

Ringgold Baptist Church

4620 Ringgold Church Road
PO Box 100
Ringgold, VA 24586
Phone: (434) 822-5959
E-mail: office@ringgoldbaptist.org

Return Service Requested

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

STAFF / SERVICE TIMES / MONTHLY SERVANTS

STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Duane Caldwell
Administrative Secretary.....Cheryl Hogg
Minister of Music.....Daniel Wolfe
Minister to Children.....Stephanie Barts
Minister to Youth.....Brandon Barts
Organist.....Ginger Collie
Pianist.....Leslie Blair
Groundskeeper.....Doug Motley
Property Maintenance.....Kevin Barker

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:15 am
Sunday Morning - 10:30 am
Sunday Evening - 5:00 pm
Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm

Audio: Carl Davis / Tim Chesher

Nursery

May 07—Carl and Brooke Davis
May 14—Ashlee and Aidan Hudgins
May 21—Sherry Shively and Frankie Gilbert
May 28—Nancy Adams

Backpack Buddies

Week of May 07—Cheryl Hogg and Pam Tuck
Week of May 14—Linda and James Snead
Week of May 21—Stephanie and Brandon Barts

Ushers: Chris Bass, John Foster, Chester Sneed

Bereavement Team

May - Ginger and Larry Collie
June - Sara and Ray McDowell

MAY 2023

THE RINGGOLD
REFLECTOR

A WORD FROM PASTOR DUANE

I am not sure who wrote the following story, but if we get too busy for God, it could be any of us.

The Master called my name one day because he needed someone to go: I said " Lord, in my spare time, between school, spending time with my husband, working from 8 to 6, and trying to coordinate a program for my community to help our children do better, I will help you look".

"See, I know I can't go right now cause I have so much to do." He said, "Well, where shall I find such a person? I thought I saw your name on my list of available people." "Well, Lord, that was the prayer that I prayed last year, but since then, things have changed." He said, "like what?" "Well, I'm working on my Ph.D., and I'm needed by so many people and my husband is always wanting something done, and on top of that my community EXPECTS me to help and give to them so..." "Well, seeing that you're busy, I'll let you go, but we will talk again, if YOU have some time."

I went on through the days, and the weeks, and the months completing my task as always. One evening, while studying for my comp exams, I received a call from the hospital concerning my husband. He had been in a terrible accident and was in critical condition. I dropped everything and ran to the Hospital where I found my husband hanging on for dear life. I immediately began to pray "Lord, don't take him now, I can't bear it" but my prayer echoed off the wall and returned into my own ear. That next morning, I left the hospital tired and weary, and walked in the door of my classroom just in time to begin my comps. As the professors began asking me questions, I opened my mouth to speak but nothing came out. In my mind, I began praying, praying hard, but my prayer echoed again, and I found myself upset at the Lord because he was nowhere to be found. I could not explain to them what was happening.

After leaving from my exams, I called in to work because I was so distraught at all that was going on. I explained to my supervisor what had happened, and she demanded that I take some time off. After visiting my husband in the hospital that evening, I went home and fell into a sunken state crying and despairing. Just then I heard someone calling my name. "Lord, is that YOU?" "Well, yes, it is. Do YOU have some time? I wanted to see if I could just talk....." Instead of waiting to hear his questions, I lashed out in anger and resentment. "How is it that when I needed you today, YOU couldn't be found and last night I cried and cried but all I heard was echoes from the walls? My husband is dying, I'm flunking out of school, I may not have a job and you can just sit and say YOU want to talk". The Lord interrupted me in my foolish speaking. "My child, I was busy, out looking for someone to go and tell others about me when you cried. By the time I came to answer you had moved on to something else. So, I decided to let your husband rest, and keep you home for a few days that way MAYBE you would get in touch with me, if YOU had some time. For you see, before your husband, the community or your job needs you, I NEED YOU. And if all these things take you away from me, I have to almost take them away from YOU, in order to get a moment." I calmed down and began to cry, for I remembered my prayer of wanting to go and do for the Lord.

He said "I just wanted to recheck with you to see if you knew of ANYONE that I could send to be a witness for me and tell others about me...anyone at all.....?" With tears in my eyes and feeling so unworthy I said "Lord, send me, I'll go."

While I know the Lord doesn’t need anything, He wants to use us to be His hands, feet, and mouth. This story illustrates how we sometimes let ourselves get too busy to be of service to God. There are many needs in our community, but whom will the Lord send and who will go? Will you? Are you willing to say, “Lord, send me, I’ll go?” And when He calls, will you be willing to set everything else aside and go?

Pastor Duane

DEACON MOMENT

WHEN YOU MEET WITH GOD, HE WILL OCCASIONALLY BREAK THROUGH THE FAMILIAR AND REVEAL A SURPRISING PLAN FOR YOU

Christians often talk about “walking with God” - so much so that these words can easily become cliché. But our walk with God isn’t something we should take for granted. It takes effort, commitment, and intentionality. I have found three truths that remain essential in our walk with God.

First, walking with God involves wrestling with him for clarification. Getting clarity takes time. Finding it is often done alone, as you discern what is essential and what is incidental.

Do you still wrestle with God? The Lord invites us to converse with him. “Come now, let’s settle this”, he says. “Let’s work this out. Let’s reason this out”. This wrestling isn’t a fight but an intense conversation. The aim is to find clarity about God’s plan.

Second, walking with God means listening for specific changes of direction. I can say from experience that when I spend time with the Lord, I get fresh and creative thoughts. I get new ideas and fresh direction. He even stirs up my emotions.

When you regularly spend time with the Lord, you will discover things in your life that need to be fine-tuned – or even radically changed.

Third, walking with God means being quiet so that God can speak. Many of us feel the incessant urge to stay busy, to keep active, to accomplish more, and to get things done. It is all about staying productive. Of course, there’s certainly nothing wrong with getting things done. But the danger is when a super-active lifestyle is the norm. I have had to force myself to realize the importance of balancing times of work with times of refreshment. Both are productive. Both are essential.

If you don’t spend time being quiet with God, you can’t hear what He has to say. You won’t know how He wants to change your life. You won’t discern His promises. Your assurance about tomorrow will seem weak. A guilty conscience will plague you. You and God won’t seem like friends. Instead, it will feel like He is some alien force, and you will feel strange around Him. Abraham is called “the friend of God” partly because he spent time with God.

What happens when we walk with God?

First, the discipline of silence increases our sensitivity. When I am always moving fast, always making a noise, always being active, I become insensitive. But when I am quiet, the veneer is peeled away. I become more sensitive to God.

Secondly, the reassurance of His will decreases our anxiety. When I spend time with God, my anxiety is washed away.

Third, the submission of obedience proves our humility. When I do what God says, I prove to Him I am willing to submit to His will. I listen to Him and obey. This interaction solidifies our relationship and brings us into closer communion.

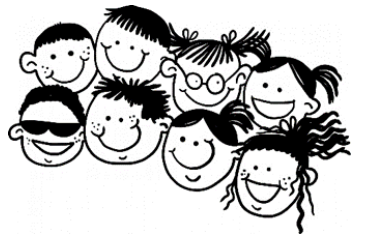
Submitted by Eddie Dodson

The Swindoll Study Bible

CHILDREN & YOUTH

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTER

The end of the school year is right around the corner! That means it will be summer vacation! That can be a very exciting time for us all. However, it can also be a sad time due to not seeing our friends from school any more. But, don’t fear because someone who is always with you is Jesus. We can always count on him and rely on him in times of happiness and sadness. As you think about this, think about ways that Jesus shows himself in your life.



As a reminder, we would love to see you on Sunday mornings and evenings! We meet during regular service that begins at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. We also meet on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Please contact me (call or text) if you have any questions at 434-709-4709.
~Stephanie Barts

UPCOMING EVENT



June 5-8 - Vacation Bible School from 5:30—7:45 every evening

Dinner will be provided for the children every night and the last night will be a Family Night with dinner provided for everyone in the family!



A MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH MINISTER

A new beginning awaits anyone who is willing and wanting to make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

As the school year ends and some Youth graduate this year, a new chapter in life begins, but have no worries, God is always with you. He will never leave you or forsake you. Go out allowing Christ light to shine through you to whomever you may meet.

Jesus said, “Let your light shine before others” Matthew 16.6 He explained that no one lights a lamp just to hide it under a basket. A lamp is meant to be placed on a stand to give light to everything around it. Whether you’re timid or outgoing, you’re called to be a light to people around you.

IN APPRECIATION

The family of Dorothy Taylor Willis acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy

Ringgold Baptist Church,

Thanks for the bereavement bag and cooler. The contents were very useful. We appreciate all the cards, gift bags, visits and prayers while my mom was in the nursing home. Your ministry and kindness meant so much.

Becky Taylor



I GO TO SING

I might be exhausted and the children might be cranky,
but I will be going to church on Sunday.
Don't know who is preaching, doesn't matter –
the sermon may be helpful or not, holds my attention or doesn't – it's the singing.
I go to sing.
I get up, get clean, get dressed, possibly get mad (at not-ready kids, at empty coffee pot, at traffic),
get going, get there, get seated, get comfortable, get focused... and when the music starts, get saved.
It's the singing. I go to sing.
It's the willingness to stand if you are able,
the common agreement on page number,
the voluntary sharing of songbooks with people on your row, even ones you rode there with –
but most of all,
it's the collective in-breath before the first sound is made,
the collective drawing upon the grace of God,
the collective, if inadvertent, admission
that we are all human,
all fragile, all in need of the sustaining air, freely dispensed,
all in need of each other to get the key right and not sound discordant —it's the hidden life-celebration
in the act of making a joyful noise,
all together.

We don't even have to sound that good.
Singing together still brings home
the we-ness of worship,
the not-alone-ness of life in God,
the best of all we have to offer each other.
When we are singing, I think that I might actually be able to forgive you for being so terribly human,
and you might be able to forgive me
for being so terribly not there yet,
and we might be able to find peace now,
not postpone it for some heavenly hereafter
but live and breathe it today,
drawing in the grace of God,
voicing out our need and hope and gratitude and longing.
When we are singing, I can feel the better world coming,
and if I get to be a part of it, you do too . . .
so sing with me,
and we'll make our way down
that blessed road together,
collectively better
than we ever thought
possible.

<https://www.facebook.com/lindy.thompson1967>

Hope you've had a pleasant and
Happy Easter,
Dan

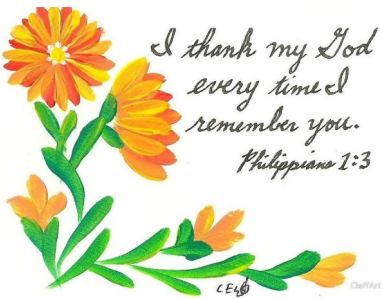


J.O.Y. CLUB

Our *Friend to Remember* in May is

W.D. Spencer
1105 Barker Road
Ringgold VA 24586

Please leave your card for W.D.
in the mailbox through May 31st



Remember to bring a
canned food item for
God's Storehouse
to the May meeting.

Our May meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, May 23 at 12 noon

**We're looking forward to a
Shrimp Boil**

*This has always been a club favorite so
please join us for
fun,
fellowship
and deliciousness!!*



A DONATION HAS BEEN MADE

IN YOUR HONOR TO



RBC STATISTICS FOR 2022

COOPERATIVE MISSIONS	\$25,008.00
ALMA HUNT	\$ 1,610.00
ANNIE ARMSTRONG	\$ 3,228.00
LOTTIE MOON	\$ 4,496.50
TOTAL GIFTS	\$34,342.50

Excerpt from our BGAV letter:
"Together as the BGAV, we are advancing the Kingdom in faithful and bold ways. Thank you for connecting with over 1,300 other churches in making all this possible. It is a privilege to work for and with you in serving our Lord."

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

MEETINGS / EVENTS

Tuesday, May 2
7:00 pm - Eva Walton Circle

Sunday, May 7—Baptist Women's Day
6:00 pm - Deacons

Tuesday, May 9
J.O.Y. Club trip to Pennsylvania & DC
10:00 am—Morning Mission Circle

Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day

Wednesday, May 17—
6:30 pm—Family Night Dinner & Devotions

Sunday, May 21 - Graduate Sunday



We will honor our graduates on Sunday, May 21, during the worship service. A luncheon will follow for graduates and their immediate families only. A video presentation is in the works for the worship service and a letter has been sent to graduates and their families outlining the schedule of events. If you have a graduate in your household and have not received a letter, please notify the church office.

Additionally, please let us know if there are any college graduates in your household to be recognized. For college graduates, we would like a cap and gown photo and will need the graduate's school awards received, degree earned and future plans.

More information will be shared as plans are finalized.

WMU HIGHLIGHTS

The **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** through April was **\$2,001.00**. **Thank you** for your donations to support the missionaries in North America.

An update on **donations to God's Pit Crew for Blessing Buckets** will be reported in the June newsletter. RBC was responsible for the Dan River Food Distribution for God's Storehouse in April. Thanks to **ALL THE VOLUNTEERS** who showed up to help.

The **Baby Bottle Boomerang** will begin on **Mother's Day, May 14**. All bottles should be returned by **Father's Day in June**.

The **Casserole Ministry** will restart in **May**. The signup sheet for any volunteers who will prepare a casserole or dish that can be frozen in the freezer at church will be on the bulletin board in the back hallway. These dishes will be **taken monthly** to those people that have a need.

The **Backpack Ministry** will complete its **tenth (10) year** serving students at Kentuck Elementary and Dan River Middle School who have a need for food during the weekends. RBC had **twenty-eight (28) volunteers** to pack the bags this school year.

MISSION GROUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Eva Walton Mission Circle – meets on first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at RBC.

Morning Mission Circle – meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM at RBC. **Women of ANY AGE are welcome to visit either or both mission groups.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ALL MISSION PROJECTS AND MISSION OFFERINGS.

Suzanne Emerson
WMU Director

The family and friends of Jane Hudgins in her passing.

The family and friends of Alexandria Chesher in her passing.

The family and friends of Connie Bullins in her passing

The family and friends of Larry Hawker in his passing.

The family and friends of Susan Korner in her passing.

The family and friends of Kenny Davis in his passing.

The family and friends of Anthony Barbour in his passing.

The family and friends of Ruby Jones in her passing.

The family and friends of Charles Farthing in his passing.

The family and friends of Joe Bloomer in his passing.

The family and friends of Roger Emerson in his passing.

The family and friends of Shirley Burgess in her passing.

