While driving one evening, Dena and I noticed all the lightning bugs (aka fireflies) flying and flashing their lights. It reminded me of being a kid when I used to catch them and put them in jars. Fireflies are fascinating creatures, but I began to ponder how their tails light up and why they light up intermittently. So I began to research fireflies and found some interesting facts.

According to Scientific American website, “fireflies produce a chemical reaction inside their bodies that allows them to light up. This type of light production is called bioluminescence. When oxygen combines with calcium, adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and the chemical luciferin in the presence of luciferase, a bioluminescent enzyme, light is produced. A firefly controls the beginning and end of the chemical reaction, and thus the start and stop of its light emission, by adding oxygen to the other chemicals needed to produce light. This happens in the insect’s light organ. I also discovered “firefly lights are the most efficient lights in the world” according to Scientific American website, “fireflies produce a chemical light. This happens in the insect’s light organ. I also discovered “firefly lights are the most efficient lights in the world—100% of the energy is emitted as light.”

Fireflies light up intermittently because they are communicating with other fireflies. Male and female fireflies have different patterns in order to attract one another. They also light up “to defend territory and warn predators away.” The ability to produce light by fireflies is a God given instinct.

A sad fact I learned was that fireflies are disappearing from marshes, fields, and forests all over the world, and if this continues fireflies and their lights may disappear forever. Two reasons are cited for the decrease in firefly populations: development and light pollution. As development has increased, the natural habitats for fireflies have decreased. While scientists don’t know enough about fireflies to know for sure, the signs indicate that light pollution is a major factor in the disappearance of fireflies all over the world. “Human light pollution is believed to interrupt firefly flash patterns. Scientists have observed that synchronous fireflies get out of sync for a few minutes after a car’s head-lights pass. Light from homes, cars, stores, and streetlights may all make it difficult for fireflies to signal each other during mating—meaning fewer firefly larvae are born next season.”

Fireflies aren’t the only species affected by light pollution. In Genesis, “God said let there be light, there was light. And God saw the light that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.” Psalm 118:27 says, “God is the Lord, And He has given us light.” Matthew 4:16 says, “The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, light has dawned.” John 1:4 says, “In Him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of men.” Verse 9 continues, “That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.” Paul wrote to the Philippian, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” Christians are called to shine the lights of Christ into the world by letting others see Jesus in us. We are to make a difference and bring the light of Christ into the world by letting others see Jesus in us. Just like fireflies, we are to attract others by the light shining from us.

The light pollution that affects us is from Satan. The Bible says, “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” In the culture we live in, people are distorting the message of the gospel and the truth of Scripture. Our society and government seem to believe that popular opinion has changed, the Word of God is no longer relevant. The false light of Satan and his followers has polluted the light of many Christians and churches to the point they have watered down the true truth about sin, repentance, and Christ’s redemptive work on the cross, and they are losing their ability to attract others to Jesus. Rather than the true light attracting people to Jesus, light pollution is causing society to see true Christians as narrow minded, bigoted, and intolerant. The false light influences society to believe sin is no longer sin and that society dictates what is right and wrong according to popular opinion. As Christians, we cannot allow ourselves to be effected by light pollution. We must let the true light of Christ shine through us in order to outshine the false light. The Bible says in Matthew 5:14-16, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Give a hoot, don’t pollute the light. Don’t bend to popular opinion. Stay true to the Word of God and to the true Light of the World. Be like a firefly, send the proper signal in order to let your light be a warning to unbelievers of God’s absolute truth and at the same time attract them to Jesus.

Pastor Duane
DEACON TEAM MOMENT

A few years ago, an 18 year old Boy Scout Chaplain shared this quote with about 120 first year boy scouts as they graduated from BrownSea Island. It's been attributed to Lord Baden Powell, Lou Holtz, Bear Bryant and others. None of these men claimed credit for it, but they all used it as a teaching tool with their charges. Regardless of who said it, it bears remembering; even when on vacation:

This is the beginning of a new day.
I can waste it or use it for good.
What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.
When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever,
leaving in its place something I have traded for it.
I want it to be a gain, not a loss;
good, not evil;
success, not failure —
in order that I shall not regret the price I paid for it today.

Thursday ~ July 13
7:00 pm
Make plans to join us as we plan our ministry projects.

“To create Christ-Centered opportunities for men to come together to help one another, to encourage each other, to grow in Christ likeness, to serve others in need, and evangelize the lost.”

“The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.” 1 John 2:17

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

Monday, July 24 ~ Friday, July 28
Dinner nightly at 5:30 pm
Bible study, music, and activities 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

If you have any questions, please contact:
Madison Norris 250-6701 / madisonnorris7@gmail.com
Thank You

Dear Ringgold Baptist Church Family,

I want to thank everyone who participated in making May 7th a very special day in my life. Thanks for all the kind words that were said, the gifts, the cards, and the calls that were made. WMU (Woman’s Missionary Union) holds a special place in my heart and it was my privilege to be a part of it for so many years. My prayer is that it will continue to be a strong arm of the Church. A special thank you to Suzanne Emerson for all the effort she put into organizing it. The people of Ringgold Baptist Church are a very special people and I am blessed to be a member.

Hazel Newton

Dear Ringgold Baptist Church and the Youth Group,

Thank you so much for your gifts, which will certainly be put to good use as I move onto the next chapter of my life. I am very grateful for your love and support, which prevailed even though I have not been the most avid church-goer. I hope I can continue to make you and the rest of this community proud.

Many thanks,

Delaney Collie

In Loving Memory

Howard Edward Gee, Sr.
October 20, 1924 ~ June 14, 2017

Our deepest Christian sympathy to:
The family & friends of Wayne Gee in his passing June 1, 2017.
The family & friends of Frank Grant in his passing.
The family & friends of Chuck Milligan in his passing.
The family & friends of David Ingram in his passing.
The family & friends of Wendy Wilson in her passing June 7, 2017.
The family & friends of Laurie Moran in her passing June 13, 2017.

Our shut-in for July will be
Mrs. Betty Ford (mother of Susan Wilkerson)
Roman Eagle Nursing Home
2526 North Main Street, Room # 44
Danville, VA 24540
Please leave your cards for Mrs. Ford in the mailbox through July 31.

J.O.Y. Club News

Our July meeting will be
Tuesday, July 18 at 9:00 AM
for BREAKFAST
Remember to bring a canned food item
for God’s Storehouse.
Don’t forget to save your used postage stamps for our Veterans.

~ Harriett Jones

Billy DeMott, Mac McDowell,
David Burgess, Lawrence Gilbert, Mike Gauldin
For all you do each month in setting up & preparing for our J.O.Y. Club gatherings!!
We could not do it without your help!

Hey Ringgold Family,

Then Sings My Soul…

Do you pay attention in church? That’s a problem I sometimes experience. And so did Elvina Hall. Please… I’m not advocating being distracted in church, just that there might be some good that comes from not paying attention in church… occasionally.

You might be asking, “who is Elvina Hall”? In 1865 Elvina was up in the choir loft of her church not paying attention to the Preacher. While her mind was distracted from the message she decided to take out the hymnal and flip through the pages. Since the hymnal couldn’t keep her attention she decided to doodle on the bulletin (sound familiar?). Here are the words she doodled;

I hear my Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small
Thou hast naught my debt to pay, find in Me thy all in all.”
Yea, nothing good have I, whereby Thy grace to claim
I’ll wash my garments white in the blood of Calvary’s Lamb
And now complete in Him, my robe His righteousness
Close sheltered ‘neath His side, I am divinely blest
When from my dying bed my ransomed soul shall rise
Jesus paid it all shall rend the vaulted skies

One of our favorite hymns, “Jesus Paid It All”, is particularly apropos for times of reflection, such as invitation to prayer. Over the years the words of this poem have changed into the way most of us today sing the song. “Jesus Paid it All” - a great hymn with a great theme of redemption and humility.

Hebrews 9:12, “With his own blood— not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.”

In Christ, Dan
Wednesday, July 12

hosted by the
Agape School Class

6:30 pm       Dinner
7:15 pm       Devotions

Announcements, Events & Reminders

Sunday, July 9

Observance of the
Lord’s Supper

Wednesday Family Night
Dinner & Devotions
Wednesday, July 12
hosted by the
Agape School Class
6:30 pm       Dinner
7:15 pm       Devotions

Our average Sunday School attendance from June 4th to June 25th was 100.5. Adult classes averaged 81.5. Youth classes averaged 6.0. K-6 classes averaged 7.0, and nursery averaged 6.0. During this time we had a total of 12 visitors. Adult classes had 4 visitors. Children’s classes had no visitors. Our current Sunday School enrollment is 209.

Due to very low attendance in our breakfast program, we will not be providing breakfast during the summer months. If you are not currently attending a Sunday School Bible class, we encourage you to do so. We have a variety of class options, so visit several. The study of God’s Word helps prepare us for the trials and temptations we face on a daily basis.

Please pray for the continued growth of our Sunday School.

Tidbits

A huge Thank You to RBC for supporting the BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG ministry which shares the gospel of Jesus Christ and upholds the sanctity of human life. Our donations totaled $852.05 this year with forty-nine (49) of the fifty bottles returned! This was one of the best responses that RBC has ever had for this ministry.

Please support our VBS this year through your prayers, volunteering where needed, and baking cookies for snack time.

JULY CHURCHWIDE MISSION EMPHASIS:
We will be collecting back-to-school supplies in the FLC foyer for the area schools for the 2017-2018 school year. Please watch for the school sales starting in July. Some needed supplies are:

- Germ-X Hand Sanitizer
- Tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Quart Ziploc bags
- Gallon Ziploc bags
- Box of 24 crayons
- Dry erase markers
- Glue sticks
- Sharpened #2 pencils
- Pocket folders w/binder holes
- Blunt tipped scissors and/or adult scissors
- Cap erasers
- Wide-ruled paper
- Yellow highlighters
- 1-subject notebook
- Black and white marble composition books

(Don’t forget to buy some extra school supplies for your OCC box while they are on sale).

Our individual mission circles always welcome visitors and new members. The mission circles offer unique opportunities of fellowship and bonding in showing Christ’s love as we reach out to help others.

THANK YOU for continuing to be a “WMU PARTNER” at RBC!

Suzanne Emerson
WMU Director

WMU HIGHLIGHTS

Our individual mission circles always welcome visitors and new members. The mission circles offer unique opportunities of fellowship and bonding in showing Christ’s love as we reach out to help others.

THANK YOU for continuing to be a “WMU PARTNER” at RBC!

Suzanne Emerson
WMU Director

BACKPACK BUDDIES MINISTRY

All funds donated for the Backpack Buddies Ministry which serves children at Kentuck Elementary School have been used during the 2016-2017 school year. Our 5th Sunday Love Offering for this ministry will be collected on Sunday, July 30. Funds will be needed in August to pay for the first order of food for the new school year. This ministry is totally supported by your generous donations. Please pray about this ministry and give as the Lord guides you.