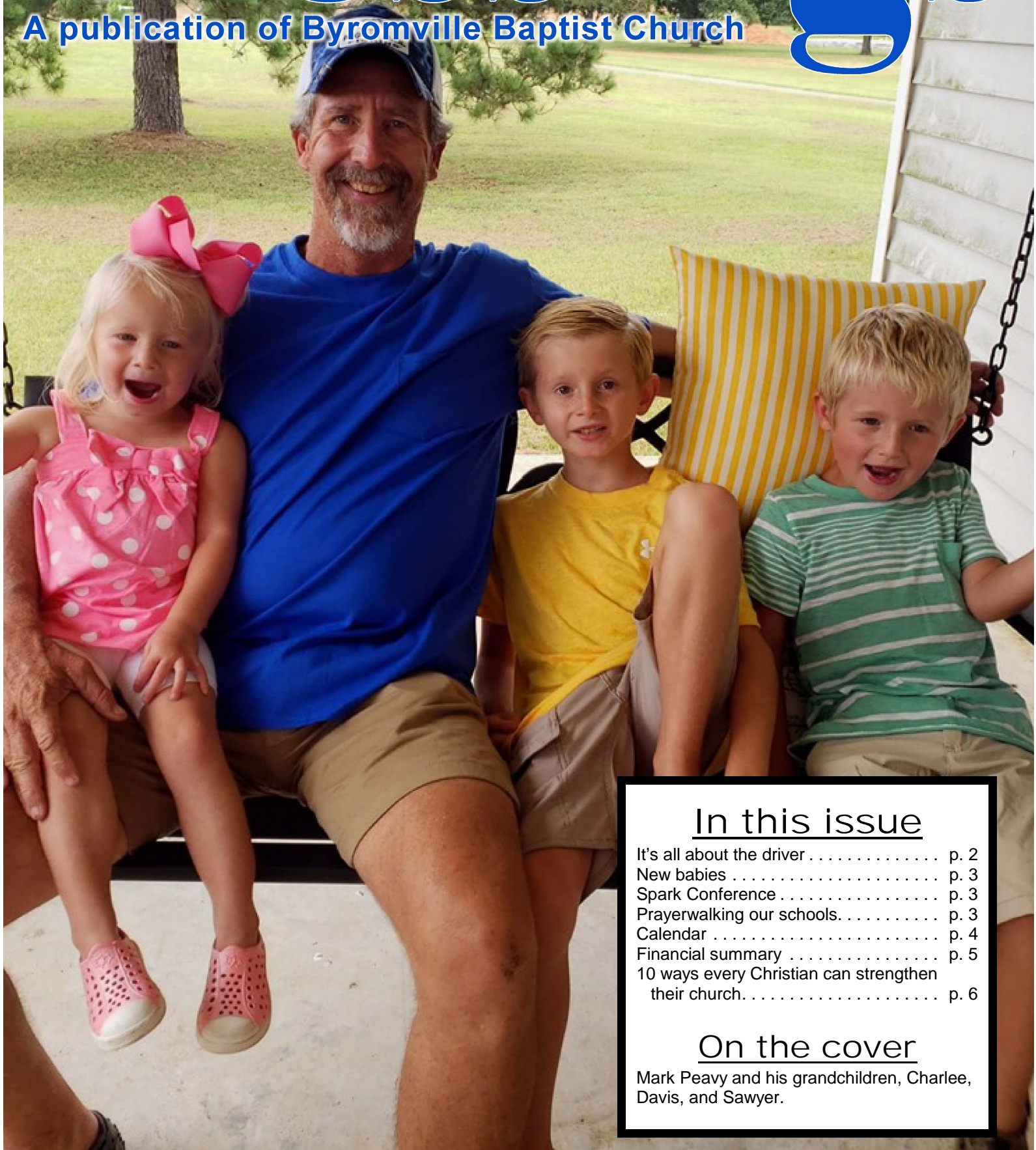


Blessings

August 2020

A publication of Byromville Baptist Church



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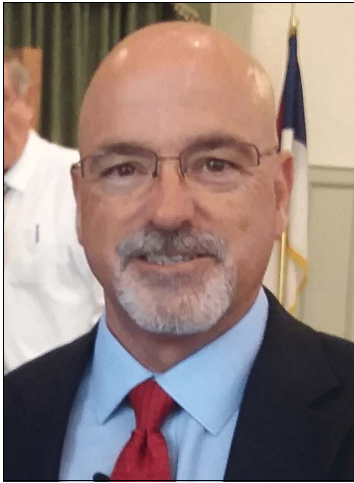
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On the cover

Mark Peavy and his grandchildren, Charlee, Davis, and Sawyer.

Pastor's column

It's all about the driver



Mike L. Parker

I hear some of you asking right out the gate, “Pastor Mike in the title of this article are you referring to letting Jesus be the driver and us the passenger as we travel through life?” No, but that would make an excellent article or sermon. In this title I am referring to the driver found in a golf bag.

Now to some of you it may seem to be a bit of a reach to use golf to teach a spiritual lesson. But I have found through my life's experiences that the Holy Spirit will use anything, and every situation we find ourselves in to teach us practical lessons that cause us to grow in grace and faith. Let me show you how God can use a smidgen of the game of golf to do just that.

My two sons and I were planning to play golf in Hawkinsville this past Saturday. My friend Tommy hooked me up with a great set of older clubs including a tested and true driver that he had stored in his garage for a decade or more. Man was I excited about looking the part on the golf course and I just knew these clubs would make all the difference. Yep, Jake and Ben were going to get beat by dear old Dad.

I had a great drive off the second tee, and now I was lined up for another great tee shot for the third hole. I adjusted my stance and settled in completely relaxed and focused on the shot at hand. My arms started the backswing, and then the contact with the ball was solid. Everything felt and sounded perfect. When I looked up to find the ball in the blue sky, all I could focus on was the black head of my driver following the path my golf ball should have taken. The head of my driver went straight down the fairway and came to rest 100 yards from the tee box.

For a brief moment I was stunned and in awe of the shot. Then I got all bent out of shape because my

secret weapon was out of commission. My confidence was shot. As a result, I only won two of the eighteen holes we played that day. Ultimately we still had a lot of fun. But there was a lesson God wanted me to learn. A lesson that He wants to share with each of us. You see the driver is the most important club in the golf bag. With a good driver you can shorten your golf game immeasurably, and the reason for that is the power that is generated by the club.

Anyway, I texted my friend Tommy about what happened and he said “Don’t worry about it I have another spare one or two around here.” This morning I picked up the two drivers to take them to the driving range in order to decide which one I wanted to keep. When I got to Tommy’s house he gave me the insight that led to this article’s spiritual lesson.

Tommy explained why the club head sheared off and traveled far down the fairway. It had been propped up in his garage for years completely neglected or should I say unused. Then as moisture from time to time traveled down the golf handle it would cause the mettle where the clubhead meets the shaft to rust internally. Unseen to me was this internal weakness. When I needed my club the most it snapped off and left me without the power to position myself to win.

You know prayer is like a golfer’s driver. It doesn’t accomplish anything unless it is used. But when it is used regularly it generates power in every area of our lives. We become exceedingly beneficial to others when intercession, praise, and thankfulness become hallmarks of our prayer life. How is your prayer life? Can others count on you or does a lack of confidence because of a lack of prayer affect your effectiveness.

Don’t set prayer aside like my driver was for extended periods of time. May our prayer life look like Tommy’s golf game. He plays often (very often), and as a result he is spot on with his mechanics, and club selection and use. By the way, Tommy has also carried the lessons of his golf game into his prayer life. He is a trusted prayer warrior—one who knows how to use the gifts that God has given him. Stay alert y’all and practice praying every day and in all things be thankful (Philippians 4:6-8).

Pastor Mike



Pete and Myrtle Fountain's great great grandson, Jakob Brian Sledge, was born April 28 weighing 2 lb. 15 oz. and measuring 15 in. He's about 8 lb. in the above recent picture. Congratulations to Pete and Myrtle as well as great grandmother Gloria Fountain Chambers, grandmother Sonya Thompson, and parents Tyler and Courtney.



Cathy Thompson's great granddaughter Piper Jane Brunel Evert was born May 31 weighing 3 lb. 3 oz. She's now up to 6 lb. 4 oz. in the picture above. Congratulations to Cathy as well as grandparents Kristi and Jon Claude Brunel and parents Celine and Gordon..



Equipping Conference

Premieres Online August 28

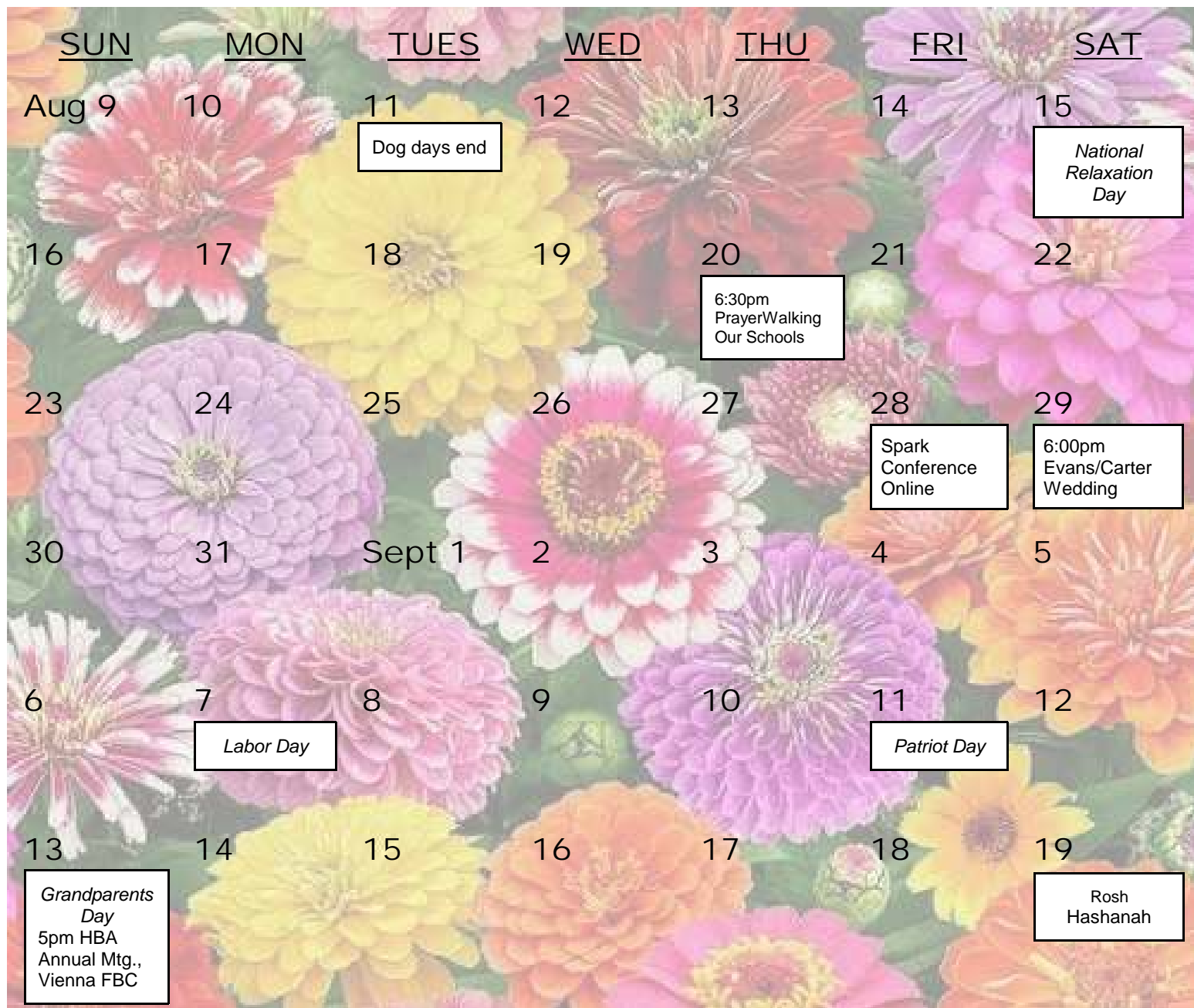
Do you want to see your church strong, advancing the Great Commission? That's why there's SPARK. Not just another conference, SPARK is a gathering of local church leaders passionate about making disciples to reach the world for Christ. Last year our Georgia Baptist Mission Board hosted over 1,200 local church leaders and this year they plan to double or triple that engagement through strategic partnerships. For more information and to sign up go to www.thesparkconference.com.

**PRAYERWALKING
OUR SCHOOLS**
August 20, 2020 @ 6:30pm
All schools in Crisp and Dooly Counties

Go to the school of your choice.
Sponsored by Houston Baptist Association.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Our pastor search committee as they search for our next pastor.
- Arthur Roney and the nominating committee as they seek leaders for coming church year.
- For more prayer needs visit www.byromvillebaptistchurch.com



Birthdays

8-9	Brittnay Kidd Dale Raper Jeremy Wilkes Brandi Witmer	8-24	Ronnie Hatcher	9-7	Lawson Massey
8-12	Andy Boyd David Thompson	8-26	Paula Pece	9-11	Madison Hunter
8-13	Abby Dorsett Paula McKinley	8-27	Bob Latimer Fisher Neal Garrett Wright	9-13	Vernon Kirksey Nancy Musselwhite
8-14	Daniel Brown Rhonda Youngblood	8-28	Laura Lamberth Darlene Stephenson Jeff Witmer	9-14	Keith Lamberth
8-17	Martha Sellars	8-30	Kristi Brunel Rusty Wilkes	9-15	Alexandra Braddock Thomas Braddock
8-18	Jeff Overton	9-5	Ed Sandefur		
8-20	Jeff Lockerman	9-6	Jamie Gauthier		
8-24	Bragan Gambrell	9-7	Terri Gregory Denver Massey		



Please pray for these folks on their birthday.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

Sunday School . . . 10am
Worship 11am

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting 7pm

Financial Summary

June receipts

General offerings.	\$8,493.00
Other	13.23
TOTAL RECEIPTS	8,506.23

June disbursements

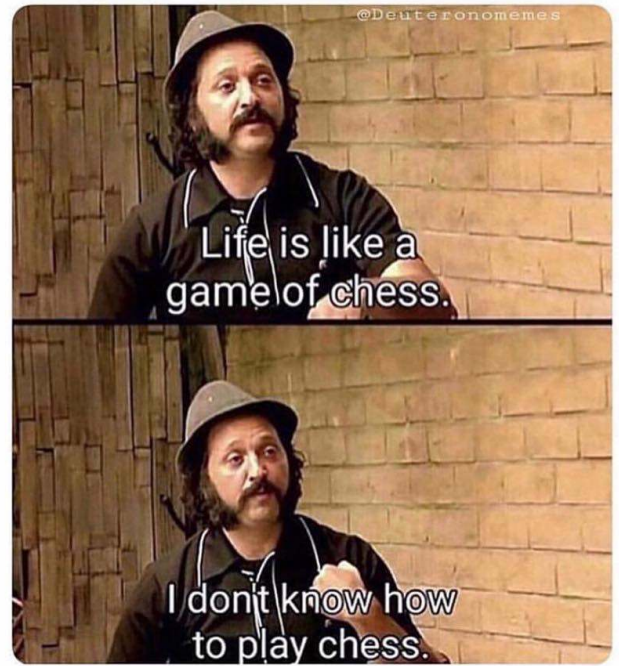
General expenses	3,465.94
Houston Baptist Association.	447.13
Cooperative Program	1,880.86
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$5,793.93

Year To Date Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	49,759.66	57,624.00	-7,864.34
Disbursements	44,498.91	57,624.00	-13,125.09

Sunday School Average for July: 42

Why I need God



Ten ways every christian can strengthen their church

In the early days at Lancaster Baptist Church, I gave a “Visit with the Pastor” almost every Sunday night in which I tried to infuse our young church with the DNA of New Testament Christianity. Usually these were a brief topical lesson on topics ranging from how to lead someone to the Lord to having family devotions to encouraging new Christians.

Now fast forward thirty years. This past fall, one of our early members, Denise Lofgren, went to be with the Lord after a sudden battle with cancer. Denise and her husband, Gary, came to Lancaster Baptist in 1987 and have stayed for these thirty years as they raised their four boys here. Shortly after Denise went to be with the Lord, her husband Gary found the handwritten outline below on a scrap of paper in her files. It was from a Visit with the Pastor titled, “How to Build a Great Church.” In the top right corner, she had written, “May 1988.” And in the top left corner, “Read Bk. of Acts.” Below was a list of ten basic principles I had given that night on how every Christian can help build their church.

I look at this list now, and I smile a little at the alliteration and even the order in which I listed some of these. But I also thank God for people like Gary and Denise Lofgren who took these biblical principles

to heart and lived them. The truth is, these are what builds a godly church. These are the attributes of church members who are growing in the Lord and helping to strengthen their church family.

Stay—Learn to stick.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.—Hebrews 10:25

Sweet Spirit—Love your church.

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:—Hebrews 10:24

Stewardship—Give liberally to God and man.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.—2 Corinthians 9:6

Separation—Live in a way that is distinctly for God in this world.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,—2 Corinthians 6:17

Continued on page 6

Stick with Scriptures—Read, study, and hear the preaching of God’s Word. Make it your ultimate authority.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12

Sold out—Be fully committed to the things of the Lord, your marriage and family, and your church family.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.—Luke 9:62

Soulwinning—Go to others with the message of salvation.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke 19:10

Spiritual—Live in a way that is holy, godly, pure, and clean.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.—2 Timothy 2:21

Sensitive—Be responsive to the needs of others, especially your church family.

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.—Galatians 6:10

Stand—Take a stand for the things of God.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:—2 Timothy 4:7

I was twenty-six years old when I wrote this list, and I had been pastoring for not quite two years. I’m now fifty-five, and I have been pastoring for over thirty-one years. And I can still say that every one of these points are needed. From pastor to pew, if you want to help build your church, I still would encourage you to read the book of Acts and to invest yourself in the ways listed above.

Paul Chappell | Jan 15, 2018 | Christian Life

Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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