

# **SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

1742 Blackstone Road  
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Kenbridge, VA 23944

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

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**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



**NOVEMBER 2020**

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' song "The Waiting" resonates with me during these days of quarantine and social distancing as I can barely think about waiting without hearing the chorus in my head "Yea, yea...yea, yea. The waiting is the hardest part. Every day you see one more card. You take it on faith, you take it to the heart. The waiting is the hard...est...part." And yet, we wait for life to be normal again, for a vaccine to be created for this virus, for the chance to see family and friends again without fear of catching or spreading something, we wait....

Tom Petty's song resonates because it reflects a common human experience. The person who doesn't struggle with waiting is rare. Whether it's waiting for the weekend, for a vacation to arrive, for a loved one to return or whether it's waiting for something life changing - like medical test results, we've all encountered times in life when we've had to wait. It's hard for us to wait mere hours much less days, weeks, or years. And yet, more often than not God asks us to wait.

The prophet Habakkuk shared our struggle with waiting. He opens his prayer in Habakkuk 1:1 with "How long, Lord..." God answers Habakkuk, but his answer simply calls for Habakkuk to continue waiting. God tells Habakkuk that He is sending the Babylonians as his instrument of justice, but the details about when are still ambiguous. In verse 5 God simply says "watch and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told." Can you imagine? It could be tomorrow, or it could be 20 years from now. But there is much we can learn from Habakkuk's reaction. First, he expresses his shock that God would use such a corrupt people to deliver God's justice. Then in chapter 2, he tells us how he is going to wait.

"I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what He will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." Habakkuk 2:1 (NIV) Habakkuk's waiting is clearly active. Anyone who has acted as a lookout in serious, tactical situations understand the importance of attentive waiting. Habakkuk's waiting is alert and filled with anticipation.

The story of the golden calf in Exodus 32 is a prime example of what can happen if we do not remain active, attentive, and focused in our waiting. The Israelites get tired of waiting for Moses and impatiently create an idol. Can anyone believe their betrayal of God was unintentional?

Why is waiting so common? Why does God keep us waiting endlessly for answers? Thankfully, God knows what He's doing when He makes us wait. Waiting has an ultimate kingdom purpose. Ultimately, God does not desire to see His people destroyed. And in many circumstances, God's patience is merciful.

We witness God's compassion in the story of Jonah when he sends the prophet to Nineveh to witness to them. And upon the repentance of the people God withholds the pronounced destruction...much to Jonah's dismay.

In Jonah 4, we again meet the God who is "slow to anger and abounding in love." (Jonah 4:2) God is far more patient than humans are and God's going to wait more time for repentance than we can even fathom. So even though Habakkuk has already tried convincing his countrymen of their sin and need for repentance, God sends him out again. Habakkuk 2:2-20.

Now I am not suggesting that God is putting us through a trial from which God is seeking repentance. But as individuals and as a faith community, we also benefit from waiting – if we make our waiting active like Habakkuk did. Periods of waiting give us time to grow in our faith, to deepen our knowledge of God and God's glory. Times of waiting give us the chance to remember our biblical foundations and life experiences that support our trust in God.

It is in times of waiting that we can see the earth being filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14)– if we watch with the attentiveness of Habakkuk.

Tom Petty's chorus will continue to resonate with our human experience. Waiting will continue to be the hardest part, but for believers, difficult waiting is not frivolous, empty time to pass by twiddling our thumbs. Waiting is a season rich and beneficial for the believer's heart if we apply ourselves to God's teaching.

I pray our season of waiting is coming to an end. In the meantime, be prepared to make the most out of your seasons of waiting. Study Habakkuk, only 3 short chapters. (The book of Jonah is only 4!) Listen to see how you are righteous and can live by your faithfulness while you wait for God's perfect timing. Read Habakkuk's prayer in chapter 3 and determine if, after all of the turmoil you have endured in recent months, you can "be joyful in God, my Savior", as he was.

I hope we can all meet again soon, but until then the waiting will continue to be "the hardest part".

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

## WMU SOUTHSIDE ASSOCIATION

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**WATCHWORD: "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved." Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)**

**NEW EMPHASIS: "RELENTLESS"**

**OUR MISSION: Is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ.**

**For the past two years our theme has been UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT.**

**September began our new emphasis for the next two years - "RELENTLESS".**

**We want to be relentless in our service for Christ. This means we should never give up in the service for our Lord.**

**Let us determine to be relentless and have great faith in God, be a prayer warrior, give to the Lord's work and witness to others.**

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

**I Corinthians 15:58**



## CHURCH NEWS

**BLACKSTONE:** We are meeting inside for our worship services at 11:00 only. We were interrupted two Sundays by COVID 19, which increased in our area. We are slowly gathering for meetings staying six feet apart and wearing our mask. Our team leaders are meeting with Dr. Ted Fuson, as they together look at the future and how we will see 2021 for Blackstone Baptist Church. The annual Thanksgiving Community dinner has been cancelled however we are working with this team to give food to those who are in need. This too will be done with all regulations in place of social distance. The holiday season will be different this year than it has ever been, but we know that God is with us and will see us through this COVID 19 storm. We continue to pray for those who are ill with the virus and those who are caregivers for others who are ill. We are in prayer for those who have lost their loved ones during this difficult time. We are still in the process of planning our holiday events.

**CREWE:** A new handbell group called the Noel Bells has been organized under the direction of Lowell Harper. This group will meet after the Sunday morning worship service each week. Our church continues to support the ministry Backpack Program through the SBCV. These packs will be delivered to SBCV at the annual homecoming. These packs are filled with ministry information for underserved areas in our state. We have joined with several other local churches for the annual Christmas Mother Program. There will not be an actual Christmas Mother this year due to Covid 19 but the program to deliver gifts to area children and families who qualify will continue. Our annual Thanksgiving Banquet has been canceled due to Covid 19. Tim Kreis continues to lead the Wednesday night Bible Study from 6:30 to 7:30. The study is on the Book of Romans. The Pastor Search committee continues to ask for prayers to assist them in their search for a pastor. The Alma Hunt State Missions offering goal for this year is \$2000. The WMU will meet on Wednesday, November 4 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In this year of trials and tribulations, let us still remember to give thanks for our many blessings. Happy Thanksgiving from Crewe Baptist Church!

**DUNDAS:** Our church continues to worship in our sanctuary, following health guidelines. We gave an offering of \$600. to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child for them to prepare gift boxes. Also, we are filling additional boxes for the Operation Christmas Child project. We plan to have the Lord's Table using the pre-packaged juice and bread. How blessed we are that the Lord is showing us different ways to worship during these difficult days of Covid. "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18. Are you a thankful Christian?

**EUREKA:** Our church will host a drive-thru trunk or treat on Saturday, October 31, as an alternative to our annual fall festival. While we may not have the fun and excitement of a full scale festival, we plan to provide each child with a bag of candy and a verse or track to help reach our community with the Gospel. We've also started collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse and have plans for a church Christmas play in December. Due to a rise in cases in Charlotte County, we did have to meet virtually once in September, which also delayed our plans to restart our youth program. Plans are, however, in the works for that and we're looking forward to bringing the youth together.

**HERITAGE:** What a beautiful Fall season we are having. Heritage has been enjoying the warm temperatures as we continue outdoor and indoor services. We have moved our Wednesday prayer meetings inside to the sanctuary where we can socially distance. The youth have moved their gatherings inside to the spacious fellowship hall. Adult Bible studies continue on Zoom. We recently had a "musical praise" worship Sunday with everyone outside praising the Lord. It was a very moving service under beautiful sunshine. Our handbells have been dusted off and practices have begun. We are having a Winter Clothes Giveaway on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Our Mission Project this month is to make Christmas cards for the Armed Forces. These cards are decorated and will be sent to them in bulk so that they may send them to their families back home. We are looking forward to finding creative ways to worship God during the upcoming holiday season in the times of Covid. To God be the Glory.

**JONESBORO:** Fall has arrived and what a beautiful time of year in spite of all the negative news and pandemic. We are so blessed at Jonesboro as we have been able to continue to worship inside our sanctuary, following the CDC requirements, and thankfully have had no cases within our church family. Our deacons have resumed meeting on a monthly basis, we observe the Lord's Supper using the pre-packaged elements and the Praise Band gathers each Saturday as our children and youth share in a time of music and fellowship. A "work day" was held this month as we gathered to spruce up our grounds and buildings for the fall. World Hunger was observed on the 25th as members returned their rice bowls, filled with loose change from the past year, and instead of having our usual "rice" luncheon, we opted to follow Rev. Franklin Graham's suggestion to have a day of "fasting and prayer for our nation", which we all agreed was most important this year. Following worship, we gathered in the fellowship hall for a time of special prayer for our nation, our leaders and the upcoming election. We trust God to get us through these challenging days! Our focus has also been on filling our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We have participated in this for many years and always look forward to this each November. Filled boxes will be returned on November 15th and a service of dedication will be held following worship as we "send them off" to their appointed location to bring joy and the good news to many many children! Our prayer is that each of you remain safe, well and will enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are truly blessed beyond measure and give God the praise and thanks for His blessings on us. Happy Thanksgiving!!

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUEST**

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**ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS:** Please  
send the ACP Reports to Ms. Jean Fowlkes.  
Address: 1215 Grape Lawn Rd., Burkeville,  
VA 23922. Please contact her with any  
questions: at (434) 767-3738; (434) 390-6665  
Email: [jeanfowlkes@gmail.com](mailto:jeanfowlkes@gmail.com).  
Thanks!

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**NOVEMBER 26, 2020**



***PRAYER REQUESTS:***

Pray for the SBA churches seeking a pastor: Crewe Baptist Church, Farmville Baptist Church and Kenbridge Baptist Church.

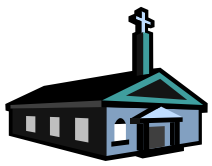
Pray for all the churches in the SBA, the pastors and the WMU ministry.

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

Pray for the upcoming election Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and be sure to Vote.

Pray for our policemen and for their safety.

Pray for Rev. Clyde Shelton.



## CHURCH NEWS

**KENBRIDGE:** We are continuing to meet together in our sanctuary, practicing safe distancing and mask wearing. The Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child Shoeboxes are being filled so children in other countries can enjoy Christmas and know that people far away care about them and share Jesus' love with them. Our Women on Mission group is sponsoring "Thanksgiving for Four." A bag is filled with Thanksgiving foods and taken to a family who will have a nice meal on Thanksgiving. This project was a great success last year at KBC and we were able to share Thanksgiving with many families in Lunenburg County. We look forward to this again this year. We hope everyone will have a wonderful Thanksgiving! We have so many blessings for which to be thankful! We are also reminded to VOTE on November 3. It is our duty as a citizen of this great nation! God bless America!!

**MOUNT TIRZAH:** Our church continued drive-in church services at the Charlotte County Dixie Youth ball field through September, but services in the sanctuary have now resumed with social distancing measures in place. Live streaming and recording of services have continued to accommodate those who are unable or uncomfortable returning to worship in the fellowship hall. Open air Bible study on Tuesdays have continued. Our church encouraged members to engage in 40 Days of Prayer for our nation, which began on September 13 and ended on October 25, and for members to participate in Franklin Graham's Prayer Walk by walking 1.8 miles at home or in the local community while praying for our nation. The church has been busy with several mission activities. We have been continuing to collect materials and donations for Operation Christmas Child as well as donations for the Virginia State Missions Vision Virginia campaign. The church has also encouraged members to participate in the YMCA of South Boston/Halifax Girls on the Run program and the Pregnancy Support Center's Walk for Life event. In addition to these community activities, the church family has also been actively supporting our members who have faced difficulties, health issues, and loss of loved ones through prayer and other acts of support.

**PISGAH:** Our Church is holding inside worship services each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to attend and receive a true blessing through music and biblical message. For good food, fellowship, and praise, join us at Community Breakfast on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. All are invited to participate in Bible study each Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m. Tune in to 870 AM to hear Pastor Wallace on morning devotions November 2-6 and December 21-25. We are preparing to pack Items collected for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Not only is this a wonderful project but fun for all involved.

Our youth continue to be active in fund raising activities and community service. Please pray for those affected by floods, fires, hurricanes, and pray for our country and it's leaders. "With God all things are possible." - Matthew 19:26.

**VICTORIA:** We continue indoor worship services on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. in our sanctuary with social distancing. Our services are still being recorded live on the church Facebook page for those who wish to attend from home. The church is meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for children, youth and adults. Our Pre-school began on September 8 for 3 and 4 year old's which continues to go well. We had a Fall Festival for children on Sunday, October 11 which was successful with many children in attendance. We are grateful to everyone who has supported and helped us during these unusual times. God Bless you all and stay safe!



*"Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the lord for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 106:1*

