

Wytheville Baptist Church

The Beacon

Volume 72 Number 7 July 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS DISTRACTIONS AND THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Distractions abound in our culture. They come at us from every angle to busy all our senses. We can learn not to allow these things to distract our focus on what is important. Yet often these distractions capture us and pull us away from maintaining our concentration on the path we are trying to walk. This especially happens when we try to live a spiritual journey. There are many distractions and some of them are even good, but not the best God has planned for us.

Scripture tells us distractions will happen and instructs us on how to handle them. Look at Proverbs 4:25-27 (NIV) as one example.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.

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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, Minister of Music and Worship 228-3712
Jan Stone, Secretary/Treasurer 228-3712

Address Change Requested

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26 Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.

27 Do not turn to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

It tells us to keep our focus straight ahead, to watch where we place
our feet, and to maintain a steadfast heart to walk the right path.
Wonderful insight and wisdom yet often the distractions get louder
when we try to maintain our focus.

This is where Henri Nouwen helps with a story
(from Making all Things New).

Listen to “the experience of a man who, after years of living with
open doors, suddenly decides to shut them. The visitors who used to
come and enter his home start pounding on his doors, wondering why
they are not allowed to enter. Only when they realize that they are not
welcome do they gradually stop coming. This is the experience of
anyone who decides to enter into solitude [or walking a deeper spir-
itual journey] after a life without much spiritual discipline. At first,
the many distractions keep presenting themselves. Later, as they re-
ceive less and less attention, they slowly withdraw.”

My prayer for you is that you would learn to “shut the doors” and
give the distractions “less and less attention” so you can live the
blessed path God has for you.

Because of God’s Love,

Pastor Tim





Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network

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

The next bi-monthly meeting is Thursday – Aug 7, 2025.

Venezuela Ministry: Pastor Ramon writes: We have been working in Brisas de Oriente neighborhood where the rain has been very heavy and their homes are not in good condition. We are feeding the children and ministering to the needs of the community. Please pray for the work our church does in the neighborhoods surrounding us.

Pictured is the work of the Venezuela Church led by Pastor Ramon

Ladies' group and a Church Service in a devastated area...



breakfast and lunch for the children...



going into the community to help others...



feeding the hungry.



C. F. Damron
WBRBN Missions
Development Team



CIRCLE OF LIGHT WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Welcome to summer. Hope you're finding ways to stay cool. It certainly has been warm. Maybe thinking about Christmas will trick you into feeling a little cooler. Once again, we will be celebrating Christmas in July to collect school supplies for those who need a bit of help. You all have been so generous in the past and have blessed many parents and children.

Our circle will not meet this month but will meet for lunch at Open Door on the 7th. We invite all ladies to join us. We're also looking forward to going to the Wohlfahrt Haus on the 13th to see our very own JoBeth Hilton perform in the Music Man.

I wish you a very Happy Independence Day!

Choose Joy,
Lynn Arnold



CIRCLE OF HOPE WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Thank you to the ladies in Circle of Hope who take part in our mission outreach endeavors. We are working along side Circle of Light in the Mission project "Christmas in July." Please bring your School Supplies this month and place them in the sanctuary.

Circle of Hope received and sent \$500 to Mike and Monica Brennan to provided furniture for girls' rooms at their safe house. Thank you ladies for giving to help survivors of human trafficking.

Before we gathered for our June meeting, we met with others at Scott Middle School to pray for Young Life and their new leader, Luke (third

person from the left), all the children in school and their parents, teachers, and our community. Look at this wonderful group of prayer partners.

We will not meet in July, but don't forget to join us for our next meeting on Monday, August 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Ladies, come join us!



Jerry Stone Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship

There is a song written by Frank Pugh that was designated as the official song of the Commonwealth, House Bill No. 2554, in 2009, and that I have sung many, many times. I especially enjoyed singing it for the men and women that rode their motorcycles into Wytheville as they participated in Run for the Wall. To me this song not only speaks of our nation's flag, but also when the words are sung "*and the banner yet waves*" it reminds me of the Lord's name—YAHWEH-NISSI—meaning "The Lord Our Banner."

When Moses was leading the people of Israel and the Amalekites came against them, he stood on top of a hill with the staff of God in his hands. When Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed and when he became tired and lowered his hands, Amalekites prevailed. So Aaron and Hur got him a rock to sit on and then held up his hands and God gave them victory. We also need to lift up the hands of our spiritual leader taking some of the burden, giving encouragement, and prayer. Moses then built an altar and named it, "The Lord Is My Banner."

The rod of God that was so carefully lifted up and kept above Moses' head was a banner in this action. The presence and power of God was seen as this banner was raised and held high. The battle was not theirs but was God's

In our Baptist Hymnal the song "Great and Mighty" has these

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words:

*Great and mighty is the Lord our God. Great and mighty is He.
Great and mighty is the Lord our God. Great and mighty is He.*

Lift up your banner, let the anthems ring praises to our King.

Great and mighty is the Lord our God. Great and mighty is He.

We also see a banner in the book Song of Solomon. This book shows us the beauty of divine love between God and His people. Song of Solomon 2:4 says:

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

This banner holds profound significance. This banner represents God's overwhelming love and symbolizes His presence and protection over His children.

Each one of us should raise our banners high telling others of God's saving grace, protection, security, and love. Isn't that what America needs right now—today. Raise your banner high with joy unspeakable and full of glory because we know who Jesus is and we need to share that saving gospel.

Raising my banner high,

Jerry

**We will not gather for our
JIGSAW PUZZLE PARTY in July.**

Watch for the next date of
this fun activity



Wytheville's Downtown 4th of July Celebration will be held Friday, July 4, on Main Street with festivities beginning at 3:00 p.m. There will be Live Music, Kids Patriotic Parade, Collector Car Cruise In, Kids Inflatables, Fireworks, Food Trucks, and much more.



The announcement below is an invitation to any family with children 18 and under to receive a 5-day box meal distribution each week. Please pass the word along to help families feed their children.

FREE Summer Meals

May 26 - August 18

Register Today!

Families with children 18 and under can scan the QR Code to register for 5-day box meal distributions at your local site. When filling out the form, please select the site you will pick up from. You may only enroll for ONE site during the summer.

FEEDING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Feeding Southwest Virginia is an equal opportunity provider. <https://feedingswva.org>

Hibiscus Haven is a sanctuary where healing begins for survivors of human trafficking.



Nestled in the heart of Hawaii, our mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those who have been exploited.

This is a place of peace and refuge. Contact us at www.hibiscushaven.org

We are still on schedule! We have been living out of suitcases and eating on paper plates! God has revealed some of His reasons for the delay and we praise Him for His providence! We have had some unexpected expenses and are grateful for those who sent in extra to help us stay on budget and schedule.

God has indeed carried us through this whole ordeal! Every one of our daily devotions met the need for the next step that we needed to take. That is just one of the many ways that He has held our hand through this transition. We know that He is working everything together for good and even through things seem chaotic sometimes He doesn't want us to despair. We remembered all the times He was faithful to us in the past in spite of circumstances. So, we are praising our Heavenly Father for what He is going to do in the future.

Mike and Monica Brennan

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 July.

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.

AGAPE FOOD PANTRY

YOU CAN HELP



Please bring canned vegetables for the months of July, August, and September 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.

AUGUST 2025 BEACON ARTICLES

All August 2025 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned into the church office no later than Thursday, July 18. Thank you for your help in this matter.

You will soon receive your six month financial statement. If you have any questions about your statement, or do not receive your statement by the end of July, please contact our Financial Secretary, Ty King.

There will be no Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice during the month of July.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION

We **will not** gather for our Wednesday night Spiritual Conversation during the month of July. Please join us again on August 6 as we join together in Bible study.

*The next Deacons' meeting is scheduled for
Monday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m.*

*Our next Quarterly Church Business Conference
will be held in the fellowship hall
Wednesday, July 23, at 6:45 p.m.*

If you have any business to bring forward during the business meeting, please send a copy to Linda Lively at linda.l.lively@gmail.com or bring a hard copy to the meeting and give it to Linda.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR JULY “PARENTS’ AFTERNOON OUT”

On Saturday, June 7,
the Children and adults
had a great time together
singing.....



listening to stories...

sharing a meal and having fun
playing.



Sunday morning, June 8, the
children blessed our
congregation with the
songs they learned.

PRAISE THE LORD!



The Nellie Bausell Library Notes

The People's Prayer
by Anonymous

*God bless our dear United States,
Preserve the land from evil fates,
Lift high her banner fair and free,
And guard her bounds from sea to sea.
From foe without and foe within,
From open shame and hidden sin,
From boastful pride and greedy store.
God keep our nation evermore.
Forever may her friendly hands
Receive the poor of other lands
In kindness of sisterhood,
And fill their arms with ample good.
Assailed by battle hosts of wrong,
God help our country to be strong.
Assailed by falsehood's crafty crew,
God help our country to be true.
God hold the nation's aim sincere,
God save her heart from coward fear,
God prosper her in true success,
And crown her head with worthiness.
God bless our dear United States,
Preserve the land from evil fates,
Lift high her banner fair and tree,
And ever guard her liberty.*

Carroll Stewart
Librarian

CARILION NEW RIVER VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER: Lynn Arnold's husband, Rick

HOME: Rick Walker, Almetta Cruff, Bill Lively, Dee Nolan, Brenda Faraci, Dolores Dove (home in New Orleans), Paula Moore, Alyssa Robinson, Bill and Cathy Valley, Emery Pruett, Ann and Eric Collins, Alan and Diane Ball, Danny and Sharon Sowers, Carlisle Hostetter, Carroll Stewart, Jackie and Gary Carson, Pamela Clark, Joel Hilton, Missy Throckmorton, Dan and Betty Robinette, Tom Collins and family, Sylvia McGhee, Rick Tucker

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

FAMILY: Cory Miller's sister, Tanya, Jackie Carson's granddaughter, Annabell; Lynn Perry's sister, Brenda; Tommy Hilton's friend, Danny and Sharon Sowers' great-grandson and his family; Cathy Valley's granddaughter; Linda Lively's uncle, Forrest Ramsey; Lynn Arnold's husband, Rick, son, Adam, and Adam's father, Jeff Phillips; Brenda Faraci's sister-in-law; Pam Clark's friend, Linda Crockett; Rick Walker's sister, Sue Turner; Almetta Cruff's friend, Teresa Dunford; Alan and Diane Ball's son, John; Angelo and Brenda Faraci's granddaughter, Josie; Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria; Diane Ball's daughter and granddaughter, Holly and Trinity.

FRIENDS: Linda and Jack Quesenberry, Dee Dee Hoosier, Nancy Mayo, Art and Shaina Mertz, Matthew and Lacey Abate's son, Grayson; Sam Dickerson's sister, Bertha; Mike and Monica Brennan's Safe House, Ron Blevins, Barbara and Brian Guy, Bland Ministry Center, the lost, those dealing with addiction, those dealing with depression, Young Life and Luke, 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: 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.



Lord In Your Mercy,
Hear Our Prayer

There will be no Wednesday night suppers, Spiritual Conversations, or Choir practice during the month of July. Join us again on August 6



Meetings

Monday, July 7: Ladies' Luncheon—12:30 p.m. Open Door Café
Monday, July 21: Deacons'—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 23: Quarterly Church Business Conference —6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall

July Birthdays

1 Daniel Burke	15 Almetta Cruff
7 Gail Pack	Eric Garrison
13 Ellie King	17 Gary Taylor
Emmie King	18 Gary Estep
Doris Muncy	29 Pamela Dawn Clark



DEACON OF THE WEEK

July 6: Roger Clements
July 13: Chris Bracknell
July 20: Jenny Stoker
July 27: Lynn Arnold

USHERS Team IV:

Guy and Linda Sutphin,
Tommy Hilton

TELLERS

Janet Montgomery & Gary Taylor

NURSERY WORKERS

July 6: Linda Sutphin, Billie Taylor,
DeAnne Irving

July 13: Carolyn Clements, Ty King,
Billie Taylor

July 20: Lisa Crowgey, Jenny Stoker,
Lynn Arnold,

July 27: Linda Lively, Veronica Lopez,
Janet Montgomery

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>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</div>		1 10:00am A Time of Prayer	2 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice.	3 Church office closed in observance of Independence Day	 Church office closed	5
6 Communion Observed and Benevolence Offering Received 9:00am Growing in Christ in the fellowship hall 10:30am Worship Service “So Simple” 2 Kings 5:1-14. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page	7 No Jigsaw Puzzle Party this month 12:30pm Ladies’ Luncheon at Open Door Café.	8 8:00am WCMA meeting 10:00am A Time of Prayer	9 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice.	10	11 Church office closed	12
13 9:00am Growing in Christ in the fellowship hall 10:30am Worship Service “Check for Plumb” Amos 7:7-17. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page	14 	15 10:00am A Time of Prayer	16 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice.	17 	18 Church office closed	19
20 9:00am Growing in Christ in the fellowship hall 10:30am Worship Service “Be Both” Luke 10:38-42 You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page	21 7:00pm Deacons’ meeting	22 10:00am A Time of Prayer	23 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice. 6:45pm Quarterly Church Business Conference in the fellowship hall	24	25 Church office closed	26
27 9:00am Growing in Christ in the fellowship hall 10:30am Worship Service “Rooted in Christ” Colossians 2:6-15. You can also see the service on Wytheville Baptist Church Facebook page	28	29 10:00am A Time of Prayer	30 No Wednesday night supper, Spiritual Conversation, or Choir practice.			