



THE SPIRE

Wakefield Baptist Church



2026



A Sailor's Prayer

The image of a ship has long been associated with the church. Jesus encouraged us to think of ourselves as “fishers” of other people as the ship of the church carries us to fruitful fishing grounds. Or it’s a lifeboat rescuing lost souls who have come to grief upon the stormy seas and threatening shoals of life. Or an ark, ferrying the faithful over the rising tides and floods of life toward safer harbors on that Distant Shore.

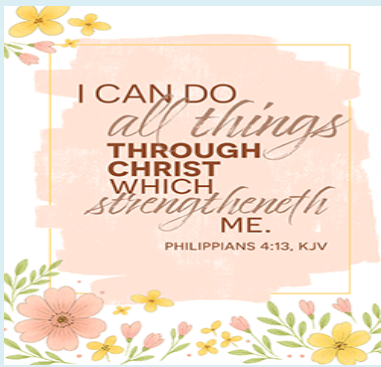
*The ship is our cradle, the deck is our pillow,
lulled by the winds, rocked by the billows;
Gaily bound we o’er the tide,
Hope is our anchor,
Heaven our Guide.*

A good friend (and a very accomplished sailor) gave me that years ago. I don’t know who composed it. My copy is scratched in pencil on a piece of green scrap paper, and it’s sat on my desk for years, reminding me of those wondrous horizons that lay beyond our awareness, toward which we all sail under the watchful gaze of our true Captain. The Holy Spirit filling our sails, faith calming our souls amidst the swells and torrents, we course through the water fulfilling God’s intended purposes for our lives.

It also evokes those uncertain currents we traverse and the squalls that overtake us without warning. At some point in every voyage there come those moments that test the limits of every skill we possess. And when you seem to be the only vessel on the sea, it is a lonely place to be. The most haunting verse of any song I know comes from the Wreck of the Edmond Fitzgerald: “Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?” (Gordon Lightfoot).

Yet he who instructs us how to set our sails is forever at the helm. The storms no longer trouble him, the whitecaps and water hurling over the rails and washing over the decks don’t daunt him. He knows our destination, and he knows how to deliver us there. “Peace!” he commands us. Be still. Tend your stations and all will be well. Then he calls out over the howl in the rigging and commands the waves to settle and the winds to calm as we tack one last time to secure our approach into the Harbor of Refuge.

Peace be with you, his peace, that peace which only he can give.
And may God grant it to us all - Clay



CHIP'S CHATS.....

“...I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!” ~Philippians 4:13

This past Sunday we heard a testimony from a sister-in-Christ who lived this verse. God gave her strength to do so much. But underneath, underlying her faith journey, there's something more powerful. It's not just that God empowered her to do all things, great things, but God empowered her to do all, again, all things -- even to endure challenging things. If you skip back to the previous verse, Paul lists things God helped him to endure...

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” (Philippians 4:11-12). “...I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!”

Yes, God gives us strength to do great things but also strengthens us to endure hard stuff. No matter the circumstances: times of plenty and want, when we're feeling full or even feeling like we're starving – God is with us. Through even the good, the bad, and the ugly, we can live with joy – we can do ALL things through Christ -- He gives us strength!

That was the powerful, subtle message of the testimony, and it's the deep beauty of Philippians 4:13.

On behalf of Christina and me I want to thank you for the warm welcome at the ice cream social and for the very cool, loving prayer during the church service. Little-by-little we're learning names, faith journeys, and learning what makes Wakefield Baptist tick. People are stepping forward for all kinds of tasks – I'm so tickled! To me these aren't small steps of faith; these steps are huge and I pray the Lord blesses all who are able to pray and to help reach others for Christ.

Brothers & Sisters, we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

See you in church! Love, Chip

Two Summer Picnics

Saturday, July 11 at 4:00 pm

At the home of Mike and Denise Comstock
21 Cherokee Bend, Charlestown

Wednesday, August 12 at 4:30 pm

At the home of Cathy Holloway
1217 Shannock Road, Charlestown

Everyone welcome! Invite a friend!

Beverages, Grilled Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

OR, if you choose, make a small cash donation to offset costs.

Bring a lawn chair, but *only if it is easy* to do so!

Let's have food, fellowship and fun TOGETHER!





Bearing Witness **Summer Testimony Sundays**

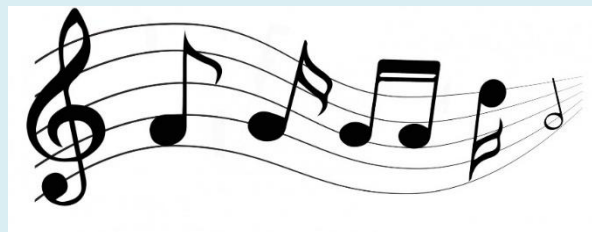
This summer, several of our members will be bearing witness to their love for God during upcoming worship services that will strengthen and encourage us all.

This has become an important part of our worship tradition here at WBC as we hear of the many ways God has been working in the lives of those who live and worship alongside us. So please join us for these special services of worship:

We would like to thank Rebecca DeLuise for sharing her personal testimony on June 21. On July 12, Jim Vasques will share his testimony during worship.

We may have more to announce shortly, and if you are feeling led to offer your testimony, then please let me know. In the meantime, please encourage these folks, be in prayer for them as they prepare, and then be with us to hear and support them!

God bless you – Clay



Special Music for Summer

If you would like to provide special music during the summer - solos, duets, trios, instrumental, etc., please see Pastor Clay Berry. We would love to have you share your music ministry with us!



Take time to study God's Word

***Keep Calm and Carry On:
A 6-week study of 1st Thessalonians***

On Sunday mornings, for 6 weeks, before worship.
Starting promptly at 9:15 until 9:50 am. Meeting in the parlor.

Leader: Jim Vasques

July 26 through August 30



Can you give a Ride?

If you **NEED** a ride to worship or to another church event, give Denise a call.

If you can **GIVE** a ride to someone to worship or another church event, please call Denise.

The **GOAL** is to help folks get to worship and church events (like the summer picnics coming up).

Denise Comstock has offered to coordinate this ministry. She will keep a list of potential drivers who are willing to provide rides, if available when needed, to someone who wants to get to church or a church event.

So... if you can give a ride or need a ride, contact Denise at 401-301-8515.

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REVIVING MINISTRY at CANONICUS

Sunday, July 19, Rev. Tony Pappas, a leader in the newly-formed Canonicus Ministries, will join us at lunch to share hopes, plans and dreams for a new future for Canonicus. We'll discuss how we as a church and individuals can become involved. Plan to stay after worship to get information and ask questions.

There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board- it will help us plan ample food.



Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped with the church clean-up day in early June. We made good progress in setting up an office for Chip Northup, our new staff member, as well as disposing of old, broken, and unused items. We rescued some books and teaching curriculum that will be sent to missionaries. In addition, shelves, toys, chairs, etc. were cleaned. More to come.

Wakefield Baptists on Mission in Our Community and the World



RED WAGON MINISTRY

Throughout the month of **July**, the Red Wagon collection will be for the Community Market at St. Peter's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Narragansett. They have requested donations of breakfast items (cereal, pancake mix, syrup, muffin mix, etc.) and summer picnic supplies (mustard, relish, ketchup, salad dressings, etc.).

The Community Market (a food pantry) is open on Fridays from 3-5 pm to help any in need of food assistance in South County.

Looking Ahead...

In **August**, the Red Wagon will collect new **Back to School SOCKS** for girls, boys, teens.... all ages. They will be delivered to the Jonnycake Center for Hope.

Thank you for your continued support of all
Mission Projects!



UPDATE from Ann and Dr. Bill Clemmer, Democratic Republic of the Congo Missionaries

On June 10, Ann writes:

We have been through five Ebola epidemics over the years; two were small, but in 2018 Bill ended up working in the hot zone for 18 months. This time around, our team at HEAL Africa has been quick to do education about the disease for children and women and set up wash stations. They are on top of it!

Our city of 1.5 million has only had one case...and she was cured and released from the hospital last week. The most severely hit area is a mining region just north of us. Your prayers for the people there are appreciated....

I had a ticket in May to visit our children and seven grandchildren in Maine, but the border shut down the night before the planned departure. ***God ordains all our plans.*** The U.S. Embassy wrote this morning: they have arranged a departure tomorrow for all U.S. citizens to cross the border and onward to the United States. Screening procedures will be in place, followed by a period of self-monitoring. I am headed home, but as with so many departures before, not in the way I had planned.

Bill will remain behind for several weeks as part of the team conducting Ebola surveillance and training health care workers along the Burundi border...."

Let us keep Ann and Bill in prayer that God will direct their paths in every way.



SOUTH COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

South County Habitat for Humanity will be accepting applications from July 1-31 for three single-family, 3-bedroom homes in the Broad Rock area of South Kingstown.

New construction, energy efficient, 2 bathrooms and a garage.

Information session: July 8, 6:00 pm in person and virtual. Call (401) 213-6711 X305 or email Aliyya@southcountyhabitat.org to register.

Applications available at southcountyhabitat.org/homeownership starting July 1.

TODAY, South County Habitat needs help to raise \$50,000 to begin construction on these three homes.

Thanks to a generous donor, every gift made through July 31 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. Your gift can be doubled if made by July 31. Make check payable to **South County Habitat for Humanity**, memo note **Broad Rock match**.

Mail to South County Habitat PO Box 68, Shannock, RI 02875

Serving God's people in need.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

ATTENTION- MEN

There won't be a Men's Breakfast in July but our breakfasts will resume the first Saturday in August which will be August 1. Enjoy the 4th of July and the 250th birthday of our country with your loved ones!



WE HAVE LOTS OF SCRAP PAPER!

We have accumulated lots of scrap paper in the Church Office! Some has print on one side. Some is blank, but it is shopworn. It would be great if someone had a use for it!

Please see Dian and she will show you what we have.



Our sincere sympathy, love and prayers are with Beth, Clay, Ben and Chris on the passing of Beth's mother on June 17. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they will be leaving after the worship service on July 12 to travel to the South to her memorial service.

Please see the note below from Beth:

Dear Wakefield Baptist Church Family,

I want to thank you so much for your support and prayers while I have been in North Carolina with my mom. God granted her a very peaceful way to leave this world and enter into his kingdom. Every day, her abilities lessened, and we adapted. Until finally, she was sleeping comfortably all day and night. Hospice alerted us to look for particular signs that indicated transitions and in the end, I was able to be right by her side, singing songs as she slowly took her last breath in the early morning of June 17th.

Throughout I felt your love and support. I was able to concentrate on things here, because I knew my Church family was stepping up to cover all the little things on my Rhode Island to-do list.

I will be returning to Rhode Island on Monday the 22nd for a time. And the whole family will return South for Mom's memorial scheduled July 18.

Remember that God is good – all the time. All the time – God is good. And his goodness shows through you.

Gratefully, Beth



July Birthdays

July	2	Carl Lindstrom
July	16	Bill Thompson
July	21	Kathy Rand
July	25	Blossom Myers
July	27	Janice Travers



Thank you to all who have volunteered to host the Fellowship Hour after worship, We have had some delicious food and great conversations! Below are the dates for July and August that have hosts or are open for hosting.

Drinks and paper goods are supplied. Please see Julie or Dian if you have any questions. **Thank you for your help!**

July 5	The Vetters
July 12	The Vasques
July 19	Open
July 26	Open
August 2	Open
August 9	Open
August 16	Open
August 23	Open
August 30	Open

AUGUST SPIRE

The deadline to submit items for the **August Spire** is **Sunday, July 19.**

It will be available on **Sunday, July 26.**

Each Week

Sunday

Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sundays	6:00 pm	Women's Step Study
Mondays	6:00 pm	Men's 12 Step
Mondays	7:30 pm	Al Anon
Tuesdays	10:00 am	AA Book Discussion

Meetings

Wed.	July 1	3:00 pm	Deacons
Tuesday	July 14	4:00 pm	Missions/Discipleship
Tuesday	July 14	4:30 pm	Trustees
Tuesday	July 28	3:00 pm	Ministries Council

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Rev. Dr. Clay Berry, Pastor

Dian Arnold, Church Admin. Assistant

Catherine Holloway, Minister of Music, (Choir)
Chip Northup, Minister of Community Outreach and Discipleship

Jim Paulhus, Sexton

Julie Wardwell, Minister of Music, (Organ & Piano)

CHURCH OFFICE Phone/Fax (401) 783-2472

E-mail:

Dian-Office@wbcri.org

Clay-Pastor@wbcri.org

www.Facebook.com/WakefieldBaptistChurchRI

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***This Church Lives** to introduce Jesus Christ to those who do not know and love him,
to deepen the faith and commitment of those who already know and love him,
to demonstrate Christ's way of love in service to the world.*