

**Building & Grounds Committee
(cont'd)**

The committee would like to thank those volunteers who came out to move furniture prior to and after the Education Building floor maintenance. Also we thank those volunteers who pulled weeds in the Memorial Garden and other areas, and those who sprayed weed killer in areas where needed.

Finally, we would like to announce that we are now accepting sealed bids for each, or all, of five old style 6ft classrooms tables with folding legs. The bids are being accepted with no minimum and with the existing tables in as is condition. We will run the bidding for several weeks. If you are interested, please submit your bid to the B&G Committee Chairman.

At the present time, our next B&G meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 6th, at 5:30pm. We will also be re-scheduling the Church Work Day once a suitable date has been chosen.

PLEASE NOTE

Our next Business Meeting will be held Sunday, June 28th, immediately following the worship service.

Amelia Baptist Church
9101 Amelia St.
P.O. Box 452
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June 2020
Newsletter



Amelia
BAPTIST CHURCH
GOD-GLORIFYING ♦ GOSPEL-DRIVEN

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Amelia Baptist,

It's hard to believe that two and a half months have passed since we last gathered together on a Sunday morning. During this time we have felt the sting of separation as the scattered church. But we have also come to realize just how important the gathered church is and how much our presence with one another edifies the soul. So, it is a real joy to now be gathering together again. As a reminder, I have decided to provide you with our reassembling plan for this month's newsletter. And keep in mind, if anything changes you will be notified.

ABC Reassembling Plan

On Friday May 15th, our state entered into Phase 1 of reopening. Within this phase, our governor is allowing churches to begin meeting again indoors with specific requirements to be followed. So, where does this leave Amelia Baptist Church? Before we discuss conclusions on what to do in light of the Governor's directives, we must carefully consider who we are as God's people and what God commands of us in His Word for His glory and our good. First, God's Word reminds us that we are a gathering people. The very word "church" literally means "assembly". We are a people who assemble together. As kingdom people, we draw spiritual nourishment by being with other believers, especially in corporate worship. We must never think that gathering is not an essential aspect of our lives as Christians. It is a crucial part.

Secondly, we are people who live by faith and not by fear. Within the past two months, there has been much fear mongering taking place throughout our world. We want to be cautious regarding COVID-19 and take the best possible safety measures to ensure a proper love for ourselves and our neighbors. But we must not live in paralyzing fear over what "might be" or "what if." We are called to trust our God by faith, obey His word, and seek prudence regarding how we live and function in a COVID-19 world. Our faith informs, strengthens, and enables us to live fearlessly.

Lastly, we want to take into consideration the burdens and consciences of others during this time. There are people within our congregation who would be more cautious regarding reassembling as a church due to numerous reasons (i.e. high-risk category, health issues, etc.). Thus, we want to take the proper steps to ensure the care of our congregation when they meet as well as be overly supportive of people if they decide to stay home during this time.

So, what is a faithful plan in light of God's Word & the Governor's directive for reassembling?

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

Phase 1

Worship services will begin Sunday May 31st

Worship Services will be held at 11am on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary and Ministry Center at 25% capacity each (35-40 people). This allows us to gather for one service in two separate buildings while also abiding by the Governor's guidelines to ensure the care for our congregants. Here are some specific things we are going to do to ensure the safety of those who attend...

- No use of hymnals (music to be printed)
- Ushers will wear masks & hold doors open for congregants (including bathrooms)
- Seating will comply with social distancing guidelines (families can sit together)
- Offering will be located at the entrances of the sanctuary and ministry center
- Communion will be prepackaged for Communion Sundays. And it will not be passed out but picked up by one person from each family
- Masks are required while inside of church facilities
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available
- Everything will be disinfected prior to and after each service
- Services will be recorded and posted to media outlets by Sunday afternoon

Those with weakened immune systems or feel uneasy due to high risk concerns will be encouraged to stay home and watch the service online. During this phase we will not have Praise Time, Nursery, Sunday School, Junior Church, Choir, or Midweek Activities (the mid-week devotions will continue to be sent out).

Phase 2

Worship services will continue in the Sanctuary & Ministry Center. During this phase we will only implement Praise Time & Adult Sunday School (youth to join). There will be no Nursery, Children's Sunday School, Junior Church, Choir, or Midweek Activities. This phase will begin at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

Phase 3

All church activities will resume as normal. This phase will begin at the discretion of the pastor and deacons.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is asking that all committee members and officers whose terms are ending in 2020 please continue in their current positions for one more year. Due to the challenges of meeting, and with the support of the pastor and deacons, we have decided to forego our yearly update. We apologize for this inconvenience and greatly appreciate your cooperation. If you find that you can no longer serve in your position, please contact me or any Nominating Committee member and we will make arrangements as needed. We sincerely thank you all for your faithful service. Please continue to take care and support one another.

-Gail Geraghty, Chairman

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings to you as we are about to end the 1st half of the year 2020, and what a different 1st half it has been. While we have had little opportunity to share person to person in fellowship over the past many weeks we have maintained fellowship by telephone, social media, and prayer. God has been faithful to us and we to him.

We want to take a few minutes to provide you with the current financial status and make you aware of some of the steps we have taken over the past few weeks to be good stewards of God's house and of the funds He has provided. In comparing the January-April time frame of 2019 to 2020, our offerings are \$3,200 less in 2020 while our expenses for the same period have increased only slightly, \$300, because of some of the cost saving steps that have been taken. For instance, heating has been reduced to the freezing point, and air conditioning is off in the sanctuary building and only 2 heating units are operational in the Educational and Ministry Centers rather than the normal 5 units. We met with the church custodian and negotiated a change in service and cost while we are under pandemic rules, and we are seeing reduced costs associated with social gatherings and paper supply uses. We have continued to support our mission partners and others throughout this challenging time.

Faithful givers such as those here at Amelia Baptist Church have made it possible for us to meet our normal monthly obligations, however, over the next few months we will have annual expenses such as liability insurance and workers compensation payments which could strain our checking balance if we see a further reduction in offerings. We ask that you be in prayer for not just our financial status but for your Christian brothers and sisters and for God's plan for Amelia Baptist and our mission partners.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

During the weeks since the last time the congregation met on March 15th, the committee has had to postpone the March Church Work Day and its May meeting. However, the committee has continued to work behind the scenes to ensure proper maintenance of the facilities. We turned off all but essential air conditioning equipment, the kitchen ice maker, and reduced the operating times for outdoor lighting as cost saving measures. Weekly facility walkdowns were still performed by various church members. Those outside service companies essential to the church facilities, still performed needed inspections, lawn cutting, and cleaning. Minor repairs were also made during this period.

The following areas were stripped and waxed by On Demand Cleaning Services: ACTS Class, Willing Workers Class, Choir room, Nursery play rooms, Children's classes, and all restrooms. The Educational Building halls were also re-waxed.

In an effort to begin having worship service in both the Sanctuary and Ministry Center as part of the phased in social distancing expectation, we were again challenged with having lost the video feed from the Sanctuary to the Ministry Center. After much troubleshooting of the problematic A/V system, the failure was identified and is in the process of being corrected.

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June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>A-Donald/Betty Jo Simmons</i>	2	3	4 <i>B-Donald Simmons</i>	5 <i>B-Karen Berry</i>	6
7 11am Worship Service	8	9	10	11 <i>B-William Cumbie</i>	12 <i>A-Carlton/Evelyn Lanier</i>	13
14 11 am Worship Service <i>B-Carol Vaughan</i>	15 <i>A-Kenny/Roberta Eanes A-Paul/Karen Puckett</i>	16	17	18	19	20 <i>B-Madison Caudill A-Steven/Jody Hall</i>
21 11 am Worship Service <i>B-Gene Kirkman</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>B-Gail Geraghty B-Nancy Gray</i>	26	27 <i>B-Bethanny Jo Hall B-Samantha Fountain</i>
28 11 am Worship Service <i>Business Meeting immediately following worship service.</i>	29 <i>A-Marvin/Vivian James</i>	30 <i>A-Jim/Colean Norman</i>				