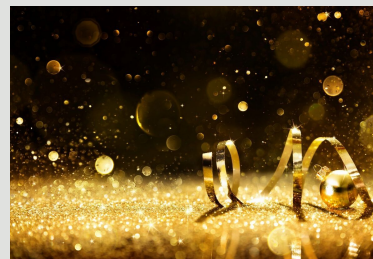




From the Pastor

2023 is upon us and a New Year filled with all of its possibilities and yes challenges as well. 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 wasteland.” 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.

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 we might want to put 2022 behind us, I wonder if maybe we need to "put our past in front of us" as a constant reminder of where we 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 as we enter into 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

Have a Happy and most Blessed New Year!

Pastor Tim



Good News Club

Good News Club is on it's way thanks to Barbara Wilson, director of training for CEF (Children's Evangelism Fellowship), and her team! Volunteers have been background checked and fingerprinted for safety, and training has been conducted for the material we will use to teach. We were approved with the school board in November to start at Victoria Elementary School. The first meeting will be in January.



Refreshments Needed for Good News Club

We have begun meeting weekly for the Good News Club at the Elementary School . If you or your Sunday school class would like to help with the provision of weekly refreshments, please contact Blair McCoy.

mccoybg@sbcglobal.net or (775) 895-0670 (text)

VBC Preschool

The Victoria Baptist Church Nursery School students enjoyed learning about the real Reason for the Season as they studied and celebrated Christmas. Through daily Bible readings, they became more familiar with the story of the birth of Jesus and his purpose for coming to Earth. A special visit from Santa further enhanced their understanding as they witnessed and shared the love of Jesus with one another.



Baptist Men's Day

Baptist Men's Day will take place on Sunday, January 29. Join us for a delicious breakfast at 9:00 a.m. followed by the service, which will include music provided by our men and a guest speaker. We hope you can join us for this very special day.



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.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR DECEMBER 25, 2022

REGULAR OFFERING (weekly goal \$3,520.19) \$631.00

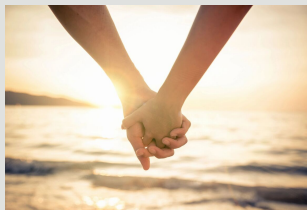
BUILDING FUND \$1031.00

LOTTIE MOON \$87.00

RENT \$425.00

HOYLE FUND \$2,937.50

TOTAL \$5,111.50



Remember Those on our Prayer List and Our Shut-Ins:

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.
Please respect the rules of the nursing home and care facilities when planning visits.

PRAYER CONCERNS January 1, 2023

Members Who Need Prayer

Bay Tomlinson
Susan Hawks
Jon Coffman
Dianne Griffin
Stephanie Millican Powell
Peppi and Gary Dayton
Roger Pennell
Peggy Green
Vernon and Jean Harding

Margie Paynter
Ronnie Bishop
Grant Foley
Sandra Tomlinson
Linda Clark
Shirley Batte

In Our Community - Keep In Your Prayers

Martha Clark	Leann Driggers	Kris Earwood
Helen Fitzgerald	T.J. Smith	Carolyn Hitt
Dr. Andrew Apostle	Thomas Chumney	Elizabeth Perez
Rev. Mike Day	Margaret White	Mac Bailey
Amanda Garrison	Anna Jones	Ada Slayton
Jonathan Stroup	Mary Jordan	Billy Gill
Ray Martin	Paige Berkley	Teresa McConnell
Peggy Townsend	Nena Dunavant	William Marker
Carol Driver	Bledsoe	Nancy Long
Kevin Ashworth	Scott Crawford and family	Wilma Ryman
Mark Coming	Alan White	
Bill Finch	Mike Armstrong	
Wade Harding		

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 (Room 118) Jackie Clement (Room 126) Anne Hudson (Room 203) Heritage Hall, Room 118 900 S. Main Street Blackstone, VA 23824	Curtis Jones Waynie Pennell Chase City Nursing and Rehab 5539 Highway 49 Chase City, VA 23924
Betty Schumaker (birthday November 20) Amelia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 8830 Virginia Street Amelia, VA 23002	Shirley Garrett Manor House 13500 N. Gayton Road Henrico, VA 23233

SHUT-INS

Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974
Betty Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974
Holly Crenshaw, 1521 12th Street, P.O. Box 83, Victoria, VA 23974
Ella Harell, 1615 10th Street, P.O. Box 644, Victoria, VA 23974



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