

Blessings

July 2020

A publication of Byromville Baptist Church



In this issue

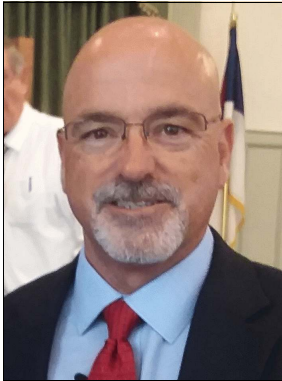
- Wrestling with God . . . p. 2
- New babies p. 3
- Upcoming wedding . . . p. 3
- Fresh air p. 3
- Calendar p. 4
- Financial summary . . . p. 5
- Children's Home Day. . p. 6

On the cover

Tracy Gregory holding
grandsons Zachary and Levi.

Pastor's column

Wrestling with God



Mike L. Parker

Wrestling with God. Now there's a thought. How many of us would even dare to think that would be a good idea? If this was the old 'Let's Make a Deal' game show wrestling with God would be the option revealed behind curtain number one. After gaining such knowledge I would be telling game show host Monty Hall give me curtain number three, or curtain two, but no way would I want anything to do with curtain number one.

In retrospect after reading Genesis 32 last night I have changed my mind. Wrestle with God? Sign me up. If it leads to the same outcome as Jacob it would be worth it. And there isn't any reason why we all shouldn't be lining up for the opportunity to be exhausted in the arms of a loving Father who only wants to bless us.

Wrestling is an exhaustive sport. In fact it is the most exhausting sport one can undertake. Usually someone loses the meet because they just don't have any gas left in the tank so to speak. Now at the onset of his divine meet Jacob didn't know that he was wrestling with God. He thought he was just wrestling a passing silhouette that decided to surprise him. But during the night of pushing, pulling, throwing and take downs he figured it out.

With this new insight Jacob wasn't going to turn loose or quit until he received the blessing that he needed. Remember, Jacob had just spent the last few days in dreaded fear of meeting his brother Esau and four hundred warriors. Oh, he knew that the promises of God were real and that He had promised to bless him and protect him, but at the moment he was petrified because he knew that he had schemed and used trickery to get both Esau's birthright and paternal blessing. At that moment it just seemed like payback time.

Have you like Jacob ever struggled with a crisis of belief? I mean you know and recognize the truth but

at that moment false reality seemed to be more real than actual reality. Well don't feel like the lone ranger we've all been there. What do we do? Keep on wrestling!

As the sun's glow began piercing the horizon Jacob's wrestling partner asked him "what is your name?" To which he replied "Jacob!" The divine being stated, "from now on you shall be called Israel because you have striven with God and man and prevailed." Let me ask you a question. Who is both God and man? Ah, that's right Jesus is both God and man. Jesus was wrestling Jacob.

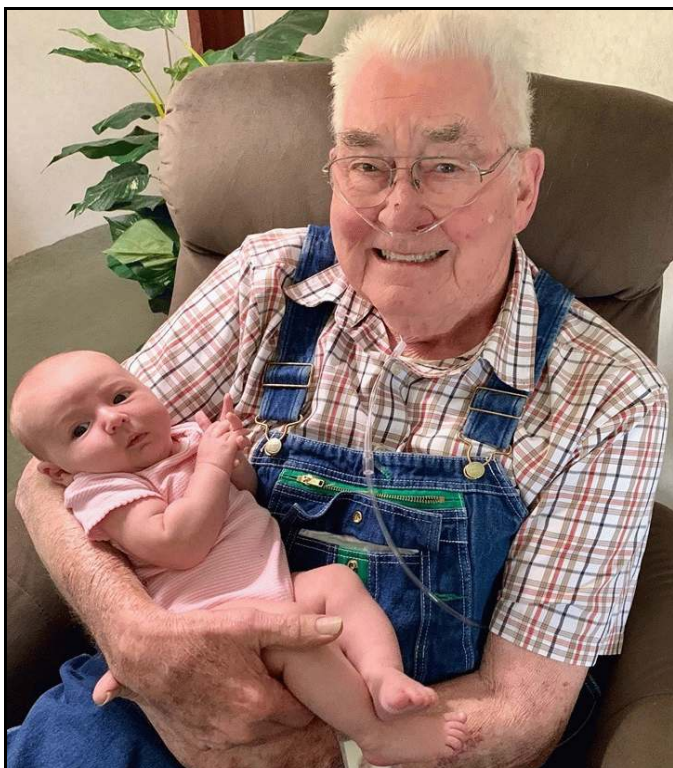
What Jacob experienced was a pre-incarnate visitation of Christ. Jacob's grandpa Abraham also had such a visitation with the pre-incarnate Christ when he bargained with the Lord for the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah. But back to our story, at any time during the night the Lord could have touched Jacob's hip and threw it out of socket but He intentionally waited until the dawning of a new day.

I think that God wrestled with Jacob all night in order to completely drain him of all self-energy and strength. God wanted to do something new and now Jacob, the deceiver, the 'I can handle this in my own way guy' was completely exhausted and humbled before his Creator. Jacob got his blessing and the good word for us today is so can we.

Jesus has laid out the perfect plan for us to be abundantly blessed. In Matthew 7:7-8 we read that he who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and he who knocks it will be opened. How close have we been to being touched by God in an amazing way but we didn't wrestle until daylight?

God wants us to be reverential toward Him, but He also wants us to put feet to our faith; to endure, to go the extra mile, to overcome adversity, to hold on to Jesus and never turn loose of His promises. Remember, Psalm 30:5 tells us "that weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning." Hold on dear one you are about to be blessed!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mike



Floyd Tucker is holding his 12th great grandchild. Sylvie Greer Rainey was born May 18 weighing 8 lb. 2 oz. and measuring 21 in. long. Congratulations to Floyd and to grandparents Pat and Kyle Ellis and to parents Kaitlin and Dustin.



Anna Rose Giraldo is Lillian Gresham's second great grandchild. Anna was born April 16 weighing 6 lb. 9 oz. and measuring 20 in. long. Congratulations to Lillian, great grandparents Carolyn/Billy Tison, grandparents Christy/Eric Giraldo, & mother Ashley.

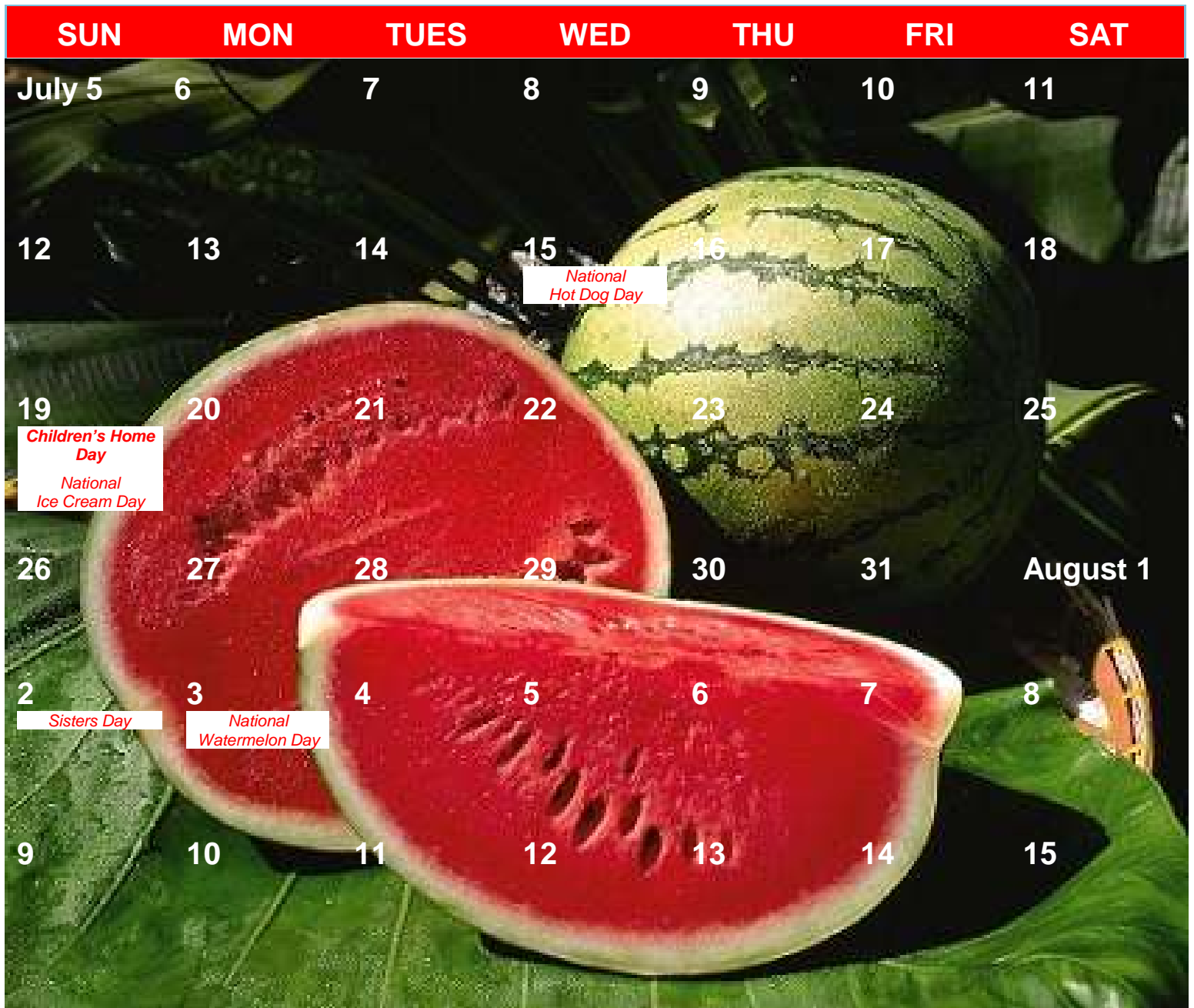


Massey Evans and Olivia Carter are getting married at BBC August 29 at 6:00 p.m., and you are invited. Reception will be at Reedy Branch Lodge at 6:45 p.m. You can RSVP at www.theknot.com.

Fresher, cleaner air at BBC

The air at BBC these days is more than just fresh due to the generosity of a member of our congregation. A state of the art air sanitizing system effective in eliminating most allergens and contagions has been installed in the downstairs area of the original church building (includes sanctuary).





Birthdays

Please pray for these on their birthday.

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|-----|--|
| 7-6 | William Preston
Kelly West
Kyle West | 7-24 | Tori Lamberth
Beau West | 8-4 | Larry Crutchfield
Gage Roney
Tammy Smith
Sharon Powell
Jeffrey Witmer |
| 7-7 | Suzy Grantham | 7-25 | April Trimback | | |
| 7-9 | Gennette Edwards | 7-26 | Autunm Trimback | | |
| 7-10 | Judy Brinson
Andy Thompson | 7-28 | Massey Evans | 8-5 | Cheryl Foster |
| 7-13 | Tracey Gregory | 7-29 | Cheri Overton | 8-8 | Betty Barrett
Cameron Bodrey
Mendy Bodrey
Kelly Woodruff
Ed Youngblood |
| 7-16 | Sally Averill
Ron Everidge
Sean Payne | 7-30 | Jimmy Edwards
Joanna Vaughan | | |
| 7-17 | Patricia Rigdon | 8-1 | Keagan Cavanah
Brooke Thompson | 8-9 | Brittnay Kidd
Dale Raper
Jeremy Wilkes
Brandi Witmer |
| 7-19 | Ayden Godfrey
Ambrose Lockerman | 8-2 | Sue Thompson | | |
| 7-20 | Jeanne Musselwhite | 8-3 | Julie Humphries
Kim Golden | | |
| 7-21 | Era Mae Youngblood | 8-4 | Jesse Raper
Alex Blankenship
Marley Collier | | |

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY

Sunday School . . . 10am
Worship 11am
We are now meeting in the sanctuary, but still practicing social distancing.

WEDNESDAY

Prayer Meeting 7pm
In Saliba Hall

Financial Summary

April receipts

General offerings.	6,135.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.	400.00
Other	99.16
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,624.16

April disbursements

General	2,418.02
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.	1,100.00
Houston Baptist Association.	177.71
Cooperative Program	502.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	4,197.73

May receipts

General offerings.	13,655.00
Other	12.56
TOTAL RECEIPTS	13,667.56

May disbursements

General	9,671.77
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.	400.00
Houston Baptist Association.	161.35
Cooperative Program	461.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	10,694.12

Year To Date Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	41,266.66	48,020.00	-6,753.34
Disbursements	38,704.96	48,020.00	-9,315.04

Work hard to live in peace with everyone. Represent holiness so others may see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14

Please keep praying for our pastor search committee as they continue searching for our next pastor!




Prayer for when you don't know what to do

Dear heavenly Lord,
I face situations and decisions.
It's complicated and dense.
I feel confused and lost.
Can you help me?
Can you show me the light?
First of all, oh Lord,
Calm my heart.
Let me know that my peace
Depends upon you alone.
No matter how things turn out,
With you at the center of my life,
I will stand. I will survive.
May your Spirit keep me balanced.
Lord, show me your will.
Let my mind and heart be open
To what best serves truth and life.
Give me courage
To do what is right.
Show me your Word.
Reveal it to my heart, oh Lord.
And make my conviction strong.
For when I go to you,
And you show me your will,
The blessing is guaranteed.
It may not be easy,
It may take time,
But upon Christ I stand firm.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

prayerforanxiety.com

TEARING DOWN WALLS
BUILDING UP LIVES



July 19 CHILDREN'S HOME DAY OFFERING

f @ t i n
#CHD2020

GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES AND FAMILY MINISTRIES
www.GeorgiaChildren.org

For many of the kids in our care, walls tend to become a necessary means of survival.

Some come to us having experienced abuse, abandonment, or neglect. Some have experienced the horrors of exploitation, and others have felt the uncertainty of homelessness.

Our kids' traumatic pasts have forced them to put up these internal walls as a way to protect themselves from being hurt again, especially by the people they once trusted the most. They often act out, may be seen as cold and tough, and sometimes keep their distance. They stay behind their walls where they feel safe.

But slowly, they start to open up.

They realize our staff are here to care for them and only want what's best for them. They attend our campus schools and continue learning so they can have a bright and successful future. They're told about Jesus and the life and healing only He can give.

Over time, the walls that once kept others out have now become their testimonies to share.

It's a journey, and your support makes these life-changing journeys possible. Because of you, walls are torn down and lives are built up on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

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.

Byromville Baptist Church

713 Patterson Street † POB 126
Byromville, GA 31007
www.byromvillebaptistchurch.com
478-433-2505
Interim Pastor: Mike L. Parker

