

11. To consider how much more good we can do in the world at large and in the church in particular when we are all united in love, **than** we could do when acting alone and indulging a contrary spirit (Joh 13:35).

12. Lastly, to consider the express injunction of Scripture and the beautiful example of **Christ as** to these important things (Eph 4:32; 1Pe 2:21; Joh 13:5, 35).

From *Manual, for the Use of the Members of the Second Presbyterian Church, Charles-ton, S.C. (Charleston, S.C.: Jenkins & Hussey, 1838);*

1 **EDITOR'S NOTE** - Pastor Smyth appears to **have** taken these **twelve** rules from **William S.**

Plumer's *Manual for Church Members (Petersburg, VA: Yancey & Wilson, Bank St., 1833).*

2 **infirmities** - **weaknesses of moral character**; the inability to resist **natural** inclinations.

3 slanderous - harmful to a person's reputation **and** often untrue.

4 shyness - **viewing** others with distrust or suspicion.

5 **artifice** - **deceptive means of** getting something; trick.

6 **animosity** - hostility *in the public domain*

Unity and peace are a duty well-pleasing to God, Who is styled the author of peace and not of confusion in all the churches. God's Spirit rejoiceth in the unity of our spirits; but, on the other hand, where strife and divisions are, there the Spirit of God is grieved. Hence it is that the apostle no sooner calls upon the Ephesians not to grieve the Spirit of God, but he presently [adds] a remedy against that evil: that they put away bitterness and evil speaking, "and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph 4:32).

As unity and peace are pleasing to God and rejoiceth His Spirit, so it rejoiceth the hearts and spirits of God's people-unity and peace brings heaven down upon earth among us. Hence it is that the apostle tells **us** that "the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom 14:17).

Where unity and peace are, there is heaven upon earth; by this we taste **the** first-fruits of that blessed estate we shall one day live in the fruition of, when we shall come "to the general assembly and church of the first-born," whose names are written in heaven, "and to God, the judge **of all**, and to **the** spirits of just men made perfect" (Heb 12:23).

The unity and peace of the church make communion of saints desirable. What is it that embitters church-communion and makes it burdensome, but divisions? Have you not heard many complain that they are weary **of** church-communion because of church contention? But now, **where** unity and peace are, there Christians long for communion.- John *Bunyan*

Our union is from God, in God, and to God: from the Spirit, with God, through Christ. The whole Trinity is concerned in this union. By the communion of the Spirit, we are mystically united to Christ, and by Christ to God. The Father is, as it were, **the** root, Christ the trunk, the Spirit the sap, we the branches, and our works the fruits. This is the great mystery delivered in the Scriptures. Christ doth not only dwell in us by faith, but God dwelleth in us, and we in God, and the Spirit dwelleth in us.

--Thomas Manton

David declares, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" I read this Scripture in the past week and whole-heartedly agree with God's Word through David. After a somewhat tumultuous year in 2023 in the church and the wonderful time of calling Jacob and Emma Ruth Boatner to minister here with us by a great majority vote, I pray that we are sipping the "dew of Hermon (Psalm 133:3)" a little now at FBC Blue Ridge. I have enjoyed the unity and excitement in recent days. I lament the heart-aches of the past year and pray that we can move forward as followers of Jesus. I recently read this article and thought it would be helpful to all of us in the church family. I have been receiving the Free Grace Broadcaster for a number of years, and if you would like to receive it for free as well, let me know. They were gracious to allow me to reprint these pages from the Broadcaster, and they also offered to send the church copies for anyone interested.

Blessings.  
Rusty



## RULES FOR PROMOTING HARMONY AMONG CHURCH MEMBERS1

Thomas Smyth (1808-1873)

*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.-John 13:34*

1. To remember that we are all subject to failings and infirmities of one kind or another (Mat 7:1-5; Rom 2:21-23).
2. To bear with and not magnify each other's infirmities (Gal 6:1).
3. To pray one for another in our social meetings, and particularly in private (Jam 5:16).
4. To avoid going from house to house for the purpose of hearing news and interfering with other people's business (Lev 19:16).
5. Always to turn a deaf ear to any slanderous report and to allow no charge to be brought against any person until well-founded and proved (Pro 25:23).
6. If a member be in fault, to tell him of it in private before it is mentioned to others (Mat 18:15).
7. To watch against shyness of each other and put **the** best construction **on** any action that has **the** appearance of opposition or resentment (Pro 10:12).
8. To observe the just rule of Solomon, that is, to leave off contention before it is meddled with (Pro 17:14).
9. If a member has offended, to consider how glorious, how God-like it is to forgive, and how unlike a Christian it is to revenge (Eph 4:2)
10. To remember that it is always a grand artifices of the devil to promote distance and animosity among members of churches, and we should, therefore, watch against everything that furthers his end (Jam 3:16).

FBCBR 907 East Main St. Blue Ridge, GA 30513  
BRFBC@blueridgefbc.org 706.632.2763

Rusty Thomas-Pastor rusty.thomas@blueridgefbc.org 706.258.2654

Austin Leach-Student Minister Aleach15@gmail.com 423-331-7504

Pat Young-Childhood Ministries-Music pat.young@blueridgefbc.org 770-316-6575

Shelley Smallwood, Secretary shelley.smallwood@blueridgefbc.org

Debbie Jones-Pianist

Matt Hinman-Audio-Visual Coordinator

**Please note we now have "mailboxes" in the Conference Room for your convenience.**

# July 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> No Quilting B's	<b>3</b> No Choir Practice No Evening Service	<b>4</b> Office Closed No Aerobics	<b>5</b> Office Closed	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Baby Shower For Sarah Pruitt	<b>8</b> Deacons Meeting 6 PM	<b>9</b> WMU/Heart To Hands 10 AM	<b>10</b> Don't Forget Worship Choir Practice Resumes! 7:15 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Church Tubing 2 PM Dinner 5 PM Service 6 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Quilting B's 9 AM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> No Sunday School Business Meeting (After Evening Service)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> No Evening Service No Choir Practice	<b>25</b> Church Pool Party 6-8 PM No Aerobics	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> SALT Saturday
<b>28</b> No Sunday School	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> No Service No Choir Practice			

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### Sunday:

Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship Service 10:45 am  
Evening Worship Service 6:00 pm

### Monday:

Aerobics 5:30 pm

### Tuesday:

Staff Meeting 1:00—3:00 pm  
Young Adult Ministry Bible Study 7:00 pm

### Wednesday:

Summer Generational Camp 5:15—7:00 pm  
Choir Practice 7:15 pm

### Thursday:

Aerobics 5:30 pm

**The Summer Generational Camp is for everyone.  
We will be having a simple meal between  
5:15/5:30 then prayer meeting and a fun activity  
to follow.**

### DEACON OF THE WEEK - JULY 2024

07 Mike George 252-341-3385  
14 Chris Thigpen 706-466-1713  
21 Mike Creasman 678-232-8859  
28 Tim Smallwood 706-248-1091

### JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jeannie Hope 07/06  
Jim Rismiller 07/07  
Robert Goebel 07/08  
Emily Salas 07/08  
Peggy Holzgreffe 07/09  
Kimerly Coshow 07/10  
Bill Rowe 07/12  
Nicholas Duncan 07/16  
Kim Hughes 07/16  
Corey O'Quinn 07/19  
Emily Beavers 07/21  
Laine Lynch 07/21  
Henry Golden 07/23  
Barbara Ruis 07/23  
Sean O'Quinn 07/24  
Nancy Joyce 07/25  
Sylvia Black 07/26  
Annette Sisson 07/27  
Jane Whaley 07/30

Philip & Lydia Arnall 07/09

Matt & Laine Lynch 07/30

If your birthday/anniversary is not listed please call the office