



*August 2025*



We are in the middle of our teaching series on the “Psalms of Ascent.” It has been a fruitful time for me as I study the text each week. These Psalms offer us encouragement as we journey from this life to the next. One of the overall themes is unity, and the beauty of gathering together as God’s people. Here are a couple of examples.

Psalm 122:1, “I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" There is rejoicing in encouraging others to come together, and there is encouragement for us when others desire to gather together. Of course the purpose is to worship the Lord. But, the emphasis is on us, not just on me.

Of course there is the totality of Psalm 133, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” Notice in this passage that it is good and pleasant to the Lord when we are dwelling TOGETHER in unity. There the Lord has commanded blessing. It glorifies the Lord and blesses us when we are together.

Our corporate times of worship are meaningful. As you prepare to come to church week in and week out, don’t be discouraged by the ordinariness of it. Instead, think of the blessing of the Lord! We have the opportunity to gather together week in and week out to worship the Lord with His people. We will be doing so for eternity, why not now! This month, let us encourage one another to gather together. Let’s speak of the blessing of it. If you know someone who is not in church regularly, encourage them to come. If you know of an unbeliever, encourage them to come. You get to invite people to participate in the life of God’s people as we gather for worship. Tell others, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

*Pastor Travis*

# *Youth and Family Discipleship*

Joy and I took five of the youth to Ambassador Camp at Lake Waccamaw in late June/early July. This is the Christian camp that Joy attended as a young girl and then volunteered at through high school and college. This is the place she surrendered to the ministry if that's what God called her to do (which he did!). She grew tremendously in her faith there. She and I have volunteered there since then a few times through the years as well. Our own children went there as campers once and have volunteered there once as well. Our son, Elijah, who was just baptized at Mt. Olive last Sunday, came to faith in Christ at Ambassador Camp 10 years ago.

The theme for teen week at camp was "The Wilderness," focusing on the stories of the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness between their exodus from slavery in Egypt and their arrival in the Promised Land. Bible study in the mornings focused on these stories, and the preaching each night made a connection from these stories to their fulfillments in Jesus in the New Testament and practical application to our lives.

The youth also had missionary story time with the head of the camp. The subject for the week was Eric Liddell, the Scottish missionary and Olympic sprinter. The movie Chariots of Fire was about him. The character who played him in the movie famously said, "God made me fast. And when I run, I feel his pleasure."

There were also lots of games, swimming, tubing, fishing, a concert, and many other fun events. Worship in singing was, as always, particularly meaningful and sweet, with many songs about the presence of God, one of the wilderness themes.

On Wednesday nights, we continue to study various doctrines in our systematic theology study. Currently, we are focusing on the Trinity. On Sunday mornings, we continue in our consecutive study of Luke and just finished chapter 10.

Upcoming: we are working on solidifying a plan to have our second annual back-to-school pool party for youth and children. Look for details to come. Also, we have discussed the possibility of cleaning up and then camping out at the church farm sometime between now and winter. Finally, the camp we went to (Ambassador Camp at Lake Waccamaw) has a weekend fall retreat October 3-5 and we would like to hear from youth and youth parents about potential interest.

So let me know what you are thinking, families! We are also in the process of brainstorming some ideas for some things we can do with/for the children over the course of the next year, so families with children, please let me know if you have any requests/ideas.

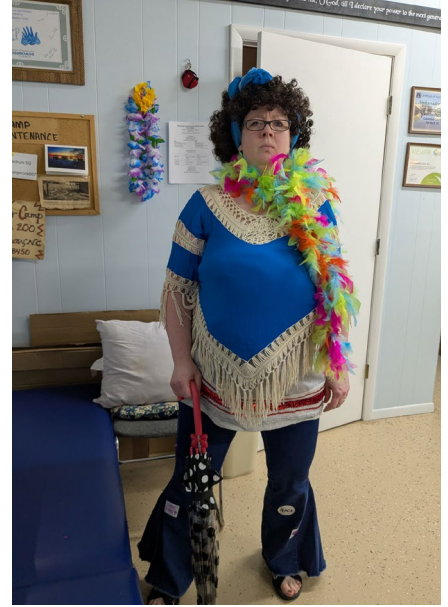
Grace and Peace!

Jason Lewis

Associate Pastor of Youth and Family Discipleship

# Summer Camp

## 2025



## *Faith--- Laying Down Our Gifts for Others*

I am not sure if you think like me, but most movies which come out today are not worth watching. While thinking of faith-based subjects this month, I remembered an older film I watched in the theatre (Yes...I am telling my age as this film came out in 1981). That movie was *Chariots of Fire* and has always been one of my top 5 sports movies. In the movie, Eric Liddell showed the world what it is like to use gifts for God's glory. Eric Liddell was a famed British sprinter who competed in the 100-meter dash and was regarded as the leading contender for the gold medal at the 1924 Paris Olympics. When Eric found out that the 100m heats were scheduled on a Sunday, he refused to run because he believed the Sabbath was to be kept holy. Liddell switched to the 200 and 400-meter races but had not trained extensively for those events. Despite his odds being low, Liddell won the 400-meter gold medal in world record time and won bronze in the 200-meter race.

Eric Liddell's story became famous not just because he had won, but because he stood by his Christian convictions. He faced pressure in Britain to participate in his strongest event but decided that making this sacrifice would yield greater value than any gold medal he might have earned. Liddell's faith and using his gifts became his legacy, as his post-Olympic life was more inspiring than his Olympic career. After competing in the Olympics, Eric went back to China, where he had been born to missionary parents in 1902. Eric became a missionary teacher and preacher, serving at the Mission School in Tianjin and later at the Xiaochang Mission, where he risked his life during the Japanese invasion. In 1941, Liddell sent his family to Canada to live safely while he stayed behind to continue ministering to the Chinese people. It was the last time he saw his wife and two daughters; his third daughter whom he never met was born in Canada. Japan's reign of terror continued during WWII, and they rounded up any foreigners and tortured them. In 1943, Liddell was taken to a Japanese prison camp. He continued to live out his faith by organizing youth sports, collecting coal, teaching science, preaching in the church, and teaching Bible studies. He gave away his medicine and food. Liddell died of a brain tumor just before the war ended in 1945 at age 43. One fellow prisoner said this about Liddell: "He was Jesus in running shoes."

Eric Liddell's story reminds us that our legacy and greatness is not measured in worldly accomplishments, but in our character and love for God and others. There are times when we must take a stand which might not be popular in today's culture. How do we keep our focus on Christ when we have so many distractions around us? Romans 12:2 states, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Matthew 5:16 states, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." I used to mistakenly think that God's gifts were primarily for me. While that may sometimes be true, God's gifts are meant to glorify him and to serve others. The gifts do bring joy and purpose to our lives, and we should enjoy them. However, our faith will be strengthened as we see God's glory in the world around us. Eric Liddell said this about his gift of running, "In the dust of defeat as well as the laurels of victory there is a glory to be found if one has done his best." Note that he enjoyed his gift, but he ran to honor God. By doing that, Eric Liddell inspired others to lay down their gifts to serve God and others around them. Like Eric Liddell, our legacy should be one of service and love, all the while giving glory to God.

Serving together in Christ,

Joe Godfrey

July 4th



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*Mt. Olive's annual Independence Day Cookout was held on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Hotdogs and hamburgers were served, along with every kind of side and dessert imaginable. The real showstoppers, as usual, were the canisters of homemade ice cream, featuring flavors such as peanut butter, orange sherbert, and butter pecan. What a way to celebrate America's birthday!*





*Joey and Sydney Ashley*

*Alex Bodine*

*Lisa Kernodle*

*Elijah Lewis*

*Jodi, Hallie, and Hayden Morris*

## *Appalachian Backpack Focus:*

Full Sized Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Deodorant



# NC Missions Offering



August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup>

Scan the code for more information:





*Let the*  
**heavens**  
**rejoice,**

AND LET THE EARTH BE GLAD ...  
 LET THE FIELD BE JOYFUL,  
 AND ALL THAT IS THEREIN.

PSALM 96:11-12, KJV

## *Serving This Month*

### Deacon of the Week

8-03	John Green
8-10	Oscar Majors
8-17	John B. Marshall
8-24	Jimmy White
8-31	Joe Godfrey

### Nursery

8-03	Lisa & Jimmy White
8-10	Tammie Marley
8-17	Joan Snyder
8-24	Maria Wilske
8-31	Teresa Garner & Cindy Marshall

### Children's Church

Cindy Marshall
Kristina Zachary
Tammie Marley
Jane Majors
Beverly Morris

Pastor: Travis Bodine, [pastor@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:pastor@mtolivebaptist.com)  
 Associate Pastor: Jason Lewis, [family@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:family@mtolivebaptist.com)  
 Secretary: Christina Wilkins, [christina@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:christina@mtolivebaptist.com)

<https://www.mtolivebaptist.com/>  
 Church Office: 336-376-3788

# Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Birthday: Mike Jackson
3	4	5 Anniversaries: Travis & Kim Bodine Craig & Denise Dixon	6 Family Night Meal 6:30 p.m.  RAs/GAs, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	7	8	9 Anniversary: Diz & Karen Lloyd
10 Birthday: Lynn McPherson	11 WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m.	12 Birthday: Eli Zachary	13 RAs/GAs, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Birthday: Sadie Ashley	14 Birthdays: Joy Lewis Steve McCarty	15 Anniversary: Darith & Donna Andrews	16 Game Night 6:30 p.m.  Birthday: CeCe McCarty
17 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	18	19	20 RAs/GAs, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	21	22 Newsletter Deadline  Birthday: Evangeline Andrews	23 Birthday: Jane Majors
24 Deacons' Meeting 4:30 p.m.  Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.  Birthday: Dawn Lloyd	25 Birthday: Denise Dixon	26 Birthday: Emily Morris	27 RAs/GAs, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	28	29	30 Birthday: Keith Andrews
31	1	2	3	4	5	6