



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - July 2020*

## The Harrowing of Hell

“Did Jesus descend into hell when he died upon the cross and his body placed in the grave?” This question prompts a very old theological debate that continues today. In the Apostles’ Creed, which people believe to have been in use around 250 AD, it reads, “[Jesus] was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead.” The primary scriptural argument for Jesus’ descent into hell is 1 Peter 4:6 which reads “For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead.” The primary argument against any belief that Jesus descended into hell comes from Jesus’ words to the thief on the cross, “Today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).” How can Jesus descend into hell if he is enjoying paradise with the thief?

Many esteemed preachers of the past believed that Jesus did descend into hell. Calvin taught that Jesus’ descent into hell was important doctrine, for it conveyed the true seriousness of our sin. At the time of the reformation, Martin Luther did not question this belief and is recorded as teaching it. R.C. Sproul teaches “He goes to hell to liberate those spirits who, from antiquity, have been held in prison. His task in hell then is one of triumph, liberating Old Testament saints.” Yet there are many respected teachers who strongly disagree. John Piper is known to be silent when that portion of the Apostles’ Creed is being recited. Augustine, the great teacher of the early church, also seemed to see the descent into hell as more of an allegory than history. Personally, I have found myself straddling the fence, sometimes leaning in one direction and then to the other side. Today though, I think I have been knocked off the fence and do believe that Jesus descended into hell.

Right now, in America things are not good. At the time of writing this newsletter, it seems that we as a country are losing the fight against Covid-19. People are tired and are giving up. As a country, due to the Covid-19, we are possibly entering a prolonged economic depression. There is massive chaos in the political system and in both parties, Republican and Democrat. Racial tension and strife and social action are the highest they have been in my lifetime. And mixed into all of this is a constant push for cultural change under the language of “social justice” which to me feels more like “mob justice.”



According to various polls being released this week, Americans feel less happy and less proud to be an American more so than at any point since the polls were being tracked (50 years).

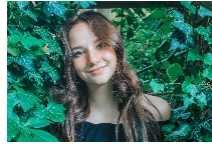
As I emotionally and spiritually struggle with what is happening in our country, one image keeps coming to my mind repeatedly. It is the image of Jesus’ descent into hell

(also known as the Harrowing of Hell). The picture in mind is of a painted wall I saw in an Orthodox Monastery in Meteora Greece. *Jesus is raising hell in hell.* He is breaking down walls, smashing locked doors, setting captives free, stomping on the devil, and leading a large throng of people out of bondage. It is a powerful image that says there is no place outside of God’s reach and there is no corner of human suffering that the gospel can not reach. It is a message that we need to hear today. **In the midst of whatever crisis we are in, God is at work, the gospel goes forth with power, and our Lord is victorious over evil, always.**

Grace and Peace!  
Pastor Trent Eastman



**Harper Haney**, daughter of **Tim and Kristi Haney** and a 2020 graduate of Cabell Midland High School, was awarded a scholarship from the Barbourville Rotary Club. She plans to attend Marshall University in the fall and major in early childhood education.



**Gavin Blake**, son of **Kevin and LaAnna Blake**, has been selected to be in Cabell Midland's Collegium for the 2020-2021 school year. Collegium musicum is a Renaissance-style costumed ensemble of high school singers in grades 9-12. The students are selected by competitive audition in early spring each year during scheduling for the next school year. Due to the coronavirus, Gavin's audition was done virtually in several "stages" – sight singing, an assigned piece and a song of his choice. Gavin's selection was *10,000 Reasons* by Matt Redman. Congratulations Gavin on being chosen for this group.



- 1 – Lisa Preston  
Natalie Riley
- 2 – Lena Powers
- 3 – Susan Black  
Brad Smith
- 4 – Charlotte Boyce  
Fred Cummings
- 5 – John Baisden  
Madison Sierson
- 6 – Hannah M. Blake  
Cheryl Cook  
Trudy Elam
- 9 – Stephen Blake  
Carl Pemberton, Sr.
- 10 - Phoebe Molyneux
- 11 – Quinn Hazelett  
Jim McSweeney  
Pat Meredith
- 12 – Kayleigh Lewis  
Lynnette Simms  
Debbie Spencer
- 13 – Zach Booth  
Linda Bowen  
Doris Halcombe  
Margaret McCunn  
Marvin Moore
- 14 – Rachel Cooper
- 15 – Sandy James  
Mike Via
- 16 – Vivian Atkinson  
Kara Dutton  
Megan Hazelett
- 17 – Robin Crouch  
Glenna Hendrick
- 18 - Abram Smith
- 19 – Dorothy Castleberry  
Kim Cook
- 20 – David Hannan  
Barbara Jarvis
- 22 – Christie Jones
- 23 – Dan Jordan  
Mike Kelly
- 24 – Betsy Brown  
Phil Holmes
- 25 – Barbara Meek  
Paula Paden  
Maggie Westfall
- 27 – Jack Cook  
Case Mann
- 28 – Jim Blake
- 29 – Carlie Arkell  
Jacob Campbell  
Michael Stephenson
- 30 – Jo Ann Cook  
David Dunn

PLEASE!  
NOTE



Judy's Shawls **will NOT meet** in July. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 3.

### Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon

**Canceled for the month of July.**

We sure do miss seeing each of you and our prayers are that you remain safe and healthy.



- 02 Bob & Betty Blankenship
- 02 Tom & Catherine Rushton
- 03 Roger & Lynn Barcus
- 05 Howard Meadows & Carol Arkell
- 06 Allen & Becky Davis
- 10 Jason & Carey Roland
- 12 Grover & Sheri Tadlock
- 16 Reid & Leigh Frye (15<sup>th</sup>)
- 16 Cliff & Connie Mol
- 16 Tom & Gloria Pauley
- 18 Alan & Emma Mannon (5<sup>th</sup>)
- 18 Ray & Debbie Spencer
- 21 Karl & Lana Egnatoff (30<sup>th</sup>)
- 22 Brian & Amy Kelly (20<sup>th</sup>)
- 22 Jeff & Toni Madden
- 26 Virgil & Gail Kelly
- 27 Jake & Natalie Saunders (1<sup>st</sup>)
- 29 Alan & Barbara Meek
- 30 Dick & Pat Meredith (65<sup>th</sup>)
- 30 Darrell & Sherry Walden

### Welcome New Baby



### Nolan Maddox Cox

May 10, 2020

Proud Parents:  
**Justin and Bethany Cox**

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Wednesday, July 22,  
for August issue of *Bridges*

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?  
If your special date has been left off, please check with the church office to make sure we have your information on record.



## Notes From NBC Choir Director, Karen Dailey

"I sing because I'm happy! I sing because I'm FREE!" Do you recognize these words from the chorus of "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"? We are compelled to sing God's praises because of what He has done for us; because of His love for us. It's not about our likes, our comfort levels, our tastes nor is it about the technical side of the music, the songs or the performance. It's about HIM! Who He is; how He loves; what He did and continues to do and it's about our hope because of Him. God's love for us should inspire our response of love for Him by singing joyfully because it's about what and who is in our hearts.

Jesus came so that we might know Him, the truth and the life. John 8:32 states that "*the truth will set you free*" and John 3:36 says "*if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*" Our amazing God has offered us freedom, life and hope and it is this revelation that compels Christians to respond in worship, praise and singing.

Read these lyrics of the song that has inspired my "Notes":

*Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?  
Why should my heart be lonely and long for heaven and home  
When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender words I hear,  
And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;  
Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,  
When song gives place to sighing, when hope within me dies,  
I draw the closer to Him; from care He sets me free  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.  
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

*I sing because I'm happy! I sing because I'm FREE!  
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*



Matthew 6:26 "*Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"*

We should sing His praises for He cares, He frees, He loves and He is with us always.



## The Weight of Hate

Word lovers, delight! The lexicon has tongue-twisting terms that describe hatred for just about anything.

According to *Mental Floss*, if you're a misodotakleidist, for example, you hate practicing the piano. Misogelasts hate laughter, while misopogonists hate beards and misophonists hate certain irritating sounds. There's even a word for someone who hates hatred (in the form of war or strife): a misopolemist.

Some of these words may make us smile, yet hate is deadly serious. No matter the target, hatred weighs us down and distracts us from Godly living.

That's why Paul instructs followers of Jesus to "put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31, NRSV). Once that hateful weight is gone, we'll be freed up to "be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you" (verse 32).



June is the month of graduation celebrations and I feel sorry for the Class of 2020 because much of that has been cancelled or postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently I was looking through some old sermon files and ran across the Baccalaureate Sermon I gave to Bethany’s graduating class at Wheeling Park High School. As I began that message I reflected on my own baccalaureate in June of 1966. I reflected to the students that as a student we were sitting there when an old white-haired man got up to speak – Oh my, I said, I’m that old white-haired man. I realized how removed from their culture I was. I hope I was able to share some wisdom with them even with the cultural divide.

As I reflect on the events of the recent past in our country, I am again struck by how wide the cultural divide is between my generation and younger ones. The challenge before us is how do we do ministry together in our community that makes a difference for the Lord.

Here is some food for thought for many of us. Len Sweet is a pastor and commentator on the church and modern cultural trends. He commented at a conference I attended, “if you are older than 38 you are an immigrant in the current culture”. As I reflected on that I thought about immigrants. They come from the “old” country with “old” customs and thoughts. They have a work ethic and job skills vastly different from their children. It is true, those in my generation are like immigrants in the current American culture.

I confess that I struggle with what to say and how to speak faithfully to the current issues. I recognize that my thoughts and views have been shaped over the years by the culture in which I lived. I have struggled with the White Privilege/Black Lives Matter issue or debate. How do I as a follower of Jesus speak truth with love and compassion to both sides of this issue? One very helpful resource for me was a video done by Phil Vischer, the creator of Veggie Tales, titled “Race in America”. This 18-minute video is well worth your time. To find it just google **Holy Post – Race in America** and it will take you to the YouTube video. This helped me with some perspective on how I need to move forward. I hope it will be helpful to you.

Back to the baccalaureate. I finished by sharing with them the three most important decisions they would make in life, their Master, Mate, and Mission. The old white-haired preacher closed with words that are timeless and cross all generations and cultures and are still true today, “Many things can teach you how to make a living but only Christ can teach you how to live.”




Feeling like an immigrant in the modern culture? Me, too. We’ve got some work to do if we are going to make an impact for the Lord in our world. I pray you will join us as we seek to know Christ, grow in His Word and become a blessing wherever He has placed us. Just some thoughts for you to chew on as we seek to do ministry together. Let’s help people learn how to really live.

*Pasha Reed*

**MAY**  
**FOOD PANTRY REPORT**


<b>FAMILIES SERVED:</b>	<b>195</b>	<i>YTD</i> <b>1653</b>
<b>INDIVIDUALS:</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>4521</b>
<i>INCLUDES</i>		
CHILDREN:	171	1260
SENIORS:	115	874
HOMELESS:	17	118
<b>HYGIENE KITS:</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>FOOD PACKS:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1370</b>

*Thanks for your support*



The Food Pantry is working on replenishing **toiletory kits** to give out to clients. These items are needed to help us complete the kits:

- Bar soap
- Toothpaste (small size)
- Washcloths



Items can be dropped off at the missions map in the back of the sanctuary.  
*Thanks for helping us help others.*

**A Prayer for the 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.*

-Peter Marshall before the U.S. Senate



(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)

**Church Family and Friends:**

Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Dan & Holli Beirne, Jenny Benson, Julie Brammer, Dorothy Castleberry, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Chelsea Caldwell Courts, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Doris Halcombe, Ripley Haney, Minnie Harris, Anna Holstein, John Hovey, Jim Hughes, Sandy James, Virginia Lawrence, Joseph Leggott, Paris McSweeney, Dick Meredith, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Grace Napier, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Jerry Powers, Carol Richardson, Jack Rickman, Jimmy Robinson, Ronnie & Denise Runnels, Walter & Marion Sansom, Major & Lynnette Simms, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark & Jo Ellen Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Dan & Donna Wolfe


Pray also for our pastors and our church; the community around us; unsaved loved ones; our military personnel; our government leaders; our country; all affected by the Covid-19 crisis

**Deaths in the Church Family:**



**Edward "Ed" Bowling**, 80, of Proctorville, OH passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2020. Ed obtained a degree in civil engineering from WVU in 1963. He worked for C & O Railroad and transitioned to the coal industry as a self-employed coal broker. After retirement, he enjoyed gardening and traveling with his wife, Dolores. Before his illness, Ed and Dolores attended New Baptist and were part of the Bykota class. Ed is survived by his wife Dolores, two daughters, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.





**Brenda Naylor**, 80, formerly of Huntington, passed away on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 in Catonsville, MD where she had lived for the past several years. She was a nurse and had retired from HIMG. Brenda had been a faithful member of Highlawn Baptist Church but attended New Baptist and was active in the Berean class and the Senior Adult Fellowship before moving out of town. She is survived by a daughter, Lisa, and two grandchildren.



# WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

*Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.*

 + e	Water changes to _____	_____	JOHN 2:1-11
 - k + d	Heals a man born _____	_____	JOHN 9
STOP - op + _____	Calms a _____	_____	MATTHEW 8:23-27
f +  - d	Catch of _____	_____	LUKE 5:1-11
 - ch + er	Walks on _____	_____	MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water



**New Baptist Church**

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**Office Hours:**

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
**Tuesday thru Friday**

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304-523-3399

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[www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com)

**Pastors:**

Rev. Trent Eastman  
([trente@me.com](mailto:trente@me.com))

Rev. Lee Boso  
([leeboso@gmail.com](mailto:leeboso@gmail.com))

Rev. Robin Crouch  
([rlcrouch1948@gmail.com](mailto:rlcrouch1948@gmail.com))

**Service Hours:**

**Sunday**

**9am Worship Service**

- Traditional Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

**\*11am Worship Service**

- Praise & Worship Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

\*The 11am service is also live  
streamed on FaceBook  
([@NewBaptistChurchWV](https://www.facebook.com/NewBaptistChurchWV))

**Wednesday**

6pm

Pastor's Devotion on  
Facebook Live

NBC Food Pantry  
Tuesdays 10am-4pm

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HUNTINGTON WV 25702



[Nothing] will be able to  
separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:39

