

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church
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July 2026

Dear Church Family,

Well, our 250th birthday is finally here! What a wonderful milestone. We have been learning a lot about our rich history. I have known much of it but have always said that it wouldn't mean much if we weren't vibrant and relevant today. Because we are, that gives us an exciting sense of carrying on a rich Christ-centered legacy.

It looks like the weather is going to send us indoors for the celebration, but even in that there is a great praise. God has blessed us with wonderful facilities that make it possible for us to have that option. We didn't have the large fellowship hall/preschool building 25 years ago.

Of course, the facilities are similar to our history in that what makes them meaningful is that they house a family of believers that love Him and have the utmost respect for His word. That makes them housing for His children, not just buildings.

We are well aware that we will also be celebrating the same birthday for our country. It saddens me that it is not in better shape than it is. But while many hate it and are trying to drive it over a cliff, there are many that work sacrificially to bring it back to what it once was, and for that I am grateful.

As we celebrate our church and country, let us be thankful for what we have, and those that gave up so much to provide it. While at the same time, may we commit to doing our part to pass both on in the best shape possible to those who are coming behind us.

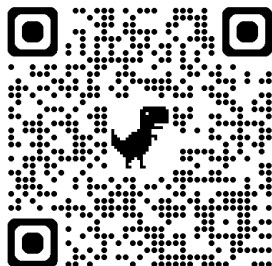
Grateful to God and for you
Pastor Jeff



VBS Registration is now open!!

Classes available for 4 years old - completed 7th grade

**MONDAY, AUGUST 3RD - FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH
6:30 - 8:30 PM**



Children's Camp

THE BEST WEEK OF THE YEAR!

What makes camp the best week of the year you ask? There is worship every day, quiet time with God every day, bible study every day, singing praise every day, all in a beautiful setting only God could have created.

I love going to camp with our kids and chaperones and having the time to focus on God and having intentional conversations with each other.

This year the theme for camp was "The Storyteller - Author of all things." As always, CentriKid did a fantastic job of making this a part of every activity during the week.

I would like to thank all of our camper parents for sending your children this year. A great big THANK YOU goes out to our adult chaperones for giving so generously of yourself and your time. I could not do it without you.



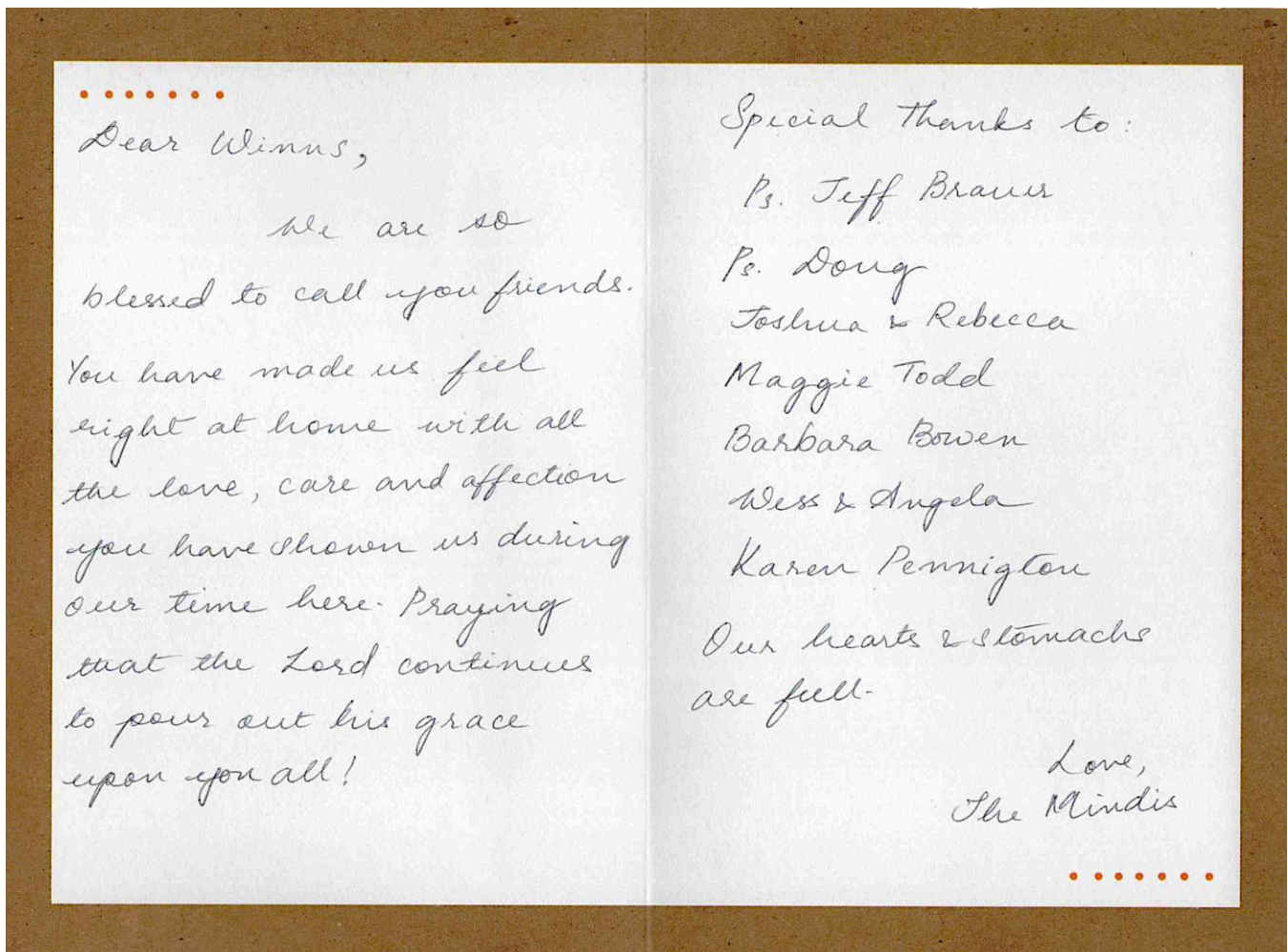
*For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to Him be the glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:36*

Remembering a Special Visit with the Mindi's

Barbara Bowen, Missions Committee Chair

Last month, we had the opportunity to bless and be blessed by Chris Zion and Sarah Mindi when they visited us with their youngest daughter Alisha. The team effort began months before their June 4 arrival as committed volunteers helped to prepare the parsonage for their arrival. Our "in-house designer" Barbara Johnston ensured that the rooms were made up with new sheets, curtains were hung, fresh towels were up in the bathrooms, and homey touches were added to make them feel welcome. Keith and Susan Sommers also dropped off fresh flowers and a welcome basket of goodies for our guests.

A special thank you goes out to our ad hoc Hospitality Committee of Pastor Doug, Maggie Todd, Wes and Angela Smith, and Josh and Rebecca Parker for hosting the family for meals and sightseeing during their stay. Kudos to Ronnie Smithwick, Anita Floyd, and the Kitchen Committee for their outstanding support setting up for the luncheon and serving a bountiful spread after a full morning of updates on their Anchor Austin ministry. Chris and Sarah left the card below with a special message for the church before Karen Pennington dropped them off at the airport. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to mail a check for \$4,401 from the love offering to help them continue spreading the gospel in the large Austin community of immigrants from their native India.



Caleb Brauer, Director of Music Ministries

As we gathered for worship on July 5th, we had a unique opportunity to celebrate two significant milestones: the 250th anniversary of our church and the birthday of our nation. Throughout the years, God has faithfully sustained both His people here at our church and our country through seasons of blessing, hardship, growth, and change. As we reflected on His faithfulness, our hearts were filled with gratitude.

To mark this special occasion, our last worship song together was "America the Beautiful." Rather than displaying the lyrics on the screen, we decided to sing directly from our hymnals. It seemed fitting that, as we celebrate 250 years of our church's history, we closed this chapter by gathering around the same hymnal that has guided generations of believers in worship before us.

The words of this beloved hymn remind us of both the beauty of our nation and our continual need for God's grace:

"America! America! God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

Those words serve as a prayer as much as a celebration. They remind us that every blessing we enjoy ultimately comes from the Lord and that our greatest hope has always been—and always will be—found in Him.

We were blessed to lift our voices together one final time during this 250th anniversary celebration. May our singing always be an expression of gratitude for God's faithfulness in the past and our trust in His continued guidance for the years ahead.

Commemorating 250th Anniversary of Our Church



Good morning, Church Family,

We just got back from our World Changers missions' trip, and it was a tremendous blessing! We had 1 student trust in Jesus too! We took 26 people to Boone, NC and were part of 9 separate missions' teams that went to serve the area. We departed each morning at 7:30am and didn't return until after 3:30 – that was some full-time mission work! We definitely grew closer together as a group. The guys got to room together in one room, and other than a few of them participating in a gas passing contest, that was a good thing. We were tired each day, so everyone went right to sleep at 10:30 when I turned the lights out. My leaders were a tremendous help as well.

One thing that I really liked about this camp was I was able to bring 8 of my young adults and they were on their own teams of young adults, which was a change from supervising. We will definitely do WC again. Next year I plan to offer World Changers in mid-June and Fuge camp if we have enough interest as well. I think that it is still important to offer standard youth camp as an option as it presents the Gospel as well as has discipleship components. This is a great format to invite a friend to camp that doesn't know Jesus yet. On the other hand, WC is almost exclusively for believers and focuses on really serving others and I think that they assume that everyone is already saved before attending.

I am not sure that we will do both each year, I am kind of leaning towards alternating, but next year they offer a 7-day WC to Huntington, WV. And I'd really like to attend that specific location. The dates for next year are June 20th through 26th, which is a Saturday to Saturday.

Our teams painted, hauled material, rebuilt steps and other things, torn down sheds, and loaded dumpsters, shoveled rock, and mulch, served at a homeless shelter and many more things. This area of Boone was greatly affected by Hurricane Helene just 2 years ago. Many people lost a lot, and some lost their loved ones and homes. There were several opportunities to share our faith and to love on people in Jesus' name. I'm so glad that we have the opportunity to go!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Doug

Winn's Baptist Church
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Non-Profit Org.
U.S. P Good
morning, Church
family: