry Hill at  
10:30 am.*





Friday, August 9

*There is a Youth Rally at New Beginnings Church  
in Fallston, NC at 5:30pm.*

*Our very own Chesnee Stewart will be sharing her testimony.  
The Youth will leave the church at 4:45pm. Adults are also  
welcome to attend.*



## *Thank You*

*We would like to say thank you for your generous gift to the Community Foundation Run 2024 in our honor. With your generous donation and 32% match we were able to raise \$20,414.32. These will go towards our assistance program and will help so many families within our community. Words cannot express how grateful we are for your continuous support!*

*Blessings,  
Cherryville Area Ministries*

*Dear Care Team,*

*Thank you so much for the prayers and cards. They have really touched my heart in a special way. You all are such special people!*

*Bonny Alexander*

*Thank you so much for your continued thoughts and prayers for Murphy. We Continue to be amazed at all the Lord has done in healing Murphy. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.*

*Chuck, Casey, Murphy,  
Emma Kate and Reece Clark*

*Dear Church,*


*Thank you for all the cards and prayers. We love Second Baptist Church Family.*

*Love,  
Eunice & Cleatus*

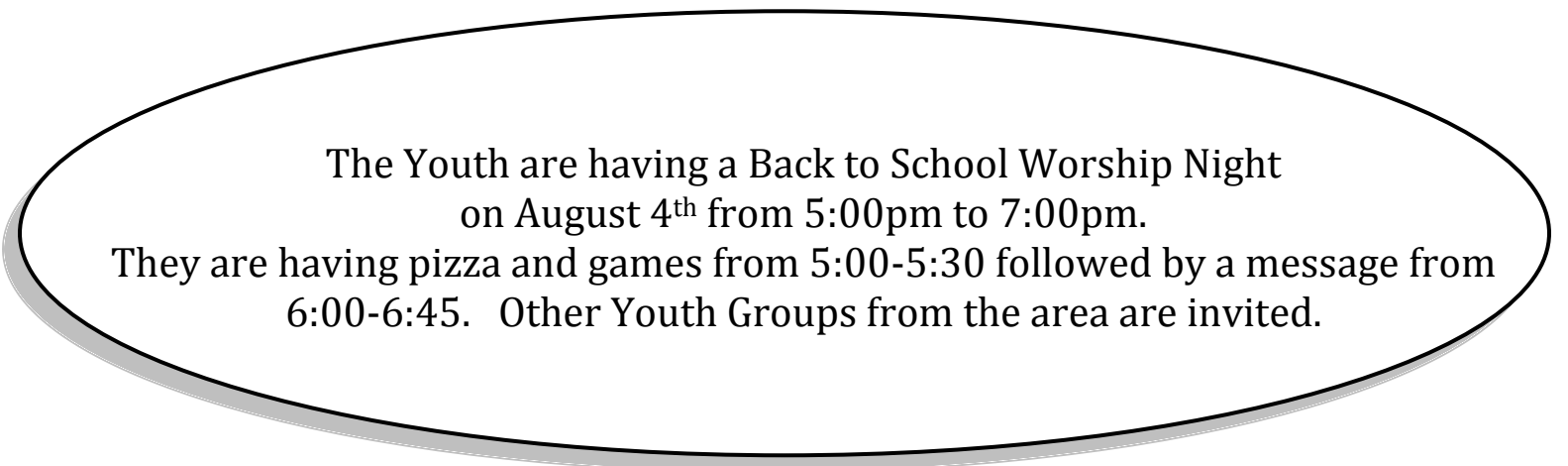
*Dear Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for the continued prayers, cards, food, phone calls and the kindness and sympathy shown to me and my family during this difficult time. You truly represent what a Church Family is.*

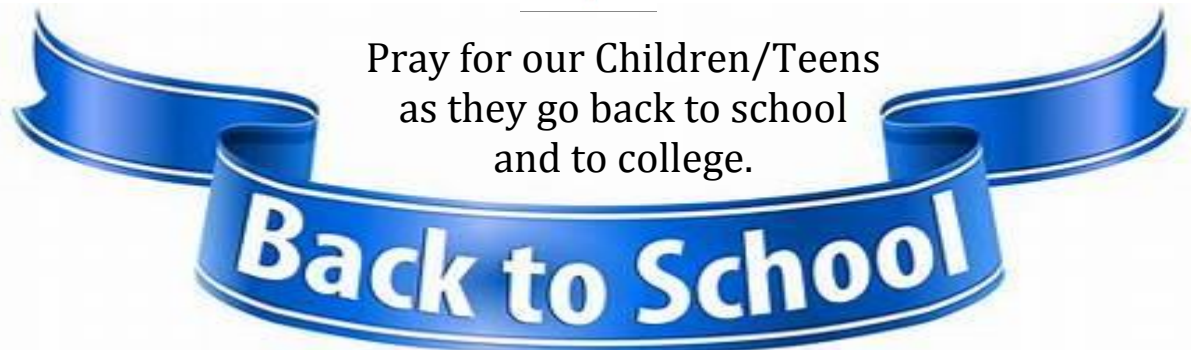
*Gratefully yours,  
Crystal Stewart*



You are invited to a Wedding Shower  
for  
Ryan Riffle and Amelia Queen on August 25<sup>th</sup>  
in the Fellowship Hall  
from 1:30pm – 3:00pm.  
They are registered at  
Amazon, Walmart & Rods.



The Youth are having a Back to School Worship Night  
on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.  
They are having pizza and games from 5:00-5:30 followed by a message from  
6:00-6:45. Other Youth Groups from the area are invited.



Pray for our Children/Teens  
as they go back to school  
and to college.

**Back to School**

O Lord, be with our children always, be with each one this day as they begin school. Keep them healthy, and keep them from harm. In all that they do and say, may they love you with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and may they love their school mates as thyself, so each one may fulfill Your purposes for them and Your calling on their life as a student. In Christ's name. Amen.