

# THE MARKER

## July 2026

From Pastor Dave

### Protests to Parables

**56 in '76:** Fifty-six men in the Second Continental Congress risked their lives signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Read again the political, theological, and legal wordsmithing from 250 years ago. John Hancock and the rest, including 3 delegates from NC – William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and John Penn – filed their document of **protest** against King George III and the British empire. Protests had been going on for a decade against British taxation and occupation and more. Then in the summer of 1776, congress officially acted as it “*submitted to a candid world*” at least 27 grievances against the king and their reasons for filing for separation, divorce, independence. July 4, may our nation’s 250th “birthday” but the war didn’t end until the signing of the Treaty of Paris, September 3, 1783.

Here is **NC Delegate William Hooper’s** story, (*hopefully most of this is accurate via historical records*). He turned 34 years old on June 28, 1776. That day and in the days following, Hooper was in NC helping NC form a new government. Thus, he missed the Continental Congress’ early July voting and wordsmithing of the document. However, he did arrive in Philadelphia, PA for the August 2, 1776 signing in which most of the 56 signatures were collected.

Hooper, born in Boston, MA, son of an Episcopal priest, and a graduate of Harvard Law, moved to Wilmington, NC “temporarily” in 1764 for some legal work. While there, he met, fell in love, and stayed, marrying Anne Clark in 1767. They had three children. In 1770, 28-year-old Hooper was named Deputy Attorney General of the colony. His duties entailed working with the British since it controlled the colony. Dangerous work as the rebel “Regulators” opposed to “Loyalist” Hooper and the British, caught Hooper and dragged him through the streets. In response, he tried to help quash their rebellion.

However, by 1773, Hooper saw the tide turning. He wrote to lawyer and friend, James **Iredell** (*name sound familiar?*), stating he increasingly favored the idea of American independence. The next year, 1774, *former Loyalist* Hooper was appointed a delegate to the First Continental Congress in Philly, and again in 1776 for the Second Continental Congress and the voting for and signing of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1777, with war, with threats on his life, and with need of financial income to support his family, Hooper resigned from Congress. In 1781, the British invaded Wilmington and burned most of it including Hooper’s home. Hooper and his family escaped. Hooper went into hiding for about a year, then reconnected with Anne and family, moved to Hillsborough, NC, where he practiced law until his death in 1790, at the age of 48.

Eventually, with the United States Constitution, protest became a right through the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, which guarantees citizens the rights of assembly, speech, and petition.

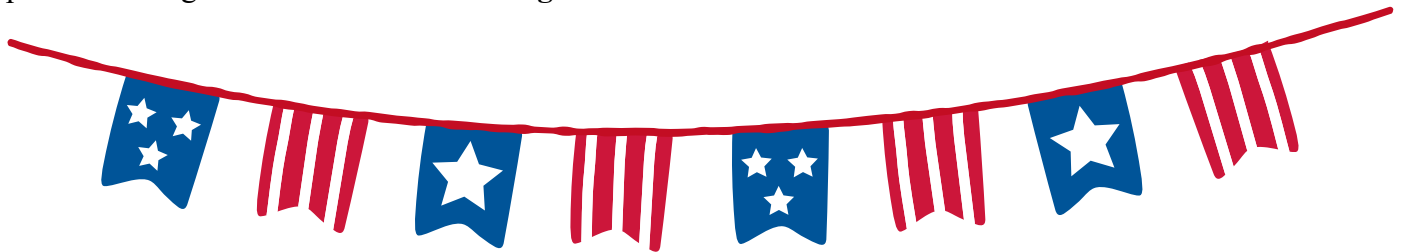
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But in 1776, signing his **“John Hancock”** on the Declaration of Independence, William Hooper became a wanted man, a turncoat to some, a hero in U.S history. Risking life, family and livelihood he joined the protesting colonists and 55 men in signing the protest statement declaring independence. The same could be said of “protestant” Martin Luther and Martin Luther King, Jr. and many, many, more brave souls who have risked their lives as they protested something unjust. The same for Jesus and his disciples, as those fishermen and at least one tax collector and others, signed up and joined the “Way, Truth and Life” to go against the unjust Roman Empire, declaring war on the emperor, on Roman occupation and oppression, as well as on the devil and hunger and all forms of injustice. They followed Jesus in taking up the cross, risking their lives in pursuit of life, liberty, love of God and neighbor. Jesus and the early Christians attempted to begin a new “country” without borders called the kingdom of heaven, with “*citizens of heaven*” (Philippians 3:20), where “*Thy will is done on earth as it is in heaven*” and characterized by righteousness, grace, justice, service and love; a kingdom not independent, but **dependent upon the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the presence of the Holy Spirit, and the citizens of heaven.**

Join us in church on July 5 where we will give thanks for and pray for our country and God’s kingdom come. July 5 will include “*My country ‘tis of Thee*” and “*O Beautiful for spacious skies..... America, God mend thine every flaw.*” The following Sundays in July, we’ll be reminded in Matthew 13 of part of Jesus’ protests through **Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven.**



## Prayer Concerns

*St. Mark's Members:* Kim DeVerna, Cindy Ridenhour, Charlie Barone, Cathy Quade, Ruth Wagoner, BK Barringer, Peter Cuocolo, Arden Lown, Garron Wright, Bri Yarbrough, Lorri Monterose, Bob Anderson, Ruth Ann Swart, Barbara Barteau, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.

*St. Mark's Friends & Family:* Lekha Banerjee, mysterious illness, friend of Mark Relyea, Frank Owens (brother of Liz Whitlow), Randy Shoe (brother of Jeff Shoe), Maureena (sister of Karen Pettit), Mike Staley (Tracy Staley's dad), Brynda Bechtold, Dave & Annette Simpson, Maria Cuocolo, Andy Rakowsky (friends of Peter Cuocolo), Renee (friend of Cindy Wilkins), Dave (friend of the Greene Family), Colin Goracke (Jack & Melanie Altman's grandson), Sandra Davis, Zebulon Hounslea (friend/student of Judy Fletcher), Maria Cuocolo, Emma (15- Hodgkins Lymphoma), David Moregas (friend of the Kecks), Harriett Hepler (Barbara Overcash's sister), Tori (friend of Liz McNabb), Anne Monterosso (wife of Colin Davis), Marty Rink (friend of the Van Horns), Pastor David Gerber (Diana Cosme Avery's stepfather), Clark 'Tiger' LeBrun (cousin of Donna Enroth & Linda Melin), Ian Russell, Kim Dobbins (friend of Terry Seyllar)



*St Mark's Military Members:* Tommy Upshaw, Erik Crowder, Janet Smeltz's grandson-Dalton Leik, Andrew Boman, BK & Laura Barringer's great-grandson- Christopher Barringer.

## Back to School Drive

St. Mark's is a sponsor for the 2026 Back to School bash that takes place Saturday, July 18th at Mooresville Middle School. Inspire Our Children is the local non-profit that organizes the event. Students attend with their parents and get free school supplies and a new pair of shoes.

**The Giving Tree** was put up in the Narthex in June. **Please consider taking a tag to purchase a pair of shoes or an item or two.** The website, [www.b2sb.org](http://www.b2sb.org) gives more information and detail. You can also go online and sign up to volunteer the day of the event.



**BEER & BIBLE**  
@ ON TAP (MAIN ST)  
7:00 PM  
2ND THURSDAYS  
DURING SUMMER



**Bible Study with Pastor Dave**  
WEDNESDAYS AT 10AM  
IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM



**E.N.J.O.Y.** *Empty Nesters - Just Older Youth*  
Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Meet up with us on **Friday, July 17 at 6:00pm at Alino Pizzeria, 500 S Main St. #401, Mooresville.**  
Contact Kristie Ward with any questions at 704-807-6155 or [rkward93@yahoo.com](mailto:rkward93@yahoo.com)



**WED, JULY 8  
11:30AM**  
*Ladies Lunch Bunch*  
HUANG'S CHEF AT  
2785 CHARLOTTE HWY, MOORESVILLE, NC 28117  
**RSVP BY MONDAY, JULY 6**  
[SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUSANALTIERINC@GMAIL.COM)  
704-929-5648



**Summer Sundays**  
**10:00AM WORSHIP**



**God's work. Our hands.**



**Homemade Cards  
by Hands On**  
Send kind words  
to bless others.  
**Free in the FLC  
and Narthex**

Our "God's Work, Our Hands" event will be held September 12-13. In August, members will be encouraged to choose a local organization to volunteer for the morning of Saturday, September 12th (there will be an option to work at church as well). Sunday, September 13th we will have a barbeque after worship to celebrate our volunteers and their efforts throughout the year, and to kick off the next season of service. See a member of Community Ministries with any questions!



# VBS 2026

The youth had a great time at VBS on the Island of 3 this summer while learning about the Holy Trinity. It was wonderful to see the congregation come and join the VBS fun during the service and lunch on Sunday. Thank you to everyone who supported the VBS program this year.

We had 27 youth participants and 27 volunteers Friday and Saturday night. We raised enough money for 3 water filters for ELCFA Good Gifts. We had about 159 people attend the worship service on Sunday. Many people stayed and enjoyed the cookout lunch.





Are you thinking about doing some volunteer work this fall?  
 Here are two opportunities.

**Food for Days**

Thursday morning 8:00 until 9:15. We pack a food bag for the in need children in Mooresville and Statesville schools. Due to the number of churches, you would only need to commit to about every 4 weeks. To get on schedule please contact Marilyn Boardman text 219-363-7256 or marilyn203@gmail.com. FFD tentative start date is August 27th.



**ITEM OF THE MONTH**

- January: Chewy Granola Bars
- February: Pudding Cups
- March: Chicken noodle soup(10.5oz)
- April: Beans & Franks-8 oz
- May: Ravioli (flip top cans)
- June: Oatmeal, variety pack
- July: Crackers (variety pack)
- August: Ramen Noodles
- September: Pop Tarts
- October: Lg. Chef Boyardee
- Nov: Fruit & Applesauce Cups
- December: Vienna Sausages

**Feed NC**

There are at least 12 different positions that a volunteer can choose that might meet your interest. You can volunteer individually or get a team together. Just check their website feedNC.org or contact Patty Schmid schmidus@aol.com



- |                      |                        |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Beeston, Ruth      | 11 Gido, Hayden        | 22 Markley, Dan        |
| 3 Hadlock, Bill      | 11 Klos, Bonnie        | 22 Pless, Benjamin     |
| 3 Bostian, Kelly     | 12 Vermeire, Pitt      | 22 Tautges, Will       |
| 4 Speight, Kayde     | 12 Hays, Jennifer      | 23 Ferden, Jacob       |
| 5 Stenback, Benjamin | 13 Hansen, Anna        | 24 Cole, Jeff          |
| 6 Kent, Winslow      | 15 Saleeby, Jane       | 25 Breault, Erik       |
| 6 Kent, Emersen      | 15 Grace, Chris        | 26 Meadows Jr., Donnie |
| 7 Grace, Jacob       | 15 Bricker, Marion     | 26 Darden, Crystal     |
| 7 Suther, Susan      | 16 Self, Brandon       | 27 Hansen, Sally       |
| 8 Lubben, Sandy      | 16 Goethals, Andy      | 27 Yeates, Nancy       |
| 8 Martin, Ginger     | 17 Stoner, Jonah       | 28 Kraft, Wyatt        |
| 8 D'Amico, Betty     | 19 Norris, Kristi      | 28 Hans, Greg          |
| 9 Stoner, Riley      | 19 Bost, Robert        | 29 Crowder, Erik       |
| 9 Rodriguez, Quinn   | 19 Ensley, Melanie     | 30 Buckley, Virginia   |
| 10 Ball, Roger       | 19 Motrie, Brenda      | 31 Fields, Danny       |
| 10 Meadows, Dana     | 20 Martin, Vivien      | 31 Meadows, Gracie     |
| 10 Boardman, Ron     | 20 Faulkes, Gary       | 31 Breinich, William   |
| 10 Boardman, Marilyn | 21 Folkerts, Frederick | 31 Bost, Bobby         |
| 11 Frankos, Josh     |                        |                        |



- 6 Dean and Kimberlee Koehler 24 yrs
- 7 Dave & Carol Habersang 47 yrs
- 11 Karlie and Dillon Weymss 6 yrs
- 14 Donnie and Del Meadows 52 yrs
- 19 Adam and Amy Wall 12 yrs
- 21 Charlie and Dawn Barone 42 yrs
- 22 Tom and Lory Hans 37 yrs
- 24 Roger and Linda Castoral 61 yrs
- 29 Robert and Judy Bost 64 yrs