

# **BRIDGES**

A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - March 2021

# "Homes"

Have you ever noticed how quickly a house deteriorates when it is not being lived in? Down the street from us is a house that sits empty, and over the past few years it has been remarkable to see how broken down it has become. The yard has grown up with weeds as high as the windows, gutters have fallen off causing poor drainage, and critters have taken up residency building nests and chewing through walls. Other factors in this

abandoned house are sure to include

mold and mildew, dirt, dampness, leaks, roaches and rats. As the house deteriorates, it becomes a danger to the neighborhood and soon will no longer be fit to live in. Future owners of the land will have no choice but to destroy the house. This reflects an interesting principle, "For a house"

to be livable it must be lived in."

This principle applies to our lives as well. Our lives have been created to have Jesus live in them. They sit empty, not having the creator of the universe living in them, they quickly deteriorate. A life that is empty of Jesus will find its foundation cracked with pride, weeds of lust growing up everywhere, various forms of mold and mildew such as laziness and gluttony causing it to stink, filled with the roaches of wrath, envy and pride. Scripture suggest that if a life sits empty of its true Lord, other critters will move in, demonic powers that chew up the inside of a life turning it into a living hell. These lives that sit empty for too long also become dangerous to others around them. They are, as scripture says "... an open grave (Psalm 5:9)" Scripture also says a time will come when those houses will be destroyed. For a house to be livable it must be lived in.

God has made us for Himself and lives that God inhabits are lives well lived. Like an occupied house, a God occupied life is cared for. The trash is taken out, toilets are flushed, and gutters are cleaned. Occasional bug bombs are set off to kill all the bugs, the lawn mower is brought out to cut the grass and weeds are pulled. In the Bible (John 14:2) Jesus tells us "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you." I like to think that a

part of His preparing a mansion for us is something He is doing right now in us. Not only is He getting heaven ready for us, but getting us ready for heaven by simply

living in us.

Some people might say that their life (home) is too far gone; that it can never be more than a

run down tin shack, let alone a mansion.

In the Bible Jesus tells us "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. (Revelations 3:20)" All lives are made for Him, and there is no life that is so far gone that he cannot take and turn it into a mansion. When you invite Jesus into your life, you not only get a spring cleaning job done, but you also get a professional remodeling job, a redecorating job, and even a home expansion job done. With Jesus living in you, you get a life that is meant to last forever.

John 14:23 " "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our home with him."

Grace and Peace,

**Pastor Trent** 



- 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
- 6 Randall Hatfield
- 7 Jeff Day 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
- 18 Shane Hufford
- 20 Teresa Foster Linda Harris Brenda Jameson Mitchell Redman 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



This past week, we, like so many struggled with no power due to the recent ice storm. For 6 days we were consumed with making sure we kept our fire and generator going and everyone having enough layers of clothes to stay warm in single digit nights. Every time we saw that someone else had gotten power back, we would get excited that the power company was one step closer to our neighborhood.

On Saturday morning, our family jumped with excitement as we saw power trucks heading to our hill to cut up the tree that had fallen and re-stretch the power line connecting us to the source. Hopeful texts and calls passed between neighbors and then we got the message telling us that our power had been restored....but still, no lights. We had functioned with a hope through morning and mid-day that acted as if our lights and heat would be powered up any minute. But as the day went on, the trucks had left and our lights were still off, that hope began to waver. We made another trip out to pick up dinner and refill our gas tank and returned to fire up the generator and re-light the gas logs to get prepared for another cool dark night camping out in the living room. Just minutes later, with triumphal screams and dancing our lights and heat returned.

Thinking about this experience, I see something similar play out in my faith journey. Faith in God gives us a hope that changes the way we live. Many Psalms remind us to wait on God and hope in His unfailing love and promises. When we don't see instant results, we doubt and have a tendency to fall back into self-reliance. But God's Word assures us that God is faithful and present and constantly at work, even when we fail to see it. Scripture tells us that through faith we have salvation through Jesus, but in this life we sometimes struggle to see it. However, wait for the Lord! Look to God with anticipation, hold to the promises of His Word, and trust that even when we don't see or feel Him, He is actively working. The light and warmth of that salvation is present.

Romans 8 talks about creation groaning in anticipation of the glory of God being revealed. And with that longing and anticipation, we live in hope through the Spirit, just like our family lived differently the day the power trucks were in our neighborhood. This season of Lent can feel dark as these winter months wind down, the scriptures remind us of Jesus' death on the cross and our ultimate mortality. But, we can live like eternity is here today, because Jesus rose from the dead and promises that same resurrected life for us.

Lent is a great time to begin practicing times of family devotions or reflections that help us look for God at work (even though it's started, it's not too late to start a devotion) This takes practice and when we don't actively see God's presence we tend to lose hope or get distracted. Ask questions like "where have you seen God this week?" or "how have you known God was at work in this?" Share your observations and where God is speaking to you with your kids so that they learn to see God in His Word and through everyday life. We are doing a series on Wednesdays at youth on noticing God, with daily devotions and family activities you can find at <a href="https://www.Newbaptistchurch.com/youth">www.Newbaptistchurch.com/youth</a>. Also, check out the resources on our website and Facebook group for youth, children, and families. As always, let me know if you have questions or ways I can be praying for you!

In Christ, Lee<><



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



New Baptist Church Treasurer's Report For the Calendar Year: 2020

	General Fund		
Offerings		\$	655,721.74
Expenditures:			
Ministry Salaries	\$326,987.21		
Church Home	173,535.45		
Ministry Programs	37,723.61		
Missions Ministry	65,435.19	_	(603,681.46)
Ministry Surplus		\$	52,040.28
Capital Improvements Fund Transfer		_	(30,000.00)
Net Increase - General Fund		\$	22,040.28
	Food Pantry		
Receipts:			
General Fund Budget Transfer	\$ 18,000.00		
Designated Offerings	51,603.57		
Memorial Gifts	759.20		
Stella Fuller - Christmas Baskets	3,000.00	\$	73,362.77
		<u>-</u>	
Food Purchases	\$ 20,343.80		
Supplies, etc.	243.14		(20,586.94)
Net Increase - Food Pantry Account		\$	52,775.83



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

# New Baptist Church – Emergency Shelter (Being the hands and feet of Christ)

From noon on Tuesday 2/16 until noon on Saturday 2/20, our church became an Emergency Shelter for a multitude of people without power in our Cabell County community. This was no small undertaking, and we wish to thank all of the church members who were able to volunteer and keep the shelter open 24 hours a day for five days and four nights. We worked in cooperation with Cabell County Emergency Medical Services who coordinated the efforts to supply beds and bedding, food, emergency medical assistance and law enforcement officers for security.

We appreciate the members of the Huntington Police Department for their assistance when needed. We also appreciate the Huntington Fire Department recruits who provided hours of support, sanitizing beds and spending time with our clients. In addition, we had members of the Emergency Medical Response Team help us.

Opening our church as a shelter is just one of the community services we strive to provide for our local community.

Again, thank you -

- Thank you to those who gave of their time and energy, helping with the shelter.
- Thank you to those who brought food, snacks, toiletry items & games for our clients.
- Thank you to those who would have loved to volunteer, but were unable to because of physical restraints or circumstances they were dealing with personally.
- Thank you especially to all who prayed for the shelter – the clients & the people volunteering.

The Amazing Grace of our Lord has brought us through some major trials once again this past month. Hopefully, the cold days with no electricity are behind us! We are so thankful that, even in hard times, we can truly thank Him for all He is and all He does in our lives. Give Him glory in all things! And maybe Spring truly is just around the corner--at least that's what the calendar says!

Through these next few weeks of Lent, as we look forward to Easter on April 4, I pray each of you will replace whatever you have given up with more time in the Word. We hope to start a couple of in-person Bible studies after Easter, as we attempt to get back to some semblance of normalcy. Feel free to call me (304.521.5129) or call the church office with any questions or suggestions as we work toward getting some small groups back together.

"Be strengthened by the GRACE that is in Christ Jesus."--2 Timothy 2:1

For Good...
Dolores Adkins





# Notes from NBC Choir Director, Karen Dailey

And here it is March. WOW! 2021 has flown by so far. In our hope for a better year than the pandemic in 2020 we have continued with the pandemic as well as trials from the worst ice /

snowstorms than have been seen in decades. In Exodus we are told about the Hebrew children's trials and tribulations; their 400 years of bondage in Egypt and their triumphant exodus from Egypt heading to the Promised Land. Some say the first song ever recorded is found in Exodus 15 called The Song of Moses and Miriam which was sung after the Israelites saw the Lord's mighty miracle of parting the sea for them to part on dry land and His display of great power displayed against the Egyptians. Music played an important part in Israel's worship and celebration. Singing was an expression of love and thanks. Additionally, it was a creative way to pass down oral traditions. Exodus 15 was a festive, epic poem celebrating God's victory, lifting the hearts and voices of the people inward and upward. After having been delivered from great danger, they sang with great joy. We, too, can "sing" our praises and thanks to God whether you have a beautiful voice or, like me, an old raspy one. The Bible is full of beautiful psalms we can use to express our thanksgiving, our relief and praise when we have been through troubles. The old standby hymns as well as a lot of new contemporary songs are rich in Biblical truths that can lift our spirits and offer up praise just like the Israelites... inward and upward. Though we still cannot meet together and sing as a collective choir family, nor sing as a congregation lifting our voices in unison without masks hampering the sound, we can still have a song in our hearts and on our minds to bring us peace, give us comfort and give HIM praise. Exodus 15:1,2 "I will sing to the LORD for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Verse 13 "In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling."

Whatever we are going through in today's times we can always find reasons to rejoice and offer him praise!



Thank you all for continuing to be so generous. We were able to do another take out lunch supporting pastor Dasnis in February that raised \$260.48. It is a joy in a year that has so many uncertainties that you continue to be faithful in your giving.

We will be selling chocolate covered peanut butter eggs with proceeds going to Pastor Dasnis. Eggs will be \$5 each. We will be taking orders in advance, and you can pick up your eggs on Palm Sunday. Stay tuned for more info on placing orders, but go ahead and start dreaming of how yummy they will surely taste.

Last year was a year where many things came to a halt; including many of our yearly giving/service opportunities. Much of this year is still unknown, but the mission board is working on ways to continue to serve our community. We have been in contact with the Veterans Home in Barboursville, and we are able to deliver Easter Baskets this year!!! We are not certain yet if we will be able to assemble them and give them out ourselves or if we will have to drop off supplies for them to distribute. We will keep you posted as details become clearer.

#### What an entrance!

Many years ago the actress, Gertrude Lawrence, was the star of a play in London. Before the drama began, the Queen entered the Royal Box with great dignity. Immediately the entire audience rose and applauded Her Majesty.

Observing from the wings, the actress uttered, "What an entrance!"

The playwright, Noel Coward, was standing nearby and responded, "What a part!"

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on that day we call Palm Sunday, the people cheered him shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9, NRSV).

It was a cry of adoration and acclamation. Jesus handled the adulation with dignity and poise. The Son of God entered the capital city humbly but courageously. He knew that danger — even death — awaited him. He went anyway and memorably.

It was a victory day for him, a week before the greatest Victory of all — his resurrection.

No wonder we remember Palm Sunday with joy. It was a glorious day for Christ and for us.

Let us wave palms, a symbol of peace. Let us shout, "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" The Savior has come. What an entrance! What a part! During February Mother Nature knocked us down and then kicked us again just when we had recovered enough to start to get up. The ice and snow storms brought hundreds of downed trees, massive power outages, impassable roads and bitter cold. Some in our church are still without electricity nearly two weeks after the first storm. Power restoration crews are working daylight to dark replacing broken poles and power lines. A special thank you is due for those linemen and crews for their effort.

I have seen many post a sincere thank you to the crews and a "God is Good" when their power is restored. I am most struck by those that are still without electricity and the hopes of getting it soon are not good that are also posting a heartfelt "God is Good All the Time".

In the middle of a crisis and the chaos of blocked roads and downed trees and broken electricity lines, fatigued by tending generators and clearing debris and yet their spirit cries "God Is Good." I ask that you take time to pause and pray for your friends and the people still struggling with the aftermath of these storms. I have not even mentioned the added pressure of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has been an opportunity for the church to be the church in real and tangible ways. Church members checking up on each other. Many with electricity have loaned generators to those without. Doing grocery and propane runs for those that cannot get out. On and on I could go talking about how our people are taking care of each other.

In addition to that, New Baptist was used as a warming shelter. We were able to provide a warm, safe place for a number of our community. In a couple of cases it was lifesaving. A special thanks to John and Pat Baisden for organizing our volunteers and working with the County in this effort. We all learned a great deal in the process and will be better able to address similar shelter needs in the future.

I just want to say thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus during this crisis. I am honored to serve on the staff of New Baptist. In the last couple of weeks, we have certainly lived out our mission to 1) know Christ, 2) to grow in His Word and 3) to be a blessing where He has placed us. Thanks again for being the church. Let's pray that March is a little less hectic.



A new Financial Peace Class will be starting in April. It will be a "study on your own" class with a virtual group discussion starting on

April 6 at 7:00pm and continuing each Tuesday at 7:00pm until June 1.

Enrollment is available online at fpu.com/1134188, or you can sign up at a greatly reduced rate by contacting John Baisden (four memberships available) at 304-972-9050 or JohnBaisden53@gmail.com

For more information, contact John Baisden at the number above.



We are so excited to continue to add new names and faces to our church directory.

You do not have to be a church member. If you are worshipping with us, we would love to add you to our church directory so we can put a name with a face.

The online directory comes in handy so often and by being able to add the app on your phone and have quick and easy access 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.



Spring begins March 20

# **Spring fever**

Four high school students afflicted with spring fever skipped their morning classes. After lunch, the boys told their teacher they'd had a flat tire.

Much to the boys' relief, the teacher smiled and said, "Well, you missed a test, so take seats apart from one another and take out a piece of paper."

Still smiling, she waited for them to sit down. Then she said, "First question: Which tire was flat?"

# **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:**

Church Family and Friends: Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Nancy Adkins, Mickey Bane, Jenny Benson, Dean & Cookie Caldwell, Mary Clifton, Pam Cole, Jack Cook, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Tessie Deuser, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Toni Gygi, Doris Halcombe, Minnie Harris, Anna Holstein, John & Linda Hovey, Sandy James, Pete & Anita Jones, Bill Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Joseph Leggott, Joyce Mannon, Roy Maynor, Pat Meredith, Linda Miller, Charlie Morris, Grace Napier, Carol Newlon, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Corlie Perry, Ginger Poteete, Carolyn Powers, Lena Powers, Vicki Rickard, Carol Richardson, Walter & Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark & Jo Ellen Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Bret Woodall

#### **Additional Prayer Items:**

our pastors our community our military personnel our country all affected by the Covid-19 crisis unsaved loved ones our government leaders those still cleaning up from the ice storm

#### **Death in the Church Family**



Shirley Funderburk, 78, of Huntington WV, passed away on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Shirley was a social worker for the Huntington City Mission and a member of New Baptist Church. She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Tammy and Adam Gould of Speedwell, TN, and Tina and Roger Pugh of Huntington; two granddaughters, Nicole Wyant (Brandon) of Flatwoods, KY, and Stacy Tankersley (Gregory) of Huntington.

# Paying it back — and forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?





## Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon News

No Meetings Planned at this time

Until the covid situation is under control, we have no plans for senior luncheons. We miss you, we love you and we pray that you will stay safe.



March 6, 2021

Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall
The event will also be online via Zoom.

# The Book of Galatians: Amazing Grace

featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman
Pastor, New Baptist Church and
Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary

The in-person event will be limited to 25 people.

Conference Fee: \$20 per person Pastors pay half price \$10

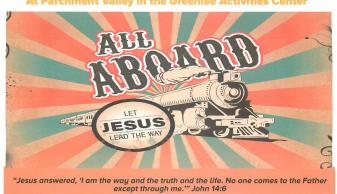
Registration Deadline (with money enclosed): March 3, 2021

Registration begins at 9:00am, instruction will start at 9:30am and the event will end at 3:00pm. Fee includes lunch and snacks.

Register online at www.wbc.org



chment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



except through me." John 14:6

COST: \$13.00 (if postmarked by February 22nd) \$25 (if postmarked after February 22nd or at the doc

## Schedule

9:00 a.m. Registration 9:30-9:50 a.m. Welcome Instructions

10:00-10:40 a.m. Lesson 1 10:45-11:25 a.m. Lesson 2 11:30-12:10 p.m. Lesson 3 12:15-12:45 p.m. Lunch 12:45-11:0p.m. Singing 1:15-1:55 p.m. Lesson 4 2:00-2:40 p.m. Lesson 5 2:45-3:00 p.m. Singing

Closing

We will be following COVID guidelines that are set at the time of the event.

Please wear a mask.

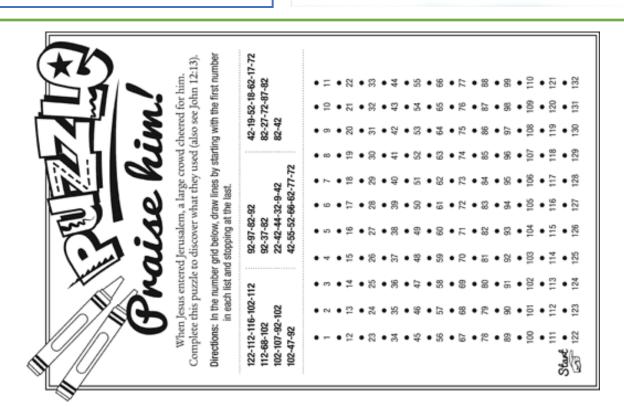
#### MISSION PROJEC

#### BABY NEEDS for Life Choice

Diapers Wipes Newborn Outfit/Onesies Receiving Blanket Baby Nasal Aspirator Infant Tylenol Prenatal Vitamins Gift Cards to Walmart or Target T-shirts: Pre-sale only. No t-shirts will be for sale at the Rally. Cost \$10.00 each and must

be pre-ordered and pre-paid by February 22nd.





# **New Baptist Church**

610 28<sup>th</sup> Street Huntington WV 25702

#### Office Hours:

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Tuesday thru Friday

#### Phone:

304-523-3355

#### E-mail:

newbaptist2008@gmail.com

#### 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**

## 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)

# 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

