

# **BRIDGES**

### A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - March 2023

#### A Season of Renewal

Recently I spent a day at Asbury College/ Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. I traveled to Wilmore because I was reading several news stories about a non-stop week-long renewal that was taking place on campus. After an early morning start from Huntington, I arrived at Asbury in time to attend the college's chapel and then the seminary's chapel. Both were well done, and the various speakers

were filled with wisdom, grace, and God's Spirit. After attending the chapels, I made my way into the primary auditorium on Asbury College's campus, where the renewal had first started. The place was filled with people. People were standing, sitting, and kneeling, all worshiping the Lord. Being in a place where every heart sought the Lord was refreshing. It was refreshing to be invited to pray and worship without being asked anything in return. This is part of the reason why I believe that the renewal taking place on Asbury's

campus was (and is) a work of God. So often, we get in the way of God, and the Asbury renewal was all about getting out of God's way. There was no speaker who wanted attention, no famous praise leader seeking to sell his music, no mission organization handing out sponsorships, nor was there any preacher there telling what one must do to be a better Christian. People were simply invited to pray and worship – and that was all. I can see why people did not want to leave.

While I was there, some observations and thoughts came to my mind that I have been pondering over. Here are a few of my observations.

Renewal takes place when God is given space to speak and work. We live in a modern world where our busy lives and social media habits command our attention. I think people feel that God is silent or absent, not realizing that He is perceived to be so because they have given God no space in their lives.

Creating space physically and mentally is central to welcoming God in.

When God moves, it is always disruptive. I have thought a lot about this theme this past week. I am sure many on the Asbury campus feel the renewal is disruptive. It was disruptive for me to drive to Wilmore and spend a day there. It disrupts the normal flow of life to give space for God. But, I am not

sure how else God works. Every story

in the Bible is about people who had their lives turned upside down by God. The Lord, by His Grace, disrupts the lives of people who encounter Him.

People do not like disruption; thus, most people don't really want God to move in their life. Despite the vast numbers of people who came to Asbury to experience the renewal, I was surprised that there were not more. Seriously, when was the last time you heard of a weeks-long 24/7 renewal taking place? Who would not want to see

it? I think many people could have attended but did not attend because they were "busy" and did not want their lives interrupted. People seem to want God to fit into their schedules, not His.

The Devil does not like it. While at Asbury, I witnessed many different attempts to "quench the Spirit." The primary way the Devil did this was by offering distractions. People were shouting on the street corner and doing other activities to draw attention to themselves, and it would have been easy to focus on them and not the Lord.

I think the Devil has gotten very good at providing distractions. This is why I encourage you during this Lenten season to remove distractions, make space for God, and Seek His face. May this season be a season of refreshment for you.



Grace and Peace, **Pastor Trent** 



- 1 Hunter Adkins Annabeth Adkins Kevin Skaggs
- 3 Jennifer Adams Joe Collins Tommie Templeton
- 4 Bob Blankenship Lee Boso 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 Marilyn Thompson
- 16 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
- 22 Donna Dunn Abigail Willis
- 25 Parker Campbell Raymond Spurlock Tracy Waugh
- 27 Chris Edmonds Rebekah Perry Franks Nancy Riley
- 28 Joel Sisson
- 29 Virginia Benson
- 30 Joseph Leggott Trey Wilson
- 31 Sharon Hodges





Mustard seeds, a bag lunch, and a small group of people. These seemingly small things are shown in the Bible to make a huge impact. With a small mustard seed, a tree grows, and comparable faith can move mountains. When a boy willingly offers his bag lunch, a few fish and loaves feeds thousands. A small group of 12 disciples take the Good News of Jesus'

resurrection and hope to the multitudes as the way of Jesus spreads like wildfire around the world. These seemingly small things in God's hands can grow exponentially and have power that is unfathomable.

As we begin the season of Lent, I am contemplating what small things in my life can I give up to make space to encounter God's hand at work? What small thing can I give that can be multiplied by God to bless the world around me? Who are the people God has called me to encourage and journey with as we grow in faith and share the hope we have in Jesus.

As I read accounts of what has happened at Asbury College, there were no big name speakers or bands, no highly trained evangelists. Just simply a hunger for God and a willingness to make space, to wait, watch, and respond to Gods presence.

Take time as a family over the next week and ask, what could we give up? What could we give? Who can we encourage or pray for? As we make space for God and are attentive to his work in us and in others we can experience the same powerful presence and multiplication that He has been actively doing since the beginning of time. He is not constrained to one location, God is present with His people and our willingness to make space helps us to tune in and be aware of His work.

Please pray for our youth mission team as they pay deposits this month and hold their first fundraisers. Pray for our families and children as they explore ways to make space for God in their schedules during Lent. Pray for Pastor Trent and Pastor Robin and the team who will be going to Israel to learn and grow in an understanding of God and His Word.

I'm praying for God to show up in your life and mine through the seemingly small things this season!

Pastor Lee <><



- 1 Larry & Carol Sumpter (55th)
- 17 Randall & Judy Hatfield (50<sup>th</sup>) 20 – Travis & Kara Smith
  - 26 John & Linda Hovey



Join us on **Mondays**,

5:30pm – 6:30pm New Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

(enter by fellowship hall door on east side of the building)







**STRONG AND COURAGEOUS...**as we are now in the season of **Lent...** 

Allow the Spirit to lead you as you prepare your heart. In the days leading up to the celebration of our Lord's resurrection, reflect on how strong and courageous Jesus had to be to face all he endured. Know that He will not ask you to face more

than you can bear, but will always make a way for you.



**STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**...as we continue in small group **Bible study**...

**Wednesday mornings at 9:30**: "A Long Obedience in The Same Direction" by Eugene Patterson

Wednesday evenings at 6:30: "God of Creation" by Jen Wilkin

**Thursday mornings at 9:30**: "Elijah" by Priscilla Shirer **On-going ONLINE study**: "Nothing to Prove" by Jennie Allen (see NBC Facebook for details)



**STRONG AND COURAGEOUS..**.as we dwell on our theme verse from **Joshua 1:9**...

"Be strong and courageous, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go!"

For Good...
Dolores Adkins

#### **Sharing the load** (from ChurchArtPro)

In 1969 the Hollies released "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." Do you know the story behind that song title?

Fifty years earlier in Omaha, Nebraska, a boy with polio was abandoned at Father Flanagan's Home for Boys, predecessor to the Boys Town organization. Soon several older residents started carrying young Howard — with his heavy leg braces — especially up stairs. Father Flanagan once saw an older boy, Reuben, doing this and asked if it was hard work. Reuben replied, "He ain't heavy, Father. He's my brother." Years later, these words and the image of one person carrying another became the Boys Town brand.

All of us have been "carried" at some point, and we've likely "carried" someone else. The Hollies' song declares: "His welfare is my concern." Jesus said it this way: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The load isn't too heavy to bear because Jesus himself is always carrying us.



Gavin Blake (son of LaAnna and Kevin Blake and grandson of Sandy & Carl Pemberton) is a member of the Cabell-Midland High School Swim

Team that participated in the state meet in Morgantown February 16 -17. This is only the 10th year the school has had a swim team. Though the team did not qualify for the finals, the experience was great and they were excited to be chosen to go.

Jim & Ann Spurlock are pleased to announce the birth of their new great grandson, Rhett Loren Bowers, born January 20, 2023.

#### Indulge for Lent?

Rather than sacrificing something for Lent — especially something easy and spiritually insignificant, such as chocolate — Patty Kirk, in *Guideposts* magazine, suggests finding new ways to indulge in God's presence. Surely one can do this by having extra devotions or attending Lenten worship services. But Kirk offers these ideas:

- Spend time outdoors, sensing God's magnificence.
- Spend time with others, extending generosity and compassion. Remember Jesus' promise that when you care for others, you care for him (Matthew 25:31-46).
- Pray for the "little things," coming before God in childlike trust and feeling peace.
- Watch attentively for God's answers to prayer, and receive them as reminders of his presence.
- Turn anxiety into prayer. As you frame concerns as prayers and entrust them to God, you "sacrifice" the tendency to wallow in worry.

#### **2022 Records of Contributions**

Available in the church office. If you would prefer to have yours emailed or mailed directly to you, please contact Pat in the church office (304.523.3355).





The choir is rehearsing every Wednesday evening at 7:30 for our Easter program. It is called "Ransomed and Redeemed" and has both familiar and new songs. We are praying that it will be a blessing to you and honoring to our Lord and Savior. It is not too late to join us if you feel Him leading you to sing praises to Him with our group. We not only sing together but fellowship, laugh and share in each other's lives. We sing a variety of music, some traditional hymns as well as new. While it has been a little inconvenient for us to sing as a choir each week during the worship service because of the construction, we are looking forward to the newly remodeled platform being finished so we can once again sing songs to glorify the Lord and be an encouragement to you, the body of Christ. We all need encouragement from time to time; sometimes from each other but most definitely from our Lord. When looking through the book Then Sings My Soul, 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories I came across the story to this song:

"I Need Thee Every Hour" was written on bright June morning in 1872 by Annie S Hawkes. As a child she dabbled in poetry and was first published at the age of fourteen. During her lifetime she wrote over four hundred hymns during her eighty-three years, though only this one is still widely sung. She wrote this song at a time in her life that was extremely busy and stressful. As a young wife and mother instead of falling into the trap of depression from all that she had to do for her young family she leaned on God's presence in her life. She was so in awe of the nearness of the Master and wondered how one could ever live without Him. She recognized that He is there in all circumstances, joy, stress, sadness, or pain. Read the words to her verses and chorus and know they can be a prayer for your own life. Although we don't speak in proper English with Thee, Thou and Thine as they did a century and a half ago, the words are just as relevant in 2023 as they were in 1872:

I need Thee ev'ry hour, most gracious Lord. No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, stay Thou nearby; temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, in joy or in pain; come quickly and abide or life is vain.

I need Thee ev'ry hour, most Holy One. Oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son!

I need Thee, O I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee; O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee!

LORD, we ... I do need you every hour of every day. You are most gracious, and no other voice is as tender and can offer such peace. Stay nearby, LORD, as temptations lose their power when you are near. I need you every hour whether in joy or in pain. Come and abide with me otherwise, life is in vain. I need you every hour, you are the MOST HOLY ONE, make me yours please blessed Son! I need you...O I need you; every hour I need you. Bless me now, my Savior, as I come to you in prayer.



## Church Directory

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 have you in 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 (304.523.3355)



Wednesday, March 23, 2022





Report from Bethany Cox

**Haiti update:** We were able to host our first in person mission luncheon after 2 years!!! We enjoyed a potluck dinner/fellowship. Donations were over \$600 for Pastor Dasnis.

Gail and Virgil are busy finalizing details for our church's first trip back to Ft Liberte'. The team will be going in May instead of March due to airline issues. We will be collecting items for hygiene bags to be distributed on the trip. Stay tuned for more info on items we will be collecting.

The Haiti team will be hosting a luncheon on Feb 19th to raise money for their projects during their trip. Menu is Virgil's famous spaghetti.

Marshall Football Team: We are planning to feed the Marshall football players participating in a weekly Bible study on Wed March 22. If you would be interested in helping with these please let Amy Smith or Bethany Cox know. Bible studies are held on Wednesdays around lunchtime.

**Lunch for A Buck:** The Campus Christian Center has started "lunch for a Buck back up this semester. New Baptist provided pepperoni rolls, chips, dessert and drinks on Feb 14. We were able to serve around 60 students. All proceeds go to the Christian Center for renovations.

We had some leftover lunches that were able to be used the following day to feed the football players participating in the weekly Bible study.

**Cru:** Cru will be taking 30 students to Costa Rica over spring break to work on water filtration systems. What better example of the gospel than providing clean water and then talking about who can provide living water. Please be in prayer for these students. The mission board will be providing these students with a journal to keep track of their God sightings during the week. We are asking our church members to write a prayer in the front of these journals for the students. If you are interested in helping with this project, please see Bethany Cox.

#### **Food Pantry:**

January Numbers 267 Families served 74 hygiene kits 400 school food packs

#### 2022 Numbers

3199 Families served 901 hygiene kits 3220 School Food Packs

#### **Upcoming events:**

We will be making **Easter baskets for the residents of the Veterans home** in Barboursville on the Saturday directly before Easter. We would love for everyone to come help assemble the baskets and then stick around to talk with the veterans. They have many stories to share.

**Operation Christmas Child**: we have been contacted to be a drop off collection center. We are still investigating details around what this entails, but are excited for this possibility.

**Youth Mission Trip:** Our youth will be going to Philadelphia this summer to work with a program: A Common Youth Initiative. They will be immersed into neighborhoods and communities throughout Philadelphia and engaging in service activities. They will have multiple upcoming fundraising opportunities so be sure to support our youth! See Lee Boso for more info.

**New Missionary:** Our newest missionary, **Sarah McCloy**, has her commissioning service the first weekend in March. She will travel to Japan later that month to start her new ministry endeavors.



The Huntington City Mission rented the fellowship hall again this year for a fundraising dinner/auction event on Thursday, February 9. It was very well attended and brought in over \$41,000. These monies will help the mission continue to serve those in need.

#### **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 Adkins, Nancy Adkins, Carol Arkell, Lynn Barcus, Jim & Jenny Benson, Charlie Bonecutter, Robert Bonecutter, Debbie Brown (friend of Annie Stewart), Dean & Cookie Caldwell, Ron Caviani, Baby Piper Clark, Pam Cole, Joe & Toni Collins, Kyle & Jo Ann Cook, Jonah Cruz, Rose Davis, Pam Fannin, Sally Flanders, Tracy & Teresa Foster, Karen Gillispie, Doris Halcombe, Minnie Harris, Joni Hill, John & Linda Hovey, Becky Huff, Sandy James, Ron Jarvis, Pete & Anita Jones, Virgil Kelly, Joyce Kinder, Judy Lantz, Bill & Debbie Lapole, Joseph Leggott, Bob Mannon, Roy Maynor, Margaret Mclaughlin, Pat Meredith, Lois Merritt, Nancy Messinger (sister of David McMellon), Marvin & Valerie Moore, Spencer Moore, Charlie Morris, Tom Nash, Bob & Paula Paden, Audy Perry, Carolyn Powers, Lena Powers, Nina Rakes, Carol Richardson, Cheryl Richardson, Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Bob & Jo Anna Smith, Bill Snoddy, Barbara Lynn Spurlock, Jean Spurlock, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond Spurlock, David Stevenson, Dick & Annie Stewart, Judy Swann, Grover & Sheri Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Sharon Wimmer

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

our pastors our community our military personnel unsaved loved ones our government leaders our country

#### **Death in Church Family:**

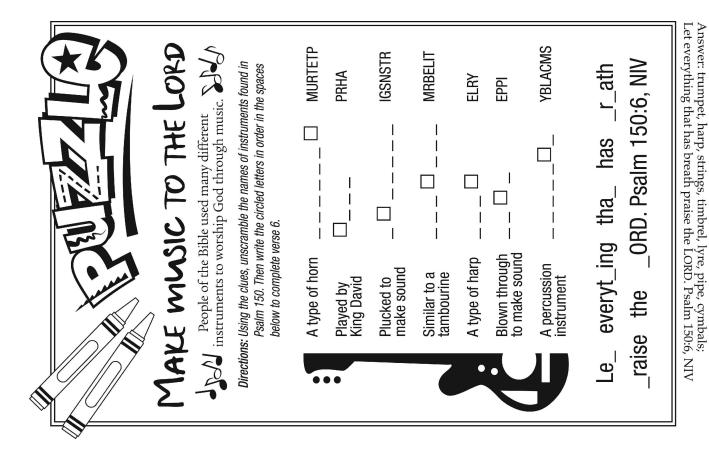


**Bill Dolen**, 87, of Barboursville, WV, passed away on February 22, 2023. Bill was a Sergeant of Engineering in the Army National Guard and retired in 1992 from his job as electrician at INCO. Bill was a member of New Baptist Church where he was a faithful member of the Berean Sunday School Class. He was also a member of the Huntington Rose Society and had won many awards for his beautiful roses. For many years he was active in the World Changers and had enjoyed his time in the

YSquares Square Dance Club, Huntington Beagle Club and the Riviera Golf Club. Bill's greatest passion was loving the Lord. He was preceded in death by his parents and his two sisters. Bill is survived by his wife, Oleta; one daughter, Debbie Spears; one son, Michael (Colette) Dolen; one stepson, Rodney (Paula) Adkins and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.











#### **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)



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

#### Service Hours:

#### Sunday

9:30 Radio Bible Class
9:45 Sunday School for all ages
\*11:00 Morning Worship Kid's Church/Nursery

\*Service is also live streamed on Facebook (@NewBaptistChurchWV)

#### Wednesday

6:00 Awana Youth 6:30 Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

> NBC Food Pantry Hours Tuesdays 10am – 2pm

