



Wytheville Baptist Church

Volume 71 Number 12 December 2023 *The Beacon*

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PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Are There New Things for You

Recently while reading the Gospel of Matthew, there was a verse that stood out to me. It jumped off the page and grabbed my attention. God asked me a question that I will think about for days. Please take a moment with this one verse before reading the rest of this article.

He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." Matthew 13:52 (NIV)

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205 Church Street
Wytheville VA 24382

**Boldly
offrmed 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
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Cathy Valley, Pianist	228-3712
Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer	228-3712

Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

When reading this verse, God asked me: “Are you just relying on all the old things you have learned or are you open to the new treasures I want to share with you?”

There are many things I have learned about God over the past thirty years in my relationship with God. Most days I stand strongly on the principles I have learned. I review favorite verses, continue spiritual practices that have helped me to grow, and spend each day seeking how God is working around me. If I am honest though, I coast in my relationship with God reviewing all the old treasures I have received from God.

This verse asks me to examine: what are my new treasures from God? Have I found the new treasures God has for me this month? Or did I miss them? It would bother me if I missed these new treasures because I was too busy. So once again I am looking for ways to slow down and seek to see God’s work around me and in me. This means I am evaluating my daily habits and routines to find ways to live life more simply. All this will open opportunities for me to look more deeply at what is right in front of me. It will allow me to contemplate how God is present in each moment sharing new treasures with me.

I would like to encourage you to also look for the new treasures God is sharing with you. It is great to have a firm foundation to stand on. Please do not forget though God wants to build on that foundation by bringing you new treasures.

Because of God’s Love,
Pastor Tim



The Flower Team will order our Christmas Poinsettias from Coulter’s Florist. This year we ordered red poinsettias with two plants per eight inch pot, wrapped in gold foil, and adorned with a red bow. The price will be \$22 per pot. If you would like one or more pots of poinsettias “In Honor Of” or “In Memory Of” someone special, please fill in the form below, earmark your check “poinsettia” and attach it to the completed form. Place your check and completed form in the offering plate or bring them to the church office no later than noon Monday, December 4. We will have a booklet of remembered loved ones on December 10.

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
Monday, December 4.
Please print legibly.

Pastor-Church Relations Team
December 2023

In observance of Pastor Appreciation Day, The Pastor-Church Relations Team sponsored a pot-luck luncheon in honor Pastor Tim and DeAnne following the Worship Service on Sunday, October 29. Delicious food and Christian fellowship were enjoyed by all in attendance. Pastor and DeAnne were presented with cards and love gifts to show our appreciation to them and our thankfulness to God for them.

The team is continuing to study *How to Pray – A Simple Guide For Normal People* by Pete Greig, in order to equip us to lead the congregation in the study during Pastor Tim's Sabbatical. We are finding the book insightful, intriguing, and inspiring. The videos are compelling and challenging. We are even more excited than ever to be able to bring this study to Wytheville Baptist Church. This study is for anyone who desires a deeper relationship with God.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor-Church Relations Team as we search for an Interim Pastor to serve our church during Tim's absence.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Valley



MONETARY GIFTS FOR 2023

If you would like to give your tithes or a monetary gift to WBC and have it documented on your tithe report for 2023, please have your tithes or monetary gifts turned into the church office no later than Wednesday, December 28, by 12:00 p.m. This will allow our Tellers to make a deposit in the bank and our Financial Secretary to enter it on your 2023 tithing report.



NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT FUNCTIONS

Our WBC church family will not have any regular Wednesday night functions on December 27. Enjoy this time with your family.



Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship

JERRY STONE

And even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

1 Peter 1:8b

That is how my heart sings during this beautiful season as we turn our attention to the birth of the Christ Child—our Savior.

Excitement is the word I use while remembering Christmas during my childhood. Dad was a preacher and mom worked in a factory. Things were not easy with five children in the home, but Mom always showed great joy and the true meaning of Christmas to her children. Dad would make sure we received one toy a piece, fruit, nuts, and a little change in our Christmas stockings. We were so excited to rise early in the morning and rush in to find our gifts.

As I grew older and decided to make my own path in the world, Christmas now didn't feel like Christmas. The excitement was gone, and to me, Christmas became a hard and lonesome time. I began to look for satisfaction while making others think I was great by buying presents that I could not afford. I was trying to jump-start joy in my life with parties, so called friends, and alcohol—but it didn't work.

For so many of us today, Christmas is a time of exhaustion, spending too much, heartache, grief, pain or anger. We can easily lose sight of the fact that there is true joy in God's Son who came to this world to step into the mess of our lives and give us hope and joy, no matter what the situation.

(Continued on page 4)

Today, we have numerous lists around that tell us how we can keep Christmas more peaceful and enjoyable. When I came back to my Christian roots, I tried doing what the lists said to do. Starting in September—talk to the family about getting together. Starting in October—check my card list and update it and start baking. Starting in November—make a Christmas dinner list, gift list, create a budget, and start shopping; etc., etc. While these are all good, I found something recently that has fed my heart and soul and has given me more peace and true joy than any list could. With Pastor Tim's leading, I learned Lectio Devina (Divine Reading) and having a quiet time to meditate on God's word and then taking time to be silent to let God speak to me. That is true joy. Now instead of having an enjoyable Christmas, I have a Christmas *overflowing with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause **great joy** for all the people.*

Luke 2:10

I hope and pray that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas full of God's true joy and a Happy New Year overflowing with God's rich mercy, grace, and love.

Joyful in Christ, *Jerry*



Join us on Sunday, December 30, at 10:30 a.m. as we **Praise our Lord with Song**. There will be congregational singing, the Choir will have special singing; we will have trios and soloists and special guests.

Invite someone you would like to introduce to our church. Bring your friends and family. Come looking for a blessing and be a blessing to someone.

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

We will gather in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will give honor to our Savior with songs of the season, remember His birth with the reading of scripture and a devotional, share in Communion, and light our candles. Please make plans to be with us and celebrate the real joy of Christmas.



BLESSINGS FOR TWO SPECIAL LADIES

During the month of December, we will honor two very special ladies, Janet Montgomery and Veronica Lopez. These two ladies have given tirelessly buying and transporting groceries, working in the kitchen, serving food, and cleaning up afterwards. They are always ready to help out anywhere they can in the church. They both continually have a laugh, a smile, and a kind word as they greet you. Please give generously to these two ladies for all they have given to us.

At our FAMILY CHRISTMAS MEAL on Wednesday, December 20, there will be a basket placed at the entrance of the fellowship hall to place cards of love and encouragement for these two ladies. We would like to give back to these ladies in a wonderful way during this very special time of the year. Please help us bless them on December 20.



To the Wytheville Baptist Church Family:

Our church staff thanks everyone for all the prayers, love, support, and encouragement you have shown us this past year. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

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 December

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 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 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 noon. If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please contact Guy and Linda Sutphin.



EAT WITH A PURPOSE!

Start your New Year off right by dining with us at the Open Door Café; Southwest Virginia's first donation-based Café where everyone eats Wythe us. You will be helping end hunger. They offer delicious, affordable, locally sourced meals for everyone regardless of means. Open Door Cafe is open Monday thru Friday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Dine in, call for delivery or schedule catering. Everyone eats Wythe us.



JANUARY 2024 BEACON ARTICLES

All January 2024 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned in to the church office no later than Tuesday, December 11. Thank you for your help in this matter.

MISSION GIVING

This year we will not receive an offering for Lottie Moon, but we do understand there are those who would still like to give to this Mission offering. If you would like to give to Lottie Moon, please send your offering to:

International Mission Board
3806 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23230

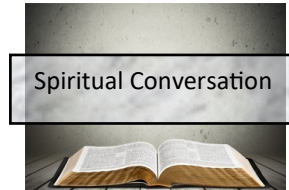
We ask that you participate in giving a Christmas offering to Pastor Ramon Tovar in Maturín, Venezuela. When we give our monthly donation to the Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network, part of this money goes to help support Pastor Ramon. Because of God's faithfulness, Pastor Ramon was able to build a church, God With Us Baptist Church, start a School of Servants launched on August 19, 2023, ministers to the lost throughout the area, and feeds those in the community. We would like to send a special Christmas offering to the Network which will go directly to Pastor Ramon to further his work for the Lord. If you would like to give, please earmark your check, or write on your envelope, Pastor Ramon Tovar by or before Sunday, December 24.



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:

December 6 : Deuteronomy 31
December 13: Deuteronomy 32
December 20: Deuteronomy 33,34
December 27: **No Wednesday Activities**



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.



BLAND MINISTRY CENTER will host the Bible Club at Bland Elementary School on December 13 from 3:45-5:00 p.m. Volunteers to assist with snack time, music, and Bible lesson would be appreciated. Please contact Susan at 276-688-4701 if you're able to help.



KATHRYN ISAACS AND MABEL CRABTREE CIRCLE

The Circle met on Monday, November 13, at 12:30, with 9 ladies participating in the "Brown Bag Luncheon" and Meeting. Chairperson Lynn Arnold welcomed the group, took prayer requests, and Janet Montgomery led the prayer. Lynn presented a devotion entitled, "Salt – You Are Salt".

The ten ladies present on November 6 at The Open Door Café social luncheon reported a time of good fellowship and good food. Ladies, you are welcome to join us for our next Social Luncheon on Monday, December 4, at the Open Door Café. Lynn happily reported that as of November 13 over 500 stamped Christmas Cards had been given for our November Mission Action Project.

The December Meeting will be a "Pot-Luck Dinner/Ornament Exchange" at 6:00 p.m., on Monday, December 11, in Williams Fellowship Hall. We invite all our ladies and their friends or family to join us.

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes

*In Memory of
Norma Jean Wolford*

I have a list of friends I know all written in a book
And every year when Christmas comes I go and take a look

And that is when I realize that these names are a part
Not of the book they're written in but of my very heart

For each name stands for SOMEONE who has crossed my path
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme

And while it may sound fantastic for me to make this claim
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name

And while you may not be aware of any special link
Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think

For once I've met somebody the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face

So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine

Of names upon a Christmas card that is addressed to you
It's 'cause you're on the list of folks that I'm indebted to

For I am but the total of the many folks I've met
And you are one of those that I prefer not to forget

Whether I have known you for many years or just a few
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do

And every year when Christmas comes I realize anew
The best gift life can offer me is meeting folks like you!

Now may the spirit of Christmas that forever endures
Leave richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours all year!

MERRY
* Christmas *

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



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

FAMILY: Delores Nolan's brother, Buddy; Janet Montgomery's sister-in-law, Kay Parrish; Guy and Linda Sutphin's great granddaughter; Lewis Powell, Almetta Cruff's friend, Tracie Dunford's brother; Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria; Carroll Stewart's brother and his wife, Jimmy and Dee Canada; Lynn Perry's daughter, Cheryl; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

FRIENDS: Barbara and Brian Guy, Derek Kitts, Rob and Gale Kern; 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, 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, Hawaiian Island of Maui, Morocco, Libya, Israel, and Palestine.

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.

December 6: Chili, Baked Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Broccoli and Cheese, Chocolate Caramel Cake

December 13: Chicken Casserole, Green Beans, Jell-O Salad, Rolls, Brownies, Ice Cream

December 20: Christmas Dinner: Roast Beef, Ham, Rolls, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli Casserole, Christmas Salad, Christmas Desserts

December 27: *No Wednesday Supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir.*



Merry Christmas



Meetings

Every Tuesday:	A Time of Prayer—10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 7:	P-CR/Sabbatical & Staff—1:30 p.m.
Monday, December 4:	Ladies Social Luncheon—12:30 Open Door Café
Monday, December 11 :	KIMC Circle Christmas Dinner—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 12:	WCMA—8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 13:	Staff—10:30 a.m.
Monday, December 18:	Discipleship—3:00 p.m.



December Birthdays

4: DeAnne Irving	17: Rachel Crowgey
Holly Montgomery	18: Luis Lopez
10: Madeline Catron	26: Phyllis Dillon
13: Rick Walker	



DEACON OF THE WEEK

December 3:	Chris Bracknell
December 10:	Jenny Stoker
December 17:	Tommy Hilton
December 24:	Janet Montgomery
December 31:	Delores Nolan

USHERS Team 3:

Danny Sowers and Chris Bracknell

TELLERS

Janet Montgomery and Gary Taylor

December 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>					1 Church Office Closed	2 8:00am to 2:00pm Williams Fellowship Hall reserved by Janet Montgomery
<p>3 <i>Communion Observed</i> Benevolence Offering Received 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. We are studying Parables in Matthew-Matthew 13:47-52. 10:30am Worship Service "All We Need" 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page. First Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>4  Deadline for all Poinsettia orders 12:30pm Ladies' Social Lunch at the Open Door Café</p>	<p>5 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>6 10:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 31 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>7 1:30pm Pastor-Church Relations/Sabbatical Team and Staff meeting 6:30pm WBRBN meeting at Dublin Church</p>	<p>8 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>9  2:00 to 8:00pm Wytheville Christmas On Main Street</p>
<p>10 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. We are studying Parables in Matthew-Matthew 18:10-14. 10:30am Worship Service "God Waits Patiently" 2 Peter 3:8-15. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook Second Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>11 6:00pm KIMC Circle meeting in the Fellowship Hall. "Pot-Luck Dinner/Ornament Exchange" We invite all our ladies and their friends to join us.</p>	<p>12 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting. 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p> 	<p>13 3:00 to 5:00pm Bland Ministry Center hosting Bible Club at Bland Elementary School 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 32 in the fellowship hall 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. We are studying Parables in Matthew-Matthew 18:21-25. 10:30am Worship Service "The Savior's Role" Isaiah 61:1-4. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page. Third Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>18 3:00pm Discipleship meeting</p>	<p>19 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>20 6:00pm FAMILY CHRISTMAS MEAL 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 33,34 7:45pm Choir Practice</p> 	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 No Principles of Faith today. 10:30am Worship Service "Savior Brings Renewal" Titus 3:4-7. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page. 6:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AND COMMUNION Fourth Sunday of Advent</p> 	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice on this night.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. We are studying Parables in Matthew-Matthew 20:1-16. 10:30am Worship Service 5th Sunday Sing. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page. 5th SUNDAY Singing <i>New Year's Eve</i></p> 				<p><i>New Year's Blessings</i> The Lord bless and keep you...</p> 		