

Wytheville Baptist Church



Volume 71 Number 9 September 2023

The Beacon

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS A New Path Forward

Over a year ago, things began to happen for the future of our church. Dreams, ideas, prayers, and deep listening to God began with small groups of people. Then the Pastor-Church Relations Team began meeting last fall to discern God's message for a time of sabbatical and renewal for the pastor and the church. Through many meetings involving much time, thoughts, prayers, and deep searching they put together an application for a grant from the Lilly Foundation. This application helped us to form a journey of growth for the church through 2024. As September begins, it is time to start acting on plans that were laid out many months ago.

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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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Address Change Requested

(Continued from page 1)

This month, the Pastor-Church Relations Team will begin a search for an Interim Pastor for April-June 2024. They will look for someone who can help the church follow through with our planned study of *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* by Pete Greig. The Interim Pastor will also serve as pastor for all other functions while I am gone on sabbatical. Please be in prayer for the Team as they prayerfully search for the person who can best help us grow during this time.

Also starting on September 7, the Pastor-Church Relations Team plus the Staff will study this book in preparation for facilitating small groups next year. They will read the book, watch the associated videos, and have small group discussions just as the church will next year. This book teaches about deeper dimensions of prayer by using the Lord's Prayer as an outline. As part of the journey, every person in the church will receive a copy of this book next year. Please pray that God will use this study greatly to help them learn and understand more about prayer.

What is your part? In addition to praying for the Interim Pastor search and the Team/Staff as they prepare, you should begin to pray for a personal deeper commitment. The Team/Staff feel very confident that the plans we have assembled are God's desire for the whole church. I am sure this is the path God would love to see us take and grow, as individuals and as a church.

I am also confident the only way it will work is with everyone taking part and learning about prayer more deeply through this God-given journey.

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim



SELECT MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 3, 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 everyone 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:

- Deacons September 12, 6:30 p.m.

- Music Leaders October 3, 6:30 p.m.

- **Bland Ministry Center:** Susan Keene shared that the food home delivery program continues to meet very real needs. Robin, who heads this effort, recently met with an NPR representative to share about the program. She said two of their prayer concerns at this time are: 1) the steps to become independent from the East River Association in October, and 2) the need for cold storage in the warehouse. She expressed appreciation for all the Network does to support their work.

- **WMU:** Martha Damron reported that last year the Network Churches gave 1,505 cards and stamps to the Regional Jail Inmate Christmas Card project. This project has been an ongoing ministry to the Inmates for a number of years, sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union and Women's Ministries of the Network and Highland Association. Now would be a good time to start collecting cards and stamps to be delivered on the first Friday in December for distribution to the inmates. Toni Trueheart, our contact at the jail, tries to give each inmate 3 cards to send home to relatives before the Christmas holiday. There are approximately 800 inmates at the jail, thus needing 2,400 cards.

The Next Bi-monthly Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023

Blessings,
C. F. Damron
Mission Team Coordinator

UPDATE FROM PASTOR-CHURCH RELATIONS TEAM

The Pastor-Church Relations Team resumed meeting in August following a well-deserved break in July. The team has prepared a posting to be sent at the end of August to BAGV and the Network to the effect that we will be seeking a part-time Interim Pastor for Pastor Tim's 12-week Sabbatical Period.

In September through mid-December, Pastor Tim will lead the team, along with WBC staff, in a study of *How to Pray – A Simple Guide for Normal People*, in order to equip us to lead small groups in this course on deepening our relationship with God through prayer during the renewal time for the congregation next spring. We are excited and look forward to beginning this book study. The sessions will meet every 2 weeks.

Thank you to the team and Pastor Tim for your faithful commitment to this effort. And thank you, everyone, for your faithful prayers for us and for this journey we will be taking together.

Sincerely,
Cathy Valley, Chair
Pastor-Church Relations Team

CLERGY RENEWAL GRANT DECISION

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your congregation's proposal to the 2023 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary. Unfortunately, your proposal is not among those selected for funding. We received many outstanding, high-quality proposals and our readers made difficult choices from among them.

Please be aware that we no longer offer feedback about why a proposal was not selected.

We welcome and encourage your congregation to apply again in the future.

Grace and peace,
The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs Team

God promises in His Word:

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.
Deuteronomy 31:8



Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship



JERRY STONE

Lately, I have heard many different people talking about dreamers and God-given dreams. When this happens and the same subject comes from different directions, I always sit up and take note because I feel that God is trying to get my attention.

I was first asked, "What is your dream for the future?" Then it was, "How big can you dream?" Since I have been at WBC our choir has grown, worked hard, and sounds amazing. But my dream for the future is to see the choir grow even more. How big is my dream—the platform filled with people excitedly leading the congregation in worship and filling the sanctuary with harmonious singing; lifting the roof with glorious praises to our Lord. Also, our congregation standing with hearts overflowing with the Holy Spirit, hands lifted high in praise, singing freely in worship to the One who saved us.

My dream does seem "*impossible*" at times because of the pessimistic influence of others, the false idea that it can't be done, the figures don't add up, or the probability of not being able to achieve our dreams weighs us down.

But what would happen if we took the "*impossible*" label off our God-given dreams? What if we declared God's power to fulfill every dream He plants in our hearts? Wouldn't it be amazing? It says in Matthew 19:26—*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

When "*Jesus looked at them,*" is He also looking at us and saying, "I know the plans I have for *you*, for *WBC*, I know what you can accomplish through Me; so dream big!"

Remember, God did not give me or you a God-given dream if He hadn't already given us the gift to fulfill it. *So dream big!*

Dreaming Big! *Jerry*

KATHRYN ISAACS AND MABEL CRABTREE CIRCLE



Look at this beautiful group of ladies that met on August 14 at the Open Door Café. The Opening Prayer was led by Janet Montgomery. Then the group enjoyed a delicious lunch of their choice, plus good fellowship, and a lot of laughter. As the group

adjourned to the outside patio, they were welcomed by Chairperson Lynn Arnold. Carroll Stewart gave a short Devotion entitled "Forgiveness." Lynn led in prayer followed by a discussion concerning those on our prayer list. Janet led in prayer for those mentioned.

The group then considered future opportunities for mission outreach. All the mission suggestions promise an exciting and busy year ahead.

The time for our September 11 meeting will be 12:30 p.m. in Williams Fellowship Hall. Members and guests are to bring a "Brown Bag" lunch. Drinks will be provided. The Mission Action Project for September is Hope Packs and College Cards.

"Christmas in July" was deemed a huge success and the Circle thanks everyone who donated to this mission project. Susan Keene, one of our ladies who works at Bland Ministries, wrote:

"Thank you all for the school supplies collected for our distribution! There were just over 200 students present tonight... here are a few pics!"



THE OPEN DOOR CAFÉ GIFT CARDS

Give: Eat Cards are now available for purchase and redemption in increments of \$10 or more!

Digital: Customize, purchase, and send to recipient(s) online at <https://ow.ly/50hF50PCnLh>

Plastic: Purchase in-store, Monday thru Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Open Door Gift Cards are great gifts for friends and neighbors. Purchase cards, hand them out to neighbors in need, or leave them with us to pay it forward. Give the gift of great food with a purpose for holidays, birthdays, raffles, prizes, or employee rewards/appreciation.



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 September

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 month of 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.

OCTOBER 2023 BEACON ARTICLES

All October 2023 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Thursday, September 14. Thank you for your help in this matter.

We are blessed!

Meet our newest members.

George (Sonny) and Cindy Archer

Joined August 30, 2023

Thank you Lord for this blessing.



ARE YOU READY FOR OUR ANNUAL CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC

The Fellowship Team invites our WBC family and friends to a day of fellowship at Claytor Lake Baptist Camp on Sunday afternoon, September 10. If you would prefer, meet at the church at 2:00 p.m. and caravan to the lake, carpooling is suggested, or you can meet us down at the campgrounds. The lake is available for fishing. There will be games including horseshoes and cornhole boards. At 5:30 we will have a meal together. The church will provide Barbecue and drinks. Please bring a side dish and dessert to complement the meal. At 6:30 we will have a short vesper service.

Directions: Take I-81 N to Exit 98, at the stop sign turn right onto Cleburne Blvd./Old Route 100 Rd., turn left onto Hence Rd., turn left onto Davis Rd., turn left onto Newbern Rd./Wilderness Rd., turn right at Towes Ferry Rd and go to the end of this road, take a right into the Baptist Camp.

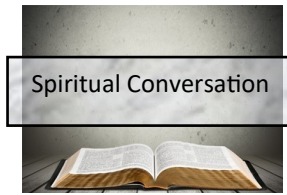
*Put the following address in your GPS/Phone:
4337 Towes Ferry Rd, Dublin, VA 24084
This will get you to the end of the road.
Take a right into the Baptist Camp.*



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:

- September 6: Deuteronomy 23
- September 13: Video 5 and Discussion on "Mission"
- September 20: Deuteronomy 24
- September 27: Deuteronomy 25



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 Pre-schoolers at 6:45 p.m. in the nursery.



Labor Day is rooted in the late nineteenth century when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. In observance of

Labor Day, Monday, September 4, the church office will be closed.

Please thank and recognize those working in various businesses with a kind word, a prayer, and appreciation for their work. You never know what they are going through and what your thoughtful words mean to them.

Anxiety weighs down the heart but a kind word cheers it up. Proverbs 12:25



ALMA HUNT OFFERING
for Virginia Missions



ALMAHUNT.ORG

September 10-17, 2023

Our Church Goal \$500

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



Death and the Life After by Billy Graham.

If you knew, in advance, the moment of your death, would you order your life differently?

Our culture trains us to prepare for almost everything but death. Fear and denial are common human responses to the subject. What awaits us beyond this life? Is it a journey into the unknown, or a glorious, Spiritual pilgrimage to eagerly anticipate?

In this book, Billy Graham answers these and more, addressing such complex modern-day issues as euthanasia, suicide, and living wills. Dr. Graham objectively and compassionately:

- ◆ Shares biblical secrets to finding peace in victory in the midst of suffering.
- ◆ Presents real-life testimonies of courageous men and women facing death.
- ◆ Answers questions about the process of dying.
- ◆ Teaches practical, loving ways to comfort those who are facing death.
- ◆ Gives practical advice on preparing a will and planning a funeral.

Dr. Graham helps you find peace, assurance, triumph, and even humor in a subject that is important to everyone.

Carroll Stewart

Librarian

HOME: Jane Crowgey, Dee Nolan, Gary Taylor, 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: Janet Montgomery’s sister-in-law, Kay Parrish; Guy and Linda Sutphin’s great granddaughter; Lewis Powell, Almetta Cruff’s aunt, Nancy Parks Maye; Carla Estep’s son, Christopher Sheppard and his family, and her mother, Peggy Asbury; John and Cynthia Willis’ son, Noah; 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: 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, 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, Hawaiian Island of Maui

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.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Emery Pruett and his family upon the passing of his brother-in-law, John Mundy.

The family and friends of Mabeline Robinson upon her passing.

Janet Montgomery and her family upon the passing of her brother-in-law, Jerry Morgan.



September 6: Broccoli Cheddar Chicken, Confetti Cole Slaw, Rolls, Brownies and Ice Cream



September 13: Tacos, Refried Beans, Mexican Rice, Tomatoes, Lettuce, Chips, Cheese, Guacamole, Apricot Pound Cake

September 20: Stuffed Shells and Cheese, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Cookies and Ice Cream

September 27: Baked Potato, Chili, Broccoli, Cheese, Chips, Crackers, Chocolate Caramel Cake

Meetings

Every Tuesday:	A Time of Prayer—10:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 7:	PCR/Sabbatical & Staff—1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 12:	WCMA—8:00 a.m.
Wednesday, September 13:	Staff —10:30 a.m.
Monday, September 11 :	KIMC Circle at WBC—12:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 21:	PCR/Sabbatical & Staff—1:30 p.m.
Monday, September 25:	Discipleship—3:00 p.m.

September Birthdays

1 Victoria Willis	22 Lisa Crowgey
2 Russ Throckmorton	25 Cindy Booher
4 Timothy Burke	27 Aaron Crowgey
18 Dede Cresap	
Colleen Dunford	
Jim Spraker	



DEACON OF THE WEEK

September 3: Janet Montgomery
 September 10: Chris Bracknell
 September 17: Jenny Stoker
 September 24: Tommy Hilton








USHERS Team III:

Gary Taylor, Billie Taylor, Glenna Turner

TELLERS

Janet Montgomery and Gary Taylor

September 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
<p>3 Communion Observed Benevolence Offering Received</p> <p>9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall “Your Spiritual Gifts Assessment” 10:30am Worship Service “A Different Understanding” Matthew 16:21-28. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>LABOR DAY</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>6 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 23 in the fellowship hall</p> <p>7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>7 Pastor-Church Relations/ Sabbatical Team and Staff meeting at 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>  <p>Church Picnic</p> <p>9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. We will discuss the SBC Constitutional change followed with your questions. 10:30am Worship Service “Applied Blood” Exodus 12:1-14. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube 2:00pm Leaving church for the Church-Wide Family Picnic at Claytor Lake Baptist Camp</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:30pm KIMC Circle will meet in WBC’s fellowship hall. Bring your Brown Bag Lunch.</p>	<p>12 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting. 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p> <p>6:30pm Leadership Dinners for Deacons held at El Ranchero Restaurant, 5239 Alexander Rd, Dublin (near Walmart Supercenter). These dinners are provided by the WBRBN.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:30am Staff meeting</p> <p>6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:45pm Spiritual Conversation in the fellowship hall on our <i>Quiet Time with God</i> video 5 and discussion on “Mission” 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>DEADLINE: Newsletter Articles</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>16</p> 
<p>Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions 9/10—17/2023</p>						
<p>17 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall. 10:30am Worship Service “Knowing the Works” Psalm 114. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 24 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Pastor-Church Relations/ Sabbatical Team and Staff meeting at 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Church Office</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00 to 10:00am Principles of Faith meets in the fellowship hall 10:30am Worship Service “When God has Mercy” Jonah 3:10-4:11. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:00pm Discipleship meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>27 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper in the Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Deuteronomy 25 7:45pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>30</p>