

Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

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Rev. Jim Kopco, Pastor

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June 2016

The Pastor's Corner

One of my favorite TV shows is Marvel's "Agents of Shield." This season's final episode was this past Tuesday night. There was a great exchange that took place between two characters on the show. The characters play the part of special agents named "Mack" and "Elena." In one scene, they were about to face an extremely dangerous situation. It unfolded as follows:

Mac takes off a golden cross necklace that he's wearing and says, "Here, I think you need this more than me."

Elena responds, "What? The cross isn't some rabbit's foot or lucky charm; it's a symbol of faith. Who would return such a gift?"

There is a lot of truth in that! Many people treat the cross like a good luck charm. People end up putting their faith in the SYMBOL instead of the **Savior**.

But this is nothing new. In the Old Testament, there's a story of a time when the Hebrew people were just defeated in a skirmish with the Philistines. The survivors got back and talked with the elders about the problem, and how to regroup. So what did they all decide to do? The elders of Israel decided to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the battle, because they felt that it would help their fortunes to be better. Look at the story from scripture,

"² The Philistines attacked and defeated the army of Israel, killing 4,000 men.³ After the battle was over, the troops retreated to their camp, and the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD allow us to be defeated by the Philistines?" Then they said, "Let's bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD from Shiloh. If we carry it into battle with us, it will save us from our enemies."⁴ So they sent men to Shiloh to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD

of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. Hophni and Phinehas, the sons of Eli, were also there with the Ark of the Covenant of God.⁵ When all the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD coming into the camp, their shout of joy was so loud it made the ground shake!

¹⁰ [But] the Philistines fought desperately, and Israel was defeated again. The slaughter was great; 30,000 Israelite soldiers died that day. The survivors turned and fled to their tents.¹¹ The Ark of God was captured, and Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were killed." 1 Samuel 4:1-11 (NLT)

The Israelites tried to use the Ark of the Covenant as a good luck charm. God was not happy, and 30,000 soldiers ended up dead.

Today, many people still treat God the same way. They try to use God to fix all of their problems. They want the benefits from Heaven without the commitment of a real relationship.

A Christian writer named Kyle Idleman put it this way:

"In the Gospels Jesus never seemed too interested in fans. Is that how you define your relationship with Him? An enthusiastic admirer? Close enough to Jesus to get the benefits but not so close to require sacrifice? There's got to be more than just going to church, praying when in a jam, and volunteering at a shelter."

The Cross is so much more than a good luck charm. The Cross is how Jesus restored our relationship with God. God wants us to have an abiding relationship with Him, through Christ.

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The following graduates were recognized during morning worship on Sunday, May 15:

- ❖ **Samantha Stewart Clark** graduated from Chamberlin University with a Master's in Nursing Education. She is currently teaching at Southside Community College and working at the hospital.
- ❖ **Tori Dawson** graduated from VCU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Radiation Science with a concentration in Nuclear Medicine.
- ❖ **Molly McKinney Campbell** graduated from Eastern Virginia Career College with an Associate Degree in Applied

Science as an Occupational Therapy Assistant.

- ❖ **Matthew Eanes** graduated from Halifax County High School and is currently working and considering pursuing a degree in Computer Science.
- ❖ **Cecilie Elliott** graduated from Halifax County High School. She will attend Longwood University in the fall, majoring in biology with plans to eventually go to medical school and become an ophthalmologist.
- ❖ **Meghan Talley** graduated from Halifax County High School, and also earned an Associate Degree from SVCC. She will attend Shenandoah University in the fall to major in Psychology/Occupational Therapy.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sundays (unless otherwise announced)

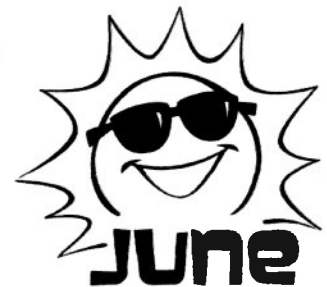
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Wednesdays (unless otherwise announced)

7:00 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Studies
 8:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursdays (unless otherwise announced)

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



Sun., June 5	11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship
	6:30-8:30 p.m.	"Submerged" VBS begins
Mon., June 6	6:30-8:30 p.m.	VBS continues
Tues., June 7	6:30-8:30 p.m.	VBS continues
Wed., June 8	6:30-8:30 p.m.	VBS concludes (no Bible Study / choir)
Sun., June 12	11:00 a.m.	Morning Worship – VBS music presentation
Sun., June 19	– Father's Day – Morning schedule as usual; no evening services	
Sun., June 26	11:00 a.m.	Baptist Men's Day

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

(To add a name, please contact Joani Layman,
434-476-7982)

- 1st Carolyn Cook – B
Darrell & Stephanie Elliott – A
- 3rd Kaitlyn Claiborne – B
- 4th Dwight Dawson – B
- 6th C.J. Claiborne – B
P.J. Saunders – B
- 7th Joey Ambrose – B
- 10th Larry & Joani Layman – A
- 13th Stover Owen – B
- 16th Dakota Pyle – B
- 19th Seth Elliott – B
- 20th Larry Wayne Fears – B
- 22nd Betty Burton – B
Billie Jean Baylous – B
Joshua Gunn – B
- 23rd Taft Dixon – B
- 24th Monroe Duffey – B
Alex Fears – B
- 26th Linda Fears – B
Gabriel Clay – B
- 30th Bill Murphy – B
Raven Epps – B
Amber Dodson – B

FELLOWSHIP MEAL

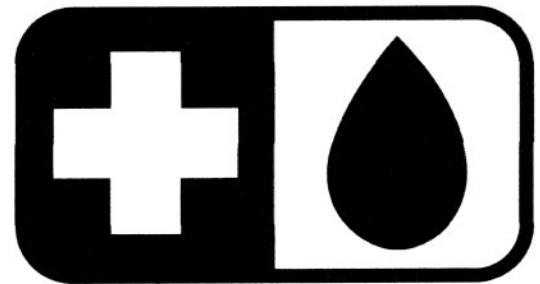
There will be no Third Sunday Fellowship Meal in June. However, we will have a "Cold Meal" in July. Watch for details in the July-August newsletter.



"SUBMERGED"

Sunday, June 5 - Wed., June 8
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

COME JOIN IN THE FUN!!



GIVE
Blood

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GIVE BLOOD - SAVE A LIFE!

To donate or volunteer, contact Joani Layman, 434-476-7982.