

# *The* Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | JULY 2024



*Celebrating the*

# FOURTH *of* JULY

- I N D E P E N D E N C E   D A Y -

## Church Events

- **July 3<sup>rd</sup>—Family Fun Cookout @ 5:30-7:15p**  
*Bring Your Grill & Food to Share, Outside Games Provided*
- **July 4<sup>th</sup> —Office Closed**
- **July 7<sup>th</sup> —"Land of the Free" Presented by Celebration Choir**
- **July 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30p—Men's Ministry Meeting**  
*Speaker-Tom Powell  
Dinner Provided*
- **July 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>—Centrikid Summer Camp**
- **July 13<sup>th</sup> 8-10a—Cars & Coffee**
- **July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30—Quarterly Ministry Meeting**
- **Wednesdays in July Starting July 10 @ 6:15p—"Let's Talk About It" w/ Pastor Bob**  
*Submit your topics at [fbcshallotte.org/talk](http://fbcshallotte.org/talk)*

# George Washington and The Resolve to Stay the Course

In the autumn of 1777, George Washington's forces suffered two major defeats against the British. To make matters worse, in one of those battles Philadelphia fell to British forces.

So, Washington had moved his beleaguered army to an encampment near Philadelphia, hoping to prevent the British from advancing again. But he knew that his Continental Army, worn and ragged, was not ready for another fight, and would not be any time soon.

And as if that were not bad enough, Washington suffered another blow. But this time it was friendly fire.

## The Duche letter

While Washington was considering his options, he received a 14-page letter from an old friend, Jacob Duche. Duche was the first chaplain of the Continental Congress, and he had famously prayed for the Congress in 1774. He and Washington shared a friendship grounded in their common faith and in the cause of liberty.

But Duche, under pressure from Loyalists, had recently earned his release from jail by recanting his commitment to the American cause. In an effort to appease the British, Duche tried to enlist Washington in his own treason.

In his letter, Duche declared that the cause of liberty was lost. He encouraged his friend to publicly renounce the Declaration of Independence and then to give up and surrender to the British.

He recruited Elizabeth Ferguson, the wife of a Loyalist and an influential acquaintance of both he and Washington, to courier the letter. As he sat quietly and read the letter, she stood by and waited.

His response was not what she expected.

## Washington's response

Washington was furious. He regarded the letter as a betrayal of a friend. And far from caving to the pressure to quit, the letter hardened Washington's resolve.

Historian Ron Gragg writes that Washington "politely but firmly" dismissed Elizabeth Ferguson. He was shocked and dismayed by both the timing and the audacity of his friend's call for his defection. He forwarded the letter to the Continental Congress with pertinent and terse remarks of what he thought of his old friend's betrayal.

O that chilly autumn day, Duche's letter had the opposite effect than what he intended. Now, more than ever, Washington was committed to the greater cause of liberty.

What bolstered his confidence? Why was he so resolved to stay the course? He was convinced that God was on His side.

## Trust in God

In an ironic twist, Washington expressed greater faith in God than the Chaplain of the Continental Congress.

Though at this time and many others Washington faced setbacks and discouragement, his resolve never wavered. In fact, his ability to calmly and confidently conduct himself and lead the army were traits that characterized him throughout the war.

Even when facing defeat, Washington repeated the source of his confidence and resolve. He believed that "The Almighty Ruler of



the Universe," would "intervene" in their higher cause. God, Washington knew, would bring to their cause "signal instances of Divine Goodness."

And Washington himself did not even know how right he was. At the same time that his weary army camped outside of Philadelphia, and nearly at the moment that he was reading Duche's letter, on the other side of the world King Louis the 16th of France was committing French forces to the American Revolution.

And then, just two days after Washington rejected Duche's letter, an entire British command surrendered to the American General Gates at Saratoga. Even to this day, historians are unable to fully explain that unprecedented surrender. But Washington knew it was God's intervention.

## The secret to resolve is no secret at all

Discouragement haunts us most when we are battle-weary. It's easy to be disheartened and to second-guess your decisions when nothing seems to go right.

And when your struggles overwhelm you, petty people can take advantage to sow discouragement and doubt. The future can seem clouded by a foggy hopelessness. How can you stay focused, calm, and resolved, no matter how bleak things appear?

It's no secret. The difference between quitting great causes and staying the course is being in God's will. It's the firm belief that you are doing what you have been called to do, and God will come through for you.

## In the Bible

This same kind of resolve and confidence is threaded through the Bible. Person after person, convinced that they serve the cause of Christ, stands firm. Rather than listen to petty people, rather than let discouragement overwhelm them, they stay the course and often get to see God's hand at work.

Consider Moses, Esther, and Gideon. All were called to a greater work and rose to the occasion, even in the face of personal loss.

Nehemiah refused to stop God's work and come down from the wall when petty people coaxed him to defect (Neh. 6:3). Caleb and Joshua refused to join the crowd of naysayers when they faced giants in the land (Num. 13:30). Paul stayed true to God's course for him no matter the consequences (Phil. 4:13-14).



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## George Washington and The Resolve to Stay the Course

And we are here today because Jesus Himself embraced the Father's plan for our salvation, standing firm and paying the necessary price to see God's greatest plan to fulfillment (John 5:20).

### Resolve to see it through

Maybe you are a weary parent. Maybe you are pressured to compromise your convictions. Maybe your friends have left you because you chose to follow Christ. Maybe you are just battle-weary from the struggles of the day.

Whatever your situation, stand firm for the greater cause of Christ. Remember that God is unstoppable. If you are in His will, don't quit. Don't defect or take the easier path. And don't listen to petty people.

Hold fast. Stay the course. You may be about to see God do something great.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob

“ Therefore,  
my dear brothers  
and sisters,  
be steadfast,  
immovable,  
always excelling  
in the  
Lord's work,  
because you  
know that your  
labor in the  
Lord is not in  
vain ”

(1 Cor. 15:58)

# Deacon of the Week

JAMES BUFFKIN  
(910) 279-5179  
buffkins@atmc.net  
July 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>



VERNON ABNEY  
(859) 358-4224  
abney358655@gmail.com  
July 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>



JACE MYERS  
(910) 603-3501  
jace\_myers@hotmail.com  
July 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>



MARK VARNAM  
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July 28<sup>th</sup>-Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>



## Blessing Bag Donations

FBCS Kids will pack Blessings Bags for the homeless in our community on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm. Donations are needed for the Blessing Bags by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Donations of bottled water, peanut butter crackers, granola bars, beef jerky, candy, gum toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant men/women, socks men/women, washcloths, soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, combs, band aids, and clippers would help in this ministry. Donation Tubs are at both entrances of the church.



**AUGUST 4-10**

ServeNC is an opportunity to love on our community in Jesus' name through service projects like yard-work, housecleaning, passing out water on the beach, light handyman projects, etc. Sign up will be available in the back of the Family Life Center.

sign up  
to

**SERVE NC**

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street  
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048  
fbcshallotte.org

## Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm  
Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am  
Worship—11:00am

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 318  
Shallotte, NC



## Bible Reading Plan

*With Daily Proverbs*

7/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 115-118; Pro 28	7/17/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 17-20
7/2/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 119-121; Pro 29	7/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 21-23
7/3/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 122-124; Pro 30	7/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 24-26
7/4/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 125-127; Pro 31	7/20/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 27-30
7/5/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 128-131; Pro 1	7/21/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 31; Ecc 1-2
7/6/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 132-134; Pro 2	7/22/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 3-5; Pro 8
7/7/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 135-137; Pro 3	7/23/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 6-8; Pro 9
7/8/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 138-140; Pro 4	7/24/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 9-12; Pro 10
7/9/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 141-144; Pro 5	7/25/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 1-3; Pro 11
7/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 145-147; Pro 6	7/26/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 4-6; Pro 12
7/11/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ps 148-150; Pro 7	7/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecc 7-8; Isa 1; Pro 13
7/12/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 1-3	7/28/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 2-5; Pro 14
7/13/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 4-7	7/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 6-8; Pro 15
7/14/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 8-10	7/30/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 9-11; Pro 16
7/15/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 11-13	7/31/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Isa 12-14; Pro 17
7/16/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro 14-16		