

From the Pastor.....

I want to die like Billy Graham. No, I'm not talking about living until 99. Although, that would be okay with me, I think. And no, I'm not talking about dying in your sleep at home, in your own bed, which apparently is how this great icon passed away last Wednesday. No, I'm talking about how he approached death.

To be sure, Billy did not look forward to the dying process itself. He once said he had seen *"some of the terrible things that happen to people that are dying. I don't want that."* But I think he looked forward to death itself. He tackled the subject of death often and with surprising candor. Even though he preached with enthusiastic vigor the "Good News," the reality is, we have to embrace the "bad news" of our sin and mortality in order to embrace entirely the Good News of the Gospel.

When Billy Graham preached, he often pointed his listeners to the fact that death was inevitable. Knowing that the return of Christ was uncertain, he said, everyone should think instead about the sure thing they did know; the certainty of their own death. Consequently, Graham said that all of us should do the following. First, *"accept the fact that you will die."* Second, *"make arrangements."* Third, *"make provision for those you are leaving behind."* And finally, *"make an appointment with God!"*

Billy Graham made it clear that he anticipated his death as a door to a new life in heaven. One of his most famous quotes and one that brought tears to my eyes when I read it last week was when he said, *"Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."*

Well that is where Reverend Billy Graham has gone. The question now, is, will you meet him there? I, for one, am looking forward to our first introduction.

Baptism Service

Speaking of Billy Graham, last Wednesday, February 21, the day Graham died, was also the day we held a baptism service later that evening. Our student Pastor, Joseph Pack, assisted by Sabrina Farris, baptized 8 of our students. All had previously made commitments to Christ. Some are members of our church along with their family members and others are members of other churches or affiliated with other churches. But they all count our Youth Ministry as theirs and Joseph as their "Pastor." It was an exciting evening and in heaven, Billy Graham, joined in the chorus of Hallelujahs!

Missions

As I write this three of our men (Brad Thomas, Roger Kennedy, and Jake Phelix) are in the Ivory Coast on a mission trip helping to construct churches. Bob Martin returned recently from an evangelistic trip to Ghana. We are planning to hear from both teams very soon as they share the wonderful things they witnessed as God's servants.

Our missions footprint continues to expand. In addition to our Africa teams and mission trips to Bahamas and Haiti, this year Ella Divilbliss will be joining a team going to Russia this July. This team will be conducting a VBS in a remote village and ministering among churches in the area of Novogrod, Russia.

Missions Banquet

Our 3rd annual mission's banquet held last Feb 10th was a success. It was attended by approximately 140 people from Salem Baptist Church and BGBC. Our church raised close to \$4,000.

Dessert Auction

Our next fundraising event is our annual dessert auction scheduled for Saturday, March 10th. This really should be called a "food auction" as there will be several types of food other than desserts that will be auctioned off. Hope to see you there.

Men's Ministry

Several of our men, along with yours truly, will be attending the "Men's Impact Weekend" at Liberty University from March 16-17. We'll be joining SBC with some of their men.

EASTER AT BGBC

Easter at BGBC this year will include something old and something new. There will be our traditional choral special in our second service. This year, Sandra Stevens and our sanctuary choir will be presenting, "Blessed Redeemer" by Dennis and Nan Allen. And of course we will be having Sunday School.

However, in addition to this moving choir special we'll begin the day with a sunrise service which will include our awesome Praise Team and a message from Pastor Frank. I can't think of a better way to begin Easter than to rejoice in His resurrection as the day dawns. This will be followed by a delicious breakfast (with plenty of coffee) hosted by our wonderful Hospitality Team.

During breakfast we'll be showing a movie inspired by Max Lucado entitled, "Resurrection." This is a story of one Roman soldier's quest for the truth of the resurrection. Here is what the morning will look like:

6:30am – Sunrise Service (weather permitting, outside at the rear of the church.)

7:30am – Breakfast in the FMC.

8:00am – Movie: "Resurrection" in the FMC.

9:00am – Sunday School for all ages

10:30am – Choral presentation of "Blessed Redeemer" in the Sanctuary.

I sincerely hope you will join us this Easter. I also hope you will bring someone with you. Of the 52 Sundays out of a year, Easter is probably the one Sunday almost everyone will attend church, if invited by a friend. Perhaps they need some "Good News" in their life. You see, Easter's empty tomb has never been and will never be old news. Everything became new on Easter Sunday because of the empty tomb, and because of our living Savior. The message of the resurrection is the ever-new, Good News about Jesus Christ who conquered sin and death, and who rose from the grave. Everything He touches becomes instantly and eternally new.

He is Risen,

Pastor Frank

ANNOUNCEMENTS UPCOMING

Antique chairs for sale. The church has some wooden antique chairs that are commonly called: *“Fischel Astra Bentwood ice cream parlor chairs.”* If you are interested in purchasing any of these chairs, please see Judy Witmeyer in the church office. All proceeds will be used in support of our Building and Grounds ministry.

Vacation Bible School. The VBS sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board. Volunteers are needed for Nursery, Pre K Teaching Team, Grades 1-6 Teaching Team, Recreation, Music, Missions, and Arts and Crafts. Please consider being a volunteer for VBS, June 4-8.

Dessert Auction. Our annual dessert auction is scheduled for Saturday, March 10th at 6:30pm. This is one of our main fundraisers to benefit all our Mission trips to places like Africa, Russia, Bahamas and other places some of our members might be called to minister.

Homecoming is Coming Soon! Save the date for Sunday, April 29. Our annual Homecoming Sunday is scheduled for that day. Update: There will be a professional photographer available to take family photos. Details will soon be published.

Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas for Easter. You are invited to place an Easter Lily or Hydrangea in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of someone special. Lilies are \$10 and Hydrangeas are \$18 if ordered through the Flower Committee. You may purchase your own. Deadline for ordering through the Committee is March 18. Flowers will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please use the form inserted in today's bulletin.

Holy Land Tour. Join Pastor Frank, Pastor Kevin James and others for a once in a lifetime opportunity to tour the Holy Land from November 27—December 6, 2018. Cost is only \$3,499 per person, which covers virtually everything. A deposit of \$500 to secure a reservation is due by May 31 in order to receive an “early bird” discount. Brochures are available from Pastor Frank.



REMEMBER: Daylight Savings Time begins March 11th.

Time changes March 11th at 2 am

CROSSROADS Student Ministry

The student ministry of Bowling Green Baptist Church

On Wednesday, February 21, 2018 an amazing baptism service was held at our church with 8 of our student ministry students being baptized.

Information on each of these students follows. The verse after each student's name is one we offer for inspiration as they seek to better know, submit, and commit to God.

We praise our LORD for the commitment made by these young people.



Gracie Metzger made a decision to commit her life to Christ during WinterFest at Liberty University. Gracie and her mother, Ali, spoke in depth about their faiths and now share a deeper bond through their belief in Christ. [\(Phil. 4:8\)](#)

Camden Gray is recommitting his life to Christ. After listening to our recent youth lessons, he decided that he wanted to make his faith more personal through baptism. [\(Col. 3:1\)](#)

Avery Satterwhite decided to commit her life to Christ after attending youth and assessing her relationship with God. She has discussed her decision openly with her mother, Megan, and has a ton of family support for her decision. [\(Col. 3:14-15\)](#)

Jessalynn Swanton is recommitting her life to Christ. She watched her siblings get baptized last year and has thought a lot about her faith during her time in CROSSROADS. She brings a tremendous amount of maturity and enthusiasm to the table and will no doubt be a light to many around her looking for something more in life. [\(Ps. 18:30-31\)](#)

Hope Trout is recommitting her life to Christ and following through with Baptism. She has a heart that desires to serve God and those around her. Hope is driven and convicted of her beliefs and seeks to live a life she feels glorifies God. [\(1 Peter 1:3-4\)](#)

Kamryn Gray is recommitting her life to Christ. After hearing several of CROSSROADS' recent messages, she asked to speak with her youth leaders. After prayerful consideration, she decided she wanted to recommit her life to Christ with baptism to signify that she was living as more than just a 'cultural Christian'. Kamryn is a natural leader and no doubt has been given gift God can use. [\(Phil. 1:6\)](#)

Olivia Taylor is committing her life to Christ and participating in Baptism. Her mother, Melissa, encouraged her to pray and attend church all her life. Recently, her friend, Kamryn, started inviting her to church where she decided she wanted something more in relationship with God. [\(Ps. 121:1-2\)](#)

Chandler Gustard is recommitting her life to Christ. After hearing our recent lesson series, Chandler decided she wanted to personalize her faith and 'own' her walk with God. She gets baptized today to reorient her life towards God and God's plan. [\(James 3:17\)](#)

Growing and Learning in Grace

by Paige Carter

A moment to say thanks....

In recent weeks we have begun to plan for our upcoming Children's Church ministry. Many of you were praying for this ministry, and I thank you! My prayer requests included a good curriculum for actual worship and Biblical understanding, and for an army of volunteers to serve. Needless to say, our God is so good! Children's church will begin in mid-March.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that came out to support our children's church informational meeting and training. Thank you, too, to the new volunteers that are coming in! We are delighted to have such a great group of volunteers. If you would like to get in on the fun, please come on! God, I know, will bless our efforts and make this an amazing worship experience for our kids!

I also wanted to share how incredibly excited I was to see such a turnout for the baptism service on Wednesday, February 21. The church was full of cheers and amens! What an enormous celebration for our incredible young people who have owned their faith and made it public in their church. I was blessed by the youth ministry, by those amazing teens, and by the response of our church. What an incredible night!

Upcoming dates....

Kidz Nite March 9

VBS June 4-8

Centrikid June 16-20



The missions fundraiser banquet on Feb. 10, 2018 for the church missionaries going to Africa was a great success. Brother Bob Martin had returned from his Ghana evangelical trip recently. Prayers were lifted up for our three other church missionaries: Brad Thomas, Roger Kennedy, and Jake Phelix who will be traveling to the Ivory Coast on Feb. 22-March 3, 2018. We will keep them and their families in our prayers for a safe journey and for continuing to do the work God has led them to do.

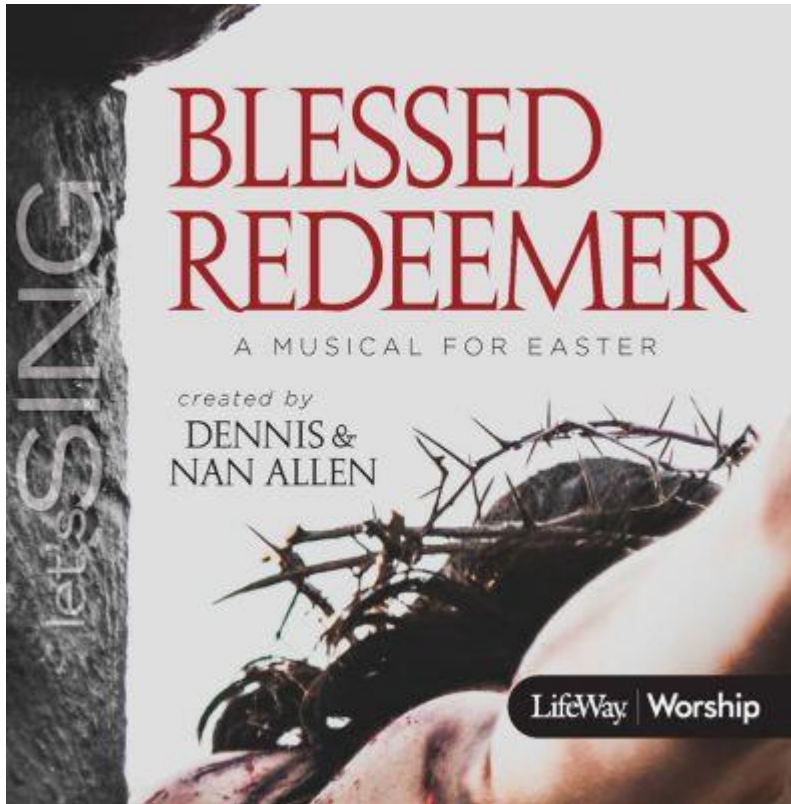
March brings us the opportunity to look around us and see the need for missions here at home. North American Missions is emphasized as the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering the week of March 11-18. However, we can give anytime this month as we try to reach our goal of \$1500.00. The missions need is all around us, and according to statistics 269 MILLION people across North America do not know Christ. Please see and read the prayer guide inserted in the bulletin and pray for these missionaries at work in large cities, rural communities, and on college campuses. Give as you are able, as 100% of your giving goes to support these mission efforts throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Closer to home, our mission work at Glory Outreach in our town helps us see how many of our church members give to others each week---working hard with food relief and clothing donated to meet the needs of our community. Glory Outreach reports that in 2017-- 2,545 clients served in 6,624 households and an additional 1,362 Food for Life Boxes given to those over 60 years of age or having disabilities. Those who are interested in helping with this community mission please call Barbara Schools or the church office.

Don't forget the Dessert Auction on March 10, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Family Ministry Center. Lots of great fun will be had by all as we bid for our favorite dessert or food item. The money we raise will go to our Missions.

On March 13, 2018 Pastor Frank will speak to our missions group about his service as a chaplain while in the Navy. Everyone is invited to join us at 1:00pm in the Library for this most interesting program.

Musical Connections



UPCOMING

The sounds of Easter.....

Sunday, April 1, 2018

10:30 AM Combined Service in the Sanctuary with the Adult Choir leading the celebration of Resurrection Sunday with the Easter Cantata "Blessed Redeemer".



Susie Hicks	2
Morgin Harrie	3
Forrest McGhee	3
Gavin Pickett	5
Erin Cushing	10
Wendy Flora	11
Stephen Farris	17
Haley T Kennedy	18
Charles Stevens	20
Scott Moser	21
Vernon Hodge	22
Kenzie Kennedy	26
Sarah Beale	27
Caleb Kennedy	30



Deacon of the Week:

MARCH	4	Doug Farris
	11	Charles Cushing
	18	Sherry Brillhart
	25	John Markham

Deacons' Meeting Devotions- Charles Cushing

Building Security: – Deacon of the week

Counters– Terry Bullock & Lee Dunnington

Flowers:

March 4, 2018	Sue Hollandsworth
March 11, 2018	Beth Curran
March 18, 2018	Debbie Pickett
March 25, 2018	Palm Sunday – Philathea Class

Coffee & Snack Schedule:

March 4	Margaret Mills
March 11	Mary Flora
March 18	Jean Satterwhite
March 25	Bonnie Gromovsky

***The Church will provide additional doughnuts, danish and juice in support of the *Art of Marriage* seminar beginning February 4 through March 11. Clean up following each meeting to be determined.

Nursery Workers: *

4th – Richard Gustard – Naeda Gustard – Hannah Kennedy
11th – Ruth Judd - _____ – Laney Thomas
18th – Paige Carter – Heather Diritto - Christianna Gray
25th – Brooke Satterwhite - Cathy Gray - Kamryn Gray

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