



The Beacon



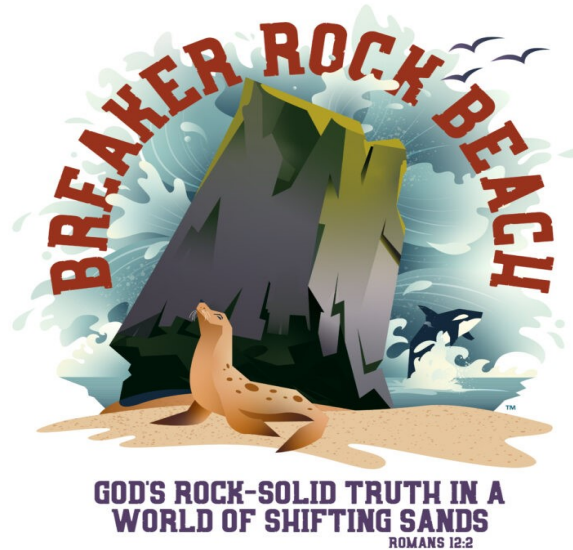
You, the Lord God, keep my lamp burning and turn darkness to light. Ps. 18:28

July 2024

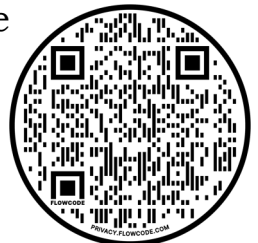
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday - Wednesday
July 21st - 24th ~ 6:00pm

Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and they'll learn to speak the truth in love. Adventure awaits each day as kids explore tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock!



There will be classes for *ALL* ages; Babies to Adults, with dinner served each night. You can save time and avoid the long lines by completing the registration form on-line. Registration forms will also be available in the Welcome Center. Take a snapshot of the QR Code below to follow the link and register online. If you have any questions, please see Kim Pearson or Ashley Crabtree.



Food Pantry Donations

We are collecting non-perishable food items for the TriWest Baptist Network Food Pantry (Formerly Yates Baptist Assoc. Food Pantry) July-September.

Please place your donations in the food barrel located in the Welcome Center.



Timberlake Volunteer Fire Dept Appreciation Dinner will be July 16th. The Baptist Women will supply the meat, rolls, and tea, but we need your help with sides, desserts, and soda. Please sign up in the Welcome Center what you can bring.

Our next dinner will be for the Moriah VFD on August 6th.



**Pastor Dave's
Message
for the
Month**

Today, we see many people who are passionate about and committed to different causes. We also see people who are committed to things like their jobs, families, sport teams, or something else. People will sacrifice time and money for these commitments. Some are wholeheartedly committed to their passions.

What about us Christians? What are we wholeheartedly committed to? In the Old Testament we find someone who had the testimony of wholeheartedly following God. When Moses sent the spies into the Promised Land only two, Joshua and Calel, came back with a good report. The other spies came back with a bad report and led the people of Isarel into fear and to not trust God. Listen to what Numbers 32:11-12 says about Joshua and Caleb. "Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they have not wholly followed Me, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord." Six different times, Scripture tells us that Caleb wholly followed the Lord. Caleb was passionate and committed to following God.

What does it mean to wholly follow the Lord? This means we seek to live for God everyday by giving Him our all and being loyal to Him. Jesus said it this way in Luke 9:23, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." It is the idea of dying to ourselves and putting God first all the time. This means striving to do God's will and live Christ like every day. It is not an easy task, but with the help of the Holy Spirit it can be done. This is the way Christians should seek to live their lives. Is that the way we are living? I pray that each of us will be like Caleb and wholly follow the Lord.

For His glory,

Pastor Dave

The next **Roxboro Christian Women's Club** will meet Thursday, July 18th at 12pm at the Homestead Steakhouse in Timberlake. First time attenders, please RSVP to Susan at 336-364-7777 by July 14th.



*We extend our sympathy
and prayers to:*

- ✎ Joan Hill and her family in the death of her sister, Virginia Twiford
- ✎ Craig and Wally Watson and their families in the death of their cousin, Patricia Whittington
- ✎ Leigh Watson and her family in the death of her aunt, JoAnne Busch

Save the Date!

September 7th & 8th!

We will be celebrating Pastor Dave and his family for his 20 years of service at Red Mountain. Saturday Evening we'll have a dinner party and the celebration will continue on Sunday. More information to follow.

SUMMER MISSIONS

"Reaching Our Neighbors & the Nations"

Please pray for all of our mission opportunities this summer.

- **Grace Pryor** - Fuge Camp Leader
- **Moldova Mission Trip** / June 26 - July 6
- **Youth Fuge (S.C.)** / July 15 - 20
- **Vacation Bible School** / July 21 - 24
- **Levi Strader** - Alaska / July 28 - Aug 4
- **West Virginia Mission Trip** / Aug. 8 - 11
- **Community First Responder Appreciation Dinners** at Timberlake VFD - July 16 & Moriah VFD - Aug 6

For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." Acts 13:47



**We Received a
Thank You Note From:**

- ✎ Carol & Terry Carden
- ✎ Carly Grinstead
- ✎ The O'Briant Family



**Building
Loan Balance**
(as of 06/12/2024)
\$ 132,992

"Every Summer Has a Story."

As I look back at past summers, I see a trail of beautiful and bittersweet memories. There have been summers that overflowed with joy and summers filled with deep sadness and pain. The common thread is that every summer was unique and had its own tale to tell.

Just as every *natural* summer has a story, so does very *spiritual* summer. We will each walk through the spiritual seasons many times. Autumn is a time of change. Winter is a time of barrenness and preparation. Spring is a time of rebirth. And summer is a time for bearing fruit and embracing the abundant life that surrounds us.

The key to embracing our spiritual summer, no matter what time of year it is in the natural, is to remember to seize the joy of the season. This is a time to feel the heavenly warmth on our face and revel in the beauty that surrounds us. Relax, have fun, celebrate, and abide in gratitude for the blessings that surround. Fall and winter will come, but don't let thoughts of the unknown rob you of the joy of the moment.

Summer is a season known for cultivating and bearing good fruit. Oh goodness, there is just nothing like a sweet, sun-ripened, summer strawberry. It is like a taste of heaven on earth! Our spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control must also be cultivated and ripened so it can taste even sweeter than the best summer strawberry. There is one sure way to do this, and that is to remember *who* our spiritual gardener is and to remain in him always.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 NIV)

Lord, thank you for the gift of summer. Thank you for ice cream cones, backyard barbecues, and sun-drenched memories. May we seize each moment of joy and remember that you are the true cultivator of our harvest and author of our stories. Amen.

<https://theglorioustable.com/>



**RED MOUNTAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH**
P.O. Box 103
ROUGEMONT, NC 27572
919-477-3657



Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor
<https://redmountainbaptist.com>



Address Correction Requested



Astounding Freedom: A Reflection for Independence Day

“In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.” Eph 3:12 NIV

This month we celebrate Independence Day in the United States. On this day, commonly called The Fourth of July, we Americans celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration, thus affirming the independence of the United States from Great Britain.

For over two hundred years, citizens of the U.S. have celebrated our independence on The Fourth of July. We fly the flag; put up red, white, and blue decorations; march in parades; and enjoy picnics. Throughout all of our celebrations, we are reminded of the gift of our freedom as a nation. Indeed, we are blessed in the United States with exceptional liberty, for which we ought to thank the Lord. Other countries around the world have similar national celebrations of freedom. July 1 is Canada Day. January 26 is Australia Day. September 16 is *Grito de Dolores* in Mexico.

Ephesians 3:12 celebrates another kind of freedom, a freedom that is even more amazing than the freedoms guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. This verse reads: "In [Christ] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." The Greek word translated here as "freedom" refers specifically to "freedom of speech" (*parresia*, with a literal meaning of "all speech"). The word rendered as "approach" suggests one's authorization to draw near to a king. The Greek original of Ephesians 3:12 says that we can be confident in our "freedom of speech" and "authorization to approach" God.

Let me put this plainly. In Christ, you have the freedom to draw near to God, to tell God anything you wish, without holding back. You can express to God not only your joys but also your sorrows, not only your assurance but also your doubt, not only your pleasure but also your anger. This is an amazing freedom.

Of course it's a freedom that we Christians can easily take for

granted, even as citizens of various countries can hold their political freedom too lightly. When we're used to praying to God at any time, in any place, with any words, we can forget the stunning nature of our access to God. Think about it. The God who created the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the God of all wisdom and justice, this God invites you to speak your mind, to share with him your thoughts, your feelings, your fears, and your dreams. The more you reflect on this invitation, the more you'll come to realize just how amazing it is.

So, if, like me, you're an American, by all means take time today to thank God for the freedom we have in this country. But, whether you live in the U.S. or not, I encourage you to step back and consider the freedom Christ has given you to approach God with deep confidence. Let's thank God together for this amazing freedom he has given us.



QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION: Do you ever marvel at the freedom God has given you to approach him? Do you take advantage of this freedom? Do you take it for granted?

PRAYER: Gracious God, first of all, I thank you today for the freedom you have given me as a citizen of the United States. We recognize the costliness of our political freedom in any country for many who have sacrificed their lives to defend it. Moreover, we recognize that, ultimately, this freedom is a gift from you, a gift that we should steward well. Help us, I pray, to make good use of our freedom, that is, to use it for good.

But, today I also thank you for an even more amazing freedom, the freedom you have given me to approach you in prayer, to tell you everything on my mind and heart, to come before you without fear, but in confidence. What a wonderful gift you have given me! May I never take it for granted. And may I take advantage of this freedom each day. *Amen.*

<https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/daily-reflection/astounding-freedom-reflection-independence-day>