

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Budget Gifts	2/7/21	No Svc.
	2/14/21	No Svc.
	2/21/21	11,750.73
CCC		100.00
Lottie Moon		50.00
Annie Armstrong		150.00
World Hunger		2,020.00
Total		14,070.73

ATTENDANCE

	<u>S.Sch.</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Feb. 7	No Svc.	No Svc.
Feb. 14	No Svc.	No Svc.
Feb. 21	20	33

FROM THE BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The Building & Grounds Committee is continuing to move forward on the upgrade to a new digital A/V system. Also the internet upgrade to 25Meg for the church facilities, with extension to the Sanctuary, has been completed.. As always, we will continue to keep the church updated as we move forward on the A/V system.

Also, as a reminder, the next Building & Grounds Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1st at 5:30pm.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to all my friends at Amelia Baptist for the prayers, cards, calls and Gideon Bibles donated in my brother's name.

Church friends are always a blessing, but especially with a death in the family and when you need them the most. I have been so blessed.

Love you all,
Pat Meadows

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

Love-in-Action Circle—In Action

The Love-in-Action Circle will meet on Tuesday, March 9th, at 10am in the Ministry Center for a short meeting before putting together meals to carry out and deliver for shut-ins and ones who need food during this Covid Pandemic. Ham that has been in the freezer will have been cooked and other members have prepared and given food to make sandwiches or meals to take to others. We plan to have a regular meeting with Chris Thacker on April 13th at 2pm. Dale Johnson will present our program at that meeting.

March 2021
Newsletter



Amelia
BAPTIST CHURCH
GOD-GLORIFYING ♦ GOSPEL-DRIVEN

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Amelia Baptist,

As I put together this month's Pastor's Pen, I am finishing out my two-week sabbatical. Again, I want to thank you for this gracious gift! It has been very refreshing to my soul. For the next several newsletters, I will write about some of the things that the Lord has taught me while away. But for this month, I want you to enjoy a very encouraging article I came across not too long ago...

Self-Talk and Sanctification

We talk to ourselves. We counsel, advise, coach, and even command ourselves. Most of us are familiar with our internal monologue. It's why we resonate with this quote by Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up in the morning. ... Who is talking to you? Your self is talking to you."

Perhaps you know your need to preach to yourself and not just listen to yourself, but are you aware of whose voice your inner voice imitates? Who do you sound like when you talk to you? I'm specifically referring to the tone of voice in your head. Does it sound like Jesus? Or does it sound more like a harsh drill sergeant, a hard-to-please father, or a hypercritical, disappointed mother?

Think of what the narrative in your head sounds like, especially when you fail. Are you often condescending, demeaning, mocking, or sarcastic in tone? ("Nice job!" "Way to go, idiot!" "What is wrong with you?!") Do you often remind yourself that you're failing at pretty much everything? Do you ever castigate and condemn yourself? Do you ever tell yourself you're worthless and will never amount to anything? Having believed Jesus's gracious words for your justification, are you now seeking to be sanctified by bullying yourself into submission? Does your inner voice sound more like "the accuser of the brothers" (Rev. 12:10) or the gentle and lowly Lover of our souls (Matt. 11:28-30)?

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

The name Satan literally means "accuser." The devil is a prosecuting attorney bent on your condemnation. Jesus, however, is your defense attorney (1 Jn. 2:1). He is not your prosecuting attorney. Is your inner voice serving as a loudspeaker for Satan's accusations or the Son's gracious intercession (Rom. 8:34)? We can be brutal with ourselves, can't we? Even downright abusive. Where did we learn this? If you saw a counselor and he spoke to you like you sometimes speak to yourself, you might file a report. You'd certainly never go back!

Jesus never abuses his people. He is lovingly stubborn, relentless even, but he is never cruel. He is never annoyed or disgusted with us. He never rolls his eyes at us. He never lashes out at us. Of course, he had hard words for hardened, self-righteous hypocrites, but repentant sinners heard loving words of forgiveness, cleansing, and hope. Jesus is the suffering servant of whom it was written, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench" (Isa. 42:3; Matt. 12:20). A thrice-denying apostle was restored without browbeating and I told you so's.

If the Son of God is an advocate for us in heaven, the Spirit of God is the helper-advocate in us on earth. So, what does he sound like? How does God speak to us, by the Spirit, in the privacy of our minds and hearts? Not with the saccharine sentimentality of self-esteem slogans. Not with flattery or the "power" of positive thinking. He tells us the truth. But he does so with the love and tenderness that is the heart of God for his children. We quench and resist and grieve the Spirit when we submit to the devil's brutality in our self-talk. Part of what it means to be sensitive to the Spirit is to listen to the words of God to us, wedded to the heart of God for us.

God hates our sin because he loves us! He is tough on sin because he is tender with sinners. Satan only hates us. He leads us into temptation and then capitalizes on our sin in order to condemn us. Satan is soft on sin in order to be hard on us. Oh, how we need to learn to tell the difference! The Spirit wants you to loathe your sin. Satan wants you to loathe yourself. The Spirit's will is to redeem and renew you, convicting you to set you free. Satan's will is to enslave and destroy you, condemning you to hold you captive. The Spirit says, "There's something wrong with you. I'm here to help." Satan says, "What's wrong with you?! You're hopeless." The Spirit appeals to your identity in Christ to draw you back from wandering ("That's not who you are. Repent and come home."). Satan questions your identity because of your wandering ("And you call yourself a Christian?!").

In your experience, when someone (a parent, spouse, boss, coach, or spiritual leader) belittles you and beats you down, is it the most effective way to help you change? Of course not. Then why do we talk to ourselves that way? Why do we try to build ourselves up by destructive means? Why are we taking pages from Satan's playbook to accomplish God's goals? Our ears need to be tuned, by the Spirit, to the voice of Jesus (including his tone), so that our inner voice will echo his. We are to hate our sin, but we are not to speak hatefully to ourselves. We are to deny ourselves, but we are not to despise ourselves.

Satan doesn't want you to change (unless he can co-opt your success to make you proud and

self-righteous). When you fail, he stands over you wagging his finger to keep you down. He starts up the beat-you-down broken record, increasing the volume. God does want you to change. He'll expose and convict you of your sin, because you're precious and beloved. And when you fail (again), he'll happily help you rehearse the gospel (again). This is your heavenly Father, teaching you to talk. Resist the devil and his voice will flee your mind. Rehearse the words of God, tuned in to his tone. Counsel yourself not only with his words, but also with his heart."

(Article written by Chris McGarvey @ For The Church blog)

In Christ,
Pastor Derrick

VBS Training March 13th!

Despite last summer's setback regarding Vacation Bible School, we are now making plans for our 2021 VBS! The theme of Concrete and Cranes will remain the same, but the schedule will be modified to a 3-day morning VBS June 29th-July 1st. So to refresh our memories on the theme and review all the important details for this summer, we will be hosting our own training on Saturday, March 13th, from 9am-12pm. Volunteers who attend will be taken

through the various stations that children experience on a typical VBS morning. We will provide a brief overview of the songs, Bible lessons, crafts, games, and missions. In addition, we will cover all safety measures that we will be taking to ensure the health of everyone who attends. If you would like to help out this summer, please make sure to contact Michelle McDonald or John Burton and join us in training on March 13th.



Easter Weekend Is Around the Corner!

With Easter the first weekend in April, we want you to know in advance how we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus on April 3rd & 4th. 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!

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30pm Building & Grounds Committee meeting <i>B-Megan Cumbie</i>	2	3 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	4 <i>B-Evan Wade</i>	5 <i>B-Kelly Boyles</i>	6 <i>B-Casey Phillips</i>
7 9:00am Prayer Circle 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship/Communion 4pm Deacons Meeting	8	9 10am Love-in-Action Circle in Ministry Center <i>B-Alec Cumbie</i>	10 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group <i>B-Weston Ramsey</i>	11 <i>B-Linda Burton</i>	12 <i>B-Frances Puglisi</i>	13 9am-12pm VBS Training at Amelia Baptist
14 [Daylight Saving Time] 9:00am Prayer Circle 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service <i>B-Myra Morgan</i> <i>B-Carlton Lanier</i>	15 <i>B-Sheri Burton</i> <i>B-Jessica Cumbie</i>	16	17 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	18	19	20 <i>B-Dale Johnson</i> <i>B-Derrick Adams</i>
21 9:00am Prayer Circle 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service <i>B-Kenny Eanes</i>	22	23 <i>B-Michelle McDonald</i>	24 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	25 <i>B-Lisa Wade</i>	26 <i>B-Jessica Anders</i>	27
28 9:00am Prayer Circle 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship Service	29	30	31 6:30pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group <i>B-Claudine Rudd</i>			