

Some Thoughts on Marriage

One of the odd jobs that is expected of a pastor is premarital counseling. I do not know how or why this became a part of a pastor's job description only that it is something that is expected. When I first became a pastor and felt the weight of this expectation, I ordered various books and workbooks on premarital counseling that often caused more confusion than clarity. Some books encouraged the pastor to talk about money, budgets, sex, roles of husband and wife, and when to have children. I soon discovered that these conversations tended to not go well. Other books held some good wisdom about communication between spouses and how to protect the marriage, but even when I would attempt to discuss such things I felt that the couple seeking to be married were not interested in such things. I have discovered that when people are in love and want to be married they think that their love for each other is sufficient preparation and thus have little patience in talking with a preacher. Not all are like this of course, but it is very common for the man and woman to see meeting with the pastor as a painful requirement to be married in a church.

After much reflecting upon my own struggles with doing premarital counseling, I asked myself the question; "As a minister of the Christian Faith, what is my responsibility in preparing a man and a woman to be married?" Given how both the word and idea of marriage lacks definition in our culture today, I felt that one of the most important things I can do is to define what it means to be married as a Christian - what exactly is a Christian marriage and why is this important? In answering this question, there are three things that I felt needed to be communicated to the couple brought together by the Lord. In brief, these are the three topics that form the bulk of my pre-marriage counseling.

• First, marriage itself reflects the very nature of the Triune God and thus when rightly held and lived, marriage glorifies Him in this world. Our God Himself exists in relationship (Father, Son and Spirit), and it is in His image that we are made. Thus, we are made for relationship and marriage is a form of a covenantal relationship that not only reflects Christ and the Church (the New Covenant), but the very nature of God. Therefore, marriage is to glorify God through its witness and sanctity.

• Second, Marriage is a means that God has chosen to grow whole and holy lives. The lives talked about here not only include the bride and groom, but any future offspring as well as anybody that is invited into their home. The covenant of marriage is powerful to bring about godly change and healing. A Biblical marriage when lived rightly will slowly put to death those things of impatience, pride and selfishness and put on such virtues as sacrifice, surrender, and love.

• And Third. Marriage is a gift from God given to us because He loves us. The word love permeates scripture. It is used to describe the highest law (Love the Lord your God), and used to describe the greatest sacrifice (Because of love He endured the cross). Marriage is a gift of love and is to be lived through the experience of love. In other words, enjoy being married. Pray to love your spouse better. Protect your marriage through right communication and kindness because it is an amazing gift given to you from the Lord.

Grace and Peace! Pastor Trent

New Baptist Church

March 2020 Bridges Newsletter



- 1 Kevin Skaggs
- 3 Jennifer Adams Joe Collins Tommie Templeton
- 4 Bob Blankenship Lee Boso Kenneth Fetty
- Sharon Flowers Lydia Jordan Bill Snoddy
- 5 Chuck Adams Matthew Chaney (1st)
- 6 Randall Hatfield
- 7 Evan Willis
- 8 Anderson Frye
- 9 Carey Roland
- 10 Will Morgan
- Sara Simpson
- 11 Sheri Tadlock
- 13 Harry Estep Imaly Fetty Cade Lewis Marilyn Thompson
- 16 John Bishop John Hovey Alan Meek
- 20 Teresa Foster Linda Harris Brenda Jameson Carol Sumpter Nolice White
- 21 Sheila Chapman Richard Eskins Rachel Sierson Charles Stephens
- 22 Donna Dunn Abigail Willis
- 25 Parker Campbell Raymond Spurlock Tracy Waugh
- 27 Genevieve Bishop Chris Edmonds Rebekah Perry Franks Thomas Rushton
- 29 Virginia Benson Laura Bishop
- 30 Joseph Leggott Trey Wilson
- 31 Kerry Fizer Sharon Hodges



When it comes to music, I definitely lack rhythm. I'm always hesitant to clap with a crowd because within a verse or two, I'm the guy that's off beat. I've always wanted to play an instrument well, but I have a tendency of speeding up and slowing down and sometimes quite abruptly. I've heard that there are tools that can keep you on track with

rhythm so that you can stay consistent through a song. I've been thinking about the rhythms of our life a lot recently. I feel like we can easily get caught up in the busyness of life and feel anxious or out of control and maybe react by being lulled into laziness and swing back and forth. This morning I read Leviticus 23 about feasts in the life of Israel. I know that's not a go-to chapter for most of us, but one thing I was reminded of as I read it was our need for rhythm in life. God spelled out time frames for festivals and times for celebration, times for sacrifice, and times for rest. Why? Because we, left to ourselves, have a tendency of living out of control, whether speeding up quickly or slowing down to a slog.

There are rhythms in the life of the church that help us to turn our eyes from our day to day and to look to God in worship, dependence, and trust. Each week we have Sabbath, a day of rest and worship. This is a great opportunity to disconnect from our work and distraction that holds our attention during the week and to find ourselves looking to God, and being renewed in God's power.

There are also times during the year where we change out pace, Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and Lent is a time of preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. This time of Lent is celebrated in many ways. Some people give up food or other regular things or practices so they can be reminded of Jesus' sacrifice. Others take time to develop a habit of spending more time with God through prayer or Bible study. As families, I want to encourage us to spend this next 40 days being intentional. Talk with our kids, brainstorm how each of you or your family together can do something different to be reminded of Jesus' death and resurrection? How can you be reminded during this time to slow down and find God as your source of life and hope and joy? What kind of habit would be helpful to break during this time period, or what would be beneficial to begin? As God through His Word reminds you of His faithfulness, I am praying that we will find God leading us through this time to trust Him and grow in Him as this season brings us back into God's tempo for life in this world!

If you'd like to discuss ideas or resources for this season for your family, I'm happy to work with you to help you find things that will meet you where you are. I'm praying for you and pray that we can see God's presence through this season of preparation!

In Christ, Lee<><



1 – Larry & Carol Sumpter 17 – Randall & Judy Hatfield 20 – Travis & Kara Smith (10th) 26 – John & Linda Hovey



East Huntington Kiwanis Poncoka Fostiwanis Poncoka Fost



Join us on Thursdays, 5:30pm – 6:30pm New Baptist Church Fellowship Hall (enter by fellowship hall door on east side of the building)

(*Sorry Men - this is just for women.)

What is your theme?

Disgusted by a tasteless dish, Winston Churchill once summoned a waiter, saying, "Take this pudding away. It has no theme!"

Any good dish, book, movie or sermon needs a good theme. So does a good life! That's why a personal motto or mission statement is helpful. William Carey's was "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Joan of Arc's was "God must be served first." And St. Paul's was "to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2, ESV).

Pastor Curtis Nigh says, "If the heart does not have a noble or goodly theme, then it develops an anti-theme." What noble theme can you live by as you live for Christ?

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wíth the Youth

March Teaching:

Phones- Kryptonite or Tool? Identity- Social, Sexual, and Political. Beatitudes. Sunday nights 6pm.

PODS for Middle School Girls, High School Girls, 6-12th Grade Boys: Wednesday Night @6:30pm

Sunday School:

Middle School and High School classes 10 am.

Events:

Senior High Convention Feb. 21-23 in Gassaway.

Mission Project:

Pancake Festival Cleanup- March 21 (evening)

Upcoming:

- Summer Kickoff at Cowen- May 15-16
- Camp Cowen- see <u>www.campcowen.org</u> for schedule
- Mission Trip- Chattanooga, TN- June 7-13

Women's Camp 2020

(for women18 years and older)

Baptist Camp at Cowen

March 27-29, 2020

\$45 for the weekend (includes all meals)

Share Your Story

(Learn how God uses our testimonies in discipleship)



Speaker: Claire Cottrill

Join other women from across the state as we sing, dance, cry, love and worship together!

For more info: www.wvbc.org



Notes from NBC Choir

Do you know how many references there are to singing in the Bible? Would you believe over 400 with around 50 direct commands to sing praises? WOW! God, the creator of all that is, was and will be has designed us to be singers. One might think s/he may not be a very good singer, but God

doesn't mind how perfectly you sing. He isn't listening on account of your skill in singing. He only cares about whether and what you sing.*

Have you ever thought about why it is so much easier to learn new concepts when they are put to a tune? He created our minds to create pitch and lyrics; to engage our intellect, our imagination, and our memory. He designed us to create, sing, and learn the truths about Him and then share praises to Him. Additionally, He formed our hearts to be moved with emotion and feeling as we sing truths of who God is and His promises. (Eph. 5:19) Christian singing begins with the heart, not the lips.** The things God has done through Christ for us are worthy of moving us and, therefore, worthy of each of us singing songs of joy, gratefulness and gladness.

Our choir family is singing praises each week as we prepare for the lent season and Easter. It is a blessing to learn new songs and refresh old ones. We laugh, we sing, we pray and we enjoy fellowship within our community. You are welcome to join us anytime. Our rehearsals continue to be at 4:30 each Sunday evening. Two Saturday morning rehearsals are also scheduled on March 14th and April 4th from 9:30 - 12:00 with the Easter cantata being on April 5th.

How very thankful we should be that our church offers a time of community praise and worship as well as a time for singing hymns. So many churches no longer offer a time for congregational singing but at New Baptist there is value placed on the many Biblical references and directives to use this time for each one to lift his/her voice and heart and SING!

*Paraphrased from Chrisitanity.com "What Happens When We Sing in Worship"

**Paraphrased from Sing! How Worship Transforms Your Life, Family and Church by Keith & Kristyn





Over 200 tourism industry leaders attended a conference held at the Greenbrier Resort in late January and sponsored by the WVA Hospitality & Travel Assn and the WVA Association of Convention &

Visitors Bureaus. The conference featured educational sessions from industry leaders from across the United States. **Audy Perry** and **Rebekah Perry Franks** shared a 30-minute presentation highlighting Heritage Farm and the need to appreciate and share our Appalachian history and heritage during the annual awards luncheon.

The Feb /March issue of *River Cities Magazine* featured a great article about Rebekah & Heritage Farm and how she's sharing her love of nature and wildlife with others.

The first name listed on the Marshall University President's List for the 2019 fall semester was **Bailey Arkell**; on the Dean's List were **Abigail Harman**, **Caroline Kinder** (granddaughter of Joyce Kinder) and **Lauren Sommerville** (granddaughter of Lois Merritt).



Judy's Shawls will meet Monday, March 2 at 4:30pm in the Bykota room.

The Golden Rule in Political Discourse

Even when we really want to, it is sometimes hard to know how to practice the Golden Rule, especially when dealing with those of different political views. Jesus' command that we should "treat others as we would like to be treated" does apply to the world of politics.

For those Christians interested in applying this principle to political discourse, take a look at these lists that may be helpful in trying to answer the question of how to apply the Golden Rule to political discussions.

I Will

- Always show respect for the other person
- Listen patiently—especially when there is disagreement
- Use precise and truthful language that communicates my views without exaggerating
- Try to understand the experience out of which the other person arrived at his/her views
- Look for areas of mutual agreement
- Pray for the other person and our political leaders

I Won't

- Use inflammatory words, or derogatory names
- Make broad generalizations about individuals or groups
- Assault the character of others or falsely impugn their motives
- Question another person's faith or patriotism
- Demonize or describe as enemies, those who hold political beliefs different from my own

These guidelines provide a way to "treat others as we want to be treated," and even in the contentious world of politics, we are commanded to do exactly that.

From the ABCUSA February newsletter

Within the Christian family Lent is a period of personal reflection and self-examination in preparation for Resurrection Sunday (Easter). Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues to Easter. You will find it referred to as 40 days of Lent, but if you look at a calendar it is actually 46 days in length. The difference is that the 40 days are called fasting days and the six Sundays are not fasting days, therefore you get 40 days. I hope that is helpful, most Baptists don't know much about Lent because we do not follow the liturgical calendar.

40 Days of Renewal

New Baptist celebrates Ash Wednesday with a special service and an invitation to personal reflection and examination in preparation for Easter. This year the entire month of March fall within the Lenten season. In an

effort to enhance your Christian walk we are going to use our Wednesday evening services as a time of small group discussions of the scripture and message from the Sunday before. We have called this time

"40 Days of Renewal". This is an opportunity to build some relationships with your church family and discuss the message and dig deeper into the scripture. We ask that you sign up using the insert in the bulletin or by calling the church office. If you want to make the most of the Easter Season, then let me encourage you to be part of one of these small groups. The small group leaders are: Lisa Daniels, Paula Holley, Katelyn Mann, Tracy Foster, Lee Boso, Carmen Boso, and Robin Crouch with Brandon Morgan. The children's programs will continue as usual.

This will be the first Easter Season without my mom. She would have been 93 on March 8. She and my dad impacted so many young people with the Gospel. Their example was the foundation that the Lord used to shape and mold my life and ministry. This will be bittersweet; missing her physical presence but oh so sweet knowing that she is enjoying her first Easter in heaven. Many of you have a similar experience. Let's walk together during this time leaning on each other and we encourage each other to lean on the Lord.

I look forward to seeing you as we journey together in 40 Days of Renewal.

Faster Kosin

Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way!

Join our *Financial Peace University* class, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together!

Interested? Join us at New Baptist Church starting Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Feel free to message me your questions or sign up at fpu.com/1106365 ! Contact JohnBaisden53@gmail.com or 304-972-9050 (cell). Preview night: March 17, 2020, 6:00pm.





Thank you to those who have submitted information and pictures so we can add you to the church directory. Help us get to know your name and face by being a part of our directory. You do not have to be a member. This online directory comes in handy so often and by being able to add the app on your phone and have access to it when you are on the go makes it even better. For more info on how to be a part of the directory or how to put it on your computer or phone, please contact the church office.



For April Bridges Newsletter

March 22,2020

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." - Theodore Roosevelt



Reminders for Parents and Caregivers of Children:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL starts at 10am. Sunday school teachers and helpers please arrive by 9:45am to welcome our families.
- Please, escort your children to the WildSide in dropping-off and picking-up for ages Newborn to 5th grade.
- Please, CHECK-IN your child before going to your Sunday School room at the table on the WildSide with Debbie Harman or John Stinespring with the help of George Ellis. CHECK-OUT will be at the table with Debbie Harman and Abigail Harman; the families can pick up their children from escorts Lydia Jordan and Nina Boso.

PARENTS on Communion Sunday:

• If your child is in 1st grade and older, please come to the WildSide and pick-up your children before the 11am service so they may sit with you as a family for Communion.

PARENTS:

• Please discuss with your children that toys and cell phones and gaming units will be collected by the teachers and helpers and stored in a safe place for your child to have returned to them before going home for the day.

SICKNESS POLICY:

- It is a joy to have your children be so excited for church services and fellowship with friends and family, if you or your child is sick, please stay home until you are better should you have: **Keep MeHome If...**
 - --fever over 100
 - --diagnosis of flu or strep; until cleared by a provider for return
 - --rashes that are contagious
 - --vomiting and/or diarrhea
 - --other contagious illness

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CANCELLATION POLICY:

• If services should be cancelled for any reason, this includes regular church programming i.e. AWANA, Wednesday evening, Sunday services; you can receive an automated phone call or text message from the New Baptist Church Office. See Mrs. Pat Baisden to be added to the list.



Children's Church:

We can always use extra hands in Children's Ministry! Please, talk to Debbie Harman or Pastor Lee for more information. Committing to help in Children's Ministry can be tailored to your gifts and talents and time constraints. ©

AWANA:

- We will help pack Haiti Hygiene Kits on March 8 before our Mission Team leaves for Fort Liberte. Goal number of kits = 500. If you would like to help, a list of needed items are:
 - o wash clothes
 - o full size bars of soap
 - o toothbrushes
 - o toothpaste--small travel tubes
 - o travel size shampoos and conditioners
 - o deodorant
 - quart size food storage baggies for packing items



New Baptist Church

Children's Ministry News Continued:

BACKPACKS FOR HIGHLAWN:

Thank you so much for your donations of supplies and money for this mission project of the AWANA children. Needed items:



bowls of microwaveable macaroni and cheese ravioli, spaghetti-o's applesauce, fruit cups, fruit roll-ups breakfast bars, pop-tarts bags of pretzels nabs jars of peanut butter, sleeves of saltines

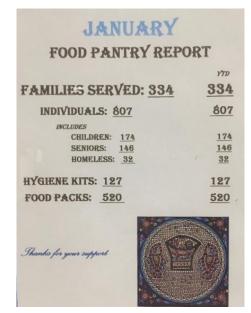
If you have questions about what to bring or to make a monetary donation, Teresa Foster, Pat Baisden, Debbie Harman, or Sheri Tadlock can help.

HELPING HANDS AND WORK DIRECTORS FOR PACKING NEEDED!! Talk to Gail or Virgil Kelly or Debbie Harman and Sheri Tadlock. Thank you!

COME JOIN US IN THE YARD on APRIL 4th--

Come Join New Baptist and the Highlawn Community Church of the Nazarene for a community-wide EASTER event in the big ole yard of New Baptist!! This will be for the Highlawn Community and Altizer Community and for the schools and families in our neighborhood. We will have an egg hunt, crafts, and stories of the Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Stay tuned for the time and how you might help in this neighborhood mission ^(C)







During the month of March, the children will be learning their songs for Easter, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Our missions project for February was making treat bags for the children visiting our Food Pantry. Each bag had hand written notes sharing the message of God's love.

Back in November the children raised \$82 by selling their crafts during our church bazaar. That money will be used for projects in Haiti in March.

Our March mission focus is making handmade gifts to be given to the children of Haiti.

"The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God."

-Author unknown



Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheons start back in April. Looking forward to another year of great food catered by Scrumptious Company, lots of entertaining programs and wonderful fellowship. Our first meeting date will be Thursday, April 16. February 16, 2020

Dear Families of New Baptist,

Thank you for entrusting your precious children to us in the Children's Ministry, newborn to Fifth grade at New Baptist.

In an attempt to ensure safety of your children while in our care in Sunday School and during the following Church hour; we have changed our current Check-In policy and have had and continue to provide Child Safety Classes and background checks for all those working in and around children at any time including AWANA and special events.

Our children number upwards to fifty on any Sunday morning and this does not include visitors that we have been blessed with having from our community. This requires many helpers and we have those in abundance here at New Baptist.

Where does your calling lie? Is it with the younger children from Newborn to fifth grade, middle school or high school, young adult or adult, music, hospitality—take a moment and ask yourself where your gifts and talents call you to be the "hands and feet" of our church. Pray about a commitment to actively serve in New Baptist.

As of now, families rotate one time a month at the first, second, third, or fourth Sunday during the second hour/Church hour in one of the three rooms in Children's Ministry. This is from 11:00am until the conclusion of service for Nursery (age newborn to 2 years), Toddler (age to 2 years to 3+years), and Pre-K and Kindergarten (4 years to 5+ years). This requires two to three adults and one or two youth helpers for <u>each</u> room.

To provide continuity and structure for the children, we are going to try a test group of helpers for the next 2 months in which the helpers work during the Church hour for the entire month instead of once every month. (This is the schedule we follow for Sunday School). This allows for helpers to be out of the Sanctuary 4 to 5 Sundays a year instead of 12 Sundays as before. It will help with structure and leading the second hour proactively with a short lesson in the Bible and time for music and of course fellowship and playtime with friends. This is contingent of having enough helpers to fill all twelve months.

Could you help in the Nursery, Toddler, Pre-K/Kindergarten room for a month to allow families more time in the sanctuary if you are not already scheduled? Could you do two months, at the beginning and end of the year, even this is still a shorter commitment of your time?

Let's talk as soon as possible!

In His Service,

Debbie Harman

| tear away, return to Debbie | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|
| My Name | | |
| Choice of month(s) 1st choice | | _ |
| 2 nd choice | | |
| 3 rd choice | | _ |
| Room choice—Circle one: Nursery | Toddler | Pre-K, K |

Prayer Concerns

(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, Jenny Benson,

Susan Black, Addisyn Blackburn, Tom & Laura Blake, Ed Bowling, Dorothy Castleberry, Mary Clifton, Jack Cook, Chelsea Caldwell Courts, Lisa Daniels, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Kenneth Fetty, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Doris Halcombe, Ripley Haney, Minnie Harris, Bill Herrold, David High, Anna Holstein, John Hovey, Linda Hutchinson, Scott Jackson, Derek & Megan Justice, Bill Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Judson Maverick Maynard, Roy Maynor, Linda Miller, Michelle Morgan, Pam Mullins, Mary Coughenour Murphy, Grace Napier, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Jerry Powers, Jack Rickman, Jimmy Robinson, Ronnie & Denise Runnels, Amy Sacre, Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Major & Lynnette Simms, Keith & Bonnie Simpkins, Butch Smith, Jim Spurlock, Linda Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Sandy Taylor, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Dave Watkins, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark Willett, Sharon Wimmer

Pray also for our pastors and our church; the community around us; unsaved loved ones; our military personnel; our government leaders; our country

Trustee Tidbit

Now is a good time to remind those borrowing equipment (tables, chairs, ladders, kitchen equipment, etc.) from our church that we have a system for keeping track of those items. Please check the items out through the front office. We need to know the items you are borrowing, when you plan to take them from the church and an approximate date you plan to return the items. When you return borrowed items, please check them back through the office, so we can note their date of return in our log book.



New Baptist Church 610 28th Street Huntington WV 25702

Office Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM **Tuesday thru Friday**

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On the Web: www.newbaptistchurch.com

Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman (trente@me.com)

Rev. Lee Boso (leeboso@gmail.com)

Rev. Robin Crouch (rlcrouch1948@gmail.com)

Service Hours:

Sunday

| 9:30 | Radio Bible Class |
|-------|----------------------|
| 9:45 | Sunday School |
| 11:00 | Morning Worship |
| | Kid's Church/Nursery |
| 4:30 | Choir Practice |
| 6:00 | Awana (Sept May) |
| | Youth |
| 6:30 | Evening Service |
| | |

Wednesday

Ladies' Bible Studies 9:30 Small Groups 6:30 Children's Choir Youth Pods



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH 610 28TH STREET HUNTINGTON WV 25702



Conference Center,

"The Divided Kingdom" The Book of Kings featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman

Pastor, New Baptist Church, Huntington and Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary Registration: 9:00 a.m., instruction will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the event will end at 3:00 p.m. Register online at www.wvbc.org.