

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Budget Gifts	2/28/21	2,294.00
	3/7/21	2,423.00
	3/14/21	9,122.00
	3/21/21	1,689.00
CCC		100.00
Lottie Moon		50.00
Annie Armstrong		1,300.00
World Hunger		2,140.00
WMU Meals		38.36
Kitchen Meals		100.00
Total		19,256.36

{A \$2,000 donation in memory of Nancy Mattson Gray was given in February.}

ATTENDANCE

	<u>S.Sch.</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Feb. 28	33	41
March 7	28	38
March 14	34	35
March 21	43	46

THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Amelia Baptist Family,
Thank you so much for the prayers, calls, and cards during my Uncle Conway's death.

I know that he was welcomed into God's Kingdom, and he is at peace.

In Christian love,
Cissy & Will

Amelia Baptist Church
9101 Amelia St.
P.O. Box 452
Amelia, VA. 23002

April 2021
Newsletter



Amelia
BAPTIST CHURCH
GOD-GLORIFYING ♦ GOSPEL-DRIVEN

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Amelia Baptist,

"He (Jesus) was the son of Mary; He was verily and indeed born, and ate and drank; He was verily persecuted in the days of Pontius Pilate, and verily and indeed crucified, and gave up the ghost in the sight of all heaven and earth and the powers of the nether world. He was also verily raised up again from the dead, for His Father raised him; and in Jesus Christ will His Father similarly raise us who believe in Him, since apart from Him there is no true life for us." (Ignatius – Letter to the Trallians)

Outside of the New Testament, have you ever wondered what the early church thought of Jesus? Have you ever wanted to know how they were able to endure such cultural hostility for their beliefs? Well, one of the joys of my sabbatical was being able to spend time reading what these early Christians believed regarding the gospel and how they lived under such harsh realities. And one such figure that stood out was that of Ignatius of Antioch. We don't know much about his life and ministry, aside from the letters he wrote to several churches across Asia Minor (Turkey). But what we do know is enough to encourage our hearts this Easter season.

According to what we know, Ignatius lived from about 35-107AD and was friends with a man by the name of Polycarp. Both he and Polycarp had the privilege of being discipled by the Apostle John, and both became well-known leaders in the early church. In his older years, Ignatius became the bishop of the city of Antioch, after the Apostle Peter was condemned and sent to Rome. It was here that his ministry caught the eye of the Emperor Trajan. Now, scholars are not quite sure how Ignatius' arrest came about, but his letters tell of his final journey on earth. He was arrested by Roman guards and was taken by land across Asia Minor on his way to Rome. During his travels, he was allowed to write letters and even spend time with several churches (Ephesus, Philadelphia, Smyrna, etc.). One of the most striking facts about his letters is the depiction of his mindset. He was a man who knew the gospel and he considered dying for Christ one of the noblest of acts. He said in his letter to the Roman church, "Now I begin to be a disciple...Let fire and cross, flocks of beasts, broken bones, dismemberment...come upon me, so long as I attain to Jesus Christ." He understood that true discipleship was about counting the ultimate cost for Christ. And the cost for him was his life in the Roman Colosseum.

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From the Pastor's Pen (continued from front page)

This determination, this focus, was built upon none other than the beauty of who Jesus is and his glorious resurrection. It was the truth of Christ that led him to deny all worldly pleasures, in order to seek to be a faithful witness even unto death. As you can clearly see from his quote above, taken from his letter to the Trallians, Ignatius held fast to the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. He understood that apart from Jesus, there is no such thing as true life. And Ignatius firmly believed that for those who are in Christ, Jesus' resurrection foreshadowed our future resurrection with Christ in heaven. Beloved, do you see how the truth of the gospel shapes the focus of one's life, even amidst cultural chaos and pressure? Because of the truth of who Jesus is and his resurrection, we have an anchor for our faith and the very motivation to continue in it.

So, this month, let us celebrate Easter like we've never celebrated it before. Let us remind ourselves of how sweet it is to gather with believers on this most holy of Sundays. And let us continue to live our lives faithfully for Christ, knowing that it is the truth of the gospel that grounds and guides us in this life; even if this life may end in a similar fashion to that of Ignatius'.

In Christ,
Pastor Derrick

WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT?

If you would like a socially distant visit from the Pastor, please contact the church office.

*North American Missions &
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
Our Offering Goal: \$2,500*

April is North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering emphasis month in Amelia Baptist Church. Your generosity through this offering enables missionaries to plant new churches, care for those in the community and reach the lost all across North America. Every dollar goes directly to the mission field to resource their work.

YOUTH! PLEASE NOTE

The Youth Group resumes Wednesday, April 21st at 6:30pm! Pizza will be provided for dinner.



**Bi-Monthly Business Meeting
Wednesday,
April 14th—6:30pm**

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**Church Council Meeting  
Monday, April 19th  
4:00pm**

**Love-in-Action Circle...In Action**

The Love-in-Action Circle is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 13th, at 2:00pm ChrisThacker is scheduled to be hostess and Dale Johnson will present our program.

On Monday, March 9th, at 10am the Circle met in the Ministry Center. After a brief meeting Circle members prepared and delivered 50 plates of food to shut-ins or sick in the community.

Myra Morgan and Dale Johnson prepared the showcase honoring missionary Annie Armstrong and remembering the offering in her name. The offering will be received during the month of April.

**Hands and Feet of Jesus**

If you have never had the opportunity to be part of a Samaritan's Purse mission team, you have missed a true blessing of the heart. Those who go represent the hands and feet of Jesus, not just in construction but also spiritually by reaching out to those within the community. If you would like to support this mission but are unable to physically go, you can still sup-

port those going in two ways. The first is by prayer for their safety and the safety of their families while away. The second is by supporting them financially by helping with their expenses. You may do so by making a donation and denoting it as "For SP Trips". Your continued support will help us do God's will for those in need.



**Join Us for Our Easter Weekend Events!**

On April 3rd we will host our Community Easter Egg Hunt from 1-2pm. This event is for children ages infant to 11 years, and everything will take place outside to ensure the safety of those who attend. Before the hunt, Pastor Derrick will share the Easter story under the pavilion. Keep in mind, this event is weather permitting, and we will need several volunteers to monitor the front sidewalk as the children hunt for eggs.

And on Easter Sunday, we will have a true Sunrise Service at 6:45am outside next to the crosses. This will be a time when we will sing, pray and hear a devotional from God's Word. If the weather is bad, we will meet in the sanctuary. Then our normal Sunday schedule will resume with Prayer Circle at 9am, Sunday School at 9:45am, and the Worship Service at 11am. Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

# April 2021

| Sun                                                                                                                         | Mon                                                                                                   | Tue                                                             | Wed                                               | Thu                                                      | Fri | Sat                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |                                                   | 1                                                        | 2   | 3 1-2pm Easter Egg Hunt<br><br><i>A-Richard &amp; Frances Cumbie</i> |
| 4 6:45am Sunrise Service<br>9:00am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship/Communion<br><i>B-Naomi Adams</i>  | 5 <i>Easter Monday—Church<br/>Office Closed</i><br><br><i>B-Jim Norman</i><br><i>B-Frank Fountain</i> | 6<br><br><i>B-Reilly Fountain</i>                               | 7 6:30pm Adult Bible Study                        | 8<br><br><i>B-Brian Crowder</i>                          | 9   | 10<br><br><i>B-Jerry King</i>                                        |
| 11 9:00am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service<br>4:00pm Deacons Meeting<br><i>B-Keren Puckett</i> | 12                                                                                                    | 13 2pm Love-in-Action Circle                                    | 14 6:30pm Business Meeting                        | 15                                                       | 16  | 17                                                                   |
| 18 9:00am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service                                                     | 19 4:00pm Church Council<br>Meeting<br><br><i>B-Roger Morgan</i>                                      | 20                                                              | 21 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group | 22<br><br><i>B-Danielle Easter</i><br><i>B-Jody Hall</i> | 23  | 24                                                                   |
| 25 9:00am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service                                                     | 26                                                                                                    | 27<br><br><i>B-Terri Barker</i><br><i>A-Gene /Linda Kirkman</i> | 28 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group | 29<br><br><i>A--Jason/Christine Robertson</i>            | 30  |                                                                      |