



Volume 66 Number 12 December 2019

## The Beacon

***Boldly  
affirmed in  
the bright  
future God  
has planned  
for us, we  
seek to be  
inventive and  
resourceful  
while  
encouraging  
one another  
on a deeper  
spiritual  
journey.***

### PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

#### Beauty Abounds

Having just spent some time hiking and camping in the Mount Rogers Recreation Area and Grayson Highlands State Park, I am aware there is incredible beauty around us. The Monday morning sunrise of Veterans Day is one that will take a long time to fade from my memory. Walking among the wild ponies, who have no fear of people, was also a moment of beauty. Seeing the different types of environments from Grayson Highlands to the peak of Mount Rogers made me further aware of the vast beauty God has created. Yet so many times my life is on autopilot and I move at such a busy pace that I tend to miss the beauty.

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### YOUR CHURCH STAFF

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Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer..... 228-3712

Address Change Requested

When I think about the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas, there are a number of events, happenings, and preparations that need to happen before these seasons are over. Gifts must be bought, decorations need to be set-up, and places need to be cleared for expected visitors before the season's end. Maybe you already have a number of items on your To-Do List also. The question is: Are we willing to slow down and make sure we prepare a place for the beauty God sends us in these seasons?



A number of centuries ago, God prepared a beautiful thing to happen in the smallest of places at the busiest of times. People were gathering together not for festive celebrations but because the Roman government wanted a firm count for tax purposes. It was at this moment, God chose to enter our world as a baby. This baby would one day die for the sins of each person, providing an opportunity for salvation. The people found themselves busy and very few were even aware of the beauty right in front of them.

It is your choice on how busy you decide to be during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Will your time be about preparations for meals, events, and visitors? Or will you decide to take some time to prepare a place within yourself for the beauty of Advent and Christmas? I encourage you not to miss the spiritual beauty of the last two seasons of this year. Prepare a place within your heart for the visitor who will make a difference for all eternity. The beauty will be worth the pause!

Because of God's Love,  
Pastor Tim



- **BLAND MINISTRY AND HEARTS & HAMMERS CHAPTERS:** We will meet with Dee Dee in the next few days about construction projects next summer.
- **BLAND MINISTRY:** If you can help hand out food boxes or sort clothes on any Tuesday or just sort clothes on Wednesday, please contact Dee Dee at 276-688-4702. We will discuss how our Network of churches can assist in these efforts at our meeting in December.
- **SPRING MISSION CONFERENCE:** Thanks to all of you who are planning to host a missionary during our March Mission Conference. Charles has a great series of meetings planned so if you are planning to participate and haven't talked to him yet please call 540-639-1255 and learn how your church can help.
- **BUNK HOUSE TRAILER:** At the BGAV meeting we heard lots of compliments on how great the trailer worked out for those who used it while on assignment in North Carolina. Drain lines had to be installed to the heating units and now the trailer is ready for cold weather use. Let us know if you have a group interested in trying out the trailer before it leaves for the next disaster.
- **CLAYTOR LAKE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INC.:** The north-east wall gable has now been studded and more Hardy board shingles will be installed next week.  
If you have trouble getting into the building or want to report an immediate problem, please feel free to contact one of the following camp board members: Dave 540-616-7839, Bill 540-392-8643, Charles 540-980-5667, Thomas 540-250-7274, Mark 540-577-1943 or Robert the webmaster.

**Have a wonderful Christmas and may God bless you and yours.**

In His service  
Dave Clonch  
Moderator/Director  
Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network



## Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

- **NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING:** A copy of the annual meeting minutes is in the 2019 Book of Reports that were available to your Leadership Team representative at the November 7 Leadership Meeting and is now available to everyone on the Network website listed below.
- The Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network web site is <http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>  
**The next Leadership Team meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Dublin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (across from Hardee's) on December 5, 2019.**
- **THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BGAV:** Any of you who attended the BGAV annual meeting please plan to take two or three minutes to let the Leadership Team members know what you learned.
- **WMU/WOMEN'S MINISTRY**  
**Hygiene Kits:** Please have your Leadership Team representative bring any hygiene kits you have assembled to the December 5 meeting. We plan to pack them into totes for storage. Remember we will have less than 48 hours to get them stowed away in the Bunk House Trailer before it moves out to a disaster.  
**Jail Christmas Cards:** The NRV Regional Jail still needs an additional 900 to 1200 Christmas cards with stamps. Toni has asked us to drop them off at the Regional Jail anytime Monday thru Friday until December 5. Just ask for Toni Trueheart at the front desk. If you are unable to get your cards to the Jail please have your Leadership Team representative bring them to the December 5 meeting. I will take them to Toni early the next morning.  
**Venezuelan Christians:** Thanks for your continued support. The Network has sent an additional \$400 to Pastor Ramon and his family for Christmas and their home construction project. One of the Network churches added \$100 to the gift, making a total of \$500 for their personal use this Christmas season.



Judy Collier

## NOTES FROM OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

### JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

This Christmas the choir's special presentation on Sunday, December 15, at 10:30 a.m. will attempt to take us back in time to that incredible moment when the Light of the World descended into a dark, pain-ridden planet which had even been devoid of a prophet of God for 400 years. So into this turbulent world of chaos and brutality, Jesus not only "brought" light to the world, He "WAS" the Light of the World. No one could put this Light out, no matter how hard they tried, until it was God's timing that the Light chose to leave this world. Yet we were not left in total darkness again, because the Light had commissioned his followers to "BE" the Light on earth, just as He had been. That was the plan from the beginning . . .

The 2019 Christmas season will be centered on the theme of Jesus as the Light of the World. We are creating our own Christmas program and Cindy Jarmul has written the narration to interweave the music into the fabric of scripture and narration. She is also writing the advent readings and a special Christmas devotional booklet on Jesus as the Light.

Our memorable Christmas Eve service on Tuesday evening, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. will also center on Jesus as the Light of the World. This is a beautiful family time when we can celebrate our Lord's birth and worship through a communion and candlelight service.

It is my prayer that our Christmas presentations will help you experience anew the joy of the Light of the World breaking into our dark and self-centered world, once again inspiring us to truly BE the Light for others . . . so they only see Jesus and not us. Maybe it seems too lofty a goal, but our world is dark, and the darker the night, the further even a little flicker of light will shine.

This Christmas, may you and your loved ones be so bathed in His Light that His glow in you dispels the darkness of all those around you.

In that Hope,

Judy

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway during our Fall Festival. The Fall Festival was attended by many, many children and adults. The Bouncy House, Cotton Candy, Popcorn, Face Painting, and games were enjoyed by all. The *Touring Sunshine Puppet People Show* from Mount Carmel, TN, was a delight and blessing to all who attended. Look at some of the highlights of this special event.



The Flower Team will order our Christmas Poinsettias from Coulter's Florist. This year we ordered red poinsettias with two plants per eight inch pot, wrapped in gold foil, and adorned with a red bow. The price will be \$18.95 per pot. If you would like one or more pots of poinsettias "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" someone special, please fill in the form below, earmark your check "poinsettia" and attach it to the completed form. Place your check and completed form in the offering plate or bring them to the church office no later than noon Wednesday, December 4. We will have a booklet of remembered loved ones on December 15.

Please Print Legibly

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pots: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

"In Honor Of" \_\_\_\_\_

"In Memory Of" \_\_\_\_\_

All orders need to be turned in no later than  
Wednesday, December 4.  
Please print legibly.



**THANK YOU** to all those who gave of their time to receive and pack boxes for the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Ministry. Thank you also for those who filled a box or boxes for children who will receive this gift of love.

We received and shipped 1,078 boxes from the community and 58 from Wytheville Baptist.

This ministry is such a blessing to children around the world. We hope you will participate again next year.



### **BLESSINGS FOR JANET**

At our Family Christmas Dinner on Wednesday night, December 18, there will be a basket placed in the fellowship hall to place cards of encouragement and monetary gifts for our wonderful Janet Montgomery. Janet tirelessly works to provide a meal every Wednesday night for our church family. She creates a menu, buys the food, transports the food to the church, stocks the refrigerator and shelves, cooks the food, then welcomes us and serves us with a smile and a hug. She doesn't do this for the pay, but because she loves the Lord and her church family. Therefore, we would like to give back to her in a wonderful way during this very special time of the year. Please help us bless this very special lady with cards of love and monetary gifts on Wednesday, December 18.

### **CHURCH NEWS**



### **Christmas Eve Candle Light Service**

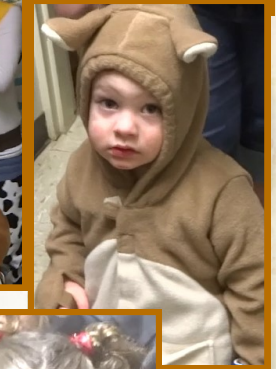
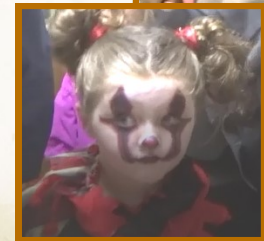
We will gather on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will give honor to our Savior with songs of the season, remember His birth with the reading of scripture and a devotional, share in Communion, and light our candles. Please make plans to be with us and celebrate the real joy of Christmas.

To the Wytheville Baptist Church Family:

Our church staff wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

### **Church Street Trunk-or-Treat**

Even though it was cold, windy, and rainy on October 31, 2019, the Church Street Trunk-or-Treat event moved inside WBC and St. Paul UMC and there we gave out candy to over 600 children. This number did not factor in the number of parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and friends that visited also. This was truly an Outreach Ministry to the children of our community and gave them a safe place to come receive candy and be loved on. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this occasion fun for the children.







# HONORING OUR VETERANS

November 10, 2019



Plans are being finalized for our December meeting. Group members will be advised when and where reservations are made. Watch your Sunday bulletins for more information.

*Carroll Stewart*



The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25, and Thursday, December 26.

There will be no Wednesday night supper or any church functions on December 25.



Children's  
Clothes  
Closet

You can keep our children stay warm at Christmas by visiting the WBC Children's Clothes Closet. These children's clothes are free and we always have new families that utilize this ministry. If you have any new or gently used children's clothes, shoes, new underwear, t-shirts, or socks; bring them to the clothes closet down stairs next to the nursery.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please earmark your check "Children's Clothes Closet" and place it in the offering plate. Due to the Christmas Season, the Children's Clothes Closet will open on Thursday, December 19, 2019, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.



Spread the Word of God by telling others to listen to the Sunday morning message by logging onto:

[www.wythevillebaptist.org](http://www.wythevillebaptist.org)  
then click the Sermons tab.

Once there, people will find each Sunday's sermon plus all the previous sermons of past months. Thank you to our Multi-Media Team Leader, Daniel Burke, for providing this link for our encouragement, learning, and inspiration.



## JANUARY 2020 BEACON ARTICLES



Due to December's busy schedule, all January 2020 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Monday, December 16. Thank you for your help in this matter.

## **DON'T FORGET OUR BENEVOLENCE OFFERING**

The purpose of the Benevolence offering—to help others in need. Last month you helped:

- ♦ A household with their electric bill
- ♦ A heater for a family
- ♦ One family with their rent



We will receive a Benevolence offering Sunday, December 1, following our worship service. We ask that you once again give from the heart. This offering is never hoarded up or put in a savings account, but always used to help others for the glory of God.

*Thank you for giving from the heart.*

## **OPEN DOOR CAFÉ**

Open Door Café, a place where anyone can get a good meal free of charge or by donation. Open for lunch Monday thru Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Wednesday, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Open Door Café is located at 650 W. Main Street next to Hope Inc. and is open to the public.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the Open Door Café, go to: <https://www.opendoorcafewytheville.org> then click the Volunteer tab.

## **AGAPE FOOD PANTRY**



Please bring Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, and Spaghetti Noodles for the month of December to help feed those in need in our community. Please, no glass containers.

WBC considers it a privilege to help the Agape Food Pantry distribute food on the second Saturday of every month beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 12:00 p.m. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please contact Chris and Rhonda Bracknell or Guy and Linda Sutphin.

# **Youth News**



**Michael Warner**

## ***Hello Church Family,***

The Youth have been engaged in activities stemming from assisting in church functions as well as ideas for further engagement in the community. It has been a blessing getting to know them better as they have become more familiar and comfortable with the group. This past October they were engaged and present for both the Fall Festival and Church Street Trunk-or-Treat actively seeking to help where they could. We also took some time to carve pumpkins which displayed their own unique creations. As far as our study goes, we are almost done with Revelation (their own chosen book). They will continue to study Exodus and have begun to slowly intertwine Trinitarian doctrine. However, this aspect is much slower paced due to the nature of the topic. They have continually shown the ability to retain and understand material which is of the utmost importance. The beliefs they are establishing now are crucial as they will be tested and questioned upon leaving the ease of their own family homes and our church family. If you have any ideas, questions, comments, or concerns please direct them to Michael Warner. We hope this message finds you well!

*Michael*





KATHRYN ISAACS AND  
MABEL CRABTREE CIRCLE NEWS



The Circle will have our Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. in Williams Fellowship Hall. This will be in place of our regular meeting. The Circle will provide the meat and members are to bring salads, side dishes, and/ or desserts. During our gathering, we will enjoy a Christmas Ornament Exchange. All ladies of the church are invited and guests will be welcomed. The Mission Action Projects for December are *Agape and Sweet Potatoes*.

The next regular meeting for the Circle will be Monday, January 6, with Cathy Valley as hostess and Lynn Arnold will have the program.

Thanks to all our members. Ladies we extend a special invitation to those who are not members, "Come Join us!"



I SAW

A GREAT MULTITUDE

FROM EVERY NATION AND ALL TRIBES... **REV 7:9**

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING **DECEMBER 1—8, 2019**

National Goal  
\$165 Million

WBC Goal  
\$1,000

# The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



## December 2019



***What You Can Do When Life Falls Apart—Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then sit on the lid and laugh!*** was written by Barbara Johnson. With an attitude of love and a heart that's overflowing with joy, Barbara Johnson helps you learn not only to endure life but to enjoy it! This book is filled with bittersweet stories of Barbara's journey through the mind fields of life and her wise and encouraging responses to letters from hurting parents. Best of all, each chapter ends with a day-brightening, laughter-packed collection of Gloomee Busters. She lovingly lights the way for others by sharing her own struggles with questions such as:

How can I let go of my loved one?

How can I forgive and forget what was done to me?

After love, what's the most important thing parents can give their kids?

Will I ever laugh again? How long will this pain last?

And many others.

***So What's The Difference?*** was written by Fritz Ridenour. He looks at 20 world views, faiths, and religions and how they compare to Christianity: Buddhism, Mormonism, Humanism, Witchcraft, Jehovah's Witnesses, Protestantism, Roman Catholicism, Evolutionism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, New Age and more. This book gives you easy-to-understand, non-judgmental answers to the question, "How does orthodox biblical Christianity differ from other faiths?" You will also learn why relative thinking has become the predominant mindset in our culture, and how you can respond. This guide will help you recognize the real difference between the Christian faith and other viewpoints and make it easier for you to explain and share your faith with others.

*Carroll Stewart*



**HOME:** Jane Crowgey, Diana Torres, Becky Hudson, Francis Felty, Rick Walker, Elton and Mabeline Robinson, O.J. Campbell, Glenna Turner, Dan Robinette, Adren Eldridge, Missy Throckmorton, Bill Valley, Nancy Herndon, Sylvia McGhee



**EXTENDED CARE:** Betty and John Matheny Colleen Dunford, Mae Clemons, Della Dunford, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

**FAMILY:** Paula Moore's sister, Iris Moore; Chris Bracknell's mother; Cathy Valley's sister, Laura Taylor

**FRIENDS:** Lilly, Ayden Morris, Bryan Walker, Steve and Sally Sboray, Mike and Betty Powers, Bob Litton, Robbie Foster, Julian Alford, Marty Bullwig, Mike Davis, Jr., Randy Kasey, Anthony Macintosh and his mother Kelsey, people in Venezuela, Bland Ministry Center

**THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:** Thomas Collins, Gregory Carson, Ryan Shupe, Kevin Dalton, Benjy Bird, Cory Todd, and all the others who serve our nation

**PASTORAL CARE:** Our Pastor, Rev. Tim Irving, is accessible for any pastoral need. If you would like to make an appointment with Pastor Tim, please call the church office at 228-3712 or his cell phone: 276-284-1575. For pastoral emergencies at night or during weekends, please call Pastor Tim on his cell phone or the Deacon of the Week.



**December 4:** Broccoli Cheddar Chicken, Rolls, Fruit and Cottage Cheese, Chocolate Caramel Cake

**December 11:** Baked Potato Soup, Crackers, Chips, Pimento Cheese and Ham Salad Sandwiches, Banana Pudding

**December 18:** Christmas Dinner: Ham and Turkey, Scalloped Potatoes, Sweetheart Salad, Broccoli Casserole, Christmas Desserts



*A very Merry Christmas*

*and Happy New Year*



## Meetings

Thursday, December 5: Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team—6:30 at Dublin Baptist Church

Wednesday, December 11: Staff—5:00 p.m.



## December Birthdays

4: DeAnne Irving  
Holly Montgomery  
10: Madeline Catron  
13: Rick Walker  
Arnie Murdock

15: Mae Clemons  
Gabriela Warner  
17: Rachel Crowgey-Wilson  
18: Luis Lopez  
Robin Moore  
20: O. J. Campbell  
23: Bonnie Wright  
24: Brittany Lester  
26: Betty Matheny  
31: Teresa Wassum



## DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 1: Tommy Anders  
December 8: Tommy Hilton  
December 15: Janet Montgomery  
December 22: Delores Dove  
December 29: Jenny Stoker

## USHERS Team IV:

Betty Robinette, Roger Hudson  
Zanah McCoury, John Willis

## TELLERS

Ty King and Tom Collins

## GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of December

# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Benevolence Offering Received Communion Observed</b> <b>8:45am</b> Prayer in the Conference Room <b>9:00am</b> Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service <b>4:45pm</b> Adult Choir fellowship <b>5:00pm</b> Adult Choir practice 	<b>2</b> <b>6:30pm</b> WMU Christmas Dinner in Williams Fellowship Hall 	<b>3</b> <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Discipleship Class	<b>4</b>  <i>All monies for Christmas Poinsettia orders need to be turned in by today</i> <b>6:00pm</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6:30pm</b> Youth Group Bible Study <b>6:40pm</b> Adult Bible Study	<b>5</b> <b>6:30pm</b> Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team meeting at Dublin Baptist Church	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:00am</b> The fellowship hall is reserved by Linda Sutphin <b>6:00pm</b> Wytheville's Christmas Parade and Celebration
<b>8</b> <b>8:45am</b> Prayer in the Conference Room <b>9:00am</b> Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service <b>4:45pm</b> Adult Choir fellowship <b>5:00pm</b> Adult Choir practice 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Retired teacher's meeting in the fellowship hall	<b>11</b> <b>5:00pm</b> Staff meeting <b>6:00pm</b> Wednesday Night Supper <b>6:30pm</b> Youth Group Bible Study <b>6:40pm</b> Adult Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>10:00am</b> WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry
<b>15</b> <b>8:45am</b> Prayer in the Conference Room <b>9:00am</b> Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30am</b> Christmas Program <b>4:45pm</b> Adult Choir fellowship <b>5:00pm</b> Adult Choir practice 	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b> <b>12:00pm</b> Young-at-Heart meeting	<b>18</b> <b>6:00pm</b> <i>Family Night at Christmas</i> <i>Blessings for Janet Montgomery received</i> <b>6:30pm</b> Higher Ground Youth Group <b>6:40pm</b> Adult Bible Study	<b>19</b> <b>12:00pm</b> WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry <b>2:30pm</b> Children's Clothes Closet	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:45am</b> Prayer in the Conference Room <b>9:00am</b> Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service No Choir Practice 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>6:00pm</b> Candlelight Service and Communion 	<b>25</b> Church Office Closed 	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>8:45am</b> Prayer in the Conference Room <b>9:00am</b> Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:00am</b> Choir Practice <b>10:30am</b> Worship Service No Choir Practice	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				