



# THE LINK

July, 2009

Volume 39, Issue 7

River View Baptist Church

## Freedom



*...AND THE SON  
SHALL MAKE YOU  
FREE...  
JOHN 8:36*

In Plymouth, Massachusetts a monument has been erected to remember those first settlers to the shores of America. The monument itself is a challenge of the Pilgrims spirit to every generation of Americans. The inscription upon the monument reads: "This spot marks the final resting place of the Pilgrims of the Mayflower. In weariness and hunger and cold, fighting the wilderness and burying their dead in common graves so that the Indians should not know how many had perished, they here laid the foundations of a state in which all men for countless ages should have liberty to worship God in their own way. All you who pass by and see this stone remember, and dedicate yourself anew to the resolution that you will not rest until this lofty ideal shall have been realized throughout the earth.

In this month in which we celebrate our nations independence, we do well

to be reminded from which we came. We are a Nation of freedoms. Yet freedom is not cheap! The freedoms we enjoy today have come to us by the foresight and the sacrifice of those who came before us. We were not there when the first settlers left the safety and security of their homeland and set sail into uncertainty. No doubt the prospect of freedom pushed them to face



their greatest fears. Freedom from tyranny and government oppression. Freedom to worship God and to pursue a peaceful and productive life. These virtues were worth the

cost and they were willing to pay the price.

But what about this present generation? Do we really appreciate our heritage? Are we willing to pay the price to keep and secure these freedoms for generations to come? One thing is certain and that is that the hope of a nation rests in the hands of God, and righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people (Proverbs 14:34). As God's people we must hold fast and pray that God will keep us free so that we can worship and evangelize. Because no one is really free until Christ sets them free.

Pastor Ricky



## Adventures at Ridgecrest

Hello to all, my name is Matt Thompson and I am that new face sitting with the teens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> row in service. I am here for the summer to work with your youth group, and my 1<sup>st</sup> tour of duty was to go with the youth to Camp Ridgecrest for six days. "What a way to kick things off?" One might be saying to themselves. Some would even say, "First week on the job and they are already feeding you to the lions." But thanks to your faithful seven superhero leaders, as I call them, the lions mouths were closed. I honestly could not have made it a week without the leadership of these men and women, they

were not only a help but a blessing to me. Everything aside, it was a great pleasure and honor to go with this outstanding group of boys and girls. Just to be there and partake of the work God was doing in each one of their lives was just priceless. During the week we experienced many things involving: card games, work, birthday cake (for Casey), walking thru a storm, loneliness (trying to find where everyone else was), and great messages from Tony Merida. It started off Monday morning, June 15<sup>th</sup>, with a group of people that were just pumped up and ready to go. So off we go

headed to a land that most of us had never been to, a land that could have been filled with monsters for all we knew. But as we traveled to a place we were not to knowledgeable about we knew deep down in our hearts that God was going to be there and that's where we wanted to be. We got there and settled ourselves down and after one day we saw that this was a land teeming with good food, long hikes, crazy camp staff, and cold showers. It was going to be "awesome" as one youth exclaimed. Our group was split into two groups, one group stayed at camp the

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## Prayer & Meditation Garden

Dear Church family,

It has taken a lot of time to get the gate made and put up. The gate will be installed June 29th.

As much as we would like to go ahead and get the water fountain in place, it is necessary that we brick a place for it, so that we do not have to move it after it is installed. We want to do a good job and do it right the first time.

We have enough money to do what we have planned so far, except for the walk way through the garden. In the fall you will have an opportunity to give a donation toward the walkway in honor or to remember someone special. Their name and your name will be placed on a brick.

If you have already made a donation for a special

purpose that name will be at the object and all names will be posted some where in the Garden.

If you have any questions or any suggestions please feel free to share your thoughts with us.

Vickie Wise & Peggy Coffey



## House and Grounds Report

The Bathroom at the Impact Zone ( Old Fellowship Building) is complete. Thanks to Hubert Lambert for looking after the work and doing a lot of the work himself. Thanks to anyone who helped him in any way. We are now able to enter the restroom from the outside as well as inside. This will be great when there is a funeral at the cemetery. The building will be locked except when we

have a funeral.

We will do our best to make sure it is unlocked during these times.

We are in the process of putting an outside water fountain near the impact Zone, where the Old Church used to stand. It will have the dates the Church Building stood there and when the Church was started and moved to that location.

If at all possible we would like to put the 26 charter

members on it. We will get the cost of the fountain and the cost of having the names put on it.

If you would like to help with this project and the cost, please contact Larry Coffey 704-735-4812 or Barbara Dudley 704-732-9520

## Happy Hearts Fun day!

May was a great month. Happy Hearts met at Amie and Terry Pfeifer's home. We had a great day fishing and picnicking. All of us felt like we had had a day at the beach.

Wilma Gantt jumped with joy when she caught the first fish. That got all of us excited and the contest began. Clayton and Jerry out-fished us all but that didn't stop Pastor Ricky. I had to apologize to him for saying he had only caught one little fish, all of a sudden he latched on to a nice cat fish. That fish didn't know who he was messing with!

Nelson and Shirley, Randy, Blair and Ruby are the best sports. The fellowship with Bill and Jean Hamlett is so wonderful. All of you should come with us. Rose Marie Beer was our gopher Girl. She did a fantastic job keeping everyone happy. Thanks! Rose.

In June we went to J. & S

Restaurant in Hickory and afterward we had a fun time shopping at Hamrick's. We stopped and shopped for groceries and at Dollar store for items to donate to Christian Ministry.

Thanks to everyone who was so supportive.



God bless you  
Peggy  
Dellinger

## Adventures at Ridgecrest

*(Continued from page 2)*

entire time and did several activities and games together during the middle of the day. The other group was a small mission team that did yard work for a children's home in Black Mountain, NC. I did not work at the children's home but thru word of mouth I was told it was a lot of work. The team used weed eaters, picked weeds, stained bridges and steps, moved debris, and many other things to get the children's home looking in great shape by Friday. One individual gave up cutting weeds with his weed eater and choose rather to cut down a tree. The children's home simply is a type of orphanage that a Presbyterian group owns and operates. We spent Friday night church group time over at the home to simply pray for the children and the ministry there. I could definitely see a change of spirit within the youth

about this place. They did not view this as a menial job full of sweat and tears but a ministry full of giving and funded by love. The team did a great job and by Friday was sad to leave.

Each day we had a time of Bible study and devotion. This particular week was

The youth really grabbed onto to this lesson and by the end of the week there were some that made decisions to surrender themselves to God for ministry.

Now there were some moments where we were scared or at least I was,

especially since there was a bear warning over the whole camp. On one occasion, I was tracking up through the woods on a trail, when I heard something beside me that frightened me into thinking there was



focused on Moses and how God chose him to go or "Move," which was our theme, by faith into God's known will. Each day we as an entire group looked at the life and decisions that Moses made. We knew the story of Moses but we still dug deeper into what his motives and attitude toward God was. We are all called by God to do something for Him and it requires us to "Move," out of our comfort zone and by faith into God's known will.

a black bear standing beside me wanting to eat me, but it was only Michael Stamey throwing objects beside me to scare me. The camp had attracted youth groups from all over the place, there were groups from Illinois, Arkansas, Texas, Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee. The youth got a chance to talk with many different types of people and share their testimony, some guys

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## Adventures at Ridgecrest

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shared more than others. There were several activities that the team that did not go to the children's home got to do. Some activities included: soccer, disc golf, battleball (Ethan's favorite), bead making, and table games to name a few. One morning we got to take part in an activity that involved putting two people back to back and having them lock arms and stand up together. Well we had to pick partners and there were only six of us, so the partners were: Jordan and Jordan; Cody and Ethan; Allen and Myself. Well Jordan Ray and Jordan Stamey did not have a problem and neither did Cody and Ethan, but as for Allen and myself, well that's a funny story because Allen a smaller form of myself could not help me stand up and therefore letting me sit while our group leader Chelsea from Ridgecrest kept coaching us on. Well it never worked and I eventually flattened Allen. We all got a laugh and it was the

highlight of the Friday morning Recreation Time. I have to hand it to the five guys and Marsha who stayed back at camp despite the others leaving for their mission, those guys hiked up a mountain at least three times a day, without a single complaint. I believe the only complaint came when another youth that had been with the mission team came back and had to hike the mountain Friday for the Mega Relay. Let me just share that the Mega Relay involves every camper at camp (some 1,400 kids). We took part in this relay together with a smaller church from Richmond, VA. It was a monster of a relay having the youth do activities ranging from doing a push-up, to eating baby food as fast as you can. Our youth did it and out of the entire camp our group came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Good job guys!

I would have to say a highlight of each day was the time we as an entire group got together for church group time and spent time in devotion, worship, and prayed to God. We shared

about our day, we joked and carried on about how different little things had happened to us, but we most importantly spent time with God. There were times in the week where I shared a little reflection on what the speaker was saying, and other times we just sat around and sang praises to God. God used this time to not only pull us closer to Him but also pull us closer to each other. We as a group definitely had our fun times goofing off but we also had our times of growth. I learned so much about myself from this group. Danny shared with me that we take these kids up to camp for the Lord to teach them something about Him, but along the way God teaches us (adults) in our own hearts and lives. I want to personally thank each member for their contribution in the lives of the youth here at River View. Whether you contributed financially or simply prayed it meant so much, Thank You!



**AWANA CLOSING  
Ceremony AND  
AWARDS**

## June Recap

Lately it seems as I sit down to reflect upon the month's events, I'm having to do so a few weeks before the month is over. Alison and I will be at the Southern Baptist Convention in Louisville, Kentucky when I would normally be writing these remarks. Anyway, June has been a good month for us at River View.

We kicked the month off with the close of our Awana ministry for the Summer. We were able to witness the hard work of our Clubbers, who through the year passed off their hand books and received their awards. A big thanks to Marty Peeler and our Awana Staff for hard work and faithful service.

On the first Sunday of June in our morning ser-

vice we recognized and honored all of our graduates. Katalyn Pfeifer, Grayson Barkley and Ayden Hopper are going into the first grade. Michael Stamey, Michael Heffner, Elizabeth Stoffa, and Philip Wallace graduated high school and Jared Barkley, Dinah Barkley, Dana Carpenter and Merle Lancaster finished college. Each graduate was presented a Bible or a special gift from River View.

June was also the month of Father's day and Summer Camp. As I write these remarks our youth just returned from Ridgecrest and their X-Fuge camp week. From what I hear it was a tremendous week. Also, Matt Thompson just came on board for the Summer to work with our youth. He got off to a great

start by spending the week at camp. Sunday is Father's day so there is not much that I can report, other than believing it will be a great day. Our Junior's will head to camp on Monday, so I'll have to report next time on how that week played out.

We also want to welcome Jerry and Andrea Conrad to the fellowship of our Church. They joined by a statement of faith and a promise of a transfer of their church letter. We are blessed to have them and I hope everyone will welcome them and get to know them. Well that's pretty much it but I do want to encourage everyone to be faithful and invite others to worship with you.

Pastor Ricky

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> @  
4:30PM

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship. We'll have hamburgers, hot-dogs, homemade ice

cream, games, a giant slide and more. So, bring your family, friends, neighbors, and favorite lawn chair for lots of fun.

