

## **From the Pastor.....**

I normally don't do this but I came across a blog article that I think bears reprinting as part of my newsletter article. It was first published by Kevin M. Stone who writes a blog on "XPastorOnline." I think it will be worthwhile for all of us, who love our church and want to see it grow, to not only read but heed.

*"I remember a while back reading a post titled "Discipleship Requires More Than Teaching" and it made me say, "Hmmmmm." One thing the author said was, "Teaching has the potential to shift someone's thinking, but systems have the potential to shift behaviors." Why did that make me say, "Hmmmmm?" I realized that despite how much I am passionate about "systems thinking" and its importance to good leadership, I've never directly explained "why" it's so critical. Sure, I've written thousands of words on building strong infrastructure and implementing/improving systems, processes, and methods; but for what reason? This quote nails it! Teaching makes people think, but systems help people change.*

*Let me illustrate with a simple example. A person comes to your church for the first time and hears a message that really makes them think. The message happens to be on the importance of community in real spiritual growth and life change. They go home and re-read the scripture upon which the message is based, and they say, "Hmmmm, that really makes sense."*

*They go back the next weekend and hear another message. It too, makes them think. This happens week after week, but the person's behavior never really changes. That first message on community and how it really made them think kind of got lost in the shuffle. While the person shook a few hands and met a few people, they never became a part of a community. Why? The church had a few groups going, but no "systemic approach" for helping people to become part of a group.*

*Imagine a church that not only has a system for connecting people to groups, it has a system for connecting people to serving opportunities, etc. And, not only do these systems exist, they are very effective....literally connecting hundreds of people, creating community all over the church. **NOW WE'RE TEACHING AND CHANGING BEHAVIOR!***

*The real purpose of systems, processes, and methods in the church is to effectively and repeatedly change behaviors, helping people to become more like Christ. It's that simple.*

**Pastor Frank**



Looking back to December 2016, we want to praise God for our spirit of giving to Lottie Moon offering for International Missions. Pastor Frank challenged us to meet a new goal of \$2,000 for giving to this offering, and our church responded by exceeding this amount to a total of \$2,485. What great things we can do!

Sunday evening, January 29, 2017 a “thank-you” celebration will be held at the Caroline County Community Center for Brent and Shelly Teague and their daughters who are a missionary family serving in the Ivory Coast, Africa. They are presently on furlough before going back to serve there. Three of our young men, along with others from Salem Baptist Church helped build tabernacles there last year. The missionaries will speak at this event and several local churches will take part.

Everyone is excited to hear about two mission trips that our men will be going on soon. Roger Kennedy and Brad Thomas will be partnering with others for a construction mission to Ghana, South Africa on February 23-March 4. Following this, Bob Martin will be partnering with others March 23-April 1 for an Evangelistic mission to Ghana.

A fundraising banquet will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017 at our church to help raise funds for those going on these mission trips. Along with Salem Baptist Church, we will have tickets available to be purchased from a table sponsor for those who wish to come, make a donation to the mission team, and enjoy a great meal. If you can't come to this event, a dessert auction will be held soon. Look for this date to be announced. Everyone is invited to come, bring a dessert, purchase a dessert, or just have fun with our church family and friends.

We will be praying daily for those going to Ghana and their mission. We truly have a “mission-minded” church and under the leadership of Pastor Frank we will be able to do great thing for the glory of God.



**WMU:** During the months of February and March, WMU will be collecting underwear and socks for needy children and adults in Wise County, Southwest, Virginia. These donations will be given to the Bland Ministry Center. **Please leave donations in the baskets under the bench in the back hall.**



"Over the last three months, we have hosted movie nights, a multi-church lock-in with over 70 students, and averaged around 16 students each week on Wednesday nights. The loyalty and devotion of the students is inspiring with 5 or 6 students who have missed 1 night or less since we first started.

Last year we went through the entire Gospel, starting with prophecy of Jesus and moving through the coming of the Holy Spirit. This year we have started on a series of practical subjects from the concept of 'second chances' to lessons on the meaning and importance of praise and worship. Lessons will continue to challenge students' perspective on God and focus on making a relationship with God seem more 'real' in a world that is full of so many fake distractions.

Moving forward, we have a few events "on deck". We will be hosting a couple of movie nights and attending the Planet Wisdom conference in March. Shortly, we will begin planning for the summer including some form of summer camp. **If you feel called to serve, give, or support in any way our youth ministry, please contact Joseph Pack for ways you can support the spiritual growth of our teens!"**



# *Music News*

Happy New Year to all! We have had a lot of good things going on at BGBC. It is very hard not to reminisce about all the amazing happenings during the last month of our church year.

The “Hanging of the Greens” service was the perfect entrance to the Advent Season. The church was beautifully adorned with greenery, lights, candles, the Advent Wreath and the Nativity. The Adult Choir and Children’s Choir sang music of the season and Readers of all ages explained about the customs and traditions of Christmas.

The next event during the Advent Season was the Christmas musical presented during the morning worship service. Our choir presented “One Small Child” by Dennis and Nan Allen and the Children’s Choirs, who always bless the congregation, sang several numbers. The Children’s Choirs processed and sang the Call to Worship. The new sound system in the sanctuary has made all the difference in the quality of sound and ease of presentation. The Christmas poinsettias, given as Memorials and in honor of special people and family members, were in all the windows. Our sanctuary is a very historical place of worship and when it is decorated for Christmas, it becomes an awesome place to worship and sing praises to God for the gift of his Son.

On Christmas Eve, we had a lovely Candle Light Service. Pastor Frank and wife, Terri lit the Light candle in the Advent Wreath to represent Jesus’ birth and shared the final message of Advent. The Deacons read scripture telling the Christmas Story and we sang Christmas Carols, had special music and a special candle lighting to depict the Nativity on the altar. Two talented husband and wife duos and the Children’s Choirs presented special music. Thank you Ryan and Charlene Gray and Charles and Daniele Cushing for your beautiful music. At the end of the service, the Deacons lit the candles of the congregation during the singing of Silent Night as everyone silently departed to ponder the true meaning of Christmas.

Now, it is time to start another year and soon begin to work on music for Lent and Easter. We are excited about new projects and have several potential new choir members.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Holy Land Tour....**Have you always wanted to go to the Holy Land and walk where Jesus walked? Now you can! Join Rev. Mike Durham, Director of the Hermon Baptist Association and Pastor Frank Johnson from 28 November – 7 December 2017 for a trip of a lifetime. The cost is \$2800 double occupancy and is all-inclusive with the exception of lunch each day and incidental expenses. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 is required with the application and the balance due by August 15. For more information, please contact Pastor Frank.

**Ghana Mission Trips....**Our two mission trips are fast approaching and we have three of our men who have committed to go this year. They are: Brad Thomas, Roger Kennedy and Bob Martin. This is Brad and Roger's second trip and Bob's first. A fundraising banquet is planned for Saturday, 11 February at 6pm at BGBC (description follows).

**Ghana Mission Trip Fundraiser....**We will be hosting a fundraising banquet on **Saturday, 11 February @ 6pm**. Tickets are required and can be obtained for free from the following table sponsors: **Pastor Frank, Brad Thomas, Roger Kennedy, Bob Martin, Priscilla Shuler, Paulette Britt, Neal Tidman, and Carolyn Lane**.

**Chili Cook-Off....**join the church family for fellowship and tasty chili on **Sunday, 19 February at 5pm in the FMC**. Some of the best chili in the county (if not the Commonwealth) will be available for tasting and will be judged by a panel of "experts." Prizes will be awarded and fun will be had by all who attend.

**Benevolence Ministry....**a new ministry and opportunity to support and sustain what has been a BGBC core value. Starting Sunday, Jan 29 and on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (April, July, October, December), we will be collecting an additional offering to support benevolence needs both within our church family and surrounding community. Your generosity has already provided \$500 for a woman in our community whose house was recently destroyed by a fire. As you those mornings someone will be standing in the back to collect your donation. Make your checks payable to BGBC  
With the notation: "*benevolence ministry*."

**Church Parsonage....**We welcome Doug and Sabrina Farris and their family as new residents in our church parsonage. The Trustees, Finance Committee and Personnel Committee approved their request to occupy the parsonage in lieu of taking a salary. Along with taking care of the parsonage, they will also assist in taking care of the church facility by ensuring doors and windows are locked and providing general security and oversight. They will be moving in by 1 February.

**BGBC Missions Dessert Auction.....**BGBC will again hold a dessert auction on **Saturday, 11 March at 6:30pm in the FMC.** This was an exciting and enjoyable event last year that resulted in the raising of thousands of dollars for our missions ministry. Not only will there be many delicious desserts but also several other food items (like Richard Gustard's salsa) will be available for purchase. Come out, bring your cash and checkbook and donate some of your dollars in supporting our missions program and get something tasty in return.

**Daylight Savings Time....**DST begins on **Sunday, 12 March.** Remember to advance your clocks by one hour so you are not late for church!

**HOMECOMING!.....**Save the date! Homecoming is planned for **Sunday, 30 April 2017.** Special combined service with lunch to follow. Stay tuned for more details. For more information, contact Beverly McDearmon at: [beverly.mcdearmon@gmail.com](mailto:beverly.mcdearmon@gmail.com)

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# FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers meet 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	2	3 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	4 10:00 – 12:20 Faith Journaling Class  6:30 dinner Caroline Care Assisted Living
5 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	6 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	7 6:00 Young Lives, basement 7:00 Bd. Of Directors Preschool	8 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	9	10 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool KIDZ Flight Nite	11  6:00 Mission Banquet @ FMC – Ghana Trip
12 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	13 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	14 12:00 Dollie Farmer WMU, Philathea Rm 6:00 Young Lives, basement 6:30 Care and Visitation	15 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers Meet, 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	16 7:00 Deacons Meeting	17 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	18
19  8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	20 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	21  10:00 Christian Book Club 6:00 Young Lives, basement 7:00 Buildings and Grounds	22  9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers Meet 6:30 Crossroads 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Praise Band	23 <i>Ghana Mission Trip</i>  6:00 Relay for Life. FMC	24  9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	25
26 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	27 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	28 6:00 Young Lives, basement 6:00 BG Meadows HOA				



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Linda Fisher
- 4 Channing Gustard
- 5 Cierra Divelbliss
- 5 Emerson Mallory
- 6 Ryan Flora
- 7 MacWayne Williams
- 9 Betty W. Williams
- 11 Sallie Tidman
- 15 Emily Krause
- 16 Richard Gustard
- 17 Lee Dunnington
- 19 Mary Bowie
- 19 Ashlee Ewing
- 19 Megan McDearmon
- 20 Noah Tidman
- 21 Landon Motley
- 24 Harley Wright
- 27 Meredith Pack
- 28 Jacob Sadler



# FEBRUARY REMINDERS

**Deacon of the Week:**

- Feb 5 - Carolyn Lane
- Feb 12 - Neal Tidman
- Feb 19 - Bob Rice
- Feb 26 - Priscilla Shuler

**Deacons' Meeting Devotions-** Carolyn Lane

**Building Security:** – Deacon of the week

**Counters**– Jeanne Jordan & Carolyn Lane

**Flowers:**

- Feb 5 – Suzanne Stepp
- Feb 12 – WMU Focus Week
- Feb 19 – Karla Covington, Stephanie Sadler, and Courtney Taylor
- Feb 26 – Jean Satterwhite

**Coffee & Snack Schedule**

- February 5: Jennifer Michael
- February 12: Cathy Gray
- February 19: Ella Divelbliss
- February 26: Olivia Perry

**Nursery Workers: \***

- 5th Haley Kennedy, Debbie Thomas, Laney Thomas
- 12th Stephanie Sadler, Jack Phelix, Christianna Gray
- 19th Sallie Tidman, Sabrina Farris, Kamryn Gray
- 26th Tracey Mallory, Kristen Bissoon, Chandler Gustard

\* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00 service.