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Our Staff

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Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families

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River the Otter

Associate Minister of Children's Sermons

Debbie Champagne

Administrative Assistant

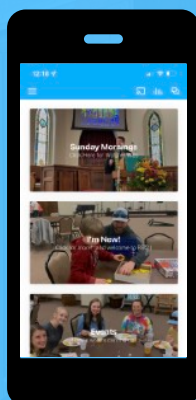
debbie@bensonbaptist.org

Jacob Jones

Facilities Manager

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Cover: The youth group pauses for a group photo after leading the congregation on Youth Sunday.



facebook.com/bensonbaptistchurchnc



[@bensonbaptist](https://instagram.com/bensonbaptist)



[@bensonbaptist](https://twitter.com/bensonbaptist)



Search "Benson Baptist Church NC" on Youtube

www.bensonbaptist.org

Download the BBC App

Pastor's Paragraphs

"If you are working on something exciting that you really care about, you don't have to be pushed. The vision pulls you."

Steve Jobs

Following the events of Resurrection Sunday, we enter into the season of Eastertide which ends with two significant events for the early church: the ascension of Jesus to heaven and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. These two events serve as a driving force for the earliest Christians. In the ascension, they are challenged to take the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. At Pentecost they are emboldened with all they need to rise to that challenge. They are driven, they are passionate, and they are pulled by their vision of a transformed world.

Today, we celebrate these early church events on these special Sundays, but often don't take direction from them. We know Jesus is with us – found through the guidance of the Spirit – but we can't often think of what possible path could lay ahead of us as we follow him.

This is where we have to do our best to see the road ahead through the eyes of Christ. Jesus never looked a situation as hopeless. Yes, there were moments where he hit a wall and had to go in another direction (his first home-visit to Nazareth in Luke 4 comes to mind), but he never gave up. If there was no way forward, he looked at the path from a different perspective and always found a way to build the kingdom

of God in the lives of those around him. There is no dead-end in Jesus' eyes, only moments where we stop to listen for the Spirit's call toward what we might not yet be seeing.

Vision is not just something that affects individuals, it also affects groups of people (like congregations) as well. When our vision is cloudy, we find it hard to see a way forward. When it is clear, we move forward, but always find ourselves wondering when it will be less clear again.

Benson Baptist has been through moments of great clarity, and moments of murkiness. We have often found ourselves facing dead-ends and feeling stuck. This "stuckness" would be OK, if we didn't follow the Jesus who always saw a way forward.

Not knowing what's next is a part of life. There will always be moments where we can't see the road ahead for the fog of uncertainty. The thing is, we follow a Jesus who promises that he's always with us to guide us — and that his is a road that never ends.

The early Christians believed this and it drove them. Just like the quote from Steve Jobs, they really cared about what Jesus had called them to. It pulled them forward at every turn— even in the face of the most uncertain paths that they would ever walk.

Today, we have to ask what we care about, and how it pulls us forward. Are we just going through the motions of faith/church, or are we being driven forward because of what Christ has called us to? Are we standing still at a dead-end, or listen for the call of the Spirit toward something new?

The road ahead is a hopeful one. It will not be easy – or always clear – but there is always a way forward if we keep the vision of Jesus that sees hope in the world — and *always* pulls us forward.

Lawrence



Rev. Dr. Lawrence Powers
Senior Pastor
lawrence@bensonbaptist.org

WILL'S WHIMS

I've always felt very proud of the fact that I have 20/20 vision. Don't hear me wrong! There's nothing wrong with glasses. I just beat the odds! My entire family (parents, sister, grandparents, my parents' siblings) all wear glasses. It is statistically unlikely that I wouldn't need them, and yet, here I am.

Visioning is a crucial part of church-life and even faith. Unfortunately, it's often where the Church (with a big C) falls short. It's a lack of vision that ultimately undid the Israelites just before their kingdom fell. It's also what kept the religious leaders and people of the time from recognizing Jesus as the Messiah they had awaited for so long. Visioning is one of my favorite things to do with others (after all, it's awfully hard to vision for a group of people by yourself). I'm thankful for my fellow staff, youth, and the committees that fall within my ministry as we plan and vision what could be within the nursery, children, and youth ministries at Benson Baptist.

Our children and youth ministries' summers are FULL of events to keep us growing and thriving throughout the summer. A waterpaloosa, a

discipleship retreat, ice cream party, VBS, and a trip to the NC Zoo are all on the docket for our children. Meanwhile, our youth will take a trip to Busch Gardens, engage in local missions, experience Unidiversity Youth Camp, a lock-in, and a pool party. All of these activities and events will continue to help both ministries grow closer together.

The summer will help prepare us for the fall and the return of KidSpark, KidSong, and Sunday night youth Bible study. I am thankful for all the volunteers that are jumping in to help create a comprehensive and formational birth through young adulthood ministry. I could not do this alone. We've built a strong foundation and now it's time to envision where we go from here. These beautiful ministries are going to grow in a variety of ways and I cannot wait to see what we create and accomplish together as we plan for Benson Baptist's future.

Let's be clear, I'm not just here at Benson Baptist to pour a foundation. I'm going to help create a frame, work to build a roof (I might need your help, Eric), and do all the work that's required to ensure that a strong and lasting ministry endures here within our amazing church. That's going to take time. Lots of time. I can't wait to continue walking this path with all of you here at our church while we do it together.



Rev. Will Raybon

*Associate Pastor for Children, Youth,
and Families*

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An Old Model...

A New Direction

It's been almost two decades since the term 'Associate Pastor' could be found in the Benson Baptist Church staff list. Back then, the Associate Pastor position was generally a melding together of two different ministry areas in BBC life (Children, Youth, and Music, for instance).

A month ago, upon the resignation of our Nursery Coordinator, we started to think about what it might look like to re-dream our ministry to children and youth. After much conversation on many levels, the title 'Associate Pastor' once again returned to BBC.

The purpose of the new Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families is to focus on a more holistic and over-arching ministry of spiritual formation from birth through transition to post-high school life. In this, our children and parents have the opportunity to work with the same minister from their very first Sunday through graduation. There are many advantages to this, the highlight being that we will be able to cultivate a faith journey for our children and youth that is not just about coming to church, but also about growing in faith in every aspect of their lives — with the shepherding of their parents as much as their ministers.

This position was created with our Minister of Youth and Children, Reverend Will Raybon, in mind. His already exceptional work with our children and youth, added to his ministry background, excitement about spiritual growth, and love for the church, gave credence to his shift into this new role.

In addition to his continuing his current work with youth and children, he will also now work with parents of expecting and nursery-aged children, assist with visiting our homebound membership, and provide continued worship leadership alongside the senior pastor.



Experience Worship

Upcoming Special Worship Themes:

May 15 - Global Missions Sunday

May 22 - Graduate Sunday

May 29 - Ascension Sunday

June 26 - Sing Sunday (8:45 AM Service Only This Day)

July 24 - Children's Sunday

August 21 - Back to School Sunday



The View from Debbie's Desk

When we moved from California to North Carolina I just figured I would get a job as a teacher's assistant like I had been for the 7 years before. (I had no vision that I could do anything else.) I did apply for some positions but then Don saw this ad in the paper for a church secretary (guess where). I said to him "I've never done anything like that before. I can't do that." He knew that I had no confidence in myself and kept encouraging me to pray about applying. Which I did then I talked to Judy Johnson (Personnel Chair). She sent me an application, I filled it out and mailed it to the church.

Soon, Judy called: they had not received the application. She sent me another application. I filled it out and took it directly to the post office and mailed it. Judy called: they had not received this application either. This time she told me to come to the church office and fill one out here and leave it. They did receive that one.

So, I ended up applying 3 times. But as a side note after I started, I went to the Post Office to get the mail and asked them if they had any mail in the back because Kendell Cameron, the pastor, had told me they hadn't received much mail in the last couple months at the church. They went back and looked and told me no, there wasn't any mail in the back. Three weeks after I started working, they found our missing mail, 2 big boxes of mail— with all the bills that hadn't been paid and guess what? My other 2 applications!!

When I got this job, I had a vision of what a church secretary should be like. One thing was not getting close to the church members. I told myself. "Debbie, you don't need to get close to the people at BBC you need to keep it on a professional level. That's the way a church secretary should act." But part of my job was/is to minister to church family that call and want to talk. A church member started calling me right after I started working here. She wanted

Someone to listen to her. I told her "I think you should talk to the pastor." "She said no I want to talk to you." She would call 3 or 4 times a week and talk for 30 – 45 minutes each time. After a few weeks I went to Kendell and told him the situation and told him that I wasn't getting my work done. He said to me. "You keep talking to her. Don't worry about the work. Part of your job is to minister to church members/church family. You are the first voice they hear when they call, and it comforts them knowing you care about them enough to listen to them."

I've always loved my job and the church members/church family on a professional level. (or so I thought) But after he said that I let my heart open up to Benson Baptist and when I did, it caused a flood of emotions. I couldn't pretend that I only loved BBC on a professional level anymore. My vision back then was wrong, and thankfully God had other plans for me and showed me just how wrong I was.

Do Everything in Love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Debbie

Debbie Champagne
Administrative Assistant
debbie@bensonbaptist.org



Join us as we remember those we've lost since the last edition of BBC Connections:

Jack Hester

JUNE 12, 1936-APRIL 21, 2022



Welcome our Newest Members!



**Linda and
Billy Herring**



**Taylor
Long**



May

Lily Johnson 5-1

Steven Pate 5-1

Emerson Paige Farris 5-4

Chase Hall 5-4

Debbie Champagne 5-5

Reese Taylor Honeycutt 5-6

Lawrence Powers 5-6

Nora Bowman 5-7

LJ Martin 5-7

Gary Warren 5-7

Ashley Spears 5-8

Graham Naig 5-10

Miriam Rose 5-10

June Dunn 5-11

Haley Zapp 5-13

Elaine Massengill 5-14

Marie Fox 5-15

George Hernandez 5-17

Michael Adams 5-21

Dennis Jernigan 5-21

Ray Adams 5-22

Daniel Brewington 5-22

Carly Goodwin 5-22

May (continued)

Randy Stephenson 5-23

Eddie Guin 5-27

Jason Lay 5-28

Worth Bowman 5-28

Cheryl Johnson 5-28

Aimee Newman 5-30

Betty Wheeler 5-30

Chess Royal 5-21

June

William Neighbors 6-1

Yolanda Padilla 6-2

Sam Worthington 6-2

Carl Canaday 6-5

Rick Gorsky 6-7

John Teske 6-7

Carrie Barnes 6-10

Debbie Canaday 6-10

Jarah Newton 6-10

Millie (Miller) Wood 6-10

Brian Honeycutt 6-11

David Beverly 6-12

June Byrd Gorsky 6-15

Dinah McLamb 6-15

Amy's Thoughts

By: Amy Whittington

My first visit to my eye doctor, Dr. W.C. Adams, came after I had completed my kindergarten year. My mother had head on television that children were supposed to have their first eye exam by age three, so she took me to see Dr. Adams. After my first eye exam, I was diagnosed with astigmatism and thick glasses were ordered. My mother asked me, "why didn't you tell me that you couldn't see?" I was five. I had never heard the world differently. It was my normal.

Physical vision can be corrected by glasses, contacts, or surgery. What about our spiritual vision? Can we see the needs of others around us?

Even before the worldwide pandemic, food insecurity was a growing problem. The pandemic accentuated the problem. Food pantry, blessing boxes, and Lunch on the Lawn are all ways that Benson Baptist meets people's physical need of hunger.

Thank you for your continued donations to all these ministries for those who are food insecure. As summer approaches, we look forward to the return of Lunch on the Lawn. More information will follow in BBC emails and the Sunday worship guides soon.

May our vision remain clear to meet the needs of others around us.



Lead This Fall!

We are looking for individuals or teams who would be interested in leading a Community Group this fall. This would be twelve weeks and can be a topical discussion or a book study.

Have a favorite faith-based book you'd like to talk about with others? This is the perfect way to do it!

Email lawrence@bensonbaptist.org to sign-up!



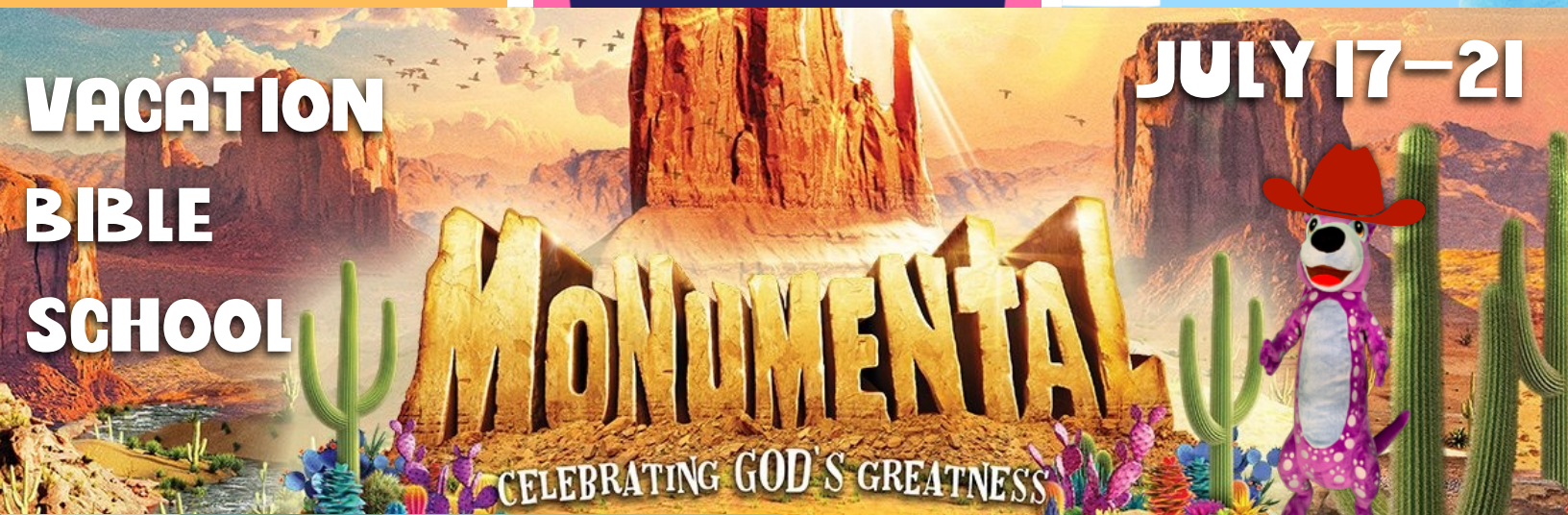
May 15, 2022



Blessing of the Backpacks &
BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY



AUGUST 21, 2022



BBC CHILDREN

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05 	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	Discipleship Retreat 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

JUNE 5 - WATERPALOOZA
JUNE 17 - 18 - DISCIPLESHIP RETREAT

BBC CHILDREN

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Vacation Bible School						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	01	02	03	04	05 	06

July 10 - Ice Cream Party
July 17 - 21 - Vacation Bible School
Aug. 5 - NC Zoo

Graduate Sunday & Luncheon



May 22, 2022

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Lunch Club

Bible Study

Thursdays
9am - 2pm

Busch Gardens
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

Monday, June 13th
7am - 7pm



TICKET

BBC

NEWS

YOUTH & CHILDREN

8.28.22

Youth
Parent
Meeting

BBC Youth

CASWELL FALL RETREAT

Sept. 9 - Sept. 11

BBC YOUTH

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

UNIVERSITY

JUNE 3 - GRADUATION

JUNE 9, 16, & 23 - MISSION POSSIBLE/LUNCH CLUB/BIBLE STUDY

JUNE 13 - BUSCH GARDENS

JUNE 26 - JULY 1 - UNIDIVERSITY

BBC YOUTH

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	01					

Vacation Bible School

July 8 - Sky Zone/Lock-in

July 14 - Mission Possible/Lunch Club/Bible Study

July 17 - 18 - Vacation Bible School

Aug. 1 - Pool Party

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATING
135 YEARS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY



Sunday, October 16, 2022

With Guest Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Harold Mitchell,
Benson Baptist Pastor, 1968-72

Service: 10:30 AM

Luncheon to Follow



**AND, we're
going to
update this
picture!**



BENSON SING SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2022
SINGING GROVE @10:30 A.M.
(NO 11 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE THAT DAY)

BBC JUNE 26 SCHEDULE:

- 8:45 AM - CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
- 9:45 AM - BREAKFAST
- 10:00 AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10:30 AM - SERVICE AT THE GROVE



BLESSING OF THE PETS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022



June

Reagan Hall 6-17

Tony Woodall 6-18

Becky Best 6-19

Chandler Bennett 6-20

Catherine Bouknight 6-20

Larry Herring 6-22

Michelle King 6-22

Riley Neighbors 6-22

Courtney Newman 6-22

Ricky Barnes 6-25

Meredith Blalock 6-25

Tina Lambert 6-25

Linda Massengill 6-26

Daniel Lambert 6-27

John Knox 6-29

Heather Adams - Newton 6-29

Amy Whittington 6-29

Spencer Johnson 6-30

July

Dylan Honeycutt 7-3

Celine Raybon 7-6

Obed Carrillo 7-9

Matthew Guin 7-13

Mandy Jackson 7-14

July (continued)

Jo Ann Davis 7-15

Madison Dunn 7-15

M.G. Johnson 7-17

Jane Bowman 7-22

Marilyn Penny 7-22

Ashlyn Worthington 7-24

John Robert Stephenson 7-25

Medwick Byrd 7-26

Anndrea Tyndall 7-26

Kennedy Powers 7-27

Jonah Teske 7-27

Bill Johnson 7-29

Stephen Langdon 7-29

Joey Worthington 7-30

August

Heather Hernandez 8-3

Collin Underwood 8-3

Amy Adams 8-5

Carolyn Lambert 8-6

Butch Turner 8-9

Mary Margaret Boyd 8-11

Luke Tart 8-11

Paul Worthington 8-12

Sandy Spears 8-16

Just Say “Yes!”

Our Nominating Committee will begin their annual work of filling open committee spots in the next few weeks. While we know that it's easy to say “no” when you get a call, we hope that many of you will instead say “yes” to serving. Our committees are the backbone of our church's ministry. From making events happen, to feeding families after a death, to keep the facilities up and running—the work done through these teams is essential to the ministry we are doing in our church and beyond it.

In 2021, our Nominating Committee had to meet over FIVE times to fill the open spots. The first meeting was to think through who might be open to serving, the subsequent meetings were to fill gaps by those who'd said “no.”

We know that you have a lot going on in your lives, but we hope that you'll prayerfully consider serving if you are called by someone on the Nominating Committee this year!

Committees With Spots to Be Filled:

- **Baptism** - Work with baptism candidates on baptism Sundays.
- **Benevolence** - Decide how assistance is given in our community through the resources of the church.
- **Budget & Finance*** - Set and monitor the budget of the church.
- **Emergency Preparedness** - Make decisions regarding safety measures to be taken by the church.
- **Flower & Social** - Decorate for Advent and other events.
- **Kitchen & Family Night** - Organize and prepare church-wide meals—particularly on Sunday nights in the spring/fall.
- **Lord's Supper** - Prepare communion elements for worship.
- **Memorials*** - Decide how funds given in memory of someone are allocated.
- **Music** - Work with Todd on the music ministry of the church.
- **Nursery** - Work with Will on our ministry to infants/toddlers.
- **Outreach** - Work with our homebound members and organize our visitor ministry.
- **Pastor-Church Liaison*** - The Senior Pastor's Support Team.
- **Personnel*** - The “HR” committee of the church.
- **Properties** - Work with Jacob on facilities' needs.
- **Scholarship** - Review applications for our Campbell University Scholarship.
- **Sound** - Sound booth techs for Sunday worship and other events.
- **Ushers** - Greeters for worship services and offering attendees.
- **Van** - Review the church-owned vehicle for maintenance.
- **Youth & Children** - Work with Will for ministry to our elementary through teenage attendees.

** Denotes membership requirement to serve on this committee.*

Have You Completed Your Spiritual Gifts Inventory Yet?



A few months ago our staff challenged all BBC attendees to complete a spiritual gifts inventory.

Using scripture-identified gifts, the inventory gives individuals a great way of getting to know what their spiritual gifts might be.

At Benson Baptist, we use the results of these inventories to help best identify the ways in which you might best engage and serve within the church community.

You can complete the inventory at bensonbaptist.org/spiritualgifts, or contact the church office for a paper copy!

August (continued)

Glenn Neighbors 8-23

Judy Woodall 8-23

Elaine Denning Reed 8-26

Gardner Johnson 8-26

Diane Duncan 8-28

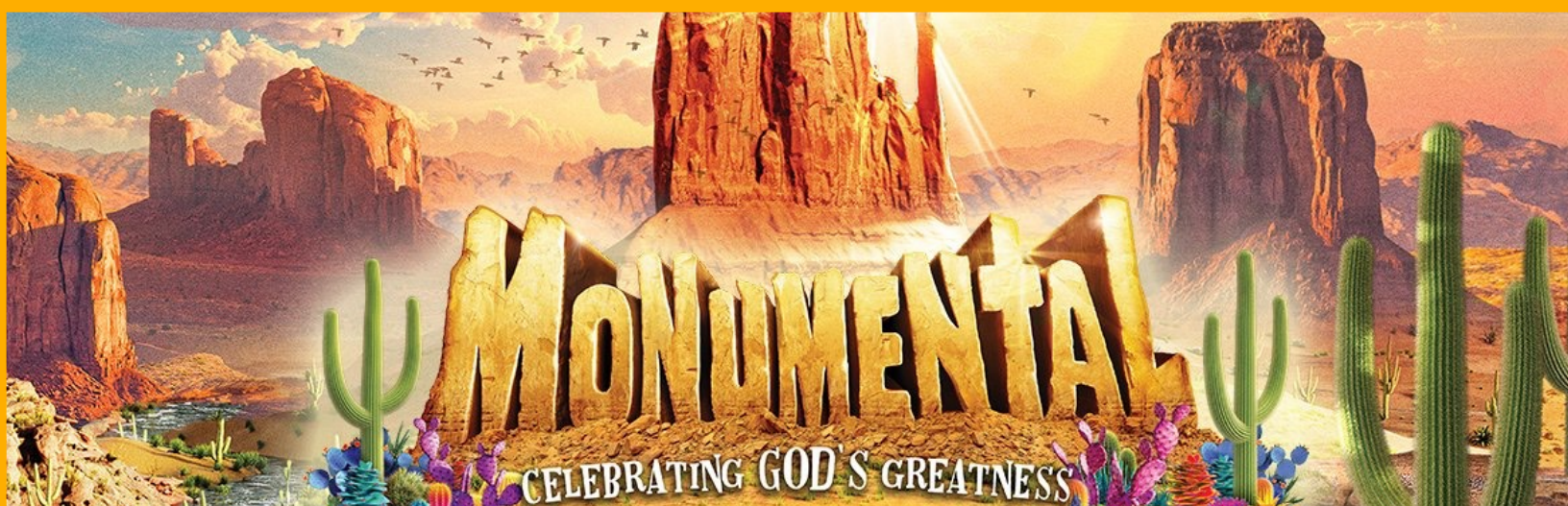
Margene Holak 8-28

Darren Tart 8-28

Andrew Boyd 8-29

Janice Campbell 8-29

Jana Frazier 8-30



VBS Is Coming... and We Need Your Help!

We are so excited to host Vacation Bible School this July! Our dates are Sunday, July 17th - Thursday, July 21st and we would love for any and all to participate. Join us as we explore God's 'Monumental' greatness together. VBS cannot happen without awesome Benson Baptist volunteers like YOU!

If you're interested in serving as a volunteer this year, please contact Will Raybon at will@bensonbaptist.org.

Congratulations to Our



Reagan Hall

South Johnston High School

Headed To:

East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina

Planning to Study:

Speech Therapy



Jackson Powers

South Johnston High School

Headed To:

Western Carolina University
Cullowhee, North Carolina

Planning to Study:

Sports Management



Laila Whitman

South Johnston High School

Headed To:

Meredith College
Raleigh, North Carolina

Planning to Study:

Child Development

2022 BBC Graduates!



Taylor Long

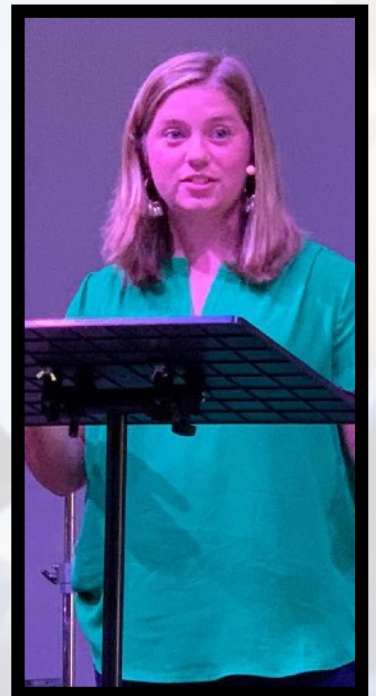
Campbell University
Bachelor of Arts
Christian Studies, major

Headed To:

Divinity School
Location Undecided

To All of Our 2022 Graduates:

We are extremely proud of all that you've accomplished and can't wait to see where God takes you on this path of life! Always remember that you have a community here at BBC and that you are loved and prayed for here!



Spiritual Formation Retreat

@Fort Caswell | March 12-13, 2022



Photos from Spring 2022

@BBC



Founder's Day

February 13, 2022

