

# Branson First Church of the Nazarene



## IT WAS QUITE A DAY!

On Sunday, February 7, Pastor Jim, with the assistance of Miss Gloria, dedicated his twin grandchildren, Molly and Noah, children of Justin and Kelly Cariker. This dedication followed the tradition of his dedicating his previous five grandchildren.

In attendance for this great occasion were Justin and Kelly's other three children, Jacob, Isaac and Emily;

Kelly's mother, Barbara Morgan; and Pastor and Gloria's daughter, Jenna with her husband Matt and their two daughters Avery and Berkley.

It was very special that great grandmother Virginia Cariker was also there to witness this event!

May God continue to bless the Cariker family!



Rev. Jim Cariker, Senior Pastor  
417-337-2287

Rev. Gloria Cariker, Assoc. Pastor  
417-337-3540

Sunday School at 9:30 am  
Adult Bible Study Fellowship at 9:30 am  
Worship Service at 10:30 am  
Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm  
Thursday Prayer meeting at 6:00 pm

300 W Hensley  
PO Box 988  
Branson, MO 65616  
417-334-4308  
brannonnazarene@centurytel.net  
www.brannonnazarene.org



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## SEVEN STEPS TO STAGNATION

1. We've never done it that way before.
2. We're not ready for that.
3. We're doing alright without it.
4. We tried that once before.
5. It costs too much
6. That's not our responsibility
7. It just won't work.

Doubt sees the obstacles  
 Faith sees the way!  
 Doubt sees the darkest night  
 Faith sees the day!  
 Doubt dreads to take a step  
 Faith soars on high  
 Doubt questions, "Who believes?"  
 Faith answers "I."

## THERE'S A REASON

Everything happens for a reason.



You may not see it now, but sooner or later, God will reveal why He let things happen. Always remember that

His way is better than our ways. His will is beyond our will. Put your trust in Him. Amen.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Judy Moore will be leading a Bible Study beginning Thursday, March 11, at Carolyn Smolik's home, 571 Crescent Dr., in Hollister. Please gather at 10 am.

"Have you ever felt like life was out to get you? Does it cause you to worry or doubt in your life? Come to study together as we endeavor to learn how to realize the blessing of God's promises, that He will give us everything we need to do anything He asks us to do."



## THANK YOU

The following thank you card was received:

"Thank You more than I can say." Then she wrote, "Thanks so very much for the beautiful plant, cards and prayers. I appreciate everything you have done.

Love, Diane McAfee."



## CIRCLE OF SISTERS

We need someone to step up and agree to host the March meeting on Tuesday, March 16. Also we need someone to bring the devotional lesson. Please contact Rogene if you agree to do so.



We may have to cancel the March meeting if no one steps forward.

It is planned to have Bible Study on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Circle your calendar and make arrangements with your schedule to plan attending this Bible Study.

There are some ladies that would like to attend this event, but need a ride. So can we form a carpool to leave from the church so more ladies can attend?! Please let Rogene know if you are willing to carpool with others.

## PAPER PULPIT — THE WIND WILL BLOW

***“Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping” (Matthew 8: 23-24, NIV).***

The account of the Calming of the Storm is an exciting story. Much of Jesus’ ministry occurred in the area surrounding the Sea of Galilee. At least 4 of the 12 disciples (Peter, Andrew, James & John) were fishermen before becoming Jesus’ disciples. I’ve read that it isn’t unusual for storms to sweep suddenly down on the lake. The winds would funnel through the mountains in the north and create a very turbulent storm a matter of minutes. In their day, there were no reliable weather forecasters to warn them of the impending storms. And so Jesus and his crew were caught up in strong winds and rough waters.

And now we enter the month of March. The old cliché is that March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb. It is often a great month for flying kites. But it can be dangerous in a small boat on the lake. Shortly after moving to Branson, I was invited to go fishing with one of our members. We got up early on a Saturday morning, drove over to Table Rock State Park and launched the boat. But the wind was rather high and there were white caps on the water and it didn’t take long for us to realize we were in danger. It was a relief when we

were able to get back to shore and get the boat loaded on his trailer. We decided that we should delay fishing until another day!

And the point in life, even with Jesus on board, is not always smooth sailing. The winds will blow, sometimes when we least expect it. It may be an unkind word spoken or a misunderstanding. It may be a downturn in the economy or a pandemic such as we are experiencing with the COVID 19 virus. There are countless things that can occur unexpectedly. But the one constant in every situation for a follower of Jesus is that whenever the wind blows and the storms persist, Jesus is still on board. He is our Shelter and Strength. Rather than being overwhelmed by our circumstances, we can follow the disciples’ example and call out to Jesus and trust him to save us!

One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 46:1—***“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”***

It is March—the windy month! Spring is in the air. Grass is starting to show green. Trees are budding. The year is before us. Yes, the winds will blow, but our trust is in Jesus! We can have Peace because we are in His care!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jim

## INTERIM WORSHIP PASTOR

Our church board has approved extending an invitation to Rev. Marcus Whitworth to come and serve as an interim Worship Pastor beginning the Sunday after Easter and continuing for seven (7) weeks until the end of May and he has accepted.

Marcus will be leading our music on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings while he is here; and will be assisting in some evangelistic ministry projects. He will also be working at training anyone interested in



leading worship music.

If anyone knows of an apartment or private living area that would be available for April and May, please let Pastor Jim know.

We know this is just an interim arrangement, but we are praying that God will anoint our efforts and help us as we endeavor to press on for that which God has in store for us.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 1	Janet Pryor
March 3	Don Enright
March 9	Natalie Ruan
March 12	Terri Ellsworth
March 13	Diane McAfee
March 20	Gregg Richards
March 23	Bourbon Anniversary

## CHURCH EVENT CALENDAR

March 9	6:30 pm	Church Board Meeting
March 11	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study At Carolyn Smolik's home
March 16	11:30 am	Circle of Sisters, Fellowship Hall
<b>March 17</b>		<b>Happy St. Patrick's Day</b>
March 25	10:00 am	Ladies Bible study
March 28		Palm Sunday

## PONDER THIS...

MESSAGE BIBLE: Mama, I'm hungry

AMPLIFIED BIBLE: Mummy, I am hungry (famished, starving)

NIV BIBLE: Mother, I am hungry.

KJV BIBLE: Henceforth, let it be known unto thee, birth giver, that my belly consists of emptiness.

If everyone in the United states drove a pink car, then we'd be a pink carnation!

The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.



Surprise! Surprise!

It was an Apple, but with extremely limited memory.

Just 1 byte.

Then everything crashed!

## SHAMROCK VS FOUR-LEAF CLOVER

Saint Patrick is the patron saint and national apostle of Ireland. He is credited with successfully spreading Christianity throughout Ireland—hence the Christian celebration of his life and name.

We wear a shamrock on St. Patrick's Day because, legend says, St. Patrick used its three leaves to explain the Holy Trinity in his teachings. (The Trinity is the Father, the Son, and the Spirit as three divine persons who are one divine being [God].) The truth of the St. Patrick legend, however, is in question, as there is no direct record that the saint actually used the shamrock as a teaching tool.



**Note:** The symbol of St. Patrick is a three-leaf shamrock, *not* a four-leaf clover. However, long before the shamrock became associated with St. Patrick's Day, the four-leaf clover was regarded by ancient Celts as a charm against evil spirits. In the early 1900s, O. H. Benson, an Iowa school superintendent, came up with the idea of using a clover as the emblem for a newly founded agricultural club for children in his area. In 1911, the four-leaf clover was chosen as the emblem for the national club program, later named 4-H.

