

Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

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March 2015

The Pastor's Corner

A couple of months ago, Julie and I rented the movie, *"The Fault in our Stars"*. The movie was based on a book by Joe Green. Most of the characters in this film are battling some form of terminal cancer. It's a really sad story that focuses on the importance of relationships. The movie also tries to answer the questions, "Why do bad things seem to happen to 'innocent' people?", and "What can be done about it?"

How do we deal with people that seem to have been dealt a "bad hand" in life? What can we possibly say to comfort them? That's the question of the movie. The plot involves a bunch of kids battling cancer. They meet at a support group led by a youth pastor at a local church, but the religious talks come across as extremely tacky. Despite this, two of them (Augustus and Hazel Grace) are introduced to each other, and eventually fall in love. But the fact remains that they never really have a chance. Augustus dies not long after the relationship begins. How is that fair? How do we answer questions like this?

The whole problem reminds me about what we've been studying on Sunday mornings. There was a man in the Bible named Job. Job had lost most of his family, he had lost his wealth, he had lost his house, and even his health. He ended up sitting at the town garbage dump talking to a bunch of religious people who were basically telling him that God blesses the good and brings the wicked to their downfall. They looked at Job, and they saw all the bad that had happened to him, and they said, "Repent, and God will restore you."

Job, as sick and emotionally drained as he was...he looked at these "religious" guys, and he basically said, "How stupid can you be?" Job went on to list groups of people that seemed to have been dealt a bad hand from the very date of their

birth. Job continued, saying, "Look, there are all these people that were born, some of them poor, some of them sick...they never really even had a chance...so how can you say God blesses the good and curses the bad?"

At the end of the day, what Job really wanted was an audience with God. Job wanted God to give an explanation. He wanted God to set things right. At the same time, Job knew that even he couldn't stand before God. In Job 9, Job complained...and he said, "*If only there were some kind of mediator...someone who could go between us and God...that's what's needed.*" Of course, as Christians, we believe that this person, sent by God to restore our relationship, is Jesus Christ.

In other words, while the religious people were spouting off simple answers, Job was saying that there's got to be more to life than just what happens here on this earth. He was saying that there's got to be someone that's coming to set things straight. And Job makes the statement that even after he's dead, he's going to see God.

And this is Christianity's answer to the problem of suffering. Not that all suffering is going to be taken away in this life, but that there is an afterlife and that God sent someone to redeem us. And we won't be given all of the answers while we're here on Earth...no matter how much we want or demand them.

On the other hand, what can the secular world offer? What was John Green's answer for suffering in the book? What was the answer for Augustus and Hazel Grace, these two characters that had terminal illnesses and were facing death? His answer was that they could live in the moment, and that they could make that moment last a lifetime.

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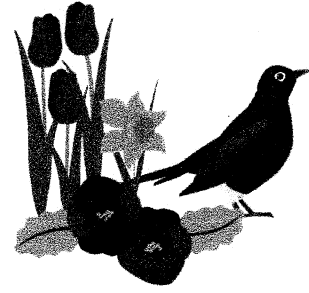
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It all sounds really nice and hopeful. But what's the problem with this line of thinking? The problem is we really can't make something last longer than it does. We can take as many pictures as possible. We can take videos. We can watch the videos and look at the pictures. We can even save the ticket stubs. But we can't make our special moments last forever.

As Christians, our ultimate hope is not found in this world. It is found in Heaven. Our hope is not in this finite time of life on Earth, but in the infinite time of eternity. As Solomon puts it, "*God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.*" Ecclesiastes 3:11.

Pastor Jim



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

- 2nd Richard Epps - B
Phil Saunders - B
- 5th Charles & Jackie Ingram - A
- 6th James & Debra Stewart - A
- 9th Debra Stewart - B
Shirley Duffey - B
- 12th Chuck Conner - B
- 13th Happy Smith - B
- 15th Pam Paynter - B
- 17th Sonny Anderson - B
- 18th Kathy Overstreet - B
Patricia Martin - B
- 19th Jennifer Dixon - B
- 20th Frank Moorefield - B
- 23rd Helen Barksdale - B
- 24th Cecilie Elliott - B
- 25th Zoe Talley - B
- 26th Jacob Fears - B
Trudy Epps - B
- 27th Rico Magnotto - B
Kalvin Smith - B
- 28th Terri Short - B
- 29th Wally Cole - B
- 30th Anthony Turner - B
Hannah Grace Lloyd - B
- 31st Tom Fears - B
James Henderson - B

**There will be
no Third Sunday Fellowship Meal
in March.**

However, we will have a
**Fellowship Supper on Sunday, April 12 at
5:00 p.m.** to kick off our Spring Revival.
We will have a number of guests, so please
bring plenty of food!



FAMILY GAME NIGHT

**Saturday, March 7
7:00 p.m.**

Bring some snack food

and, if you wish, a favorite game to play with others. We will have plenty of games, too. It's a good way to beat the winter "blahs." Just come and have fun.

March 1-8, 2015 is designated by the SBC as the **Week of Prayer for the North American Mission Board**. This year's national Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal is \$60 million.

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On Sunday, March 22, following morning worship, we will have an Easter celebration with a simple lunch, an Easter egg hunt, and crafts. This is for children and adults. If you would like to help or provide a dessert, please see Kelly Henderson.

“Not Ashamed Youth Conference”

The DRBA will have “**The Not Ashamed Youth Conference**” (previously the “Youth Winter Big Event”) on **Sunday, March 22 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church.**

Special music will be provided by “Awaken” from Liberty University and “Three Nails” from The Worship Center. The event will include break-out sessions, games, fellowship, and hot dogs. The guest speaker is Rev. Sean McGuire, pastor of Hunting Creek Baptist Church. Please see Pastor Jim if you want to attend.

DRBA WMU TO HOST MISSION STUDY

DRBA WMU will host a North American Mission Study at Mulberry Baptist Church on March 1st (snow date March 8th) at 3 p.m. Sharon Kinsey will share the story, ‘Ariel’s Light’ by Heidi Davis. “It is an amazing true story about a woman who battled alcoholism and ultimately won, but in the midst she lost her teenage daughter to a tragic accident. The story is as much about her daughter’s impact on the family after she dies, as it is about the woman’s battle with alcoholism. At the base of it all is how God works in His infinite wisdom and how accepting His decisions is not always easy, but God does not make mistakes. This is a beautiful and uplifting story.”

NEXT BLOODMOBILE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

GIVE BLOOD - SAVE A LIFE!

COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CONCERT

On Saturday, April 4th, The Collingsworth Family will present a gospel music concert at 6:00 p.m. at the Halifax County High School. Reserved seats are \$20 each, general admission is \$10 each. You may purchase tickets from Hollis Owen (434-476-2588).

This concert will benefit the Halifax County Cancer Association.



Sunday, April 12 - Wednesday, April 15
- Services 7:00 p.m. nightly -

Our Spring Revival will begin with a **covered-dish supper at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 12.** **Revival services** that Sunday through Wednesday, April 15, will begin at 7:00 p.m. nightly, with **Rev. Adam Blosser as our revival speaker.**

Rev. Adam Blosser served as Student Pastor at Drake’s Branch Baptist Church beginning May 2009 and has served as the pastor there since August 2013, Adam is a graduate of Halifax Christian School (Class of 2006), Liberty University (B.A.) and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M. Div.). Adam and his wife Ashley have one son, Hudson Douglas, and another child on the way.

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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 – cantata practice

Wednesdays (unless otherwise announced)

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

Thursdays (unless otherwise announced)

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

Mon., March 2	7:00 p.m.	Deacons & Wives meet
Sat., March 7	7:00 p.m.	Game Night for all ages
Thurs., March 12	7:30 p.m.	Praise Team Practice
Fri., March 13	6:30 p.m.	Deacons/Wives dinner at Ernie's Restaurant
Sun., March 22	after church	Lunch, Easter Egg Hunt, crafts for kids & adults
	3 – 7 p.m.	The Not Ashamed Youth Conference – Bethel Baptist Church
Thurs., March 26	7:30 p.m.	Praise Team Practice

PLAN AHEAD – Sat., April 4 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. – Red Cross Bloodmobile here
April 12-15 – Spring Revival – 7:00 p.m. nightly