

**PASTOR'S THOUGHTS  
WAYS TO HEAR GOD**

This year we are going to spend time discerning what does God want our community of faith to emphasize. This will be an intentional process of learning about God's will for Wytheville Baptist. Instead of finding a program and asking God to bless our carrying out of the program, we are going to look to see how God is preparing us to join with God in a work God has specifically for us. This will require us to ask deep questions like: What is God doing in our midst? What gifts has God given to us? Who are the people that God is drawing to be part of our community? If we can answer these questions and determine what God's will for us is and make a commitment to live God's will then we cannot fail.

This whole process starts with hearing

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**WHAT'S IN THE NEWS**

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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)

God speak to us and seeing where God has begun a work already. We have done a tremendous amount of work in one of the main ways to hear God speak, our prayer studies of the last year. Through How to Pray and God on Mute by Pete Greig, we learned how to deepen our prayer life and experience God speaking to us. Remember prayer is not a one-way communication telling God what needs to be fixed, but also a time of listening to God talk to us. We will continue to go deeper in prayer as we meet.

Three other proven ways that God speaks are through scripture, through the words of others, and through the circumstances that happen around us. These are ways we will investigate and experience through our Sunday morning times and Wednesday evenings. Our Growing in Christ time on Sundays at 9 AM and our Wednesday evenings at 6:45 PM will look at how do I discern God's will for me as an individual. Once we understand how we do this then we will move to studying how we do this as a community of faith. The goal is to answer the question: God what do you want Wytheville Baptist to be and to do?

This will be a journey and will take time. It is not something we will solve with one recommendation and a vote at a business meeting. This will need input and involvement of many people speaking about what they hear God saying and asking of us. I hope for participation of many members on a deep level so we can bring the Kingdom of God to the Town of Wytheville in a larger way.

Because of God's Love,

Pastor Tim

DISCERNING  
& LIVING  
THE MISSION

— Together —



## Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

### WESTERN BLUE RIDGE BAPTIST NETWORK WEB SITE:

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

- ◆ Our next bi-meeting meeting will be Thursday, February 6, 2025
- ◆ **VENEZUELA MINISTRY:** Charles Damron shared that he has no report this month. He asked that he be notified of anyone able to translate the messages from Pastor Ramon.
- ◆ **BLAND MINISTRY:** Susan Keene reported that they prepared 861 Food Boxes, giving out over 200 boxes a week. They packed 900 boxes for Christmas Dinner; had Christmas gifts for 157 children from the Angel Tree. There is a need to build a ramp in Wytheville and a floor in Bastian. She said BMC can help with the materials for these two projects. She said the 501(c) Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network December 5, 2024 Page 2 of 3 letter has been received. Their name will be Bland Ministry Center, Inc. She said they are doing Home Delivery of food to 10 homes and recently found one that needed medical attention.
- ◆ **NETWORK GOALS FOR 2025:** Charles led in discussion regarding goals for the Network in the coming year: 1) Charles said we have set the goal that we need to serve the people and our churches. He stressed that we need better participation. 2) The opinion was expressed that the Monthly Dinners need to continue. The suggestion was made to make personal contact before the dinners. 3) Thomas Cundiff said he would like a survey completed by each church regarding the needs within their church/community. He and Charles will work on this survey. 4) The reminder was made that Network funds are available to churches for their special projects. The Finance Team will prepare a reminder to be sent out with the application. 5) We could work again with Lebanon Association in special events and activities. 6) Thomas Cundiff said he has been contacted by a church that is interested in the Network. He will share a copy of the Annual Report 2024 with them. 7) Danny Vaughn said he was asked if the Network would do Revival.

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

## CIRCLE OF LIGHT WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year dear friends. As I reflect on 2024, I can't believe how quickly the year passed. A lot occurred during those 12 months. Our church met the challenge of our pastor's sabbatical, we studied prayer and how to pray, we organized a formal nursery, a new evening circle was formed, and we welcomed a new baby. We lost a few of our beloved members but we have the assurance that we will see them again. Our loss was heaven's gain.

Our circle was quite busy with mission projects. We supported Open Door monthly, sorted clothing at Bland Ministries, provided a meal for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry at Radford University, sent monetary donations to Hope Packs, Mike and Monica Brennan, and Bland Ministry; contributed 12 Hygiene Kits to WRBN, mailed cards to our shut-ins as well as college students who are children or grandchildren of our members. Last but certainly not least with your generosity and participation Souper Bowl Sundays in which we collected canned soup, Christmas in July where we collected school supplies, undie Sundays (no explanation necessary) were successful and blessed a lot of people in need. You also contributed with your donations of paperback books, and stamped Christmas cards to the inmates of the New River Regional Jail. You all absolutely warm my heart with your love for others.

I'm anxious to see what the Lord has in store for us this year. I invite you to join a circle if you're not a member. We will not have a meeting this month but will have our monthly luncheon at Open Door on January 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:30.

Choose Joy, Lynn Arnold



## CIRCLE OF HOPE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Happy New Year to all! We had a great time packing Christmas Food Boxes at Bland Ministry Center on Saturday, December 14. It is a true blessing to be a blessing to others. For our January project, we will help the Pregnancy Resource Center's Sanctity of Life by asking and encouraging our congregation to donate 0-1 size diapers during the month of January. There will be a crib at the front of the sanctuary for you to put the diapers you bring.

Please pray and think about another mission outreach project that we can do in the future. At our next meeting we will discuss and make a decision on the project God wants us to be involved with. We will meet on Monday, January 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Ladies, join us!



## HAPPY New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face  
shine upon you, And be gracious to you...

### Notes from our

## Jerry Stone Minister of Music and Worship

I am so excited about all the studies we were involved with in 2024. First there was *How to Pray—A Simple Guide for Normal People*, then we studied *God on Mute*. Those two studies opened up a whole new realm of prayer for me which has truly helped me grow.

Now in 2025 we will grow even more as we look at and seek after discerning God's Will for our lives and for WBC. We will begin to put God first in our decision-making process, surrendering our desires and plans and opening our hearts to God's leading. As we study God's Word, we need to stay in prayer, silently listen as God speaks to us, and have a quiet time with God. Then we will become more attuned to God's voice and more aware of what aligns with God's Will. That makes me want to shout!

There is a lot of spiritual information floating around today that seems true but is false. We need to be spiritually grounded to hear and know God is speaking to us and directing us individually and as a Community of Faith.

I am so ready and excited to begin discerning the way God wants me to go and what God has in store for us as a Community of Faith.

Seeking God's Plan,

*Jerry*

## REVITALIZING AND RESTORING

WBC will be hosting two events this year. There will be a training session in conjunction with Barnabas Partnership on March 8 and a BGAV Dinner Church Training on April 7. This is an opportunity for WBC to open its doors and hearts to help other churches receive the training that will help them grow.

To be the best host church we can be, and to help the Community of Faith, we need to do some maintenance and cleaning on our building. If you would like to help, please decide on a room in the church building that you would like to clean up and make it a more inviting place for not just these events but for all those who will enter our doors looking for a home church to learn more about their personal walk with God. Then periodically check on that room to make sure it is maintained. Also, advise the church office of which room you have adopted.

This will be a blessing to many and for years to come. Thank you for your willingness to help.



## QUARTERLY BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Please join us for the Quarterly Business Conference Wednesday, January 22, at 6:45 p.m. in the 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 WSL5 10 for airing, and this announcement will also be on the church's Facebook page.

## Youth Evangelism Strategies—Missionaries to Wind River Indian Reservation, Wyoming

After traveling back east, we were home for two days before we hopped a plane to Oahu for the Pacific Baptist Convention's annual meeting.

They invited us to come and meet others there with anticipation of our planting the safe house in that area. We made some great contacts at the meetings that we hope will be instrumental in the future. Some of our friends who live there set up meetings with others in the islands that should be a great help once we get started there. We spent the first week there meeting and studying with that eventual move in mind. However, Monica had a second week of vacation time that allowed us to decompress from the heaviness of ministry.

Back on the reservation, I spent time working with Rob who will be working with camp this summer. He is really coming along as he discovers talent that he never realized he had. He is a natural with children and very enthusiastic to learn.

Thank you for all who have been sending in extra for the safe house, Hibiscus Haven. We are hoping to raise as much as possible by the end of the year. Frankly, the more we raise the larger facility we will have for those rescued from sex trafficking. One of our contributors issued a \$20,000 challenge that has already been met! Praise God!

God bless,  
Mike and Monica Brennan



## FEBRUARY 2025 BEACON ARTICLES

All February 2025 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Thursday, January 16. 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.*



**OPEN DOOR CAFÉ**

Our parent company Open Door Community is doing exciting work! We are excited to announce the completion of our West Ridge Commons project! West Ridge Commons is a new quadplex built in partnership with Mount Rodgers Community Services to provide more housing for critical need populations. We are excited to welcome home the newest residents of West Ridge Commons.



**AGAPE FOOD PANTRY**

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 2024 by the end of January 2025. If you do not receive your statement, or if there are any errors, please contact our Financial Secretary, Ty King .



**PARENTS' AFTERNOON OUT**

We had our first Parents' Afternoon Out on Saturday, December 14. Look at the little angels that had an afternoon of snacks, crafts, games, and fun. We will continue this ministry and advertise the date of our next event.



**JANUARY'S CHURCH-WIDE OUTREACH**

Circle of Hope is sponsoring January's Church-Wide Outreach Project of helping the Pregnancy Resource Center's Sanctuary of Life by asking and encouraging our congregation to donate 0-1 size diapers during the month of January. There will be a crib at the front of the sanctuary for you to put the diapers you bring. Thank you for helping!

**T**hank 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. Thank you for extending a hand of Christian love to others.



**T**hank you to Chris and Rhonda Bracknell and their group of helpers who blessed many, many spectators during the Wytheville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7, 2024. This group of folks gave out many cups of free hot chocolate while showing the love of Jesus; they were a blessing to all. Thank you for reaching out to others.



**T**hank you to Chris and Rhonda Bracknell, Gary and Billie Taylor, Roger and Carolyn Clements, Pastor Tim and DeAnne Irving, Lynn Arnold, Roger Hudson, and Guy and Linda Sutphin for helping raise money for the Salvation Army by Bell Ringing at the Wytheville Walmart on Friday, December 20. What a blessing they were. Thanks also goes to Guy and Linda Sutphin for arranging and scheduling this event.



**T**hank you to all who served in any capacity on a Team in 2024. 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 2025. 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



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Brush away old heartaches.  
Learn from our mistakes.  
Another year is finally over.  
A new dawn awakes.

Let the old year out.  
Welcome the new one in.  
Bury the bad things of the past  
As a new year now begins.

Make your New Year wishes  
As simple as you can.  
Pray for peace and love,  
Not for wealth or fame.

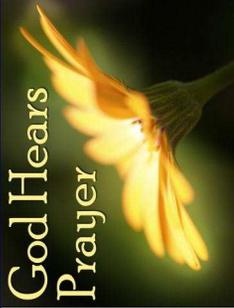
Pray for health and happiness.  
Pray for your fellow man.  
Pray for all the ones you love.  
Pray for those who've lost their way.

As the midnight hour chimes,  
We leave the old and embrace the new.  
I wish the things you wish for yourself,  
And may God's love stay with you.

~John P. Read. Family Friend Poems, December 31, 2018.~

**Carroll Stewart**  
Librarian

## God Hears Prayer



**HOME:** Alyssa Robinson, Emery Pruett, Rick Arnold, Ann and Eric Collins, Mary Graham, Diane Ball, Danny and Sharon Sowers, Carroll Stewart, Jackie and Gary Carson, Pamela Clark, Joel Hilton, Missy Throckmorton, Betty and Dan Robinette, Rick Walker, Bill and Cathy Valley, Tom Collins and family, Sylvia McGhee

**EXTENDED CARE:** Dolores Dove, Mike Stoker, Joe Crowgey, Marjorie Wassum, Adren Eldridge, Colleen Dunford

**FAMILY:** Angelo and Brenda Faraci's granddaughter, Jossie; Cathy Valley's cousin, Bill Harris; Rev. Bill Lively's brother-in-law, Sid; Pastor Tim and DeAnne's daughter-in-law, Kate; Mike and JennyStoker's daughter, Maria; Almetta Cruff's friend Patricia Blankenship; Lynn Perry's daughter, Cheryl; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

**FRIENDS:** Mike and Monica Brennan's Safe House, Jack Quesenberry, Jake Hancock, Bland Ministry Center, the lost, those dealing with addiction, those dealing with depression, WYVE, Young Life, Teachers, Students, First Responders, Medical Personnel, Wythe County, our Nation, people in Venezuela and their Pastor, Ramon Tovar, and his family; people in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine, Friends and Family affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

**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:

Rick Walker upon the passing of his dear friend, Branscome Kincer.

Janet Montgomery and family upon the passing of her sister-in-law, Kay Parrish

Lynn Arnold upon the passing of her uncle.

**January 8:** Chicken Casserole, Green Beans, Rolls, Cranberry Jell-O Salad, Poke Cake.

**January 15:** Pinto Beans, Cole Slaw, Mac and Cheese, Corn Bread, Brownies and Ice Cream

**January 22:** Lasagna, Toss Salad, French Bread, Banana Pudding

**January 29:** Veggie Beef Soup, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Dip, Chips, Crackers, Veggies, Cookies and Ice Cream



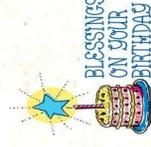
### Meetings

Monday, January 6: Ladies Luncheon at Open Door Café—12:30 p.m.  
 Monday, January 13: Circle of Hope in the fellowship hall—6:30 p.m.  
 Monday, January 14: WCMA—8:00 a.m.  
 Tuesday, January 20: Deacons'—7:00 p.m. at the church  
 Wednesday, January 22: Quarterly Business Conference—6:45 in the fellowship hall.



### January Birthdays

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



### DEACON OF THE WEEK

January 5: Jenny Stoker  
 January 12: Lynn Arnold  
 January 19: Eric Crowgey  
 January 26: Tommy Hilton

### NURSERY WORKERS

January 5: Linda Sutphin, Billie Taylor, DeAnne Irving  
 January 12: Lynn Arnold, Lisa Crowgey, Jenny Stoker

### USHERS Team IV:

Billie Taylor and Zannah McCoury  
 Billie Taylor

### TELLERS

January 26: Linda Lively, Veronica Janet Montgomery and Gary Taylor Lopez, Janet Montgomery



# JANUARY 2025

	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 <i>Happy New Year!</i> No Wednesday activities. Church office closed</p>	2	3 Church office closed	4
5	<p><b>Communion observed</b> <b>Benevolence Offering Received</b> 9:00am Growing in Christ/Discerning God's Will, meeting in the fellowship hall, 10:30am Worship Service "True Light" John 1:10-18. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page .</p>	6 12:30pm Ladies Social Lunch at Open Door Café	7 10:00am A Time of Prayer	8 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Discerning God's Will 7:45pm Choir practice	9	10 Church office closed	11 
12	<p>9:00am Growing in Christ/Discerning God's Will, meeting in the fellowship hall, 10:30am Worship Service "Helping Others Grow" Acts 8:14-17. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page .</p>	13 6:30pm Circle of Hope will meet in the fellowship hall	14 8:00am Wythe County Ministerial Association meeting 10:00am A Time of Prayer	15 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Discerning God's Will 7:45pm Choir practice	16  	17 Church office closed	18
19	<p>9:00am NO Growing in Christ meeting 10:30am Worship Service "No Longer Lost" Isaiah 62:1-5. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page .</p>	20 	21 10:00am A Time of Prayer	22 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Quarterly Business Conference 7:45pm Choir practice	23	24 Church office closed	25
26	<p>9:00am Growing in Christ/Discerning God's Will, meeting in the fellowship hall, 10:30am Worship Service "Public Reading" Nehemiah 8:1-10. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page .</p>	27	28 10:00am A Time of Prayer 	29 6:00pm Wednesday night supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation on Discerning God's Will 7:45pm Choir practice	30	