

THE FOCUS



Roanoke Valley Baptist Association
3926 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012
Phone: 540-366-7631 Fax: 540-366-7882 ~ www.rvba.org

RVBA Newsletter
July/August 2017
Edition



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

WHEN A LEADER GETS BETTER, WE ALL GET BETTER!

Dr. John Saunders, Jr.
Executive Director
jesdom@frontier.com

Thursday-Friday, August 10-11, 2017 ~ Live simulcast
Bonsack Baptist Church (4845 Cloverdale Road, Roanoke, VA 24019)
9:30 am – 5:30 pm (both days)

Mrs. Sandy Sloane
Office Manager/Treasurer
sanny610@aol.com

More information about this year's event:
<https://www.willowcreek.com/events/leadership/index.html#about>

Mrs. Pat Carter
BMC Community Center
Site Coordinator
m spatatbcc@gmail.com

Online registration: <https://www.willowcreek.com/reqa/#/reg/trans/one?invID=EV-LSS1708-MAIN-326>

Mr. Giles Gilley
Interim Ward Haven
Supervisor
broggilley@gmail.com

The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) is a training event on how to become a better leader. The Summit is led by world class speakers and is useful to anyone wanting to improve their leadership skills, volunteers, Sunday school and small group leaders, employers/employees, as well as ministers.

Rev. James Jordan
RVBA Moderator
jamestjordan@ewlaw.com



RVBA Back to School/SYATP Youth Event on Saturday, September 9, from 12 noon – 5 pm at Limestone Park, Buchanan, VA. Cost is: \$10/person. There will be tubing, swimming, Ultimate Frisbee, 9 square and other games. Thomas Brown will be the speaker. We're still trying to nail down a worship leader. Churches are asked to bring water and/or 2 liter drinks with them for their teens and to register by 9/1 by calling or emailing the RVBA Office at 540-366-7631 or sanny610@aol.com.

World Changers began on June 24th when 150 teenagers and their leaders arrived in Roanoke. They represented 8 churches from Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. During the week the crews worked on doing painting and repairs on 13 homes in Roanoke and Vinton. They also walked through the communities praying for people they met and sharing the Gospel. Thank you to First Baptist Church for allowing these young people to stay in their facility during the week. The host churches for the work crews were Boone's Mill, Bonsack, Coopers Cove, Fincastle, First Baptist, Fort Lewis, Lynn Haven, Melrose, Midland, Mount Pleasant, Mountain View, North Roanoke, Rosalind Hills, Troutville and Waverly Place. Buchanan Baptist and Riverdale Baptist provided lunch to the World Changers staff. Thank you to each of these churches for investing in the lives of these young people and in our communities. Next year World Changers will be held July 9 – 14.



Remember to always call the RVBA Office at 366-7631 before coming to drop-off or pick-up items.

Sometimes we have to close the office for errands or meetings and we do not want to miss anyone. Thanks so much for your support of the RVBA!

**CHURCHES OF THE WEEK ~ Please pray for these churches and their pastors:
(*Interim Pastor)**

July 2 - Mtn View ~ Jeff Reynolds

August 6 - Preston Oaks ~ Randy Martin

July 9 - New Century ~ Jay Owens

August 13 - Red Hill ~ James Jordan

July 16 - North Rke ~ Daniel Palmer

August 20 - Ridgewood ~ Roy Kanode

July 23 - Oakland ~ Scott Hamilton

August 27 - Riverdale ~ Michael Palmer*

July 30 - Pleasant Hill ~ Rob Marsh

On Mission July/August 2017

When I was called to be the Executive Director for the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association in October 2014, one of the issues that the association was working on was transitioning how to help those with physical needs in our communities. The association had approved a recommendation to transition out of mission center ministry to a congregation based approach to meeting needs. On May 23 at a special called meeting of the association we took that first step by approving the transition of the Baptist Friendship House. To summarize that meeting Faith Dowdy, current site coordinator, and her husband Aaron will be developing a new non-profit ministry at the Baptist Friendship House location. The association will help with this transition. They will receive funding from current designated monies allocated for this ministry, bookkeeping until January, use of the facility, and volunteers from our churches. We will continue to work with Faith and Aaron throughout the transition process. The ministry will include working with refugees and homeless families by providing housing, resources and discipleship; children's ministry; and food pantry. They will be partnering with churches to provide Bible studies during the year. Now the Transition Team is working with the leadership of the Baptist Community Center to develop a plan for that ministry.

The goal of these transitions is for the association to better partner with our churches as they seek ways to meet needs in their own communities. Ministry is most effective when churches are connecting with people in their communities, meeting their needs and inviting them to be a part of their faith family. The goal of ministry beyond meeting the needs is for folks to know Christ as Lord and Savior then to be on a discipleship journey. Please pray for your leadership and the center staff as new directions are implemented.

When the association assists churches to meet needs of people in their community and also bring them into a relationship with Jesus Christ, then together we can make a difference.

On Mission Together,
John Saunders

Children's Missions Camp



CAMPERS: Camper deadline quickly approaching! Spots are limited for this year's missions camp. Enjoy the study of the miracles of Jesus and enjoy crafts, drama/theater, recreation/games, music, camp fires. We have several surprises in store for campers this year. Don't miss out! Qualifying campers are those now finished with 2nd grade up to those

now finished with 5th grade. Camp is overnight from Monday, July 24-Friday, July 28. The cost of camp is only \$50, and covers meals, lodging, activities, prizes and programs. Scholarships are available, if needed. *See the camp website! www.wmuchildrencamp.wixsite.com/childrencamp. For more information, contact: Jessica [540-397-0858](tel:540-397-0858) or Cadie [540-397-0858](tel:540-397-0858) or jisigutierrez@gmail.com or cadie.burks@aol.com.

**Mark your calendar for our 2017 RVBA WMU Fall Missions Celebration
to be held on September 25th at Melrose Baptist Church.
More information will be provided at a later date.**

It is a pleasure to serve as your newly elected RVBA WMU Director for the next 3 years. The WMU Leadership Team and I will be available to help you in any way that we can in providing encouraging speakers at our Spring and Fall Mission Celebrations and other educational events during the year. Also, if you want to start Children in Action, GA's and/or Acteens groups in your church, we will be glad to assist in getting you connected with WMUV. May God continue to bless your church in your mission endeavors throughout the remainder of 2017. Fleta Dillon, RVBA WMU Director

WMU Preschool Consultants need your help:

If your church has a Mission Friends group and they use the WMU Mission Friend magazines we could use the old ones. Please contact Pat Carter at the Baptist Community Center (342-8452) or Virginia Austin at 427-4861. We need the leader book and the student magazine.

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CELL 330-6263 PAT CARTER, SITE COORDINATOR –JANIE BEARD MINISTRY ASSISTANT Summer
Hours: MON-THURS 9:30-5, FOR DELIVERIES (CALL ONE OF THE #'S TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN
THE BUILDING, some weeks we are on field trips m-f 8:30 to 1:30 so please call my cell to see if
someone is at center.

A big thank you to everyone who has made our programs a success so far this year. More than ever we will need people to step up to the calling of serving locally. Big changes are in the works and after school is one. This year I would like to have churches run and conduct the ASP for a month at a time so I need nine churches to love on and build relationships with our children. Pre K may move to 3 mornings a week starting in Sept so more volunteers will be needed. We will need a church or group of people to fix lunch 3 Thursdays a month. You can do it once a month. Camp is not as big this summer but so far it is going smoothly. The gardens are growing and a few gardeners are already getting veggies. There were 5 present for our 1st canning class. We made strawberry and raspberry freezer jam. I just don't have enough room in the paper version to put all our news so please check the email version out for pictures and personal stories. I have a new grandson, born May 1st. Elijah Grey Foster. He is finally home after a month in Nique and all are doing well. We still need a lot of prayers for our family. I am planning a meeting for volunteers and anyone who wants to serve at the center Aug 1 at 3pm at BCC. Please call to register and please come. We have a lot to talk about, from fundraisers to how our ministry can help your church. Please park in church parking lot beside BCC. Spaghetti supper will be in September or October, more details later. Tickets will be ready to sell July 3. The sauce is our own homemade canned sauce. I am looking forward to seeing lots of new faces and lots of returning faces as we start our fall programming. God is awesome!

Friendship House

635 Elm Ave. SW Roanoke, VA 24016 540-343-5437

Faith and Aaron Dowdy email: fdowdy@gmail.com cell: 540-761-2361

Seasons have changed!!

Thank you all who came out to vote at the special called meeting to decide the future of the Friendship House. We are truly grateful and humbled to receive the responsibility of the ministry of the Friendship House. I have served here for 5 years and have grown to love the neighborhood. I am glad we have a way forward with new possibilities and opportunities. I look forward with great hope of bringing to fruition the good works God has prepared for us to walk in here. We rejoice and now turn to the work. I want to make it very clear that those who would like to continue to support ministry here are welcome to do so. There will be new opportunities coming soon to help in many ways. We have cut way back on our programs for the summer in order to get the house in order and focus on the office work of transition. We will have a few events for the children to gather and play in various ways, and we will continue the food pantry through the summer. Therefore, **donations of canned and dried goods for our food pantry and snack food for the children will still be very needed and appreciated.**

But our biggest need is donations of money to continue to pay the necessary bills and salaries to exist. This has been our biggest struggle for years. We need a new approach. **I would like to ask you, your Sunday school group, or your church to prayerfully consider making a 2 year commitment of a monetary donation amount so that we can realistically budget and plan our programs around the support of those who partner with us.** Spontaneous giving will still be greatly appreciated, but we would love to have a closer partnership with those interested in our work. You will hear more of the details of our ministry plans as we proceed this summer. I'm sorry for the vagueness in specifics so far. **But begin praying now and contact Faith if you have questions or would like more information.** Thank you for all you have done through the years and for trusting us to move forward with this. It is humbling, exciting and terrifying. By the grace of God, walking by faith we step forward into the next steps.



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CHURCH, STAFF & OTHER NEWS

Darrell Naff has been called as **Pastor** at **Buchanan**

Caroline Schools has been called as **Choir Director** at **Windsor Hills**.

J.R. Graybill has resigned as **Associate Pastor** at **Mill Creek**.

Bob Hetherington is serving as **Interim Pastor** at **Mill Creek**.

Jim Rivers is serving as **Interim Pastor** at **Garden City**.

Please pray for the following RVBA Churches that are currently without Senior Pastors:

Arcadia, Cedar Bluff, Emmanuel, Garden City, Midway, Mill Creek, Mount Calvary, Riverdale, Rosalind Hills and Vinton.

East End is looking for a **Praise and Worship Leader/Music Director** to help lead worship, lead the choir and direct the music activities for the church. They aim at blended worship (hymns and praise songs). This is a part-time paid position. For further information contact Pastor Troy Mueller at 540-986-5713.

Fort Lewis is seeking a **Worship Leader**. They have an instrumental worship team. For more information call Pastor Leonard Southern at 540-330-4648.

Mountain Pass is actively seeking and taking applications for a **Choir Director/Worship Leader**. Please contact Mary Otey 540-986-0961 or Pastor Jack Richards 540-520-5928.

The **2017 RVBA Co-Ed Youth Volleyball League** was a big success again this year. This was our 24th season. Next year will be our 25th! North Roanoke 1 won the regular season title this year. Buchanan came in first place at the season ending tournament and North Roanoke 1 finished second. Ridgewood won the Sportsmanship Award. A special thanks to Richard Myers and the Star City Officials for calling the games again this year. A special thanks also to Bonsack, Hollins Road, Mount Pleasant and Vinton Baptist churches for providing their gyms for the games. The league had 16 teams from 11 churches. Thanks for a great year to all the teams. Another thank you to **Rudy Jones** for your leadership of the league.

RVBA Calendar July 2017

4		Independence Day - RVBA Office Closed
8	10:00 am	RVBA WMU Ldrshp Team, RVBA Office
11	10:00 am	Nominating Committee, RVBA Office
11	2:00 pm	Church Revitalization Team, RVBA Office
18	3:00 pm	Finance Committee, RVBA Office
19	2:00 pm	Brd of Director's James Jordan's Office
20	10:00 am	Properties Committee, RVBA Office
24-28		RVBA WMU Children's Mission Camp, Ward Haven

RVBA Calendar August 2017

1	2:00 pm	Church Revitalization Team, RVBA Office
3	9:30 am	Missions Dev Team, RVBA Office
2	7:00 pm	Personnel Committee, RVBA Office
10-11		Global Leadership Summit, Bonsack
16	2:00 pm	Brd of Director's James Jordan's Office
22	11:30 am	Youth Events Committee, New Yorker
24	10:00 am	Program Committee, RVBA Office
28	10:00 am	RVBA Leadership Planning, Ward Haven

Dear Pastor or church leader,

My name is Eric Spano and I am the Master's Program Director for John Leland Center for Theological Education. I am also the Senior Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church here in the Roanoke Valley. Our vision at Leland is to bring high quality seminary education and training to the Roanoke Valley for both ministers and lay leaders.

In order for us to accomplish our vision for theological education here in the Roanoke Valley, we need your help. We are asking local pastors and leaders to help us find potential students for our program. If you or any staff or lay leaders are interested in theological education please have them contact me at 540-588-6072 or they can visit the website at www.leland.edu/southwest-virginia/. Or email me at espano@leland.edu.

This August (Fall semester) we will be offering 2 Master's classes:

B 1301 – Old Testament Interpretation I This course is a general survey of the Old Testament history, literature and theology. It is designed to introduce students to the contents of the Old Testament and the literary artistry of the text. Students are exposed to the various critical approaches to the study of the Old Testament. This module focuses on the Pentateuch/Hexateuch, exodus/covenant, and the inception of the monarchy. Instructor Dr. Eric Spano.

MF 4901 – Biblical Models of Christian Leadership A survey of the various models of leadership presented in the Bible. Instructor Dr. Bob Moore.

Both classes will meet at Bonsack Baptist Church.

Our greatest need is to spread the word about what Leland is doing here in the Roanoke Valley. If you would help us do that, it would go a long way toward providing theological education and training to those who need and desire it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Eric Joseph Spano Ph. D

BookNet finished the commitments to SW Virginia in April. We were saddened to read about the closing of Appalachia which was one of our favorite schools. We had opportunity to expand the ministry beyond SW Virginia as we sent books to Standing Rock Reservation and to the work being done on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. BookNet is not meeting this summer, but we will begin again in September on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at Belmont from 9-11 AM. Please join us anytime. Let us know if we need to pick up books you might have gathered by calling 890-6630

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I want to make it very clear that those who would like to continue to support ministry here are welcome to do so. There will be new opportunities coming soon to help in many ways. We have cut way back on our programs for the summer in order to get the house in order and focus on the office work of transition. We will have a few events for the children to gather and play in various ways, and we will continue the food pantry through the summer. Therefore, **donations of canned and dried goods for our food pantry and snack food for the children will still be very needed and appreciated.**

The Adult Bible study is no longer meeting at the Friendship House but is still meeting! Praise God, the ladies now meet at one of the homes of an attendee one block behind the house on Tuesdays and at Midland Baptist Church 2 Thursdays a month. I am so glad to ladies have wanted to continue to fellowship and have worked out a way to do so. If you would like to encourage or support their efforts please let me know and I can point you in the right direction.

We will be preparing **backpacks** for as many children as possible again this year. Our main needs for that are: new backpacks for elementary students, glue sticks, folders, wide ruled paper, 1-3 in. binders, colored pencils and regular pencils.

We have had many requests for information on how you all can help us this summer. We are focusing on cleaning out the building and preparing the upstairs apartment to be usable for families in need. Through this process we could use **volunteers** to help us clean, organize and do minor repairs and painting. We also need **donations towards the costs of these minor repairs and paint supplies** to freshen up the building. One big item needed desperately is a **new washer and dryer**. If your group is looking for a project to take on to raising money for please contact me! We estimate the expense to be \$800-900. Our building is really in great shape and we are blessed to have no "major" issues but with the time in between running programs right now we would love to focus some loving care on the house but "many hands make light work," so come join us!

But our biggest need moving forward and preparing for new programs is donations of money to continue to pay the necessary bills and salaries to exist. This has been our biggest struggle for years. We need a new approach. I would like to ask you, your Sunday school group, or your church to **prayerfully consider making a 2 year commitment of a monetary donation amount so that we can realistically budget and plan our programs around the support of those who partner with us.** Spontaneous giving will still be greatly appreciated, but we would love to have a closer partnership with those interested in our work. You will hear more of the details of our ministry plans as we proceed this summer. I'm sorry for the vagueness in specifics so far. **But begin praying now and contact Faith if you have questions or would like more information.** Thank you for all you have done through the years and for trusting us to move forward with this. It is humbling, exciting and terrifying. By the grace of God, walking by faith, we step forward into the work our loving Father has prepared for us to walk in. I hope you come with us.

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OFFICE 342-8452 CELL 330-6263 PAT CARTER, SITE COORDINATOR –JANIE
BEARD MINISTRY ASSISTANT Summer Hours: MON-THURS 9:30-5, FOR
DELIVERIES (CALL ONE OF THE #'S TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN THE BUILDING,
some weeks we are on field trips m-f 8:30 to 1:30 so please call my cell to see if
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I have a new grandson, born May 1st, Elijah Grey Foster. He is finally home after a month in NICU and all are doing well. We still need a lot of prayers for our family and thank you for all the cards and prayers already received.



Back yard Garden program is very busy. With 13 gardens and not enough volunteers we are staying very busy. Saying that we can are still asking for volunteers. You don't have to know much about gardening we will train you. Some of the gardens are giving our families their first fresh veggies of the season and we have shared how to get ready for food preservation. We have had a great time visiting with our families and seeing the excitement on the children's faces as they eat, learn and play in the dirt. One of our new gardeners has 6 children in the home and when we pulled up on a Friday at 5pm we just knew we would have to come back later to just finish getting the site ready to plant; but friends by 9pm we had the entire area fenced in, tilled and planted with sweet potatoes, celery, 3 types of peppers, squash, October beans, green beans, corn and tomatoes. Those children jumped in and worked their hearts out to get that garden in. A neighbor came out to see what all the happy noise was all about. We chatted and introduced all around. Our family was delighted to meet them even though they had been neighbors for years they just never talked. Our family even met their dogs and they brought out popsicles for all. This type of thing happens wherever we go; the highlight was at 9pm we made a circle with 10 people and prayed for the garden and the family.



Richard and Diane master gardener volunteers with part of the family, teaching a family member how to put in fence post



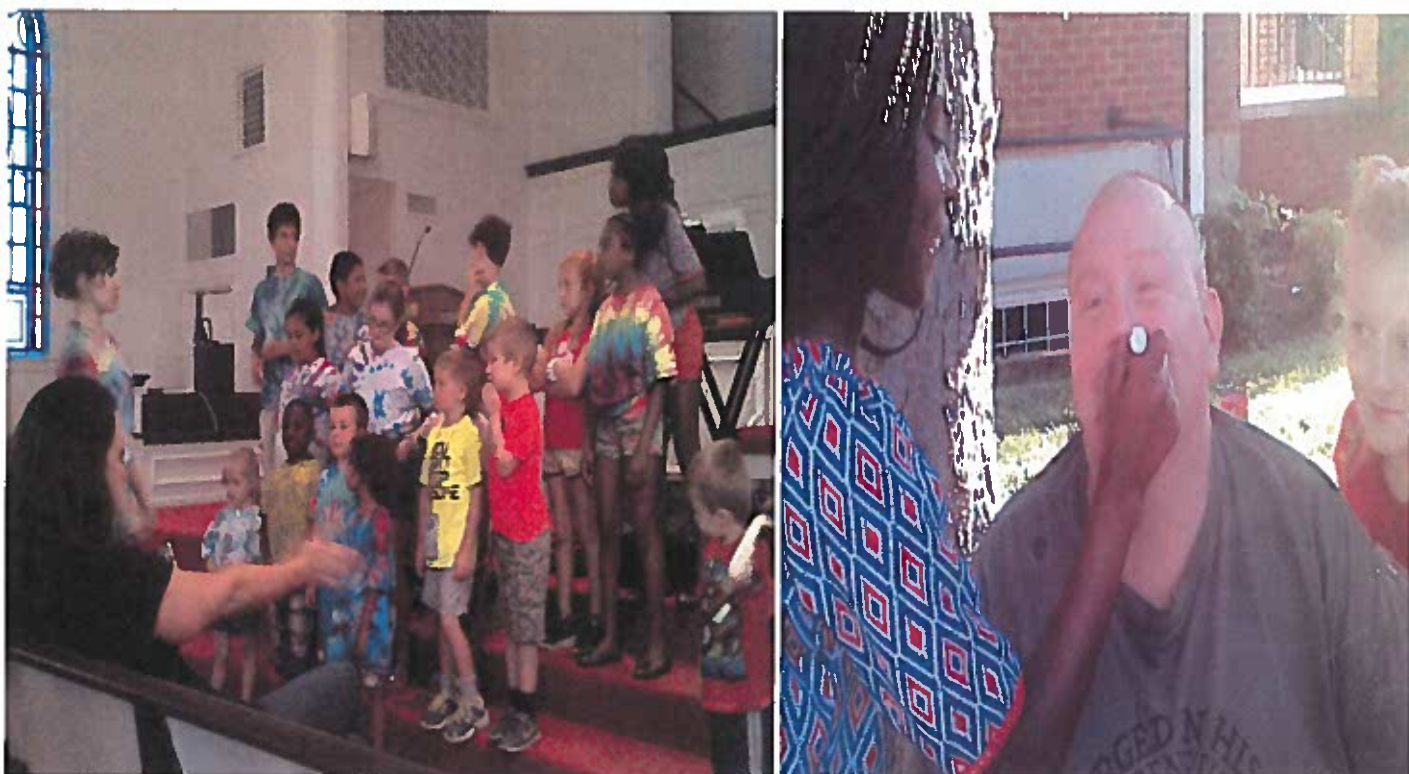
clearing the garden space



planting the seeds



lessons on good and bad bugs



Our children enjoying VBS at Troutville Baptist and since the girls won the food drive the youth pastor kept his end of the bargain with whoever won could dress him up like a girl



Our children enjoying VBS at Melrose Baptist. What a great Pep Rally, Victory in Jesus



2 of our children planting flowers for natural pest control in the BCC garden



My little Will working in his first garden, using his Mickey Mouse water can starting the 6th generation of farmers

Our first canning class of 2017 made raspberry and strawberry freezer jam and the second one pickled beets. Froze 1 gallon of carrots and 7 head of cabbage



This summer we are enjoying the pool



one of the neatest things we did with our after school stories was to hatch chickens to reinforce Peter denying Jesus 3 times before the cock crowed. Thank you Sharon Coleman for setting this up and taking the chickens' home after 4 days.



If you enjoy our picture pages we would love to share with your church, youth groups, Sunday school or WMU or even your work if they allow lunch presentations, call me at 330-6263

The needs for the center for the next few months are as follows so share with all:

Clorox/disinfectant wipes, plastic forks, spoons, gallon size baggies, cereal (Cheerios, raisin bran) Decaf coffee, a nonstick stock pot, children's clothing only in July to be given out Aug 12.

School supplies being collected now till Aug 7. Bags to be given out Sat Aug 12.

Please bring the following:

book bags suitable for all ages even college
glue sticks no liquid glue
markers
erasers; pencil toppers and big pink ones
wide rule
folders with and without brads, with and without pockets
2 and 3 inch binders
wide rule composition books
marbled composition books
index cards
pocket size tissues
pencils no fancy ones, no mechanical, just yellow #2
no crayons, rulers,
children's clothing only bring in July

Dates to save:

July 17 & 31 ---food preservation

July 27 --- Wave WMU group meet at BCC 6pm

Aug 1-- volunteer meeting especially for after school 3pm-4:30

Aug 12--- 10-12noon book bag give out and 5-7 block party

Aug 22--- Roanoke City schools start

Sept or Oct Spaghetti supper fundraiser need take out boxes donated

Nov 11—Applebutter—need sugar, large cans of applesauce

My new day to be off starting in July will be WED.