



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH *Nickelsville*

11606 Nickelsville Highway, Nickelsville VA 24271

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Volume 51 Issues 1-2

## “What are We Having for Our Next Meal?”

**Jn. 21:1-14**

Quite often Sandy and I find ourselves asking just after we’ve finished a meal: “What are we planning for our next meal?” In other words, if we’ve just finished breakfast we’re thinking about what we’re going to have for lunch or dinner. I sometimes wonder if other people have similar conversations just after a meal?

Now before you remark saying, “This is a dangerous thing to do!” consider these thoughts: When is the best time to go shopping at the super-market - before or after going out to dinner? Well ... both common sense and intense research from the Collins Institute of Human Studies at Little Stony Creek, indicate that a person’s grocery bill at checkout will be extremely higher if you do your shopping on an empty stomach verses a full one. And research from our colleagues at the Miller Yard Clinic of Behavioral Research indicate that a brisk walk through the aisles of a larger supermarket following a meal elevate a person’s heart rate and body metabolism. In other words, it beneficial to walk after a meal.

Now I’ve said that to say this - apparently the 1st century followers of Jesus didn’t give as much thought to their dining choices as we do in the 21st century. In fact, it appears that Jesus gave much more thought to this than his disciples. This is evident in our text verses that suggest two things: *First*, when the disciples were perplexed over their inability to catch even one fish Jesus was already preparing to cook the abundance of fish that he would provide. Why do I say that? Well ... this is where *our second thought* comes in which is: the disciples weren’t really prepared to receive God’s blessings, Jesus was. In fact, verse 9 tells us he had already fired up his Blackstone grille to cook the fish and bread. He arrived on the scene prepared to receive God’s blessings.

How did all of this play out? The disciples experienced a “*Come-to-Jesus: Aha Moment*” that proved to be something they would treasure throughout their lives and eternity. Can you imagine the conversations the disciples had about this moment as they reflected on them later in their lives? I can almost hear them reminiscing, “Do you remember that time we had fished all night long and caught nothing, when Jesus appeared?” Another probably chimed in and said, “Yeah, man wasn’t that embarrassing for you Peter?” as they doubled over in laughter, “Good grief what were you thinking? You were skinny dipping when Jesus appeared?” After this another probably said, “That’s the best breakfast we ever shared! And on a more serious note: Jesus, the resurrected King actually prepared

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## A "BIG HELLO" To

*To all Our Ministry Partners*

## From First Baptist Church

### UPCOMING ITEMS OF INTEREST AND OPPORTUNITY

- ◆ Deacons Meet- 1st Tuesday every other month unless otherwise noted
- ◆ Baptist Women Meet- 1st Tuesday of each month 6:30 PM
- ◆ GA’S meet- 1st. & 3rd. Tuesday of the month. FLC 3:30-5:00 PM during school months.
- ◆ New Web Page - We have been hard at work developing a new web page for our church that is much more user friendly and interactive than our older one. It is now finished and has been published. Check it out at: [fbcnick.org](http://fbcnick.org)
- ◆ Another thing we’ve discovered in working on our web page and additional methods of outreach is the need for several new Life Groups to engage in bible study. If you’re interested in leading a group, let’s connect.

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## “Our Next Meal”

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And served the meal himself! Man o’ man that was a life changing experience for me and each of us!”

Just now I wonder, what is the implication for us as 21st century believers? Off the top of my head, here are some of the things that I envision Jesus to be saying to each of us.

**First**, there is far more to life than what we consider to be the basics. Now what’s amazing to me in this respect is: what we now consider to be the basics has changed greatly since the first century and even during my lifetime. This made my mind wander to a conversation I had with a man who once asked me to co-sign a promissory note so that his family, who were unemployed and on public assistance, could purchase a second family car. When I reminded him of the fact that his family already had one car his response was, “Well Brother Steve! Don’t you know that every family in this country has at least two cars?”

Sadly enough, that’s the mentality of a great number of people in our country; however, in Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mt. he reminded us as his followers that there was much more to life than the basics that we know as food and clothing (see Mt. 6:19-34). So what are the basics? Again, the disciples were focusing on catching the fish ... Jesus was focusing on sharing the meal with them but as they dined together he passed some things on to them that would transform their lives.

**Second**, I believe Jesus was telling us to open our eyes to the world around us - to really see the needs of others that often go unmet. At the conclusion of the meal he again reminded his followers of the great need(s) of mankind and invited them to join him in changing the world. Consider his words, “Feed my sheep.” What do his words mean to us as 21st century followers of Christ?

There’s no doubt that human needs vary greatly. For instance the needs of a children and teenagers enrolled in the public school system are much different than those of students enrolled in college, are they not? In contrast, the needs of a middle-aged adults are much different than those of senior adults, aren’t they? Believe it or not, this isn’t true at all - each of these groups have needs that are unmet and these unmet needs are destroying the foundational structure of society as we have known it in the past.

In his infinite wisdom God designed us to receive and give love. As such, the greatest need in our world is the individual need to experience and give love. Without this the family unit, as God intended, ceases to exist and society collapses.

In recent conversations I’ve engaged in with educators the number one concern I’m hearing from them is the unmet needs of their students in being able to interact with others. These students, of all age groups, are riding emotional roller coasters that change dramatically from day to day. Today they ride the bus to school and interact with others, tomorrow school is cancelled, the next day they engage in distance learning in front of their computer screens. Their time of interacting with others is extremely restricted and it’s no better when they are home as many parents are struggling with altered schedules and long hours that are almost unbearable, it seems as if we’re living in an age of zero stability.

Let’s also consider the situation our college students are facing. Just last week I was involved in a Zoom meeting wherein our collegiate ministers across Virginia shared that the level of depression among college students is now at 90% because of the pandemic and social distancing techniques we have employed and embraced.

Please see “Our Next Meal” on Pg. 3

## Appalachian School of Theology

At our Appalachian School of Theology we continue to experience God’s richest blessings and unparalleled growth for which we are extremely grateful. We launched our 2021 Spring Semester at our church campus in Nickelsville in late January. We were forced to switch to “hybrid classes” (both online utilizing Zoom video conferencing and also in person) models last year but the switch has been good for us.

The course we’re currently focusing on is Christian Theology 2 which is the second part of two semesters of theology focusing on “The Community of God.” The goal of this course is to introduce participants to the general study of Christian theology in a way that is intellectually stimulating, spiritually formative, and practically meaningful in both the lives and ministries of all participants.

The makeup of our class consists of 14 students and 7 facilitators. These students and faculty represent 11 different churches in southwest Virginia, upper east Tennessee, and North Carolina. Again, we are offering this class as a “hybrid class” (both online and in person) by utilizing Zoom technology.

We continue to keep the cost of these classes at \$200 per three-hour course. And scholarship assistance is readily available from the BGAV, our school, and our gracious and generous facilitators.

If you’re interested we would like to invite you to join us any Monday night from 6:30 – 9:00 PM at the Family Life Center of our church campus in Nickelsville. Or, if you would like to join us online through Zoom, send us an email at [astincva@gmail.com](mailto:astincva@gmail.com) and we’ll include you in a link for our Zoom video-conferencing sessions. We also ask you to visit our newly created web-site at [astincva.org](http://astincva.org) and ask you to rejoice along with us in the many good things God is doing through his newly formed school of theology.



## Electronic Giving Portal

As your pastor I want to thank you for supporting your church as we engage in God’s work locally and abroad together. One of the ways we can do this is through our electronic giving portal which can be accessed through e-mail, on our web page, or on our Church Facebook page. If you’re viewing this newsletter electronically through PDF form you can click on the link below and follow the instructions.

Please know that your support is greatly appreciated and needed. Together we can accomplish much so again, thank you for your continued support both prayerfully and financially.



[Online Giving Portal.htm](#)

**“Our Next Meal”  
Cont. from Pg. 1**

And let’s make sure we don’t forget our senior adults who are struggling and dying isolated from their loved ones and groups that were a vibrant part of their lives. Just this week I was consoling a person who lost their mother. In our conversation that person said, “One of the highlights of mom’s life was that group from the church that used to meet ... I think it was called ... Recycled Teen-agers. Is that right?” I said, “Yes, that’s the group! And what a group that is, I long for the day when groups like this can gather again!” But what is the impetus behind and within such groups? It is love, pure and simple. Love that expresses itself by coming together around a table, enjoying a good meal together, and simply enjoying the community for which God created us.

The strange thing about love is that it can be expressed in many ways. Thankfully ours is a day wherein we are seeing many “Fresh Expressions” of love and community, even amidst a pandemic. But how can we share love with others during these dark and dreary times. Please let me offer a few suggestions:

- Reach out to others of all age groups but especially those who don’t have access to computer or the internet. This goes beyond our senior adults. Give them a call, send a card or letter, and if they’re open to it a personal visit is always welcomed. One of the things I’m better understanding about our senior adults is this: The isolation they are experiencing just now is literally killing them. In fact, since the pandemic hit I’ve had almost two dozen funerals, the majority of which died in utter isolation from family, friends, and loved ones. (1 Jn. 4:7-10).
- Get vaccinated - when and if you can. Regardless of the many opinions that are circulating about the COVID let me remind you that this is not the mark of the beast. There are no micro-chips in the vaccines. And the government isn’t using these to kill off an undesirable portion of the population. We need to look at this as being a God-given opportunity to stop the spread of a deadly virus and set an example that others will follow. Being willing to get inoculated is a great way to express your love for others. Remember, we are Christ’s ambassadors (2 Cor. 5:11-21), let’s represent him well.
- Respect your fellowman - their opinions and their choices, even if they don’t align with yours and let’s make sure we do this across the board. Remember the God who lives within us is a perfect gentleman. If he respects and honors the decisions that others make then we must do likewise. (1 Pet. 2:17).
- Don’t be a hypocrite - let’s make sure we practice what we preach (Rom. 12:9). If you’re a strong proponent of employing every act of social distancing that’s known to man then do it across the board without reservation with every person you know and interact with. One of the best ways we can show and share love is by treating everyone the same.
- Maintain a vibrant connection with your faith family - (Heb. 10:25. How sad it is when I hear pastors say, “I’ve been talking with several of our church members and they have told me in no uncertain terms that ‘they would never be back to church’ regardless of what the future holds.” What does this say of a church member or church family? Be careful! We desperately need God but we also need one another.

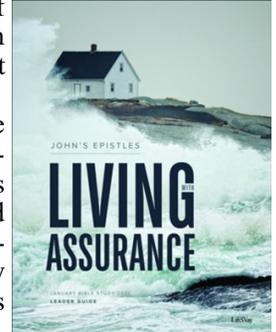
My prayer for myself and each of you is that overcome everything we’re facing through the power of the risen Lord who lives within us.

**Brother Steve**

**Winter Bible Study 2021**

We would like to invite you to join us for our January Bible Study that we’re going to launch on Sunday, February 14th at 5:00 pm.

Most of us have heard the old saying "some things never change" have we not? And, there's tremendous truth in this statement. In fact we, as 21st century followers of Jesus, continue dealing with issues that arose in the 1st century.



Thankfully the Apostle John, who referred to himself as the disciple that Jesus loved, wrote to combat and refute many of the false doctrines that arose, specifically about the identity of Jesus and how his identity impact-

ed a believer's everyday life. Some people questioned if Jesus was fully human and physical while others questioned Him being the Christ. In both cases, sin was minimized and self righteousness was exalted.

As believers we have fellowship with Christ, who is God incarnate. As we walk in the light of this relationship and live in love, we are secure in the eternal life given through faith in Christ.

The focus of our study will be - *how our understanding of Jesus impacts our daily lives in practical ways*. As believers we will come to better understand and deeply appreciate the fact that we can live with the full assurance of our eternal life by living in light of our relationship with Jesus and one another.

Here’s a brief outline of our study:

Session 1: Feb. 14th - Fellowship with God (1 John 1:1–2:2)

Session 2: Feb. 21st - Remaining with God (1 John 2:3-27)

Session 3: Feb. 28th - Living as God’s Children (1 John 2:28–3:10; 4:1-6)

Session 4: Mar. 7th - Living with Love (1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21)

Session 5: Mar. 14th - Living as Conquerors (1 John 5:1-21)

Session 6: Mar. 21st - Faithful to Truth (2 John)

Session 7: Mar. 28th - Hospitable in Truth (3 John)

If you're interested in joining us sending us an email us at [fbcnickva@gmail.com](mailto:fbcnickva@gmail.com) or give us a call at our church office @ 276-479-3222.

The location for our class will be our Family Life Center which provides plenty of room for social distancing. In addition, we will be utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing technology for these meetings which can be downloaded without cost on your personal computer. Books for this class are optional.

**Worship Opportunities**  
**SUNDAY MORNING**  
8:45 AM - Early Worship  
10:00 AM - Life Groups (all ages)  
11:00 AM Morning Worship (Streamed Live)  
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**WEDNESDAY EVENING**  
Worship @ 7:00 PM (Streamed Live)



**Daylight Savings Time is on March 14th Turn your clocks forward.**

For the safety of everyone involved we had to cancel our worship experience with Carson Peters and Iron Mountain. We will reschedule a new date for this amazing worship experience!



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON  
FEBRUARY 7TH!

ENJOY OUR TIME OF WORSHIP WITH SPECIAL GUESTS, CARSON PETERS & IRON MOUNTAIN, DURING OUR 11:00 AM SERVICE!

