Shermont Baptist Church

June 2026 Newsletter

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Ryan Riley*

Associate Pastor: *Mr. Dylan Gary*

Music Director: *Mrs. Ellen Petty*

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Ryan's Reflections

Zig Ziglar tells of the time he took his young son golfing. The boy was still relatively new to the game, so Zig was very impressed by his son's performance on one of the par 4 holes.

At the tee, the boy lifted the ball straight and true down the fairway. A second shot got him onto the green within 14 feet of the cup. Wanting his son to succeed, he went to great trouble in sighting the shot for him and gauging the lie of putt and then told his son just how he ought to play it.

His son stepped up to the ball and putted the ball perfectly into the cup just as his father had taught him. His first birdie.

Then it was Zig's turn. He also had made the green in 2 shots but his putt was far easier. For a moment he considered flubbing the shot so that he would not overshadow his son's achievement...but then he decided against it because it would go against everything he had taught his son about doing his best. He sank the putt easily and also birdied the hole.

As they were walking away to the next tee, Zig casually asked his son, "Well, son, were you rooting for me on that last shot?" "Dad," the boy replied, "I always root for you."

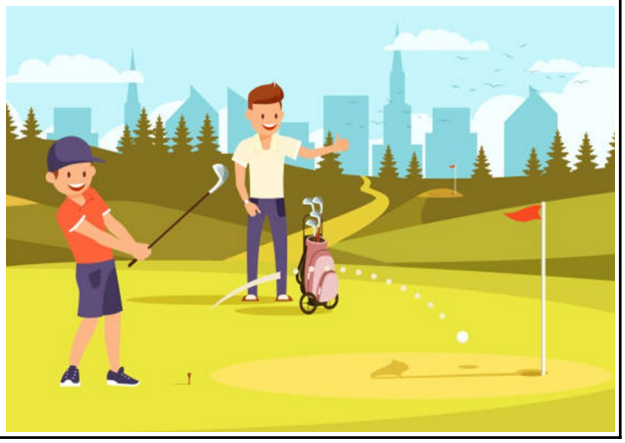
As loving and comforting as that may sound, how much more amazing is it that we have a Heavenly Father who is always rooting for us? He desires us to succeed, to make it, to thrive —and we will — when we obey His Word and His will.

As we're reminded in Jeremiah: ***I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you, not to harm you, to give you a bright hope and a future*** **(Jer. 29:11).**

May we embrace the goodness of our God, the blessings He bestows upon His children, and the love He offers freely to all who believe in Christ Jesus. And this Father's Day, may we celebrate our Heavenly Father, who always roots for us.

Thankful to serve our Heavenly Father alongside you,

Pastor Ryan



Notes from Ellen

"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?

Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.[1]

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-beloved hymn:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul." -Lloyd Newell

This is one of my favorite hymns and I can still hear my sweet Daddy singing every single verse of this song from a heart that loved Jesus. I'm so thankful that no matter what we go through during our lifetime, if we know Jesus, we can join the author of this song and sing ….. "It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Because of Jesus,

Ellen

June Birthdays

June	2	Meva Dodd
June	4	Stephanie Ellis, Scarlet Poteat, Austin Presley
June	7	Becky Boyd, Steve Dowdy
June	10	Emmett Speagle
June	11	Donnie Doss
June	12	Ross Riley
June	13	Paulette Bennett
June	15	Etta Brown, Vickey Sloane
June	18	Tim Hutcherson
June	22	Rachel Martin
June	24	Linda Godfrey
June	27	Bryson McBride
June	29	Tammy Bengtson, Steve Carlton, Karen Law, Deborah Wiles

Happy Birthday to All !

Library Spotlight—Patsy Poteat

We have so many new books in the library, and we hope you will come in and check them out for some summer reading. Quite a few of these include a series of books by the same author. These stories intertwine the same characters into different story lines, and one of the characters will be highlighted.

I love mystery and suspense, so I have really enjoyed Lynette Eason's collections. The **"Danger Never Sleeps"** series by Eason revolves around four friends who met in Afghanistan and settle back in the United States in Greenville, SC (a city I love). ***Collateral Damage, Acceptable Risk, Active Defense,*** and ***Hostile Intent*** are suspenseful with a little romance thrown in for good measure.

Another series by Eason is **"Extreme Measures,"** which includes ***Life Flight, Crossfire, Critical Threat,*** and ***Countdown.*** Lots of suspense along with good, loyal friendships, and again some romance for each of the friends will keep you guessing until the last page.

Other series writers include Coleen Coble and Elizabeth Goddard, just to name a couple. These books will be labeled as part of a set so you can read them in order.

Please try some of these collections and let me know what you think!

Happy Reading!

Patsy Poteat

From the Chairman's Desk

While in college at Hampden-Sydney, I was able to take some very interesting classes, many of which have stuck with me. One class is particular that shaped me was a class called Theology and Literature. In this class, we read a variety of fiction books and short stories, from works by C.S. Lewis to G.K. Chesterton. Within these fictional stories, the authors would use imagery and symbolism to convey a much deeper message. Therefore, why is it that we only read our Bible as a history book as opposed to allowing the books to tell us a story that is filled with connections and details which are meant to shape the reader? Our young adult Bible study group will often discuss what seem to be minor details in stories, ones which seem to be unimportant and miniscule; however, we've discovered through our study that the Author does not include details as a means of literary fluff or to fill space.

For example, we recently discussed Christ healing Bartimaeus, the blind beggar, in Mark 10:46-52. In this passage, we are told of Bartimaeus, who was a blind man sitting on the side of the road. Bartimaeus became aware that Jesus was on the road, passing by him, and began shouting, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!" The text tells us that Jesus called the man over, at which point in time, Bartimaeus "threw off his coat" and ran to Christ. Upon reading this in our 21st century minds, we will simply gloss over the description of the coat being thrown off; however, in the 1st century, the Roman empire would provide clothing to beggars to allow them to seek monetary assistance. By throwing off his coat, Bartimaeus was declaring that he was no longer dependent upon the Roman government, rather he knew Jesus would provide.

Another such example is the story of Christ healing the paralyzed man in Luke 5. This story does not contain a random detail per se, but it creates imagery for us. In this story, Jesus was teaching within a home. While teaching, a paralyzed man was brought to the residence by his friends, but they were unable to take the man into the house due to the number of people listening to Christ. Instead of going into the home through the door, a hole is dug out of the roof, and the lame man is lowered down to Christ to be healed. After the man is healed, Christ tells him to "Rise up and walk." If we close our eyes and envision this moment, we can see that this miracle mirrors the resurrection. Christ would be lowered down, dead and unable to walk, but He would rise up.

The late Dr. Michael Heiser said, "The proper worldview context for interpreting the Bible is not evangelicalism, Catholicism, the Protestant Reformation, the Puritans—or even the modern world. The proper context for interpreting the Bible is the context in which it was written—that of the ancient biblical writers." He went on to say, "As Christians, whether consciously or otherwise, we've been trained to think that the history of Christianity is the true context for interpreting the Bible. It isn't. That might be hard to hear, but Christian history and Christian thought is not the context of the biblical writers, and so it cannot be the correct context for interpreting what they wrote."
I challenge you to dig into the text. Pay attention to each bread crumb left for you by our Father through those He selected to tell His story of redemption. Allow the text to be read as a story.
In turn, it will mold and shape you, drawing you closer to Him.

Yours in Christ,

Colby Warren, **Chairman**

Missions

Thank you for your continued support and for always being willing to give and pray for each Mission / Outreach project, which we deeply appreciate.

In May, we collected many items to donate to Transition Pregnancy Solutions. They are so thankful that our church was willing to lend a helping hand with the items they needed. We also helped Chatham High School by providing some of the food needed for their Senior Sunset, held at the high school on May 19th. This was a meaningful way to show love to their graduating students, many of whom may not be recognized at all for their academic achievements. Your continued participation helps us spread love and support in our community.

On Sunday, May 10th, Ellen invited Miss Maddie Crisp to sing special music, and what a blessing she was to all. This young lady will be leaving on a mission trip on May 21st. She will be traveling to the inner cities of Charlotte, New York, and Indonesia, with the prayer of planting seeds of salvation. We ask that you keep Maddie in your prayers during this time. Many of you showed her love by donating money individually, and she was so thankful! Missions also helped sponsor her trip, providing her with a $500.00 gift to cover expenses. Below, I'm going to share with you words from a card she sent as a thank you, and it is such a blessing! God is so good!

Dear Shermont Mission Team,

You have blessed me in a way that I cannot explain in words. The donation that you are extending is solving a problem that was causing me a lot of quiet panic and anxiety. The day I found out about your donation was the day I spent my morning praying about money, and I wasn't sure what I was going to do. My mom called me that night, and I was absolutely speechless. I have thanked the Lord fervently for you all, for your generosity towards me, and for how you are letting the Lord answer even the quietest of prayers through you. Thank you so much for walking with me, and Praise Jesus!
Love, Maddie Crisp.

From June 21st to July 22nd, we will be collecting back-to-school items for a school in the county that could use some love and support. Our smaller schools are left out when it comes to providing teachers with the extra supplies needed throughout the year. When students have no funds to replenish them, it's up to the teacher to provide the items. Please stay tuned to the bulletin for a list of items the school will need. Always be in prayer for this outreach and prayers for all schools and students.

Wow! That's a lot of updates, but how exciting to have a mission/outreach group that's on fire to serve our community and beyond, showing the love of our risen Savior! Please feel free to join this group anytime you feel led.

Love In Christ,

Amanda Crews

"I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Student Ministry Update

Shermont student's have many opportunities to grow closer with God and their local church this summer. Check out the events below for how students can connect in the month of June. For all of these events, be sure to invite your friends who may not have a church home. The summer is a great time to jump into our events and begin getting to know others.

Parent's Night Out

Date nights are important but can be difficult to pull off. We hope to make it a little easier for you by taking care of your student(s) on June 5 from 6:00-8:00p. The theme for this evening will be *Indoor Camping*. Students are encouraged to wear the favorite, church-appropriate, PJ's or onesie. We will have breakfast-for-dinner, a movie, and other thematic activities. This will be a cozy adventure your student won't want to miss!

Vacation Bible School

Our VBS *Rainforest Falls* will begin Sunday, June 14, from 5:30-8:30p. Monday to Thursday the times will be 6:00-8:30p. On Friday, June 19, at 6:00p we will have a VBS Finale with a meal to follow. The finale is an encouraging time where students get to demonstrate to their families what they have learned throughout the week.

Film Crew

Film Crew is our new name for what was previously "kids at the movies." Our first Film Crew event will be June 16 where we will head to the movies and watch *Kpop Demon Hunters*. We will meet at the church at 9:15a, and take the bus to and from the theatre. This movie shows the dangers of making deals with the devil, yet the potential for repentance and restoration.

CentriKid

Registration for CentriKid this year has closed, but keep an eye out for next year's summer camp registration. We will be at CentriKid from June 22-26. It is a time of learning more about of great God, growing closer with your church family, and meeting new friends all while having loads of fun! Our students who attend CentriKid this year will give a report on Wednesday, July 8. Mark your calendars to hear all about how God used this trip for His glory.

Dylan