

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.



WYTHEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE LIVES IN GOD, AND GOD IN THEM. 1 JOHN 4:16B



Volume 68 Number 2 February 2021

The Beacon

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**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS
CHURCH BECOMES ANOTHER ACTIVITY**

One thing I have seen repeatedly now through 25 years of ministry is people burning out and falling away from the Kingdom of God. Whether you call it backsliding or giving up it happens a lot. It especially happens to those who start their spiritual journey with great excitement. They attend wanting so much to learn more and be involved in so many activities. Then a few months down the road, they begin to attend less and less until they are not present anymore. On the other side, there are those who just go through the motions of being part of a community of believers for years and years, never really growing in their relationship with God. They seem content on the surface, but they are really looking for more to guide them on the spiritual journey.

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YOUR CHURCH STAFF

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|--|-----------------------------|
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Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

Both groups are similar in one way, church has become another activity in their lives. Some feel the need to continue this activity even when their spiritual journey seems like a walk through the desert or wilderness. Others leave searching for another activity they hope will fill the God sized hole in their life. They may try another church or just decide being a member and having been baptized was enough and all that is needed. There is so much to the spiritual life that is missed by both groups.

What could change this is if people would listen deeply to Jesus' words about continuing the spiritual journey. John 15 is a good scripture to study on this topic. It is Jesus' last night with the disciples and he knows that for them to continue forward on the spiritual journey they will need encouragement. He says in John 15:4 (NIV):

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”

The greatest key to growing in the spiritual life is to remain in contact and relationship with Jesus. This is done mainly through having a daily time to meet with Jesus in prayer and reading the Bible. Once you stop having a daily contact with Jesus you become a branch that has been separated from the vine and you wither. When you wither, you begin to fall away and will experience dryness in your spiritual journey.

The only way to reverse this withering is to begin a daily time of meeting with Jesus again. This is much more than adding an activity; it is building a relationship with God. This will bring times of growth and blessings to you daily. If you need help with this, please contact me and I will be glad to help you. I want you to always experience times of bearing fruit on your spiritual journey.

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim



thank
you!

Thank you to our new Moderators—Eric Crowgey, Moderator, and Rick Walker, Vice Moderator. These men professionally conduct our business meetings with kindness and grace. Also, we thank our Church Clerk, Linda Lively, and Assistant Clerk, Bonnie Agnew. These ladies are dependable and always keep accurate records of our business meetings. You all are a blessing.

**THANK YOU MODERATORS AND CHURCH CLERKS
FOR TAKING CARE OF
WHAT GOD HAS INTRUSTED TO WBC.**



- ◆ **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, February 4, 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

Thank You!

Dear Deacons,

I want to thank each one who did the beautiful fruit basket that was delivered by Lisa and Eric Crowgey to me at my home.

Praying for the 2021 year to be a better year and the church will get back to normal. Hope to see you soon.

God Bless everyone
Jean M. Moore



Even though we are not meeting together on Sunday mornings and not having other functions, you are still committed to bringing your tithes into the storehouse. This brings honor and glory to God and says volumes of your relationship and witness to our Lord. Thank you for your commitment to giving.



WYTHEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH APP

Look for the Wytheville Baptist Church app where you will be able to download and have access to submit a Prayer Request, read the Beacons, Calendar, get Directions, hear the Sermons, open The Bible, compile a Journal Page, Link to Church Facebook Page, **Online Giving**, and much more.

If you are having problems finding, downloading, or setting up this app, contact Daniel Burke or Pastor Tim.



NOTES FROM OUR INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR JERRY STONE

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is God's love for those who fear him...*

Psalm 103:11

During February, we turn our attention to Valentines, flowers, cards, candy, and love. Have you ever sat and pondered how great God's love is for you. In today's society, we use the word love so flippantly as in I love that dress, I love that TV program, I love that dessert you made, etc. Some couples love each other so much they want to marry only to later say, "I feel out of love with you and I want a divorce."

Sometimes my human mind can't comprehend that God loves each one of us individually, intensely, and personally. God doesn't lump us all together having a sappy, vague, diffused feeling of love for us. God truly loves each individual.

When God says, "I love you," he is saying that you matter to Him. To God, you are a person of worth, of value, and in God's eyes, you are wonderful. I'm amazed that God knows me and still loves me; God knows that I am a sinner, yet he forgives me; I am sick, and he heals me; I am in despair, yet he brings me through, and I deserve justice, yet he grants me mercy. God is the father in the Prodigal Son account in Luke 15:20,

"So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

(Continued on page 4)

This father loved so much that he waited for his wayward and rebellious son to return home so he could grant him a new start. This is God's love for us. It is beyond comprehension.

Like me, do you miss giving friends and family big hugs when you meet them and can't wait for the time when we can shake hands and hug again? Praise the Lord! You are safe in the arms of a loving God, even during a raging pandemic. Take a moment to quietly sit in God's presence and feel the warmth of His love and His loving arms around you. When you have been consumed with God's love, you share in all his benefits. Today, ponder on the *"Love God has for you."*

In God's Love,

Jerry



These times are inimitable and unchartered. Although we have to find new ways to assemble and worship our King of Kings, we must still offer our best to God. Wednesday, February 17, begins Lent; 40 days of fasting what God has laid on your heart and leads up to our Easter celebration. We should be faithful finding ways that are possible in these unusual times and circumstances to honor our Lord.

Meet with us on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, to begin your spiritual journey to Holy Week and Easter.



Children's Clothes Closet

Winter 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, February 25, 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.

You can also listen to the sermons live on Facebook by searching for Wytheville Baptist. The services are also on YouTube. Thank you to Gary Carson for providing these links.



MARCH 2021 BEACON ARTICLES

All March 2021 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Tuesday, February 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 February.

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

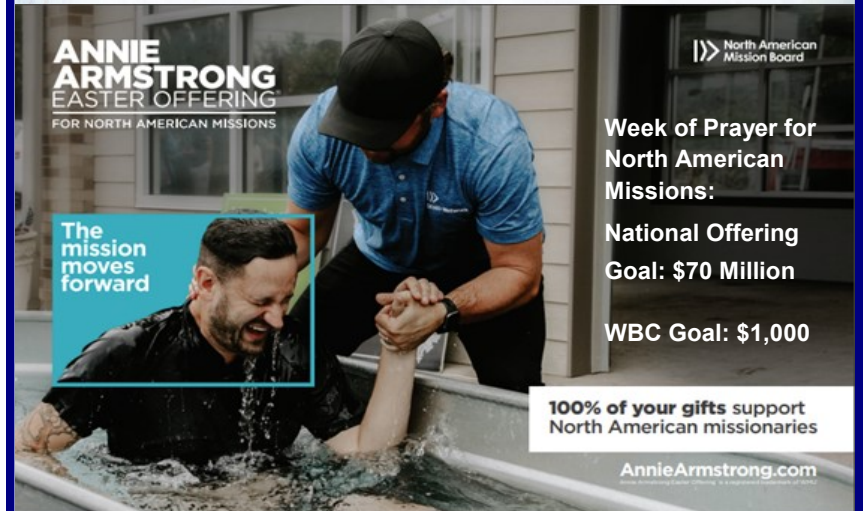


Please bring canned fruits and vegetables for the months of February and March to help feed those in need in our community. Please, no glass containers.

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.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

March 7-14, 2021



The offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, more than \$1 billion has been donated by Baptist churches and individuals.

Every gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering – 100 percent – goes to train, resource and send thousands of missionaries involved in church planting and compassion ministries across the United States, Canada and their territories. Our partnership with many churches and individuals makes this work possible.

Lives are changing as a direct result of your support of North American missionaries through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The COVID situation is much worse than when we closed the church early last year for several months. It is hard for everyone, especially during one of the most important times of the church year. We need to do all we can to help stop the spread and keep people safe. Therefore, Pastor Tim has discussed the COVID-19 situation here in the Southwest part of Virginia with the Deacons and at the recent Quarterly Business Meeting. In light of the rising numbers and new strain of COVID, we will continue to set an example for the rest of the community and only hold our Worship Services online during February. We will look at coming together again on the first Sunday in March. The church office will also remain open from 9 to noon, Monday through Friday. If you have business at church please consider calling to discuss your business instead of stopping by the church.

Stay safe, use wisdom, and be careful. There will be a time when this is over and we will gather again as the church triumphant.



Due to our church closer during February, we are rethinking different ways to show compassion to our neighbors who are homeless, hungry, and in need.

Normally, at this time of the year, our church will collect canned soup to give to Agape Food Pantry. Since we are not gathering at church, on **Sunday, February 7, 2021**, we are asking for your help by giving an offering to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Please earmark your check or tithing envelope "Souper Bowl of Caring" or go to the giving app and check the appropriate box.

Souper Bowl of Caring is a yearly national movement to fight hunger which began with a simple prayer:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Will you help us help others?

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



February 2021



MARKS OF A GOOD CHRISTIAN

1. One Who holds his membership where he lives.
2. One who attends all services of his church if he can possibly do so.
3. One who gives regularly and cheerfully to the support of His church.
4. One who lives a life that is an asset and not a liability to the church.
5. One who knows, believes in, and practices the doctrine of the New Testament.
6. One who seeks to be a peacemaker in the church and community.
7. One who accepts and discharges any task assigned to him by his church.
8. One who reads his Bible and prays sincerely to God each day.
9. One who seeks the salvation of his kindred, friends, neighbors, and all who is lost to the ends of the earth.
10. One who boosts his church and will not see it neglected, harmfully criticized, or abused without defense.
11. One who sees and recognizes that the church is bigger than he.
12. One who submits to majority rule and cooperates for the good of the church.
13. One who seeks to improve his Christian life through the reading of good Christian literature.
14. One who is always ready to forgive, as Christ forgives us.

To know the WILL of God,
This is the Greatest Knowledge.

To find the WILL of God,
This is the Greatest Discovery.

To do the WILL of God,
This is the Greatest Achievement.

THINK ON THESE THINGS!

~Taken from *The Clarion* at First Baptist Church,
Clarendon, VA, July 11, 1963~



Carroll Stewart
Librarian

HOME: Diana Lopez-Torres, Missy Throckmorton, Adam Lester, Frances Felty, Jean Moore, Rick Walker, Lynn Arnold, O.J. Campbell, Dan Robinette, Bill Valley



EXTENDED CARE: Adren Eldridge (Carrington Rural Retreat, Room 101 West), Mary Hall, Nancy Herndon, Betty and John Matheny, Colleen Dunford, Mae Clemons, Della Dunford, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

FAMILY: Adam Lester's father, Andy Lester; Daniel Burke's mother, Nellie Burke; Paula Moore and her son

FRIENDS: Teachers, Students, First Responders, Medical Personnel, John Viars, DeeDee Hosier and 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.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Mabeline Robinson and family upon the loss of her beloved husband, Elton Robinson

Dee Dee Hoosier and family upon the passing of her husband, Danny Hoosier

The family of Mrs. Celia Kibler, the mother-in-law to Dee Nolan's sister

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

Thursday, February 4: Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network Leadership Team—6:30 at Dublin Baptist Church
 Tuesday, February 9: Discipleship—7:00 p.m. on Zoom
 Wednesday, February 10: Staff—4:00 p.m. on Zoom



February Birthdays

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



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

19: Denise Burton
 20: Ty King
 Robert Herndon
 24: David Martin
 25: Bill Valley
 27: Sharon Sowers
 29: Terry Moore



DEACON OF THE WEEK

February 7: Eric Crowgey
 February 14: Guy Sutphin
 February 21: Gary Taylor
 February 28: Tommy Hilton

USHERS Team II:

Tommy Hilton, Becky Hudson
 Guy Sutphin, Glenna Turner

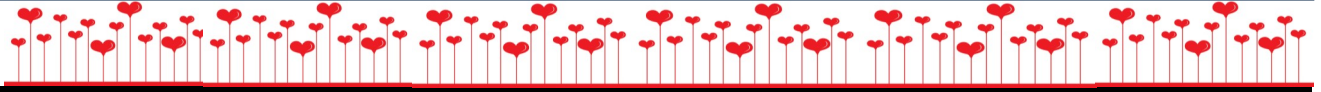
TELLERS

Janet Montgomery and Gary Taylor

GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of February

February 2021



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|--|--|--|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Philippians 3 on Zoom | 4 6:30pm WBRBN meeting at Dublin Baptist Church | 5 | 6 |
| 7  No services or functions held at the church until further notice 10:30am Log onto Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube to hear Pastor Tim's message for today | 8 | 9 7:00pm Discipleship meeting on Zoom | 10 4:00pm Staff meeting on Zoom 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Philippians 4 on Zoom | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>  No services held at the church until further notice 10:30am Log onto Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube to hear Pastor Tim's message for today | 15 | 16  | 17  7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Zoom | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 No services held at the church until further notice 10:30am Log onto Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube to hear Pastor Tim's message for today | 22 | 23 | 24 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Zoom | 25 2:30 to 4:00pm Children's Clothes Closet | 26 | 27 |
| 28 No services held at the church until further notice 10:30am Log onto Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube to hear Pastor Tim's message for today | | | | | | |