



Newsletter

JULY - 2022

Greetings!

Love Letters

I was reading a story about the famous poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, born in 1806. It's really a pretty wild story. She is the one who wrote that famous line of poetry . . . "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." It may be the best-known line of poetry ever written.

But do you know the back story of her life and why she wrote these words? Elizabeth had many illnesses as a child, but began writing poetry in her early teens. She was the oldest of 12 children and her father forbid her and all 12 children from getting married.

Eventually, Elizabeth met another poet by the name of Robert Browning. They corresponded by letters and met in secret. When Robert approached her father about marrying Elizabeth, he was denied and ordered out of the house — never to return. Eventually, they eloped and moved to Paris. Her father disinherited her.

Elizabeth did everything she could to be reconciled with her parents. She wrote beautiful, expressive, endearing letters to them. She did this for ten years without response. Finally, a package came from her parents. She was so excited to open the package, hoping her father had forgiven her.

In the box she found her letters, all unopened. Elizabeth was broken-hearted and never reconciled with her father.

What's the point? We have a love letter from God. It's the story about God's passionate and intense love for us. Whatever we've done, whatever sin we've committed, we have a God who tells us "come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened" (Matthew 11:28).

He offers us rest, refreshment, rejuvenation and best of all reconciliation and redemption. Jesus died so that we could experience the power of His saving grace and love.

As we move into the month of July, the year is half over. That is amazing! It seems like it was just January. God has written this love letter called the Bible, have you read it? Are you reading His word and experiencing His love? Have you come to Him and asked for forgiveness? Have you sought reconciliation? He will forgive you!

The Bible tells us - -

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - 1 John 1:9

25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. - Isaiah 43:25

19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, - Acts 3:19

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. - Psalm 103:12

Friends, we have a great Redeemer . . . named Jesus, the Christ!

Blessings in His name!!

Pastor Michael

NEWS AND EVENTS



Free school supplies, backpack, hot dog, and chips!

Students enrolled in Alexandria Schools are invited.
Please bring a picture ID and mail with address for proof of residency.

Contact Gerry Cloncs at 765-617-0956 or email mgcloncs@comcast.net for questions.

If you would like to donate, you can send a check or drop off check/supplies to the church. School supplies most needed are dry erase markers, #2 Pencils, and Crayola Crayons (24 count). Thank you for your support!

Pool Party

MONDAY JULY 11, 7:00-9:00PM

ALEX CITY POOL

Kids and families who attend First Baptist Church are invited! Also, kids who attended Vacation Bible School this year and their families are welcome to join us as well!

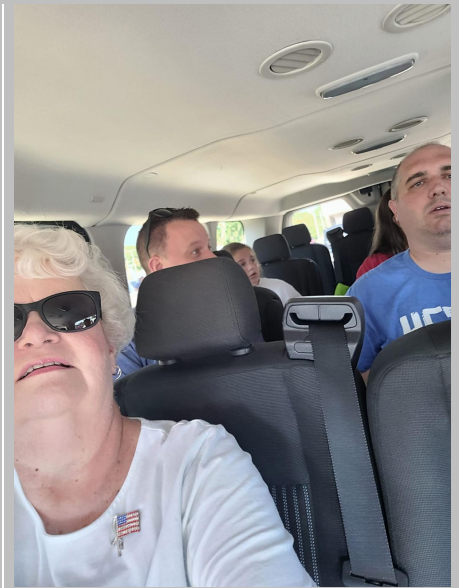
One person can make a difference.

Let me tell you the story. I was talking to Eric and he mentioned that he had received an email from Mark Erwin with several suggestions for outreach programs that Mark knew other churches had done with some success. One of those suggestions was to pass out something at a local parade. It just so happened that the Freedom Parade was already scheduled for Alexandria in about 10 days, so time was short to pull something together. I took that suggestion and expanded on it over lunch one day with Beth. With a quick text to the other Deacons for approval, an outreach program was started.

For those of you who do not know, our church purchased 100 gift cards from Dorte's, Pizza King, Pizza Hut, and the Alexandria Bakery. The gift cards were for \$25 each, so \$2500 was put right back into the Alexandria economy to support local businesses and jobs. We then passed out those gift cards at random along the parade route in envelopes stating that moms and dads need treats too, and inviting them to join our services on Sunday, either in person or online. I can tell you it was a great blessing for those who passed out the cards and I am sure there were 100 surprised people who have now been blessed by our church.

Special thanks go to all those who helped, from getting the check quickly, buying the gift cards, printing the envelopes, making signs for the van, driving the van, passing out the cards, to those who contributed toward the expense of the program.

I started this article with the statement that one person can make a difference. This mission evolved and grew from one person's idea to over 100 people being blessed by it in a very short time, thus fulfilling Pastor Michael's charge to us all to "go out and make a difference."



Vacation Bible School 2022

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated this year!
We had 35 volunteers, 39 kids attending, and 4 days of fun and teaching about Jesus!





S.A.L.T. Society



The S.A.L.T. Society enjoyed a lunch at Hoosier Routes in Summitville! They would love to have you join them for their gatherings in the future! Keep your eye on the bulletin and future newsletters to see what they'll be up to next.

Kentucky Mission Trip 2022

The Mission Trip to Kentucky was a great success! We appreciate all of your prayers and support as we traveled to Mayfield to help residents and churches deal with the aftermath of the deadly tornado they experienced last December.

We will have a presentation about our trip on **Sunday, August 14th.**

Here a few pictures for you!



SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study
with Debbie Deutsch

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Billy Graham Answers

Q: I'm from another country and am visiting some of my relatives here who are in graduate school. I asked them what your festival on July 4 means, but they were not sure. Does it have something to do with your Christian religion?

A: 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, KJV). 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).

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Find us on Facebook!

