



From the Pastor

If we are fortunate, by early 2021, we will look back and be thankful that 2020 is behind us. Hopefully, social distancing will be nothing more than a slogan from the past year and the only masks we will be concerned with will be those for Halloween costumes or for Mardi Gras. I pray new COVID 19 cases will be minimal and controllable as the new vaccines will be effectively doing their job.



Notice that I said, “if we are fortunate” and “hopefully.” This is by no means a slam dunk. However, I do believe that God will never place on us more than we can bear and will bless us with better days ahead if we are trusting, faithful, and remember.

I love the scripture found in Isaiah 43:18-19 that says, “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the

past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the waste-land.” These verses have been a source of encouragement during important seasons of change when I have detected God’s clear movement in my life. However, much as we try to forget, there are moments when I think there is important value in not forgetting as well.

This year as I have been engaged in my own personal reading and study, I find myself frustrated at how people in the Bible continue to make the same mistakes, take on the same battles, go off to worship the wrong gods and turn to evil instead of learning from past mistakes. Don’t they remember? Can they not learn from their past patterns?

And then I find myself convicted! How often in my life does God need to teach me the same lesson again? It seems I get stuck on the same things over and over again. Fortunately, God is faithful and filled with grace for me. God’s love and patience run deep. As I spend time reflecting on this past year, I notice that God is definitely at work growing and teaching me—but there are certain themes that God has to keep reminding me to work on. If only I wasn’t so forgetful and could remember from past mistakes and lessons already learned. If only I remembered that I need to rely on God’s strength and power, to be slow to speak and quick to listen (James 1:19), and to not be anxious about anything—but to pray with thanksgiving in my heart (Philippians 4:6). The problem is, I don’t always turn to God in prayer and God has to faithfully remind me. This has happened more often during the anxiety driven by this pandemic than I care to count.

Did you know that the Bible uses the word “remember” more than 230 times? That kind of repetition tells me that it must be important! God uses the word “remember,” as a reminder to God’s people, to honor, and to learn. The word “remember” is also used because God always “remembers” God’s promises to us. If only we could have a fraction of the attentiveness that God has, we might not fall so quickly into our repeated patterns of neglect and disobedience.

As much as I want to put 2020, “The Year of Covid-19” behind me, I wonder if maybe I need to “put my past in front of me” as a constant reminder of where I have been?” That can be a scary thought, but maybe the remembering isn’t just up to me. Maybe it’s about remembering with God and through God’s eyes. When I remember with God, when I allow God to have control, I am shaped and grow and become more of who God has created me to be.

This is the value of remembering and experiencing God’s grace in our situations and circumstances. Throughout this past year, God’s faithful encouragement and instruction despite my stumbles, kept me from veering off course. Remembering the past gives us the ability for God to break through and do that new thing we are yearning for. Remembering allows God’s faithfulness to shine brightly in our lives. Remembering allows us to see glimpses of God at work in the world around us—memories of how God guided us through—and how God will lead us again if we again have the faith to trust.

And isn’t this just what faith is about? It’s about taking time to remember and reflect on who Jesus was, what He did for us on the cross and what He is doing in us even now. I encourage you to take some time in this new year, this new season, to remember—and to thank God for guiding us and allowing us to grow throughout this past season—and to bring us into the new with ever hopeful and thankful hearts.

*“I will **remember** the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will _
remember Your miracles of long ago.” Psalm 77:11_*

Blessings to you and your families in this new season! I long to be with you all again soon, worshipping and singing praises to our Lord in our sanctuary just as before.

Pastor Tim



"SOUPER" BOWL OF CARING

On Super Bowl Sunday, we typically gather to share food with friends. Let us remember those who may not be as fortunate to have to have enough food to eat today. We ask that you please bring a non-perishable food item to church on February 7 to support the local Food Pantry and/or consider a monetary donation.



Thank you

To our friends and church family,

Thank you for the beautiful potted plant that was delivered to us. We appreciate the love and thoughtfulness shown to our family following the passing of my sister, Ann. We are very grateful for the love and fellowship that we share with our church family at Victoria Baptist Church. We look forward to a time when we can all gather together again. Your prayers for us are also greatly appreciated. We pray that God will continue to richly bless Victoria Baptist Church as it reaches out to serve in His name.

In Christ,
Eldridge and Beth Bagley

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I would like to thank the members of the church for the lovely dish garden and all the cards and prayers sent our way due to the death of my father. It has all been a great comfort to our family during this sad time.

Sincerely,
Robi O. Jeter

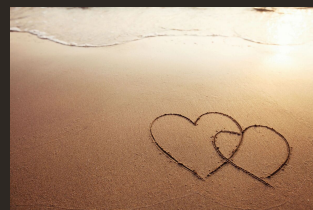
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The family of Lewis W. Bridgforth thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy. Your gift to the Lunenburg Health Service ensures continued medical care for those in need.

With love to all,
Betty Bridgforth

In-Person Services Resume February 7

We will begin meeting in person for worship with precautions on Sunday, February 7th. If you choose to come inside for worship please wear a face mask, maintain social distancing, and if you don't feel well such as fever, nasal congestion or cough please don't attend until your symptoms subside. We will continue videoing the services live on Facebook each Sunday. Know that I am praying for you and your family daily and understand how difficult these times are on all of us. If you need anything from me or the



church please reach out and contact us, we are glad to assist you in helping with whatever needs you have!

Pastor Tim

VBC Preschool

The nursery school students have been learning a lot about God and how to spread His love with others through chapel time, Bible study, daily devotions, and songs. Brains and hearts are growing more and more each day!

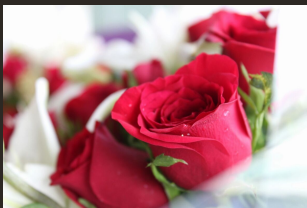
Lenten Devotions

February 17 begins the observance known as "Lent", the forty days (minus Sundays) leading up to Easter. We started last year the tradition of extinguishing a candle on the Lenten Wreath on the Sundays of Lenten, symbolizing the darkening of the days leading up to our Lord's crucifixion.



This year, I would like to draw from the overwhelming positive feedback received for the church Advent Devotion and extend this to Lent. So, if you would be willing to write a "Lenten" devotion much like we did our Advent Devotional this past year, let the church office know and submit them to Anna at office@victoriabaptistchurch.com. We will post on Facebook and email these devotions throughout the days of Lent (minus Sundays you will have the Sunday morning message and Lenten Wreath observance).

Thank you in advance for your participation!



Tithes and Offerings

As we strive to maintain the ministry of our church, we hope and pray you will continue to tithe during this time.

For online bill pay or mail in offerings (please no cash), send to:

P.O. Box 911
Victoria, VA 23974

We have added online giving and text giving for your convenience. There is no charge to the church or you to use it through the rest of this calendar year. To give you have three options now:

1. Mail
in
Offering
2. [Click here to give](#)
3. Text
GiveVBC
to
73256

We appreciate your faithful support to Victoria Baptist Church as we weather these difficult days.

BUDGET RECAP 2020

BUDGET: \$186,960

ACTUAL: \$155,912

DEFICIT: \$31,048

(NOTE) Budget Fund Balance 12/31/20 - \$107,313

OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR 1/20/2021

REGULAR OFFERING (weekly goal \$3,619.67) \$1,175.00

BUILDING FUND \$100.00

TOTAL \$1,275.00



Remember Those on our Prayer List and Our Shut-Ins During this Difficult Time:

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - Names in bold print are new this week to our prayer list or are experiencing new difficulties. If you have a family member or loved one on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office with an update. If the Lord has answered prayers and all is well, please ask us to remove their name from our list.

You can help our shut-ins by writing a letter, sending a card or giving a call! Phone calls are an especially good way for them to hear your voice and be comforted during this time of isolation. No visitors please as we observe social distancing and respect the rules of nursing and care facilities.

PRAYER CONCERNS 1/31/2021

Members Who Need Prayer

Bay Tomlinson
Susan Hawks
Millie and Jon Coffman
Dianne Griffin
Stephanie Millican Powell
Peppi and Gary Dayton
Elizabeth Lacks
Claude Tomlinson
Roger Pennell

Peggy Green
Vernon and Jean Harding
Tammy Moody
Suzi Sherwood
Ella Harrell
Lucille Wood
Alice Mauer

In Our Community - Keep In Your Prayers

Philip Kallam
Doris Hankins
Rebecca Hankins
Nancy Green
Martha Clark
John Lenhart
Helen Fitzgerald
Cecil Ryman
Dr. Andrew Apostle

Rev. Mike Day
Amanda Garrison
Jonathan Stroup
Brandon Moody
Ray Martin
Peggy Townsend
Danny Dawson
Carol Driver

SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Alton Childers

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - Names in bold print are new this week to our prayer list or are experiencing new difficulties. If you have a family member or loved one on our prayer list, please contact the Church Office with an update. *If the Lord has answered prayers and all is well, please ask us to remove their name from our list. We want to include everyone who needs our prayers, so please keep us informed. Thank you.*

AWAY FROM HOME PRAYER CONCERNS

Phyllis Hood
Heritage Hall
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Nancy Smith
Hundley Center
125 Buena Vista Circle
South Hill, VA 23970

Waynie Pennell
Chase City Nursing and Rehab
5539 Highway 49
Chase City, VA 23924

Charlotte Overton
The Wayland
P.O. Box 719
Keysville, VA 23947

Betty Schumaker
Amelia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
8830 Virginia Street
Amelia, VA 23002

Jackie Clement
Heritage Hall, Room 211
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Faye Loury
Heritage Hall
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

Anne Hudson
Heritage Hall, **Room 203**
900 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

SHUT-INS

Linda Ramsey, 1530 5th Street, Victoria, 23974
Louie and Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974
Betty and Aubrey Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974



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