

WYTHEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



Volume 67 Number 12 December 2020

The Beacon

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

TIME TO PONDER

When we look back on Jesus' earthly life, we see a principle he followed which was difficult for the religious leaders of his time. It created a major part of the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders. The religious leaders were concerned about keeping their religious system working the way it had for centuries. They had established rules, guidelines, and commandments that must be followed no matter what else was happening. Sometimes their "extras" made it even harder to be the people of God. Many times, following their ways, took the compassion and love out of being God's people. Jesus showed them a unique way to be God's people. Jesus' principle is summed up in John 5:19 (NIV).

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205 Church Street
Wytheville VA 24382

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.

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Wytheville Baptist Church.....	228-3712
E-mail Address, Office.....	wythevillebaptist@gmail.com
.....	wythevillebaptist@yahoo.com
Rev. Timothy Irving, Pastor.....	284-1575
Jerry Stone, Interim Music Director.....	228-3712
Cathy Valley, Pianist.....	228-3712
Michael Warner, Youth Director.....	804-314-6164
Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer.....	228-3712

Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

Jesus gave them this answer: *“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”*

Instead of following set rules and guidelines, Jesus looked around to see what God was doing and then joined God in that work. There were times when God was at work on the Sabbath healing people and Jesus joined God in that work. The religious leaders complained because all work was against the rules of the Sabbath. Other times God was doing a new thing and when Jesus joined in the religious leaders claimed it could not be from God because they had never known God to do that before.

If we are meant to be God’s people in this world, then we should live in the same way Jesus does. Jesus states very clearly that he is not able to do Kingdom work without God first starting the work. If this is true, then we must look around us and see what God is doing. When we see something happening that we know only God can do, then it is a place for us to discuss this question: “How can we join God in this Kingdom work?” God has allowed us to see it, thus inviting us to join God in the growing of the Kingdom of God.

So, now as the people of God at Wytheville Baptist, where do we see God at work around us? We need to look intently, pray deeply, discuss it with each other, and then take a step into the work God is doing among us and around us. If we can do this, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, then we can grow spiritually, and we will see the Kingdom of God grow powerfully in our town.

Because of God’s Love,
Pastor Tim



BLESSINGS FOR JANET

As we do every year during the month of December, we will honor a very special lady with a love gift. Janet Montgomery tirelessly worked providing us with a meal every Wednesday night until COVID-19 shut everything down in March. She never did this for the pay, but because she loves the Lord and her church family. She now stands at the ready to resume her responsibility when it’s possible to again start-up Wednesday night suppers. Since March she has not been paid but is always concerned that others are provided for and are paid. As her church family, we need to bless her, as we do every year, with a gift of our love and appreciation for all she has done over the years. At our Worship service on December 13, there will be a basket placed at the entrance of the sanctuary to place cards of encouragement and monetary gifts for our wonderful Janet Montgomery. 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 Sunday, December 13.



Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

- ◆ **WESTERN BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST NETWORK WEB SITE:**
<http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>
- ◆ **LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING:** We plan to have our Leadership Team meetings on even numbered months. Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, December 3, 6:30 p.m. at Dublin Baptist Church. If the Network can be of any help during this time please let us know and please continue to pray for our country.

As we look forward to the future, please continue to pray for our Network churches and our country.

In His service, Charles Damron,
Moderator/Director
Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

Dear Friends at Wytheville Baptist Church,

Billy and I want to thank you for helping us celebrate our marriage through your generous and thoughtful gifts, cards, and emails. Your encouragement and prayers have been a constant source of support through the past five years and have been foundational in preparing me for my new wonderful life the Lord has so miraculously granted me. Through each of your notes I have been able to share with Billy many important memories and ways you have served as God's instruments in molding my life.

I miss you and hope that we will be able to return to Wytheville in the future. May the Lord continue to bless each of you in the meantime and bring into your life and ministry the grace and love you have given me.

With great appreciation and love in Him,
Judy (Collier) and Billy Weir



Dear WBC,

Thank you all for the cards, phone calls, and prayers. Keep praying for me—I am feeling better. I love you all and miss seeing you. Please continue to pray for me—I hope to be able to come back to church soon.

Love,
Mary Hall



Dear WBC Family,

Once again, thank you for all your kindness expressed to me and my family after my recent surgery. Because of the grace of God and your prayers my doctor says I am doing exceedingly well in my recovery. I am very grateful for my church family.

In His Hands,
Jerry Stone



To the Wytheville Baptist Church Family:

Our church staff thanks everyone for all the love, support,
and encouragement you have shown us this past year.

We wish everyone a very
Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



NOTES FROM OUR
INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR
JERRY STONE

COME, LET US SING FOR JOY TO THE LORD;
LET US SHOUT ALOUD
TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.
PSALM 95:1

Christmas is one of the most glorious and exciting times of the year. It's the day that Christians around the world celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is always exciting what God shows me as I read scripture as in Luke 2:16-20. After the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds as they were watching their sheep in the field and after the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests," look at what the shepherds did and then at Mary.

16. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

1. They hurried to find Jesus
2. When they had seen Jesus, they spread the word
3. All who heard were amazed by what they said
4. The shepherds returned glorifying and praising God
5. Mary treasured all these things and thought about them

I had to stop and ask myself; am I excited and hurry to find Jesus in my daily life? When I wonderfully encounter God through prayer, reading and studying scripture, hearing a message or song, or just

(Continued on page 4)

looking at the beauty of the world; am I excited to tell others about the love and forgiveness of God? Do I spread the Good News to all I come in contact with wanting them to know my Savior's love as I do? Are others amazed at what I say as I tell my story of salvation? Do I return to God singing and praising His Holy Name with gladness in my heart? And like Mary, do I make time to just sit quietly

pondering the treasures of God and waiting for God to speak to me?

This Christmas will be very different but still wonderful. Take time to ponder on what the Christ Child has done for you and then hurry to spread the love of Jesus with others.

Merry Christmas to all,

Jerry



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Due to COVID-19 and the precautionary measures we are taking to keep everyone as safe as possible, we will upload our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service to YouTube. This will give everyone the advantage to view and participate in this service in the comfort and safety of your home with your family. We will light the Advent candles, sing, read scripture, hear a devotional given by Pastor Tim, and light our candles. If you would like your family to have candles and communion cups to participate with us during this service, they will be available in the church office for you to pick up by December 23. This service will be uploaded to YouTube by midday on December 24. Go to Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page and click the link to YouTube or type in the address below in your search bar to see and be part of this service.

<https://www.youtube.com/.../UCFxx6dgIsy4pZiyuKZYZGpA/videos>



Children's Clothes Closet

Fall is here and we have warm clothes in 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; please bring them to the church office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please earmark your check "Children's Clothes Closet" and mail it to the church or drop it in the mail slot on the door leading to the main hallway. **If permissible**, the Children's Clothes Closet will open on Thursday, December 17, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.



*thank
you!*

Thank you to the Worship Team—Daniel Burke, Jonathan Stoker and Almetta Cruff—who work diligently in the sound booth to bring us quality sound, up-to-date announcements and words to our songs on the screen, and helping in the music department. And to Gary Carson who films our worship services, edits them, and uploads them to YouTube so that anyone in the world can hear the message God has given Pastor Tim.

**THANK YOU WORSHIP TEAM AND GARY CARSON
FOR TAKING CARE OF
WHAT GOD HAS INTRUSTED TO WBC.**



JANUARY 2021 BEACON ARTICLES

All January 2021 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Wednesday, December 16. Thank you for your help in this matter.

DON'T FORGET OUR BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

Our Benevolence offering is divided between helping our members and regular attendees in a time of need and the rest is sent to the Wythe County Ministerial Association and administered by Hope Ministry to help those in the community who need help. This offering will be received during the month of December.

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 IMPORTANT HEALTH & SERVICE NOTICE

We will continue with To-Go style meals. Outdoor seating is now available to enjoy your to-go meals, but you may not seat yourself. Please see a volunteer to be seated. Masks must be worn except for when eating and drinking. Tables are reserved for active eating only of parties of 6 or less, and social gatherings outside of meals are prohibited. Monetary donations are still gladly accepted and needed as we work to serve all. The hours will remain 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



AGAPE FOOD PANTRY

YOU CAN HELP



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.

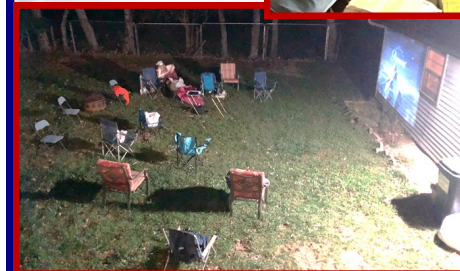
Youth News



Hello once again Wytheville Baptist family,

Gabby and I would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts over the last two years. Although not in the way that many of you would have hoped, God has worked and we have learned so much. We are ever so grateful for the time and lessons that God has taught us. We have truly grown and seen God's hand at work. From having numerous kids come at different times, building relationships with them outside the church, to having an increase of kids each night at VBS; God has been good, is good, and will be good. It was awesome (and rather baffling) to have kids beg me to come and pick them up so they could come back to church on Sunday, but sad that no one seemed to care. Although our time at WBC has drawn to a close financially speaking, we will continue to pursue this community. I was watching a chapel for one of my classes in Seminary and the speaker said something that has stuck with me and is very true saying, "It's not IF God calls you, but WHERE and HOW." Everyone one of you is called by God, it's just a matter of where and how and that is an encouraging thing. We love each and every one of you!

Blessings,
Michael





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

There is only a short time left to get your Christmas Poinsettia order in. You may purchase one or more for yourself or "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" a loved one or someone special. These poinsettias will decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. The poinsettias are in an eight-inch pot with two plants per pot, wrapped in gold foil, and adorned with a red bow. Each pot is \$19.95. You can order by:

1. Calling the church office to place your order then mail your check or placing it in the offering plate
2. Email the church office with your request then mail your check or place it in the offering plate
3. Place your request and check earmarked Poinsettia in the church offering plate on Sunday morning
5. Go to the Church App and select Poinsettia and make your payment there then call the church office with your information

Your order must be received no later than noon Wednesday, December 2. If Covid-19 protocol allows, we will have a booklet of remembered or honored loved ones on December 13; if not we will have a special email and sanctuary overhead of "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" loved ones.

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 2.
Please print legibly.

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes November 2020



'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

BY LOU PINTER



'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!
The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand.
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name:
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late:
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight:
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

Carroll Stewart
Librarian

HOME: Emery Pruett, Lee Perry, Jerry Stone, Adam Lester, Pamela Clark and Phillip Miller, Frances Felty, Kathy Landrith, Jean Moore, Rick Walker, Lynn Arnold, O.J. Campbell, Dan Robinette, Adren Eldridge, Missy Throckmorton, Bill Valley

EXTENDED CARE: Mary Hall, Elton Robinson, Nancy Herndon, Betty and John Matheny, Colleen Dunford, Mae Clemons, Della Dunford, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

FAMILY: Sylvia McGhee's brother, Henry Wells, Kathy Landrith's cousin, Pat Morgan; DeAnne Irving's cousin, Steve Wilhelm; Jerry Stone's sister, Ann Allen; Adam Lester's father, Andy Lester; Missy Throckmorton's brother-in-law, Mark Armentrout; Zannah McCoury's daughter, Renita K. Martin White; Janet Montgomery's son-in-law, Maurice Johnson; Becky Hudson's cousin, Nancy; Gabby Warner's mother and sister; Michael's cousin, Graham; Almetta Cruff's uncle George Parks and friend, Betty Edwards; Arnie Murdock's brother-in-law, Howard Vest; Daniel Burke's mother, Nellie Burke; Gary and Carla Estep's niece, Lindsey, granddaughter, Everleigh, Carla's mother, and brother-in-law, Ron Femi; Paula Moore and her son

FRIENDS: Teachers, Students, First Responders, Medical Personnel, Sharon Mitchell, Bryan and Cheryl Walker, Rev. Bob McFall, Ronnie Pierce, Angel Foster, Martha F. Umberger, Debbie Grubb's brother, Steve Ingo; Phil Tobelmann, Joey Dunn, Jerry Morgan, DeDe and Danny Hoosier, Bland Ministry Center, Wythe County, our Nation, and people in Venezuela

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Airman Joseph Robinette, Thomas Collins, Gregory Carson 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.



When a decision is made pertaining to having Wednesday night suppers, we will announce this to our church family and friends. Watch and listen for more information.

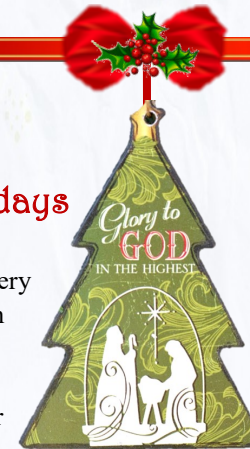


Meetings

Tuesday, December 8: Discipleship—7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Wednesday, December 9: Staff—4:00 p.m. on Zoom

December Birthdays

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



17: Rachel Crowgey
18: Luis Lopez
Robin Moore
20: O. J. Campbell
23: Danny Taylor
Bonnie Wright
24: Brittany Lester
26: Betty Matheny
31: Teresa Wassum

DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 6: Jenny Stoker
December 13: Danny Sowers
December 20: Chris Bracknell
December 27: Eric Crowgey

USHERS Team IV:

Betty Robinette, Roger Hudson
Zannah McCoury, John Willis

TELLERS











Ty King and Tom Collins

GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of December

December 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <i>All orders and monies for Christmas Poinsettia need to be turned in by today</i> 7:00pm Adult Bible Study on Zoom	3 6:30pm Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team meeting at Dublin	4 	5
6 Communion Observed Benevolence Offering Received 10:30am Worship Service and Communion in the sanctuary. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube  Second Sunday of Advent	7	8 7:00pm Discipleship meeting on Zoom	9 4:00pm Staff meeting on Zoom 7:00pm Adult Bible Study on Zoom	10	11 	12
13 Love gift received today for Janet Montgomery 10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube  Third Sunday of Advent	14 	15	16 7:00pm Adult Bible Study on Zoom 	17 2:30 to 4:00pm If permissible Children's Clothes Closet	18	19
20 10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube  Fourth Sunday of Advent	21	22	23 No Bible Study Tonight	24 WBC Candlelight Service presented on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/.../UCFxx6dgIsy4pZiyu-KZYZGpA/videos  Church Office Closed	25  Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed	26
27 10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube	28	29	30 No Bible Study Tonight	31	