



# Wytheville Baptist Church

*The Beacon* Volume 72 Number 3 March 2024

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

### How Do You Define Prayer?

A neighbor approaches and asks, "What is prayer?" How do you answer your neighbor? Take a moment and answer this question. The simplest answer: It is a conversation with God. The next question: "What topics are in this conversation?" A common answer: "I speak to God about the things of this world that need fixing." For a lot of people, this is prayer.

Bringing requests to God should be only a small part of prayer. Prayer of this type is one-way communication, and this is not a conversation with God. It is like a small child constantly asking for something repeatedly. Prayer time should include time to allow God to speak to us. A Christian life that cannot hear God speak will be a sad and frustrating jour-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS

- Pg. 1-2 Pastor's Notes
- Pg. 3 Prayer Retreat & PCR Team
- Pg. 4-5 Music Notes
- Pg. 6 Soup & the Word & Easter Schedule
- Pg. 7 Monthly Schedule
- Pg. 8-9 Calendar
- Pg. 10 Prayer Requests & 5th Sunday Sing Worship Service
- Pg. 11 Library Notes
- Pg. 12-13 Outreach
- Pg. 14 Spiritual Conversation & Circle of Light
- Pg. 15 Circle of Hope & WBRBN



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

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

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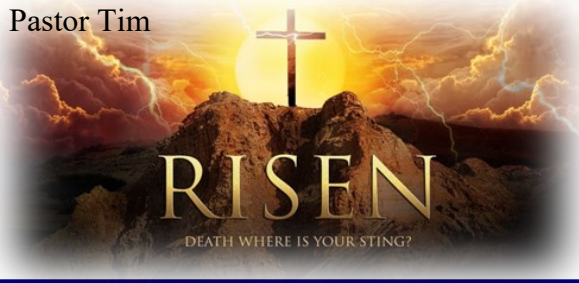
ney. Then prayer should also include adoration, contemplation, confession, and reconciliation. The best form of prayer is a conversation with God that continues throughout the better part of your day.

If your definition of prayer does not include all these pieces, there is an opportunity for you to learn more about prayer soon. April 13 at the Loretto Historic Mansion, the church is sponsoring a retreat about prayer, lunch is included. Kerra English, a friend from Spiritual Directors School, is coming to share about prayer. I have seen her outline for the retreat, and it is wonderful! This one-day retreat begins three months of focus on learning about prayer. A church-wide study of the book *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* by Pete Greig will meet on Sundays at 9 AM and Wednesdays at 6:45 PM. The church has purchased the book for you already. You will only need to attend one of the sessions each week. During each session, a 15 to 20-minute video will be followed by a time of small group discussion. The Pastor-Church Relations Team and the Staff studied this book last fall. They are prepared to walk with you into a deeper understanding of prayer.

I look forward to this time and pray that it will be a rich experience for you. If you attend the retreat and the sessions, I know you will bring away a much deeper understanding of prayer. I also believe you will be able to hear God's voice, guidance, and direction more each day. Please make plans to attend now.

Because of God's Love,

Pastor Tim



## CIRCLE OF HOPE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our new Women's Ministry Circle, which was appropriately named Circle of Hope met Monday, February 12, at 6:30 p.m. There were eleven women present. Susan opened the meeting in prayer and a devotion. Circle of Hope will work hand-in-hand with Circle of Light to bring hope and light to our community.

Our first mission project is to provide hygiene care packs for Open Door Community and to be a part Circle of Light's Mission Action Project of helping at Bland Ministry on March 13.

We invite all our ladies and their friends to join us in this ministry of helping others.



**WESTERN BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST NETWORK WEB SITE:**  
<http://westernblueridge.wix.com/baptistnetwork>

- ◆ The next bi-monthly meeting is 6:30 p.m. on April 4, 2023.
- ◆ .RU BCM – Chris Leeper said we are getting off to a great start. Prior members of the BCM are inviting new students to come and participate in the different events of the BCM. They are seeking opportunities to share Jesus with their friends. Chris works as a volunteer assistant tennis coach and had a student approach him to help him with a problem. He will be working with him to get an issue settled and hopefully be able to share the Gospel with him. During spring break the RU BCM will be sending 8 to 10 students to work with the Purdue BCM in Chicago and Richmond, KY.

Respectfully submitted by Charles Damron,  
filling in for Linda Lively, Secretary



## SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

Please join us at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall as we begin our Spiritual Conversation on 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. The schedule is:

March 6 : 2 Peter 1

March 12: 2 Peter 2

March 19: 2 Peter 3

March 26: Questions and Answers meeting pertain to the Sabbatical and Prayer Study.



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

## CIRCLE OF LIGHT WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Circle met on Monday, February 12, at 12:30 p.m. in Williams Fellowship Hall. Fourteen Ladies participated in our "Brown Bag Luncheon." Chairperson Lynn Arnold welcomed the group, took prayer concerns, prayed, and gave a devotion pertaining to Lent. There were ten ladies who attended the Social Luncheon at Open Door Café on Monday February 5.

During the month of February the Circle sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring asking everyone to bring cans of soup to help feed the hungry. They also decorated and brought food for Soup and the Word hosted by WBC on Tuesday, February 20.

The next Women's Social Luncheon will be Monday, March 4, at Open Door Café at 12:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be on Monday, March 11, at 12:30 p.m.

The Mission Action Project for March is Bland Ministry. In lieu of a money donation, the group will meet on Wednesday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m. for a work day at the Mission. Bring your Brown Bag Lunch.



## REV. KERRA ENGLISH TO LEAD PRAYER RETREAT AT LORETTO MANSION

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, Rev. Kerra English will come to Wytheville to lead the congregation of Wytheville Baptist Church in a Prayer Retreat at Loretto Mansion. The retreat will be from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM with lunch provided. Rev. English is both a spiritual director and Presbyterian Pastor. Currently she is pastor at Forest Hill Presbyterian church in Richmond, Virginia, but she has also served congregations in Ashland, Virginia; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Altoona, Pennsylvania. Kerra and her husband Chuck have a grown son, Cade, who is a Chemist, and a daughter, Ryleigh, who is in her high school's Baking Arts program. Kerra believes that curiosity is our innate spiritual gift as human beings, and that those who are both curious and compassionate will always find themselves close to the light and love of God. Kerra enjoys the music of Bon Jovi but is a huge Parrothead! (Jimmy Buffett fan, may he rest in peace) You'll hopefully find some fun song lyric "Easter eggs" throughout our time together.

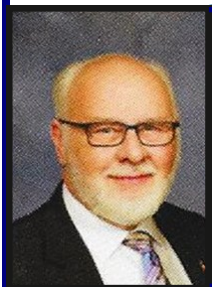
## PASTOR – CHURCH RELATIONS TEAM REPORT MARCH 2024

We are so excited about the upcoming events around WBC's Renewal, and a little sad about Pastor Tim's Sabbatical. We are excited about the opportunities he and DeAnne will have for growth and enrichment through rest, recreation, retreats, and travel. On Sunday, March 24, PCR Team will give Pastor Tim a "Sabbatical Sendoff," as we welcome Rev. Bill and Linda Lively to the position of Interim

*(Continued on page 4)*

Pastor and wife. The Worship Service will be followed by a pot-luck luncheon in Williams Fellowship Hall in honor of these faithful servants. The Sabbatical will begin April 1. The prayer study, How to Pray, a Prayer Guide for Normal People by Pete Greig, will begin with Session 1 on Sunday, April 21, and Wednesday Evening, April 24. The study will end on June 26. The church will provide a book for everyone, to be distributed at the Retreat on April 13. Those who cannot attend can pick up a book Sunday April 14 through Thursday April 18 in the church office. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these wonderful events. Thank you for your continued support of and your prayers for our Pastor and this team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Valley, Chair



## Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship



### Jerry Stone



*Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place;  
Holy Spirit Thou art welcome in this place.  
Omnipotent Father of Mercy and Grace  
Thou art welcome in this place.*



Oh! Hello again. Sorry, I didn't hear you turn the page. I was taking time to read scripture and became lost in the wonderful and awesome presence of God and then I began to praise Him in song. What a humbling place to be. A place

*(Continued on page 5)*

### OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY



*where everyone belongs*

At Open Door Community, we believe food access, safe shelter, and affordable housing are universal human rights. Walk Wythe us to end homelessness and childhood hunger for individuals so they can shift from survival to thriving.

Ending Homelessness - Your gifts help end homelessness in our community using the "Housing First" approach. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "Housing First is a homeless assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life." Every local \$1 raised helps leverage \$4 more dollars in federal and state housing assistance funds.

Fighting Childhood Hunger - We believe there will be a day when we celebrate the end of hunger in our community. Help reach that day! Join the fight to help end hunger in our community by creating a team and inviting your friends. Gifts of all sizes add up and make a major collective impact in the fight against hunger. Every \$5 provides one weekend meal pack for local children.

Open Door Community is a nonprofit serving the Mount Rogers region that breaks generational poverty through enhanced food security and housing affordability.

Spread the Word of God by telling others to listen to the Sunday morning message by logging onto:

[www.wythevillebaptist.org](http://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. Thank you to Gary Carson for providing this link.





### 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 Open Door Community to help those in our 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.*

YOU CAN HELP



### 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.

### APRIL 2024 BEACON ARTICLES

All April 2024 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Thursday, March 14. Thank you for your help in this matter.

filled with peace, comfort, and assurance—also with times of conviction and turning from my sins.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says,

*“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”*

Those words left me speechless and I began to sing *“Holy Spirit Thou Art welcome in this place.”* I welcome the Holy Spirit not only into my heart and life but also into my home and our church services. I am amazed that God would make me, a simple man, with all my faults and failures a temple—we, as Christians, **are** a temple of the Holy Spirit—that is totally breathtaking and beyond wonderful.

In the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament, it says the temple was a structure where the Israelites would meet with God. This was a holy place where they would make sacrifices, pray, and worship. To the Israelites this meant that God was with his people.

Today, because of the ultimate price Jesus paid for our sins, we don't have to go to a specified building to meet with God. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit who leads, guides, directs, and intercedes for us. The God given Holy Spirit that **lives within us**. HALLELUJAH! Makes me want to shout to the glory of God.

At this very meaningful time of the year, give praise and thanks to God who gave us His Son, to Jesus who gave of Himself for our eternal salvation, and the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Always remember—**YOU**—are precious, blessed, and wonderfully made because the King of Glory has made His home in you through the Holy Spirit!

Because He Lives, *Jerry*

## SOUP AND THE WORD

Soup and the Word is a special time to bring Christian brothers and sisters together from different churches in the area. We gather on Tuesdays at 12:00 noon for a song of praise, a brief devotional reminding us of the price Jesus paid for us, and then a lite lunch of hot soup and sandwiches. The remaining dates and locations are as follows:

- March 5      Soup & the Word – Mt. Pleasant UMC – 12 Noon  
March 12     Soup & the Word – St. John's Episcopal – 12 Noon  
March 19     Soup & the Word – Wytheville Presbyterian – 12 Noon  
March 26     Soup & the Word—St. Paul UMC—12 Noon



**Palm Sunday, March 24**

**Easter Morning, Sunday, March 31**

**7:00 a.m.**—Easter Sunrise Service at Wytheville Baptist Church with special guest speaker, Rev. John Langham, Pastor of Wytheville Presbyterian; followed with breakfast in WBC's Williams Fellowship Hall.

No Principles of Faith

**10:30 a.m.**—Easter Worship Service at Wytheville Baptist Church. Bring your family and friends!



**RISEN**  
DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING?

## The Nellie Bausell Library Notes



### YOUR GIFT

The Lord has given you a talent.....  
Though in some areas you may lack.  
There is a skill at which you excel  
One thing for which you have a knack.

Your gift may not be evident yet  
Your ability may seem unclear.  
But the Lord will make it plain  
Soon your gift will appear.

Your talent might look unimportant  
It may not bring fortune or acclaim.  
But if you use it wisely  
God's favor will be your fame.

Stay on the path you've chosen  
From God's direction do not drift.  
In life you do not walk unarmed  
For God has given you a gift.

~Spiritual Arts~



Use Your  
**GIFTS**  
to glorify  
God

Carroll Stewart,  
Librarian



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



**EXTENDED CARE:** Rick Arnold, Emery Pruett, Dolores Dove, Joe and Jane Crowgey, Marjorie Wassum, Adren Eldridge, Mary Hall, Colleen Dunford

**FAMILY:** Almetta Cruff's brother, David; Glenna Turner's daughter, Tanya Bridges; Lynn Arnold's friend, Cathy; Cathy Valley's son-in-law, Tom and friend, Cathy Bloomfield; Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria; Lynn Perry's daughter, Cheryl; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

**FRIENDS:** Berry Collins' granddaughter, Sierra; Jack Quesenberry, Bryan and Cheryl Walker, Barbara and Brian Guy, Jake Hancock, 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.



Our 5th Sunday Sing will be held on Sunday, March 17. We will all sing Praises to God and also be blessed by special music. Invite your family and friends as we glorify our Lord with music.

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*

*Psalm 95:1*

**March 6:** Broccoli Cheddar Chicken, Fruit Salad, Cottage Cheese, Rolls, Chocolate Pound Cake



**March 13:** Stuffed Shells and Cheese, Tossed Salad, French Bread, Banana Pudding.

**March 20:** Veggie Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Veggies, Dip, Crackers, Chips, Apricot Pound Cake

**March 27:** Ham, Biscuits, Potato Salad, Deviled Eggs, Green Beans, Ice Cream Sandwich Dessert

## Meetings

- Monday, March 4: Ladies' Luncheon at Open Door Café—12:30 p.m.
- Monday, March 11: Circle of Light—12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall
- Monday, March 11: Circle of Hope—6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall
- Wednesday, March 13: Staff—10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, March 14: Pastor-Church Relations Team—1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 25: Discipleship—3:00 p.m.

## March Birthdays

- |    |                |  |    |                    |
|----|----------------|--|----|--------------------|
| 3  | George Archer  |  | 11 | Carolyn Clements   |
| 4. | Guy Sutphin    |  | 12 | Rev. Danny Collins |
|    | Bonnie Agnew   |  | 15 | Roger Hudson       |
| 6. | Veronica Lopez |  | 18 | Jan Stone          |
|    |                |  | 26 | Jean Moore         |
|    |                |  |    |                    |

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

- March 3: Delores Nolan
- March 10: Jerry Stone
- March 17: Jenny Stoker
- March 24: Lynn Arnold
- March 31: Eric Crowgey

## USHERS Team II:

Tommy Hilton, Guy Sutphin, Linda Sutphin

## TELLERS

Ty King Tommy Hilton

# March 2024



Sunday

Monday






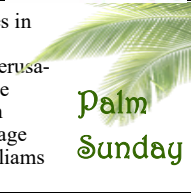

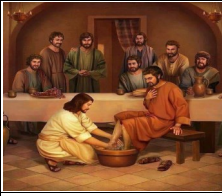
Tuesday

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—Closed</p>					<p>1 Church office closed</p>	<p>2</p>	
<p>3 <b>Communion Observed</b> <b>Benevolence Offering Received</b> 9:00am Principles of Faith Parables in Luke, Luke 6:27-36 10:30am Worship Service “Cleansing the Temple” John 2:13-22 and Communion. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page</p>	<p>4 12:30pm Ladies Luncheon at Open Door Café.</p>	<p>5 10:00am A Time of Prayer 12:00pm Soup &amp; the Word at Mt. Pleasant UMC</p> 	<p>6 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on 2 Peter 1 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 Church office closed</p>	<p>9</p>	
<p>10 9:00am Principles of Faith Parables in Luke, Luke 6:37-42 10:30am Worship Service “Impatience” Numbers 21:4-9. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page</p>	<p>11 12:30pm Circle of Light meeting in the fellowship hall. Bring your Brown Bag 6:30pm Circle of Hope meeting in the fellowship hall.</p>	<p>12 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial 10:00am A Time of Prayer 12:00pm Soup &amp; the Word at St. John’s Episcopal</p> 	<p>13 10:30am Staff Meeting 10:00am Circle of Hope and Circle of Light work day at Bland ministry 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on 2 Peter 2 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>14  1:30pm Pastor-Church Relations Team meeting.</p>	<p>15 Church office closed</p>	<p>16</p>	
<p>17 9:00am Principles of Faith Parables in Luke, Luke 6:43-45 10:30am 5th Sunday Sing Worship Service. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page</p>		<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00am A Time of Prayer 12:00pm Soup &amp; the Word at Wytheville Presbyterian</p> 	<p>20 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on 2 Peter 3 7:45pm Choir practice</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Church office closed</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00am Principles of Faith Parables in Luke, Luke 6:46-49 10:30am Worship Service “Entering Jerusalem” Matthew 2:1-11 and Passing of the Mantel. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page 11:30pm—Church Family Meal in Williams Fellowship Hall</p>		<p>25 3:00pm Discipleship meeting</p>	<p>26 10:00am A Time of Prayer 12:00pm Soup &amp; the Word at St. Paul UMC</p> 	<p>27 6:00pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Question and Answer meeting pertaining to the Sabbatical and Prayer Study 7:45pm Choir practice</p> 	<p>29 Good Friday Church office closed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>31 7:00 a.m.—Easter Sunrise Service at Wytheville Baptist Church with special guest speaker, Rev. John Langham, Pastor of Wytheville Presbyterian; followed with breakfast in WBC’s Williams Fellowship Hall. <i>No Principles of Faith</i> 10:30 a.m.—Easter Worship Service at Wytheville Baptist Church.</p>	