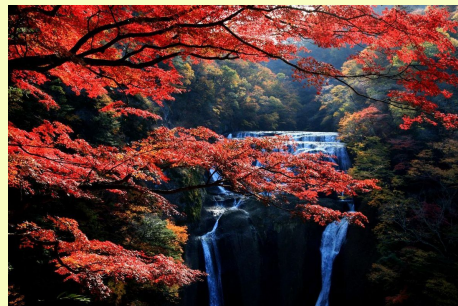




From the Pastor

It has now been nearly two months from the time when churches all around the U.S. began to restart their live in-person worship services. After more than 3 1/2 months without worship and fellowship, you would think Christians would have come racing back into their many church buildings. But to this point they haven't. Rather than a mass rush back, an overwhelming majority of Christians across the country have decided that they are not quite ready to take a chance on church. I have to say that I can understand many of the reasons for folks to be wary due to health concerns. Yet, putting on my pastor's hat, I can't help but feel a bit troubled by the response.



I, myself have witnessed reports of the resurgence of COVID cases that have

forced voluntary quarantines for up to 14 days. Many restaurants, bars, salons, and other small businesses have been forced to re-close due to ignoring or loosely monitoring the wearing of facemasks and social distancing. The mere news of these occurrences presents a shutdown mentality to those already feeling threatened by the coronavirus.

For many churches, outdoor services have been the answer. But not all churches are ideally set up for live outdoor services. Some church's parking lots are not configured well or are split into different areas. In many cases the logistics of transmitting the FM signal can be a problem as well. Very large mega-churches would have to conduct numerous services in order to cover all of their members (What a problem to have!) Even then, attendance at many of these churches has fallen off as well.

All of this has left me pondering the question: How will God's church, and religion in general, endure beyond this pandemic? Amazingly, I did not have to look any farther than the Gospel text.

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus says, "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." Hades is the "place or state of departed spirits", also known as Hell, borrowing the name of the Greek God of the Dead.

What Jesus is revealing to us is that nothing, not death, nor hell, nor anything in this life or in the life to come will stop Him from building His church, nor have the power to destroy it. Therefore, does this mean that the church will be able to endure COVID- 19? If Jesus says that NOT EVEN HADES can overcome it, that's good enough for me! But now, the deeper question that we all must ask ourselves: Will our faith survive the coronavirus?

Many of us who consider ourselves Christians may not give much consideration to how essential the church is to our spiritual health—even to our mental and physical health. Strengthening faith involves support systems, being accountable to others and living in community. When a Christian is cut off from the church, whether due to a virus, a transportation issue or for any other reason, that person will tend to wither in their faith and drift away from Christ. The faith of most any individual will not flourish when hidden in seclusion. That is a foundational reason for the Church's existence. In order for our faith to survive and flourish, it requires the support and accountability of other Christians.

Now, I realize that some of us are not capable of attending in-person church services at this time. We have Seniors living in retirement settings and there are those dealing with health issues who would be most susceptible to the

coronavirus. I would encourage those of you who fall into either or both of these categories to refrain from returning until you feel confident that it would be safe for you to do so.

In the meantime, PLEASE keep attending online every Sunday! Online church is the next best thing to going to an in-person worship service, especially if you keep it interactive. Give words of encouragement to others who are attending online with you. Reach out to me or another member who you feel you can confide in. Ask them to pray with you, online or by phone. Keeping up communication with others you trust is so important to your faith and to your mental health. This is all a part of living in a loving Christian community. It's about being Church!

But while some of you can't attend in-person services, many can. While there is no denying that the chances of contracting the coronavirus or passing it onto someone else is much lower if you remain in isolation, there comes a time when you must ask yourself: What are the risks to my physical, emotional and spiritual health if I don't go to church? What is really holding me back? I would encourage you to listen to the words of Romans 8:15 "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Each time we step outside our front door, we face risk to some extent. But mostly up to this point in time, we have not faced the type of dangers that we face at this moment. In our minds, at least for some of us, living for the glory of God far outweighed the nominal risks of everyday life. For me, this same reality is true even when dealing with this pandemic.

That being said, I want you and your faith to be able to withstand the trials of this pandemic. Therefore, in whatever way possible, make church—whether online or in-person—a priority for you and your family every week. I believe that it is vital that you and your family's faith survives COVID-19. While it is so easy to get out of rhythm, to become complacent and sleep in, the best way to strengthen and secure your faith is by worshiping with other believers—the rest of your family in Christ!

I pray for your good health, your safety, and for God's Peace and Blessings to be with you.

Pastor Tim



Alma Hunt Spotlight

September Prayer Focus – Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions “Living Through The Presence”
Psalm 140:12-13 “I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence.”

In Virginia, the month of September turns many hearts and minds to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions, so befitting of Miss Alma.

Your gifts to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions enable WMUV to inspire and equip women to influence the world for Christ. We hold fast to Christ’s command in scripture to live a missional lifestyle. We educate children, students and adults about missions, provide connecting points for practical mission ideas and opportunities, and offer meaningful experiences for spiritual formation. Through mission awareness and other educational opportunities women, students and children are equipped to engage in missions.

You can give to the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions online: <https://bgav.org/donations/almahunt/> or make checks payable to “Victoria Baptist Church” and put “Alma Hunt Offering” in the memo.

Preschool is Open!!

The Victoria Baptist Church Preschool opened on September 8 for 3-4 year olds. The preschool is on M-T from 9-12 and has had a successful two weeks since opening. They are learning and creating a lot! The children had their first field trip on Thursday, September 24 to Glasgow Orchards. They had a great time and their matching shirts say "He's got big plans for me" - Jeremiah 29:11. Wonder what the next plan will be? Stay tuned...



If you'd like more information about the VBC preschool, visit www.VictoriaBaptistChurch/Preschool for more information, or call the church office at 434-696-2025.



Thank You

The Tuck family would like to express our appreciation for all the acts of kindness shown to us since the loss of James, Alvin, and Nancy. The texts, calls, cards, flowers, food, visits and contributions have touched our hearts. Your love and support have made these difficult times bearable.



Thank you. Kyna, Vern, Jamie, Betsy, Margie, Fred, and families

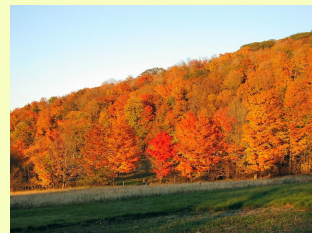


Fall Festival!

On Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m. we will be having a Children's Fall Festival at Victoria Baptist Church. Please join us for games, food, candy and activities! Children of all ages welcome!

Missions Opportunity

**Building God's Kingdom by (Re)Building a House
Update on Chase City Rebuild
for Carnell and Maddie Smithson**



There are a lot of exciting things happening at the Smithson's home in Chase City. Mr. and Mrs. Smithson are so appreciative of the work that has been done! We are currently trying to finish the drywall so we can move on to some more rewarding projects.

- All of the light fixtures have been donated
- Ceiling fans were purchased at cost
- HVAC system is currently being installed
- Cabinetry has been donated and will soon be completed
- A retired carpenter has volunteered to help put up new trim

The BGAV has graciously contributed an additional \$2,500 toward the completion of the house and an additional \$1,100 has been received in contributions. We still need to raise \$5,200 to complete the restoration and have it ready for the Smithsons to move back home.

At our workday on September 26, we will install some additional drainage in the yard to help move some water away from the crawl space and we will continue to work on drywall. We will need people to help with the following in the near future:

- Installation of Vinyl Planks
- Painting
- 1 or 2 Carpenter's Assistants

Please contact Laura French at 434-603-1070 or 434-392-3833 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer in any way!



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.

Worship Update

We are now back inside for worship! Please do not feel like you have to come inside to worship, we will continue to stream on Facebook Live and



CDs will be available of the service. Safety is still top priority and we will be following the guidelines from the state government for the Commonwealth of Virginia.

If you have a fever, persistent cough or been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, please stay home. Masks, sanitizer and other safety supplies will be made available. Please respect social distancing of 6 ft, no hand shakes or hugs, and sit with your family when entering the sanctuary.

In addition to worship on Sundays at 11:00 a.m., we have Sunday School for adults at 10:00 a.m. and children's church & nursery during the worship service is available.

Pastor Tim Lipp



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 9/27/2020

REGULAR OFFERING (weekly goal \$3,594.42) \$2,585.00

BUILDING FUND \$25.00

ALMA HUNT MISSIONS \$100.00

TOTAL \$2,710.00

**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 (September 2020)

Phyllis Hood
Heritage Hall
800 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
800 S. Main Street
Blackstone, VA 23824

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

Gloria Bridgeforth
Westport Rehab and Nursing
7300 Forest Hill Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

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 4th Street, Victoria, VA 23974
Linda Ramsey, 1530 5th Street, Victoria, 23974
Louie and Jean Overton, 2003 6th Street, Victoria, VA 23974
Anne and Woody Hudson, 965 Ashton Road, Victoria, VA 23974
Betty and Aubrey Lindsey, 1505 Tidewater Avenue, Victoria, VA 23974



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