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## HAVE A HAPPY and SAFE 4TH OF JULY







Chris Johnson pastor pastor@chalkbluff.org

#### Creation's Glory

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

#### Psalm 19:1-2 (NIV)

The rain has ended and the sun is shining through. It is time to enjoy creation as God intended. That is the blessing of summer. We get to run around outside, swim in our lakes, and climb trees forgetting about the real world if only for a moment. We need that time in creation as a reminder of who we really are and who our God is. Unfortunately though, for many of us time away becomes a break from reality while at the same time a break from God.

It is easy to forget about God when you are lying on the beach, but you are missing out if you leave God at home. We cannot ignore God like we ignore work when we are on vacation. Time away becomes a brief escape from reality, but it is impossible to escape God. God is seeking us wherever we travel in hopes of further establishing a meaningful relationship with us. The creator of the universe wants to know us more, an honor we cannot over look any longer. This summer we need to listen to God even when we are attempting to escape the monotony of life.

One way to enhance your time away and deepen your relationship with God is to pray the Psalms. I would encourage you to set aside some 15 minutes or so to talk with God in the most beautiful place you can find near your destination, maybe near a cliff or on a scenic beach. Go there alone bringing only your Bible and take a moment to relax. This is when you commune with God.

It is important that as you soak in the scene take time to be silent, listening to God, then read a Psalm as a prayer. You can read Psalm 8, 19, or 104, all of which speak of God as creator, and contemplate who God is in nature. This will begin to open your eyes to new characteristics of God and bless your vacation in ways you cannot imagine. There is something special about reading timeless Scripture in the beauty of creation. These prayerful texts come alive and life is clearer in those moments.

The beautiful thing about reading a text this way is that you don't have to travel to Florida to try it. It works just as well in Cameron Park or under a large oak tree as it does in the Keys. I hope that even if you do not get a grand vacation this summer that you will still enjoy God in creation. You will go as far as you need to enjoying all God made for us with Scripture in hand.







I cannot believe how fast the summer is going. It is already July. I am writing from Houston, and I want yall to know that I am having a wonderful time with my internship. For those who may not know, I have to take a summer internship as a part of my degree plan at Baylor, and God has placed me in Houston, Texas at Champion Forest Baptist Church. I really miss Chalk Bluff deeply. What I miss the most is the strong community we have together. God has blessed so many lives through the joy-filled fellowship of this church. I want to encourage you to "keep the fire going". Don't let the laid back summer time mentality cause us to become lazy in attending our church gatherings. Regular meetings with believers is biblical, crucial, and life-giving. God works year around through His body of believers, not just during the school year. May the life-giving community continue to grow in the love of Christ, and may the cross of Jesus be the center of our meetings. I cannot wait to see yall again. Have a great July.





Our Mission Trip this year is July 18th-25th.

We will be going to Penitas, Texas in the Valley to complete a house for the Partida family. We get the honor of presenting them the keys to their home at the end of the week. We will also have a crew building twin beds for children and doing warehouse work for Buckner. Hope you can come and be a part of this awesome mission outreach. There will be a sign up sheet in the foyer for those who want to go. Sign up by July 12th, please.

Donations are appreciated to help pay for the beds. We hope to complete 10 again this year. Cost of beds is \$100 each.

### SEWING CLASS TO BE OFFERED ON MISSION TRIP

DONATIONS OF ITEMS YOU DO NOT WANT BACK

Clothing Material( cotton & poly cotton)
Elastic (1 Inch)
Pins

Thread Scissors Quilt Material

Working Sewing Machines
Donation boxes in Fellowship Hallway and Sanctuary Hallway.

# july 2015

Deacon Lock-up July- Rick Fendley August- Jim Hogue

Sunday	onday	ednesday hu	ursday riday	aturday	F	S
* Han	PPY 4th of July *		Monthly Alzheimer's Support Group 10 am	Senior Adults 10 am	3	Cod Pless the USAI
****			Joshua McCormick	Jud Woodruff		Chiddy Nwaez
Nursery Volunteers Kathy Riley Lisa Moreno	6	7	8	Senior Adults 10 am	10	11
No Evening Service		YOUT	HAM SPRINGS			
			JU	JLY <b>7</b> TH-11T	.H	
Amanda Spoon	Nila Hill Shane Shilling	MorganRosenbalm	Carol Stafford	Kenita Fendley Stephanie Kingre	y	Debbie Ihlenfeld
Nursery Volunteers 12 Barbara Sauls Cheyenne Raines	13	14	15	Senior Adults 10 am	17	18
VEGGIE VAN 12 noon				10 a		
Deacon's Meeting 4 PM						
Church Council Meeting5pm	Connie Bright Cody Ragsdale			Bob McKamie		
Nursery Volunteers Jane Hall Mary Stone		21	22	Senior Adults 10 am	24	25
<b>VALLE</b>	Y MISS	ION TE	RIP JUI	Y 18TH	H-JULY	25TH
No Evening Service	Betty Moore Chloe Raines		Kim Meredith	Chris Johnson	Mary Kirkpatrick Charlie Lewis	Cody Kemp
Nursery Volunteers Monica McCormick Amy Johnson	27	28	29	Senior Adults 10 am	31	
4th Sunday Game						
Night & Watermelon		Jeremy Coleman				
Bash 6:00 pm		Toby Gustavus Sheila Willet	Marci Carter Karly Clark	Jaylin Pipkin	Britney Skopik Luise Snell	



Men's Prayer Breakfast Every Thursday Morning 6:30 am Deacon's Meeting Sunday, July 12th-4:00PM Church Council Meeting Sunday, July 12th -5:00 pm





So much fun in the SON!!! So much fun in the SUN!!! The kids had so much fun at camp, lots of games, lots of worship, and lots of sun, a little rain. One of our kids accepted Jesus into his heart while at camp and will be baptized soon. Thank you to all the kids who attended, we had a great time! Our verse from camp was Psalms 139:14, I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. We are special and made in Gods image!

VBS is coming soon so be looking for the volunteer sign-up sheets and children registration forms in the church narthex. There is also on line registration available on the church website www.chalkbluff.org.







August 3rd-6th
6:30-8:30pm
Ages 4 years-5th grade
SEE DISPLAY IN SANCTUARY
FOYER









Youth camp is right around the bend, and everyone is excited to go. As we prepare for something as big and expensive as youth camp, there is a lot of thought going into it on why we do big things like this. There are many reasons some people choose not to go to youth camp. Cost seems to be the biggest factor in the decision making process, and camp is the single most expensive thing we do every year. Is it worth the price?

If you ask the youth, they will resound with a big YES! They know how much fun it is, but really that's not what camp is about. Yes we have fun at camp, but more importantly we learn together and remove all the distractions of everyday life. There is a reason that most camps are located in the middle of nowhere. When you are isolated, it is easier to get our minds off what was going on at home or at school, and focus on what is going on right then.

After we are isolated, we are fully immersed in everything God related. All the other people there are here for the same reasons that we are, to learn more and draw ourselves closer to our Lord. We go to worship together twice a day. We go to small groups together twice a day. Everything we do, even during the Recreation time, is pointing us toward the Kingdom, and that is the best way for us to realize what we need to work on to become more like Christ.

This is why we go to camp, even as sponsors. Because we care about these youth and want them to experience the closeness to God that we felt, but also that we might get a chance to take a look at ourselves too and see where we still need honing.





4th Sunday July 26th

Deacon's Watermelon Bash--6 PM Come and enjoy some good ol' cold watermelon, fellowship and game night.

WORLD HUNGER RELIEF
VEGGIE VAN
IS COMING TO CHALK BLUFF
SUNDAY, JULY 12TH 12 NOON
IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT

