



As we embark upon the second month of summer, many are unaware of the significance July bears on history. Before the time of Julius Caesar, this month was called Quintilis. After the death of Julius Caesar, in 44 BC, the Roman senate honored him by changing the name of this month to embrace his; this was his birth month.

For the Jews, this month is a time of remembrance, reflection and repentance. July marks several turning points in the life and times of the Jewish nation. It was in the month of July when both holy temples in Jerusalem were destroyed. In the second century, during the month of July, Jews were expelled from England and Spain. As you can imagine, this is not a celebratory month for the people of God. Hence, they have carved out this month for fasting and mourning.

These painful reminders of the consequence of sin and rebellion are not exclusive to the Jewish nation. The prophet Isaiah describes the human condition and our sinful nature like this: *“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.”*

There are consequences directly connected to our decisions, good or bad. Our “fallen” human condition mares our minds, thus hindering it for accurately assessing the purpose of God’s corrective measures, which are intended to create turning points in our lives.

Traditionally, July has been a month of turning. The first half of the year has come and gone, and after a short season of reflection on such things as: what have I done for God, how much time have I spent with Him and do I know and love Him more than I have in the past, it is time to pivot. We should seize this opportunity to focus our attention and resources on our relationship with God and ask what more can I do for God, how can I spend more time with Him and how can I know and love Him more?

The answer to the question “What more can I do for God?” is found in Romans 12:1, *“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”*

We discover the answer to the second question: “how can I spend more time with God?” In Romans 12:2, *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good, pleasing and perfect.”*

We discover the answer to the third question, “How can I know and love God more?” In II Timothy 2:15 we are instructed to study, or work hard so we can present ourselves to God and receive his approval. We are to be good workers; not ashamed but confident in our abilities to correctly explain the Word of Truth.

May July be the month when Christians, from every corner of the world, desire and pursue a deeper consecrated relationship with our heavenly Father. This transformation will take place through our willingness to set our affection on things above.

Just as the Jews carved out this month to fast and mourn may we too seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness that He may add His blessings to our lives. This is a noble pursuit and we can attain it. The apostle Paul states in Romans 8:37-38, despite all things, we are more than conquerors through Christ because He loves us, and nothing can separate us from His love.

In closing, I want to leave you with this message from Colossians 3:15, *“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.”* May God continue to bless you and His church.

Your friend,  
Pastor Tim

## Father’s Day Breakfast

Many thanks go to the women who prepared breakfast on Father’s day. They did a great job and delighted all who participated with their presentation. The food was wonderful and so was the fellowship. You men set the bar high, on Mother’s Day Breakfast, but of course the ladies matched their excellent feast.

## Operation Christmas Child

Here is an opportunity for you to participate in making a child’s Christmas something special. We have started our drive for shoe boxes to be filled and/or things to be put in them. The shoe boxes are in the middle room with brochures for how to fill them. Please help with shipping expenses as they have a long way to go.

## July Guest Speakers

**July 3rd** - Dr. Lyman Alexander - East Bay Baptist Association Executive Director of Missions

**July 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st** - Dr. Richard A. Johnstone - Associate Professor of Leadership Formation

Dr. Johnstone was first based in Chicagoland, in small-town Texas, and has lived in California for nearly thirty years. He served churches in California as pastor and then as Association Director of Missions, where he worked to strengthen churches and develop church planting partnerships.

In addition to his current faculty position at Golden Gate, Rich also serves with the North American Mission Board as City Coordinator for Send North America: San Francisco. This is an initiative of the North American Mission Board to significantly impact unreached communities in the Bay area through local evangelistic church planting strategies.

Rich is married to Rhonda, and they have three children: Ethan, Eryn, and Tessa. He enjoys cycling and long distance inline skating for fitness and fast fun.

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## Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

**Devon Henesley** - Grandson of Jean Johnson  
**Branch** - Navy **Rank** - Chief  
**Assignment** - Japan

**Brandon Woolworth** - Nephew of Chery Hanna  
**Branch** - Air Force  
**Assignment** - Tucson, Arizona

**Megan Hines** - USNA - Pastor Tim’s Daughter  
**MIDN** - **Megan Hines**  
**1 Wilson Rd.**  
**P.O. Box 12610**  
**Annapolis, Maryland 21412**



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**Sunday Services**

Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Morning Worship 10:45 am



**July Calendar**

6th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm  
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm  
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm  
 9th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am  
 11th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am  
 13th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm  
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm  
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm  
 20th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm  
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm  
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm  
 23rd - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am  
 25th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am  
 27th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm  
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm  
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm  
 28th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm

**Happy Birthday**

1st - Tom Swyers  
 8th - John Kopet  
 8th - Diane Varady  
 12th - Eva Emerson  
 17th - Sue Abbott  
 21st - Margaret Ferguson  
 29th - Don Clark  
 30th - Millie Brogdon

**Happy Anniversary**

4th - Bill & Shauna Duncan  
 5th - Jeff & Debbie Machetta  
 25th - Dave & Patti Hawksworth



**First Southern Baptist Church**  
**Newsletter**

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**Pastor: Tim Hines**

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**As we celebrate Independence Day let us recall St. Paul's words to the Galatians:**

**You were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence... (Galatians 5:13)**

**May God enable us to use our freedom for service and  
 and the love of one another.**

**Have a happy and safe holiday.**