

GOOD NEWS

STOCKS EXCHANGE

I Came across a great article that I wanted to share. It highlights that we (church members) all have a responsibility for the growth of the church...because after all, WE ARE THE CHURCH! After working with so many churches, I



have found the following to resonate deeply.

We all want someone to blame. When things go wrong in life – and they inevitably do – it is human nature to point the finger at someone else who failed to do their part. Typically, the person who bears the greatest blame is the leader. That is true in a family, in a church, and in government. And while there is no doubt that leaders often fail it has become socially acceptable and sadly commonplace to put all blame on the man at the front.

But is that always true? I heard a lady last week mockingly blame the failure of her marriage on the pastor who married she and her husband many years ago. He must not have done something right. Really?

Parents may attribute problems in the lives of their children to youth leaders or schoolteachers when the seeds of destruction were often sown at home. It is easy to accuse others in an effort to excuse our own failures.

It is natural to blame the shepherd when sheep wander, or get dirty, or fight. But what about the sheep? Do they bear any responsibility?

Every person must accept their own accountability to God. Stop blaming the pastor. Stop blaming another church member. Stop blaming a spouse. Stop blaming enemies. Let us ask ourselves the question that every sincere disciple asks himself on the night of the Lord's betrayal, "Is it I?" (Matthew 26:22) Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the devil. But every man and woman is personally responsible for their actions and reactions. Wounding others will never heal our hurt.

David was quick to judge the man in Nathan's story until he heard, "Thou art the man." When he finally humbled himself all he could say was, "I have sinned."

That is a good place for all of us to begin.

Some people live their entire lives playing the blame game. But we never win that game...and others lose out along the way.

"So, then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

Leaders are not always right. Like every sinner, they make mistakes and fail.

Honest people understand this truth. Pray for those God has placed over you (1 Timothy 3:1-2; Hebrews 13:17-18) and refuse to join the chorus of critics who simply want someone to blame. Accept responsibility for your own heart and home. I am reminded that at the judgment seat of Christ none of us will be pointing at someone else. It will be just me and God that day.

I leave you with this thought:

Judas had the best pastor, the best leader, the best advisor, the best counselor. Yet HE failed. The problem may not be the leadership of the church you go to... if our attitude, character, or heart transform, then WE will always be the same.

I'm on the journey WITH you!

God is good...all the time.

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THE CHRISTIAN KITCHEN

The Super Bowl is February 11th. The only thing better than the game is the delicious food. Enjoy this delicious recipe at your Super Bowl party this year!

BUFFALO CHICKEN MEATBALLS

Ingredients

Extra-virgin olive oil, for baking sheet
4 tbsp. butter
1/3 c. hot sauce, preferably Frank's RedHot
1/3 c. crumbled blue cheese
Kosher salt
1/3 c. panko bread crumbs
2 stalks celery, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 large egg
1/4 c. sliced green onions, plus more for garnish
1/2 tsp. onion powder
1 lb. ground chicken

Directions

Step 1

Preheat oven to 425° and brush a large baking sheet with oil. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine butter, hot sauce, and blue cheese, and season with salt. Whisk until butter and cheese have melted, 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool.

Step 2

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir together bread crumbs, celery, garlic, egg, green onions, and onion powder and season with salt. Add chicken and half the hot sauce mixture and mix until combined.

Step 3

Using a cookie scoop, form 1-inch meatballs and transfer to prepared baking sheet.

Step 4

Bake until lightly golden, 15 to 17 minutes.

Step 5

Drizzle remaining sauce over meatballs and sprinkle with green onions before serving.

QUIET REFLECTIONS

Jesus is My Valentine
by
Susan Y. Nikltenko

Jesus is my Valentine;
I talk to Him each day.
He never, never leaves me;
and always listens when I pray.
Yes He is my Valentine;
there is no love like His.
He is the heart of all that is;
For Him I breathe and live.
He's a Valentine that never lies;
never hurts or breaks.
He always has forgiven me;
for all my past mistakes.
If you only knew my Valentine;
You would love Him too.
For His love is always perfect;
His love is always true.
So if your heart is longing;
for a love that never ends.
for someone that is faithful;
you know you can depend.
call upon my Valentine;
He'll wash away your sin.
He will be your Valentine;
and your dearest, dearest friend.



VBC PRESCHOOL

The Victoria Baptist Church Nursery School students have started off the new year with a bang! Everyone is excited to come together and learn about how to let Jesus lead our lives in 2024 and every year after. Graduation is just around the corner and we are working hard to get ready for Kindergarten.





GOOD NEWS CLUB

Glory to God! The Victoria Elementary School Good News Club is changing and growing! We thank God for His sovereignty because change is sometimes painful. Our team suffered a loss when one member stepped down (we hope temporarily), but we wish her the best in her life challenges and blessings. We gained a team member at the club meetings who has been actively serving in the background, but all evidence shows that she will be a great asset to the club. We have new students also, some as a result of the Christmas Party Club, and some just new to the club. Expressions of faith in Jesus have been consistently higher this semester, with six children joining God's family by their profession of faith in Jesus our first week back this semester and four more this past week! We are currently in a study on the life of Joseph and how God used many trials and tests of his faith to bring about God's plan to save His people from the devastating famine in their country, and to prove to them His great love for them.



CELEBRATION SHOUT OUT

Please submit any birthdays or anniversaries for March by **February 28th** to: office@victoriabaptistchurch.com.

February 28th

Sandra Tomlinson



CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITY

Children and youth are invited to stay after worship **Sunday February 4th** to make Valentine's cards for shut-ins and nursing home residents. This activity will be from 12:30 to 1:30 with pizza for lunch. Parents are welcome too.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Many people will be watching the Super Bowl this year and eating lots of snacks. Remember those who may have trouble stocking their pantry so please bring canned food on **Sunday February 11th** for the local food bank.



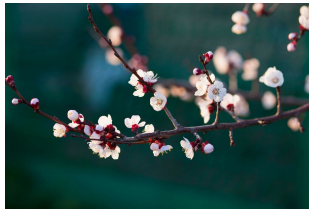
SENIOR HIGH LUNCH

The Senior High is going to host a soup and grilled cheese lunch on **Sunday February 18th**. Donations from the luncheon will be donated to the food packaging event on March 10th.



FOOD PACKAGING EVENT

We will be hosting a food packaging event on **Sunday March 10th** following worship with Lifeline Mission. The hospitality committee will serve a light lunch before the event. This will be our first food packaging event since COVID. This is an important ministry, but it is costly. Our goal is to package 10,000 meals. The cost of hosting this event is \$4,000. If you would like to donate to this mission project, please designate Food Packing Project on your donation. Thank you for your generous support.



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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As we strive to maintain the ministry of our church, we hope and pray you will continue to tithe during this time.

For online bill pay or mail in offerings (please no cash), send to:

P.O. Box 911
Victoria, VA 23974

We have added online giving and text giving for your convenience:

Online Giving:
[Click here to give](#)

Text GiveVBC to 73256

We appreciate your faithful support to Victoria Baptist Church as we weather these difficult days.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR JANUARY

REGULAR MONTHLY OFFERING GOAL \$12,463.27

REGULAR MONTHLY OFFERING RECEIVED \$13,090.60

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PRAYER LIST AND SHUT-INS

You can help our shut-ins by writing a letter, sending a card or giving a call! Phone calls are an especially good way for them to hear your voice and be comforted. Please respect the rules of the nursing home and care facilities when planning visits.

PRAYER CONCERNS February 4, 2024

Members Who Need Prayer

Jane Woolard
Jean Overton
Jessie Otey
Scott Lindsey
Ronnie Smith
Brandon Harding
Anita Mattox– Surgery Feb. 5th

In Our Community - Keep In Your Prayers

Kris Earwood
Nancy Long
Jack Dalton
Georgia Coming
Bradley Owen
Spencer Moore
Logan Reese
Gabe Puleo
Carrie Wilson
Sheila Williams- Hungerford

Sympathy to the family and friends of Sharon Lafoon

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - If you have a family member or loved one on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office with an update. *If the Lord has answered prayers and all is well, please ask us to remove their name from our list. We want to include everyone who needs our prayers, so please keep us informed. Thank you.*

AWAY FROM HOME PRAYER CONCERNS

Jackie Clement (Room 126) (Oct 20) Anne Hudson (Room 203) Heritage Hall 900 S. Main Street Blackstone, VA 23824	Curtis Jones Waynie Pennell Chase City Nursing and Rehab 5539 Highway 49 Chase City, VA 23924
Betty Schumaker (Nov 20) Amelia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 8830 Virginia Street Amelia, VA 23002	Shirley Garrett Manor House 13500 N. Gayton Road Henrico, VA 23233
Shirley Overton Hickory Hill 900 Cary Shop Rd Burkeville, VA 23922	

SHUT-INS

Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974 (Sept 16)
Betty Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974
Holly Crenshaw, 1521 12th Street, P.O. Box 83, Victoria, VA 23974
Bettie Skelton, 1703 Mecklenburg Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974 (Sept 21)



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