



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Nickelsville

11606 Nickelsville Highway, Nickelsville VA 24271

July 2020

Volume 50 Issue 7

“Waiting for the Storms to Pass” Genesis 8:1ff

Apollo 13 was NASA's third moon-landing mission, but the astronauts never made it to the lunar surface. On the evening of April 13, 1970 when the crew was almost 56 hours into the flight and about 200,000 miles from earth and closing in on the moon, mission controller Sy Liebergot noticed a low-pressure warning signal on a hydrogen tank in Odyssey.

The signal could have shown a problem, or it could have indicated the hydrogen just needed to be resettled by heating and fanning the gas inside the tank. That procedure was called a “cryo stir” and was supposed to stop the super-cold gas from settling into layers; however, when Astronaut Jack Swigert flipped the switch for that procedure the entire spacecraft shook. Alarm lights lit up in Odyssey and in Mission Control as oxygen pressure fell and power disappeared. The crew notified Mission Control, with Swigert famously saying, “Houston, we've had a problem.”

As such the crew was forced to abandon all thoughts of reaching the moon. Their spacecraft was damaged but the crew made major adjustments in everything and adjusted to life in the cramped shelter they discovered in the lunar module for their trip back to earth and an uncomfortable splashdown. And now, though more than 50 years have passed, that mission stands as a great example of the dangers of space travel and also of NASA's innovative minds working together to save lives during stressful, chaotic moments such as those experienced by the Apollo 13 crew. Yes, much was learned during this incident. Now that's a great story with an even greater ending, is it not?

Let's take a moment and focus on cramped quarters and chaotic storms. As such, who might have more insight on these subjects than the man we know as Noah? According to theologians Noah and his family spent approximately 364 to 377 days aboard the ark. Can you imagine spending that much time alone with your immediate family and a bunch of smelly animals? How cramped do you think Noah and Mrs. Noah were for personal space, time alone, and a “date night”? And we've got to remember, even though they were occupying the most luxurious suite on the cruise - it rained for the first 40 days and nights of their maiden voyage.

Please see, “And God remembered ...” on Pg. 2



Apollo 13 crew after safely arriving home

A "BIG HELLO" To To all Our Church Family

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
- ◆ 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.

Pastor: Steve J. Collins

Church Offices: 276-479-3222

Pastor's E-mail: fbcnickva@gmail.com

Home Phone: 276-467-2389

Cell Phone: 276-393-2741

Secretary: Sandy Collins

Cell Phone: 276-393-7388

Secretary's E-mail: secfbcva@gmail.com

Church Fax: 276-479-4222

Family Life Center: 276-479-6222

Church: 276-479-5222

Web Page: fbcnick.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| Church News | 2 - 3 |
| Missions News & Holy Humor | 4 |
| Church Information & Schedule of Services | 4 |

**“And God remembered ...”
Cont. from Pg. 1**

Imagine, if you will, the discomfort they experienced? I think Brooks Faulkner put it best in the “Introduction” of his devotional book entitled *Cabin Fever on Noah’s Ark* wherein he said, “After 150 days, Noah and his family were sick of each other. They were confined. They had ‘cabin fever.’ But, it was better than the storm and flood outside. They had to adjust. They needed patience and tolerance. They also needed a change ...” (*Cabin Fever on Noah’s Ark*, Copyright 1991, Broadman Press).

Before we go any further, let’s take a moment, breathe deeply ... and focus on these words, “And God remembered Noah ...” Now let me ask, do you feel close affinity with Noah just now? Can you relate to Mrs. Noah and the kids? As we enter our 4th month of lockdown we need to be honest with God and ourselves. Are we as happy as we were after a week of disrupted living? Or, are we feeling somewhat cramped? But you say, that Mrs. Noah was really blessed ... after all she was married to the perfect husband, wasn’t she? Does the bible not say that Noah was righteous, blameless, and that he walked with God? Well ... yes, it does (see Gen. 6:9) but we need to remember that Noah, Mrs. Noah, and all of their family were still human beings, living in cramped quarters to which some might speculate, “If not for the storm outside, one just couldn’t stand the smell inside.”

I think Noah, Mrs. Noah, and all of their family learned invaluable lessons during the storm. Lessons that stayed with them the rest of their lives even though Noah apparently chose to have a “snoot-full” of wine shortly after exiting the ark (see Gen. 9:20-24). That was certainly a bad decision that cost he and his family dearly. But what were some of the things they learned while confined to the ark? Well let’s just say they learned to wait patiently on the Lord ... with the full assurance that God would ... remember them. And might I add, this is an area in which all of us could use a little bit of encouragement.

In the midst of a nationwide pandemic when each of us were suffering immensely from cabin fever, social distancing, and looking somewhat like Jesse James with our masks along comes the Sahara Dust Cloud that was the worst we’ve experienced in decades. Yes, scientists and health officials dubbed this year’s dust cloud as “Godzilla” or the dust storm that literally threatened the health and well-being everyone in America and covered everything in dust throughout our region.



Picture of the Sahara Dust Storm taken by Harold Jerrell at Pinnacle Overlook

Relax, take a deep breath and focus on these words, “And God remembered Noah...” But let’s take it a step further and apply this verse to us personally and yes even to our nation. God is all about relationships and people ... his people ... even when we’re smelly and agitated because of our cramped quarters. In fact, he’s into rescuing us from all circumstances, including Please see, “And God remembered ...” on Page 3

Our Church Van

Hallelujah! And again I say, Hallelujah! The gifts that we’ve received have enabled us to pay off the outstanding balance we owed on our new church van. And this is all because of your generous gifts. God has certainly been good to us! May the Lord continue to give us his good guidance in everything we undertake for his glory!

Thanks so much for your support, encouragement, and financial gifts toward this greatly needed project.

Vacation Bible School 2020

Due to the COVID—19 Pandemic our dates for Vacation Bible School are *still on hold*. Our theme for VBS remains: “Concrete Cranes”. So let’s make sure we grab a hardhat and toolbelt and are ready to launch on a fun-filled week by exploring the world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, bulldozers and backhoes.



Together we will learn to build our faith in and on Jesus Christ by uncovering the truth about him.

Our theme verse will be Philippians 1:6 which says, “I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Jesus Christ.” (CSB). *Our motto* is: Jesus! Our strong foundation! And *our Christ connection* is: The foundation of the gospel is faith. Jesus lived a perfect life and died the death that we deserve. By his grace, God saves every person who trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Throughout our time together our teachers will lead students to build their faith on the foundation laid by Christ himself.

Karianne Counts is our VBS Director and will be sharing more with us as we get closer to a workable date for this flagship event. If you would like to work in VBS please let her know as we will need every worker we can enlist.

Let’s do our best to make our 2020 VBS a memorable event as many children, teens, and adults will come to know & experience Jesus through this exciting time of bible study.

**“And God remembered ...”
Cont. from Pg. 1**

the circumstances which we often create ourselves. Again, focus on these words, “And God remembered Noah ...”

Let me extend a word of caution at this point because if we’re not careful we tend to think the central focus of the entire narrative is Noah but that’s not the case. Throughout the story the central focus is God and his faithfulness to Mr. and Mrs. Noah, their family ... and all of his created order for the verse says, “Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.” (Gen. 8:1, NKJV). Did you get that? God’s providential care overshadowed everyone and everything aboard the ark. In other words his faithfulness to his created order is unshakable and everlasting.

But how does this apply to us. Well ... let’s just everything is going to be alright. Yes, we might be suffering greatly from cabin fever. Yes, it’s hard to see the sunshine and not long to feel the gentle breeze of the saltwater in our faces as we sit on a relaxing beach basking in the sunlight. Yes, the kids get on our nerves. Yes, the litter boxes seem to stink more than usual. Yes, we wonder how a household pet could actually need to relieve themselves that often. Yes, we long for less stress filled moments and yes, we finished every “honey-do” job on the list and still find ourselves twiddling our thumbs. But let’s get back to Mr. Noah and his family. What did they do to occupy themselves, after they had finished all of their daily jobs of feeding, caring for the animals, and shoveling manure, even though it stormed for 40 days and nights? Well it’s simple: They learned to dance in the rain.

We would do well to look at our children and grand-children and learn invaluable lessons. How so? What’s amazing to me about kids is that they always adapt, regardless of what’s happening around them. They make the best of every situation. If the sun is shining they enjoy life and dance. If the rain is pouring down they enjoy life and dance. Sadly and strangely enough, when we reach adulthood we fail to hear the music of our Father and take life far, far too seriously. As such, we stifle the momentum of the Spirit and focus heavily on the negative issues of life. And, before long we wake up only to discover that we are miserable indeed because the music from Heaven no longer resonates within us. And, if we’re not extremely careful we make life miserable for everyone around us.



Let us learn from Noah, his family, and also from the children that God has placed in our lives. Let’s learn to dance ... in the rain ... in the Sahara dust clouds ... in the midst of a worldwide pandemic ... never giving a second thought to getting wet ... catching a cold ... getting a little dirty ... or caring what the neighbors might think. Let’s learn to trust the Lord our God ... in the full assurance that he will always do what’s best for us as his children.

Whether we realize it or not God is waiting, patiently at the door of our hearts ... inviting each of us to join him in the rain ... that we might experience the dance of a lifetime. The choice is ours ... and ours alone. What will we choose?

Brother Steve

Our 2020 “Great Offering”

Several years ago God inspired an idea within our church that we called a “Great Offering.” Since its inception this time of sacrificial giving has proven to a tremendous blessing to everyone in our church, community, and beyond.

What began as little more than an idea has morphed into the financial backbone of our Youth / Adult Missions Programs and touched the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of people on the receiving end of our mission endeavors.

This year we are again asking you to give beyond your normal gifts and give sacrificially to support the mission endeavors of our church.

Because of the COVID—19 Pandemic we have decided to extend this time of offering till Sunday, July 12th if you would like to contribute. Thanks so much for you continued and much-needed support!

Our Youth / Adult 2020 Missions Outreach will focus on meeting the needs of the people of our region this year. As of now we have several projects in our area to keep us busy.

Join us in praying for those who will engage in these weeklong activities. First, that we will represent Christ well in all that we say and do. Second, that we will touch people with his goodness, grace, and love. Third, that our work week will be without incident and injury. And last, that we will be able to accomplish much during the week for the advancement of the Kingdom.



Electronic Giving Portal

Supporting your church as she engages in God’s work though her mission endeavors is fast and easy for each of us. And 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. Or, if you’re viewing this newsletter electronically all you have to do is click on the link below and follow the instructions.

And please know this: Regardless of the way we choose to support the ministry and mission of your church it is greatly appreciated by everyone. Thanks so much for your generosity in advancing the Kingdom! And please, feel good about your generosity. If it weren’t for your continued financial support during these tough times the gospel message would be greatly hindered. God is very much at work through each of us to touch the lives of many and change their circumstances.



Online Giving Portal.htm

Worship Opportunities
SUNDAY MORNING
 8:45 AM - Early Worship
 10:00 AM - Life Groups (all ages)
 11:00 AM Morning Worship

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

WEDNESDAY EVENING
 Choir Practice 6:00 PM
 Adult and Children Bible Studies 7:00 PM

Worldwide Missions Unlimited

Our Baptist Women meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. We bring Debbie cakes and peanut butter crackers for the hospital ministry. We learn about missionaries and pray for all the missionaries around the world. This is a great bunch of ladies come out and join us.

Looking forward to school opening back up we sure miss seeing the GA'S.



We had a great Baccalaureate Service for our seniors on Sunday, June 28th. Congratulations to all our 2020 graduates! We're proud of you!

"Holy Humor"

