



PASTOR'S THOUGHTS
Why Attend Church?

Suppose someone asks you, “Why is going to church important to you?” How would you answer this question? What scriptures would you share with them? Through the years I have heard people say, “The week does not feel right if I do not go to church on Sunday.” Hearing that answer, I want to ask, “Why? please give me some details.” Since most Americans now stay home on Sunday mornings and feel no need to go to church, we need to have some tangible reasons and facts to share with them. Just telling them about a feeling without facts is not going to give them a reason to go to church.

Continued on Page 2

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

- Pg. 1—2 Pastor's Notes
- Pg. 3—4 Music Notes
- Pg. 5 Missionaries Invited to Speak
- Pg. 6 Church News
- Pg. 7 Monthly Schedule
- Pg. 8—9 Calendar
- Pg. 10 Prayer Requests
- Pg. 11 Library Notes & KIMC Circle
- Pg. 12—13 Outreach
- Pg. 14 Pastor-Church Relations Team Report
- Pg. 15 New Member WBRBN News



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
Lerry Stone, Minister of Music and Worship	228-3712
Cathy Valley, Pianist	228-3712
Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer	228-3712

Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

Attending church weekly gives me an anchor in a world of change. When I attend church I hear about God's love, desires, and guidance for life. When things around me look so bleak and negative, church attendance reminds me that God has a positive, hopeful, and purposeful direction for me to grow spiritually. Being in Worship Service with other believers brings encouragement and inspiration to look for places in our community where God is working positively. In attending church weekly, I realize that I am not the only one seeking to find and enjoy a better life.

Attending church weekly provides an opportunity to hear others share what God is showing them about living a faithful spiritual life. Someone may speak about what a certain scripture means to them and how they have used it to live a better life. This could be God's way to help me understand how to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ. I can share with other believers about how they can pray for me. Maybe they will say, "Let's pray about this concern right now." That prayer could be just the boost I need to cross over what is a stumbling block for me on my faith journey.

Attending church weekly _____. How do you finish this sentence with some facts and reasons? I would like to hear your answer. You may help me to realize something I have not thought of or was not able to put into words yet.

Please take some time to think about your answer because it may help someone to start attending church weekly.

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim



INTRODUCING

our newest member to the WBC family!

Phyllis Dillon

Joined

July 23, 2023

Thank you Lord for this blessing.



Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

SELECT MINUTES FROM JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING

The Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network website can be reached by searching the name or by copying and pasting

<http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>

• **Announcements:**

1) **Leadership Dinners:** Keith reminded that the Leadership Dinners are held at El Ranchero Restaurant, 5239 Alexander Rd, Dublin (near Walmart Supercenter). These dinners are provided by the WBRBN.

The schedule is:

WMU August 1 6:30 p.m.

Deacons September 5 6:30 p.m.

Music Leaders October 3 6:30 p.m.

2) **Church news:** Charles Damron shared that the Board of Directors for the NRV Women's Clinic (PRC) are searching for a building in Wytheville.

• **The Next Bi-monthly Meeting:** Will be at Dublin Baptist Church Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Blessings,

C. F. Damron, Mission Team Coordinator

What Your Pastor-Church Relations Team Has Been Doing

Early last fall, as we began to think about Pastor Tim's Sabbatical, the Pastor-Church Relations Team added Ty King, Tommy Hilton and Dee Nolan to our current membership of Linda Sutphin, Cathy Valley and Pastor Tim. The church body voted to apply for a Clergy Renewal Program Grant in the spring of 2022. In October 2022, we began to plan for Pastor Tim's Sabbatical and the Renewal activities for the church during that 3-month period. These plans included the process of completing the application for the Lilly Endowment Renewal Grant. This grant, if awarded, would fund Pastor Tim's expenses, the Interim Pastor's fee, and Renewal activities for the church. We realized one meeting a month was not enough and voted to meet twice each month. Some of the meetings were workshops lasting 2 – 3 hours. The team agreed to compile and distribute to the WBC Congregation an informative brochure about the Sabbatical. The brochure was completed and distributed to every family in November. Also, in November, we saw the current copy of the 2023 application for this grant and learned the due date would be March 13, 2023.

In January the team felt the Lord's leading toward an emphasis on prayer for the church's renewal. The book, How to Pray: A simple Prayer Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig was chosen as the book to study. It was decided that a kick-off for the book study would be held at Loretto Mansion, to include a guest speaker, lunch and small-group discussions. In addition, a picnic at Claytor Lake Baptist Camp would conclude the renewal and welcome Pastor Tim and DeAnne back to our church.

In February the responsibilities of the Interim Pastor were discussed and work on the application began in earnest. Team members discussed their assigned questions. Expenses were discussed and budgets were compiled for Pastor Tim's Sabbatical and the congregation's activities, including payment for Interim Pastor and cost of books for study. Members were assigned application questions to prepare for the next meeting as Pastor Tim completed his section of the document. The application was completed, edited carefully and submitted prior to the March 13 deadline.

The team continued to plan activities for this time in the life of Wytheville Baptist Church. An Interim Pastor-Church Covenant was completed and approved by the team in June.

After a break in July the team will meet in August to begin the search process for an Interim Pastor. We should hear from the Lilly Foundation by late August. Please continue to pray as we wait for news and as we continue to prepare for this exciting time of Renewal and Spiritual growth for our Pastor, DeAnne, and Wytheville Baptist Church.

Submitted by
Cathy Valley, Chair
Pastor-Church Relations Team



Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship



JERRY STONE

I have always been fascinated by fields of sunflowers; how in the mornings they look to the sun in the east and then slowly follow the sun until it sets in the west. It's amazing to watch a large field of sunflowers do this in unison.

These magnificent towering flowers intrigued me to the point I had to research them and find out more about this God given phenomenon of flowers dancing in the sunlight. My research drew my attention to the lessons God was trying to show me through these flowers.

I found out that a field of juvenile sunflowers are the only ones that track the sun in unity. Can you imagine the impact on the world if the community of faith would have this kind of unity and move together in the light of God's love. That reminded me of the verse in Psalm 133:1

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people
live together in unity!*

Just like the field of juvenile sunflowers that caught my eye as they moved with the sun, so too can the community of faith catch the attention of non-believers when we are unified in God's love.

I also found out that the mature sunflowers only face east; they do not track the sun. Research says this is because east-facing sunflowers are more effectively warmed by the morning sun. If we steadfastly keep our face and our attention turned continually toward warmth, love, and light of God through God's Word, we will, as scripture says in Isaiah 60:19:

(Continued on page 4)

The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

I also found that mature east-facing sunflowers attract up to five times the number of pollinators than others. If we stay in God's Word, He will multiply our knowledge, help us grow in His wisdom, and help us produce disciples. It says in Proverbs 2:6, 10

For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.

But there is another type of wild sunflower that grows on the side of highways and in fields. They have also been labeled "weeds." They have small flowers, they branch out with spindly stalks, and the flowers never face the sun together. One will face up, another will face down, still others will be blown by the wind. Does that remind you of some in the churches today. God's Word says in 1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

God has shown Himself powerfully in the way He created this flower plus all the beauty of the earth for us to enjoy, take care of, and learn from.

As I look at the sunflower my heart is filled and I begin to sing a wonderful old song

"Heavenly sunlight, heavenly sunlight,
flooding my soul with glory divine:
hallelujah, I am rejoicing,
singing His praises, Jesus is mine."

I continue singing that song joyfully because God's love has filled my soul with His Son's Light.

Walking in the Light,

Jerry

THE RELAUNCHED OPEN DOOR CAFÉ

As of July 17, 2023, the Café relaunched with expanded menu options, a streamlined guest experience, and more options to join in supporting the café's mission.

During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, the café suspended volunteer or donation expectations. Instead, meals were distributed in a manner more typical of a soup kitchen.

After the relaunch the café realigned its pricing and operations to its original vision as a gift-based community café – a place where everyone can access a wholesome meal while accepting help with dignity and respect.

The guest experience resembles a standard café dining experience. Guests walk in and are greeted by our friendly customer service staff and volunteers. Guests choosing to make a monetary contribution will proceed to the counter, order, pay in multiple ways, and find a seat inside or outside. Staff and volunteers will bring out orders as they are ready.

Guests choosing to volunteer will work with our volunteer manager. After the ½ volunteer contribution is made, guests will receive a volunteer meal voucher and proceed to the service counter.

Open Door Café has the ability for online ordering. Just go to their website and click the order online box. They continue to have the capability of catering to your event.

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 and Camera Man, Gary Carson, for providing this link for our encouragement, learning, and inspiration.



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 remainder 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 August

This offering is never hoarded up or put in a savings account, but is always used to help others for the glory of God.

Thank you for giving from the heart.



AGAPE FOOD PANTRY

YOU CAN HELP



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

WBC helps 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 Guy and Linda Sutphin.



SEPTEMBER 2023 BEACON ARTICLES

All September 2023 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Thursday, August 17. Thank you for your help in this matter.

WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION MISSIONARIES TO SPEAK AT WBC

You may remember years ago Michael and Monica Brennan led a Christian summer camp for children in our community. They now minister to the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming doing church work and a free summer camp.

The reservation is home to bitter ancestral enemies: the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. Even among reservations, it's renowned for brutal crime, widespread drug use, and legal dumping of toxic waste. For many years, the church has conflated evangelism with colonialism. Indian country now largely believes that they must abandon all their nativeness to become a Christian. One of the greatest obstacles to presenting the gospel on Wind River Reservation is unresolved anger, distrust, hatred, and bitterness toward Euro-Americans. Only the truth of Jesus Christ can overcome such obstacles.

Mike and Monica will join us on Wednesday night, August 23, at 6:00 p.m. for supper and then speak to us during our Spiritual Conversation time and tell us about God's ministry to the people of Wind River Indian Reservation through them. You don't want to miss this informative and moving presentation by Missionaries who want to see God's love spread to these indigenous people.



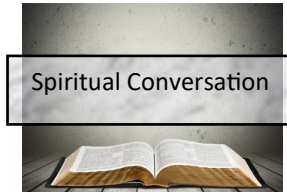
GET READY! GET READY! FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, September 10. The Fellowship Team has secured the Claytor Lake Baptist Camp for our Annual Church-Wide Picnic. There is always great fellowship, lots of fun, and an abundance of tasty food. Watch for more information in next month's Beacon.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Please join us in the fellowship hall every Wednesday night at 6:45 p.m. as we delve into our Spiritual Conversation on the book of Deuteronomy. The schedule is:

- August 2: Deuteronomy 22
- August 9: Video 4 and Discussion on *Hiddenness*
- August 16: Introduction to Lectio 365
- August 23: Missionary Speakers
- August 30: SBC Constitution Change and Discussion



We hope you will join us as we study the Bible and how we can apply God's Word to our lives.

We have a Wednesday Night Children's Program for Preschoolers at 6:45 p.m. in the nursery.



LECTIO 365

We encourage you to try the Lectio 365 app. This is a wonderful app to help you have a quiet time and center your self on God. It only takes approximately ten to fifteen minutes in the morning and at night. Check it out, we think you will find it a great help to your prayer life. Those who use it on a daily basis have been highly blessed by it.



Thank you to our Security Team—Chris Bracknell, Tommy Hilton, and Gary Taylor. These men are constantly making sure our congregation is secure and safe while worshipping our Lord. Thank you for your continued endeavors to oversee our safety.

**THANK YOU FOR BRINGING GLORY TO GOD AND
TAKING CARE OF WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO WBC.**

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



Chicken Soup for the Country Soul - Stories served up Country-style and straight from the heart by Jack Canfield

This latest collection of *Chicken Soup for the Soul* comes to you from the heartland, the Grand Ole Opry and the Country Music Capital of the World. It emanates from the hearts and souls of country entertainers old and new, their loyal fans and "just plain ol'" country folks. This treasury identifies the common threads that weave the tapestry of the human spirit—the tradition of family and faith at the heart of America.

Within its covers, you will find the simple, sincere nature of country people and the music they treasure. You will find yourself reaching again and again into the pot of *Chicken Soup for the Country Soul* for some "down-home" wisdom and spiritual nourishment.

There are stories by Dolly Parton, Randy Travis, Gary Chapman, Bill Anderson plus many more. An old book, but still fun to read.

Carroll Stewart

Librarian



KATHRYN ISAACS AND MABEL CRABTREE CIRCLE

Ladies, join us on Monday, August 14, at 12:30 p.m. as we gather for lunch at the Open Door Café. We will enjoy our fellowship over a meal, have a brief devotional, prayer, and discussing ideas how to serve and minister to our church and community. By purchasing our meal at Open Door Café, we are helping feed others in our community. Join us!

HOME: Emery Pruett, Jackie Carson, Pamela Clark, Joel Hilton, Jean Moore, Lynn Perry, Lynn and Rick Arnold, Glenna Turner, Eric and Ann Collins, Betty and Dan Robinette, Rick Walker, Bill and Cathy Valley, Tom Collins and family, Missy Throckmorton, Sylvia McGhee



EXTENDED CARE: Marjorie Wassum, Adren Eldridge, Mary Hall, Colleen Dunford, Rosalene "Posey" Heath

FAMILY: Lewis Powell, Almetta Cruff's aunt, Nancy Parks Maye, and friends Jackie, and Travis Robinson; Carolyn Clements' sister-in-law; Carla Estep's son, Christopher Sheppard, and mother, Peggy Asbury; John and Cynthia Willis' children, Noah and Victoria; Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria; Carroll Stewart's brother and his wife, Jimmy and Dee Canada; Lynn Perry's daughter, Cheryl; Eric Garrison's family and friends; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

FRIENDS: Jake Hancock, Sean Smith, Chris, Mark and Mary Boenke's daughter, Bridget; Harold Cochran, Mike and Patty Compton and family; Andrew Wilson, Dawson, Eric J., Bill, Barbara Guy, Bland Ministry Center, the lost, those dealing with addiction, those dealing with depression, Teachers, Students, First Responders, Medical Personnel, Wythe County, our Nation, people in Venezuela and their Pastor, Ramon, and his family; people in Ukraine, Turkey, Syria

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

August 2: Lasagna, Toss Salad, French Bread, and Banana Pudding

August 9: Salad Supper, Chicken, Rolls, Jell-O Salad, 7-Layer Salad, and Ice Cream Sandwich Dessert

August 16: Parmesan Chicken, Green Beans, Rolls, Fruit and Cottage Cheese, and Fruit Cobbler and Ice Cream

August 23: Barbecue and Buns, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, and Chocolate Pound Cake

Aug. 30: Sandwich Supper—Meat, Cheese, Buns, Tomato, Lettuce, Chips, Dip, Veggies, Cookies, and Ice Cream



Meetings

Every Tuesday: A Time of Prayer—10:00 a.m.
Thursday, August 3: WBRBN at Dublin Baptist Church—6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 8: WCMA at St. John Episcopal—8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, August 9: Staff—10:30 a.m.
Monday, August 14: KIMC Circle at Open Door Café—12:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 17: Pastor-Church Relations/Sabbatical—1:30 p.m.



August Birthdays

2. Joe Crowgey
19. Dan Robinette
Bill Lively



DEACON OF THE WEEK

August 6: Jenny Stoker
August 13: Tommy Hilton
August 20: Janet Montgomery
August 27: Delores Nolen

USHERS Team III:

Danny Sowers, Chris Bracknell

TELLERS

Guy Sutphin and Rick Walker

August 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hours Monday thru Thursday—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Friday—Closed</p>		<p>1 10:00am A Time of Prayer 6:30pm Leadership Dinners for WMU Leaders and their spouse or friend: Held at El Ranchero Restaurant, 5239 Alexander Rd, Dublin (near Walmart Supercenter). These dinners are provided by the WBRBN.</p>	<p>2 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 22 in the fellowship hall 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>3 6:30pm WBRBN meeting at Dublin Baptist Church</p>	<p>4 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 <i>Communion Observed Benevolence Offering Received</i> 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall "Spiritual Gifts" 1 Corinthians 12 10:30am Worship Service "Take My Little" Matthew 14:13-21. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>7 </p>	<p>8 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting at St. John's Episcopal Church 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>9 10:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on our <i>Quiet Time with God</i> video 4 and discussion on Hiddenness in the fellowship hall 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall and will study at Ephesians 4:11-16 10:30am Worship Service "Selling the Dreamer" Genesis 37:1-4 and 12-28. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>14 12:30pm KIMC Circle will meet at Open Door Cafe</p>	<p>15  10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>16 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on an introduction to Lectio 365 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall and will study at Romans 12. 10:30am Worship Service "Praising God" Psalm 67. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>23 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation with Missionary Speakers Mike and Monica Brennan in the fellowship hall 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Church Office</p>	<p>26</p>
<p><i>Pastor Tim and DeAnne will be on vacation 8/21 to 27/2023</i></p> 						
<p>27 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall with a guest speaker. 10:30am Worship Service Guest Speaker Rev. Scott Thayer. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p> 	<p>28 3:00pm Discipleship meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Information on the SBC Constitution change followed with questions and discussion in the fellowship hall 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>			