

GLAD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Contact the Pastor

How To Contact Us

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SERVICES AVAILABLE ON:

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FACEBOOK



Community Baptist Church, 2016

PASTOR'S PONDERING MAY/JUNE 2021

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. 1 Cor. 15:58

Paul writes this verse at the end of a long letter of correcting the church in Corinth in its doctrine and practice. Here the heart of Paul comes to the fore as he admonishes the Corinthians to be faithful to the Lord and to the gospel. He encourages them (and us) to be steadfast in our doctrine, to always make gospel truth our foundation, and to let our works be an expression of God's grace.

During this long year of Covid-19 we as a country have experienced a national tragedy of death and division. As we transition to what will be the "new normal," we need to be on our guard. The temptations will be many and varied. We will need steadfast faith in Jesus and His will for us in order to navigate around those temptations and discover the worship and work that He has for us. While the mission of the church is always the same—to praise God and make disciples—HOW we go about fulfilling that mission changes with every generation. I believe we now have the exciting opportunity to "re-set" what is normal for our church.

I believe that as we talk, pray and study the scriptures for God's leading, He will lead us into green pastures of spiritual growth and ministry opportunity. I also believe that we are at a crucial crossroads regarding how the Church is viewed in our culture, and the influence and impact we have in our local communities. Only God's leading will enable us to "thread the needle" between the errors of seeking prideful domination or choosing

weak resignation. So I urge you to "be steadfast, immovable" in your faith in Jesus, just as Paul did. I also urge you to be open to new ways to excel in the work of the Lord. May we excel in it for the glory of God.

Amen.

Pastor Greg

~CALENDAR of Events for May/June 2021 ~

Weekly Occurring Events:

- ✓ Tuesdays at 8:45am - Friends and Neighbors Prayer at the Thrift Shop.
- ✓ Wednesdays at 6:30pm - Prayer Meeting. Contact Pastor for location.

May

- 5 Deacons Meeting, 3:30pm**
- 9 Mother's Day**
- 16 TEEN CHALLENGE at Sunday Service, 10am. NEW COVID PROTOCOLS**
- 23 Pentecost, Restarting Coffee Fellowship**

June

- 2 Deacons Meeting, 3:30pm**
- 6 Special Business Meeting after Church**
- 20 Father's Day, Masons visiting for St. John Sunday**

MAY/JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

May

- 8 Shawn Flanders
- 12 Bob Stiles
- 23 Cathy MacInnis
- 24 Katrin Swenson
- 26 Bob Herman
- 27 Greg Vigne
- 28 Pat Every
- 29 Bob Every



June

- 4 Denise Bissonette
- 7 Lois Cooley, Shyann Flanders
- 18 Jan Markley
- 23 Jason Gooden
- 26 Jackson Boivian

Happy Anniversary to:

May

- 20 Brad & Ada Ball

June

- 3 Dave & Lois Cooley
- 22 David & Margaret Ramsey

25 Greg & Susan Vigne

THRIFT STORE

The Thrift Store is a VERY busy place and needs volunteers during the day. Store hours are from 9-4pm, T-F and 10-3pm on Saturday. Please contact Glen or Karen at the store if you are able to volunteer. Thank you!!



Church Covenant

We the people of the Community Baptist Church believe there is only one true and living God as evidenced in the eternal Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We further believe God possesses Holiness, Love, Grace, and Mercy and that all humankind owes to Him supreme faith, allegiance and obedience.

We agree to accept the Holy Scriptures for our rule and for our guidance in all matters of faith and practice and by which we believe all human wisdom and activity must rightly be governed. We believe that we are forgiven of sin and are justified solely through the redeeming act of Jesus Christ who dies for us and on the third day rose again from the dead. Only by repentance from sin and an abiding faith in Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior are we assured complete acceptance with Almighty God.

We shall always aim to be obedient to Christ in our daily living. Believing that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit we shall endeavor to avoid in experiences and habits that hinder us in our daily Christian witness.

We shall support the growth of Christen faith in our children and others under our care. With the aid of the Holy Spirit we shall work together in Christen love, sharing each other's joys and sustaining each other in times of distress. We believe we are called as a Church to be witness in the world dedicating ourselves as servants of the Lord. As we pledge our support to the work of missionaries throughout the world, we also commit ourselves to the mission for which God calls us.

We pledge to serve Christ with the fellowship of this Congregation and therefore engage to enter into covenant with God and each other. We further agree that if we remove from his body we shall unite with another church where we may carry out the spirit of this covenant. Acknowledging our human weakness, constantly seeking forgiveness while desiring to love God and neighbor, we profess our continual need of the Holy Spirit as we commit our lives to Jesus Christ and through Him, to the Care, Judgement, Grace and Mercy of Almighty God. Amen.

Teen Challenge Chorus—May 16th

Teen Challenge is our Mission focus on May 16th. They provide men and women with the chance to overcome the slavery to addiction and to find life and hope in Jesus Christ. We will again get a chance to hear about their ministry and hear the testimonies from some of the men and women who come to sing for us in our regular service. Again this year we will be having the choir from VT Teen Challenge worshipping with us. Unfortunately, because of COVID, we will not be holding a Potluck Lunch.

Message from Rev. Dale Edwards (ABC-VNH Executive Minister)

Dear Pastors, Leaders, and Congregations,

On behalf of Laurie and myself, I thank you from the deepest places of my soul, for your prayers, encouragement and support as I am regaining my energy after the heart attack that occurred on March 5. I cannot adequately express my gratitude for your cards, notes, emails, and flowers. I must also thank my staff, Ron, Bob, Sue, Kathleen, and Jim, for quickly taking on more responsibility in the aftermath of my episode and procedure. Their initiative kept all running smoothly during my unexpected three-week absence.

I returned to work part time last week, which because of one “bad day” only really entailed about 16 hours. This week I will be more part time and next week begin to work into full time. However, my cardiologist has instructed me to re-define full time to that of a “normal person.” (I wonder what he was trying to communicate?) Having always worked 65 or 70 hours a week for all of my life, I admittedly have some lifestyle adjustment ahead of me.

The prognosis is very good. I look forward to prayerfully serving the Region as I find a new “pattern” to my life. Overall, the heart attack has provided me an opportunity for insight, which possibly deepens my spiritual practice and discipline. This hiatus was a wonderful time to pray, think, and contemplate a new season of life and ministry. Please, continue your prayers for me. In the near future I would like to share with you some reflection on having a heart attack; how Jesus’ closeness can be unutterable, language failing to describe His presence.

It is good to be back. In Jesus name, thank you. Dale

HYMN OF THE MONTH

O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Author – Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
 Arranged by- Lowell Mason, 1739

Composer- Carl G. Glaser, 1784-1829
 Tune- AZMON

While Paul and Silas were in prison in the Roman colony of Philippi, we read in Acts 16:25:
“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.” NRSV

Soon after graduating from Christ Church, Oxford, John and Charles Wesley were sent to America by the Anglican Church to help in stabilizing the religious climate of the Georgia Colonies and to evangelize the Native Americans. However, after a short time the Wesleys became disillusioned with the situation there and returned to England.

On board ship, as they crossed the Atlantic, John and Charles were impressed by a group of German Moravians. They loved to sing and seem to have such spiritual depth and vitality, as well as a genuine missionary zeal. So not long after returning to London, the Wesleys met with a group of Moravians in the Aldersgate Hall. There in May 1738, both brothers had a spiritual “heart-warming experience” in which they realized that even though they had been zealous in religious activities, neither had ever personally known God's forgiveness or its accompanying joy. Each had known from childhood that Jesus had died on the cross to pay the penalty for sin but neither had accepted it and applied it personally (“His blood availed for me”). It was from this time on that both Wesleys displayed a new dimension of spiritual power.

It was on May 21, 1749, the eleventh anniversary of Charles' Aldersgate experience, that he wrote the hymn which would eventually be known as “O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing”. The original title for the hymn was “For the Anniversary Day of One's Conversion.”

One of the Moravian leaders, Peter Bohler, once said, “Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with all of them.” Hearing of Bohler's remark, Charles Wesley thought it would be fitting to build a hymn around that quote in celebrating the date of his conversion. The hymn originally had nineteen verses. Most of the verses dealt in a very personal way with Wesley's own personal conversion experience and are no longer used.

Beginning in a 1767 hymn book, the seventh verse became the first verse. Today, congregations usually sing verses seven, eight, nine and ten of Wesley's original verses. The first two verses in today's version conform to Isaac Watts' theory that the primary function of a hymn is praise. With verse three the praise now concentrates on definite themes. The effect of Jesus' name is shown in changing the whole emotional groundwork of life. Verse four presents the effects of Christ's atoning work upon the individual.

The last six verses of the original text enumerate the classes of sinners who are cleansed by the sacrifice of Christ: harlots, publicans, thieves, murderers, sons of lust or pride. Charles Wesley had formed a fruitful arena for ministry at the infamous Newgate Prison. Thus the catalog of sins just mentioned is a reflection of Charles' evangelistic work among the rascals of Newgate Prison (and the reason for selecting Acts 16:25 as our opening Scripture). Wesley would allow himself to be locked up with condemned men on the night before their execution, that he might comfort and witness to them during their final hours.

It should be noted that John and Charles Wesley admitted that they made more converts through their hymns than through their preaching.

Closing Thought: The words of personal testimony by Charles Wesley in “O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing” have provided a vehicle of worship for God's people for more than three centuries. Let this testimony be the desire of your heart as you sing Wesley's message:

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread thru all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

Jesus' the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease, 'tis music in the sinners ears; 'tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free, His blood can make the foulest clean ... His blood availed for me.

Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come and leap ye lame, for joy.

Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever giv'n by saints below and saints above the Church in earth and heav'n.

Compiled and Submitted by John and Pat Taylor

RESOURCES

Amazing Grace	Kenneth W. Osbeck
Hymn Writers of the Christian Church	Mildred C. Whittemore
Near to the Heart of God	Robert J. Morgan
One Hundred and One Hymn Stories	Carl F. Price
The One Year Book of Hymns	Brown & Norton
101 Hymn Stories	Kenneth W. Osbeck
The Gospel in Hymns	Albert Edward Bailey
The Story of Our Hymns	Armin Haeussler
Then Sings My Soul	Robert J. Morgan

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

27 Jefferson Road
Whitefield, NH 03598

May/June 2021

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