



Volume 72 Number 12 December 2025

The Beacon

Pastor's Thoughts

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas

***Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24
6:00 pm***

This time of the year is a favorite for many people. They enjoy the decorations and the extra festive events. They look forward to gathering friends and families to celebrate and enjoy a meal together. Some people enjoy shopping to find the perfect gift for others and some people treasure the special gifts they are given. For some people many other things about life as we normally live are put on hold for the month until this year's celebration is over.

I enjoy taking the time to prepare myself once again for a better understanding of God stepping onto the earth as a human. This is not just the coming of God to bring a message about how to live a more holy life. This is God coming as a



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baby who needs help to live and grow into the man who died on the cross for our sins. For thousands of years, God prepared and set things in motion for the right moment in history to come and walk here on earth.

This brings up a question for me: Have I prepared my heart and opened myself completely to receive the gift of God walking as a human? Each year as I reflect on this question, I find new areas that need to be opened and prepared to more deeply receive the Christ-child. This Christ-child grows into the Christ-man who gives himself fully for all of humanity to be saved and have eternal life. Should I not spend part of this season to give of myself more fully to the God who has given me every blessing in the eternal Kingdom?

My prayer is that you will set aside time for a deeper spiritual preparation over the next four weeks. May your Advent journey be one of preparation and making more space in your life to better understand Christ and a God who loves us so deeply.

Because of God's Love,
Pastor Tim



We will gather in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will give honor to our Savior with songs of the season, remember His birth with the reading of Scripture and a devotional, share in Communion, and light our candles. Please make plans to be with us and celebrate the real joy of Christmas.



Notes from our Minister of Music and Worship

Jerry Stone

How fast 5 years have gone by, and what a blessing they have been to me. I remember my first days, unsure what God wanted me to do with only a few people in the choir. Then God's hand of mercy moved, and our choir began to grow. The choir stopped growing when COVID hit, and we had to close the doors of the church. We finally came through the worst of COVID and we began to gather again but found we had to surround our choir with plexiglass. Triumphantly, we marched on singing praises to our God, then we were able to tear down the walls of plexiglass, and we became a choir that at times is busting out of the choir loft. All I can say is, "Praise the Lord for His love endures forever."

Our WBC Choir has been a blessing to me, and as I hear the congregation singing along with them every Sunday, my heart soars with gratitude to our Lord. Thank you, choir, for faithfully filling the choir loft and singing to the glory of God. Thank you, WBC congregation, for supporting, praying for, and loving our choir.

Thank you to WBC for letting me fill the position of Minister of Music and Worship for these past 5 years. With the prayerful and dedicated direction of Doris Muncy, may our WBC choir not only continue to sing beautifully but also to minister powerfully. Keep praying, keep growing, and let your worship draw many to Christ. Continuing to sing God's praise,

Jerry



We need your help.

Everyone is invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas on Friday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m. Come out and enjoy the fellowship while we make the church beautiful. Contact Dee Nolan for more information.

Welcome New Members



Clayton and Paula Waller, and their daughter Lily joined on November 9th.



Deacon Ordination

On Sunday, November 23, we ordained Cathy Valley as a deacon.



Wytheville Christmas Parade

Wytheville Baptist Church will once again provide free hot chocolate before and during the parade on Saturday, December 6 at 6:00 pm. Contact Guy & Linda Sutphin or Chris Bracknell for more information

Blessings for Janet and Veronica

On Wednesday night, December 17, a basket will be placed in the fellowship hall for cards of encouragement and monetary gifts for our wonderful Janet Montgomery and Veronica Lopez. Janet and Veronica tirelessly work to provide a meal every Wednesday night for our church family. Janet creates a menu, buys the food, transports the food to the church, stocks the refrigerator and shelves. Veronica helps prepare the food, serve the food, and cleans up afterwards. They both welcome us and serve us with a smile and a hug. They don't do this for pay, but because they love the Lord and their church family. Therefore, we would like to give back to these ladies in a wonderful way during this very special time of the year. Please help us bless these very special ladies with cards of love and monetary gifts on Wednesday, December 17.



Inclement Weather Policy

When inclement weather hits our area, Pastor Tim, in conjunction with the Deacons, will decide whether to cancel worship service in order to keep everyone safe. If the worship service is canceled, an announcement will be sent out via email, aired on TV channels WDBJ 7 and WSLs 10, and posted on the church's Facebook page.



The Flower Team will order our Christmas Poinsettias soon. The price will be \$20 per pot. If you would like one or more poinsettias “In Honor Of” or “In Memory Of” someone special, please fill in the form below, earmark your check “poinsettia” and attach it to the completed form.

*Place your check and completed form in the offering plate or bring them to the church office no later than noon **Wednesday, December 3.** We will have a booklet of remembered loved ones on December 14*

Please Print Legibly

Your Name _____

Number of Pots: _____

Amount Paid _____

“In Honor Of” _____

“In Memory Of” _____

***All orders need to be turned in no later than
Wednesday, December 3.***

December 3: Lasagna, French Bread, Toss Salad, Banana Pudding
 December 10: Chicken Casserole, Confetti Coleslaw, Green Beans, Rolls, Chocolate Pound Cake
 December 17: Ham/Roast Beef, Broccoli Casserole, Christmas Salad, Rolls, Christmas Desserts
 December 24: *No Wednesday Night Supper*
 December 31: *No Wednesday Night Supper or other activities*



Meetings

Monday December 1: Book Club Study #3 - 11:00 am
 Monday, December 1: Ladies' Luncheon at Open Door Cafe - 12:30 pm
 Thursday, December 4: Jigsaw Puzzle Party - 10:00 am
 Friday, December 5: Decorate Sanctuary & Church for Christmas - 10 am
 Sunday, December 7: Circle Christmas Mtg at Draper Mercantile-1:00 pm

December Birthdays

4: DeAnne Irving
 10: Madeline Catron
 13: Rick Walker
 Clayton Waller
 17: Rachel Crowgey
 18: Luis Lopez
 26: Phyllis Dillon
 Lena Wilson



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Wytheville Baptist Church will be ringing the bells and managing the collection buckets for the Salvation Army, on Friday, December 12, at both Wytheville Walmart entrances. Helpers are still needed. Please contact Guy & Linda Sutphin: sutphinl@hotmail.com or 276-920-5939.

5:00—6:00 Pastor Tim & DeAnne Irving and Gary & Billie Taylor
 6:00—7:00 Lynn Arnold & Roger Hudson and Chris Bracknell & _____
 7:00—8:00 Guy & Linda Sutphin and _____

DECEMBER 2025	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
30 First Sunday of Advent 9:00am Growing in Christ meets in the fellowship hall. We will study Luke 13 10:30am Morning Worship Service in the sanctuary, "Surprising" Matthew 24:36-44. A Nursery is provided during Worship Service.	1 11:00am Ladies Book Club - Bad Girls of the Bible 12:30pm Ladies' Luncheon at Open Door Cafe.	2 10:00am Time of Prayer	
7 Second Sunday of Advent <i>Communion will be observed and a Benevolence offering received at the doors as you leave.</i> 9:00am Growing in Christ meets in the fellowship hall. We will study Luke 14 10:30am Worship Service. "May Blessings Flow" Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19. Nursery provided. 1:00pm Women's Circles Christmas at Draper Mercantile	8 <i>No Women's Circle meetings</i>	9 10:00am Time of Prayer	
14 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00am Growing in Christ meets in the fellowship hall. We will study Luke 15 10:30am Worship Service. "Wait" James 5:7-10. Nursery provided.	15	16 10:00am Time of Prayer	
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00am Growing in Christ meets in the fellowship hall. We will study Luke 16 10:30am Worship Service. "Foretold" Romans 1:1-7. Nursery provided.	22	23 10:00am Time of Prayer	
28 <i>There will be no Growing in Christ class</i> 10:30am Worship Service. "Salvation Through Suffering" Hebrews 2:10-13. Nursery available.	29	30 10:00am Time of Prayer	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 6:00-6:45pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation-Lectio Divina 7:45pm Choir Practice	4 10:00am Jigsaw Puzzle Party 6:30pm Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network meeting at Dublin Baptist Church	5 <i>Church office closed</i> 10:00am Decorate Church for Christmas	6 6:00 pm Christmas Parade
10 6:00-6:45pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation-Ministry Group meetings 7:45pm Choir Practice	11	12 <i>Church office closed</i> 5-8 pm Salvation Army bell ringers at Walmart	13
17 6:00-6:45pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:45pm Spiritual Conversation 7:45pm Choir Practice	18	19 <i>Church office closed</i>	20
24 Christmas Eve <i>Church office closed</i> 6:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas <i>Church office closed</i>	26 <i>Church office closed</i>	27
31 <i>No Wednesday Night Supper or Activities</i>	1 New Years Day <i>Church Office Closed</i>	2 <i>Church office closed</i>	3



Deacon of the Week

December 7: Roger Clements

December 14: Chris Bracknell

December 21: Eric Crowgey

December 28: Tommy Hilton

Ushers

Team 3

Danny Sowers and Chris Bracknell

Tellers

Guy Sutphin and Lynn Arnold

Nursery Workers

December 7: Linda Sutphin, Billie Taylor, DeAnne Irving

December 14: Carolyn Clements, Lynn Arnold, Ty King

December 21: Lynn Arnold, Lisa Crowgey, Jenny Stoker

December 28: Linda Lively, Janet Montgomery

Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed

December 24 and 25.

January 1, 2026

January 2026 Beacon Articles

Due to the busy Christmas season, all January 2025 Beacon articles, announcements, meetings, events, times, etc. need to be turned in to the church office no later than Wednesday, December 10. Thank you for your help.



*We will be honoring Jan and Jerry with
a covered dish luncheon following the
worship service on January 18th*





Circle of Light Women's Ministry

Joy to the World! I absolutely love this time of the year –the decorations, music, scents, and goodies but most of all the celebration of the birth of that sweet babe who grew up to be our Lord and Savior. Come, let us adore him. I'm looking forward to the candlelight Christmas Eve service, my favorite service of the year.

The Circle of Light appreciates your contributions of cards for the inmates at the New River Valley Regional Jail during the month of November.

A lovely baby shower was co-hosted by the Circle of Hope and Circle of Light, honoring Vanessa and Drew McGee. They received many nice gifts.

Both circles will be celebrating the season together with a festive luncheon at the Draper Mercantile after church on Sunday, December 7.

The Tri Dubs (ask me if you're curious) book club will change their meeting schedule in December and January. We will meet at 11:00 a.m. on the first Monday of the month before we go to Open Door for lunch. It's not too late to join us; we would love to have you study the Bad Girls of the Bible with us.

Hoping that you will take time to savor this season and remember the reason.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas.

Choose Joy,

Lynn



Circle of Hope Women's Ministry

The ladies met on Monday evening, November 10th in the fellowship hall. Alyssa Robinson lead the meeting and brought a family devotional "When Waiting Is Hard" Ephesian 4:2. We filled 10 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for older boys ages 10-14.

Our next regular meeting will be 6:30 pm on Monday, February 9th.



HOME: Zanah McCoury, Rhonda Bracknell, Victoria Willis, Almetta Cruff, Betty and Dan Robinette, Rick Tucker, Rick Walker, Sonny and Cindy Archer, Dolores Dove (home in New Orleans), Paula Moore, Bill and Cathy Valley, Emery Pruett, Ann and Eric Collins, Alan and Diane Ball, Danny and Sharon Sowers, Carroll Stewart, Jackie and Gary Carson, Pamela Clark, Joel Hilton, Missy Throckmorton, Tom Collins and family, Sylvia McGhee

EXTENDED CARE: Ann Collins, Joe Crowgey, Adren Eldridge, Colleen Dunford

FAMILY: Rick Walker's sister, Sue Turner; Cathy Valley's brother, John Taylor; Zach Robinson's friend, Marcus Vicors; Alyssa Robinson's friend, Jorie; Linda Lively's uncle, Forrest Ramsey; Lynn Arnold's husband, Rick, son, Adam, and Adam's father, Jeff Phillips; Mike and Jenny Stoker's daughter, Maria.

FRIENDS: Almetta Cruff's friend Jackie Coffee, Sam Obermiller, Janessa Newton, Mr. & Mrs. Kitts, Frances Kennedy, Jason Nipper and his family, Paul Dillow, Gordon family from Rural Retreat, Will Burks and his daughter, Juliauna; Skyler's son, Cole; Tommy and Gena Anders, Linda and Jack Quesenberry, Dee Dee Hoosier, Nancy Mayo, Mike and Monica Brennan's Safe House, Ron Blevins, Brian Guy, Young Life and Luke, 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 Tovar, and his family; people in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Jackson and Ragan Bracknell, Thomas Collins, and all others who serve our nation.

PASTORAL CARE: Our Pastor, Rev. Tim Irving, is available to address any pastoral needs. To schedule an appointment with Pastor Tim, please call the church office at 228-3712 or his cell phone: 276-284-1575. For emergencies during nights or weekends, call Pastor Tim on his cell phone or the Deacon of the Week.



*Thank
You!*

Many thanks to all who sent cards, made calls, prepared food, said prayers, or helped in any way these last several weeks. You have been a tremendous blessing, and a true example of a church in action. I am so grateful to be a member of such a wonderful church. Much love,
Jenny Stoker

Prayer List

Our prayer list, published in our Wednesday night prayer sheet and Beacon, 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 start a fresh list. We ask that you carefully review the list of names. If there is someone you would like to have included on the prayer list, please contact the church office by the end of December. All other names will be removed from the list and a new list will be published in our Wednesday Prayer List on January 7.



Jigsaw Puzzle Party

Thursday, December 4
10 am to noon

Ladies' Book Club

11:00 am in the fellowship hall

Monday, December 1

Book Study #3

“Pillar of the Community” (Lot’s Wife)

It is not too late to join us.

Contact Lynn Arnold for more information



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 December.

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

Please bring Peanut Butter, Spaghetti Sauce, and Spaghetti Noodles for the months of November and December 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.



Don't forget to support the Open Door Café that serves all guests regardless of their ability to pay.

A gift card from Open Door Café would be a great Christmas gift for someone this year. Drop by and pick up several for everyone on your Christmas list!



Offering Envelopes

Our Offering Envelopes for 2026 will be ready for pick-up during the month of December. The boxes of envelopes will be placed on the table in the main hallway next to 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.

Monetary Gifts for 2025

If you would like to give your tithes or a monetary gift to WBC and have it documented on your tithe report for 2025, please have your tithes or monetary gifts turned into the church office no later than Sunday, December 28.

OnLine Giving

You can give online at our website through Subsplash.
www.wythevillebaptist.org





205 Church Street
Wytheville VA 24382

YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Wytheville Baptist Church	276-228-3712
E-mail Address	wythevillebaptist@gmail.com
Rev. Timothy Irving, Pastor	276-284-1575
Jerry Stone and Doris Muney, Ministers of Music & Worship	
Jan Stone and DeAnne Irving, Secretary/Treasurer	

Address Change Requested

***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.***