

# BAPTIST FEATURES

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR COUNTRY

By Grayce Krogh Boller  
Illustration #1 - two children and streamer

Billy and Doris could hardly understand what Mr. Bailey was saying. Because where they used to live, there was always a big Fourth of July celebration.

"You mean, you don't have any celebration here in the village?" Bill asked their new friend.

"This is just a small place, son," Mr. Bailey said kindly. "There isn't any money for a celebration. There really isn't anybody to plan one, either."

Billy looked at Doris. Doris smiled back at her brother.

"Then we'll plan one ourselves," Billy nodded and Doris agreed with him.

It only took ten minutes for the boy and girl to get Tommy and Betty, Sue and Bruce. It only took five minutes to tell about the July Fourth celebrations in the big city.

"It sounds like fun!" Sue beamed.

"We can do it," Bruce decided.

"We'll show how much we love our country," Tommy declared.

"It is our country's birthday," Betty pointed out.

The six children hurried home for their piggy banks. Carefully they counted every penny. There was a whole dollar with twenty-five cents besides. All the mothers and daddies said this money could be spent for the birthday celebration.

"First, we will ask everyone to put out flags," Billy planned. "That will make it look gay and happy."

"We will have a parade," Doris added. "I'll decorate my doll carriage with red, white and blue streamers."

"I'll bring my wagon," Tommy promised.

"I'll ride my two-wheeler," Bruce smiled.

"Let's buy lemons and make lemonade to give away," Sue cried.

"And peanuts," Betty added.

"We'll ask everyone to come to a picnic," Billy thought about the celebrations in the city. "We can have it in the big meadow. Each one can bring something to eat."

The more the village heard about the birthday celebration for our wonderful country, the better they liked it. Farmer Dare promised some watermelons from his garden patch. Mrs. Mann said she would bake a big birthday cake, with candles on it! Many of the villagers promised to march in the parade. Everyone else said they would watch it.

It was hard to wait until July Fourth, even though there was so much to do. The boys and girls had to call on their neighbors and ask to have flags hung out for the birthday. They had to buy crepe paper for streamers. They had to buy lemons for lemonade, even if the mothers did give sugar. They had to decorate their doll carriages and bikes and wagons for the parade.

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But at last July Fourth came. How gay the street looked with flags rippling from every house! How fine the parade was, with everyone marching proudly and straight and tall! How good the nice, cold lemonade tasted afterward when everyone was hot and thirsty!

Everyone came to the picnic in the big meadow. Each one brought something good to eat. It was a wonderful picnic! Mr. Bailey hid a handful of pennies in a sandpile and all the boys and girls scrambled to find them. They had a peanut toss for everyone, too. Best of all was when they lit the candles on Mrs. Mann's big cake and sang the birthday song.

"Happy Birthday, dear country! Happy birthday to you!"

"It is the very best July Fourth celebration we ever had," Billy smiled at Doris and Doris nodded happily.

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### INDEPENDENCE DAY QUIZ

By Helen Houston Boileau

The "Fourth" is the big event this month, celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. How many of the following "Independent" statements can you complete correctly? 9 out of 10 is a bang up score.

1. One famous signer of the Declaration of Independence was John H-----.
2. Independence Hall is located in the city of -----.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, -----.
4. The Liberty Bell now hangs in -----.
5. The two Benjamins who signed the Declaration of Independence were Benjamin ----- and Benjamin -----.
6. Among the "unalieanable rights" of men, these three were mentioned specifically: Life, -----, and -----.
7. Independence, Missouri, is the home town of former President -----.
8. The World War II ship, the "Independence" was a ----- type.
9. The actual writer of the Declaration of Independence was -----.
10. In the famous painting, "Spirit of '76", one man has a fife, one man has a drum, and the third man has a -----.

### ANSWERS

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Hancock               | 6. Liberty and the pursuit of happiness |
| 2. Philadelphia          | 7. Truman                               |
| 3. 1776                  | 8. Carrier                              |
| 4. Independence Hall     | 9. Thomas Jefferson                     |
| 5. Franklin and Harrison | 10. Flag                                |

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