



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

November 2025

Something To Think About



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: “WHILE YOU WAIT”

What do you do while you wait? Play a game on your phone? Read a magazine sitting on the table? Close your eyes and take a nap? I realize most of the time what I do while I wait is something that just fills time. I do something to be doing something.

This week I was invited by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship to be part of a focus group discussing a possible new initiative to equip churches to be ready to respond to disasters within their own community or in other parts of the world. As different church leaders discussed ideas of what a “disaster ready” church looks like, one of the topics of conversation centered on what many of us on the Zoom meeting agreed was a great challenge when disaster strikes anywhere: impatience. We see suffering and we want to do something to fix it right now, even though often times, especially in the case of natural disasters, it might be days or even weeks before what kind of help is needed is really known. The feeling of “we have to do something” often leads congregations and communities to undertake efforts that result in supplies that are not needed and/or that the impacted communities are not prepared to manage in the light of destruction. Our impatience can lead to helping that is harmful.

As we were discussing this, one person on the Zoom shared about an organization they had learned of called Stars of Hope (www.starsofhopeusa.org). This organization seeks to provide comfort to communities impacted by disasters or crises through art and human connection. Volunteers bring art that carries messages of hope into impacted communities and also offer workshops in those communities where people can come together to express their emotions and support one another through art projects. The person who shared this with us said,

“Maybe, when a disaster strikes, your congregation can have a workshop where they create stars painted with messages of hope that can be carried into the impacted communities while they wait to hear what other forms of help are needed!”

I found myself captured by the idea of creating hope while we wait. Rather than seeing waiting as wasting time, waiting can be a time of preparation for what will take place and a time for building and shaping our expectations. The Old Testament prophets are often associated with messages of judgment, which certainly was a major theme of their preaching and writing. However, many of the prophets also focused on shaping the expectations of the redemptive work that God was doing and would continue to do, culminating in the revelation of the Messiah. Waiting for the Messiah was not just about watching time pass, according to the prophets. It was a proclamation that the darkness of sin would not hold over creation, that a new day of peace was dawning. It was because the prophets spent time in the waiting creating hope that there were people who could look at Jesus and recognize him as the Savior they had been waiting and hoping for.

There are times in our lives when we can’t immediately fix the problems in our lives or the lives of others. There are times when our patience is tested, when all we can do is wait. But waiting doesn’t have to be a time of helplessness. Waiting can be a time when we turn back to the foundation of God’s promises, when we dare to dream of what God can do in our lives and in our world, when we train our eyes and ears and hearts to recognize the movements of the Savior around us. Waiting is not just passing time, it can be a season of creating hope.

- Pastor Mark

Being Gregarious



What day is it?

The fourth Saturday in October is Make A Difference Day.

On this date:

In 1925, Fred Waller received a patent for water skis.

Need advice?

Easily erase soap scum from shower doors by rubbing them with a fabric softener sheet.

LOL:

A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a really good time just the way I am!"

Bu-dum-dum-chhh

Spiritual Nourishment:

Hebrews 12:2 "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus."

Kerry O'Neil writes:

I set my blocks for the 110-meter hurdles and took a couple of practice starts. The starter called out, "Runners to your marks!" Nervous, I looked around to compare myself to the other runners. I noticed that the line I was using for the

start was a full meter behind everyone else. I made the fateful decision to keep my feet in the blocks while moving both hands up even with the other runners. I was nearly lying flat when the gun went off. I crawled out of the blocks and hit almost every hurdle. I finished second to last!

Where did I go wrong? I took my eyes off the finish line, compared myself with others, and tried to compete the way they were competing instead of running my own race. When we focus on another person's game, it prevents us from focusing on our game and competing the way that God created us to compete – which means that we work to develop our own unique skills so that we can be the best that we have been created to be.

Spiritually speaking, when do we get off track? When we take our eyes off Jesus – the finish line – and begin comparing ourselves to others. Stop the comparisons and be committed to developing your skills and unique abilities so that your game is at its best and you reach the finish line having run your race.

In what areas of your life are you

comparing yourself to others rather than fixing your eyes on Christ?

(Information shared is borrowed from the following sources.)

- *Victory 365*
- *The Big Book of Church Humor -or- Religious Humor*
- *Who Knew? 10,001 Easy Solutions to Everyday Problems*
- *365 Trivia Twist Devotions*

Children & Youth Updates



RECAP: BGAV YOUTH RETREAT

Pastor Greg, Ms. Heather, and the Youth had an amazing weekend at Eagle Eyrie attending the BGAV Youth Retreat. This was an amazing experience for our youth and youth around Virginia to worship together and spend time in fellowship.

UPCOMING CBFVA YOUTH RETREAT

Please be in prayer as some of our youth and their friends plan to go with Pastor Greg to the CBFVA Youth Retreat at Eagle Eyrie from Nov. 14-16. Pray that they have another amazing weekend away spent in mission, worship, and fellowship together.

ADVENT PREPARATION

We are entering a busy time of the year for everyone but we ask that if possible, please make an effort for your children and youth to be at church on Sunday evenings starting at 5 PM. Pastor Connie and Ms. Patty will be working with the children during Worship Arts on the children's Advent presentation for worship. During Seeds of Youth, Ms. Stephanie, Ms. Tracie, and Ms. Sandy will be working with the youth on this year's Christmas drama. This is a great way for your children and youth to participate in worship during Advent!

SAVE THE DATES:

- The children's Advent presentation will be on Sunday, December 7 during worship starting at 10:45 AM.
- The youth Christmas drama will be on Sunday, December 14 during worship at 10:45 AM.

Any questions? Reach out to Pastor Greg or Pastor Connie!



CHILDREN IN ACTION WISH LIST

The CIA program is helping to collect needed items for 14 local children that participate in TAP's Early Head Start program.

If you wish to participate, you can either:

- 1) Take one of the gift tags located on the bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary and return it with your item on Sunday, November 30.
- 2) Donate gift cards for Target, Wal-Mart, Ross, & Marshalls and place them in the donation box located on the bulletin board and are due by Sunday, November 30. All gift cards will be used to purchase needed personal items.



2025 ANGEL TREE

The Melrose Youth are sponsoring an Angel Tree this year for the West End Center. The tree will be set-up with tags on Sunday, November 16 and gifts are due back under the tree by Sunday, December 14.

Music Ministry Updates

HYMN OF THE MONTH: "O CHRIST, THE SAME"

Our Hymn of the Month for November is "O Christ, the Same", which is based on one of my favorite verses--Hebrews 13:8--"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." The author of this hymn is Timothy Dudley-Smith, a bishop in the Anglican Church who wrote over 400 hymns.

He was born in 1926 in Manchester, England, and was educated at Cambridge. He was ordained in 1950 and just five years later, he edited the Christian magazine *Crusade*, which was founded after Billy Graham's London crusade in 1955. He began writing hymns in the 1960s and ministered in many various church positions, retiring as bishop of Thetford from 1981 to 1991. He continued to serve as Honorary Assistant Bishop of Salisbury until his death last year in 2024 at the age of 98. He has many published books which are collections of new hymns from 2005-2019 and also interesting titles published by the Hymn Society of Great Britain like "Snakes and Ladders: A Hymn Writer's Reflections" (2009).

He is most well-known for his hymn in the 1991 Baptist Hymnal "Tell Out My Soul" which captures the themes of Mary's "Magnificat" song in Luke 1:46-55. The tune to our hymn of the month is more commonly known as "O Danny Boy", but its hymn tune name is "Londonderry Air". Along with the beauty of this well-loved tune, I chose "O Christ, the Same" because of the poignant way he weaves "all our story's pages" into the cosmic story of God's plan of salvation from the beginning of creation. The month of November holds days to be thankful for our freedom to vote, thankful for those who fought to protect that freedom, thankful for the historical meal of peace and partnership among tribes and settlers which is inspiring still today, and by the end of November, the first Sunday of Advent, which ushers in the season to rejoice and give God thanks for sending His Son, Jesus. There is much for which we can be thankful for given God's blessings and our Savior's eternal love and the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit showered upon us yesterday, today, and forever.

Lyrics to "O Christ, The Same"

*O Christ, The Same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears--
Eternal Lord, The King Of All The Ages,
Unchanging still amid the passing years.
O Living Word, The Source of all creation
Who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ, The Same, Who wrought our whole salvation:
We bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.*

O Christ The Same, The Friend of sinners! Sharing

*our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide.
Still as of old upon Your Body bearing
The marks of love in triumph glorified.
O Son Of Man, Who stooped for us from heaven!
O Prince Of Life, in all Your saving power!
O Christ The Same, to Whom our hearts are given,
We bring our thanks for this the present hour.*

*O Christ, The Same, secure within Whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
Our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain,
O Lord Of Love, for all our Joys and sorrows,
For all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ, The Same, beyond our brief tomorrows:
We bring our thanks for all that is to be.*



UPCOMING- FREE JAZZ CONCERT

The Let's Dance Band of Roanoke, VA will be performing a wonderful night of music at Melrose Baptist Church on Sunday, November 23 from 4-6 PM! This concert will feature various selections of music from various genres and time periods.

This concert is FREE but we are requesting those attending please get tickets which can be found on the church website **HERE**. We invite all to come and join us for this wonderful night of music!

Have a group interested in coming?

Call Blair at the church office at 540-366-661 ext. 5 and she will arrange for group seating for your group!

Ministry Updates



HAPPENING NOW: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

If you would like to participate in Operation Christmas Child, now is the time to pick up your boxes! Empty boxes can be found in the hallway outside the Sanctuary and on the stage at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Packed boxes are due back to the church by Sunday, November 23.

Pleaser, remember that a donation of \$10 is due per every box, and if you write a check, please make all checks out to "Samaritan's Purse."



THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT

For centuries, civilization operated not according to the counting of minutes and hours on a clock but according to the rising and setting of the sun. Before the invention of artificial light, the sun and its movement determined the length of the work day, when families ate meals and went to bed, and how far you traveled in a day. The rhythm of human life reflected the truth revealed throughout nature: life required light.

In the Christian church, Advent has been the 4-week season in which disciples of Jesus Christ allow the growing light of the candles of the Advent wreath to remind us that our life is nurtured and strengthened by the Light of the World. Our life requires His light. Our celebration of the season of Advent will begin on Sunday, November 30. Each week, as we light a new candle on the Advent wreath, we will ponder for a moment in

worship how we experience the light and life of Christ today. As we begin this season of Advent, I invite you to pay attention to the various forms of light in your life - from the hues of the sunrise and sunset to the nightlight in your hallway to the fire roaring in the fireplace. How does the presence and influence of these various lights shape your life? Perhaps take time each day to read a chapter from one of the gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. As you read about Jesus, do you see a connection between how these lights shine in your life and how Christ wants to shine in your life?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). May His light shine brightly in our life!



SAVE THE DATE: JOURNEYING TO JOY

Finding and experiencing joy within the everyday can be hard for so many of us, especially women. We want to help women explore ways for them to find joy in their lives by strengthening their relationship with God through compassion, care, creativity, and connection. We are inviting women to join us on Saturday, February 7 for a one-day Christian women's retreat called, "Journeying to Joy."

During this retreat, women will have the chance to be in fellowship with other Christian women while also worshipping together, attending two breakout sessions of their choice, enjoy a catered lunch, participate in a group Bible study, and help pack emergency bags for women fleeing domestic violence situations.

The cost of the retreat is \$25 per person with registration beginning on Monday, November 3. To register and for more information, go to the church website **HERE**.

If you wish to not register online or need to register a group, please reach out to Blair by calling 540-366-6631, ext. 5.

Upcoming Events



CREATIVES FELLOWSHIP: CHRISMONS

We invite you to come and join us on Friday, November 14 at 2 PM for our final Creatives Fellowship: Christmons. During this final session we will be working on learning to make an angel, bell, and Jerusalem cross ornament. All materials will be supplied and no experience is needed!



MAKERS ON MISSION: NOVEMBER CREATIVES NIGHT

During this month's Creatives Night on Sunday, November 16 at 5 PM we will be working on making prayer beads for our Homebound friends for Christmas gifts. While we invite you to come and make a strand of prayer beads for yourself, we are also asking all participants to make another strand for the Homebound. All materials will be provided along with a prayer guide to help you use the beads during your time of prayer.

NOVEMBER LAAF GATHERING

This month's LAAF gathering will take place on Tuesday, November 18 at 10 AM. Those 50 and older are invited to this gathering where all will enjoy a performance from the Dogwood Recorder Ensemble. Lunch will be a catered Thanksgiving meal by Patty Huffman and the cost is \$12 per person. The mission action project is going to be packing cookies for the Local Office on Aging so please bring a donation of homemade cookies with you!



THANKSGIVING COMMUNION SERVICE

We invite you, your family, and friends to start your Thanksgiving holiday off by joining around the tables in our Fellowship Hall for our annual Thanksgiving Communion Service on Wednesday, November 26 at 6:30 PM. This informal time of worship centers on expressing thanks to God for his daily blessings as well as the blessing of salvation and grace. Come as you are and share in the blessing of fellowship!

A dinner will be served prior to the service starting at 5:15 PM. Patty Huffman is preparing a menu of roast pork, ranch potatoes, green beans, and cobbler with ice cream. The cost for dinner is \$9/person and \$20 for a household of 4. If you would like to join for dinner, please make a reservation through the Melrose Baptist Church app or by calling the church office before noon on Tuesday, November 25.



THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSURE

In observance of Thanksgiving, the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please call 540-366-6631 and chose one of the pastors extensions and leave a message. The pastors are able to check their voicemail remotely and will get back to you ASAP.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$9.00 per person or \$20 for a family up to 4 people. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631, on the Melrose Baptist Church mobile app, or the church website **HERE**.

October Menu

- 11/5: beef tips with noodles, peas and carrots, chocolate zucchini cake
- 11/12: hamburger steaks, twice baked potato casserole, broccoli cauliflower salad, caramel apple sheet cake
- 11/19: chicken cordon blue casserole, broccoli, death by chocolate cake
- 11/26: roast pork, ranch potatoes, green beans, cobbler with ice cream

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Ushers

11/2: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham
11/9: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth
11/16: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth
11/23: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill
11/30: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill

Courtesy Team

11/2: Billy Martin, Danny Jarrett
11/9: Larry Wirt, Jeff Poore
11/16: Steven Kennedy, Donnie Daniels
11/23: Don Altice, Billy Martin
11/30: Annie Richerson, Allen Journell

Safety Team

11/2: Suzanne Moses, Jeb Wallace
11/9: Danny Jarrett, Barry Wickham
11/16 Gary Hurd, Larry Wirt
11/23: Gary Dixon, Steven Kennedy
11/30: Larry Hicks, Jeff Poore

Youth Dinners

11/2: Rhonda Kessler, Diana Hackworth
11/9: Kathryn Pankey, Susan Matney
11/16: Joan Mullins, Mary Gilley
11/23: No children or youth
11/30: No children or youth

MOST RECENT FINANCE REPORT- SEPT. 2025

Income- \$57,707.72

Expenses - \$86,642.05

YTD Income - \$555,494.10

YTD Expenses - \$583,345.64

November Church Calendar

Nov. 1-9

SUNDAY- 11/2

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Village
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts
5 PM Seeds of Youth

MONDAY- 11/3

6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship
6:30 PM Children's Drama Rehearsal

TUESDAY- 11/4

10:30 AM WMU Council
12 PM Staff Lunch
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/5

10 AM Beth Calloway
2:30 PM Stitch & A Prayer
3:30 PM 5th Block
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY- 11/7

11 AM Faithful Fitness

SUNDAY- 11/9

8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Children's Committee
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Village
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts
5 PM Seeds of Youth
7 PM Youth Council

November Church Calendar

Nov. 10-16

MONDAY- 11/10

BGAV Annual Meeting

6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

TUESDAY- 11/11

BGAV Annual Meeting

6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir

6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/12

BGAV Annual Meeting

3:30 PM 5th Block

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner

6 PM Youth on Mission

6:15 PM Bible Black Belts

6:15 PM Prayer Meeting

7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 11/13

10:30 AM Alma Hunt

6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

FRIDAY- 11/14

CBFVA Fall Youth Retreat

11 AM Faithful Fitness

2-4 PM Creatives Fellowship:
Chrismons

SATURDAY- 11/15

CBFVA Fall Youth Retreat

9 AM- 4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 11/16

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Ibada

10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship

5 PM Creatives Night

5 PM Village

5 PM Children in Action &
Worship Arts

5 PM Seeds of Youth

Nov. 17-23

MONDAY- 11/17

10 AM Bible Study

1:30 PM RVBA Board of Directors

TUESDAY- 11/18

10 AM LAAF

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir

6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/19

2:30 PM LAAF Council

3:30 PM SAM Council

3:30 PM 5th Block

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner

6 PM Youth on Mission

6:15 PM Bible Black Belts

6:15 PM Business Meeting

7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 11/20

2 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

FRIDAY- 11/21

11 AM Faithful Fitness

SATURDAY- 11/22

10 AM Bible Journaling Fellowship

2 PM Ibada in Marketplace

5-8 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 11/23

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Ibada

10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship

12 PM Youth OCC Packing

4 PM Jazz Band Concert

Nov. 24-30

MONDAY- 11/24

10 AM Bible Study

6:45 PM Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY- 11/25

12 PM Staff Lunch

1:30 PM Staff Meeting

6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir

6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 11/26

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner

6:30 PM Thanksgiving Service

THURSDAY- 11/27

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY- 11/28

Church Office Closed

SATURDAY- 11/29

10 AM Ibada Prayer Meeting

SUNDAY- 11/30

First Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Ibada

10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship