

WYTHEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



The Beacon

Volume 68 Number 3 March 2021

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS SHARP OR DULL: WHICH IS MORE DANGEROUS?

There have been very few days in the past 48 years that I have not carried a pocket-knife with me. Most of the time my knife has been sharp because a dull knife is one of the most dangerous tools you can use. When your knife is dull you must work much harder to accomplish something. It is during this time of pushing your knife harder, that when you slip it could cause more damage especially if you cut yourself. Most people think a sharp knife is more dangerous but that is not true. It not only saves you time and effort to learn how to keep your knife sharp, but it can save you from being seriously hurt.

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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

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 Rev. Timothy Irving, Pastor 284-1575
 Jerry Stone, Interim Music Director 228-3712
 Cathy Valley, Pianist..... 228-3712
 Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer 228-3712

Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

The same is true in the spiritual journey. A sharp Christian will always be more effective than a dull Christian. Let me explain. A sharp Christian is one who knows their scriptures and knows how to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a needy person. A sharp Christian knows why it is important to attend church, take part in a Bible Study, and is willing to share what God is teaching them on their journey with other Christians. A dull Christian thinks they know what is in the Bible but cannot find it in the book and often misquote it. A dull Christian sees little need in attending church for any functions. A dull Christian will not speak about their journey with God; they believe their journey is too personal to share with others. A dull Christian will always be more dangerous to other Christians and to those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ yet.

Therefore, we need to be open with other Christians about our spiritual journey because Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says: “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Discussing and sharing our journey into a deeper relationship with God with other Christians will sharpen us and keep us ready to be used by God.

How would you define yourself? Are you a sharp or dull Christian?

My role as pastor is to guide you on the spiritual journey of becoming a sharp Christian. Please contact me if you need help in any way on becoming sharper and more useful for God in this world.

Because of God’s Love,
Pastor Tim



Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

- ◆ Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network web site:
<http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>
- ◆ **Leadership Team meeting:** Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 1, 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.
- ◆ **Claytor Lake Baptist Assembly:** Dave Clonch asked that churches sign up on the cleaning schedule for the Camp. The schedule so far: August – Calvary Church; October – Trinity Church. Please contact a member of the Camp Board of Directors to be included on this schedule.
- ◆ **Bland Ministry Center:** “Dee Dee is back to work, and she expressed her gratitude for all the sweet cards from the network and individual members. She was exposed to COVID this week and so we’ve already had to send her back home for two more weeks! We are getting calls from our mission teams that still plan on spending weeks with us this Summer. Dee Dee and David will need to discuss if teams are able to come and how they might be able to help out with the H&H projects.
- ◆ **Venezuela Ministry:** Dennis Jones shared an email received from Pastor Ramon. Pastor Ramon said they are working in their neighborhood (since gasoline for vehicles is not available). They continue to meet in small groups (phones and internet aren’t available). He said they were constituted as a church on February 27 with the name “God is With Us Baptist Church”. The Network has sent the Resolution to them to be shared at their meeting.
- ◆ **Network Business Distribution of Funds:** Charles Damron said since our Network is doing so well financially we need to be about missions and asked for a suggestion. Dave Clonch made a motion that the Finance Team bring options of using our monies to our next meeting.
- ◆ **Missions Conference 2021:** Charles Damron shared information about the Mission Fair on Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., April 17, 2021 and the Mission Conference on Sunday, April 18, 2021

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

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 March.

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

Per Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's Executive Order, the following must be adhered to in order to visit the Open Door Café, HOPE Ministry Center or HOPE Packs:

Any person over the age of five must wear a mask or facial covering at all times while entering, exiting, traveling through, or spending time at the HOPE Ministry Center, the Open Door Café, or the indoor area for HOPE Packs.

Exceptions to these guidelines include: An individual who is in the act of eating or drinking on premises of the Open Door Café, children under the age of five, a person seeking to communicate with a hearing-impaired person, for which the mouth needs to be visible, anyone with a health condition that keeps them from wearing a facial covering.

Hours are Monday—Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

AGAPE FOOD PANTRY



Please bring canned fruits and vegetables for the month of 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.



JERRY STONE

NOTES FROM OUR INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Matthew 21:9

As I stop and think about this amazing time of the year, my mind keeps going back to what we often say at Christmas, “Jesus is the reason for the season.” That same statement is also true for the season we are in now. This season of Lent gives us time to slow down from our normal routines and find time to contemplate what our Lord did for us on the Cross and anticipate a deeper intimacy with the Lord.

As a child, when my parents told me we were going to have a time of fasting, I was willing to give up the food I didn't like or I'd give up TV for one hour a day (usually the hour when there wasn't anything good on anyway). I never really grasped the full meaning of fasting or Lent.

Today during Lent I love to find my quiet time with the Lord reading the accounts in Matthew of the events leading up to the Celebration of the Resurrection and singing my favorite songs to the Lord. As I read about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, I start to sing,

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

O come, let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

and my heart is stirred and my hands are raised in praise to Jesus.

As we look to Palm Sunday, let us always remember to guard ourselves against offering only superficial acclaim to Christ. Let us always give Jesus our best.

In Christ, *Jerry*

thank
you!

This month we recognize and thank a man who not only is a member of our church family but is also an Ambassador for Christ in our community. Tommy Anders has served on many Teams over the years and he has also volunteered his time and talents as Moderator or at times Vice Moderator for decades. We are truly thankful for the men and women, such as Tommy, who have blazed a trail for others to follow.

Hebrews 13:7 says,

Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."

**THANK YOU TO TOMMY ANDERS AND
ALL WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE PAST
FOR TAKING CARE OF
WHAT GOD HAS INTRUSTED TO WBC.**

Pastor Tim and WBC Family,
Thank you very much for the piano and desk. This will mean a lot to our ministry!

Faith FWB Church
Brian Wolford

Dear WBC Family,
Thank you for all the cards, emails, and phone calls I received during my recuperation. Your kindness meant so much to me.

Love you all,
Pamela Clark



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, March 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.

APRIL 2021 BEACON ARTICLES

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

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Were nailed to the cross, intensified with each blow.
Loudest of all was the still small voice inside
His Heart that whispered "I am with you Son",
And God's heart broke.
He had let His Son walk.

Jesus could have asked God to end His suffering,
But instead, He asked God to forgive.
Not to forgive Him, but to forgive the ones who were persecuting Him.
As He hung on that cross, dying an unimaginable death,
He looked out and saw, not only the faces in the crowd,
But also, the face of every person yet to be,
And His heart filled with love.
As His body was dying, His heart was alive.
Alive with the limitless, unconditional love He feels for each of us.
That is why He walked.

When I forget how much My God loves me,
I remember His walk.
When I wonder if I can be forgiven,
I remember His walk.
When I need reminding of how to live like Christ,
I think of His walk.
And to show Him how much I love Him,
I wake up each morning, turn my eyes to Jesus,
And I walk.
Happy Easter!

~Author Unknown~

Carroll Stewart

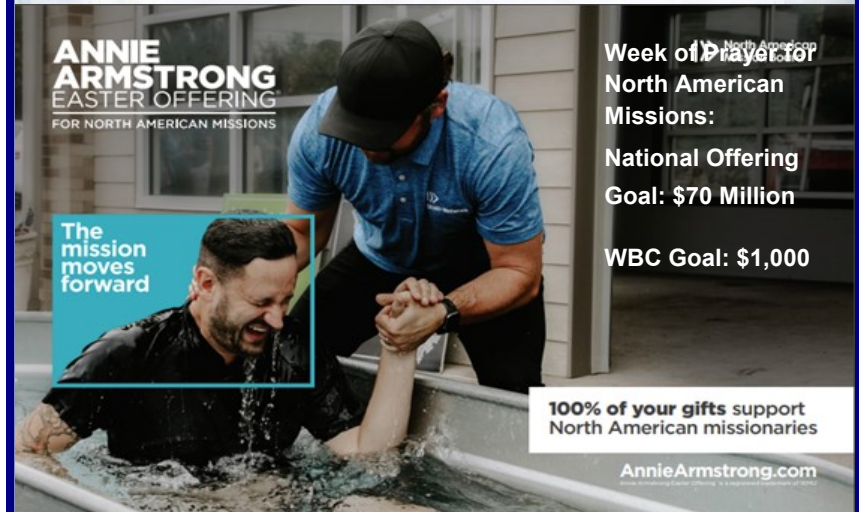
Librarian

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

March 7-14, 2021



The graphic features a man in a blue shirt and black cap baptizing another man in a baptismal tank. Text overlays include: 'ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS', 'The mission moves forward', 'Week of Prayer for North American Missions: National Offering Goal: \$70 Million WBC Goal: \$1,000', and '100% of your gifts support North American missionaries'. The website 'AnnieArmstrong.com' is also listed.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE THE LORD!

Sunday, March 7, we will begin meeting in the sanctuary for our worship services. We are still under the mandates of wearing our masks, maintaining our six foot distance, and not passing anything from one to another.

We also ask that after each service everyone please exit the sanctuary in an orderly manner to visit with each other outside. This will help everyone depart in a safe way and allow everyone to maintain their six foot distancing.

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



SPECIAL MISSIONARY SPEAKER APRIL 18



Sunday, April 18, during our 10:30 a.m. worship we will be blessed by our Missionary Speaker. Phil Nelson, originally from East Tennessee, is a graduate of Carson-Newman University. While working as a public accountant in Chattanooga, Phil went on a short-term mission trip with his church. Those two weeks led to two years as an

IMB Journeyman missionary, followed by the seminary in Texas, and a career missionary appointment in Asia.

After nearly a decade overseas, Phil was called to a church in TN in 2001 as the Pastor of Missions. In 2008, Phil re-employed with the International Mission Board in a stateside mobilization role. His responsibility and passion as a church mobilizer are to help churches personalize their involvement in missions by resourcing, coaching, and encouraging pastors and leaders toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes

March 2021

STILL HE WALKED

He could hear the crowd screaming "crucify" "crucify"...

He could hear the hatred in their voices,

These were His chosen people.

He loved them, and they were going to crucify Him.

He was beaten, bleeding, and weakened...His heart was broken,

But still, He walked.

He could see the crowd as He came from the palace.

He knew each of their faces so well.

He had created them.

He knew every smile, laugh, and shed tears,

But now they were contorted with rage and anger...His heart broke,

But still, He walked.

Was He scared?

You and I would have been,

So His humanness would have mandated that He was. He felt alone.

His disciples had left, denied, and even betrayed Him.

He searched the crowd for a loving face and He saw very few.

Then He turned His eyes to the only one that mattered

And He knew He would never be alone.

He looked back at the crowd, at the people who were spitting at Him,

Throwing rocks at Him and mocking Him and He knew

That because of Him, they would never be alone.

So for them, He walked.

The sounds of the hammer striking the spikes

Echoed through the crowd.

The sounds of His cries echoed even louder,

The cheers of the crowd, as His hands and feet

(Continued on page 12)

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

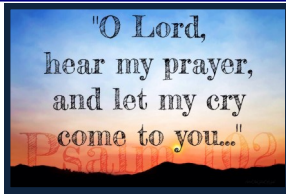
EXTENDED CARE: Adren Eldridge, Mary Hall, Nancy Herndon, Betty and John Matheny, Colleen Dunford, Mae Clemons, Della Dunford, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

FAMILY: Bonnie Agnew's sister, Bobbie Gilliam; Roger Hudson's brother, Jimmy (Hubby) Hudson; Almetta Cruff's mother, Adam Lester's father, Andy Lester; Daniel Burke's mother, Nellie Burke; Paula Moore and her son

FRIENDS: Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Craig Allison upon his passing, 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:

Delores Dove and her family upon the passing of her son-in-law, Felix Romero

Kathy Landrith and family upon the passing of her niece, Becky Landrith

Family and friends of Mark Huff upon his passing.

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, March 9: Discipleship—7:00 p.m. on Zoom
 Wednesday, March 10: Staff—4:00 p.m. on Zoom

March

Birthdays

- 3 Finley Bird
- 4. Guy Sutphin
Bonnie Agnew
- 6. Veronica Lopez
- 8. Doug Roope
- 12 Rev. Danny Collins
- 15 Roger Hudson



BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

- 16 Mack Pruett
- 18 Jan Stone
Thomas Collins
- 21 Caroline Booher
- 26 Jean Moore
- 31 Duke Yontz

DEACON OF THE WEEK

- March 7: Janet Montgomery
- March 14 Eric Crowgey
- March 21: Chris Bracknell
- March 28: Guy Sutphin

USHERS Team III:

Danny Sowers, Bonnie Agnew
 Chris Bracknell, Gary Estep

TELLERS






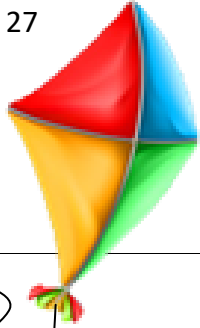

Ty King and Tom Collins

GREETERS

Designated Ushers for the month of March

March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Hebrews 1 on Zoom	4	5	6
7  Benevolence Offering Received 10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube	8	9 7:00pm Discipleship meeting on Zoom	10 4:00pm Staff meeting on Zoom 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Hebrews 2 on Zoom	11	12	13 
14  10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube	15	16 	17 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Hebrews 3 on Zoom	18 	19	20
21 10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube	22	23	24 7:00pm Spiritual Conversation on Hebrews 4 on Zoom	25 2:30 to 4:00pm Children's Clothes Closet	26	27 
28  10:30am Worship Service in the sanctuary You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube			