



# Proclaiming God's Truth. Inspiring a Passion for God's Glory.

### IS THAT WHAT IT REALLY MEANS?

#### Tom Buck

hether we realize it or not, we all have frameworks that shape how we read Scripture. In other words, we read the Bible through the lenses of our own ideas and frames of mind and reinterpret Scripture according to our own thoughts. Previous influences, like our own experience or prior teaching, can immediately shape how we understand the text. More often than not, you come to a text with the mindset that you already know what it means. Even though you may be correct, that isn't a healthy way to approach the inspired, inerrant, and holy Word of God. Every time we open God's Word, we need to remember that this is God's Word and I have a responsibility to handle it carefully. The motto of our Wednesday night children's ministry, is "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

We wouldn't want someone to take our words and twist or interpret them to mean something we did not intend. Therefore, we should take even greater care with God's words. Even if we think we know a passage well, we must be careful not to fall into the trap of ignoring or bending the text to either say what we want it to say or what we already think we know it says. In order to "rightly handle the word of truth," we must hear it for what it actually says. Then, and only then, can we be sure that we have heard the Lord speak and not our own thoughts.

Perhaps this happens most often with Biblical phrases that we have heard used a certain way and come to believe that is what it means. In fact, the longer you've been in the church the more likely you have picked up Scripture along the way that you have a total misunderstanding of what it means. Take this Biblical phrase, for example: "Be still, and know that I am God."

For many years I solely heard that text used to teach the need for us to stop in the middle of our busy world and meditate on who God is. Now, that isn't a bad concept and I think you could argue that truth from other places in Scripture. The problem is, that isn't the meaning of that phrase in its context. You cannot rightly assume a meditation principle from those words if you are wanting to hear what God actually said in Psalm 46:10. If you read the context, God is not speaking to believers who need to meditate on who He is. God is speaking to non-believers, and he certainly isn't encouraging them to meditate. The context is about nations that gather to resist God's rule and try to keep him from establishing his kingdom. Therefore, God tells them to "be still" – stop your fighting - and know that he is God. Let their waging of battle against him cease, because he will be exalted on the earth whether they want it or not.

We cannot claim that we believe the Bible to be God's Word and then let our own frameworks drive the meaning of the text for us. We must let the Bible shape our frameworks rather than letting our frameworks shape our interpretations of the Bible. When someone wrongly interprets a text, the initial concern is not whether the person is saying something heretical. That would be an even deeper problem. The issue is that we should let God's Word mean what it says and say what it means. And one thing you can be sure about is this: It cannot mean what it never meant. Study God's Word as "one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed." In a world that is certainly going crazy, we need more than ever to hear what God has to say. We cannot hear what he has to say unless we let him speak, and we will have a very difficult time hearing him speak if we let our frameworks get in the way.

### **DATES OF INTEREST**

SPRING CONCERT JUNE 1, 6:00 PM

LONDON MISSION TRIP JUNE 6-21

> MEN'S BREAKFAST JUNE 7, 7:00 AM

EXCAVATE BEGINS JUNE 8, 6:00 PM

DEACON'S MEETING JUNE 9, 6:00 PM

VBS WORK DAY June 28, 9:00 AM

STUDENT CAMP JUNE 30-JULY 5

OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4

NO EVENING SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES JULY 6

> VBS WORK DAY JULY 12, 9:00 AM

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 14-18

> Sojourn Backpacking Trip July 29-august 5

**Men's Breakfast** August 2, 7:00 AM

**DEACON'S MEETING** AUGUST 11, 6:00 PM

MEMBER'S MEETING AUGUST 24, 5:30 PM

Promotion Sunday August 31

103 E. Van St. | PO Box 321 | Lindale, TX 75771 Phone: 903-882-3396 | fax: 903-882-1949 | web: www.fbclindale.com

### PASTORS' Q&A

I've heard leaders at FBC say that the Bible has only one meaning and our job as Christians is to find out what the original authors meant in their context. Doesn't our current context inform how we interpret Scripture? All truth is God's truth, so why does it matter how people arrive at it?

You're right, all truth is God's truth. God is not only the SOURCE of all truth, he IS truth Himself. But the question as to HOW we come to know that truth is of paramount importance. In John 8, Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." We learn truth from the revealed word of God in the Bible. And while God does communicate some truth through means other than the Bible, that revelation is limited, and is suppressed by humanity in rejection of Him (do a careful reading of Romans 1:18-23).

If you gave a television interview or wrote a letter, you'd be rightfully infuriated if someone took your words, twisted them, pulled them out of context, and made you say something you never intended to say. Unfortunately, many Christians do this with passages in the Bible. And when we do this, we are doing two dangerous things. First, we are making God to say something He never intended to communicate. This is inherently untruthful. But what if we are taking a passage out of context in order to teach a biblical truth that is clearly found elsewhere in Scripture? The second danger is that we gag God. When we preach a text wrongly, we mute what that passage actually says to us and thus never hear God's message from that text.

Don't communicate false ideas and blame it on God. Don't mute God's ability to speak through his word. And when we allow God to speak to us through His determined means with the actual message he intended to deliver, it is always deeply spiritual.



### **NOT ASHAMED**

### Ryan Taber

Romans 1:16-17 states, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, The righteous shall live by faith." If the gospel really is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe, then what does that mean for you and for today's students? Can it really be that simple, that the means that we have to tap into the power of the Creator of the universe for the purpose of salvation is this message about redemption through Christ? I think that the scriptures communicate that it really is that simple. Please be in prayer for our students that the truth of the gospel would impact everything they do. Pray also that those who have never responded to this message of hope by turning from sin and trusting in Christ as their Lord and Savior would do just that. I pray also that all who read this article would spend time thinking on the truth of the gospel and that it would continue to affect biblical change in your own life.

### **GETTING SETTLED IN**

#### Chris Moore

We have been in Lindale for a couple months, and we are finally getting settled in to our new home. We were living out of boxes for a while, but we have unpacked most of them. The boxes we haven't unpacked are stacked in the garage (and they might not ever get unpacked!). We have updated a couple of rooms, purchased a few rugs, hung items on the walls, and we have painted. We have said that the house is finally starting to feel like our home. This feeling of being "at home" is nice, and we have been looking forward to this feeling since we packed the moving truck in March.

At the same time, this feeling of being "at home" is a façade. God's Word reminds us we are not at home. The author of Hebrews commends the faith of Abraham and other Old Testament saints for living in tents as strangers and exiles. They willingly left their homes and sought a new homeland, a better country. In response, God blessed them and He was not ashamed to be called their God. He prepared a new city for them (Hebrews 11:16).

In Philippians 3:20-21, Paul reminds us that our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. We are never supposed to feel fully at home in this world because this world is not our home. We are pilgrims passing through this broken world. Periodically, we are reminded of this reality. When life doesn't go well, when we get sick, when a loved one dies, we are reminded that this is not our home.

The key is to learn from these seasons of life. God often allows us to have these experiences because they are intended to point us to the One who left his home and became a pilgrim and stranger for us. Jesus left his Father's throne above and became obedient to the point of death so that we might be rescued from this world and restored to our Heavenly Father. And one day, we will be home with Christ, Who is preparing a city.

"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye To Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie"

### Notes of Thanks

Dear Friends of First Baptist Church,

Our family would like to express our appreciation to each of you who have supported us during this time of our loss.

Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, memorials, flowers, visits, food, and for attending the services. May God Bless you.

-The family of James G. Sitton

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, food, and remembrances during the loss of our precious mother. It is comforting to know she is in the presence of the Lord.

-The family of Martha Peterbough

Thanks for the prayers, the cards, the notes, the plant from my Sunday School class, and the kind thoughtfulness of the church members and staff in the death of my brother.

-Yvonne Patterson



### SUMMER FUN Vernon Hughes

As I'm writing this, there are just a few days left in the school year. We just finished the year in KidsCore on Sunday evenings and we are having the AWANA Awards night this coming Wednesday evening. I know a lot of families will be traveling some this summer, but I definitely want to encourage you to take a look at some of the events we have planned for our children and their families this summer. We'll have mother/daughter events, father/son game nights, trips to Splash Kingdom, events for the whole family, and much more. We will be sending out a schedule of all the Summer Events for the children and families in the next few days. Put that schedule up on the refrigerator and plan to come join us. Deuteronomy 6 tells us, "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." As your Children's Pastor, I know schedules, even summer schedules, can get out-of-control busy. Our family's schedule gets that way at times. My goal with the summer schedule of events is to give you a time to do Deuteronomy 6, tell them about Gods goodness, eat some great snacks, and have fun doing it all. I hope we see you this summer at some of those events. You'll be glad you did.

# THE WONDER OF A WORD (MATTHEW 12:36-37)

Ronnie Stribble

The Bible says, "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Few people ever contemplate the power, the influence, and the lasting effect of the spoken word. Words cannot only be remembered for a lifetime, but every idle or useless word spoken will endure even death to face us at the judgment. Such truth should inspire us to be slow to speak and to restrain ourselves from using harsh words in provocative situations when we have been pushed to the point of frustration and exasperation. Someone once said that you can get over what you don't say a lot easier than what you do say. Roscommon said, "What you keep by you, you may change and mend; but words, once spoken, can never be recalled." Words are like arrows, and when discharged do not return. Perhaps this prompted Solomon to say "Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him" (Proverbs 29:20). If words can hurt and injure, they can also help and inspire. A man once said, "I would have been an atheist but for the recollection of kneeling by my mother's side and hearing her say, "Our Father." Words can contribute to our character, chart our destiny, challenge us to faith in God, constrain us from sinning, or crush our spirits and continue with us to judgment. So remember, such is THE WONDER OF A WORD.

### **DISCERNMENT MATTERS**

Andrew Pressley

Recently, Dan Haseltine of the popular Christian band Jars of Clay took to Twitter to express his distaste for Christians' opposition to gay marriage. In the midst of his tweets, he said, "...most people read and interpret scripture wrong. I don't think scripture 'clearly' states much of anything regarding morality." Aside from the logical problems with this tweet (his claim that most people interpret scripture wrongly implies that he knows a right interpretation, and thus the Bible mustn't be categorically unclear), there are deep biblical problems with his sentiment (both the Old and New Testaments claim to be understandable by the power of the Spirit, and the Christian is called to a life of moral holiness as guided by the Scriptures).

Haseltine's comments inspired a quick backlash from the Christian community, and many of his fans swore off his music thenceforth. His tweets certainly communicated false ideas, but I have an additional concern: Christians are quick to judge celebrities when big news like this hits the media, but in general we are FAR less discerning regarding the actual content of these celebrities' art. Many Christian pastors, musicians, and celebrities have deeply troubling beliefs and lifestyles that bleed into their art, but only after a tweet goes viral do people suddenly seem to care.

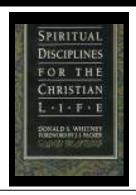
When Ray Boltz came out of the closet, a pastor called asked me if Christians should sing his music in the church any longer. I quickly replied (with an admittedly unhealthy level of snark), "Why were you singing it in the first place?" Boltz's songs have featured bad theology for quite a long time. Perhaps most troubling is his picture of heaven, illustrating the redeemed as gathered around a faithful Christian servant rather than the resurrected Christ! And yet for years, Christians accepted this imaginary heavenly scene as inspiring, or worse yet, as a replacement for biblical truth.

Don't get me wrong; I'm not suggesting that everything these artists have done should be rejected. Where truth is proclaimed, I rejoice. I don't think we should arrange a steamroller session to destroy the art of all "fallen" Christians. I've still enjoyed Jars of Clay's music like I enjoy the Beatles music. The fact is, celebrities are fallible people, and it shouldn't really be a big surprise to us when they fall. The outrage, however appropriate, often misses the point: "Christian" art, like all art, should be subject to the same sort of scrutiny with which we evaluate everything. Every Christian ought to have a level of discernment that helps them navigate these things long before public fallout.

Sadly, there's a lot of "Christian" art out there that does more damage to the gospel than some secular songs. But radio stations (and, unfortunately, most churches) aren't filtering out the bad stuff from the good. I'm not suggesting we do away with any artist, genre, or category of art altogether. Rather, I am calling for every Christian to grow in discernment, to increase their ability to interact with art from a biblical worldview, and to remain unwavering in his or her commitment to truth.

# RECOMMENDED READING: THE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (DONALD S. WHITNEY)

This is a helpful book for a person who is new to the faith or a person who has been a faithful Christian for many years. Whitney explains the paradoxical principle that there is freedom and life and liberty in being disciplined. He devotes most of the chapters to explain the fundamental practices Christians should be developing: Bible intake, prayer, worship, evangelism, serving, stewardship, etc. If you feel stagnant in your faith, read this book and start practicing the spiritual disciplines and experience a fresh renewal.



### **LIBRARY HOURS:**

SUNDAYS 9:00-9:45 AM & 10:30-11:15 AM WEDNESDAYS 9:00-12:00 PM & 5:30-6:00 PM

"Ours is an undisciplined age. The old disciplines are breaking down . . . Above all, the discipline of divine grace is derided as legalism or is entirely unknown to a generation that is largely illiterate in the Scriptures. We need the rugged strength of Christian Character that can come only from discipline."

-V. Raymond Edman





# **June 2014**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
◆6:00PM - 7:00PM	■6·15PM - 7·45PM		· ·			ission Trip
Spring Concert (Worship Center)	Missions Committee Meeting (Youth Room)				( Zondon III	◆7:00AM - 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (Student Center)
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		3	London Mission Trip		0	
Communion in AM	◆6:00PM - 8:00PM	■6:30PM - 7:30PM	Zenden imbelen imp			
◆6:00PM - 7:00PM Excavate Begins (Student Center)	Deacons Meeting (Parlor)	Benevolence Committee Meeting (Parlor)				
(Student Center)		( 2,				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			London Mission Trip			
Father's Day	◆7:00PM - 8:00PM Building and					
	Building and Grounds Committee Meeting (Parlor)					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		◆6:00PM - 7:00PM Finance Committee		◆9:30AM - 1:00PM Senior Adult		◆9:00AM - 12:00PM VBS Work Day
		Meeting (Parlor)		Playday and Lunch (Student Center)		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Studer	nt Camp	4th of July	
					Office Closed	
						_
5/21/2014 0:14 AM	30	1	1/1	3	4	Office Manager

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

	Brian Macevicius
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June 25:	Todd Froebe
	Ryan Taber
	Lou Watkins
June 26: '	Tom Buck
	Lyssa Stewart
June 27:	Caitlin Cashell
June 28:	Jerry Garner
	Suzanne Green
	Sandra Helmuth
	Lydia Doyle
June 30:	Lance Dudley
	Amanda Allen
	Collin McGee
	June 26:  June 27:  June 28:  June 29:  June 30:



Student Summer Camp June 30 – July 5 Falls Creek, Oklahoma

VBS Work Day: June 28

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### **SUNDAYS**

8:15-9:30 AM: Worship Service (Worship Center)

8:15-9:30 AM: Children's Church (EC 208)

9:45-10:45 AM: Sunday School (Education Center)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM: Worship Service (Worship Center)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM: Children's Church (EC 208)

5:30-7:15 PM: Youth (SC) 6:00-7:00 PM: Excavate (SC)

6:00-7:00 PM: Evening Worship Service (Worship Center)

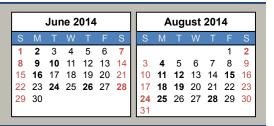
#### **TUESDAYS**

9:00-11:00 AM: Quilting (Parlor) 4:00-5:00 PM: T.O.P.S. (Parlor)

### WEDNESDAYS

6:15-8:00 PM: Students: Junior & Senior High (SC) 6:00-7:00 PM: Instrumental Rehearsal (Worship Center)

# **July 2014**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Studer	nt Camp		
					4th of July Office Closed	
29 No Evening Service	30  6:15PM - 7:45PM Missions Committee	6:30PM - 7:30PM Benevolence	2	3	4	5 ◆9:00AM - 12:00PM VBS Work Day
	Meeting (Youth Room)	Committee Meeting (Parlor)				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion in PM	14	•6:00PM - 7:00PM Finance Committee Meeting (Parlor)	Vacation Bible School	◆6:00PM - 8:00PM VBS Family Night (Worship Center and Student Center)	18	19
	◆7:00PM - 8:00PM Building and Grounds Committee Meeting (Parlor)			◆9:30AM - 1:00PM Senior Adult Playday and Lunch (Student Center)		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			S	ojourn Backpacking T	rip	
27	20	20	30	31	A	◆7:00AM - 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (Student Center)
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### JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1:	Janae Childs	July 8:	Malynda Carroll	July 17·	Jeremy Meier	July 24:	Joe Stripling
July 1.	Haley Taber	July 9:	Jason McMurray	July 18:		July 21.	Jannis Farmer
July 2:	B. G. Irby	July 10:	Dewayne Hicks	july 10.	Ron Hayes		Ann Stack
<i>j azy 2</i> .	Don Davis	July 11:	•		Debbie Scott		Heather Rodriguez
	Walt Edman	<i>J</i> • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Patsy Dorner		Jacob Erickson	July 26:	Ann Oughton
	Michael Green		Nancy Anderson	July 19:	5	J y	Matt Rodriguez
	Madison Caldwell		Stephen Clemmons	July 20:	Karen Damon	July 27:	Beverly Melvin
July 3:	Marisa Sitton	July 12:	Conner Adams	3 3	Darren Cantrell	5 7	Vickie Neal
July 5:	Ronnie Stribble	<i>J</i>	Casey Poe		Joey Taylor	July 28:	Bob Kemp
	Tony Macevicius		Ranger Burgess		Lian Boone	3 ,	Shelby Watts
	Heather Moler	July 13:	Wanda Keller	July 21:	Billy Duran	July 29:	Lucille Hooten
July 6:	Erica Bunton	July 14:	Eloise Jordan	July 22:	Barbara Smith	,	Daphene Caudle
	Maddox Lay	5 ,	Clinton Pfalser	5 ,	Patricia Waite		Shirley Kline
	Hannah Taber	July 15:	Linda Hogan		Ilene Welch		Sherry Kling
July 7:	Paul Nunelee	July 16:	Alvin Francis	July 23:	Wannell Piercey		Ed Austin
	Stephen McDonald		Jimmy Fleming		Owen Scott		Amanda Ables
	Kellyn Williams		James Ralph Jordan		Mike Grimes		Hannah Clemmons
	Grace Nelms		Zach Smithee		Maria Irons		









### Weekly Events

#### **SUNDAYS**

8:15-9:30 AM: Worship Service (Worship Center)

8:15-9:30 AM: Children's Church (EC 208)

9:45-10:45 AM: Sunday School (Education Center)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM: Worship Service (Worship Center)

11:00 AM-12:15 PM: Children's Church (EC 208)

5:30-7:15 PM: Youth (SC) 6:00-7:00 PM: Excavate (SC)

6:00-7:00 PM: Evening Worship Service (Worship Center)

#### **TUESDAYS**

9:00-11:00 AM: Quilting (Parlor) 4:00-5:00 PM: T.O.P.S. (Parlor)

### WEDNESDAYS

6:15-8:00 PM: Students: Junior & Senior High (SC) 6:00-7:00 PM: Instrumental Rehearsal (Worship Center)

# August 2014

 July 2014

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Sojourn Backpacking Trip			
						◆7:00AM - 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (Student Center)
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	ojourn Backpacking T					
	■ 6:15PM - 7:45PM Missions Committee Meeting (Youth Room)					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Communion in AM	◆6:00PM - 8:00PM Deacon's Meeting (Parlor)	■ 6:30PM - 7:30PM Benevolence Committee Meeting (Parlor)			■ 12:00PM - 1:00PM New Teachers Luncheon (Student Center)	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	◆7:00PM - 8:00PM Building and Grounds Committee Meeting (Parlor)	◆6:00PM - 7:00PM Finance Committee Meeting (Parlor)				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
◆5:30PM - 7:00PM Member's Meeting (Worship Center)	■ 3:00PM - 4:00PM Lindale Healthcare Birthday Party			◆9:30AM - 1:00PM Senior Adult Playday and Lunch (Student Center)		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Promotion Sunday	Labor Day Office Closed 6:15PM - 7:45PM Missions Committee Meeting (Youth Room)			■ 10:30AM - 12:30PM Senior Adult Choir (Student Center)		◆7:00AM - 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (Student Center)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Aug 1:	Carroll Prewitt	Aug. 8:	Ricky Medders		Ron Poe		Gayle Riley
	Linda Black	Aug. 9:	Jerry Lockhart		Brody Spearman		Tamara McGuire
	Margie Boone		James Rutledge	Aug. 18:	Amey Fair		Jenna Fleming
	Sally Clemmons		Joyce Palmer	Aug. 19:	Erwin Anderson	Aug. 27:	Emmie Ford
	Krista Lay		Asher Medders		David Cooper		Bobbie Williams
	Grace Barr	Aug. 10:	Clyde Harper		Toby Poe		Matthew Wulff
Aug. 2:	Dona Stone		Mykylie Meador		Nathan Fair	Aug. 28:	Don Williams
Aug. 3:	Brenda Crowson	Aug. 11:	Heath Koonce		Hope Nelms		Luke Poe
	Jeff Ward		Mike McGuire		Daniel Eyler	Aug. 29:	Linda Lockhart
	Blaine Thompson		Greg Roach		Aubri Young		James Reeder
Aug. 4:	Doug Turner	Aug. 12:	Kenneth Elliott	Aug. 20:	Mark Campbell	Aug. 30:	Anne Hart
	Jeff Jones		Carolyn Webb		Langdon Froebe		Dian Whittington
	Robin Wood		Mike Gregory		Owen Willcox		Ed Watts
	Sunnie Warner		Barry Crumpton	Aug. 22:	Willie Warren		Randall Ricketts
Aug. 5:	Lou Palmer		Journey Fleming	Aug. 23:	Charles Tomlinson		Teresa Cannon
	Linda Akin	Aug. 13:	Deborah Prather		Jennifer Michel		Kinley Vent
	Mollie Peterson		Kevin Simmons		Sara Koonce	Aug. 31:	Dean Childres
	Kaelyn Harris		Hannah Gilbert	Aug. 24:	Benny Baldwin		Glenda Dintelman
	Olivia Routt	0	Karl Gerthe		Chad Nuss		Eddie Cates
Aug. 6:	Stan Boykin	Aug. 16:	Virgie Wells	Aug. 25:	Ruthie Hicks		Scott Fair
	Rachel Hughes		Bambi Jewell		Scott Mollenhauer		Christy Murray
	Kinsey Arnold		Cole Williams		Sheila Gilbert		Karen Allen
Aug. 7:	Melisa Terry	Aug. 17:	Don Poe	Aug. 26:	Rack Tindel		Jessica Kennedy



### Weekly Events

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8:15-9:30 AM: Worship Service (Worship Center)

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