

*We love because he
first loved us.*

1 John 4:19



Volume 66 Number 2 February 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 An Opportunity

As we move into this New Year: it is easy to see an empty pew, an empty chair, and empty rooms around us. It is easy for us to ask why people do not come to a church we love and that feeds us spiritually. When will people in this world and country realize the need for God in their lives? When will people get their priorities straight and come back to church? What more will it take for this to turn around? Will it turn around or is it too far gone already? As we have studied the book of Jeremiah on Wednesday evenings it has been easy to ask the same question about the people of

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WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

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YOUR CHURCH STAFF

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Address Change Requested

his day. How did they not get it? Why would they not obey God?

How about we turn this around and look from a new angle. What if we see the empty pew as an opportunity to bring someone with us to church? What if we see the empty chair in Sunday School or on Wednesday night a place to bring a friend to get food, physical, and spiritual? What if we see the empty room as a place to start a new group of people who search for God and spiritual food? What if we see these empty places as places of opportunities that God is asking us to fill?

Who is willing to see the opportunities instead of the emptiness? Who is willing to feed those who need spiritual food? Who is willing to step into the empty places and make them a home for those who need spiritual food? God is giving us opportunities to reach and feed people that may not be aware of the spiritual path they need to travel.

I am reminded of the story in Mark 6:30-44 when Jesus feeds

the multitude with five loaves and two fish. The disciples want Jesus to send the people away to get food. Jesus says, "You give them something to eat." They thought it was impossible to feed 5,000 people with their resources. Jesus showed them that was not true. What they had was not an impossibility but an opportunity!

We have the same thing: A wonderful opportunity in what seems like an impossible situation.

Can you be counted on to be an active part of the opportunity God has given us? There are at least 5,000 people in our community who need to be fed.

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim

P.S. Thanks to Chuck for the vision from a new angle!



out your generosity Ramon's son would not have received any gifts for Christmas. Please continue praying for Ramon's family and their ministry.

- **BLAND MINISTRY AND HEARTS & HAMMERS:**
One more ramp has been added to the project list. We are working with NRV Disability Resource Center to obtain funding for this summer. We now have six on the list.
- **BLAND MINISTRY:**
If you or your church can help pack food boxes or sort clothes for three or four hours on any Tuesday or Wednesday please contact Dee Dee or Susan at 276-688-4702.
- **MISSIONS CONFERENCE**
Charles and Martha Damron are attending the Baptist Missionary College this week. While they are there they will be recruiting missionaries for our missions conference starting Sunday morning, March 31, and ending Wednesday night, April 3, 2019. Please call Charles at 540-639-1255 for more details and to sign up.
- **CLAYTOR LAKE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY INC.:**
Please let your Leadership Team representative know what month would be best for your church to clean the camp building.
- We have redone the structural details for the roof project and have come up with a way to complete the project without removing all the old shingles. If the county building inspector agrees we will start purchasing materials while the cost is down in the off season. We hope to begin preliminary prep work in late March and be ready for volunteers soon after Easter. Will keep you updated on our progress.
- If you have trouble getting into the building or want to report an immediate problem at the camp, 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 or Robert the web master.

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



- The WMU's and Women's Missions groups of Network churches collected over 4,600 stamped Christmas cards for Regional Jail inmates to send their loved ones. This allowed each inmate to send at least four cards. They now have a jump on next year with nearly 1,500 stamped and unstamped cards to put toward their goal of 3,800 to 3,900 cards. Thanks for all you did to make this project a success.
- ♦ Ministry dinners scheduled 2019 are: VBS—February 12, Secretaries—March 12, Youth—April 9, Music—May 7, Sunday School/ Small group—June 11, Deacons—July 9, Women's Missions groups—August 6, Treasurers—September 10. All dinners start by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday night at Shoney's of Dublin just off I81.
- The Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network web site can be reached by searching the name or by copying and pasting <http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>
Please make sure your church has a say in the decisions of the Leadership Team by having a representative at the 6:30 p.m. meeting in the Dublin Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (across from Hardee's) on February 7, 2018.
- **BUNK HOUSE TRAILER:**
All twenty-seven (27) bunk frames are installed in the Bunk house trailer. If you have electrical or carpentry experience and are willing to help please contact Steve at Calvary Baptist 540-745-3744. Mattress kits are now available from Calvary Baptist or School House fabrics in Floyd. The complete kit including foam, cover material and zipper cost \$140. If your church can buy one of the kits there are at least three sewing groups in the Network that are glad to make the covers or assist your sewing group.
- **VENEZUELAN CHRISTIANS:**
The Lord is continuing to bless Pastor Ramon's congregation and our December support along with the gift for his family got thru. The extra \$200 we sent allowed Ramon's wife to visit her parents in Caracas where she was able to find new clothes for their son. With-



Judy Collier

NOTES FROM OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

OUR CHOICES FOR GOD

As the choir will be presenting more of the beloved hymns of the faith that have encouraged and uplifted us for countless years, I began to research the origins of some of the most famous ones (SermonIndex.net). There are two hymns I would particularly like to share with you: both are associated with Billy Graham and both show what God can do when we entrust our lives totally to Him.

I'd Rather Have Jesus

"Forty years ago Bev Shea was attending the Bible School in Ottawa (Ontario) where I [R. Barclay Warren] was teaching. He loved to sing. After more training in New York City, he was given an audition at one of the radio stations and was offered a contract.

He asked that he might sing Gospel songs. He was told that he might use one occasionally, but he would have to use the songs on the Hit Parade.

What would he do? His mother was praying.

On Saturday night she placed a poem on the piano. In the morning he composed a tune for it. One verse was: 'I'd rather have Jesus than silver and gold: I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame; I'd rather be true to His holy Name!'

Bev turned down the contract.

A short time later he was offered a position with a Chicago radio station where he might use the Gospel songs he loved. While there he met Billy Graham.

The rest of the story is well-known."

--R. Barclay Warren

I Surrender All

"For five years, Mr. Van de Venter wavered between the challenge of the Gospel ministry and that of becoming a recognized artist. Here is how he told it:

'For some time, I had

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struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all.

‘A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord, He caused me to sing.’

Dr. Billy Graham, wrote this tribute to Mr. Van de Venter:

‘One of the evangelists who influenced my early preaching was also a hymnist who wrote: “I Surrender All”—the Rev. J.W. Van de Venter. He was a regular visitor at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) in the late 1930s. We students loved this kind, deeply spiritual gentleman and often gathered in his winter home at Tampa, Florida, for an evening of fellowship and singing.’”

I pray that, as we sing these beautiful hymns, we will be inspired to give even more of ourselves to the Lord, regardless of the worldly consequences. God is just waiting to turn our meager offerings into something exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think.

In that Hope,

Judy



*Come, let us sing for joy
to the Lord;
let us shout aloud
to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him
with thanksgiving
and extol him with
music and song.*

Psalm 95:1, 2



JUBILATE COLLEGIATE CHOIR

will minister in music at the
Wytheville Baptist Church

Thursday, March 14, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Jubilate is a unique and compelling music ministry serving UVA students and the entire University community since 1973. This auditioned student choir performs a repertoire of challenging and meaningful choral music; accompanied and a capella; sacred and secular. Jubilate is grounded in a commitment to high standards, musical excellence, joyful praise, and openness to diversity and inquiry. In partnership with University Baptist Church and more than 700 alumni, Jubilate is the oldest choral group of its kind on the University grounds. Membership in Jubilate holds the promise of a welcoming and inclusive community that becomes family—a community that lasts long after graduation day.

Dear WBC Family,
Many thanks for all the calls, cards, visits,
food, and transportation given during my
recuperation.

You are such special people and I really do appreciate all your
kindnesses.

Mary Graham

*Thank
You*

WOHLFAHRT HAUS THEATER

You are invited to join us Friday, February 8, at 6:00 p.m. for dinner
and a show at the Wohlfahrt Haus Theater. *Nonsense Amen!* is a
hilarious musical comedy with a twist about the "Little Sisters" of
Hoboken who operate Mt. St. Helen's in New Jersey. The convent
must put on a talent show to raise money to bury their fallen sisters
who fell victim to a case of botulism from Sister Julia's vichyssoise.
Tickets are \$42 each. If you would like to go, please see Doris Terry
to make your reservations.



SM Souper Bowl of Caring, February 3, 2019.
The Souper Bowl of Caring began with a
simple prayer from a single youth group:
"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl
football game, help us to be mindful of
those without a bowl of soup to eat." It became a national organization
in 1963 and has raised millions of dollars in food and monetary contri-
butions.

Please bring your cans of soup on Sunday, February 3, and place them
in the baskets provided at the back of the sanctuary and in the main
hallway. These cans of soup will be given to the Agape Food Pantry
to be distributed to those in need. Thank you for caring about others.

Youth News



Hello Church Family,

I can't believe we're already two months into 2019. The youth con-
tinue to pray and brain storm, waiting for God to provide a wave of
revitalization for our church family. God promised Abraham a son
and it took 25 years for that first son to arrive. God works in His per-
fect timing so we believe it isn't a matter of "if" but rather a matter
of "when." Ultimately, the Spirit will have to draw people, but we

*We believe it isn't a matter of "if"
but rather a matter of "when."*

continue to pray diligently as we spread the news of this new pro-
gram. The youth have just completed their study in the book of Josh-
ua, spanning all 24 chapters, specific literary structures and signifi-
cant Hebrew nuances. Next, the youth will be diving into a study of
Christ's life, where all four Gospel accounts will be addressed, look-
ing at the span of Messiah's life from pre-existence to His ascension.
I am very excited to begin this! In addition, a round of canvassing
was completed, so PLEASE pray for each household that the flyers
came in contact with! As far as the future holds, talks of a summer
camp are in the works aimed for a mid-summer date, canvassing will
be continued (people aren't coming to us, it's time to go to them) as
well as continued brain storming to reinvigorate Wytheville Baptist,
without making a quantum leap. If you would like to be involved in
the youth or have any ideas of your own. please don't hesitate to
contact Michael Warner or the Personnel Committee."

Michael



HOOKS AND NEEDLES

Please bring all finished scarfs to the church office by February 15. Roger Hudson will deliver the scarfs to the Red Cross on February 19. This will be the end of this special project. We will decide on a new project in the near future.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success. If you would like to join the group and help make special projects by crocheting or knitting, please contact Doris Terry.

Senior Adults Young-at-Heart

Young at Heart had a good meeting on January 15. We enjoyed singing with Jerry Stone and his large collection of old time hymns. Sorry that some of you weren't there to share the time with us. For our next meeting, we will take a trip through the "Holy Bible" Statler Brother style on Tuesday, February 19. We have a 1970's copy of their 33 1/3 RPM record and a Detrola to play it on. It is amazing how the Statlers are able to bring the Bible Stories alive in musical form. They have catchy songs of all the major Bible characters. There is one recording for the O.T. and another for the N.T. We can listen to one recording in February and save the other for a later meeting. See you there. Bring a bag lunch and a friend.

Carroll Stewart

Children's Clothes Closet



It's *still* cold outside and there are warm clothes available in our 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. The Children's Clothes Closet will open on Thursday, February 28, 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
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.



MARCH 2019 BEACON ARTICLES



All March 2019 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Monday, February 18. 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:

- ♦ Two people with a room for the night
- ♦ One person's repair on his automobile
- ♦ One family with rent



We will receive a Benevolence offering Sunday, February 3, 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.

YOU CAN HELP



AGAPE FOOD PANTRY

Please bring canned fruits and vegetables for the months of February and March 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.

OPEN DOOR CAFÉ

Open Door Café, a place where anyone can get a good meal free of charge or by donations, will be operating on regular hours with lunch Monday thru Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and a dinner meal on Wednesdays from 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.opendoorcafeytheville.org> then click the Volunteer tab.



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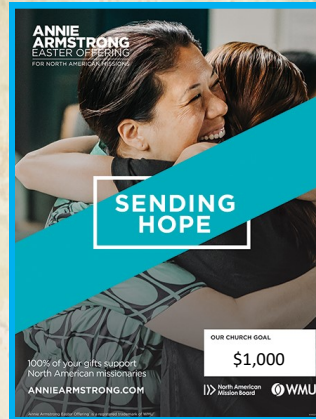
ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) exists to help every church take its next step in missions and encourage every believer to live on mission.

The North American Mission Board serves a diverse and complex region comprised of: United States, Canada and U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa.

Your prayers and gifts to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** provide support for more than 5,000 missionaries. These men and women are planting new churches in unreached communities and meeting needs through compassion ministries. Every day, lives are being impacted and transformed.

The needs are great, but the living hope of Christ is greater. Thank you for reaching out with hope to your own community and for your passionate support for North American Missions.



Kathryn Isaacs and Mabel Crabtree Circle News



Our February meeting will be held on Monday, February 4, at 7:00. Hostesses are Doris Terry and Mary Hall. Program leader is Linda Lively. Mission Action Projects are College Cards and Agape.

All ladies in our congregation are welcome to join us. Thank you to our regular members for your support and participation.

Janet Montgomery

As always, our 2018 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was beautiful and very meaningful.

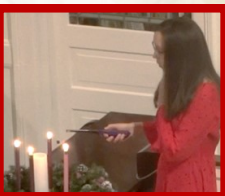


We sang Christmas Carols of Praise to our Lord.

Judy Collier read scripture.



Constance Vanover lit the Christ Candle.



Pastor Tim invited everyone to take Communion.



The bread, a symbol of Jesus' body broken for us.



The juice, a symbol of His blood shed for us.



Then we lit and raised our candles symbolizing a Light Shining in the Darkness.

Amen



The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



January 2019



The Sower: Follow in His Steps by Franklin Graham is a small book with loads of inspiration. In Jesus' day, it was common for large crowds to gather to hear His words. Some people were curious. Some were skeptical. Some were burdened. Some were joyous. Still, the Son of Man sowed the seed of truth into stony hearts and thirsty souls.

The lessons that can be gleaned from the parables of Jesus—especially the parable of the Sower—are innumerable. As you walk in His steps for the next thirty-one days through the biblical inspiration and guided questions in this book, you too will be moved to proclaim God's salvation to the lost, His forgiveness to the broken, and His hope to the weary.

The parable reminds us that not every seed will take root and bear fruit. But Scripture tells us to follow in the Savior's steps anyway—to sow the good seed of the gospel. To go into your world, your neighborhood, your school, your workplace, and declare the truth about our God who saves.

By Hook or By Crook: How God Shaped a Fisherman Into A Shepherd was written by Jill Briscoe. One way or another, Jesus insists on changing us into His image. He catches us unawares, captivates our hearts, and sets about bringing out the best in us—so we can set about bringing out the best in others. He grows a shepherd's heart in selfish people and uses them to change their world. No one better illustrates these truths than the man called Simon whom the Lord changed "by hook or by crook" into the man called Peter. These pages will help you see the "Peter possibilities" in all of us. How God changes people—shaping us bit by bit into persons He can use.

Carroll Stewart

HOME: O.J. and JoAnn Campbell, Mae Clemons, Elton and Mabeline Robinson, Dan Robinette, Adren Eldridge, Missy Throckmorton, Eric and Ann Collins, Sylvia McGhee, Bill Valley, Nancy Herndon

EXTENDED CARE: Della Dunford, Bea Shearwood, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

FAMILY: Carroll Stewart's sister and brother-in-law; Veronica Lopez's mother, Maria Hernandez; Janet Quinn's son, Casey

FRIENDS: Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of little Jedi upon his passing; Ted Phillips, Pete Knuckles, 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.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:
Veronica Lopez and family upon the passing of her grandmother

February 6: Pancakes, Syrup, Toppings, Bacon Sausage, make your own Sundaes

February 13: Barbecue Chicken, Baked Beans Tater Tots, Cole Slaw, Desserts furnished by the Fellowship Team

February 20: Baked Cavatina, Tossed Salad, Bread Sticks, Banana Pudding

February 27: Pork Loin, Stuffing, Gravy, Green Beans, Baked Apples, Rolls, Pound Cake



Meetings

Thursday, February 7: Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team—6:30 at Dublin Baptist Church
Wednesday, February 13: Staff—5:00 p.m.

February Birthdays

4: Holly Montgomery
5: Vanessa Lopez
Linda Sutphin
8: John Willis
9: Frances Rochelle
13: Cole Throckmorton
18: Ivey Burke
Chuck O'Roark

19: Denise Burton
20: Ty King
Robert Herndon
25: Bill Valley
27: Sharon Sowers



NURSERY 10:30 AM

February 3 : Nursery Worker
February 10: Nursery Worker
February 17: Nursery Worker
February 24: Nursery Worker

DEACON OF THE WEEK

February 3 : Danny Sowers
February 10: Eric Crowgey
February 17: Chris Bracknell
February 24: Tommy Anders

USHERS

Team II: Tommy Hilton, Becky Hudson
Guy Sutphin, Glenna Turner

TELLERS





Delores Dove and Mary Hall

GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of February

February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3  8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 4:45pm Adult Choir fellowship 5:00pm Adult Choir practice	4 7:00pm Katherine Isaacs and Mabel Crabtree Circle meeting in the fellowship hall	5	6 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program, Children's Choir Practice 6:40pm Adult Bible Study	7 6:30pm Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team meeting at Dublin Baptist Church	8 6:00pm Wohlfart Haus Theater, dinner and a show	9 10:00am WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry
10 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 4:45pm Adult Choir fellowship 5:00pm Adult Choir practice	11	12 12:00pm Retired Teacher's meeting in the fellowship hall 6:00pm WBRN Dinner for VBS Directors at Shoney's in Dublin	13 5:00pm Staff meeting 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program, Children's Choir Practice 6:40pm Adult Bible Study	14 	15 Hooks and Needles Please bring all finished scarfs to the church office today.	16
17 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 4:45pm Adult Choir fellowship 5:00pm Adult Choir practice	18 	19 9:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting at Seventh Day Adventist Church 12:00pm Young-at-Heart in the fellowship hall	20 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program, Children's Choir Practice 6:40pm Adult Bible Study	21	22	23
24 8:45am Prayer in the Conference Room 9:00am Fellowship Time with Coffee and Treats. 9:15am Sunday School 10:00am Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Service 4:45pm Adult Choir fellowship 5:00pm Adult Choir practice	25	26	27 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:30pm Higher Ground Youth Program, Children's Choir Practice 6:40pm Adult Bible Study	28 12:00pm WBC helps at Agape Food Pantry 2:30pm Children's Clothes Closet	