CHURCH on the BLUFF

Ordinary people serving an extraordinary God

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July 9, 2026

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S HEART

I think you'll agree with me that rules are a good and necessary thing. Whether it is a board game or a sporting event, rules are important. Rules prevent chaos and bring order. Rules can protect us and prevent inequality. We are a civilized society because there are rules by which we live. Can you imagine living in a culture where there were no rules?

But what about too many rules? That can get out of hand, too, if we aren't careful. Too many rules can often steal some freedoms, happiness, and peace from our lives. That is nowhere as obvious as when it comes to religion. Christianity changed our interaction with God from simply appeasing a "god or gods" to knowing the one true God. Not just living to make Him happy and to gain His favor but *knowing God personally; having a true relationship with the One who created you.*

By the time of the incarnation, the Hebrew religion had become a system of keeping rules. The "rules mindset" almost begged for more rules. Take the first commandment, for instance. (I'm paraphrasing here) Don't work on the Sabbath and don't require anyone else to work. Pretty simple, huh? Nope. People began asking the religious leaders some honest questions so that they wouldn't inadvertently disobey God. What, exactly constitutes work? Can we fix a meal? Can we visit with friends if we have to walk too far? Can I milk my goat? Is it ok to mend a robe that needs it? It is interesting to read some of the Hebrew laws on how to keep the first commandment.

Rules are necessary, of course. But if we try to use rules to be closer to God we will keep making up new ones. I always tell folks they should seek to be closer to the Lord; they need to know him scripturally. As we get to know His character and purpose, rules will follow. Once we understand the Bible isn't a rule book it's a love letter we develop rules that draw us closer to Him.

Say good things about your Savior and His Church on the Bluff

Bro. Tony

July:

- July 11th - Fish Fry Noon
  - Shroud of Turin 2PM
- July 12th– Communion
  - Bluff Perk
  - Church Council
- July 19h - Ladies Bible Study 5PM
- July 26h - Ladies Bible Study 5PM

Weekly:

Sundays

Bible Study - 9:00 AM
Worship - 10:00 AM

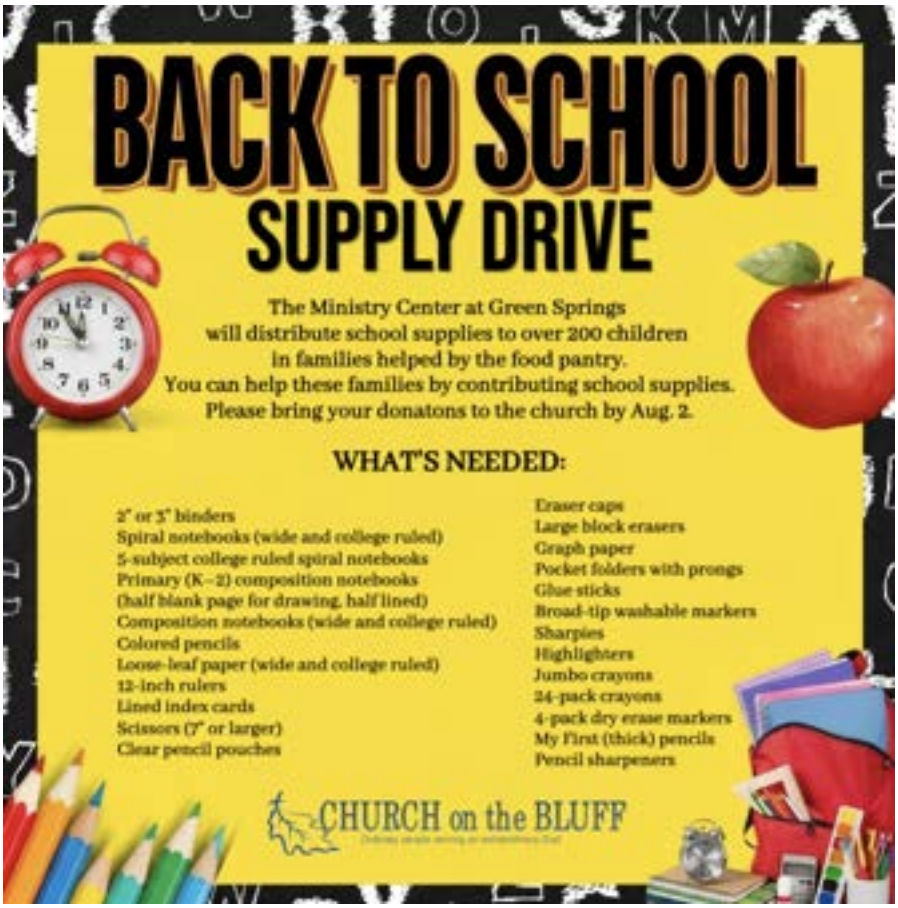
Wednesdays

Bible Study & Prayer - 6:30 PM
Choir Practice - 7:15 PM

Office Hours 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Monday-Thursday

Prayer &
Bible Study
Wednesdays
6:30 PM

CHURCH PICNIC / FISH FRY
JULY 11TH
NOON



COTB T-Shirt

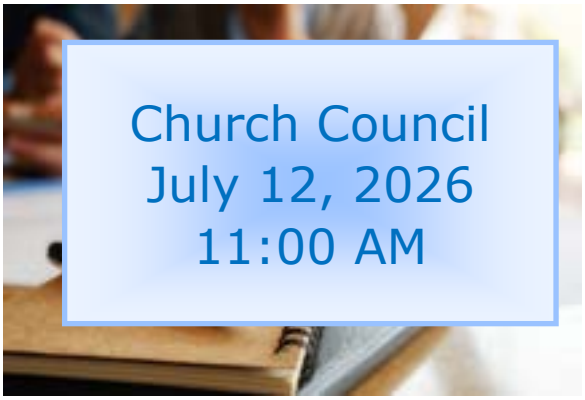
$14 EACH

July 19 is the deadline to order. Online ordering is available now by clicking on the link included in the email. Paper forms will be available at the picnic and for the next two weeks at services.

Please reach out to me or Natalie (nataliebfleming@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Link: **https://forms.gle/3m4ejbmWKVovh39U8**

Happy Birthday!

JULY

15 Pam Scott
23 Kelly Garner
23 Amanda Burg
24 Russell Wilson
28 Sara Beth Ramsey
29 Ronald Ellerbe
30 Robert Kurtts