



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

September 2025

Something To Think About



“WHAT’S REALLY IN YOUR WALLET?”

Several years ago, I was having a lot of lower back pain, and so I went to see a massage therapist to get some relief. She was asking me questions about the type and frequency of the pain, and then she asked what I thought was a most unusual question: “Where do you keep your wallet?” She obviously saw the look that came across my face, so she went on to say, “Men tend to put their wallets in their back pockets. If you spend a lot of time driving in the car or sitting at a desk with your wallet in your back pocket, your back is placed into an unnatural and awkward position that can cause muscle strain and aches.”

Usually if my wallet is a problem, it has more to do with what is or is not in it. I never knew where I kept it could be a problem too! Fixing that problem was easy. Fixing the other problems doesn’t always seem so simple.

A well-known credit card commercial ends by asking the question, “What’s in your wallet?” They ask the question trying to convince us that if our wallet doesn’t have their credit card in it, we have a problem. But if we peel away the marketing spin, I wonder if the question that is being asked is not worthy of our consideration. What really is in our wallets?

I remember one Christmas when my aunt gave my uncle a new wallet. He immediately opened up the wallet, as if looking for something that should be there. And, in fact, my aunt had put a \$100 bill in the wallet. I immediately asked him what he was going to buy with the \$100. He said, “Oh, I won’t spend it unless I have to. I always keep a \$100 bill in my wallet in case of an emergency. \$100 can get me a couple of meals or a hotel room (this was a while back, needless to say) if I am stuck

somewhere.” That moment has always stayed in my memory. For me, I saw that \$100 as buying power. For my uncle, he saw that \$100 as security.

In his book *Money and Possessions*, noted Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann observes that Scripture talks about money and possessions in several different ways. At times, it might seem that Scripture is arguing against itself. How can money be a gift and an idol? Starting August 31, as part of our “Feet Going, Hands Doing, Hearts Being” emphasis, I will be preaching a 6-week sermon series that asks these and other questions to help us consider the role that money and possessions plays in our lives and the vision God has for our money and possessions. I believe that what we will discover is that what is really in our wallet is far more than pieces of paper, plastic, or metal. It is power that can be used for good or evil. It is opportunity and it is obstacle. It is an invitation to a path and to a relationship.

Come on August 31 and help us ask and answer the question, “What is really in your wallet?”

- Pastor Mark

Being Gregarious



What day is it?

Today is National Thoughtful Day.

On this date:

In 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous “I Have A Dream” speech.

Need advice?

The best time to clean your bathroom is right after you’ve taken a shower. The steam loosens dirt and grime and makes it easier to get that perfect shine.

LOL:

In the middle of a sermon, a mom whispered to her 4-year-old son to “Talk less and listen more.”

He replied, “But mom, my mouth wants to say things!”

Bu-dum-dum-chhh

Spiritual Nourishment:

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices His life for His sheep.”

Nate Bliss writes:

Jesus has a lot of jobs. The Bible says Jesus’s many roles include Advocate, High Priest and King. Jesus is also our Shepherd, and it’s this job that reveals

some amazing truths about how God wants to help us live our lives.

Recognizing these truths can also help you reach your full potential.

A shepherd’s job is to take care of the sheep by providing:

1. Protection and Safety.

Read Psalm 27:1. What would you be afraid of if you believed that God always has your back?

2. Guidance and Blessing

Read Psalm 23:1-4. A good shepherd will lead his sheep to the greenest pastures and the cleanest water so that the sheep will be strong and well fed. In the same way, Jesus offers us tools and resources to live overcoming and abundantly blessed lives, ones He designed for us to live.

3. Training and Wisdom.

Read John 10:3-5. The best coaches, (mentors), and trainers help you reach your full potential. You want to be in the best position to achieve success. As we read the Bible and talk with God (pray), we develop a lifestyle of following Jesus. By getting closer to Him, we position ourselves to succeed in the things God

wants us to accomplish.

As you compete today, let Jesus protect, lead, guide, and train you.

What are some things keeping you from letting God be your Shepherd?

- Pastor Greg

(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



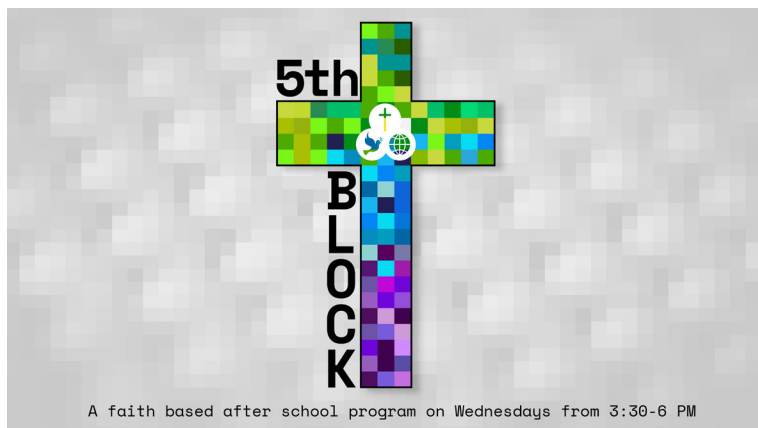
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS RESUMING

Our children's programs are resuming after a summer break. Our programs are designed for children in pre-K thru 5th grade.

- **Bible Black Belts- Wed. Sept 3 at 6:15 PM**
This mid-week program works to help children become familiar with Scripture through memorization, games, and more.
- **Children in Action & Worship Arts- Sun, Sept. 7 at 5 PM**
Our Sunday night program is divided into two 2 parts. The first part promotes a love of missions through teaching the children about various missionaries from around the world and helping them plan their own service projects. The second part focuses on having the children learn how to worship through song, dance, and playing various instruments from around the world.

New to our Children's Ministry Programs?

Check out our website for a breakdown of programs!



5TH BLOCK RESUMING

With the new school year starting, our youth after school program, 5th Block, will resume on Wednesday, September 3. This program is for middle and high school students only. If your child attends a school close to the church (North County) please let Pastor Greg know so he can add them to the van pick-up list.



NEW THIS FALL: VILLAGE

Starting on September 7 this new group will meet on Sunday nights from 5-7 PM. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians of children and youth to gather in fellowship and share stories: successes, frustrations, parenting ideas, resources, etc. While it is offered for the two-hour window, you can come for whatever time frame works best for you! This group will be hosted by Amanda Bailey. Let Pastor Greg or Amanda know if you are interested. The group will meet in room 712.



SAVE THE DATE: FALL RETREATS

This year the youth will have two opportunities to join Pastor Greg at Eagle Eyrie for two separate youth retreats. The first opportunity is the BGAV Youth Retreat from October 10-12 and the second opportunity is the CBF Youth Retreat from November 14-16. Registration and more information for both of these retreats will be available soon! Sign up sheets are posted on the L.Y.N.C. bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Ministry Updates



Click the video above to listen now!

HYMN OF THE MONTH

Christian Contemporary songs are most known for their use of Hebraic names for God and a focus on adoration in worship. Worship is certainly also enacted by “Feet Going” and “Hands Doing”. There are fewer songs about missions in Contemporary Christian songs, but “Touching Heaven, Changing Earth” is one of my favorites! It comes to us from the Hillson group, first popular in the late 1990s. Touching Heaven, Changing Earth was written by Reuben Morgan and released by Hillsong Worship in 1998 and recorded live in Sydney, Australia with vocalist Darlene Zschech.

While Reuben was studying at the Institute of Music, he was involved in a serious car crash. He wrote the song during his extended recovery, reflecting on the fragile and uncertain nature of life. I love that the lyrics highlight the importance of seeking spiritual revival and fostering unity to bring positive change to self, the local church, and the world. I also love that the song has “we” focus instead of just “I” and God. It allows the entire congregation of all ages to affirm that WE seek the Lord TOGETHER. We in prayer will “touch heaven” while “walking our talk” and becoming active with our talents and presence here to change the earth for the sake of the Kingdom.

Verse 1:

*“We will seek Your face Almighty God—
Turn and pray for You to heal our land.
Father, let revival start in us-- Then every heart will know Your kingdom come.”*

Verse 2:

*“Never looking back we’ll run the race—
Giving You our lives We’ll gain the prize.
We will take the harvest given to us--Though we sow in tears
We’ll reap in joy.”*

Chorus:

*“Lifting up the name of the Lord-- In power and in unity.
We will see the nations turn—
Touching heaven changing earth.
Touching heaven changing earth!”*

May it be our prayer as we linger in the mindset for our stewardship of our feet in August, our hands in September, and our hearts in October and thereafter.

- Pastor Connie



COME JOIN US- SHALOM HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

The Shalom Handbell Ensemble will be resuming after a summer break on Tuesday, September 2 at 6:15 PM. Pastor Connie has more than 5 spots available for those who have previous experience with bells or are interested in learning to play the bells. This is a lively group that works to prepare various musical pieces for Sunday morning worship, and the Cantata during Advent.

Want to know more or come to a rehearsal to try it out?

Contact Pastor Connie via email at music@melrosebaptist.org or by call or text.

Ministry Updates



UPCOMING WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMS

As part of our fall stewardship emphasis on “Feet Going, Hands Doing, Hearts Being”, we will be taking time during our Wednesday night Prayer Meeting to welcome representatives from ministries and missions that our congregation is involved with so that we can not only be informed about the work they are doing but also how we can be in prayer for their ministries. Please make plans now to come out on the following Wednesday nights at 6:15 PM to hear about the Kingdom work that our feet, hands, and hearts are making possible!

August 27: Aaron Dowdy, 20 Schemes

September 3: Scarlett Jasper, CBF Field Personnel in Corbin, Kentucky

September 10: Debby Hill, Christian Motorcyclists Association

September 24: TBD

October 1: David Calhoun, Immigrant Connection

October 8: Lisa Cox, Teen Challenge



PRAISE THROUGH CREATIVITY!

Melrose's Creative Ministry is going to have a great upcoming Fall schedule full of events and opportunities for all to come and experience praise through creativity.

- **Creative Fellowship: Chrismons**

The Decorating Committee has asked the Creatives Ministry to make new Chrismons to adorn the Christmas

tree in the Sanctuary. We will work together in fellowship to make new Chrismons on Fridays from 2-4 PM on September 5, October 3, and November 14. Instruction will be provided along with all supplies.

- **Creative Nights**

Join us this Fall with a full schedule of creative activities starting on Sunday, September 14 at 5 PM with Faith Bracelets. These bracelets are a fun way to showcase your faith and are simple reminders of God's love for you! This event is FREE, open to all, and all supplies will be provided.



DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP

Calling all dart and baseball enthusiasts- dartball is resuming on Monday, September 8 at 6:30 PM. This fun game is a mix between darts and baseball. No experience is needed to enjoy this game!



WMU FALL CELEBRATION

The WMU welcome all to come and celebrate with them this fall on Monday, September 22 at Lynn Haven Baptist Church. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM with worship following at 6:30 PM. The guest speaker for worship is Somar Nowak who is the Director of Abuse and Prevention Response Administration for the International Missions Board. The cost for dinner is \$12 and payment must be sent to Kathryn Sowers. If you wish to register for dinner, please contact the church office for details.

Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE: PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Baptist Men welcome all to a Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, September 14 at 8:30 AM. Come for a time of fellowship and enjoy a home cooked breakfast before going to Sunday School!

LAAF MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

Those 50 and older are welcome to the September LAAF meeting for fun and fellowship! The program will be by Rev. Christy Krispin who is a local Christian vocalist and ministry leader. Lunch will follow after the meeting at Famous Anthony's on Williamson Road. The mission action project is a collection of the following items for Northside Middle School.

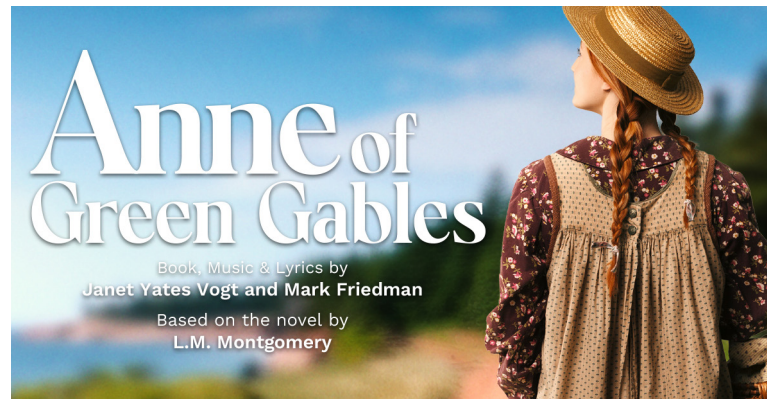
Please bring donations of the following:

- Pads, tampons, and panty liners of all sizes
- Black leggings for women of all sizes
- Cough drops and peppermints
- Men's and women's mini deodorant
- Individual packs of tissues
- Chapstick



SUNDAY SCHOOL APPRECIATION DINNER

The Sunday School leaders invite all Sunday school teachers, leaders, substitutes, and their guest to a dinner of appreciation on Sunday, September 21 at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES DAY TRIPS

There are two senior trips happening this fall that tickets are now available for. There are 30 tickets available for each trip and your ticket can only be reserved by submitting payment to the church office.

Barter Theater- "Anne of Green Gables"

- Thursday, October 23
- \$44 per person
- Tickets are going fast for this trip so if you want to go-stop by the church office to pay for your ticket ASAP!

Wohlfahrt House- "Motown Christmas"

- Thursday, December 18
- \$60 per person
- Tickets are available but must be reserved by November 10!

A NOTE OF THANK YOU

"Dear Melrose Family,
The last few months have brought me and my family the challenges of medical tests, many medical appointments, surgery, and continuing recovery. Throughout, the caring Melrose staff and family have supported me. Your prayers, cards, texts, calls, visits, and inquiries continue to sustain me.

Thank you for every thoughtful and loving contact, especially the prayers!

- Joyce Ikenberry"

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$8.50 per person or \$20 for a family of three or more. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631 or by going to the church website.

September Menu

- 9/3: barbecue, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, toffee cheesecake bars
- 9/10: baked lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, lemon buttermilk sheet cake
- 9/17: grilled chicken breast, broccoli, glazed carrots, chocolate chess squares
- 9/24: hamburger steaks, pinto beans, lettuce and tomato salad, cornbread, pineapple dream dessert

MOST RECENT FINANCE REPORT- JULY 2025

Income- \$66,175.31

Expenses - \$51,755.84

YTD Income - \$416,366.23

YTD Expenses - \$438,213.09

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Courtesy Team

9/7: Danny Jarrett & Billy Martin

9/14: Donnie Daniels & Steve Kennedy

9/21: Larry Wirt & Annie Richerson

9/28: Jeff Poore & Gary Dixon

Safety Team

9/7: Gary Hurd, Jeff Poore

9/14: Gary Dixon, Larry Hicks

9/21: Allen Journell, Jeb Wallace

9/28: Suzanne Moses, Barry Wickham

Youth Dinners

9/7: The Hetherington's/The Wilson's

9/14: Annie Richerson, Courtney Jones

9/21: Amy Crawford, Jan Heath

9/28: Janet Bain, Linda Broughman

September Church Calendar

Sept. 1-7

MONDAY- 9/1

Labor Day-
Church Office Closed

TUESDAY- 9/2

6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 9/3

10 AM Staff Meeting
10 AM Beth Calloway
1:30 PM Sunday School Directors
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- 9/5

2 PM Creative Fellowship:
Chrismons

SUNDAY- 9/7

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

Sept. 8-14

MONDAY- 9/8

10 AM Bible Study
6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

TUESDAY- 9/9

9 AM- 12:30 PM Fellowship Hall
in Use
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Shalom Handbell Choir
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 9/10

3:30 PM 5th Block
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Finance Meeting
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 9/11

10:30 AM Alma Hunt
6:45 PM Marketplace in Use
7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

SATURDAY- 9/13

9 AM- 4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SUNDAY- 9/14

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 Creatives Night:
Faith Bracelets
5 PM Children in Actions &
Worship Arts
5 PM Village
5 PM Seeds of Youth
7 PM Youth Council

Sept. 15-21

MONDAY- 9/15

10 AM Bible Study

TUESDAY- 9/16

10 AM LAAF
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 9/17

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- 9/18

6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

SATURDAY- 9/20

Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary in Use

SUNDAY- 9/21

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Sunday School
Appreciation Dinner
5 PM Village
5 PM Children's Movie Night
5 PM Seeds of Youth



Sept. 22-28

MONDAY- 9/22

10 AM Bible Study
5:30 PM WMU Fall Celebration at
Lynn Haven Baptist Church

TUESDAY- 9/23

6:15 PM Shalom Handbells
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 9/24

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
7 PM Church Council

THURSDAY- 9/25

5-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

SATURDAY- 9/27

10 AM Ibada Prayer Meeting

SUNDAY- 9/28

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
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

Sept. 29 & 30

MONDAY- 9/29

10 AM Bible Study
6:45 PM Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY- 9/30

1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study