

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Budget Gifts	12/6/20	5,835.00
	12/13/20	3,714.00
	12/20/20	2,143.00
	12/27/20	750.00
Local		500.00
Crown Construction		50.00
Lottie Moon		4,964.15
Annie Armstrong		50.00
Thank Offering		50.00
Total		18,056.15

	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	
	<u>S.Sch.</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Dec. 6	33	38
Dec. 13	24	27
Dec. 20	39	37
Dec. 27	20	23

Thank You Notes

ABC Family,

Amanda and I would like to thank you for the many ways that you have blessed our family with cards and gifts this past month. You are truly a blessing to us, and your love means more than you know.

-Pastor Derrick & Amanda

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My sincere thanks to all those who remembered Amy and me with cards and gifts this Christmas. Also, thank you to the church for the monetary gift. Our love and best wishes to Amelia Baptist Church members.

-Mildred Maxey

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

**January 2021  
Newsletter**



**Amelia**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
GOD-GLORIFYING ♦ GOSPEL-DRIVEN

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**FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN**

Amelia Baptist Family,

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Roman 8:28-29)*

If you’ve ever ridden a roller coaster, you know how intense the experience can be. At the beginning there is great anticipation for what lies ahead. But as the coaster plummets down the first big drop, your stomach feels lodged in your throat and the sharp turns jar your body from side to side. You feel helpless as you are at the will of this machine coursing along the tracks. As a child, I can remember my first ride and wanting nothing more than for the wheels to stop so I could get off and onto stable ground. Well beloved, for many of us 2020 has felt like an endless roller coaster. In just 12 months the world was thrust into a global pandemic and our country came face to face with political, social, and economic unrest. For the most part travel has been at an all-time low and we’ve become well acquainted with the walls inside of our homes. This recipe has made us all weary and long for the year to come to a close. We have desperately wanted the chaos to stop and to step onto stable ground. So, here we are in 2021; a New Year with new hopes. But even as we start 2021, we are reminded that we are still in the throes of this season. So, it begs the question, what good can come from this? How are we to endure yet another year of struggle? How are we to understand what we’ve been through thus far? Well, in all of this, I’m thankful that our God has an answer for each of these questions.

In the Apostle Paul’s “magnum opus” letter, Romans, he sought to unpack the depth of the gospel in all of its beauty. He wanted the Christians in Rome to not only understand all that went into Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection, but he also wanted them to grasp how exactly this gospel transforms and helps us to persevere when all seems dark around us. And at the heart of this letter, in chapter 8, Paul shares a truth that we must cling to as we look back on the hardships of 2020 and to the uncertainties of what lies ahead in 2021. He says that for those who love God and have been called by Him (believers), God works all things for their good. Did you catch that? Paul said “all things”.

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

He did not say "some things" or "only those things that make us feel comfortable." Rather, he said "all things." This means that God will use both the seasons of hardship and ease, of lack and plenty, of pain and health for our ultimate good. This means that God does not waste the seasons of life on you nor does He haphazardly bring them about. There is always a purpose for God's work. Now what is that purpose? And what does Paul mean by the word "good?" In verse 29, Paul continues his thought by making clear that God saved us so that we would be conformed to the image of His Son. Another way to put it is that God will use any and all means to make you more like Christ. He will use pandemics, social-political-economic unrest, the weather patterns, painful days, and even death to root out the idols that reside in your heart. But He will also use birthdays, anniversaries, the birth of a child, a vacation, the holidays, a walk in the warm sunshine, a financial blessing, or good food to remind us that all things flow from His gracious hand. You see, God works ALL THINGS for your good so that you would grow in godliness. Isn't that an amazing thought? Your Father in heaven, is always acting with His children in mind. That is nothing but pure love. This truth is simply astounding and one that provides us a foundation of stability and one to persevere when life is at its hardest.

So beloved, with all sincerity, Happy New Year! Our God has used the last 12 months to grow us and He will use the next to do the very same thing until we see Him face to face. Praise God for His sovereign and fatherly care!

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.



**Church Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 11th**  
**4:00pm**

**5th Sunday Prayer Service**  
**January 31st**  
**11:00am**

**Praise Time Change!**

With the changes that this past year has brought about and the necessity for intentional times of prayer together, we will be phasing out Praise Time and bringing back the Prayer Circle to start our Sunday morning gatherings. Barry Layman will continue leading this time from 9:00-9:30am in the Ministry Center. But instead of providing a devotional, this time will include a song or two, a Scripture reading, and 15-20 minutes of concentrated prayer for the church, those who are hurting, our community, our nation, the advancement of the gospel, and the world.

**LOVE-IN-ACTION, WMU GROUP...IN ACTION!**

The Love-in-Action Circle will have their next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 2:00 PM in the Ministry Center. Myra Morgan will serve as hostess, and Colean Norman will present the program. Everyone is asked to wear a mask.

**FROM THE BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

The final proposal for the new digital A/V system was brought before the December Business Meeting and was approved with funding. We are now in the process of working out potential timing/scheduling for the system installation. As we move forward on this project, we will keep you updated.

Also, for those on the Building & Grounds Committee, the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4th, at 5:30pm.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES**

Wednesday night Adult Bible Study and Youth Group meetings will resume Wednesday, January 6th, at 6:30pm.

The Bible Study will be on the Book of Galatians. Contact Roger or Myra if you would like a copy of the guide, Life's Lessons from Galatians, by Max Lucado.

The Youth Group will be studying The Ten Commandments.



**Women's Bible Study Group**

**Please Note:** The Group will NOT resume meetings in January as previously reported. The women will be notified as soon as the Bible Study Group will begin meeting again.

**New Special Offering Schedule for 2021**

Each year, Amelia Baptist Church promotes several special offerings to help advance the gospel locally, nationally, and globally. But as you know, some of these offerings are collected during the last four months of the year. So, to help adequately focus on these offerings, we will be rearranging a few of them (see below).

February—World Hunger  
April—Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
June—Thank Offering  
August—Vision Virginia & Associational Missions  
October—Operation Christmas Child  
December—Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**Church Offering Envelopes**

A number of members have not picked up their church offering envelopes for 2021. If you have not been coming to church and wish to use them, please call Jane Anderson at 561-2954 and she will mail your envelopes to you.

# January 2021

| Sun                                                                                                               | Mon                                                     | Tue                               | Wed                                                                                                   | Thu                             | Fri                                                          | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                                   |                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                       |                                 | 1 New Year's Day<br>(Church Office Closed)                   | 2   |
| 3 9am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Svc. &<br>Communion<br>4pm Deacons Meeting            | 4<br><br>5:30pm Building & Grounds<br>Committee Meeting | 5                                 | 6 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group<br><br><b>B-Winnie Grizzard</b><br><b>B-Judy Lee</b> | 7                               | 8                                                            | 9   |
| 10 9am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service<br><b>B-Russell Everett</b><br><b>E Ever</b> | 11<br><br>4pm Church Council<br>Meeting                 | 12                                | 13 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group                                                     | 14<br><br><b>B-Trish Weaver</b> | 15<br><br><b>B-Lynnette Crowder</b><br><b>B-Julia Easter</b> | 16  |
| 17 9am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service<br><b>B-Steven Hall</b>                      | 18                                                      | 19<br><br><b>B-Lindsay Barker</b> | 20 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group<br><br><b>B-Michael Wade</b>                        | 21<br><br><b>B-Skip Simmons</b> | 22                                                           | 23  |
| 24 9am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Worship Service<br><b>A-Warren &amp; Jane Anderson</b>       | 25                                                      | 26                                | 27 6:30pm Adult Bible Study<br>6:30pm Youth Group<br><br><b>B-Samantha Ellington</b>                  | 28<br><br><b>B-John Burton</b>  | 29                                                           | 30  |
| 31 9am Prayer Circle<br>9:45am Sunday School<br>11am Prayer Service<br><b>B-JoAnne Ozmore</b>                     |                                                         |                                   |                                                                                                       |                                 |                                                              |     |