



Wytheville Baptist Church

The Beacon

Volume 72 Number 1 January 2024

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Something New

With a new year comes a new path for everyone at Wytheville Baptist. Soon we begin our Lenten journey toward Easter. Easter is the celebration of God's victory over death with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. My prayer is that you will participate in the Soup and the Word luncheons hosted by different churches to prepare yourself anew for Easter morning. Then Easter Monday, my sabbatical starts.

This will be a time of renewal and re-creation not only for me but also for the church. I do not know what to expect in many ways for my journey during these three months. I have spent time each week over the past 25 years preparing sermons, Bible studies, Sunday School lessons, and small group meetings. All these things will be set aside

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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

Wytheville Baptist Church..... 228-3712
E-mail Address, Office..... wythevillebaptist@gmail.com
..... wythevillebaptist@yahoo.com
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)

for a time of deeper personal spiritual journey. This is different because at times I have often helped other people on their journeys before attending to my journey. Being able to spend each day drawing closer to God without all the other preparations will be something I have not experienced in a long time.

The church will also have the opportunity for renewal by studying a book about prayer. The Pastor-Church Relations Team and the Staff spent this past fall preparing to lead and guide you through this time. A one-day retreat is planned to begin the time at the Loretto Mansion. Kerra English, a pastor, and spiritual director from the Richmond area, will lead the retreat. She was on the staff at the Spiritual Directors school I attended from 2014-2016. I know you will enjoy and be challenged by what she shares with you. Then each Wednesday at 6:45 PM, the church will watch a video about prayer and then move into a small group to discuss the video and experience the type of prayer discussed. These videos will also be shown on Sunday mornings at 9 AM for those who cannot make Wednesday evenings. If you have questions about these activities, please contact a member of the Pastor-Church Relations Team or Staff.

When I return in July, times will be scheduled for us to share our experiences during the sabbatical. I expect us to find a great common ground that will allow us to take a deeper journey as a community of faith. The Team, Staff, and I believe God is leading us into a revival and greater influence in our town and community.

Please be in prayer about the commitment God is asking for you to make to this important time of revival. If each one of us makes ourselves fully available to God, we will see a powerful work of God in and through us.

Because of God's Love,

Pastor Tim



WESTERN BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST NETWORK WEB SITE:

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

- ◆ The next bi-monthly meeting is February 1, 2023
VENEZUELA MINISTRY: Charles Damron shared that we received an email with prayer requests, pictures and videos of recent activities received from Pastor Ramon and translated by Cheryl Jones. Pastor Ramon always stresses how appreciative he is for the Network's prayers and financial support.
- ◆ **BLAND MINISTRY CENTER:** Dee Dee Hoosier emailed the following report: "We are preparing for our food box distribution. We will be handing out 600 food boxes next week. During the month of November 731 food boxes were distributed out of the food pantry, there were 43 families from Pulaski, Giles, and Montgomery receiving food. The home food delivery program is growing. We currently have 46 families receiving home delivery every month. The grant for this program will be ending in March, but we have already received funding to help with it next year. We are still waiting to hear from the federal grant for the new dental clinic. Susan Keene and I attended the BGAV annual meeting in Richmond. The transition to being an independent 501c3 is still ongoing. The wheels of lawyers move slowly. We are hopeful to at least have the transfer of property completed by the end of January. We thank the WBRBN for increasing the giving to Bland Ministry Center for the upcoming year.

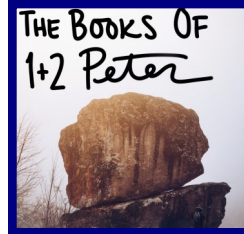
As we look forward to the future, please continue to pray for our Network churches and our country.

In His service, Charles Damron,
Moderator/Director
Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Please join us at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall as we begin our Spiritual Conversation on the 1 and 2 Peter. The schedule is:

January 3: No Spiritual Conversation tonight
January 10: Introduction to the Books of Peter
January 17: Quarterly Business Conference
January 24: 1 Peter 1
January 31: 1 Peter 2



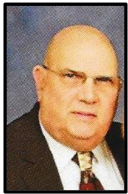
We hope you will join us as we study the Bible and how we can apply God's Word to our lives.



Pastor-Church Relations Team Report

Happy New Year! The Pastor-Church Relations Team completed the wonderful study How to Pray a simple guide for normal people, by Pete Greig, in December and we can't wait to share it with you in the Spring. We all learned so much about getting in touch with God Who is speaking to us, and how to hear God's voice through an in-depth study of the Lord's prayer.

How to Pray is an easy-to-read and easy-to-put-into-practice guide to help you establish a daily discipline of effective prayer. We will be able to supply the books to each member at no charge.



After much thoughtful prayer and discussion, the team approved Rev. Bill Lively as Interim Pastor for the 13-week period of Pastor Tim's Sabbatical and the church's renewal. A motion will be presented to the church for approval at the January Business Conference to call Rev. Lively to the Interim Pastor position.

We wish to thank the congregation for your continued prayers for the Pastor-Church Relations Team, and for your very generous contributions to the Sabbatical and Renewal fund.

The Pastor-Church-Relations Team will meet on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 1:30 P.M. at Wytheville Baptist Church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Valley



JERRY STONE

2024 is upon us and many people are actively making their New Year's resolutions. Some express the need to do more exercise, some want to eat healthier, some want to make more and save more money, some want to obtain a new car or house, and some...

My new year's resolution is—every day that God gives me, I want to always be discerning of where God is at work. I want to be part of God's plan to be His disciple. I want to be watchful not only of the huge miracles God gives but also of the small blessings God sends every day. I also want to be in God's Word daily.

In my daily reading, I walked with Jacob in Genesis 28:10-22 as he leaves Beersheba and sets out for Harran. I can feel and smell the dry desert air, the hot sand beneath my feet, and how Jacob begins to tire. As the sun sets and the air cools, Jacob finds a place to sleep for the night. He takes a rock and puts it under his head to sleep—that doesn't sound comfortable to me, but I guess that's all he had. Jacob begins to dream; God steps in and interrupts his dream. God blesses and encourages him. When Jacob awakes, he thinks, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

If I become complacent or satisfied with where I am with the Lord, I pray that God will step in and interrupt my self-centeredness letting me know He is present and active in my life even when I am unaware of Him. God, help me realize how awesome this is and help me to live in it. I pray that through the Holy Spirit I will always be aware that God is with me, will watch over me wherever I go, and will not leave me until God has done what He has promised me.

My question to you is where will you find God this year?

In God's Hands, *Jerry*

Thank you to our two new Deacons that have taken on a commitment to serve until the end of 2026.



Lynn Arnold



Eric Crowgey

Please keep all our Deacons in your prayers.

Thank you to Tommy Hilton and Janet Montgomery for serving their commitments as Deacons as they rotate off this Team. You are an integral part of our church body and greatly loved.



DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE

On Sunday, January 21, 2024, we will install our new Deacon, Lynn Arnold, during our Deacon Ordination Service. We are seeking God's blessing on Lynn as she takes her position as servant of the church.



QUARTERLY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Please join us for the Quarterly Business Conference Wednesday, January 17, at 6:45 p.m. in Williams Fellowship Hall as we conduct the business of the church.



CHURCH CLOSING DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

When inclement weather hits our area, Pastor Tim in conjunction with the Deacons will make a decision about whether or not to cancel worship service in order to keep everyone safe. If the worship service is canceled, an announcement will be sent out by email, it will be sent to the TV channels WDBJ 7 and WSLS 10 for airing, and this announcement will also be on the church's Facebook page.

To Our Wonderful Church Family,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls. We are doing well in our new surroundings and being remembered by our church family helps greatly with the transition.

We love everyone of you and hope you had a wonderful Christmas and will have a blessed New Year filled with God's rich blessings.

Love to you all,
Joe and Jane Crowgey

Dear Wytheville Church,

Thank you very much for your generous Fruit Basket. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and consideration for me. I am grateful for your generosity.

Much Love,
Lydia Troy

Dear WBC Family,

Thank you to everyone who blessed Veronica and myself with gifts of love on Wednesday night, December 20. It is a blessing to be remembered in such a special way. We hope you all have a wonderful New Year and we are looking forward to see you on Wednesday nights in the coming year.

Love to you all,
Janet Montgomery



FEBRUARY 2022 BEACON ARTICLES

All February 2022 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Wednesday, January 19. 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 January.

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.



where everyone belongs

Mission

Breaking generational poverty through enhanced food security and housing affordability

OPEN DOOR CAFÉ

EVERYONE EATS WYTHE US
CHEF PREPARED & SERVED WITH LOVE



AGAPE FOOD PANTRY

YOU CAN HELP



Please bring canned fruits and vegetables for the months of January, 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.

RECORDS OF CONTRIBUTION

You will receive your record of contribution for 2023 by January 30, 2024. If you do not receive your statement, or if there are any errors, please contact our Financial Secretary, Ty King .



TITHING ENVELOPES

Our Offering Envelopes for 2024 will be ready for pick-up the latter part of January. The boxes of envelopes will be placed on the table in the main hallway by the church office door. The boxes will be in numerical order and an alphabetical list of names will be provided with assigned envelope numbers. Please note your box number may have changed from last year. If you cannot find your box or do not have an assigned tithing number and would like one, please contact the church office at 228-3712.



PRAYER LIST

Our prayer list published in our Wednesday night prayer sheet and Beacons has become very long. Some on our prayer list have inadvertently been left on the list after our prayers for them have been answered. Therefore, we will purge the list and start fresh. We ask you to carefully look over the list of names and if there is someone you would like left on the prayer list, please call the church office. All other names will be removed from the list on Friday, January 15 and a new list will be published in our Wednesday Prayer List on January 17 .

We thank everyone who sacrificially stood in the gap for others.

Thank you to everyone who gave Christmas cards and stamped envelopes for the inmates at the New River Correctional Center. This allowed the inmates to send a Christmas card to their loved ones. WBC gave 724 cards and stamped envelopes. Thank you for extending a hand of Christian love to others.



Thank you to a group of WBC folks and friends who blessed many, many spectators during the Wytheville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2023. This group of folks gave out 225 cups of free hot chocolate with marshmallows. The cups were marked with a sticker that read, "Jesus is the reason for the season." These volunteers were Chris and Rhonda Bracknell, Veronica Lopez, and Guy and Linda Sutphin. Thank you for reaching out to others and showing the love of Jesus.



Thank you to Chris and Rhonda Bracknell, Pastor Tim and DeAnne Irving, Roger Hudson, Roger and Carolyn Clements, Gary and Billie Taylor, and Guy and Linda Sutphin for helping raise money for the Salvation Army by Bell Ringing at Wytheville Walmart on Saturday, December 15. What a blessing they were.



Thank you to all who served in any capacity on a Team in 2023. Your service was invaluable. We thank each one for your time and effort in helping WBC grow and reach out to our community. We pray for the new Teams as they begin their service for God and WBC in 2024. May God bless each one for your support.

**THANK YOU TEAMS FOR TAKING CARE OF
WHAT GOD HAS INTRUSTED TO WBC.**

The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



“Good Friends are like quilts—they age with you,
yet never lose their warmth.”

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world, too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it, if I choose to read, or play on the computer, until 4 a.m., or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50s, 60s and 70s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And, eventually, I remember the important things. Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine, and sterile, and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

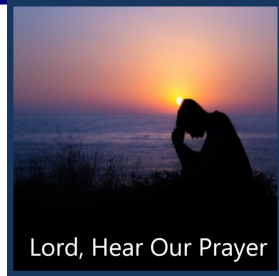
As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

Carroll Stewart, Librarian



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



Lord, Hear Our Prayer

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

FAMILY: Glenna Turner's daughter, Tanya Bridges; Roger and Carolyn Clements' oldest son; Cindy Archer's sister-in-law; Delores Nolan's brother, Buddy; Janet Montgomery's sister-in-law, Kay Parrish; Lewis Powell, Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria; Carroll Stewart's brother and his wife, Jimmy and Dee Canada, and Carroll's brother-in-law; Lynn Perry's daughter, Cheryl; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

FRIENDS: Josh Hulette, 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.



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO:

Daniel Burke and his family upon the passing of his mother, Nellie Burke.

Bill and Cathy Valley and their family upon the passing of Bill's cousin.

January 3: No Supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice.



January 10: Pinto Beans, Corn Bread, Cole Slaw, Mac and Cheese, Apricot Pound Cake.

January 17: Chicken Parmesan, Green Beans, Rolls, Confetti Cole Slaw, Brownies, and Ice Cream.

January 24: Lasagna, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Banana Pudding.

January 31: Veggie Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Dip, Veggies, Crackers, Chips, Cookies, and Ice Cream.



Meetings

- Wednesday, January 10: Staff—10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 16: Deacons'—1:00 p.m. at the church
- Wednesday, January 17: Quarterly Business Conference—6:45 p.m.
- Thursday, January 18: Pastor-Church Relations Team—1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 22: Discipleship—3:00 p.m.



January Birthdays

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Maria Stoker | 10 | Pastor Tim Irving |
| 4 | Lynn Arnold | | Mary Hall |
| 5 | Carla Estep | 15 | Jerry Stone |
| | Chris Bracknell | 16 | Cynthia Inman-Willis |
| | Glenna Turner | 23 | Linda Lively |
| | John Claypool | 26 | Rick Tucker |
| 6 | Paula Moore | 27 | Jonathan Stoker |
| | Jesus Alfredo Esquivel | 28 | Adren Eldridge |
| | | 31 | Cathy Valley |



DEACON OF THE WEEK

- January 7: Jenny Stoker
- January 14: Lynn Arnold
- January 21: Eric Crowgey
- January 28: Delores Nolan



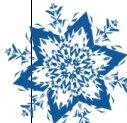
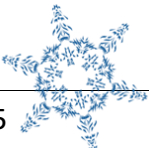

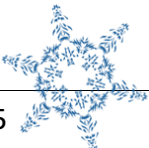




USHERS Team IV:

Gary Taylor, Billie Taylor
Glenna Turner

TELLERS

Guy Sutphin and Rick Walker

JANUARY 2024

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—9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</p>	<p>1 </p>	<p>2  10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>3 No Wednesday Night Supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice</p>	<p>4 </p>	<p>5 Church office closed</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Communion Observed Benevolence Offering Received 9:00am Principles of Faith 10:30am Worship Service “Receiving the Holy Spirit” Acts 19:1-7 and Communion. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>8 No Women’s Luncheon this month. </p>	<p>9 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>10 10:30am Staff meeting 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Introduction to the Books of Peter 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>11 </p>	<p>12 Church office closed</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:00am Principles of Faith 10:30am Worship Service “We are The Temple of God” 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>15 No KIMC Circle meeting this month. </p>	<p>16 10:00am A Time of Prayer 1:00pm Deacons’ meeting at the church</p>	<p>17 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Quarterly Business Conference in the sanctuary 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>18  1:30pm Pastor-Church Relations Team meeting.</p>	<p>19 Church office closed </p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 Deacon Ordination Service 9:00am Principles of Faith 10:30am Worship Service “Find Rest in God” Psalm 62. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>22 3:00pm Discipleship meeting</p>	<p>23 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>24 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on 1 Peter 1 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Church office closed</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:00am Principles of Faith 10:30am Worship Service “Power Over Evil” Hebrews 2:14-18. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page or Wytheville Baptist Church YouTube</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 10:00am A Time of Prayer</p>	<p>31 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on 1 Peter 2 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	