

---

## Committing Ourselves to Church Membership



July

Last month I wrote to encourage church membership and attendance using a scriptural and a historical point of view. I pray that each of us understands the importance of church membership and commits to follow the teachings of Holy Scriptures.

Ahh, but there is that word – commit or commitment. Church membership requires commitment. A commitment is due from each Christian to be a part of the church so that they can give encouragement to others as they join together in one faith to worship our Lord God together.

Why should we commit ourselves? Well for me the answer is easy – God said so! And Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs that it is **to encourage one another.**

But in the scheme of things what are the benefits to the church, to the others and to ourselves for the commitment we give?



Wayne A. Mack and David Swavely have written a book entitled, *Life in the Father's House, A Member's Guide to the Local Church*. In the book they present a great discussion about the church member's role in the local church. I would like to list here some

of the benefits of committing ourselves to church membership.

1. Membership clarifies the difference between believers and non believers. This is not a for-sure identification but one should be able to assume that if a Christian one would be in church. Also if one is a non-believer and needs help then evangelism should be the first step where with a Christian it would be encouragement. It helps to know the difference.
2. Membership causes the visible church to better reflect the invisible church. For the sake of a testimony before the community the local church should resemble Christ's spiritual body which has perfect unity with Christ. That is what we are going to be some day so why not try now to be in perfect unity with Christ.
3. Membership is essential to an orderly administration of church. 1 Corinthians 14:40 says **let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner.** Christians are gifted with some incredible gifts and those gifts should be encouraged, directed and managed well. Only through good management within the church can one be completely what God intends. The order of the church can support this.
4. Membership encourages involvement from those on the periphery. It is easy to move to the side and out of the main flow of events. Church membership encourages everyone to participate. We are all equal within the walls of the church.
5. Ministry opportunities are available to members within the church. At

New Sterling we have over 85 folks involved in 'ministry.' Non-members cannot have that level of involvement. We grow through the work of the ministry. Non-members have few opportunities to grow.

6. Within the church are helpful services. In the church we are bound to carry the burdens of our brothers and sisters. Living in this world is tough so it is sure nice to have someone who will help you along from time to time and to be the help for someone.
7. Loving accountability is given to members within the church. Accountability can be challenging. But isn't it good to know that when we do stumble there is someone there who loves enough to come to and help redirect my path and not only that walk with me and pray during the tough times.

Yes, we are called to commit to the church and with all this payback it is hard to see why some don't. But looking at this list it does become a little clearer why some don't. It takes commitment and commitment requires giving yourself to someone else. That is a very hard thing to do.

But if we want to grow in the grace and love of Jesus Christ we will come and we will commit to His church. If we are serious about our faith then in church is where we will be. David wrote in Psalm 122, **I was pleased with those who said, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'**

Please commit to the church and enjoy the privileges of membership.

In His Service

Pastor Tim



Ken Sides with Samaritan's Purse presented the message recently at the worship service. After the service, he and his fiancé', Marilyn were guests of honor at one of New Sterling's famous "covered dish lunches".

Ken and Marilyn are planning to be married in July of this year. We wish them both the best of luck in their future together.

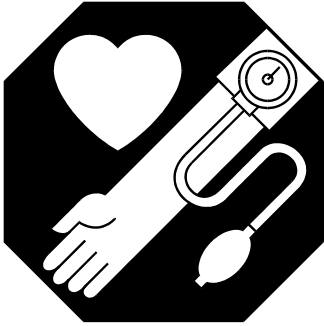
# How About a Non-Biblical Argument for Church

## Attendance?

Harold G. Koenig lists several findings from the Duke Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality and Health for bettering spiritual health:

1. People who regularly attend church, pray individually and read the Bible have significantly lower blood pressure than the less religious
2. People who attend church regularly are hospitalized much less often than people who never or rarely participate in religious services
3. People with strong a religious faith are less likely to suffer depression from stressful life events and more likely to recover from depression
4. The deeper a person's religious faith, the less likely they are to be crippled by depression related to hospitalization
5. People with a strong faith who suffer from physical illness have significantly better health outcomes than less religious people
6. People who attend religious services regularly have stronger immune systems
7. Religious people are physically healthier into later life and live longer; religious faith appears to protect the elderly from heart disease and cancer.

Wow, coming to church is good for you!

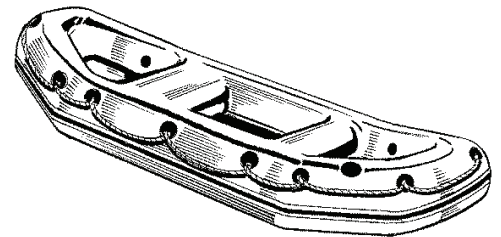


All we can take with us to heaven is  
what we leave behind in the lives we touch.

# YOUTH RAFTING TRIP



On June 3, the Jr. and Sr. Highs went white water rafting down the Nantahala river



Rafting down the final falls (From the front-right of the raft): Jacob McNeely, Adam Donahoe, Ed Donahoe, Kelley Miller, Jeff McNeely. Not pictured because he fell out of the raft : Danny Miller. Some say he was nudged out.



Looking a Little nervous going down the final falls. (From the front left of the raft): Taryn Setzer, Ashley Goodman, Devan Winters, Devan's friend Sarah, Dylan Deal and Brian Setzer

OH, MY!!!!!! Hey!? Where did Devan and Dylan go??

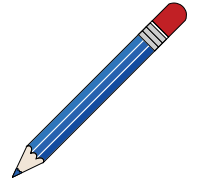
## Two other groups went rafting but were not pictured:

Group 1: Scott Graham, Gray Emery, Davis Emery, Andy Shive, Hannah Cook and Brianna Mitschele

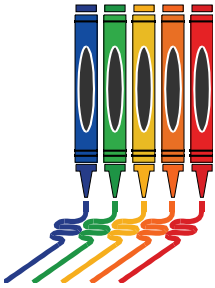
Group2: Jessica Graham, Dalton Winters, Devin Madden, Daniel Pugh, Kelly Pugh and Patrick McNeely



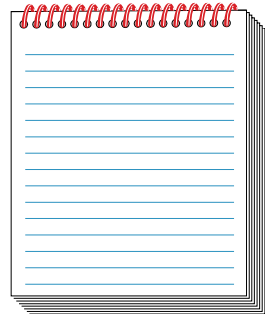
# DON'T FORGET!



## Bookbags, school supplies for Sharon School



While you are shopping, be sure to pick up some extra school supplies for our fall project. We need crayons, pencils, erasers, paper, book bags, snacks, Kleenex, hand soap or anything you think a school age child could use to help during their school day. We want to have lots of "stuff" to fill bookbags and lots of extras too.



**Keep shopping!!!!**

---

*Just as one little pinch of salt can make all the difference in cooking, the light of one joyful Christian can radiate the love of Almighty God to the world.*



**Ruth Foy** broke her foot. Did she kick **Gene** too hard??.....**Juanita Massey's** baby turkeys were murdered by a snake!!.....**Kattie Compton** was presented the **Marli Watson** SonShine Scholarship at Senior awards day at West Iredell High School. The scholarship was presented to her by **Pastor Tim and Judy Watson**.....**Daniel Pugh** and Casey Clark were Jr. Marshalls for the West Iredell High School graduation.....**Emily and Bud Nash** are going to be great grandparents in December.. Congratulations!!!.....The **Knit**

**Wits** had an exciting trip to **Pat Price's** home for our Monday night meeting. Before leaving the church they could not get the back door of the bus open but during the trip two of our Mini-Knit Wits (**Madison Winters and Maggie Emery**) noticed the back door open while we were going down the road. The two big Knit Wits in the car behind us (**Judy Watson and Julie Winters**) were laughing so hard they could not even let us know we were hanging out!!! Traveling with the Knit Wits is always exciting.....**Susan Pugh** wants to invent a "lighted crochet hook" to be able to crochet in the dark.....**Pat Price** wants to invent a crochet hook with Velcro so she won't keep dropping hers.....**Clay Price** went all the way to Statesville to get away for the Knit Wits!!.....**Taryn Setzer** is designing new ear jewelry and it looks like a contact. Looks OK on her ear but does nothing for her vision.....**Pastor Tim and Judy's** grandson, **Luke**, recently had his tonsils out.....**Clifton and Brent Mauney** spent a week at the beach with 18 other guys. I am sure there are some tales to tell but everyone is keeping quiet.....**Cody Hairyes and Jared Hauck** is on the Iredell County All Star team.....**Garrett Deal** was forced to retire early from his All Star Baseball career due to an injured hand.....**Jimmy and Davey Winters** are doing a wonderful job getting ready for the new church sign.....**Taryn Setzer** and **Delinda Mauney** took **Muriel Jenkins** on a recent surprised "excursion" and day of beauty.....The Sharon School Babe Ruth Baseball team qualified for the B tournament and won the championship. **Cody Hariyes, Garret Deal and Jared Hauck** were members of this team.....**Jeanette Hauck's** sister came to visit and stayed long enough to dirty a set of sheets and 2 cereal bowls. Not much time to visit!.....**Pastor Tim and Judy** along with **Jeff and Cindy McNeely** traveled to the New England states on motorcycles.....New Sterling folks attending Synod: **Reid & Peggy Gray, Earl & Harriet Linderman, Dale Massey, David & Betty Sides and Pastor Tim Watson**.....**Margaret Boyce, Barry Dagenhart, Bob and Mary Robinson** received lots of hugs from New Sterling members....Delegate **Dale Massey** was seen greeting his brother **Larry** from Mooresville ARP....**Peggy Gray** overheard thanking Mary Martha Sunrise Circle for the prayers offered during her address to Synod.....**Dr. Earl Linderman** accompanied by **Harriet Linderman** led the opening worship session of General Synod with a Psalm Sing.....**Birchie Pope** after traveling to Texas for the graduation of her granddaughter came back to Statesville and had to spend some time in the hospital.....**David Sides** delivered the message on Sunday, June 24th.....**Roy Poovey** recently lost his sister, **Faye Brightman**.....

# Coming Events



July 1



Holy Communion

Commission of the Harlan Kentucky Missions Team

Last day for Sign up for Women of Faith

July 2

9:30 Golden Christian Circle

July 7

9:30 Knit Wits road trip to see Mrs. Billings



July 8

5:00 CE Committee Meeting

July 10

7:00 Treasure Keepers at Judy Watson's

July 11

5:30 Youth Shepherds meet at the church for Bowling at Penn Station

July 15

3-5:00 Baby Shower for Amber Jarrett

Missions Committee Meeting

July 16

7:00 Knit Wits at Delinda Mauney's



July 17

7:00 Mary & Martha Sunset

July 18

10:00 Mary & Martha Sunrise

July 21

Youth Shepherd's Picnic & Pool Party at David Brady's

July 22

Newsletter Items Due

Discipleship/Nurture Committee Meeting

July 23-July 27

Family Bible Conference at Bonclarken

July 29

7:30 5th Sunday Psalm Sing at



July 30-August 3

Vacation Bible School

August 4

9-12:00 Meet with the Knit Wits @ Aarene's under the shade trees.  
Com end visit, snack and pray with us and bring donations for the Dove House

August 15

8:45 am Meet at Church for trip to Lazy 5 Ranch. Bring a bag lunch



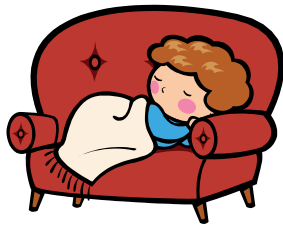
# COME AND JOIN THE KNIT WITS



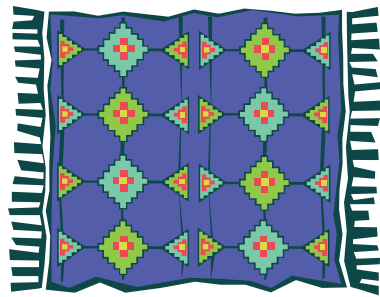
***Come and join  
the Knit Wits on  
Saturday, Au-  
gust 4 under the  
shade trees at the home  
of Aarene Reese***



***Come  
and have  
snacks,  
coffee, talk, fellow-  
ship, prayer and just  
visit with us. see our***

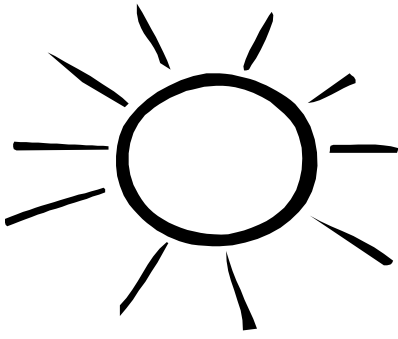


***projects and  
lets talk about  
what we do.***



**If you would like, bring a donation for the DoveHouse. They need individual snack items, crackers, cookies, etc, juice boxes, napkins, toilet tissue, Kleenex, Clo-  
rox wipes, hand sanitizer, cups and we will make a  
delivery to them.**



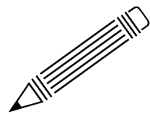


*Ladies mark your calendar  
and be in prayer for the  
Women's Beach Retreat.  
The dates are March 7,8  
and 9, 2008.*



**Address for Bobby Buchanan:**

**Robert Lewis Buchanan  
PO Box 310  
Polkton, NC 28135**



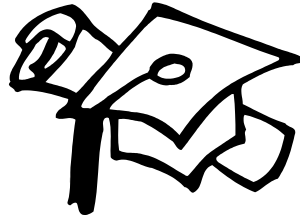
## *In Sympathy*

**Our thoughts and prayers go  
out to Roy Poovey and family  
in a death of his sister Faye  
Brightman**



# NEW STERLING GRADUATES

**Jessica Noel Ciccarelli** is a graduate of West Iredell High School. A Warrior Pride recipient and a participant in the AIG (Math) program. She has been a Cheerleader for nine years, ran track, and also belonged to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Fishing, dancing, shopping, and cooking are among her hobbies. Jessica completed high school in January and has already received her CNA from Mitchell Community College. Her plans are to continue at Mitchell Community College in the Nursing program and marry Anthony Brady in October.



**Kattie Loren Compton** is a graduate of West Iredell High School. Recipient of the Marli Son-Shine Award and Warrior Pride each semester for four years. Her hobbies include; drawing, designing, pottery, crocheting, sewing, poetry, and singing. Kattie plans to attend CVCC and later transfer into a bigger college and continue her education needed to become a vocal trainer.

**Stephanie Carol Watts** is a graduate of Statesville High School. She is a Teaching Fellow recipient, will be certified to be a CNA. Her honors include NC Scholar, National Tech Honor Society, Renaissance, Top 10%. She enjoys cross-stitching, reading, baby-sitting, Girl Scouts, Youth Group, camping, dance, vacationing with family, doll collecting, crafts, sewing, and baking. Stephanie's future plans is to attend Lenoir-Rhyne as a Teaching Fellow, studying to be a Special Education and/or Elementary Teacher.



Honoring our graduates on Graduate Sunday June 3. (From left to right): Erin Elizabeth Waugh, Andrea Clarke, Erica Harper, Stephanie Watts, Kattie Compton

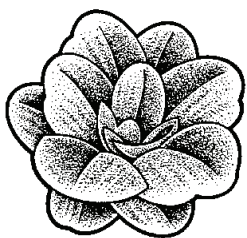
**Erin Elizabeth Waugh** is a graduate from Western Carolina University. In the Fall she will attend Wingate University and pursue a doctorate degree in Pharmaceutical Science.



**Andrea Clarke** is a graduate from Erskine University of South Carolina with a degree in Biology. She is taking time off from school to work. Her plans for the future is possibly attending Medical School to become a doctor.

**Jessica Lambert** is a graduate of West Iredell High School.

**Erica Harper** is a graduate from North Carolina University of Charlotte. She is currently pursuing her Masters degree in Social Services.



*LADIES!!!!!! Women of Faith is fast approaching!! Those who have signed up to attend Women of Faith in October, I would like for our deposit to be turned in by July 22, so I will be getting in contact with you very soon. I pray you all are as excited as I am about our upcoming trip and experiencing GOD'S Amazing Freedom!!!*

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Taryn Setzer*



**"So if the SON makes you free you will truly be FREE"-  
John 8:36**



It was quiet that day. The guns and the mortars and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said, "Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied, "I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord."

The sergeant said, "Looks to me like you're going to play cards."



The soldier said, "No sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief, "How will you do that?"

"You see the Ace, Sergeant? It reminds me that there is only one God.

The Two represents the two parts of the Bible, Old and New Testaments.

The Three represents the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost.

The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The Five is for the five virgins that were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The Six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and the Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after making His Creation.

The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives—the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the earth.

The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy. He cleansed ten but nine never thanked Him.

The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of stone.

The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary.

The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of all kings.



When I count the dots on all the cards, I come up with 365 total, one for every day of the year.

There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week—52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Each suit has thirteen cards—there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter.



So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this old deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for."

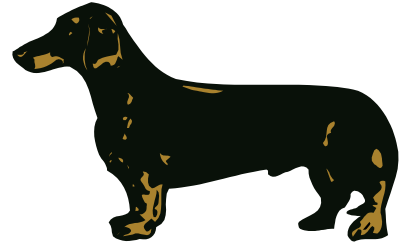
The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, "Soldier, can I borrow that deck of cards?"



# CATS & DOGS

## Excerpts from a Dog's Diary

8:00 am Dog food! My favorite thing!  
9:30 am A car ride! My favorite thing!  
9:40 am A walk in the park! My favorite thing!  
10:30 am Got rubbed and petted! My favorite thing!  
12:00 pm Lunch! My favorite thing!  
1:00 pm Played in the yard! My favorite thing!  
3:00 pm Wagged my tail! My favorite thing!  
5:00 pm Milk bones! My favorite thing!  
7:00 pm Got to play ball! My favorite thing!  
8:00 pm Wow! Watched TV with the people! My favorite thing!  
11:00 pm Sleeping on the bed! My favorite thing



## Excerpts from a Cat's Diary

Day 983 of my captivity. My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, I nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. I an attempt to convince them, I once again vomit on the carpet.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely make condescending comments about what a "good little hunter" I am. Jerks! There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of "allergies". I must learn what this means, and how to use it to my advantage.



Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow — but at the top of the stairs. I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released—and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded. The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicate with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is safe. For now.....



# Homebound and Assisted Living

Norma and Johnsie Jenkins

1753 Midway Road  
Stony Point, NC 28678  
704-585-6960

Doris Ingram

Statesville Place  
2441 East Broad Street  
Statesville, NC 28625

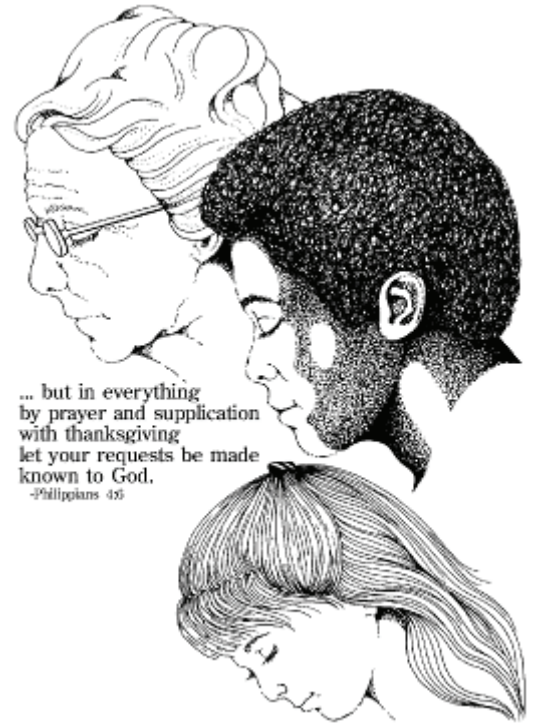
Edith Reese

Pauline Pope

Autumn Care  
2001 Vanhaven Drive  
Statesville, NC 28625

Mary Deal

Autumn Care  
2001 Van Haven Drive



If we have missed anyone or you would like to have your name listed here, please contact Delinda Mauney at 704-880-0527 or Taryn Setzer at 459-2637

**Vacation Bible School SON FORCE KIDS is just around the corner. PLEASE start saving these items for crafts:**

**Peanut butter jars 15-18oz**

**Paper towel and Toilet paper tubes**

**Old CDs (any kind)**

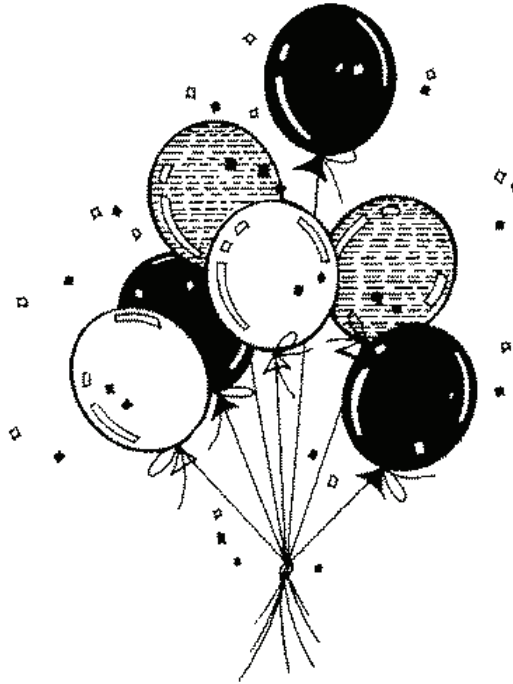
**Baby food jars**

**Please leave saved items in the Young Adult Sunday School class**

**Thank you,  
Taryn Setzer**

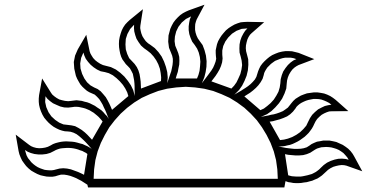
# July Birthdays

1 Sarah Brady  
 2 Lindsey Gray  
 2 Todd McCulloch  
 5 Holly Hardin  
 5 Bill Mauney  
 6 Erica Burruel  
 7 Betty Godfrey  
 9 Homer Dishman  
 11 Jeannette Hauck  
 11 John Henry Pope  
 11 Matthew Shoemaker  
 11 Misty Williams  
 15 Rick Cashion  
 16 Brandon Sutton



21 Bob Hardin  
 21 Terri Jenkins  
 21 Charles McClure  
 22 Terra Melton  
 22 Arthur Waugh  
 24 Jacob McNeely  
 25 Lauren Bailey  
 25 Sally Lewis  
 25 David Sides  
 28 Brian Setzer  
 29 Kim Brady  
 29 Cindi Bowman  
 30 Terry Hoke

## Jr. and Sr. High Summer Schedule



July 1 YOUTH at 6pm

July 8 YOUTH at 6pm

July 14 Sliding Rock trip

July 15 YOUTH at 6pm

July 21 Cookout and pool party at

Kim and David's house

July 22 NO YOUTH

July 29 YOUTH, Canvassing for Bible School

July 30– Aug. 3 Bible School

August 5 NO YOUTH



August 12 YOUTH at 6pm

August 17-18 Campout at Kelly and Denny



Millers'd house; Drive-in movie  
and swimming

August 19 YOUTH at 6pm

August 26 NO YOUTH



**DON'T FORGET OUR LOCK-IN, (DATE TO BE SET) JR. AND SR. HIGH RETREATS IN THE FALL, AND WE'RE PLANNING A TRIP TO THE VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL TO GO BIKE RIDING IN THE FALL.**