



Striving to be the complete church using our complete gifts completely!

Shalom Baptist Church Newsletter

March 2021



# THE SHALOM NEWSLINE

## Easter Sunday Services

Sunday, April 4, 2021

HE IS RISEN

Celebrate the Resurrection



Sunrise at 6:30AM-Worship at 8:30AM-Sunday School at 9:45AM-Worship at 11:00AM

### Church Staff

Rev. Mark Miller.....Senior Pastor  
Jean Dart.....Minister of Music & Worship  
Kelly Bittler.....Ministry Assistant  
Jeff Farrier..... Church Musician

### Contact Us

8116 Walnut Grove Road Mechanicsville, VA 23111  
Phone: 804.746.7737 ♦ Fax: 804.746.7271  
Website: [www.shalombaptist.net](http://www.shalombaptist.net) ♦ Email: [shalombaptist@verizon.net](mailto:shalombaptist@verizon.net)  
**Church Office Hours**  
Monday: 8am-5pm, Tuesday-Wednesday: 8am-3pm, Thursday: 8am-2pm





# Mark's Minute

I'm feeling hopeful. Covid vaccinations are increasing while Covid cases appear to be decreasing. More and more of our members have not only received vaccination #1, but have also received vaccination #2. Regardless of what you think about vaccines, the decrease in Covid cases simply cannot be denied. This is hopeful to me, as it feels like a light at the very end of a long, dark tunnel. In recent weeks, I have been reflecting on the question, "what does a post-quarantine church look like?" (in fact, I even started reading Thom Rainer's book, The Post-Quarantine Church). In it, he highlights 6 different challenges. He encourages churches to: gather differently and better, seize the opportunities to reach their digital world, reconnect with the community near them, take prayer to a new and powerful level, rethink their facilities for emerging opportunities, and make lasting changes that will make a difference. (You will be hearing more of these 6 elements in the weeks to come). Suffice it to say, perhaps the "old normal" is not necessarily the best path forward.

What did we learn during this past year? What was God trying to show us or teach us regarding ministry, discipleship and missions? Moving forward, what will we do differently than we were doing before? How will our ministries be more effective and more Christ-centered than they were prior to the quarantine? It will be important to not only "debrief the past year" but to ask some very important structural, strategic and staffing questions as we move forward.

As believers, we are called and challenged to be adaptive. Not adapting the "content" of the Gospel...but adaptive in the ways that the Gospel goes forth. The apostle Paul certainly understood this. It was out of that "adaptiveness" that he wrote these words in 1 Corinthians chapter 9, "To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law). To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

Look at that last verse again: "I do all this for the sake of the gospel". The gospel doesn't change. Adaptivity comes in the ways that Paul related to different people WITH the gospel. Are you and I willing to enter post-quarantine with a spirit of adaptability? Why not try it ...and see if "we may share in the gospel's blessings"?

In Him,  
Pastor Mark

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

1 Corinthians 9:22-23







### Let's Celebrate Pastor Mark!

We appreciate Pastor Mark and all that he has done for our church in the last 15 years and want to celebrate him.

In this unprecedented time, where we are unable to have a reception or "proper" celebration, we'd like to ask your help in celebrating him all year.

The deacons are asking all groups and classes to meet and talk about a time during this year that they'd like to remember Pastor Mark in a special way. Let's join together to make this A Year to Celebrate Pastor Mark.

Please contact Jane Snead by phone at 347.8971 or by email at [jasnead@aol.com](mailto:jasnead@aol.com) if you have any questions, would like some suggestions or for more information.

### Shut-In of the Month:

*Tom Lewis*

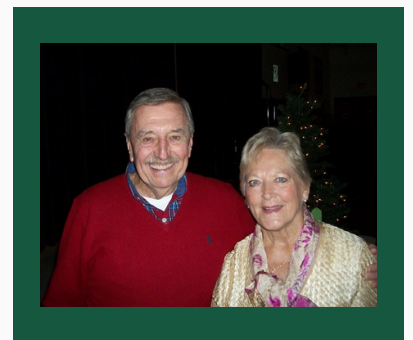
**500 Masonic Lane  
Henrico, VA 23223**

Please remember Tom this month by sending him a card or calling. It means so much to our Shut-Ins, that they are remembered and that we still care.



### Meet our Deacon for the month of March:

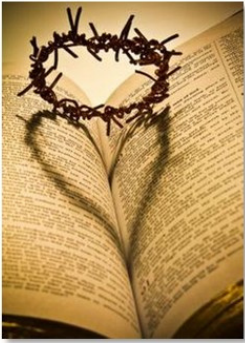
*Tommy Owens*







## All for Love



The final hours of Jesus' life were filled with every human emotion — betrayal, loneliness, physical pain and suffering. Even though Jesus knew

these experiences would come, he was still obedient and followed his Father's will. He did it for each of us... *all for love.*

Join us Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. as we experience together the journey that Christ took for each of us.

## BIBLE STUDY BELOVED

SPONSORED BY:

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

*A Trusted Friend When It Matters Most*

**When:** Monday Night's starting **March 15th from 7pm-8pm**

**Where:** Friendship Classroom

**Who should attend:** Adult Women, Men, Couples and Singles

**Facilitator:** Peggy Hedgepeth

We all know people who are hurting whether it's a loss of a loved one, our kids hate us, facing bills you can't pay or abuse from someone you loved and trusted. Yes, we can offer sympathy and compassion but we need to be prepared to share the hope and healing we found in Christ! This six-week study will help you identify needs by listening more carefully and encouraging with compassion. If interested, please attend the information meeting Monday, March 15th at 7pm. Questions? Contact Peggy Hedgepeth at 804-357-7082.



## CROSSROADS™

## Mission Trip to Crossroads Camp Save the Dates: May 21-23, 2021

A group from Shalom will be participating in "Volunteer weekend" at Crossroads Camp and Conference center in beautiful Lowesville, VA. This is a good mission opportunity for family groups, Men's Ministry, Youth group, WMU groups or a group at large from Shalom.

During the weekend we will be preparing the property for Summer Camp. Projects include: cleaning, painting, organizing, landscaping, mulching, yard work and light construction, such as porch and deck repairs. In the evenings we will enjoy a campfire and/or worship service.

Meals and cabin lodging will be provided at no cost. You can upgrade to the hotel room for a \$20 cleaning fee per room for the weekend. All Covid 19 protocols, as mandated by the Governor and the CDC, will be followed.

More information regarding sign-ups and logistics will be provided in April via the newsletter, emails and classroom visits. Questions? Contact Mitzi Hubble at 937.4515 or email to mhubble@qubicaamf.us . Please also let us know if you would like for us (Mitzi and/or Chuck (837.7378)) to meet with your groups in April regarding this trip.





## Police Officer Encouragement Opportunity

The Encouragement Ministry would like to invite our congregation to support us with our March project, which will be encouragement to our local Police Officers.

3 ways that you can show your support:

1. Donate: We would like to purchase 250 Police Prayer Pocket Tokens. Here is how your donation will help:

- \$2 = 1 encouraged officer
- \$10 = 5 encouraged officers
- \$20 = 10 encouraged officers

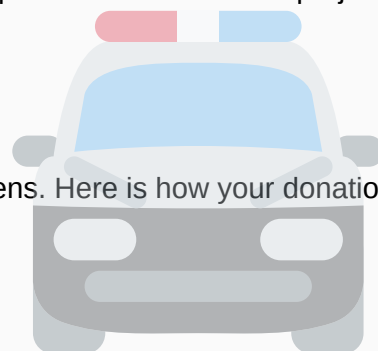
Your donation can be given by mail, placed in the Offering box, or online (look for "Give Now" button, and choose "Other" on church website). Please specify "EMT Ministry" on checks and web donation.

2. Pray: Lift up a prayer of protection in your daily prayers AND every time you see an officer or police vehicle.

3. Deliver: Join the Encouragement Ministry Team when we deliver the pocket tokens and encouragement prayer cards to the Hanover County Sheriff's Office. While we are on-site, we will lift up prayers of protection for all our local officers.

Please consider supporting this project for our Law Enforcement Community.

Peace to you and yours,  
The Encouragement Ministry Team



*many thanks*

Thank you for remembering me on my birthday and for all the prayers before my surgery.

-Phyllis Isbell



Christian Men Fellowship

Starting on

**March 9th**

the Christian Men Fellowship  
(Men's Bible Study)  
will be starting a  
study of James

**8:30 AM-Every Tuesday**





## Stewardship Snippet

### The Dangers of Debt

Benjamin Franklin says "He that goes borrowing goes a sorrowing". Jesus says in Luke 14:28, " For which of you, intending to build a tower does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it?"

This month we begin our discussion on debt. This is not a topic many want to discuss. Some are in deep debt and don't want to discuss how they got there, or some simply don't think they have a problem and don't want to be told how to handle their money. Either way we need to have a clear understanding of debt and the role it plays on our lives. First let me tell you, debt is not a sin! The Bible discourages the use of debt but does not prohibit it. Second, debt is not the real problem, it's the symptom of greed, self-indulgence, impatience, fear, poor self-image, lack of self-worth, lack of discipline, lack of faith, and other causes. Thirdly, debt defined is, any money owed to anyone for anything.

There are five kinds of debt: credit card, consumer, mortgage, investment, and business. And with any one of these there are four questions to answer: First, does it make economic sense? Second, if married, do my spouse and I have unity about taking on this debt? Third, do I have spiritual peace of mind or freedom about this debt? In other words, does this meet my biblical principles. Fourth, what personal goals or values am I meeting with this debt that can be met in no other way?

Let's briefly touch on the economic dangers. In the previous month's study, we discussed the power of compounding. Well guess what, it works in reverse here and is not your friend. You will owe more and the lender gets the benefit of the compounding. I'm not against buying a new car, just realize the true cost. The second danger is it becomes a trap. It's easy to get into, and can feel impossible to get out. Jerry Seinfeld once said, "all the stuff we buy is really just pre-trash." Financial maturity is "giving up today's desire for future benefits". The last economic danger is debt always mortgages the future. Freedom of choice disappears when you have someone else interested in your money. Many are deceived into believing they are raising their standard of living, in reality it's being lowered.

Debt is an important topic. As I have said before, the only debt we should have is our debt to Christ for what He's done for us. Next month we will look at the spiritual dangers of debt.





# ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®

anniearmstrong.com

Shalom's Goal  
**\$4,000.00**

**WMU News**

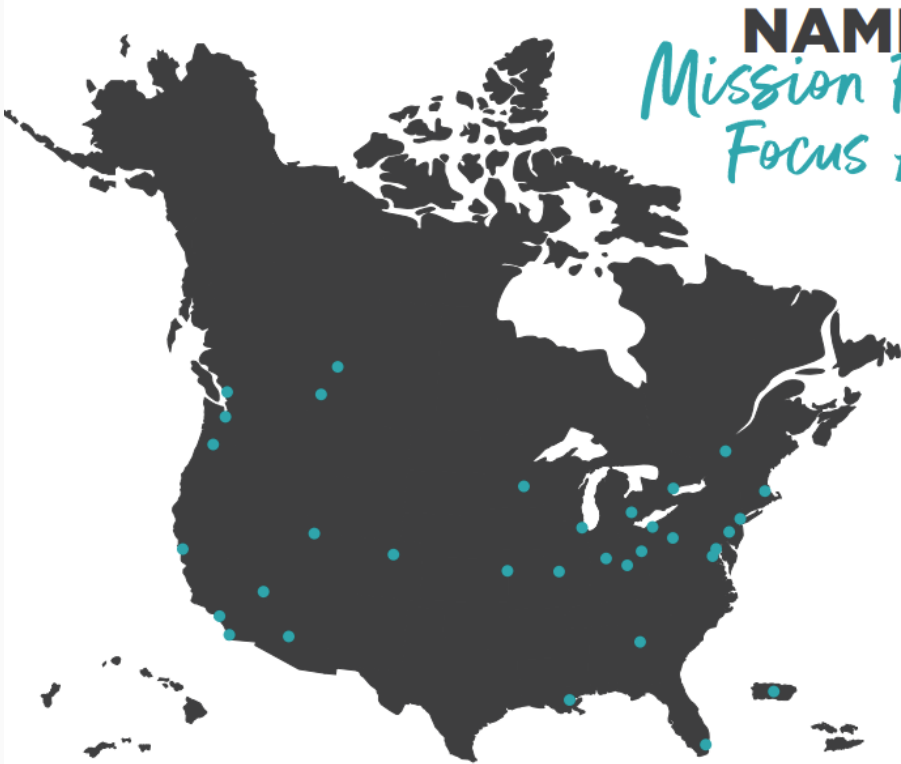
The EVENING group will meet **Thursday, March 4th at 7pm**. The meeting will be held at the home of Mitzi Hubble, **8164 Greenview Road, Mechanicsville**. Please bring an item for the basket to surprise a designated caregiver. For additional information contact Mitzi Hubble 804-937-4515 or Virginia Ryan 804-370-0583.

The MORNING group will meet Monday, March 8th at 10:00am at the church, in the Prayer Room. For more information contact Ann McFaden 804-513-0052.



Annie Armstrong was born in Baltimore at a time when women were not expected to lead. She served, challenged churches to action and rallied support for missionaries. Ultimately, Annie was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer renowned for visionary missions leadership.

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America. **One hundred percent** of gifts given to AAEO are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving across the United States and Canada.



## NAMB'S Mission Field & Focus Areas

- WEST**
  - Denver
  - Las Vegas
  - Los Angeles
  - Phoenix
  - Portland
  - Salt Lake City
  - San Diego
  - San Francisco
  - Seattle
- MIDWEST**
  - Chicago
  - Cincinnati
  - Cleveland
  - Columbus
  - Detroit
  - Indianapolis
  - Kansas City
  - St. Louis
  - Twin Cities
- SOUTH**
  - Atlanta
  - New Orleans
  - Puerto Rico
  - South Florida
- NORTHEAST**
  - Baltimore
  - Boston
  - New York
  - Philadelphia
  - Pittsburgh
  - Washington, D.C.
- CANADA**
  - Calgary
  - Edmonton
  - Montreal
  - Toronto
  - Vancouver
- STRATEGIC AREAS**
  - Collegiate Communities
  - Military Communities





# Shalom Youth Update



The youth group at Shalom would like to officially unveil their new name for the youth group: "Warriors". We are "Warriors" for Jesus Christ. We would also like to introduce John Pippin as a member of the Youth Committee.



*Youth from our Nerf Battle event*

Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- March 7th-Bible & Basketball Fun-3pm-4pm
- March 14th-Youth Committee Meeting at 3pm
- March 21st-Bible & Kick Ball-3pm-4pm.



Check out Shalom's Youth Group Instagram by searching [Shalom\\_Warriors](#)







## New DVD Ministry

Have you missed being a part of the Shalom family in worship? Is online technology something that's not working for you?

We know this has been a difficult time to connect and we have a solution for you! We're offering our worship services on DVD now! How exciting!

We want the whole Shalom family to be connected together in worship. Just call the church office and leave a message that you'd like to have a service mailed to you on DVD and it will be on its way!

*many thanks*

The family of Shirley J. Vaughan would like to thank our Brothers and Sisters in Christ for the thoughtfulness and prayers during the passing of our beloved Shirley. She was the sunshine in our life, and will never be forgotten.

Thank you,  
Bob Vaughan



## Personnel Committee



The goal of the Personnel Committee for 2021 is to be intentional during the hiring process for the future needs of Shalom Baptist Church. Part of our process is to get direct input from our leadership and congregation concerning hiring needs. We will be holding upcoming meetings to gather that input. The first meeting will be with Shalom's leadership team during the **April 6th Church Council meeting**.

### Food for thought:

**Here are 6 questions for us to think through before actually starting a search and interview process.** Adapted from an article by: Dan Reiland *The Pastor's Coach-Developing Church Leaders*

#### **1) Are we hiring for productivity or relief?**

Hiring primarily because the ministry team is exhausted or needs help is not the right place to *start*. It is better to start solving that problem by reducing their list of responsibilities first. Get tough about what doesn't need to be done. When hiring, make the goal about achieving greater *productivity* as well as the *health* of our staff/church.

-continue on page 10-



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**2) Do we need vision and creativity or implementation and progress?**

Knowing what the church needs most, ideas or execution will help shape the design of the role we want to hire.

**3) Do we need to drive growth or manage critical systems and processes?**

Driving toward the vision to realize healthy growth and managing key systems and processes are both vital and necessary, but they are rarely a hiring priority, at the same time, which do we need most right now?

**4) Are we hiring for the present or banking on the future?**

This is a good example of chess, not checkers. Consider one or two other key roles and responsibilities that are needed and similar in nature to the position we're creating. Then ask ourselves if the potential staff member may be able to pivot to a new role if needed. Think versatility, adaptability, and resilience with new staff.

**5) What level of risk are we willing to take?**

Here's the point. Make the decision in full recognition of how much risk we can accept.

- Know the need.
- Know what we want.
- Don't lower our standards just to complete the hire.

It's far better to endure the pressure of an unfilled position than to hire the wrong person.

**6) Is this position the highest priority to hire right now?**

One of the most health and productive conversations we can have amongst our congregation about staffing starts with a questions like this: *"If we need three staff members and can only afford one, how do we make that decision?"*







## March Anniversaries

19th Kevin & Christy Lane  
20th Glen & Millie Daniel  
22nd Tommy & Jackie Owens  
23rd Leif & Gretchen West  
26th Roy & Janice Carswell  
28th Gary & Liz Whitt  
29th Brian & Kathy Seebeck  
30th Jimmy & Denise Daniel



## March Birthday's

3rd Sherrie Balsley  
4th Ronnie Hardy  
5th Deborah Wright  
6th Evelyn Loftis  
7th Betty Leadbetter  
9th Millie Daniel  
10th Margaret Higgins  
10th Gail DeFeo  
10th Joan Durvin  
12th Charity Baker  
14th Edie Spicer  
15th Francie Bell  
16th Carson Brooks  
16th June Cross  
16th Mitzi Hubble  
19th Ashley Clear  
19th Judy Coiner  
19th Sydney Dunn  
19th Bob Vaughan  
19th Mary Lee Wilberger  
20th Carey Bell  
20th Randy Crew  
22nd Peggy Lambert  
23rd Leyna Neal  
24th Virginia Clark  
24th Jean Gifford  
26th Sonya Blommel  
26th Shirley Leftwich  
27th Peggy Hedgepeth  
27th Doris Lowry  
28th Allen Layne  
29th Brian Bartrug  
29th Matt Johnston  
29th Trish Woodson  
30th Byron Blake



Shalom Family,

Words can't express the love given to our family during the passing of our son, Steven. Pastor Mark's words and prayers guided us through this difficult time. We know Steven is now with Jesus.

A sincere thanks to all for prayers, phone calls, cards and food. It meant so much at this time of loss. God Bless all of you.

Sincerely,  
Joan, Ray & Family

*many thanks*



*Shalom Baptist Church*

8116 Walnut Grove Road  
Mechanicsville, VA 23111



We are collecting Spam and Vienna Sausages during the month of March. We are also collecting dozen size egg cartons and Kroger paper bags with handles. No more clothes at this time.

Thank you all again for supporting this ministry.

-Vicki Crew

