

# Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

3088 Howard P. Anderson Rd., Halifax VA 24558

Rev. Jim Kopco, Pastor

434-476-6181

[www.winncreek.com](http://www.winncreek.com)

434-222-9688

January 2016

## The Pastor's Corner

A day after the shooting in San Bernardino that left 14 people dead, **The New York Daily Times** released a paper with the cover title, "*God Isn't Fixing This.*" The subtitle read, "*As the latest batch of innocent Americans are left lying in pools of blood, cowards who could truly end gun scourge continue to hide behind meaningless platitudes.*" Alongside the title were pictures of quotes from some of our presidential candidate's twitter accounts. The quotes pictured on the cover are listed below (I didn't feel the need to cite which candidates, because it's not relevant to the point):

*"My thoughts and prayers are with the victims, families, and brave first responders during this unspeakable tragedy."*

*"Thoughts & prayers are with San Bernardino."*

*"We are all thinking about what happened in California today. Please keep the victims & their families in your prayers."*

*"Our prayers are with the victims, their families, and the first responders in San Bernardino who willingly go into harm's way to save others."*

On one hand, sometimes people just say what they think others want to hear. In Matthew 6, Jesus even talked about the Pharisees who loved to pray long prayers just to be heard. Furthermore, Christ also told a story of a self-righteous man who went to the temple, and implied that the man's prayer wasn't heard. So maybe the editor of **The Daily Times** thought these were just empty words from politicians who didn't really care. More likely, however, is that he simply didn't agree with their political positions. But even then, at least these quotes were expressing empathy! I think it's quite strange for anyone to be upset over public

expressions of care and concern, especially a newspaper editor. It's natural to pray when there is a loss of life. Most of us do it quite often.

Someone passes away, and coworkers sign cards, usually expressing "thoughts & prayers" to the remaining family members. And yet there are now people in our culture who find this offensive.

Regardless whether you're a registered Democrat or Republican; regardless whether you're for or against gun control...to call prayers "meaningless platitudes" is very dangerous! The gist of the newspaper's "*God Isn't Fixing This*" message is, "*We don't need God, we need action.*" And this can be seen in the Twitter comments, as some of the more popular responses to the quotes in the article were, "*We need more than your prayers*", and "*We need to fix this ourselves.*"

The Bible records a similar story about a bunch of people who wanted action. They were afraid that they might be attacked by an enemy and scattered. So they decided to fix the problem themselves. They began to build a tower. It was designed to be something they could rally around, and no one would be able to scatter them - or so they thought. The story is from Genesis 11, and the tower was called Babel. God scattered them by confusing their speech. Their action couldn't thwart God's will.

Now what about the phrase "*God Isn't Fixing This*"? It's true that God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way that we'd like or expect; but this doesn't always mean that they weren't heard! Take the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When faced with the choice of putting their trust in Nebuchadnezzar (the leader of their government at (continued on back of this page)

# Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

(The Pastor's Corner continued)

the time), or God...they chose God, even when threatened with a fiery death. How did the three respond? They said, "*The God whom we serve is able to save us, but even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear that we will never worship the golden statue that you set up.*" (Daniel 3:17-18).

The same three Hebrews also had a friend named Daniel. When faced with the option of praying to God or trusting the actions of the government, Daniel chose to pray. He ended up in the Lion's Den...but God worked it out in the end. He still does the same for us, whether we're delivered in this life, or the next. God still wins in the end, and He has already dealt with our world's problem of sin. He has already fixed it! Sadly, some haven't chosen to accept the solution.

Pastor Jim

## **NEXT BLOODMOBILE**

**Saturday, January 9**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Give blood - the gift of life!**

*If you can donate food, door prizes, put up posters, or work at the blood drive, please contact Joani Layman.*

**NO THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP**

**MEAL IN JANUARY!**

*We plan something special for February, though!!*

## **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

If you need new offering envelopes, **there is a signup sheet with the boxes of envelopes on the front pew in the church.** When you pick up your envelopes, please list your name and the number which is on your new box of envelopes, to help the church with record keeping.

However – if you only use 1 or 2 envelopes a month and still have a supply, feel free to continue using your existing envelopes -- just sign your name and enter your "old" envelope number on the signup sheet (without picking up a new box). This way our recording treasurer will know that you are continuing to use that envelope number and will be able to correctly record your giving. (It doesn't hurt to write your name and the correct date on your offering envelope, either.)



## **BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

(To add a name, please see Joani Layman.)

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mike & Pat Spencer - A
- 7<sup>th</sup> Garnett Hall - B
- Maverick Clayton - B
- 9<sup>th</sup> Adam Layman - B
- 10<sup>th</sup> Zachary Epps - B
- Alice Clayton - B
- 13<sup>th</sup> Robert Conard - B
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tyler Hudson - B
- 24<sup>th</sup> Kitty Holt - B
- 25<sup>th</sup> Joani Layman - B
- Donna Turner - B
- 26<sup>th</sup> Cindy Cole - B
- 27<sup>th</sup> Kasey Martin - B
- Joshua Martin - B
- 29<sup>th</sup> Harmony West
- 30<sup>th</sup> Shirley Epps - B
- 31<sup>st</sup> Danny Owen - B

# Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

**COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**The Lord's Supper**

Sunday, January 10 - 11 a.m.

\*\*\*

**HAVE A VOICE IN CHURCH BUSINESS**

**Quarterly Business Meeting**

Sunday, January 24 - 6:00 p.m.

The Adult Choir will resume their regular practice schedule on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. On Sunday nights beginning January 10<sup>th</sup>, we will practice a new Easter cantata, "No Cross, No Crown." Easter comes early this year—March 27—so we need to "hit the ground running," so to speak! On Wednesday nights at 8 p.m., we will practice music for regular Sunday worship.

If you love to sing, we invite you to come visit our choir. No tryouts are necessary—you don't even have to read music—just be willing to make a joyful noise as we praise our Lord in song!

## **FOCUS ON --SUNDAY SCHOOL in the Nursery**

*Debra Stewart and Trudy Epps are teachers of the Nursery Sunday School Class, for newborns to 2 years of age. Debra and Trudy sing Scripture-based children's songs for/with the children as they play, and they incorporate prayer and early social skills (like sharing) in the class session, to prepare these little ones for the next classes when they move up.*



If you're not already a part of Sunday School, we hope you'll come give it a try in 2016. This is a valuable time to learn and grow in our faith, whether

we're new Christians or made the decision to follow Christ many years earlier in our lives.

Every Sunday morning from 9:45-10 a.m. there is an Opening Assembly in the sanctuary. We begin with a hymn and prayer, followed by scripture and a brief "thought for the day." Then everyone goes to his or her classroom. Some people choose to skip this assembly, and that's fine too. We hope to see you in Sunday School on Sunday!

## **Needed: Children's Message Volunteers**

The folks who have been presenting the children's message would be glad to have others share in this ministry. If you would like to provide the Children's message one Sunday, please see Cecelia Owen. The church has plenty of materials available to use for some fresh ideas.

Assistance is available if needed, no qualifications necessary other than a willing heart dedicated to the Lord. You never know what God will do through you until you give Him the opportunity. No age limit – you're never too young or too old for God to take your willingness and use it for His glory!



We welcome little Anna Katherine ("Anna Kate") Clark, born to David and Samantha Clark on November 24, 2015 (on Grandpa James' birthday). She weighed 6 lb. 10 oz. and was 19" long at birth.



# Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

# January

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### **Sundays** (unless otherwise announced)

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

### **Wednesdays** (unless otherwise announced)

7:00 p.m. Ray Vander Laan DVD/Bible Study (for men & women)  
8:00 p.m. Adult Choir

### **Thursdays**

7:30 p.m. Praise Team practice (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays)

Sun., Jan. 3            7:00 p.m.        Adult Choir resumes practice  
Sat., Jan. 9            10 a.m.-2 p.m.    BLOODMOBILE  
Sun., Jan. 10          11:00 a.m.        Worship / The Lord's Supper  
Thurs., Jan. 14        7:30 p.m.        Praise Team practice  
Fri., Jan. 22           6:00 p.m.        Deacons/Wives Dinner at Ernie's Restaurant  
Sun., Jan. 24           6:00 p.m.        Quarterly Business Meeting  
Thurs., Jan. 28        7:30 p.m.        Praise Team practice

### **PLAN AHEAD:**

Mon., Feb. 1           7:00 p.m.        Deacons & Deacons' Wives meetings