



# The Bell Tower

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The Hope Valley First Baptist Church family makes followers of Christ and worships God through prayer, fellowship, service and the study of the Holy Bible, testifying to the glory of His Name.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER/ FBHV/ MARCH 2023

## Pastor's Note

Having looked last month at the first of three local church relationships in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15, that of the **I) the congregation toward the leadership**, I now want to spend some time considering the second relationship, that of **II) the leadership toward the congregation**. Next month we will wrap up this series by looking at **c) the relationship of each member to other members**.

### **I. Congregation toward the leadership, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.**

### **II. Leadership toward the congregation, 1 Thessalonians 5:13.**

The passage of our focus reads, "But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteemed them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another." – 1 Thessalonians 5:13-13.

Turning to the relationship of the leadership to the congregation, we read of three principles: "diligently labor," "have charge," and "give instruction." That the same Greek article connects all three participles implies that these three responsibilities are required of each church leader.

To begin, a leader is to "diligently labor" among his flock. These two words are a translation of the Greek word, *kopiaō*.

The commentator, Fredrich Hauck writes,

"In secular Greek *kopos* means a) beating, weariness as though one had been beaten, and b) the exertion or trouble which causes the state. In prose, it is the proper word for physical tiredness induced by work, exertion, or heat. Expressing severe labor, it is synonymous with *kopos*, which signifies the most tense or strenuous effort, e.g., of the soldier in battle, or the exertions of messengers or manual workers."

If leaders desire their church's respect, they will have to work for it. Let us not forget the admonition, "if any man aspires to the office of overseer, is a fine *work* [not office] he desires to do" (1 Timothy 3:1). Church leaders need to be in their study early devoting a large part of each day to the task. In the words of John Wesley, "Either read or get out of the ministry!"

The second responsibility of leaders, and perhaps the most basic, is that of having "charge" over a congregation (see Hebrews 13:7, "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you, and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith"). It carries the idea of guarding, protecting, supporting, or being concerned. An interesting study of the word is its uses in 1 Timothy 3:4-5 & 12, where the new American Standard translates it as "manage" and compares it to managing a household and family.

Continued...

It was said earlier that a congregation is to support its leadership with more than just weekly attendance and financial backing; likewise, a church leader needs to be more to a congregation than just a “preacher.” There needs to be a deep—and deepening—relationship, something tantamount to a covenant. Such a relationship gives leaders the ability to discern problems in their infancy as well as convey love and understanding to those who may someday need a leader’s guidance and admonition.

Next, we read of giving “instruction.” This is another of the fundamental activities of a church leader. Being “able to teach” is a requirement of an overseer in 1 Timothy 3:2, and is to be one of his goals when dealing with people who oppose the work, cf. 2 Timothy 2:24–25. Teaching is so woven into the pastoral role that in Ephesians 4:11 the spiritual gift is referred to as “pastor–teacher.”

One Greek lexicon has this comment on the word translated as “instruction”: “Instruction is one way to translate the Greek word *noutheteo*, used in this section twice (as instruct and admonish) the word is a combination of *nous* (mind) and *tithemi* (put into). So the idea is to admonish, exhort, instruct, or warn with an emphasis on influencing the will and disposition and not only the mind.”

The instructing work of a church leader is one of the most encouraging, and at the same time, most discouraging work he will do. It is here that real ministry takes place and real opposition can be expected. Instruction, by its very nature, demands changes take place in a person’s life and this is often difficult work.

Space does not allow for many illustrations of such work in action, but one example is found in Acts 20:31 where Paul says, “Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.” It is evident that this ministry was not just academic, but emotional (it was with tears), nor was it only in a corporate worship setting (it was with “each one”). Paul’s tears were no doubt sometimes tears of joy at seeing a life turned around and sometimes tears of heartache as he witnessed people self-destruct in disregard to his admonitions.

Back in the early 1990s, a Fuller Institute survey noted that 40% of pastors surveyed reported a clash with a church member at least once a month, 50% felt ill-suited for the difficulty of the pastorate, 70% had a lower self-image than when they begin the ministry, and a whopping 90% felt inadequately trained for ministry. In the wake of covid restrictions, political turmoil, and shifting cultural winds against the church during the past thirty years, these statistics have not improved. Considering such conditions, it seems long past the time for church leaders and church members to take seriously the principles presented in this passage

The benefits of being a pastor or member of a healthy congregation are unending. The pastor becomes stronger and better able to exemplify a godly lifestyle to those watching, and the individual members will be healthier and more satisfied as they sense themselves being blessed in doing the work of God (John 13:17, “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them”).

Next month we will wrap up this series by looking at a set of God-given instructions that address the relationship of each believer to the other members of his/her church.



## *With deep sympathy*

Our heartfelt condolences to Delma Rathbun's family and friends. Delma died Friday, February 10th, 2023, at the Westerly R.I. Clipper Nursing Home. Please accept our prayers and support during this most difficult time.





## BOARD MEETINGS

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday — March 8, 2023

10:00 AM — Nichols Board

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday — March 14, 2023

4:30 PM — Missions

6:00 PM — Deacons & Trustees

6:30 PM — Christian Ed.

7:30 PM — General Board

# MARCH



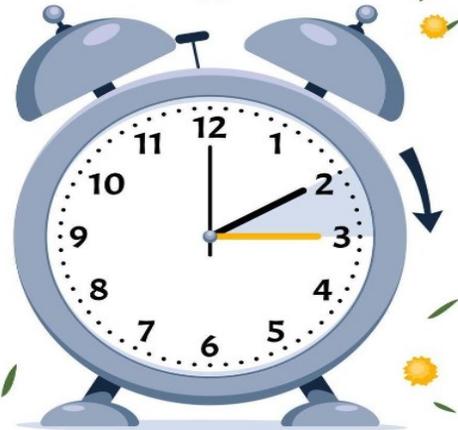
Happy Birthday!

- 4 – Brandi Glaza
- 4 – Paul Toy
- 7 – Kati Ann Mauchan
- 8 – Christel Wilcox
- 11 – Judith Noel
- 19 – Edwin Palmer
- 26 – Donna Kenney
- 30 – Penny Crandall

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

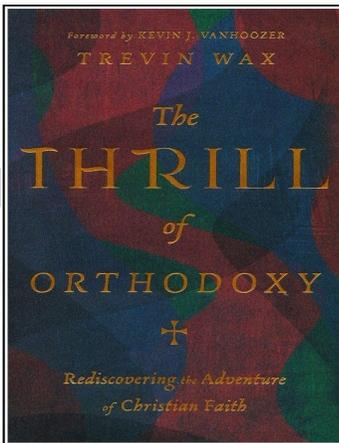
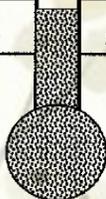
SPRING FORWARD

March 12, 2023



### 2023 Operating Budget Goal

December	\$157,548.00
Nov	\$144,419.00
October	\$131,290.00
September	\$118,161.00
August	\$105,032.00
July	\$91,903.00
June	\$78,774.00
May	\$65,645.00
April	\$52,516.00
March	\$39,387.00
February	\$26,258.00
January	\$13,129.00



“The Thrill of Orthodoxy” book study at FBHV every Sunday, in two classes: at 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Every generation faces the temptation to wander from orthodoxy--to seek out the jolt that comes with false teaching, and to drift with cultural currents.

And so every generation must be awakened again to the thrill of orthodoxy, and experience the astonishment that comes from stumbling afresh upon the electrifying paradoxes at the heart of the Christian faith.

## Women's Online Bible Study

The ladies are studying the book Romans every Monday at 7 PM via ZOOM. We'll be going one chapter at a time. Please see or email Lori Roeleveld at [lorisroel@gmail.com](mailto:lorisroel@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.



**February 5, 2023**

Adonai the Lord on high,  
Creator of us all  
El Shaddai, the Lord Almighty  
Hears us when we call.





Pictures taken by:  
  
Elaine Kenney



**CONNECTIONS**  
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island

## New Opportunities at ABCORI's Canonicus Camp & Conference Center

ABCORI invites you to explore the exciting new opportunities available at its Canonicus Camp and Conference Center.

These opportunities include three ABCORI-sponsored offerings scheduled for this summer: an intergenerational service camp; a special experience for grandparents and grandchildren; and an intergenerational global mission camp.

ABCORI-member congregations are invited to design and staff their own summer programs on the camp and conference center grounds. Possibilities might include a day camp for children, a week of Vacation Bible School, an overnight weekend camp for youth, or a family camp. Congregations might explore working together to sponsor a program.

Dates from mid-June through mid-August will be held open until mid-March to give ABCORI congregations first preference for reservations. After that, reservations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. For information about dates and costs, contact [campandconference@abcori.org](mailto:campandconference@abcori.org).

ABCORI also welcomes other congregations, organizations, families, and other groups to use its camp and conference center facilities for retreats, conferences, and other gatherings. For information about facilities, services, and costs, contact [campandconference@abcori.org](mailto:campandconference@abcori.org).

For more information about the new opportunities, check online at <https://www.canonicus.org/>. deepest belief into practice.



**REIGN AND JUN (MARIA GILL'S SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW)**  
Currently serving as missionaries in Nepal.

*A Third Third of Life Retreat*

## Finding a New Sense of Balance

**9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. • Saturday, March 18**  
**ABCORI's Shaub Lodge**

Traveling through the third third of life can require discovering a new sense of balance. So many things can feel in flux—roles, schedules, priorities, relationships, and responsibilities.

Join us for the first in a new series of one-day retreats designed for older adults. We will work together in a variety of ways to discover how we might find a new sense of balance in our relationships with God, with others, and with ourselves.

- Leading the retreat will be Rev. Kathryn Palen, ABCORI's associate executive minister for elder care ministries.
- The registration fee for the retreat, which includes lunch, is \$25. The deadline for registering is March 14.

**Elder Care Ministries**  
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island  
(401) 522-9731 | [eldercare@abcori.org](mailto:eldercare@abcori.org)



## SHARING YOUR WISHES

*A Workshop on Talking About End-of-Life Issues*

*What are your wishes for care and comfort at life's end?  
What other wishes do you have for the end of your life?  
With whom do you need to share these wishes?*

Join us for a one-hour workshop to reflect on those and other related questions. Participants will receive a copy of *Five Wishes*, which offers a complete approach to discussing and documenting your care and comfort choices, as well as additional resources to help you talk about your wishes with others.

**3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 26 | 7:00 p.m. Monday, March 27**

**ABCORI's Lawrence Building Conference Room**  
54 Exeter Road, Exeter, RI

**Elder Care Ministries**  
American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island  
(401) 522-9731 | [eldercare@abcori.org](mailto:eldercare@abcori.org)



# march into spring



Any non-perishable food items are appreciated. The most-needed items are canned soups, canned fruits and vegetables, canned chicken and tuna, peanut butter and jelly, cereal and pasta.

We deliver non-perishable food items after **2nd Sunday** of the month. Bring your non-perishable food items to the designated containers located at the front entrance to the church.

**NOTE:** Please check expiration dates on all donations.

- Canned tuna, chicken or salmon
- Peanut butter
- Meals in a can (soup, stew, chili)
- Low-sodium canned vegetables
- Canned fruit in its own juice or water
- Canned foods with pop-top lids
- Low-sugar whole grain cereals
- Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit)
- Healthy Cereal
- Dried or Canned Beans
- Rice or pasta

## Welcome Spring!

Isaiah 61:11

For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign Lord will make  
righteousness and praise  
spring up before all nations.



# SPRING YARD SALE

THE FBHV LADIES GROUP IS PLANNING A CHURCHWIDE YARD SALE THIS SPRING, SO START CLEANING YOUR CLOSETS AND DRAWERS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

## CONSIDER MAKING A GENEROUS GIFT!

Our America for Christ Offering 2023 campaign is based on John 1:16-17 [NRSVue]:

"From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

100% of your generous donations to our AFC Campaign support our ministries providing much-needed assistance to American Baptist partners, communities, families, children in need.

Our ministries and our mission partners are making a difference in the lives of so many individuals and families because of your support.

We thank you for your continued support of our transformational mission. Together, we are bringing healing and transformation communities in the United States and Puerto Rico during a time of crisis and uncertainty.

# Grace UPON Grace

John 1:16-17 (NRSVue)  
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

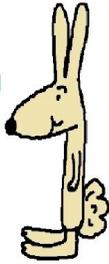
America for Christ Offering 2023

American Baptist Home Mission Societies www.abhms.org/afc

# Children's Corner



## Spring Lesson



GOD MADE  
SPRING  
AND THE  
ANIMALS!



(Genesis 1:14) And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

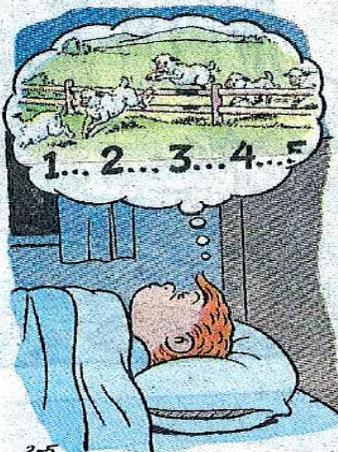
God made the season Spring. In the book of Genesis God talked about how he made the seasons and how he made the animals after his own kind. God is so amazing. He made the pretty butterflies with their neat little colors all over them. He made the fuzzy little bunny rabbits that hop so cute. And he made the tall sweet smelling flowers. He is such a wonderful God that created all these things. He made each one perfect in it's own little way. He made the dirt on the ground that gives the little flowers it's food from nutrients. Can you make dirt? The answer is no. God made it from nothing. He just created it. Next time your outside look at all the things and tell God how amazing he is for all the cool stuff you see.

## ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

R H W T N I C C N I H G U A F  
G O A T T X E E Y E K N O D J  
Q K D F S V V O Y G H B A R P  
W E R H O A M A R V U C Z L G  
C B L D R B D R V H L U F W E  
R O Z A T R M V E K A N S S R  
I G U E H G B A P G G F R M K  
L E M A C W O U L T D O E T H  
H J F A E V U D U R H E N I H  
E L H L U S K Z W F F I S H D  
E N I W S H Z J L Q G Q P P J  
P F L Y U E Z F O D N C N R U  
Q T Y L Q E K R S X R Q E V A  
D A R S S P U Y E P F O X A J  
M K U E V I L L U F K R O U P

CAMEL	DOG	DONKEY	DOVE
FISH	GOAT	HORSE	LAMB
OXEN	RAM	RAVEN	SHEEP
SNAKE	SWINE	WHALE	

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS<sup>®</sup>



By Bill Keane

Bill and Jeff Keane  
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