



Hope Valley

BAPTIST CHURCH

Loving, Serving and Reaching out in Christ's name.

Illuminator

VOLUME 48 NO. 4

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

UPCOMING SUNDAYS:

February 26

First Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Title: *What Do You Want?*

March 5

Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Title: *Entering God's Kingdom*

March 12

Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 4:5-42

Title: *Living Water in Samaria*

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Benjamin J. Wines
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Kathryn Bunch
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Ashes

Brothers and sisters,

As the Christmas season wrapped up in the beginning of January, I remember saying to Robin and Kathryn, "Well, we've got a little time before Lent will be here this year." Then, I blinked. And now, it's Ash Wednesday!

The actual practice of coming to worship on a night like tonight and having ashes placed on one's head dates back over a thousand years, with the earliest recorded mention of Ash Wednesday coming sometime in the 8th century. The ashes themselves are meant to signify several different things. In one sense, they are a reminder to us of the words of God to Adam after the Fall, "By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; *you are dust, and to dust you shall return*" (Genesis 3:19; emphasis mine). Thus, the ashes remind us of our own sinful nature and of our mortality.

In another sense, the ashes are meant as a sign of grief. We grieve over our own sins and understand that we ought to confess and repent. We grieve the brokenness of our world and acknowledge that there is so much work to be done to help people with their daily needs, as well as their spiritual needs. And we grieve that while we know God's kingdom is coming, it has not come yet. And so the ashes can be understood as a sign of grief for the way things are, longing for the way things ought to be, and hope for the way things will be one day.

There's one other interpretation of the ashes that I will put forth in my Ash Wednesday meditation tonight. I also see the ashes simply as a marker of who we are as Christians. They are outward signs of inward truths. Those truths? That we have decided to follow Jesus. That we understand that there is a cross that awaits us at the end of this season. That we choose to help others even when it may not be in our best interest. That we believe in the inherent dignity of all people, created by God in God's own image. That we know that even if there is a crucifixion coming, even if our bodies are mortal, that Christ has already overcome death.

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PRAYER CONCERNS
(new additions/updates in bold)

Victims of earthquakes in Turkey & Syria.

Church family with Health Concerns:

Wendy Ash
Carl Atkins - home recovering from surgery
Peggy Biddy - recovery from cataract surgeries
Linda Brown
Joan Burke
Rachel Dossett
LaVerne Ellis - kidney stones & other health issues
Heidi Hall - spinal muscular atrophy (daughter of Sandra & Rick Hall)
Woody Harton
Julie Hayes - blood pressure issues
Michelle Hunt - pneumonia & AFIB
Linda Marshall
Brenda Morton - recovery from fall
John & Mary Myers - recovering from COVID
Stephen Myers - Crohn's disease
Stephen Myers & family (sicknesses)
Stephen Myers - Crohn's disease
Barbara Sanders - family members
Carolyn Tippet - leukemia
Emmett Ward - health issues
Linda Ward - heart issues

Senior Living Centers:

Durham Regent: Marcella Jerdon
Emerald Pond: Lee Schevill, Sam & Pat Beasley

HVBC friends and family:

Candy Arnold - brain tumor, chemo (niece of Carol Atkins)
Phil Atkins (friend of Carl & Carol Atkins)
Britt Bentley - recovery from surgery (son of Susan Bentley)
Rebecca Biddy - health issues (daughter-in-law of Peggy Biddy)
Abby Blalock - successful bone marrow transplant (Boltons' niece)
Jimmy Bolick - stroke (uncle of Amy Herring)
Hayley Brady - blood clots in lungs (sister of Ginger Rose)
Pam Carroll - cancer (friend of Linda & Emmett Ward)
David Cole - brain tumor (friend of Jeff Shuford)
Joan Cozart - brain tumor (friend of Joan Burke)
Betty Ann Dickerson - feet & leg problems (friend of Carol Atkins)
Walter Dunn - 4-year-old with seizures (friend of the Herrings)
JaQuavion Ervin - young boy in foster care with no family (from Scott Rose)
Paul Fain - stomach cancer (friend of Steve & Karen Bolton)
Sharon Foster - cancer treatments (former member)
Carol Franklin - health issues (friend of Barbara Sanders)
Leigh Hamilton - breathing issues (friend of Jacquie Allen)
Jackie Harris - dementia (aunt of Julie Stoops, sister of Tommie Calhoun)
Ann Hayes - cancer treatments, in hospital (sister of Julie Hayes)
David Hayes - pacemaker (brother of Julie Hayes)
Alphus & Sherri Herndon - he has cancer & she has Alzheimer's (cousin of Brenda Morton)
Bryant Herring - multiple myeloma (father of Jonathan Herring)
Jerry (friend of Susan Bentley)
Steve Kelly - heart & lung issues (brother of Shelby Yates)
Barbara Layne - diabetic, leg surgeries & rehab (extended family of the Dossetts)
Junior Martin - cancer (friend of Joan Burke)
Yvonne McFarland - heart issues (cousin of LaVerne Ellis)
Eddie Netzlof - cancer (friend of Scott Rose)
Olive - in hospital with kidney problems (sister of Jacquie Allen)
Juliet Atieno Otieno - 15-year-old with Lupus (friend of Scott Rose)
Dana Page - health issues (friend of Scott Rose)
Phil Ponder - cancer (friend of Carl & Carol Atkins)
Sheri Rasberry - cancer (sister-in-law of Michelle Hunt)
Weston Rasberry - health issues (nephew of Michelle Hunt)
Linda Renick - stroke (sister of Marilyn Flanary)
Ashley Robbins - cancer (granddaughter of Brenda Morton)

PRAYER CONCERNS (continued)

Bill Roberson (friend of Scott Rose)
Franci Rokoske - fractured spine (friend of Amy Herring)
Joe Rollins - recovery from fall (cousin of Carol Atkins)
Robbie Sanders - health concerns (son of Barbara Sanders)
Susan Smileowicz - stroke (friend of Steve & Karen Bolton)
Michael Smith - under hospice care (uncle of Leigh Bigger)
Vicki Smith - breast cancer (extended family of the Dossetts)
Adam Stoops - Hodgkins Lymphoma (nephew of Dave Stoops)
Irene Taylor - stroke (mother of Rachel Dossett)
Matthew Taylor - salvation & direction (request by the Dossetts)
Dan Thompson - in rehab (father of Leigh Bigger)
Derrick Toomer - health issues (friend of Barbara Sanders)
Heath Tuttle - 13-year-old with cancer (friend of Linda Ward)
Gregg Wallace - recovery from heart surgery (brother of Cheryl Wallace)
Kimberly Walter - cancer treatments (friend of Scott Rose)
Jeff Ward - cancer, chemo (son of Emmett & Linda Ward)
Jeff Webb - brain tumor (friend of Scott Rose)
Dee White - bone cancer, starting chemotherapy (cousin of Barbara Rowley)
John & Crawford Williams - she has aphasia (sister-in-law of Lucy Woodell)

Military Service Personnel:

Chris Buchanan (nephew of Barbara Rowley)
Clayton Davis (grandson of Linda Marshall)
Travis Hayes (nephew of Ginger Hayes)
Blake Smith (son-in-law of John & Mary Myers)

Around Our World:

Leena Lavanya - missionary with ServeTrust working in India;
Pastor Koteswarao & Chowtu Palem Church (our partner church in India)

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

2/26—Lucy Woodell & Mike Bunch

3/5—Scott Rose & Brenda Doyle

3/12—Linda Ward & Barbara Sanders



Sunday, March 12

Thank you HVBC!

248 lbs. of food was donated (which is equivalent to 206 meals) and delivered to Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. Also, \$575 was donated to Food Bank to be used for most needed food items. Thank you for helping support people in our community and state with real food insecurity needs!

(continued from page 1)

So, Ash Wednesday is kind of a strange day of the church calendar. It is a day on which we mark ourselves with a symbol that reminds us of our own mortality. The cross of ashes is a mark of death. But it is also a day on which we declare that death does not have the final say. Yes, we are all of us taken from the dust and to the dust we shall return, but there is still more beyond that moment. And in the meantime, the ashes convict us of our need to reach out to those who need help, to work for God's kingdom in all that we do, and to remember that no matter how dark things can get—God is with us. Always. May we live into the truth of the Gospel during this Lenten season.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Ben



March BIRTHDAYS

- 3—Maggie Rose
- 7—Cathy Younts
- 13—John Myers
- 14—Nikki Bush

Easter Mission Offering Hope Valley's Goal: \$1,500

Our goal for Global Missions Offering this Easter season is \$1,500. You may support missions and missionaries around the world by giving to the CBF Global Missions Offering or the SBC Annie Armstrong Offering.

Please mark your offering envelope accordingly by indicating where you would like your missions offering to be sent or write it in the memo section of your check. You may also donate on-line by simply writing CBF Global Missions Offering or SBC Annie Armstrong Offering on the memo line.

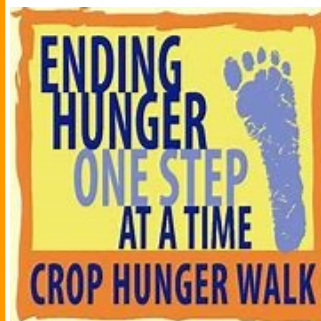
ACC Tournament Food Drive March 5-19

We are going to have some fun collecting food for people in need. We'll have competition based on your ACC team. There will be boxes in the vestibule for fans of N. C. State, Carolina & Duke. There will also be an "other" box for other ACC team fans and an "I just hope both teams have fun" box. You may also drop off canned goods during office hours.

(Monday-Thursday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm).

All donations will be given to Urban Ministries of Durham. Listed below are items they always need:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| Peanut Butter | Chili |
| Dried Pasta | Pasta Sauce |
| Mac & Cheese | Canned Fruit |
| Applesauce | Canned Soup |
| Boxed Cereal | Oatmeal |
| Grits | Pancake Mix |
| Jelly & Jam | Coffee & Teabags |
| Cheese Crackers | Granola Bars |
| Rice | Crackers and |
| Cookies | |
| Milk (boxed or powdered) | |
| Baby Food, Formula, and Cereals | |
| Pop-Top Canned Foods (<i>Vienna sausages, pork and beans, etc.</i>) | |
| Condiments (salt, pepper, mustard, hot sauce) | |
| Healthy Snacks (tortilla chips, salsa, nuts, raisins, dried fruit, popcorn) | |
| Canned Meat (tuna, chicken, salmon, Vienna sausages) | |
| Beans (canned and dried) | |
| Canned Pasta (<i>ravioli, spaghetti-ohs</i>) | |
| Hamburger Helper-Style Meal Kits | |
| Canned Vegetables (<i>especially green vegetables, corn, tomatoes</i>) | |



April 2 at 2:30 pm

More information to come on how to register or support our team .

CHURCH YARD SALE

HVBC Yard Sale
Saturday, April 29th, 2023
Time: 9AM - 2PM

Drop Off Your Items During the Week: During Office Hours – Monday-Thursday/10AM-2PM. Place items in the Large Children’s Sunday School Room (Room 104).

Drop Off Your Items on Sunday Mornings - Place items in the Large Children’s Sunday School Room (Room 104).

Drop Off Your Items During the Week of the Yard Sale - We will be organizing and getting items ready on Thursday, April 27th and Friday, April 28th. Please bring your items to the Family Life Center.

Have fun Spring Cleaning!
 More information to come. Stay Tuned!



CPR & First Aid Training
Thursday, March 2
10:00 am
FREE!

Taught by our very own Frances Smith.
 Please RSVP to Robin in the church office by
Monday, February 27.



Saturday, April 8
10:00 am—12:00 pm

Save the date!
 Sign up will begin in early March for plastic egg donations filled with candy or stickers, greeters, craft table helpers, and egg hiders. Begin thinking of how you can help with this community outreach.

Financial Report Month Ending January 2023

Accounts	Month	Year to Date
Income	\$22,765.00	\$ 22,765.00
Expenses		
Missions	2,633.25	2,633.25
Personnel	11,512.32	11,512.32
Training & Education	1,507.96	1,507.96
Worship & Music	682.95	682.95
Operating Expenses	1,315.12	1,315.12
Property/Maintenance	3,988.31	3,988.31
Service Contracts	1,836.43	1,836.43
Total Expenses	<u>\$23,476.34</u>	<u>\$ 23,476.34</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ (711.34)</u>	<u>\$ (711.34)</u>
Bank Balance		\$195,298.12
Less Designated Fund Balance		<u>(107,554.90)</u>
Operating Fund Balance		<u>\$ 87,743.22</u>
Designated Fund Beginning Balance		\$106,496.15
Revenue		6,498.78
Expenses		<u>(5,440.03)</u>
Designated Fund Ending Balance		<u>\$107,554.90</u>
Goodwin Fund		<u>\$39,523.81</u>
Total Designated & Goodwin Funds		<u>\$147,078.71</u>
Capital Campaign FUND Balance		\$27,876.33



Save the date!
Saturday, April 1
1:00—3:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to Robin in the church office by Monday, March 27.

Opened to ages 7 and up!

*Ladies Tea Party
 with the King*