

# Manassas Church of the Brethren Newsletter

Pastors' Page

## Making A Difference!

On Super Bowl Sunday, while many watched the Giants triumph over the Patriots, a crime was committed near Manassas that took the life of a young twenty-year-old man named Joseph Page. Joe was an innocent bystander when an uninvited guest, who had been asked to leave the party, returned and fired randomly into the house. Joe was struck in the stomach and died a few days later at the hospital. Pastor Carter was asked by the funeral home to officiate at Joe's funeral and it is where he met Joe's family. Now, five months later, Joe's parents regularly attend the church and will have an active part in the upcoming Vacation Bible School program. But that is just the beginning of the story.

At the time of the tragedy, many asked why? Why did this happen to Joe? Why did this happen to his friends and family? Why do bad things happen? At his funeral the question changed from why to what. Now that this tragedy has happened, what do we do now? Joe's family, in the midst of mourning the loss of their son, focused on the "what" and started to call many of Joe's friends and invited them to the Manassas Church of the Brethren for a night of pizza, basketball, and remembering. From that first night, Joe's family and friends have been getting together every month for food and fellowship. While sharing about Joe and his legacy, his friends wanted to do something. In short order the "Joe 15" was started. Named for Joseph Page and with his favorite number, this group of fifty plus family and friends have been doing their part to change the world. From canned food drives to playing video games at the retirement center, from cleaning highways to educating others of gun violence, the "Joe 15" is answering the question of what when others ask why.

On July 11, Manassas Church of the Brethren is hosting the "Joe 15" blood drive from 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. The blood drive is one way we can join in answering the question of what do we do in the face of tragedy? JWC & NBF