



## From the Pastor

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' song "The Waiting" resonates with me during these days of quarantine and social distancing as I can barely think about waiting without hearing the chorus in my head "Yea, yea...yea, yea. The waiting is the hardest part. Every day you see one more card. You take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hard...est...part." And yet, we wait for life to be normal again, for a vaccine to be created for this virus, for the chance to see family and friends again without fear of catching or spreading something, we wait....

Tom Petty's song resonates because it reflects a common human experience. The person who doesn't struggle with waiting is rare. Whether it's waiting for the weekend, for a vacation to arrive, for a loved one to return or whether it's waiting for something life changing - like medical test results, we've all encountered times in life when we've had to wait. It's hard for us to wait mere hours much less days, weeks, or years. And yet, more often than not God asks us to wait.

The prophet Habakkuk shared our struggle with waiting. He opens his prayer in Habakkuk 1:1 with "How long, Lord..." God answers Habakkuk, but his answer simply calls for Habakkuk to continue waiting. God tells Habakkuk that He is sending the Babylonians as his instrument of justice, but the details about when are still ambiguous. In verse 5 God simply says "watch and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."



Can you imagine? It could be tomorrow, or it could be 20 years from now. But there is much we can learn from Habakkuk's reaction. First, he expresses his shock that God would use such a corrupt people to deliver God's justice. Then in chapter 2, he tells us how he is going to wait.

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV) Habakkuk's waiting is clearly active. Anyone who has acted as a lookout in serious, tactical situations understands the importance of attentive waiting. Habakkuk's waiting is alert and filled with anticipation.

The story of the golden calf in Exodus 32 is a prime example of what can happen if we do not remain active, attentive, and focused in our waiting. The Israelites get tired of waiting for Moses and impatiently create an idol. Can anyone believe their betrayal of God was unintentional?

Why is waiting so common? Why does God keep us waiting endlessly for answers?

Thankfully, God knows what He's doing when He makes us wait. Waiting has an ultimate kingdom purpose. Ultimately, God does not desire to see His people destroyed. And in many circumstances, God's patience is merciful.

We witness God's compassion in the story of Jonah when he sends the prophet to Nineveh to witness to them. And upon the repentance of the people God withholds the pronounced destruction...much to Jonah's dismay.

In Jonah 4, we again meet the God who is "slow to anger and abounding in love." (Jonah 4:2) God is far more patient than humans are and God's going to wait more time for repentance than we can even fathom. So even though Habakkuk has already tried convincing his countrymen of their sin and need for repentance, God sends him out again. Habakkuk 2:2-20.

Now I am not suggesting that God is putting us through a trial from which God is seeking repentance. But as individuals and as a faith community, we also benefit from waiting – if we make our waiting active like Habakkuk did. Periods of waiting give us time to grow in our faith, to deepen our knowledge of God and God's glory. Times of waiting give us the chance to remember our biblical foundations and life experiences that support our trust in God.

It is in times of waiting that we can see the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14) – if we watch with the attentiveness of Habakkuk.

Tom Petty's chorus will continue to resonate with our human experience. Waiting will continue to be the hardest part, but for believers, difficult waiting is not frivolous, empty time to pass by twiddling our thumbs. Waiting is a season rich and beneficial for the believer's heart if we apply ourselves to God's teaching.

I pray our season of waiting is coming to an end. In the meantime, be prepared to make the most out of your seasons of waiting. Study Habakkuk, only 3 short chapters. (The book of Jonah is only 4!) Listen to see how you are righteous and can live by your faithfulness while you wait for God's perfect timing. Read Habakkuk's prayer in chapter 3 and determine if, after all of the turmoil you have endured in recent months, you can "be joyful in God, my Savior", as he was.

I hope we can all meet again soon, but until then the waiting will continue to be "the hardest part".

Pastor Tim

## VBC Preschool

The nursery school at Victoria Baptist church is well underway and the students are having a great time learning, playing, and growing in God's love. Exciting things are happening each day, including singing songs about our Lord, learning Bible verses, and reading a daily devotion, in addition to Kindergarten preparedness. The nursery school students had an unforgettable experience this past month when they received a surprise visit from the Victoria



Fire Department. They got an up close, hands-on demonstration on what firefighters do and how they use their trucks and equipment. The children are also looking forward to presenting some of the things they've learned at their upcoming Thanksgiving program on Sunday, November 15th, during worship. Great things are happening each day and the nursery school appreciates your constant support.



## Betty Schumaker

One of our members, Betty Schumaker, will be celebrating her 88th birthday on November 20!! You can help her celebrate by sending her a card to:

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

## Salvation Army Toy Drive

As always, the Women on Mission are collecting toys and gifts for the local Salvation Army for children through age 12. The collection will go through the middle of December. Items may be new or gently used. A collection box is located outside of the pastor's office.



## Operation Christmas Child 2020

Our goal is to pack 100 boxes this year. We are still in need of toys and "wow" items for boys and girls, crayons, coloring books, bars of soap, washcloths, and donations toward shipping and buying additional items. Please consider helping us to achieve this lofty goal!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Stacy Newton.

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

#### **OUR GIFTS TO GOD FOR 10/25/2020**

REGULAR OFFERING (weekly goal \$3,594.42) \$1,617.00

ALMA HUNT MISSIONS \$75.00

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD \$100.00

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM \$1,260.00

TOTAL \$3,052.00



#### **Remember our Shut-Ins During this Difficult Time:**

Help us spread some cheer and write a letter, send a card or give a call to our shut-ins! This is a good at home project for families with children to make cards and mail them to our nursing homes. Phone calls are another 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.

Below are VBC shut-ins needing some love:

**AWAY FROM HOME & NURSING HOMES (October 2020)**

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 122  
900 S. Main Street  
Blackstone, VA 23824

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

Anne and Woody Hudson  
Heritage Hall, Room 300  
900 S. Main Street  
Blackstone, VA 23824

**LOCAL SHUT INS:**

Gladys Wells, 1301 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 436, Victoria, VA 23974  
Peggy K. Green, Victoria Place, Tidewater Ave. Victoria, VA 23974  
Roger Pennell, 1614 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Victoria, VA 23974  
Linda Ramsey, 1530 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Victoria, 23974  
Louie and Jean Overton, 2003 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Victoria, VA 23974  
Betty and Aubrey Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974



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