

Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

3088 Howard P. Anderson Rd., Halifax VA 24558

Rev. Jim Kopco, Pastor

434-476-6181

www.winncreek.org

434-222-9688

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The Pastor's Corner

"You are standing in an open field west of a white house, with a boarded front door. There is a small mailbox here."

This is the beginning line to an adventure game by Infocom called, "Zork", released in the early 1980s. I had a copy that I played with my friends on a Commodore computer. It was an old game, one of the first text based adventure games ever made. It was like playing a book. You read what happened, and then you responded with what to do next.

The game was so popular, that in March of 2007, *The New York Times* published a list of the 10 most important video games of all time. "Zork" came in 3rd on the list, just above "Tetris", which fell fittingly at number 4.

In "Zork", you play as an adventurer exploring the ruins of a vast underground civilization that was found beneath the trap door of your white house. You explore the ruins, collect objects, and bring them back up into the house. Once you're back up inside, you can put the valuable objects from your adventures below in a display case.

A person wins the game by successfully going down into the cavern, bringing up all of the treasures, and putting them into the display case without dying or having a thief steal them.

The game could be extremely frustrating, because it was very easy to die. Wikipedia says that there were at least 28 different ways for your character to die in "Zork". But it was still a fun game!

If you look at another way, however, the adventurer character in "Zork" has a really sad life: basically alone, with no real purpose for existence except avoiding death, collecting treasures, and bringing them back to the house.

At this point it hit me...if you think about the "winner" of the game...the one who collects all of these treasures without dying. What do you think Jesus would say to him/or her...If He entered the game right at that point, right when he or she had placed the last treasure in the trophy case? I think we already know what Christ would say.

Jesus once met a man who basically was winning at the game of life. He had accumulated a lot of stuff, while at the same time keeping the basic commandments. What did Jesus tell him?

21 *Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."* Matthew 19:21 (NLT)

That's when the true adventure in life begins--when you find Jesus and follow Him.

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(The Pastor's Corner *continued*)

Sadly, many people don't get it. They have never found the Door! When the game "Zork" begins, you can't really play it until you find the trap door that is hidden beneath a rug in the house. That trap door is really where it all starts.

When I first played "Zork"...I thought it was a stupid game for the first hour, because I explored all around that white house with nothing to do...until I finally found that trap door...and then the adventure finally began.

In life...so many people are stuck in the same predicament...just existing and collecting stuff...because they've never really found the real Door.

What Door am I talking about? Look at John 10:7-10,

*So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:7-10 (ESV)*

Jesus is the Door that we all need to find. What then follows is truly a great adventure. There is so much more to life than just accumulating possessions in one's house.

Pastor Jim

NO THIRD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL IN JANUARY! *We plan something special for February, though!! – Social Committee*



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!

The Lord's Supper

Sunday, January 1 - 11 a.m.

HAVE A VOICE IN CHURCH BUSINESS

Quarterly Business Meeting

*(date to be determined –
watch the Sunday bulletin)*

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NEXT BLOODMOBILE

Saturday, January 7
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.



SECOND
SATURDAY NIGHT
FUN!

Everyone is invited to share in the fun in the WCBC Fellowship Hall:

- **Game Night on January 14 at 7 p.m.**
- **Movie Night on February 11 at 7 p.m.**

Come and bring your family and friends!
(Snow Tubing will be sliding along soon.)

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.** 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’s a good idea to write your name and the correct date on your offering envelope, as well.)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

We are looking for volunteers to do the Children’s Message during the Morning Worship Service on Sunday mornings. We really appreciate our “regular” volunteers, but would love to give them a break and recruit some new folks. You don’t need to commit for a specific Sunday on a regular basis, unless someone would like to have a particular Sunday once a month, once a quarter, etc. We just need volunteers! Materials and assistance is available if needed. Please see Cecelia Owen for more information.

God’s love never shines brighter than in the story of our redemption through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Somewhere in the vastness of eternity before the world was created, God chose to love us and give Himself for us. It was all His choice because of His great love for us.



The Adult Choir will begin rehearsals for our Easter cantata, “For the Sake of Love,” on Sunday, January 8, at 7 p.m. In case you did not know, we welcome anyone ages 13 and over to join us at any time, but this is a great opportunity to make a short-term commitment to sing with the choir for the highest and holiest day of the year for Christians, Easter Sunday.

Please join us as we raise our voices in celebration of the greatest gift of love ever given. **Note: If you didn’t hear the Christmas cantata, copies on CD are available. See Jim or Carolyn.**

INCLEMENT WEATHER - *When Sunday services are cancelled due to snow, ice, or other bad conditions, we will try to have it on Channel 13 and will also send out the Prayer Tree telephone message.*

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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. John Ortberg DVD/Bible Study (for men & women)
8:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursdays

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

New Year's Day,

Sun., Jan. 1	11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship & The Lord's Supper
Mon., Jan. 2	7:00 p.m.	Deacons & Deacons Wives meetings
Wed., Jan., 4	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir resumes practice
Sat., Jan. 7	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	BLOODMOBILE
Sun., Jan. 8	7:00 p.m.	Choir begins practice for Easter Cantata
Thurs., Jan. 12	7:30 p.m.	Praise Team practice
Sat., Jan. 14	7:00 p.m.	GAME NIGHT
Thurs., Jan. 26	7:30 p.m.	Praise Team practice

PLAN AHEAD:

Saturday, Feb. 11	7:00 p.m.	Movie Night
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