

Winn's Creek Baptist Church NEWS

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September 2015

The Pastor's Corner

I'd like to begin this month by looking at a piece of advice Moses received from his father-in-law, Jethro. It's found in Exodus 18:13-23,

*"**13** The next day, Moses took his seat to hear the people's disputes against each other. They waited before him from morning till evening.**14** When Moses' father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he asked, "What are you really accomplishing here? Why are you trying to do all this alone while everyone stands around you from morning till evening?"**15** Moses replied, "Because the people come to me to get a ruling from God.**16** When a dispute arises, they come to me, and I am the one who settles the case between the quarreling parties. I inform the people of God's decrees and give them his instructions."**17** "This is not good!" Moses' father-in-law exclaimed.**18** "You're going to wear yourself out—and the people, too. This job is too heavy a burden for you to handle all by yourself."**19** Now listen to me, and let me give you a word of advice, and may God be with you. You should continue to be the people's representative before God, bringing their disputes to him.**20** Teach them God's decrees, and give them his instructions. Show them how to conduct their lives.**21** But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes. Appoint them as leaders over groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten.**22** They should always be available to solve the people's common disputes, but have them bring the major cases to you. Let the leaders decide the smaller matters themselves. They will help you carry the load, making the task easier for you.**23** If you follow this advice, and if God commands you to do so, then you will be able to endure the pressures, and all these people will go home in peace." Ex 18:13-23 (NLT)*

Even Godly leaders can't do everything by themselves. Systems of government are helpful and necessary. But we live in a fallen world, and just like everyone else, politicians can become corrupted.

In our country, the primary election season has already begun. Candidates are debating and putting out ads, and someone has already asked me who I thought was the best candidate. I'm not sure! We are just in the beginning of the primaries. But the bigger question is this, "What is our responsibility as a Christian when it comes to voting?"

Political questions like these have always been a challenge for religious leaders. In the Bible, even the Pharisees tried to trick Jesus with a political question. They asked Him a question about taxes, and whether it was right to pay them. How did Jesus respond? We can see his response in Matthew 22:18-21,

***18** But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me?"**19** Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin, **20** he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?"**21** "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." Matt 22:18-21 (NLT)*

Jesus simply said, "Give the government what is theirs, and give God what is His." In other words, fulfill your responsibilities as a citizen of your earthly country, and at the same time, fulfill your responsibilities as a child of God.

So what does that mean when it comes to voting? How should we select a candidate? I want us to look at another section of scripture in the Bible, when God called his prophet Samuel to anoint Saul's successor as King of Israel,

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¹ Now the LORD said to Samuel, "You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king."² But Samuel asked, "How can I do that? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." "Take a heifer with you," the LORD replied, "and say that you have come to make a sacrifice to the LORD."³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you which of his sons to anoint for me."⁴ So Samuel did as the LORD instructed. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town came trembling to meet him. "What's wrong?" they asked. "Do you come in peace?"⁵ "Yes," Samuel replied. "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Purify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." Then Samuel performed the purification rite for Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice, too.⁶ When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Surely this is the LORD's anointed!"⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 1 Sam 16:1-7 (NLT)

Here, we see that as soon as Samuel saw Eliab... Eliab had his vote. But what did God say? God said, "Don't judge by his appearance or height...the Lord looks at the heart."

Combine this advice from God to Saul with Jethro's advice given to Moses, and what do you have?

"Select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and hate bribes, and don't judge by outward appearance...look at their hearts."

Ideally, God would have us look to vote for competent and caring Christians. The 1st chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Jay, put it this way: "It is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation, to select and prefer Christians for our rulers".

However, we live in a fallen world; we live in a democracy, and no candidate is perfect. We have to recognize this, and this is why the lack of a candidate that fulfills all of our hopes and perceptions is not a valid reason for us not to vote.

Furthermore, we have to realize that not everyone who says they're a Christian truly follows Christ. And even then, not everyone who truly follows Christ has the background and experience to make a good leader. Martin Luther once put it this way, he said, "I would rather be ruled by a competent Turk, than an incompetent Christian."

Therefore, voting requires discernment. It's not about which candidate has the personality that we like the best, which is the best looking, or which is the most like us. Instead, we are called to be thoughtful about the process, and vote for leaders of quality, character, and competence.

Pastor Jim



BETH MOORE SIMULCAST

There will be a Beth Moore Simulcast at Dan River Baptist Church on Saturday, Sept. 12, beginning with sign-in at 8:15 a.m. Live feed of Beth Moore will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m.

Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. The deadline for reduced registration fee is August 31.

Coffee, tea, and muffins will be served prior to the event; lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.

Registration forms are available on our church bulletin board beside the kitchen. You may give your registration and fee to Carolyn Cook or mail them to the address on the form.

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

These birthdays were omitted last month – sorry!

August 7th Jennifer Smith – B

August 31st Sharon Daly – B

September

- 1st Darrell Elliott – B
Mike Spencer – B
- 2nd James Ambrose – B
Charles & Lauren Fears – A
- 4th Jay Francisco – B
- 8th Tye Henderson – B
- 13th Drew Hall – B
Annie Mae Fuquay – B
- 14th Lori Dawson – B
Jackson Plainte – B
Norma Jean Henderson – B
- 16th Sonny & Betty Dickerson – A
Tom Sweeting – B
- 21st Carolyn Moorefield – B
Tori Dawson – B
- 22nd Mark Owen – B
Matthew Owen – B
- 23rd Lee Davis – B
- 24th Chuck & Sabrina Conner – A
Adam & Brigid Layman – A
- 25th Thelma Brown – B
- 27th Taylor & Dalyn Hudson – A
- 28th Macon Fears – B
Macon & Linda Fears – A
- 29th Samantha Clark – B
Monroe & Shirley Duffey – A
- 30th Owen & Barbara Satterfield – A
RaShawn Jones – B



Congratulations to Joey and Amanda Ambrose on the birth of their son, **Jackson Hank**, on August 17th. Jackson weighed 6 lb. 12 oz. and was 19" long.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Laura Grantham Tingen
March 20, 1970 - July 31, 2015

“Skandalous!”

“Skandalous!” That's the name of this year's back-to-school youth rally, sponsored by the Youth Advisory Committee of the Dan River Baptist Association.

All youth are invited to an evening of faith and fun at Dan River Baptist Church from 3 to 7:30 PM on Sunday, September 13. Games in the parking lot will be followed by our early concert, brought by the praise band "King's Work" from The Worship Center. Youth breakout sessions will be led by Dustin Francis, Kris Cook, and Sean McGuire. Supper will be served at 5:30, with the main rally beginning at 6:30. The dynamic band "Exodus" from Liberty University will lead worship, and Zak Ford will finish the evening as our keynote speaker.

We hope you'll come and be blessed. Door prizes will be drawn for those who register in advance, by September 12. You can register by emailing revgregsmith@gmail.com, or by calling [434-222-0721](tel:434-222-0721).

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*You are invited
to a baby shower
for David and Samantha Clark
and their baby (boy? girl?)
on Sunday, September 27th,
from 1:30-3:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.*

*They are registered
at Target and Wal-Mart.*



**NEXT BLOODMOBILE: Saturday, October 10,
10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Please contact Joani Layman to
donate or help at the blood drive. Come and give
blood—a gift of life!

THIRD SUNDAY MEAL

We will resume our regular Third Sunday Fellowship Meals on **Sunday, September 20th**, following morning worship. Please bring some food to share with the church family and enjoy the warm fellowship as well. If you are a guest, we welcome you to just come and take part, don't worry about bringing food. We always have plenty!

DRBA SCHOOL PRAYER WALK

Sunday, September 20 3 - 4 p.m.

Come join with us, together with members of other neighboring churches, at Clay's Mill Elementary School to walk and pray for the students, teachers, and administrators of our local school.



There will be a love offering for Charles & Jackie Ingram on Sunday, September 6th during the morning worship service. Please give as you feel led!



The adult choir will return to practice on Wednesday, September 2, at 8:00 p.m., following Bible Study.

Wednesdays and Sundays just aren't the same for us without the joy of preparing to share Jesus on Sunday mornings. We do hope that you will pray about joining the choir as we begin another year of worship through song. You do not need to be able to read music to join. The invitation is open to anyone who is 13 years of age and older.

At 7 p.m. on Sunday, September 6, the adult choir will begin rehearsals for our Christmas cantata, "Stars of Glory." This beautiful cantata is based on the theme of Jesus Christ, the Bright and Morning Star. We will be practicing for the presentation of this composition, primarily, on Sunday nights from 7-8 p.m. There are traditional carols and a few new selections as well. Again, you are invited to join us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

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A Special Thank-You...to Richard Epps, Owen Satterfield, and Jason Dickerson (members of the Building and Grounds Committee) for their recent help in changing the overhead lights at church and installing a full-length mirror in the ladies' restroom. We are also having new smoke detectors, exit signs and fire extinguishers installed by Mr. Slagle.

Thanks, too, to everyone who stayed after the Wednesday Night Bible Study to assemble the new chairs for the choir and Sonshine Class.



College Addresses Below are the addresses of some of our college students. Feel free to send them encouragement packages while they are away at school. If you would like another person's address included on this list, please let Pastor Jim know. Thanks!

Blake Anderson	Chase Cole	Chelsea Grove	Evan Owen	Matthew Owen
MSC 2561	BOX 80846	BOX 325	CIT Director	Campus Box 463
PO BOX 1000	1400 Greene St.	1460 University Dr.	The Master's Inn	Bluefield College
Ferrum VA 24088	Columbia SC 29225	Winchester VA 22601	445 Mitchell Springs Dr	3000 College Dr.
			Altavista VA 24517	Bluefield VA 24605



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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 Study
 8:00 p.m. Adult Choir

Thursdays

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

Wed., Sept. 2 8:00 p.m. Adult Choir resumes
 Sun., Sept. 6 11:00 a.m. Love offering for Charles & Jackie Ingram
 Sun., Sept. 6 7:00 p.m. Cantata practice begins
 Sat., Sept. 12 9:30-4:30 Beth Moore Simulcast at Dan River Baptist Church
 Sun., Sept. 13 3 – 7:30 p.m. 'SKANDALOUS' Youth Rally at Dan River Baptist Church
 Sun., Sept. 20 after church Third Sunday Fellowship Meal
 3 – 4 p.m. DRBA School Prayer Walk – Clay's Mill Elementary School
 Sun., Sept. 27 1:30 – 3 p.m. Baby Shower for David & Samantha Clark

PLAN AHEAD:

Sat., Oct. 10 10 a.m.-2 p.m. BLOODMOBILE at our church