

# **SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

1742 Blackstone Road  
P. O. Box 566  
Kenbridge, VA 23944

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday

Telephone: 434-676-2252  
Toll Free: 1-877-551-2702

E-mail:  
Southsidebaptist@centurylink.net

Dr. Timothy D. Lipp  
Moderator

Dr. James B. Gates, Jr.  
Vice-Moderator

Ms. Jean G. Fowlkes  
Clerk/Treasurer

Mrs. Lois Wolf  
Administrative Assistant



Serving 23 Churches



**JULY 2020**

As epidemiologists attempt to determine what the Covid-19 pandemic has in store for the U.S. this summer and beyond, they see varied potential futures, differing by how severely The now very familiar coronavirus continues to disrupt humankind. But while these scenarios deviate on various key details – how much transmission will decrease over the summer for instance, and how many people have already been infected (and possibly acquired immunity) – they almost universally predict a world that, even when the present occurrences for the time declines, looks and feels nothing like the world we knew only three months ago. It is turning into a world where wearing a face mask is no more unusual than carrying a cellphone. A world where even as we begin to meet again in small social gatherings, a friend's occasional cough or sneeze will raise danger flags and set off alarms. A world where workplaces have a sense of hot zones, and where taking public transit will Be less environmentally correct as personally dangerous. "October 2020," said emerging diseases expert Amesh Adalja of the John Hopkins University Center for Health Security, "won't look nothing like October 2019."

It is not yet known whether weather and temperature affect the spread of COVID-19 because it may not behave like other mostly cold season viruses. So, what will the soon approaching summer of 2020 look and feel like for most of us? Summer camps and band camps may be on hold, as well as summer school, VBS and other educational programs, as well as youth sport leagues. When and how will ACT test be administered, as well as high school entrance testing? Will those of us who have summer homes be allowed to move back and forth freely? And what about summer vacation plans? While airlines continue to open up travel restrictions within the U.S., when will most hotels, resorts, campgrounds, state, and national parks reopen? Some already have, while many major vacation and amusement areas are yet on hold. And what or Airbnb and international flights? And even of more concern, when will everyone get back to work to pay for all of these things, let alone, the basic necessities of life? Things will be different. Major league sports teams may all be playing in no-crowd stadiums, and most all major concert events scheduled for this summer have already been cancelled. Most restaurants remain closed, but for take-outs and some have limited seating inside. Only a handful of states are re-opening.

Which leads us to churches. Some of you have returned to worshipping inside while others of you remain outside and some are doing both while maintaining a online tape of the serve and some have moved to the radio as well. Whatever your "new normal" is I am praying for every church of the SBA as you continue to be faithful to sharing the Good News of the Gospel with your communities and beyond! While this so-called "new normal" has taken shape among us, it is good to know that the "essential," "old normal" is still around: The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and the Holy Christian Church – that is, the spiritual assembly of the followers of Jesus – those have attained holiness, according to Jesus Christ, through the only means by which this is possible: through Faith, Repentance and Baptism.

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Through faith, none of these are altered, and will remain constant through pandemics and all other pestilence, natural disasters, wars, and any and all evil that rises up against us. In repentance we bring our sins before the Triune God in whom we are granted forgiveness through the holy waters of our Baptism. These truths never change. They bring us through all uncertainty and any type of troubles or loneliness and give us confidence in knowing that our future is guaranteed. So, although our immediate future looks less than zero, our eternal future looks infinitely better.

Don't lose faith!

Rev. Dr. Timothy D. Lipp  
SBA Moderator  
Victoria Baptist Church

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The Southside Baptist Association missions offering envelopes have been mailed to the churches. This year we are dividing the Association offering equally between two of our missions: Our DDM home in Farmville and the BCM debt retirement for their building at Longwood University. Please send this offering to the association at PO Box #566, Kenbridge, VA 23944, by September 15, 2020.

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## CHURCH NEWS

**BLACKSTONE:** We know you too have had many changes in all our routines because of COVID 19 and the mandatory shut down in March, 2020. Our church was no different and has remained completely closed until June 7<sup>th</sup>. when we held our first outdoor worship service. So far the weather has been very cooperative for these services and we all have enjoyed seeing one another. Rev. Ted Fuson from Midlothian, Va. has brought us his messages under the trees with a breeze blowing and the birds singing. We are unsure for the future warmer summer months of the next plan. We are praying we can soon return to normal and we know God is in control here! We stay in contact with our church members and we send them instant alert messages with a devotional. We thank you that we are all well and appreciate the personal contacts through phone calls, emails, and text messages. We have encouraged all to wear their mask and stay home to stay well. We had two church members graduate from Nottoway High School. We recognized our fathers on Father's Day, June 21. We are in prayer for our community, our country, and our Nation. We continue to love, help, worship and glorify God for all his work in everything we do. We ask your prayers for our church as we seek the right pastor for our needs at Blackstone Baptist Church. May God continue to bless each of you.

## WMU SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

Mrs. Judy Clay, Director

101 Hamlett Dr.

Blackstone, VA 23824

Telephone: 434-298-0730 (home) 434-294-2107 (cell)

E-mail: [clayjil@gmail.com](mailto:clayjil@gmail.com)

## EMPHASIS: "UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT"

**WATCHWORD:** "My dear friends, stand firm and don't be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for Him is worthwhile." I Cor. 15:58.

Friends,

I pray that this finds you and your family healthy and happy. We have experienced many unusual things since March 2020, but the Lord is still King of Kings and we are His children. So much to be thankful for. Even though we have had some hiccups in the ability to worship together we are slowly gathering to worship in different ways.

In one of Billy Graham's Devotion Books "Hope for Each Day" he reminds us that *God will give us wisdom and courage. He will surround us with brothers and sisters in Christ to help carry our burdens, even provide us with insight and practical assistance...* "in the midst of life's problems God supplies everything we need to see us through." *Philippians 4:11 says "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

## PRAYER AND ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Southside Baptist Association Annual Offering is being collected at this time. The offering will be used to support the BCM and the DDM Home (1/2 to each)

Update: Bland Ministry Center is slowly opening back up and the items that you collected will be delivered within the next week. Thank you for your help and support.

According to the June 2020 E News (the monthly email newsletter of WMUV) Camp Crossroads has canceled the weekly camps for the summer due to Covid 19 but will be hosting Adventure Day Camps. For more information on this and other ways you and/or your church can benefit from this wonderful retreat just check the web site. [www.crossroadscamp.com](http://www.crossroadscamp.com)



## CHURCH NEWS

**BURKEVILLE:** Burkeville Baptist Church continues to hold church service outside in the parking lot each Sunday at 9am. We hold children and student service at 10am. These services are broadcast live on Facebook and on 103.3FM. The COVID-19 virus will not keep us from God's word. His presence has been felt at each service. Pastor Paul's Ponderings" and Bible study are broadcast live on Facebook and on 103.3FM each Monday and Wednesday at 12 noon. The current study is Nehemiah. We also continue to provide our SEMS meal (Saturday Evening Meals for Seniors) every other Saturday night. Our next meal will be July 18th. These meals are provided free of charge to seniors and those in need. We pray that each of you are staying safe and remember that nothing can separate us from God.

**DUNDAS:** We are currently having our worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. For those who are not comfortable in attending we have DVD available of the service. June 21, Father's Day, we recognized the Dad's with a gift. We had one high school graduate that we congratulated and presented her with a Bible.

**EUREKA:** Fortunately, we've been able to meet together under the blue skies on our front lawn at church for the last few weeks. While we're still waiting for the right time to resume Sunday School, Wednesday night Bible study, and other church functions, we take solace in the fact that we can at least gather together as a church body on Sunday mornings for worship service. We have, however, discovered meaningful ways to serve while adhering to social distancing guidelines. In June, Eureka welcomed two new beautiful baby girls and were able to shower the expecting parents in May with gifts and goodies delivered right to their doorstep. And, on June 18, many of us joined the Pregnancy Support Center (PSC) virtually for a "Spring Into Life" event. This event brought awareness to the work of the center and we were able to "meet" some of the families that have received support from the Center. Our church, along with many others, also helped collect funds during the month of June to support the life-saving work of the PSC.

**HERITAGE:** Our church is continuing to spread the Word through this COVID-19 situation like all other churches. Just this past Sunday (June 21) we continued our drive-in service as well as opening up the sanctuary for those who felt comfortable coming inside. Masks were required and social distancing rules were followed. This way, people could worship at whichever place they felt comfortable. Our Community Garden is flourishing with the help of dedicated volunteers.

**JONESBORO:** Well, here we are approaching the end of June and things are still not back to normal just yet, just thankful for the few changes that have been allowed and thankful for continued good health for our congregation. We are happy to report that we are now back to worshipping in our sanctuary, as of June 14th, keeping our social distancing and following the CDC guidelines. Services are still broadcast over the radio for those who are not comfortable with inside services just yet, so we do feel that we are making a little progress. We sure have missed our Sunday School classes as well as our gathering around the table for those great Baptist covered dish dinners and wonderful fellowship. That will come in due time. We are excited as a church family is expecting an addition to

their family next month and we were able to gather, keeping our distance, and support them with a baby shower in our fellowship hall. It was not quite like normal but sure was good to get back together for fun fellowship. Mother's and Father's Day have come and gone and we missed having our usual combined cookout to celebrate the occasion. Next year will hopefully be better! Plans remain uncertain at this time if we will be able to hold our annual GIVEAWAY in August, also several events in July are pending right now. We just continue to enjoy worshipping and praising God for the many blessings we enjoy. Things may not be as we would like right now but we know WHO is in control and we trust HIM to get us through. May God continue to bless each of you.

**MT. TIRZAH:** Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Mount Tirzah Baptist Church members have found creative ways to worship and connect with one another. Drive-in worship services have continued to be held at the Charlotte Court House Dixie Youth baseball field, and the May 31 service included special recognition of all of the church's graduates. Additionally, several church members began hosting an open-air, unstructured shared Bible reading time on Tuesday mornings on the covered porch of their home as a way to fellowship and study God's word together. Announcements, prayer requests, praises, bulletins, and sermon notes have continued to be shared through email as well as through calling posts messages while sermons have been uploaded to social media and the church website for those who have been unable to attend in person. While everyone is anxious to fellowship together again in the church building, we continue to be thankful for the opportunity to BE the church as we worship and stay connected at a distance.

**PISGAH:** Our church continues to have drive-in services with many in attendance. God has blessed us with great weather for the services. In addition to our regular members enjoying the services in the parking lot, the local neighbors are also receiving the messages from their lawns and porches. We joyfully invite them as well as others in the community, to join us each Sunday. We give praises to Charlie Knapp, Linda Reid, Pisgah Choir and others who have been providing special music during this time. Special praise to Pastor Earl Wallace for delivering such inspiring messages. Eighteen of our young people participated in highway cleanup recently in Rice. We appreciate the service of these wonderful youth and their parents. The Pastor will be on WFLO morning devotions June 15-19. Congratulations to our graduates from high school and college. May God continue to lead your way as you go forth into new adventures. Please continue to pray for our church, Pastor Earl, and our country.

**VICTORIA:** Our Church continues to meet outside for worship at Mimosa Park in Lunenburg County at a covered pavilion. The class of 2020 was recognized with a car parade from the courthouse to Mimosa Park on Sunday, May 31st. Dads were given a gift and recognition on Father's Day. The deacons will meet on June 29th to determine the future direction of church gatherings. No date has been set as this time for VBS.

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUEST**

**JULY CALENDAR**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.  
Psalm 33:12



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5<sup>TH</sup> Religious Liberty Sunday



***PRAYER REQUESTS:***

**Pray for the SBA churches seeking a pastor: Blackstone Baptist Church and Kenbridge Baptist Church.**

**Pray for the twenty-three churches in our SBA Association.**

**Pray for the Baptist Collegiate Ministries and Austin Williams, Interim Campus Minister.**

**Pray for IHBA church and their pastor Rev. Connie Gascon.**

