



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

## Nickelsville

11606 Nickelsville Highway, Nickelsville VA 24271

November & December 2020

Volume 50 Issue 11-12

### “Thanksgiving in 3 Tenses”

Psalm 66:1-7

War, crime, violence, an uncertain economy, the COVID-19 pandemic, the breakdown of families, and what appears to be tremendous uncertainty around our presidential election. This might aptly describe our year thus far. Any one event is discouraging enough, yet all of these combined is overwhelming. In light of this, many despairing souls might feel inclined to call for a moratorium on Thanksgiving in 2020.

Yet people have often thanked God in times like we are experiencing. One of those people was the psalmist who penned Psalm 66. Even though his world seemed to be rocking and reeling he had steadfast confidence in God. As such he presented his thanksgiving to the Lord in 3 tenses:

*First*, as he looked backward on his life he chose to thank the Lord for yesterday (vv. 5-6). In these verses of scripture he recalled the mighty acts of God in the past and called on everyone to reflect on their heritage. As the psalmist reminisced he remembered his rich family heritage beginning with *the patriarchs* who took God at his word and stepped out of their comfort zones being led by faith alone. He remembered *the prophets* who courageously proclaimed the word of God amidst staunch opposition. And he remembered *the other psalmists* as who directed the worship of Israel toward God in times of national darkness and despair.

But one must ask: How does this apply to us? Well, it’s really quite simple - we too are a vibrant part of God’s family. As Christians we can thank God for the great events that have brought us hope, both in this life and for eternity. What do these look like? The advent of Jesus Christ into our world, his mission, his ministry, his death on the cross, his glorious resurrection, his ascension, his soon coming in the clouds, and the fact that he will orchestrate the consummation of all things in his time and way. Yes, we as 21st century believers can surely say, “Lord, thank you for yesterday!” But, we must remember: it doesn’t end there.

*Second*, the psalmist looked at his present situation and as he did he offered thanksgiving to God for today (vv. 8-9). The story was told of a little girl whose parents asked her to say the blessing over their evening meal. As the family bowed their heads she said, “Lord, thank you for Mommy and Daddy, for Mamaw and Papaw, and thank you for John and Joel! And Lord, thank you for me!” But what does this mean to us?

Ours is a time wherein everyone wants everything to be normal again. We want to go back to the “good ole days”. But we must remember, in a sense the “good ole days” never existed, did they? No, since the fall of

Please see, “3 Tenses” on Pg. 2

## 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](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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**“3 Tenses”**

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man in Eden the people of God have grieved deeply over the conditions that surrounded them in their time. But they believed God to be alive and fully in control over the circumstances they were encountering.

I would be the first to admit that we have many challenges facing us today; however, we must also remember that large parts of our Father’s world are open to the spread of the gospel as never before. God has given us the people, the technology, and the finances to reach the 11,000 people groups who have never known what it was like to attend a Christian church. And each day more people from all age groups and walks of life are stepping forward to volunteer and engage in short-term mission service at home and overseas. Yes, I believe God brings out the best in his people, under the pressure of what we deem to be tough and trying times. As such, we need to thank God that we are alive and able to join him where he is working today.

But last, the psalmist thanked God for tomorrow (v. 4). In a rare glimpse of glory the psalmist looked through prophetic vision and foresaw the day when God would reign supreme in the midst of his people. A day when the world would respond to him in worship.



Just now, let us join the psalmist and make sure we never allow the circumstances of the present to obscure our view of Gods glory. We do not need to know all of the details - he is working those things out daily in a way that we cannot possibly comprehend. We know all that we need to know, because we know the end of the story. God’s promises will be fulfilled, his purposes will be completed, and he is actively at work in our midst and history as he brings about his ultimate victory. As such, we can faithfully minister in his name because we are confident he is in control.

So before you do something you might regret and write Thanksgiving off as a moratorium for 2020 refocus on your God. In all things give thanksgiving—thank him for yesterday, thank him for today, and thank he for tomorrow. Spend the day with your family and include God at your table! His blessings on our homes, our families, and our nation are bountiful!

**Brother Steve**

(Pictured Below: AST Class at Uplift Church in Weber City)



**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 2020 Spring Semester meeting on the campus of Uplift Church in Weber City but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we finished our semester at the campus of Nickelsville, First Church. We were forced to switch to a “hybrid class” (both online utilizing Zoom video conferencing and also in person) model in the middle of the semester.

The course we engaged in was “Studies in the Prophets” which focused on the prophets of Israel. That particular course provided all participants with a survey of the historical background, function, message, contribution, and contemporary significance of the Hebrew prophets.

The makeup of that class consisted of 10 students and 7 facilitators. These students and faculty represented 10 different churches in southwest Virginia and upper east Tennessee.

The course we are currently focusing on is Christian Theology 1 which is the first 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 our participants.

The makeup of this class consists of 14 students and 7 facilitators. These students and faculty represent 10 different churches in southwest Virginia and upper east Tennessee. We are offering this class as a “hybrid class” (both online and in person) as well.

We continue to keep the cost of these classes at \$200 per three-hour course. And scholar-ship assistance is readily available from the BGAV and our school, thanks to our gracious and giving 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, 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 in our region.

Our partners in ministry are ever-growing and in the last semester alone our school of theology that was launched in 2018 became a contributing partner with the BGAV and this has quickly morphed into an official relationship wherein our students can receive scholarship assistance through the BGAV if needed.

In addition, we are currently engaged in conversation with other colleges and seminaries who have approached us concerning mutual partnerships that we hope to forge together in the near future.

### Celebrate with Us Some of the Many Good Things God is Doing in Our Midst

Quite often some of the best kept secrets in the world are the things God is doing in the midst of his people. Allow me to take a few moments and reflect on a few places where we are joining God at work:

#### Southwest Virginia Partnership

2020 has proven to be a year that has been filled with many challenges for us as a nation but it has also been a time that has greatly affected incoming volunteers to our regional partnership. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we haven't hosted any teams from outside our area since early March of this year but this hasn't diminished our outreach efforts through the spring, summer, and fall months. Local churches have stepped up, engaged in, and completed 92 construction projects and 74 service-related projects.

In addition to these projects local volunteers installed a new roof on the Manor and are in the process of finishing our second expansion project at the facility that will provide a new shower and laundry area that will house 6 shower units and provide plenty of room for incoming teams to do their laundry. Funding for these projects that amounted to more than \$60,000 was provided through the generosity of God's people.

We recently purchased 2.3 additional acres of property that is divided up into four lots in front of, beside, and behind the Manor that God opened a door for us to secure because of the generosity of the owners. The amount of our indebtedness to secure this property currently stands at \$20,000 but we received correspondence from a generous family who indicated they are in the process of sending funding to cover the cost of one of the lots in memory of their parents. When that funding is received the amount of our outstanding indebtedness will fall to \$15,000. If you or someone you know would like to make a contribution to help us retire this indebtedness it would be greatly appreciated. The purchase of this property provides us with plenty of room for much needed storage facilities for our Partnership and also gives us space to park our disaster relief units, trailers, vehicles, and equipment.

In addition to the many handicap ramps and other construction projects we have engaged in throughout the year we also located, purchased, and picked up three aluminum handicap ramps that we can install for shorter term needs that many of the people request. The purchase of these units will enable us to use them time and time again thereby producing a huge savings in construction materials for many years

Financial support and funding for our regional Partnership continues to come from our many partners in ministry and missions in both our area and beyond including individuals, churches, and district associations for which we are thankful.

Your generosity to these missions endeavors through your church enables us to include the Partnership in our budget in the amount of \$12,000 per year. In addition, other individuals and groups in our church also partner together in personal gifts throughout the year in providing much needed financial support. As such, I want to personally thank you for supporting your Southwest Virginia Partnership.



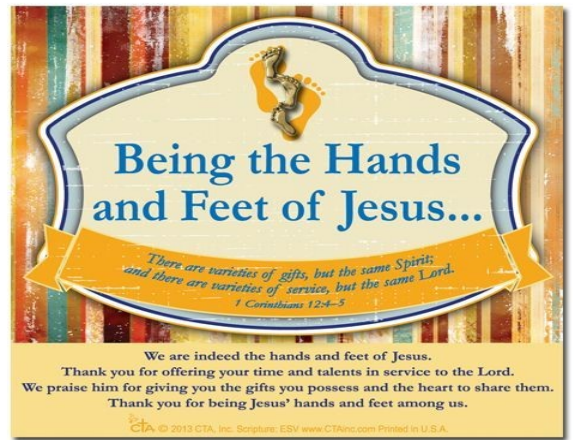
### Electronic Giving Portal

Supporting your church as she engages in God's work through 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](#)



Since the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic our world has been thrown into turmoil. When we add to this the paralyzing effects of the political ideology that has polarized and divided our nation deeply I think most of us would agree - something has to give.

Hopefully the holidays will provide each of us with some much-needed time to refocus on the things that are really important. Let's take this time to reinforce our connections with our family, our friends, and the family of God.

Let's join together and allow God to use us as the catalyst for the change our nation greatly needs at this moment in history.

How can we hope to accomplish this? By inviting the Prince of Peace into our hearts, our lives, and our circumstances. As we personally experience the redeeming and life-changing grace of our Savior we can truly be the hands and feet of Jesus that he created us to be!



**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)**

**Church Choir**

Since our Choir will not be meeting until after the 1st of the Year, so we will not have a Christmas Cantata this year. If you would like to sing a special for Christmas as individuals or as a group, please let us know.

**Baptist Women**

We will have our annual Christmas get-together on Sunday, December 6th beginning at 3 PM. Please bring a Christmas ornament to exchange. We will have soups and finger foods. See Linda Hillman about the menu.

**Thanksgiving**

We will not have our Annual Thanksgiving dinner and service with our Methodist brothers and sisters due to COVID-19. Let's all pray for better health for our nation in 2021.

**GA'S**

We are praying for all the GA'S and hoping that we will be able to meet this coming year.

**Business Meeting**

We have moved our business meeting to Sunday, December 6th at 6 PM. Since we are having worship on Wednesday evenings.



**Lord's Store**

Our Lord's store will be Saturday, December 5th starting at 9 AM. Everyone who participates will need to wear a mask. There will be no exceptions. This is to help the needy families of our region in hopes of making their Christmas a little brighter.

**"Holy Humor"**

- 1. What time of day was Adam created? Just a little before Eve.**
- 2. Who was the fastest runner in the race? Adam. He was first in the human race.**
- 3. Why are atoms Catholic? Because they have mass.**
- 4. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was always standing on the deck**
- 5. Why didn't Noah ever go fishing? He only had two worms.**
- 6. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? Nope — just an apple.**
- 7. Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible? He thought he saw a job.**
- 8. Does God love everyone? Yes, but He prefers "fruits of the spirit" to "religious nuts!"**
- 9. If Mary had Jesus, and Jesus was a little lamb... Does that mean Mary had a little lamb?**
- 10. What's so funny about forbidden fruits? They create many jams.**
- 11. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean? He just knew there was something fishy about it.**
- 12. What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth? Absolutely ruthless**
- 13. The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. Mosquitoes come close, though.**