

JULY/AUGUST 2026

THE HARAN HERALD



HARANBAPTIST.COM

7539 Old Bent Mountain Road
Roanoke, VA 24018

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. —Ecclesiastes 3:1

The summer season is here. VBS has just been completed and God's Word has been shared once again. Children and adults alike have benefited from Haran's willingness to be a part of bringing the Word of God to others. One of the more forgettable activities (for me anyway) was the final night's activity, the dunk tank. Truth be told, it was not really forgettable as I really did enjoy being a part of seeing the children dunk us. While that was fun, the most important part was sharing of God's Word. You are all a part of that through your giving to the church.

The summer so far has been very hot, dry and muggy. The heat and drought bring to mind vacation time, travel, and a respite from school. The lack of rain has meant less grass cutting and more concern about gardens. It is fun to see the brief showers of rain we get from time to time. God sends the amount of rain that is needed for the moment. Those brief showers have been just enough to make the grass a little taller and greener. We often wish and pray for a more soaking rain, but God may see things differently.

While things seem to be very dry, God always has a plan and is NEVER surprised. He always supplies what is needed to replenish the earth.

God does the same for us. He knows our needs and is never at rest to supply them to us. He who has known us even before time, loves us and provides for our greatest need: a way to be in total fellowship with Him for eternity by acknowledging Jesus as our Savior!

The important thing to remember this summer is that God is always there for us. The question we need to ask is: Are we always there for God? Our love and service should not take a break for the summer. God always loves us and supplies us. Let's make sure we dedicate ourselves to worshipping and serving Jesus Christ all summer long!

I want to thank each of you for all the hard work you do for the Lord and Haran Baptist Church!

—Pastor Don

UPCOMING MEETINGS

JULY 12—CHURCH COUNCIL

If you are a committee or department head, please plan to stay after the worship service for this meeting where we report on the ministries of the church and plan upcoming events.

JULY 26—BUSINESS MEETING

At this meeting we will vote on two proposed changes to the church by-laws:

Article III, Section 2: Election of Committees

Current: Each committee shall meet and select a chairperson and submit the name of that person to the Board of Deacons within thirty (30) days of the new church year (October).

Proposed: Each committee shall meet and select a chairperson and submit the name of that person to the Board of Deacons within thirty (30) days of the new church year (**September**).

Article III, Section 3A: Nominating Committee

Current: By the regular business meeting in September, the Nominating Committee shall nominate all other church officers, standing and service committees. Upon election by the church, the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for seeing that each person is notified of being officially elected.

Proposed: **A special called business meeting will be called in August, where** the Nominating Committee shall nominate all other church officers, standing and service committees. Upon election by the church, the Nominating Committee shall be responsible for seeing that each person is notified of being officially elected **with a start date of September 1, the beginning of the new church year.**

MUSIC NOTES



Jesus said that if I thirst
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy;
I should come to Him.

Jesus said that if I fear
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield;
I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am lost
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross
He will come to me.

For the Lord is good and faithful;
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus—

JESUS, STRONG AND KIND.

Words and music by Colin Buchanan, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, and Rich Thompson.
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WE CAN ALWAYS RUN TO JESUS

What a blessing to hear our children's voices raised in song as the congregation sang *Jesus, Strong and Kind* on the Sunday after VBS. Did you hear them? We had sung that song together each night of VBS, so the kids were ready to join in: *For the Lord is good and faithful; He will keep us day and night.*

Jesus, Strong and Kind comes from CityAlight's album *Simple Songs for Young and Old*. These are songs meant for all generations to sing together, with uncomplicated words and melodies, but with timeless foundational truths from scripture. We've done several songs from this album already, and I hope to get to all of them.

If you've been unlucky enough to be caught in one my rants over the years, you know I've been carrying on for decades about VBS music—and the VBS industry as a whole. (The year one VBS publisher informed us all that Paul and Silas being arrested and imprisoned was just like riding a roller coaster, instructed music leaders to teach the ABCs of salvation through Whack-a-Mole, and then suggested giving the kids kazoos to play the theme song on as they went out into the halls, was the year that publisher lost me forever.)

VBS curricula typically come with their own music. There will be a song about the theme...but why on earth are we singing an ode to whatever the jungle/arctic/ocean/space/roller coaster/detective/pirate/food truck/aviation/video game/rainforest/spy/dessert/junkyard

theme is? What a poor use of time, energy, and mental space. (Those are all real themes, by the way.)

Then there will be songs for each day's main point, which, while inexcusably annoying, may be okay for getting the points across—but do they really, if you only ever hear them two or three times? They're certainly not of such caliber that we're going to add them to our congregational singing for years to come. They will be promptly forgotten. (Good.)

That's why we use real music in VBS. Real songs, with real messages. Songs we also use in our worship services, so our kids will know them and join in. Songs that fill their minds with good things, songs with truths that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

That's why, instead of singing *There's a Junkyard Redemption Coming for You* (sigh), we sing *Jesus, Strong and Kind, Victory in Jesus, In Christ Alone, Living Waters, His Mercy Is More, Who You Say I Am, and God Is for Us*. And then we sing them again in children's choir, in the praise band, in adult choir, and with the congregation on Sunday mornings. We proclaim together, again and again, that our hope is found in Christ alone, that we have victory in Jesus, that who the Son sets free is free indeed.

We have a precious opportunity during VBS! We have a chance to fill our kids' minds with truth, to send them out knowing, wherever they find themselves, whatever happens to them in life, they *can always run to Jesus—Jesus strong and kind.*

—Anna Ruth

VBS

Watch the video at haranbaptist.com!

Thank you to all the teachers, helpers, and kids who made VBS a resounding success! We had a great week learning how Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Thank you to all our workers for your dedication and for all the creative ways you find each year to share the love of Jesus!



THANK YOU!

Teachers

Debi Avery
Danielle Emery
Brittany Ferguson
Rebekah Johnson
Brittany Stoots

Bible Exploration

Mary Etta Summerville

Games

Aaron Avery
Sharon Avery
Bobby Ferguson
Jacob Hanson
Nate Johnson
Elisha Myers

Crafts

Dana Ferguson
Anita Smith

Snacks

Brittany Ferguson
Judy LaPrade

Registration/ attendance

Anita Smith

Photos/videos

Rebekah Johnson
Steve Smith

Teacher dinners

Brittany Ferguson
Dana Ferguson
Judy LaPrade

*Special thanks to
Linda Johnson for
getting the craft
projects ready to go
before leaving on
vacation, and to
Brittany and Noah
Ferguson for helping to
set up and take down!*





YOUTH NEWS

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

—Matthew 25:35-36

As our youth prepare to get ready to head to World Changers in July, we want to thank everyone who donated and prayed and contributed in some way to help us be able to go. Our youth get so excited every year as we prepare to go to World Changers because they love to serve others and when they go, they know that they are representing Haran Baptist Church. For them to see how others may not be as fortunate as they are makes them want to serve even more.

Dana and I are so proud of the way that our youth are willing to serve and work hard to help others. It is one of the main goals of our youth is to think more of others than ourselves and to love God so much that we want to serve those less fortunate than us.

Where is God asking you to serve in this season of your life and what can you do to use the gifts that God has given you to serve others? Maybe He is calling you to serve in the church, maybe He is calling you to serve in your neighborhood. Wherever God is calling you, answer that call. Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Lord kept every promise that He made to the Israelites. There were no promises that He failed to keep. Every promise came true.

—Joshua 21:45

These next few months we will be studying about the Israelites finally getting to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land and the years that follow as they do. Moses has died and God has called Joshua to lead the people into the promised land just as God had promised Abraham.

God's plan for His people and His faithfulness to His promises are the main points of our study. God used faithful men and women to accomplish what He had in mind. God still uses faithful men and women today to accomplish his purpose and plan, and just as He kept His promises to the Israelites, we also can trust that what He promises will come true and He is faithful to us all. Are we as believers trusting in God and His promises and are we faithful to Him? Amen.

—Bobby Ferguson

CONGRATULATIONS!



Jacob Hanson



Elisha Myers



Best wishes to our 2026 graduates! We pray God's blessing and guidance for you as you continue on the paths He has prepared for your lives.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

—Proverbs 3:5-6

ACTIVITIES & REC

What a wonderful start to our summer so far! We kicked off in May with our Ladies' Tea Event! What a wonderful time sipping tea and fellowshiping with the ladies of our church and their families! We had 31 women join us!



We ended May with our annual School's Out Ice Cream Social! More than 40 people showed up to enjoy with us. We all celebrated with pizza and more ice cream and toppings than our bellies could hold!



Coming up we are hosting a 4th of July Picnic! Join us on Sunday, July 5 directly after church for food and fellowship as we celebrate 250 years of American independence! The Activities Committee will provide chicken and drinks, and we are asking all who come to bring a side dish and/or dessert! Hope to see you all there!

We will be taking a little break in August with activities as everyone is coming out of summer and kids start back to school, but don't worry, we have a lot of fun stuff planned the second half of the year starting in September! Hope to see you all there! More info to come!

Blessings,
Brittany Stoots



LIBRARY NEWS

Does July 4th have something to do with your Christian religion?

July 4th commemorates the day in 1776 that our nation declared itself to be an independent nation, and no longer a colony of England. On that date, a number of our leading citizens signed what is known as the Declaration of Independence, stating our determination to become a free country.

Our independence did not come easily; only after several difficult years of war would it finally be won. Nor were our first years as a nation free from problems and controversies (as is still true). But our forefathers were determined to establish a free and democratic system of government, and the Declaration of Independence (together with our Constitution and the Bill of Rights) became the foundation for this. They have stood the test of time, and on July 4th we give thanks for the wisdom and faith and courage of those leaders.

Although it is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans July 4th is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. Molded into the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia (which proclaimed our independence) are these words from the Bible: Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof (Leviticus 25:10). Our legal system reflects our Judeo-Christian roots.

While we look with gratitude to the past on this July 4th, may we also look in faith to the future, and commit it and our lives to God and His will. The ancient words of the Psalmist are still true: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Psalm 33:12).

Find peace with God today.

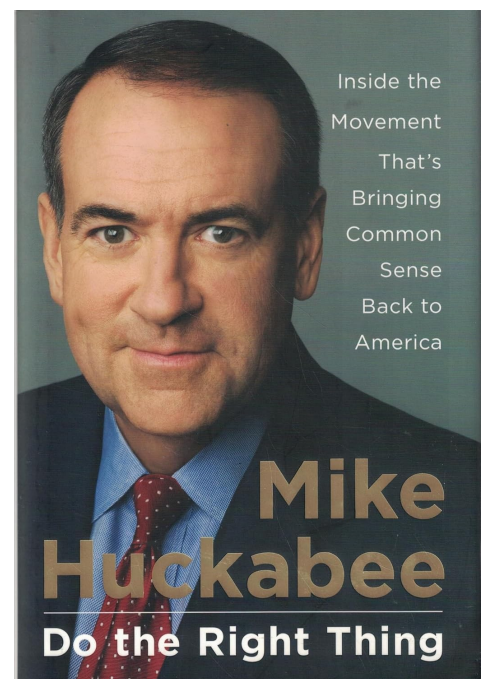
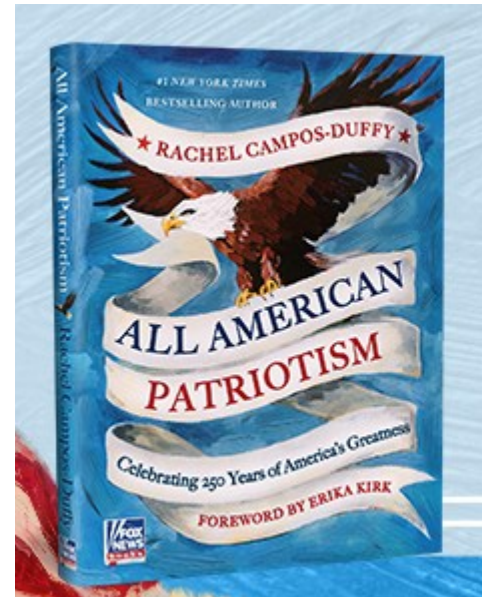
—Taken from *My Answer* by Billy Graham.

The following book was so graciously donated by Martha Knighton: ***All American Patriotism: Celebrating 250 Years of America's Greatness*** by Rachael Campos-Duffy. (Thank you, Martha.)

The following book was purchased and will be available in the library soon: ***Do the Right Thing: Inside the Movement That's Bringing Common Sense Back to America*** by Mike Huckabee.

Let me encourage you to use this 250th anniversary of our nation's birth to read and reflect on sacred texts like the Bible, historical Bible study and history books, or many of the religious and educational books found in our library. They are just waiting for an interested party to check them out and learn valuable information. Looking forward to seeing you in the library!

In Christian Love,
Denise Carey



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 10 Faye Blevins | 16 Danielle Emery | 26 Aaron Avery |
| Dewey Hale | 18 Zane Edmonds | 31 John Scott |
| 13 Warren Carey | Gene Knighton | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9 Dee & Amy Hartman | 30 Hunter & Cilvia Hartman |
| 28 Chuck & Joyce Van Dellen | Rick & Barbara Stone |

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 9 Sloan Biela | 20 Craig Champney | |
| 4 Jenny Johnson | Denise Carey | 22 Dee Hartman |
| Chuck Van Dellen | Amy Hartman | 29 Don Walker |
| 7 Daniel Hartman | 15 Lukas White | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 6 Jamie & Jamie Eller | 15 John & Lisa Scott |
| 9 Don & Linda Walker | 30 Ben & Olivia Bailey |

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Darrell Robinson | 22 Mary Ellen Hale |
| 8 Olivia Bailey | 23 Jessica Flanagan |
| Chris Stoots | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Gene & Martha Knighton

Are we missing a birthday or anniversary? Email the church office at haranbaptist@gmail.com and let us know.

