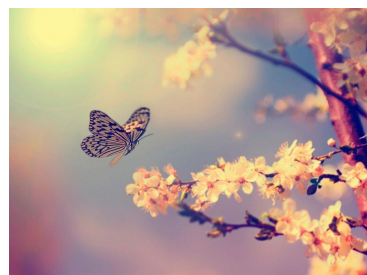




GOOD NEWS

STOCKS EXCHANGE

I recently read the article below and thought it too real and applicable not to share. It will give you some insight as to the life of a full-time pastor. Please, receive it in the spirit of “helpful to know!”



THE PRICE OF BEING A PASTOR

Being a Pastor is listed among the four most difficult professions in the United States

because a Pastor must be:

- Preacher
- Example
- Father
- Husband
- Counselor

- Conference caller
- Planner
- Minister
- Visionary
- Director
- Mentor
- Friend
- Reconciliator
- Marriage counselor
- Youth Counselor
- Leader's trainer
- Bible teacher
- Intercessor etc.

Besides being:

- Keeper of the temple
- Cleaning staff

Every Pastor constantly confronts many different things, such as:

The Pastor doesn't visit me.

Sermon was too long.

The music was too loud.

The building is too cold.

Etc....

One of the most difficult things in the life of a Pastor is to know that at some point the people they love will abandon or even betray them.

The Pastor is often the loneliest person in the congregation.

You may see a Pastor be surrounded by people, but very rarely people who are interested in their problems, needs or even in their lives.

If you have a Pastor as a friend, take care of them, pray for them, connect with vision that God gave them, support them, but above all love them. Remember they are human and in the same way they go through the same needs as you. Even if you don't believe it, many of them have sacrificed comforts, rest, personal plans and so many things including some of their own family's needs to attend God's call.

Value the time a Pastor puts into work, the prayers he makes for everyone, the burden he voluntarily carries for ministry. You don't know how much he'd appreciate knowing you do.

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you shepherds according to my own heart, who shall lead them with knowledge and understanding.

God is good...all the time.

PT



THE CHRISTIAN KITCHEN

Mother's Day is Sunday May 12th. Surprise your mom with a Mother's Day Brunch. This breakfast casserole is sure to be a hit.

SAUSAGE GRAVY CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. Jimmy Dean Hot Sausage
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1 cup sharp shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 packages McCormick Country Gravy
- 1 8 count pkg. Grands Butter Tasting Biscuits

Directions:

1. Cook sausage, crumble, and drain.
2. Cook biscuits according to directions, cool, break up and layer on the bottom of a greased 9x13 casserole dish.
3. Make country gravy according to

package
directions.
Add
crumbled
sausage
and
mix
well.

4. Sprinkle
1/2
cup
of
shredded
cheddar
over
top
of
the
biscuits.
Pour
beaten
eggs
over
cheese.
Sprinkle
the
remaining
cheese
over
the
eggs.
Pour
the
sausage
gravy
evenly
over
the
top.
Bake
at
375
degrees
for
30
minutes.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

A Mother's Day Story of Hope

**By
Holley Gerth**



I'd like to tell you a Mother's Day story.

It starts with a wedding, a boy and a girl standing at the altar. They said "I do" and it seemed so simple. Years later when they thought about having children they said "we will" and thought it would be the same. Only it wasn't. Instead of picking out pink or blue onesies they stared month after month at single pink lines on pregnancy tests.

There were tears and prayers, moments of anger and frustration, loss and a little one that slipped to heaven before even a "hello" on earth. They wondered what family would look like for them, if maybe they had done something wrong or had been disqualified.

Then one night she watched a special on television about foster kids who age out of the system, who are told at eighteen, "have a nice life." And she wondered who would cheer for them at their college graduation, walk them down the aisle, rock their babies, who they would call when they lost a job or just had a bad day. "That's not okay," she said, "Not okay at all."

In the meantime, God showed her that she didn't have to be a physical mother to still be a Mama. In Genesis Eve is called "the mother of all living." All women are mothers, she discovered, because all women bring life into the world in some way. So she birthed books and her friends threw her a book shower. She got to mother women all over the world with her words. She started to heal but there was still a place deep inside saved for someone. She prayed for her child who was out there somewhere without knowing a name or face.

Years went by and she was invited to a banquet at Saving Grace, a place for girls who age out of the foster system or would otherwise be homeless. She met a twenty-year-old young woman that night and she knew almost right away, "This is my daughter." Her husband agreed. It took time. There were lunches and conversations and hugs and misunderstandings and prayers and they did the awkward dance of becoming family until they knew it by heart. One day that girl, Lovelle, moved into their guest bedroom. Took their last name. Called them "Mom and Dad."

Later Lovelle met a boy and her Dad walked her down the aisle in a white dress. She and the groom said "I do" too.

More time passed and last fall Lovelle called, emotion in her voice. "Mom, I'm

pregnant,” she said. And I almost dropped the phone because this Mother’s Day story is mine. I’m going to be a Grandma. Just last week I sat next to my daughter in another banquet for Saving Grace. I leaned over and placed my hand on her beautiful belly. And I felt a flutter, my granddaughter saying “hello” for the first time.

My eyes filled with tears. I thought of Mark and I on our wedding day, all those pink lines, meeting Lovelle, becoming a family, her wedding day too and the moment I knew that we would be grandparents. Then I imagined what years from now may hold as I hold that little girl—story times and bubble baths and trips to the zoo to see long-necked giraffes. Oh, there is so much yet to be.

If you are hurting this Mother’s Day I want you to know I’ve been there. I wish I could wrap an arm around your shoulder, take you out for coffee, listen long and hard. This is what I know for sure—there is hope and your story is not over yet. It may not look like what you imagined but it will be good because the One writing it is.

If you are celebrating this Mother’s Day then I am joining in with you. As a daughter, a Mama, a Grandma, a woman who has come to understand what extravagant grace looks like. I will wrap my arms around my family today and I will place my hand on that beautiful belly again. I will be grateful, so grateful, that nothing turned out the way I planned.

Proper stories seem to close with “The End” but that doesn’t seem quite right at this moment. Because this feels like it’s still only the beginning. There is so much more to come. I can’t wait to meet you, Little One.

Happy Mother’s Day to you, to me, to all of us, because we are all mothers in some way today. And we are all part of the great story of motherhood God is writing from generation to generation, from Eve to eternity.



Quiet Reflections

Memorial Day is Monday May 27th. It has come to mean the beginning of the summer season. A time for picnics, BBQs, and trips to the beach. Take time to remember the real reason for the holiday. Memorial Day is a time to remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives so that we might enjoy the freedoms and liberties of living in the United States of America. Freedom is not free.

The Fallen

by

Randall West

Fragile is a single life the brave so freely give.
Bound for immortality, their souls will surely live.
Death, don't be proud for what you took, they freely gave away.
Their quest for freedom far outweighed the fear that you convey.

They joined the ranks of warriors, staying vigil day and night.
They often skipped a meal or two, but they never missed a fight.
God bless the men and women whose fighting days are done.
Say a special prayer at night for each and every one.

Rest assured that you will find throughout the coming years
These fallen warriors will return in the hearts of all their peers!
If we forget their sacrifice, their deaths will be in vain.
Let's stand beside their loved ones as we sing their last refrain:

You've come upon our heaven's gate
You surely won't have long to wait.
The saints will take good care of you,
But there is still a lot to do.

You've joined the ranks of everyone
Who fought so freedom could be won.
Although your job on earth is done,
Your work in heaven's just begun.

VBC PRESCHOOL

The Victoria Baptist Church Nursery School students enjoyed sharing their love of learning with their families and the church body for their Spring Program. They have worked hard all year to prepare themselves academically, emotionally, and spiritually for wherever God may send them.

We are all grateful for the constant love and support we have received throughout the school year.





CELEBRATION SHOUT OUT

Please submit any birthdays, anniversaries, or memorials for **June** by **May 29th** to: office@victoriabaptistchurch.com.

BIRTHDAYS

May 9th

DALTON FOLEY

IN MEMORY

LOUIE OVERTON

MAY 31ST

CINDY FOLEY

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 21ST

DALTON AND BROOKE FOLEY



LUNENBURG COUNTY COMMUNITY CONCERTS

SPRING CONCERT

IT'S SHOWTIME!!

Friday, May 3 @ 7:00 PM—Please invite your friends and come for an enjoyable evening of bluegrass gospel music at VBC featuring the **First Go 'Round** band and **Glenn & Karen Hood**. Our own **Stacy Branch** will be providing pre-concert piano music, beginning at 6:40. For more information and concert-related updates, visit the Lunenburg County Community Concerts' **Facebook page**.



HONORING OUR GRADUATES

We will be recognizing our high school graduates on Sunday May 19th. Please congratulate them for a job well done.

Presley Pulliam

Presley will be attending The University of Kentucky where she plans to major in Media Arts and Studies. She wants to work in sports media after graduation.

Christopher Tomlinson Jr.

Christopher will be attending Longwood University where he plans to enroll in the nursing program. We want to work as a Trauma RN.

Chelsee Watson

Chelsee will be attending SVCC for two years where she will be enrolled in the EMT program. She volunteers for Victoria Fire and Rescue. Upon graduating from SVCC, she plans to transfer to Longwood University where she will major in Psychology.



KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY

David Dalton will be going to prison **May 30-June 2 2024** to share cookies and the gospel with prisoners. He needs lots of cookies. If you would like to make cookies for this ministry, you may place them in the freezer downstairs in the fellowship hall. **The deadline to turn in your cookies is May 26, 2024.** See cookie baking guide below. Your prayers are welcome and greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping with this important ministry.

I was in prison and you visited me. Matthew 25:36

Cookie Guidelines

Cookie Preparation

The types of cookies that are generally acceptable are: Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Molasses, Chocolate Chip, Ginger and Sugar. Check with your Kairos Community for specifics on the type of cookies that are allowed.

Cookies should be between 2 inches and 2-1/2 inches in diameter and not more than 1/2

inch thick. It is very important not to use icing, sugar or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookie. Do not add any kind of fruit or nuts to the cookies.

The Key Ingredient: Prayer

Pray individually or as a family over the ingredients before and during mixing.

Pray over the cookies as you drop them onto the cookie sheets and bake them. Ask God to use your cookies as a source of His love to shine on the prisoners and staff on the Kairos weekend.

Pray that each cookie brings the inmate, officer or warden who eats it closer to God. We want every person to become part of the family of God.

Packing the Cookies

Bag thoroughly cooled cookies in a quart sized Zip Lock bag, a dozen cookies to a bag.

Label each bag with the cookie type inside. Freeze all cookies if not using within 3 days.

Getting the Cookies to the Prison

If you are not working on the team, please deliver the cookies to a team member before the start of the weekend, so they can take them to the prison.

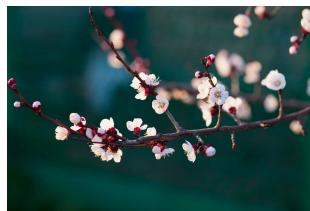


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 SCUBA VBS

DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

=====

Mark your calendars for VBS, **Sunday July28th-Thursday August 1st**. Join us under the sea as we dive into friendship with God. The church will provide dinner for the workers and children at 5:30 pm and VBS will begin at 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. We need volunteers. **If you would like to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs or contact Gill Coffee.**



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:

Online Giving:
Click here to give

Text GiveVBC to 73256

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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR APRIL

REGULAR MONTHLY OFFERING GOAL \$12,463.27

REGULAR MONTHLY OFFERING RECEIVED \$13,591.75



PRAYER LIST AND SHUT-INS

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 May 5, 2024

Members Who Need Prayer

Jane Woolard
 Jean Overton
 Jessie Otey
 Scott Lindsey
 Ronnie Smith
 Mark Coming
 Terry Dalton
 Janie Chapman
 Mitty Crymes
 Kendra Winn
 Barbara Wilson
 Russ Mattox
 Beth Bagley
Peppy Dayton
Taylor King
Gwendolyn King

Will Carter

In Our Community - Keep In Your Prayers

Kris Earwood
 Nancy Long
 Jack Dalton
 Georgia Coming
 Bradley Owen
 Spencer Moore
 Logan Reese
 Gabe Puleo
 Carrie Wilson
 Sheila Williams- Hungerford
 Elizabeth Perez
 Nancy Martin
 Ada Slayton
 Moochie Johnson
 Rick McCoy
 Dennis Nichols

Carol Lewis
 Priscilla Craig
 Jean Pinchback
 Johnnie Daniel
 Boo Caudle
 Patrick Kite
 Lucy Brame
 Steve Reynolds
 Donna Rel
Ricky Daniels
Tanya Bruce Rawdin

Sympathy to the family and friends of Clifton Cornelius

PRAYER LIST UPDATES - 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

Jackie Clement (Room 126) (Oct 20) Anne Hudson (Room 203) Heritage Hall 900 S. Main Street Blackstone, VA 23824	Curtis Jones Wayne Pennell Chase City Nursing and Rehab 5539 Highway 49 Chase City, VA 23924
Betty Schumaker (Nov 20) Amelia Nursing and Rehabilitation Center 8830 Virginia Street Amelia, VA 23002	Holly Crenshaw (Aug. 22) Clarksville Health and Rehab Finch Lane #607 184 Buffalo Road Clarksville, VA 23927
Shirley Overton Hickory Hill 900 Cary Shop Rd Burkeville, VA 23922	

SHUT-INS

Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974 (Sept 16)
 Betty Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974



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