



The West Hampden Baptist Church

MESSENGER

"Behold, I will send my messenger..." Malachi 3:1

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Pastor Michael W. Lynn

Volume 18, Issue 2

SPRING MESSENGER

SPRING 2022

Pastor's Corner

By Michael Lynn

Reaching our Children

As we anticipate VBS over the April school break, consider the importance of a godly heritage in reaching children for Christ. In II Timothy 3:15, Paul points out 3 things for Timothy to consider in this matter of a godly heritage: (1) the proper start, (2) the perfect Scriptures, and (3) the personal Savior. The goal of our VBS as well as our other children's programs follows these 3 steps. We desire to reach children by encouraging the proper start, be explaining the perfect Scriptures, and by exalting the personal Savior, Jesus Christ.

We reach children by encouraging the proper start > "And that from a child..." The key thought here is that they (children) are tender. The word "child" is: (1) used of an unborn child in Luke 1:41 and 44, and (2) used of a newborn child or infant in Luke 2:12, 16 and I Peter 2:2. "Thus from his earliest recollections he (Timothy) was steeped in the sacred writings which God had given to Israel. What an example for Christian parents to emulate." (Kent). The teaching of children cannot begin too early. Why is that? In Matthew 18:3, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Consider their humility (before God and a teacher) by their willingness to learn, and willingness to be taught. Consider also their hunger (for God and knowledge). They have both the eagerness

to learn and eagerness to be taught. And then consider their honesty (to God and others) by their openness to learn and their openness to be taught.

We also reach children by explaining the perfect Scriptures > "the Holy ("sacred") Scriptures." The key thought here is that they (the Scriptures) are true. "The Scriptures we are to know are the holy Scriptures; they come from the holy God, were delivered by holy men, contain holy precepts, treat of holy things, and were designed to make us holy and to lead us in the way of holiness to happiness..." (Henry). See verses 16-17. The perfect Scriptures are inspired (God-breathed) as we see in II Peter 1:20-21, "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scriptures is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." See also II Samuel 23:2, "The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue." The perfect Scriptures are also infallible (without error), as we see in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth" and also Proverbs 30:5, "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him." Note again, the perfect Scriptures are instructive (profitable). Paul says in Acts 20:32, "...I commend you to God, and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Compare what David said in Psalm 119:130, "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." In summary, "It is a great happiness to know the holy Scriptures from our children; and children should early get the knowledge of the Scriptures. The age of

children is the learning; and those who would get true learning must get it out of the Scriptures" (Henry).

We must reach children by exalting the personal Savior > "Christ Jesus." The key thought here is that He (Christ) is trustworthy. Salvation is not in a religion, a rite, or a ritual, but rather in a relationship. Notice the promise of salvation > "able to make thee wise unto salvation..." And also see Psalm 19:7 and compare John 10:9. Consider also the plan of salvation > "through faith." Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him..." and compare Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace are ye saved through faith..." And then note the Person of salvation > "which is in Christ Jesus." We read in John 1:12, "But as many as received Him..." And Christ Himself said in John 14:6, "...I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

So, Mom and Dad, could this be said to your child, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus"? I challenge all parents, even grandparents, to reach their children and grandchildren with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How is this possible? You must give them the proper start, as you recognize their humility, their hunger, and their honesty. You must also give them the perfect Scriptures, which are inspired, infallible, and instructive. And you must introduce them early to the personal Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, by emphasizing the promise, the plan, and the Person of salvation. This upcoming week of VBS in April and in each of our

April Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting

3 Engage 360 Meeting

13 Missions Committee Meeting

17 Services with James Lejeune

24 Service at Stillwater Health Care

28 Service at Westgate Rehab

May Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting

11 Missions Committee Meeting

15 Service at Stillwater Health Care

26 Service at Westgate Rehab

30 Memorial Day (Monday)

June Meetings

TBA—Deacon's Meeting

8 Missions Committee Meeting

19 Service at Stillwater Health Care

23 Service at Westgate Rehab

26 Non Financial Reports Due



A History of Evangelistic Hymnody, Part 6

By Jerry Burns, Jr.

Previously we learned of the Camp Meeting movement and its effect on the day's hymnody. Just as during the Great Awakening people rebelled against the staid psalmody of the established religion, so did the aftermath of the Camp Meeting movement engender a change in that era's hymnody.

Few hymnbooks existed, and even if they did, the high illiteracy rate among those who attended the camp meetings made them essentially useless. By necessity, the songs must be easily sung, using recognizable existing melodies which could be learned at the meetings (or possibly new melodies of a very simple nature). This resulted in the "spiritual song." There were several basic

forms of the spiritual song. Some were actually "composed" spontaneously!

In some songs a leader would sing the verse and the congregation sang the chorus. At other times, a chorus belonging to one song would be attached to another. These new forms actually provide a link between the once-popular songs from the pens of Watts, Wesley and Newton to our modern gospel song.

"It is not difficult to think of several gospel song titles that fit these descriptions of the spiritual song texts. For instance, gospel songs that are directed to the sinner and the backslider are "Power in the Blood", "Ye Must be Born Again", and "Is Your All on the Altar?" Songs of salvation and personal testimony are "At Calvary" and "He Lifted Me". Examples of warfare songs are "Sound the Battle Cry" and "Faith is the Victory". "When We All Get to Heaven", "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder", and "In the Sweet By and By", are songs that refer to Heaven. The last group of spiritual songs, to which Benson refers as being for "seekers," is known as the "invitation" song in the gospel tradition. Examples are "Almost Persuaded" and "Why Not Now?"

Little recorded information survives which describes how the Camp Meeting singing sounded. Usually there was no

"song leader" - the preacher would start off the song.

The following quote from "a descendant of America's first circuit-riding Methodist preacher gives this account of singing in the old Camp Meeting as communicated to him by his grandparents:

There was no instrument, not even a tuning fork...Some brass-lunged relative of mine pitched the tune. If he pitched in the skies, no matter. The men singing the lead part with him were as brass-lunged as he. As for the women, they placed an octave over the men's leading part, singing around high C with perfect unconcern because they didn't realize their feat. The immediate din was tremendous; at a hundred yards it was beautiful; at a distance of half a mile it was magnificent."

These dear people were our ancestors in the Faith. Though they led very different lives, full of labor and deprivation, they heartily celebrated their new-found faith with vigor and enthusiasm. May we continue that tradition!

In the next issue we'll examine the early Gospel song.

Spring Vacation Bible School

Mystery Island

Tracking Down the One True God

By Tanya Burns

This year, we are doing something different and having VBS during Spring Break in April. Other churches have used this week to host their VBS program and had great



success, so we look forward with anticipation to watching the Lord work here at WHBC as well.

On Mystery Island, children will track down the one true God who is revealed in the Bible. They will discover that God is great, almighty, ruler of all, Emmanuel, and worthy of our complete trust through Bible lessons, crafts, Science experiments, songs, and verse memorization, and much, much more!

We are equally excited to announce we will be having James and Susie LeJeune with Heartland Baptist Missions, missionaries to Honduras, as our guest missionaries. They will be teaching the children every day during our Missions Moment, a little about culture and life in Honduras.

We continue to look for volunteers for registration, teacher's helpers, providing snack donations, as well as enthusiastic and energetic people to be a part of our drama team using puppets. If you are interested in partnering with us in any of these areas or would like to be a prayer warrior for the week, we would gladly appreciate your help. Please be in prayer for the teachers as they prepare, last minute details, and especially for the children that will come to VBS this year.

Operation Christmas Child Church Project

This year we are partnering with Cornerstone Baptist Church to gather items throughout the year for needy children around the world. Each month items are designated as Special Monthly Donations. They are as follows: - APRIL- Hair care (brushes, combs, barrettes, elastics); MAY - Socks; JUNE - Plastic cups. All items brought in may be dropped off outside the Church Library. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Corinne, Alison or Nick Carter.



Missions Committee Update
By Hattie Stickney

As we start another quarter of this year, The Missions Committee of the West Hampden Baptist Church is very appreciative of your continued giving to the Missions Program. Without your support, we would not have a Missions Program at our church. We ask that you continue to pray for all our missionaries that we currently support, and especially for those that we may not support in Ukraine.

We are still trusting that a missions trip to Greenland would be a go, just maybe not this year. We are in touch with the Shull family, and we are not hearing good things regarding COVID protocols in Greenland.

Travis Pelletier, with Ratio Christi, and Matt Schmidt, with Engage 360, will be speaking to the High School and College and Career Class on April 3, 2022. They will be speaking during the morning service. On Easter Sunday, April 17th, James LeJeune, missionary to Honduras will be speaking during Sunday School and in the Morning Service. We have the added blessing of having him and his wife, Susie, as our

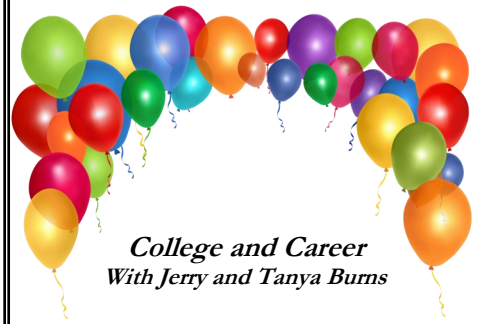
Missionary Guest for Spring VBS the following week.

We request that you be in prayer for the Committee and Pastor Lynn as we work out the details for the 2022 Missions Conference this Fall. Pray that God would bring forward men and women called to the ministry, and make it possible to have them come to speak or join us electronically. The group is working to put together the schedule.

Finally, please continue to be in prayer for the Missions Committee as we seek God's leading in our decisions for the support and trips. The Missions Committee members are: Pastor Michael Lynn, Jerry Burns III, Peter Corey, Angela Lundquist



and Hattie Stickney.



College and Career
With Jerry and Tanya Burns

Spring is in the air and so are ideas of getting together and getting out of our homes after the long, cold winter season. Several opportunities are gearing up to start that will provide for fellowship and recreation, and don't forget the food! There is a young ladies' Bible Study starting soon that will meet the last Friday of every month at the Lundquist home. College and Career will be having outings and get togethers once a month as well. If you are in this age group and have ideas for outings, get-togethers, Bible Studies, etc., we encourage you to reach out to Mr. or Mrs. Burns with your ideas. We look forward to many opportunities to encourage and refresh one another in the coming year.

Library News

With Nick and Alison Carter

The word "library" specifically means "a building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, documentaries, movies, and/or recorded music for people to read, borrow, or refer to". Technically, each of our homes is a library by merely owning a single Bible because the Bible has 66 books and approximately 35-40 authors (although God inspired).

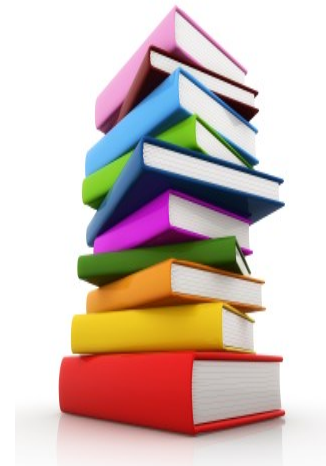
Since taking over the library in December of 2021 at WHBC, Nick and I have added about 2 dozen books, 4 CDs, several periodicals, and 20ish DVDs to the stacks. Lord willing, we hope to continue adding more books, CD's, and DVD's each month. Thus far, we have added books in the following topics: revival, Creation, spiritual focus during medical trials, U.S. history, the Minor Prophets, Easter, current issues, and leadership. In addition to purchases, we have had about one dozen books donated and loaned to us-THANK YOU! Nick and I feel strongly that the library be not only a place to browse the stacks but to also sit for a spell and enjoy some Christian fellowship (and our candy bowl if you haven't discovered it already). Our library is not one where you'll be shushed for talking. We welcome smiles, book browsing, book talk, and fel-

lowship! Feel free to enjoy your Sunday morning refreshments while your browse between services.

Based upon the surveys we administered over the past couple months we will be implementing the following changes: 1. Comfy seating has been added, per your requests! 2. A library email address has been created: whbclibrary.22@gmail.com. If you would like to be added to this, please let Alison know via library email, in person, text, call (communications from us will be very limited), however feel free to utilize this to extend your checked out item, make inquiries and suggestions. 3. The "bring one/leave one jigsaw puzzle" (complete with a friend or alone while listening to one of our CD's or DVD's). 4. A number of people mentioned a book club. Nick and I are open to this, however we don't know who wrote these suggestions. Please announce yourselves so we can get one started! 5. The response was overwhelmingly positive for interest in purchasing books from the library. The cost will be **very** reasonable, and all money would go right back into the library's budget so we can continue to fulfill your requests. 6. We are working on offering e-books and e-book check-outs on our church website as well, but the logistics are not as straightforward as they seem! Hopefully we will have some to offer soon. 7.

Suggestions of backsliding, adult adventure classics, philosophy, adult picture books highlighting creation, gardening, history, landscapes, historical sites, etc are in the works, as are clean, Christian mysteries!

Thank you for the support we have received already from so many of you. This has been a huge undertaking, but we are loving every minute! We feel honored and humbled to be serving our church in this way and we strive to glorify God through our service to you all. Lastly, Gail Burns is our library assistant, so if you have a library need, she is your go-to in our absence.



He has Risen.

He has Risen indeed

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By Pastor Michael Lynn

children's programs, our goal is to give children the proper start, share with them the perfect Scriptures, and introduce them to the Personal Savior, Jesus Christ. Will you be involved in some way? Everyone can pray. Others can help in the program. As parents or grandparents, let's be faithful in reaching our own families that we might influence the next generation for Jesus Christ!

Social Calendar

April

- 3 Engage 360 Team—Morning Services
- 9 Spring Clean Up for Easter 8:30 am
- 15 Good Friday Service at WHBC 6:30 pm
- 17 Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am
- 17 Easter Services with James LeJeune
- 17 Easter Cantata 6:00 pm
- 18-22 Vacation Bible School—9:00-noon
- 24 Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 28 Service at Westgate Rehab 9:45 am
- 30 Men's Breakfast

May

- 1 VBS Appreciation Event
- 7 Ladies Event with Yvonne Blake 12:00 Noon (Saturday)
- 8 Mother's Day
- 15 Service at Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 21 Men's Breakfast 7:30 am
- 26 Service at Westgate Rehab 9:45 am
- 28 Drinkwater Wedding 2:00 pm
- 29 Fifth Sunday Singspiration Evening Service
- 30 Memorial Day (Monday)

June

- 12 Senior Saints Luncheon after Morning Service
- 19 Service at Stillwater Health Care 2:30 pm
- 19 Graduation Sunday Service 6:00 pm
- 23 Service at Westgate Rehab
- 25 Men's Breakfast
- 26 Summer BBQ after Morning Service

Calendar Highlights

Easter Weekend: **April 15**, Good Friday Service at WHBC followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. **Sunday**, April 17. Sunrise service at 7:30 am followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School and Morning Services are at the usual times with Guest Speaker, James LeJeune, Missionary to Honduras. Mr. LeJeune will be our Missionary for VBS. The Choir will be doing a musical presentation at the evening service, starting at 6:00 pm.

Spring Break Vacation Bible School, April 18-22. With Missionary James LeJeune at the helm, we will be sailing to Mystery Island for a week of fun and games, gospel and goodies. Each day begins at 9 am and ends at noon. If you can help and have not already committed to the program, please see Tanya Burns.

2022 Ladies Event, May 7. Our theme this year is "Vessels for the Master's Use." Come join us as we celebrate together over the Gospel, food and fellowship starting at 12:00 Noon with Yvonne Blake. She is visiting from Bucksport Bible Church, and will be sharing the Word with us. We have some games and food scheduled for later. Please invite a family member, co-worker or a friend to come join us.