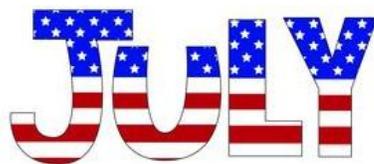


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# The Washington News

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The purpose of the Washington Baptist Association is to support member churches as they come together in the common bond of Christ.  
[www.washingtonbaptistassociation.org](http://www.washingtonbaptistassociation.org) E-mail: [washba@windstream.net](mailto:washba@windstream.net) Phone: 478-453-8111

## 2020 WBA Youth Camp July 6-11

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Camp has been canceled. Pray that our Youth will continue to worship and praise the Lord.**

### Saying Goodbye

Rev. Pete Aycock and wife, Lee, are moving to Baxley, GA. They will be truly missed at Harmony Baptist Church. We wish them the best on this new chapter in their lives.

### Men on Mission

Tuesday, July 14, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

Ridgeland Heights Baptist Church  
Dinner will be provided.



## The Story of the Fourth of July

### The Declaration of Independence

We celebrate American Independence Day on the Fourth of July every year. We think of July 4, 1776, as a day that represents the **Declaration of Independence** and the birth of the United States of America as an independent nation. But July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence (they did that on July 2, 1776). It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either (that had happened back in April 1775). And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence (that was in June 1776). Or the date on which the Declaration was delivered to Great Britain (that didn't happen until November 1776). Or the date it was signed (that was August 2, 1776).

### So what did happen on July 4, 1776?

The Continental Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They'd been working on it for a couple of days after the draft was submitted on July 2nd and finally agreed on all of the edits and changes. July 4, 1776, became the date that was included on the Declaration of Independence, and the fancy handwritten copy that was signed in August (the copy now displayed at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.) It's also the date that was printed on the Dunlap Broadside, the original printed copies of the Declaration that were circulated throughout the new nation. So when people thought of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776 was the date they remembered.

### How did the Fourth of July become a national holiday?

For the first 15 or 20 years after the Declaration was written, people didn't celebrate it much on any date. It was too new and too much else was happening in the young nation. By the 1790s, a time of bitter partisan conflicts, the Declaration had become controversial. One party, the Democratic-Republicans, admired Jefferson and the Declaration, but the other party, the Federalists, thought the Declaration was too French and too anti-British, which went against their current policies. By 1817, John Adams complained in a letter that America seemed uninterested in its past. But that would soon change. After the War of 1812, the Federalist Party began to come apart and the new parties of the 1820s and 1830s all considered themselves inheritors of Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. Printed copies of the Declaration began to circulate again, all with the date July 4, 1776, listed at the top. The deaths of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams on July 4, 1826, may even have helped to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated.

Celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common as the years went on and in 1870, almost a hundred years after the Declaration was written, Congress first declared July 4 to be a national holiday as part of a bill to officially recognize several holidays, including Christmas. Further legislation about national holidays, including July 4, was passed in 1939 and 1941.

**Spark Conference** - Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> The Georgia Baptist Mission Board could not calendar its yearly Go Conference. With the pandemic continuing to cast its shadow, Georgia Baptists and other state conventions decided to create a national online event called the **Spark Conference**. It will feature three keynote speakers and many of the same classes plus breakout sessions with Q and A. And get this - it's all free. But there is one critical component-- **you must register.**

The implementation of the Spark Conference may take three modes of participation.

- First, individuals can register and select the classes that they prefer and watch the breakouts and interact with texting.
- Second, churches or associations can host watch parties.
- Third, church leaders will also have the ability to host other events using these free videos.

All classes that day are time released, meaning they are accessible as if you were there. You will be able to choose morning classes as they are released. There will be free access for videos and watch parties for a limited amount of time (three weeks). There will be a lifetime access with a low cost, pass purchase. This will also increase opportunity for vendors for various portions of the event to display their ministry support. More information will be coming out about this in the next few weeks. We are hoping to use this as a way to involve more people in spiritual *development*. *With this type of online event, COVID-19 cannot win.* God bless.

Budget Receipts from Churches  
October 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

		Hardwick	4,800.00	Olive Hill	-
Bethel	250.00	Harmony	1,200.00	PI Grove	1,135.30
Bethlehem	1,200.00	Is.Creek	6,668.00	Powelton	-
Black Spr	4,500.00	Jewell	764.63	RidgeHgt	1,974.86
Church Ctl	-	Lakeside	8,095.91	Riverside	100.00
Community	594.34	Lighthouse		S'ville 1 <sup>st</sup>	8,000.00
Culverton		Long Cr	600.00	Sinclair	750.00
Darien	1,000.00	M'vill 1 <sup>st</sup>	4,520.88	Sisters	2,677.41
Davisboro	-	Min Sprgs	2,000.00	Smyrna	2,400.00
Devereux	900.00	Mitchell	200.00	Sparta 1 <sup>st</sup>	600.00
Fairmount	-	Mosleyville	1,000.00	Tennille	1,022.02
FriendshipG	600.00	Mt Steph.	-	Union	1,050.00
FriendshipW	2,317.00	Northside	8,932.91	Victory	-
Grace	-	Ohoopee	1,023.00	Westview	2,307.23
				Word Comm	300.00

My footsteps are guided by God. Looks like we just need to settle back and try to be as close to God as we can get. He will truly lead us in the direction for our lives in our present situation. I know we all miss our church and associational friends. I hope soon we can all see one another again. But...in the meantime—"You can't keep a good man down." That's us ladies. It's backpack time for the Appalachian area children. You will see below the information about our backpacks. We will hope for the deadline in August, but if needed, we can extend it. Mrs. Dianne has ordered us 500 backpacks and they are in the associational office. 84 of these have already gone out to two churches. I've had calls from other churches about details on getting the backpacks. I know you are all wanting to do something nice for God and the kids, of course. Now is your chance. Call the associational office and plan a time you can get your bags. You can turn them back to the office when you are through packing them. You can always call me and I will be glad to help in any way.

Love to you all,  
Harriett



## Backpacks For Appalachia

Backpacks are now available for purchase through WBA.

Cost = \$5.00 per 17" backpack.

(Age divisions are 4-7, 8-10, 11-14, 15-17)

**Deadline August 11, 2020**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** | School supplies such as crayons, notebook paper, pencils, pens, folders, erasers, rulers, etc.

**CLOTHING** | Small items of NEW clothing such

as winter hats, gloves, socks, underwear

**FOOD** | Small pop-top canned food such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, vegetables, fruit

**TOY** | At least one NEW, age-appropriate non-breakable toy

**HYGIENE ITEMS** | Hygiene items including toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush or comb, shampoo

**BIBLE** | A children's Bible or New Testament

**CANDY** | Fresh, wrapped candy

(Deadline = August 11<sup>th</sup>)



**Vacation Bible Schools' Schedules**

1. **First Baptist Church Sandersville:**

July 12-16

Please send Your church's schedule for the Next Newsletter