

THE *COMMUNICATOR*

Volume XXXIV No. 07/08

July/August, 2025

KEVIN'S KORNER

At the conclusion of our June 8 worship service, I announced my plans to retire, and to bring my ministry as your pastor to a close on Sunday, August 31. This decision came after an extended period of thought, prayer, and discernment, as Debby and I sought the Lord together about his calling and work at this particular season in our lives. During the time since my announcement, you have continued to surround us with faithfulness, kindness, and encouragement as we follow the Lord with you. Your love and prayers have been deeply appreciated as we've all taken the first steps into this time of transition for our church.

Working on this newsletter article prompted me to look back to the series of articles I wrote during the first several months of my ministry with you, May through October 2001. I used those initial articles to answer the question, What does it mean to be your pastor? In the process, I explored five essential aspects of my call and our covenant with each other. Being your pastor means:

- ❖ I want to be available and accessible to you.
- ❖ I want to be a faithful minister of the Word, especially through preaching and teaching.

- ❖ I want to provide leadership for the congregation as we live out our God-given mission.
- ❖ I want to build up the congregation as a community of faith.
- ❖ I want to live a prayerful life that models the way of Christ.

Though there are certainly additional dimensions of effective pastoral ministry and a fruitful partnership, I look back with gratitude for all the ways that God has enabled you and me to live into our promises to him and to one another. For more than 24 years, God has worked to accomplish his kingdom purposes in us and to form us into the likeness of Christ, for his glory.

Remember that this redeeming, reconciling, restoring work of God continues over the next two months as well, while I'm still with you. Our remaining time with each other isn't an occasion for idleness but an opportunity to move deeper into our love for each other and our witness in the world. I'll be working primarily with our deacons and other leaders in the church to seek God's way forward and to make plans for the initial steps in a season of transition for our congregation. Along with our church's leaders, each of you will play an important role in shaping our church's life toward the future, especially through your prayers and your faithful participation.

From a pastoral perspective, one of my favorite Scripture passages has always been Paul's opening expression of gratitude in his letter to the community of believers in Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (1:3-6). Notice how Paul starts out by speaking of the journey that he has already traveled with them. He reminds them of how he and they have already invested themselves in the gospel and in each other. Then he moves from their past journey to prospects for the future. Paul's confidence is in the faithfulness of God. God's promises are reliable. He completes what he begins. So the Philippians can be assured that God will bring their story of salvation to a glorious conclusion.

As you and I spend our final two months together, remember that this part of our story is a moment in the greater story of God's saving work. Looking back, we give thanks. Looking forward, we anticipate what God has promised. And here in the present, we'll keep loving, serving, and rejoicing in Christ.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

The Deacon of the Month for July is Cathy Rozar.

On July 2, 1926, the U.S. Army Air Corps was established.

On Independence Day, Friday, July 4, 2025 our nation will celebrate its 249th birthday. This day commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by Congress on July 4, 1776.

We commemorate the end of the Korean War on July 27, 1953.

On July 28, 1914, World War I began.

The Deacon of the Month for August is Steve Norbrey.

August 1 is Air Force Day

August 4, 1790 U.S. Coast Guard was established

August 7, 1782 the Purple Heart Medal was established.

August 14, 1945, Japan surrendered, ending WWII

August 19 is National Aviation Day

The articles for the September/October newsletter are due by the first week of August (Aug. 3). Focusing on Back to School, Fall, Church Anniversary, Halloween, Columbus Day, and those yummy fall recipes.

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About Children

"Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction: pay attention and gain understanding."
Proverbs 4:1 (NIV)

"Children's children are a crown to the aged..."
Proverbs 17:6 (NIV)

"Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right."
Proverbs 20:11 (NIV)

UPCOMING EVENT

BACK TO SCHOOL RESOURCE GIVEAWAY

Saturday, August 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Bryans Road Shopping Center
3059 Marshall Hall Road,
Bryans Road, MD 20616**



AMERICA

My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!

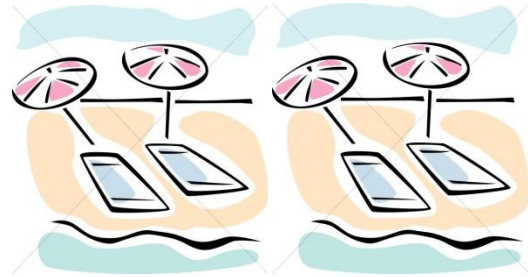
Samuel Francis Smith

MINDY'S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

It's July and summer is finally here. Time for backyard cookouts, swimming pools and summer vacations. Just remember there is a place and time for everything. Don't forget while packing for your vacation, wherever that may be, to invite God to go with you. I hope you all have a spectacular 4th of July and a blessed summer.

When August gets here many of us go on those last days of summer vacations and then have to get ready for the new school year. New clothes, school supplies, lunch items for the new lunch boxes. Try to get some rest during those hot, long summer days.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome Brock Dotson into our church membership. He was baptized on May 25, 2025.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

DOTSON, Brock
12509 A Mt. Victoria Rd.
Newburg, MD 20664
301-752-2462

HYMNS FOR DRIVERS

(Quoted from the Emmanuel Baptist Church
EBC Tablet-March 2000 issue)

For those of you who speed, please sing these:

45 mph – “God Will Take Care of Me”
55 mph – “Guide Me, O thou Great Jehovah”
65 mph – “Nearer My God to Thee”
75 mph – “Nearer Still Nearer”
85 mph – “This World is Not My Home”
95 mph – “Lord, I’m Coming Home”
100+ mph – “Precious Memories”

FUN FACTS ABOUT AUGUST

Although August is the eighth month of the calendar year, it was actually the sixth month in the early Roman calendar.

August was named after Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus, the great-nephew of Julius Caesar. He became the first emperor of the Roman Empire. “Augustus” means “the revered one.”

August has two birthstones – Peridot, green in color, is the one that is commonly known and Sardonyx, a gem with white and brown bands that was once believed to have mystical powers.

August also has two official flowers: The poppy and gladiolus.

Colorado became the 38th state in the United States on August 1, 1878.

Notables born in August include Francis Scott Key, Annie Oakley, Meriwether Lewis, Benjamin Harrison, Orville Wright, and Leonard Bernstein.

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote, proclaimed on August 26, 1920.

Great Britain provided for the end of slavery in its colonies on August 28, 1833.

Two zodiac signs fall within the month of August: Leo and Virgo. A Leo is cheerful and uplifting, and a Virgo is often reserved and shy.

The month of August is often referred to as the Dog Days of Summer, which are most sultry days of the season. “Dog Days” refers not to pet dogs, but Sirius, the dog star that rose just before or at the same time as sunrise in ancient Roman times.

GRACE’S RECIPE BOX

Crab Soup

By Arlene Berts

1 lb. Fresh crab meat
1 (10 $\frac{3}{4}$) can tomato soup
1 (11 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz) can green pea soup
3 cups milk
2 tbsp butter
1 cup chopped celery
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped onion
2 bay leaves
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. Hot pepper sauce
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté celery and onion in butter until soft and golden. Add soup and milk, then crab meat and seasonings. Simmer for about half an hour. Makes 2 quarts

(Maryland is for crabs. This soup is a must during the summer time)

Church Picnic on July 6th





JULY

Brandon Sams	07/05
Debby Holder	07/09
Ann Hess	07/12
Diane Zanakis	07/13
Amber Wood	07/19
Dillon Propes	07/19
Connie Curtin	07/23
Jake Smith	07/28
Lyle Elder	07/30
Darren Smith	07/30



ANNIVERSARIES OF THE MONTH JULY

Chris and Cathy Rozar	07/03
David and Cathy Stouffer	07/05
Mark and Keishia Fells	07/12
Robert and Janet Tuck	07/13
Bob and Sharon Farncomb	07/20
James and Ann Hess	07/29



of the Month

AUGUST

Ann Wood	08/04
Willis Cayden Proper	08/06
Jordan Holder	08/12
Mia Fells	08/13
Tristan Sams	08/14

Amalia Proper	08/18
Rachel Proctor	08/20
Faye Rogerson	08/26
Tessie Castellon	08/27



ANNIVERSARIES OF THE MONTH

AUGUST

Ron and Jeanie Strickland	08/03
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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR JULY

July 4 Independence Day
 July 5 Deacons Meeting @ 8:00 a.m.
 July 6 Lord's Supper
 July 6 Church Picnic
 July 12 Movie Night @ 6:00 p.m.
 July 27 Church Council Meeting after service

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST

August 2 Deacons Meeting @ 8:00 a.m.
 August 3 Lord's Supper
 August 9 Movie Night @ 6:00 p.m.
 August 13 Business Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
 August 16 Back to School Resource Day @
 10:00 a.m. at the Bryans Road Shopping Center

Sunday School – 9:30am
Sunday Morning Service – 11:00am

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, July 11 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a memorial service for Richard Gold. Richard passed away on March 13. His funeral and burial took place on March 21 in Florida.