



July, 2017

**FROM PASTOR CHAMBERS:** What a wonderful Vacation Bible School we have had this past week! Praise the Lord that we had several students attend this week, and several people in our church helped in every aspect, but most importantly the gospel was presented. I want to thank each and every person in our church who was involved this year. Whether you helped build the sets, decorate the classrooms, worked the puppets, worked nursery, worked in the kitchen, taught, organized games, we all together played a part to “cultivate the soil” of the hearts of these students, and my prayer is that the seed of the gospel sown will continue to take root inside their heart. You never know the impact you can make for the cause of Jesus Christ when you serve in any capacity! Thank you once again. The Lord is continuing to work in our church especially in June. Our average attendance was up 20 from last June, a month when attendance naturally drops due to vacation season. We are seeing visitors every Sunday, and we are seeing the Lord work in our services. My encouragement and challenge to you is to continue to pray for the Lord’s power, pray for our guests that they will return, continue to be friendly, pray that more people will decide to accept Christ as Savior, be baptized and join our church membership. With that said, for the upcoming fall we are praying for more workers to serve in AWANA. Remember if you are willing to serve and have not yet joined the church, we do have a child policy in order to work with children, which requires the person to be a member of the congregation, to have a background check, and to attend one of our bi-yearly “youth and children safety meeting.” If you are wanting to join, please see one of our deacons and they will help you begin the process of becoming a member. Looking forward to a great July!

**FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE:** (From an article I once clipped back when I taught U.S. History) Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Continental Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. **What kind of men were they?** Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; all were men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.



Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife’s bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates. They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn’t fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn’t. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and silently thank these patriots, and thank the Lord for using them to give us the freedom that we have. We need to realize that true patriots are willing to pay a price, not just for their own freedom, but for the liberty of their children and grandchildren as well as all of their countrymen. Remember that liberty comes with a price and that it can be easily taken away. **Freedom is never free.**

**IF YOU CAN KEEP IT:** I wanted to recommend a good book this Independence Day season. *If You Can Keep It* by Eric Metaxas. In 1787, when the Constitution was drafted, a woman asked Ben Franklin what the founders had given the American people. “A republic,” he shot back, “if you can keep it.” The author uses this book and examines what that means and how we are doing on that score today. Metaxas explains in this book that America is a radical and unprecedented idea, based upon liberty and freedom for all. The part that is worth the price of the book is chapter 3, entitled “The Wonder of the Age,” which is a brief but thorough biography on the ministry and preaching of George Whitefield during the revival of the First Great Awakening in America, which along with other ministers during the time, prepared a nation for Independence. This 260 page book is well written, and I highly recommend it to any US History buff or any American learning about our heritage and foundations as a nation.

**CHURCH EVENTS FOR JULY:** Remember the official “church calendar” is located in the church office. **Also we have revamped the church website and you can also find the church calendar as well as the nursery schedule on the website.**

([www.shbcwv.com](http://www.shbcwv.com)) Every announcement in the bulletin for Sunday comes from the calendar. If you lead a ministry and desire to plan an activity not yet on the calendar and need it announced for Sunday, please let us know by **Friday morning** so that it can be announced in the bulletin each week.

**Saturday, July 1** - Sunshine Seniors - Wild and Wonderful Arts & Crafts Festival in Ravenswood

**Sunday, July 2** - Lord’s Supper - pm service

**Sunday, July 9** - Youth and Children Safety Class - 5 pm (for those who couldn’t attend in January)

**Monday, July 10** - Advisory Council Meeting - 7 pm

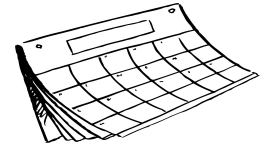
**Monday, July 10 - Friday, July 14** - Junior Camp @ Alpine Camp

**Sunday, July 16** - Quarterly Business Meeting - pm service

**Sunday, July 23** - Baptism Service - am service (For anyone who has accepted Christ and desires to be baptized)

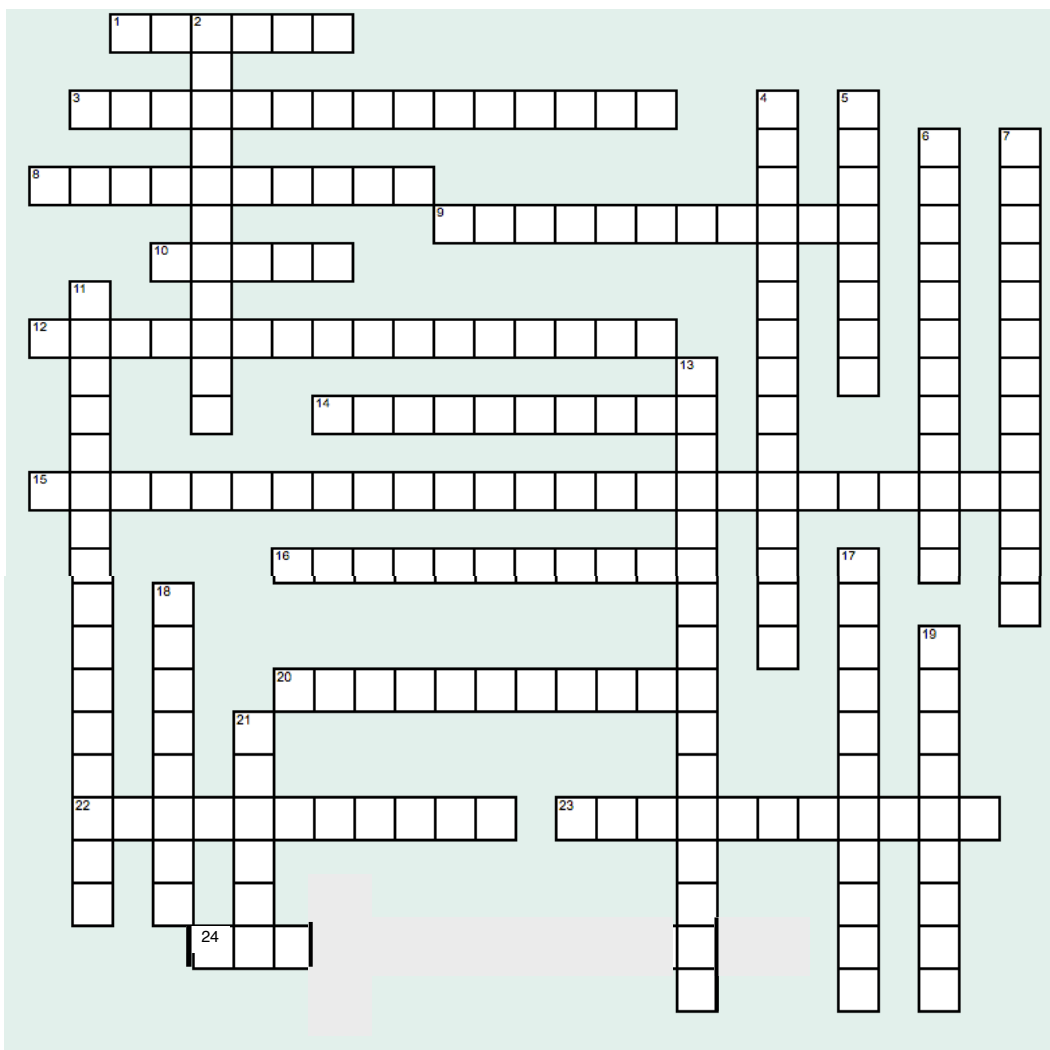
**Sunday, July 30** - Jacob Crum speaking evening service, refreshments in fellowship hall after pm service

**Monday, July 31** - Deacons Meeting - 7 pm



\*Youth Group and Kid’s Group on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm throughout the summer months

**FOURTH OF JULY CROSSWORD: enjoy!**



Across	Down
1 City where Tea Party Took Place	2 Led the "Sons of Liberty"
3 Chief author of the Declaration of Independence	4 Harsh laws of 1774
8 Where the first major battle of the American Revolution was fought	5 Where the British surrendered
9 First signer of the Declaration of Independence	6 Said "Give me liberty or give me death"
10 Added money charged by British	7 Ruler of Great Britain from 1760 to 1801
12 Oldest signer of the Declaration of Independence	11 Revolutionary General
14 Overthrow of one government and its replacement with another	13 Where the colonies' representatives met to agree to the Declaration of Independence
15 Document agreed upon by colonies' representatives July 6, 1776	17 Two of the three natural rights of all stated in the Declaration of Independence
16 Those in charge of the government according to the Preamble to the Constitution	18 Soldiers who fought against the British (Also an NFL Team)
20 Winter quarters of Washington's army	19 Those who wanted to stay with Britain
22 "These are the times that try men's souls"	21 Country that helped colonies
23 It was rung to announce the Declaration of Independence	24 What was thrown in the Boston Harbor

