

*July 2024*  
**College Park Baptist Church**



**College Park Baptist Church**  
3435 Crill Avenue  
Palatka, FL 32177

The monthly newsletter is also available on our website at: [www.cpbcpalatka.org](http://www.cpbcpalatka.org)  
*Our email address is:* [collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net)

I once found myself joyfully hearing some children frolicking in their swimming pool. As I was reflecting on the unencumbered joys of youth, I was troubled to hear the expression, “Oh my God,” falling from the children’s precious lips more than once in the space of just a few minutes.

No extremities gave rise to these words. The matter-of-fact nature of these utterances seemed to reveal their familiarity with the expression either by the example of peers, the media, or their authority figures.

This was not my first experience hearing the phrase from unlikely sources. As the Apostle Paul said, we would need to leave this earth to avoid all exposure to behaviors that displease the Lord. If we have ears to hear, we’ve all heard the phrase “Oh my God” on numerous occasions. But as I sat with my wife in the activity center of a well-known Bible College, I was troubled to hear the same expression repeatedly from the lips of students claiming to love our Lord despite the clear admonition of Scripture where it says,

“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.” (Deuteronomy 5:11 NIV)

We have allowed these and crude expressions unbecoming to believers to find their way into the vocabulary of God’s people. We’ve apparently failed to teach that God’s Word clearly forbids the use of God’s name in frivolous ways. These expressions have woven themselves so deeply into the fabric of our lives that we’re embarrassed to gently admonish those who have fallen prey to speaking like those without Christ. If we diminish the significance of speaking as opposed to behavior, we miss the point. James says

“Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.” (James 3:5 NIV)

Later in the same chapter, James acknowledges the magnitude of the task of bringing the tongue under control where he says,

“but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:8 NIV)

The author of Proverbs captures the essence of the challenge when it says,

“Those who guard their mouths and their tongues keep themselves from calamity.” (Proverbs 21:23 NIV)

The use of the expression “Oh my God” stands as only one of the more obvious symptoms of the malady plaguing today’s Christian community. In the interest of repudiating what we called legalism, I fear we’ve opened the floodgates to worldly speaking and behavior. We’ve often conflated legalism with biblically sound standards of behavior. God wrote the law and enhanced it with grace that raised the bar. Humans created legalism, suggesting that a person grows closer to God by meeting behavior standards created by humans. I find myself in sympathy with the elderly woman who while praying said, “Dear Lord, please forgive me, for I do so many things I used to think were sin.” We’ve allowed worldly pressure to narrow the spectrum of the inappropriate for believers. Instead of being willing to stand apart, we often choose to blend in.

Someone has said it’s better to turn on a light than to curse the darkness. How can we expect to resolve this contradiction to our faith? **First**, as adult authority figures, we need to set an example by determining to speak only in ways that please the Lord. **Second**, we need to teach our children the biblical standards for the tongue established in God’s Word. **Third**, we need to monitor the exposures our children are facing daily through the media and internet sites. We need to help our children’s peers understand that when they are in our homes where we have authority, certain words and crude expressions are impermissible. Both our children and their peers need to understand that failure to meet that expectation will bring consequences at least in the termination of privileges, and in the case of our own children, other appropriate disciplinary actions. **Fourth**, we should encourage the children’s ministries of our churches to reinforce these principles. If we implement these simple steps, we will raise up a generation whose tongues will only glorify God.

The Church office is open Monday-Wednesday  
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Call if you need anything.  
Phone 386-325-7991 or Text 386-530-4851

**July Birthdays**

Sillasen Wayne 7/1  
Bundrick Bill 7/4  
Stewart Patricia 7/8  
Huber Betty 7/14  
Padgett Trinten 7/14  
Herring William 7/20  
Oliver Lawrence 7/22  
Wilson Mary Susan 7/27  
Stallings Darlene 7/30  
Long Marilyn 7/31

**Church Budget 6/30/2024: Monthly expenses: \$8422.72**  
**Monthly giving: \$8770.00**

If you or someone in your immediate family is hospitalized, Pastor Steve would welcome an opportunity to visit them. He has also begun to do some home visits. If you would like a visit at home, or in the hospital, contact him at 610-509-3270.

**Sunday AM fellowship, Meet & Greet!**

- Where: The room to the foyer's left side (as you enter).
- Availability: 10:30-10:55 am
- Menu: Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, water and snacks.  
You should see us there mingling!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** is every Wednesday night in July (July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st). We have a preschool class and elementary grade school class. There will be Bible Study, Missions, Crafts, and Music/Dance. Dinner will begin at 5:00 pm. The Program will begin at 5:30 pm and closes at 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary with The Worship Rally. There is always room for more, so let us know how you want to participate in any form or function. We even plan to have our decorations grow each week with the children's artwork. We still have flyers and door hangers to take to our neighbors and friends. There is a lot of fun to be had, please plan to join us to help share this wonderful message.



# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:00pm Dinner 5:30 to 8:00pm VBS	4	5	6
7 9:45am Brotherhood Churchwide Breakfast 10:30am Worship Service	8	9	10 5:00pm Dinner 5:30 to 8:00pm VBS	11 Putnam County Medical Mission 5-8 pm	12	13
14 9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live 3:00pm Deacons Meeting 4:30pm Church Council	15	16	17 5:00pm Dinner 5:30 to 8:00pm VBS	18	19	20
21 9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live 12:15pm Church Business Meeting	22	23	24 5:00pm Dinner 5:30 to 8:00pm VBS	25 Putnam County Medical Mission 5-8 pm	26	27
28 9:30am Grow Groups 10:30am Coffee fellowship 11am Worship Service Facebook.live	29	30	31 5:00pm Dinner 5:30 to 8:00pm VBS			

Easy Access - website: [www.cpbcpalatka.org](http://www.cpbcpalatka.org), Facebook.live at College Park Baptist Church, for current information. Contact info email [collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:collegeparkbc@bellsouth.net) or phone number 386-325-7991 or text 386-530-4851.

Interim Pastor - Dr. Stephen Wilt  
 Pastoral Assistant – Chris Stewart  
 Accompanist – Jeannie Brown  
 Bass Guitar– Jerry Teske, Drums- Lewis Spikes, Jr.,  
 Vocals – Denise Spikes,  
 Deacons – Rick Lynes, Lawrence Oliver & Jerry Teske  
 Prayer Chain Coordinator - JoAnn Morgan  
 Church Secretary – Christi Bellamy  
 Financial Secretary – Ilene Fulghum