



Baptist Connection

Newsletter of Berryville Baptist Church
114 Academy Street
Berryville VA 22611
540-955-1423

Winter Newsletter 2019



**SOUPER
BOWL
OF CARING!**

**SOUPER SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 3rd, 2019**

**Worship 9 A.M.
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 11 A.M.**

Followed by

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY LUNCHEON
TO BENEFIT PUPPET MINISTRY**

Please join our youth group as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the ***Souper Bowl of Caring***. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Take a moment to invite someone to be your guest this Sunday.

Bring your cans of soup on Sunday, February 3rd. The soup cans will be donated to FISH to help needy people in our community.

Then after the 11 am service, the Puppet/Youth Group will treat the congregation to a Soup & Sandwich luncheon with a free-will offering. All money collected during the lunch will benefit the Berryville Baptist Rascals and their upcoming mission trip.

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:13



Nurses's Corner

Toward the end of January 1944 a certain Colonel Henry Mucci led a band of Army Rangers on a mission to rescue soldiers from a Japanese prison camp in a jungle in the Philippines. Just before they embarked on their dangerous journey Mucci had an unusual request. He insisted that every one of his 120 Rangers go into the Army chapel, get on their knees and pray. To the last man they obeyed.

Obviously we are not in a world war at present (although those of you who are prayer warriors know better) but many of us are in a personal war with our health. For some it's the same routine every morning: take the medications on time, do the exercises, adhere to the diet, check the blood sugar, dress the wound(s), and on and on. It may seem an insurmountable task just to stay out of the hospital, and you feel all alone.

The Bible doesn't say, "Pray when you need something". It also doesn't say, "Pray for 5 minutes Sunday morning. That should do it for the week." No, it says "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING". Do you think God allowed this infirmity to occur to you just to leave you by yourself? He wants to hear from you all the time, with the exception of murmuring/complaining/whining. He knows you're better than that.

I know that some of you have suffered greatly. You may never know why, and maybe you didn't cause any of it. But one thing I hear over and over again is that the people who either went through it or were the companions said they learned something they would never had known otherwise. Either way God wants you to talk to Him every mile of the trail. Life ain't a Hallmark movie. It's a cross to bear, and dying to self. If you haven't realized that yet you will. God may have to burn a whole lot of stuff off you before the gold and silver become visible.

The rescue mission in the Philippines was a glorious success, with over 500 soldiers being liberated and borne out of the camp on ox carts. Please let 2019 be a year when you pray more to God than ever. As Pastor Dan has said, a good pattern is ACTS (Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, Supplication). Prayer works. Really.

Judy Melton, R.N., F.C.N.

540-955-4089



BAPTIST RASCALS

IF IT EVER STOPS SNOWING, WE WILL BE BACK TO AN EVERY OTHER WEEK PRACTICE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WE HAVE SCHEDULED A PROGRAM AT STRASBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY JANUARY 27 AT 5 PM AND AN AFTERNOON PROGRAM IN WARREN COUNTY IN LATE APRIL.

PRACTICES ARE BEGINNING FOR THE MISSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO IN JUNE. IF YOU ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH ON ONE OF THOSE SUNDAYS, YOU MIGHT HEAR "EL ES DIOS" COMING FROM THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT.

CARIBBEAN DINNER

WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TO SHARE OUR LARGEST FUND RAISER OF THE YEAR ON SATURDAY, MARCH 9 STARTING AT 5 PM. THE MISSION TEAM WILL HOLD "A CARIBBEAN MEAL" AT ENDERS FIRE HALL. THERE WILL BE FOOD TO SUIT EVERYONE'S PREFERENCE, ONGOING PUPPET SONGS, A LIVE PHOTO BOOTH AND SILENT AUCTION. PLEASE PLAN TO MAKE THIS A FUN NIGHT OUT AND SUPPORT OUR MISSION TEAM. IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT A BASKET FOR THE LIVE AUCTION, PLEASE CONTACT A YOUTH MEMBER.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

WE THANK MANY PEOPLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. YOUR CHILDREN WERE ENTHUSIASTIC, THE MUSIC WAS APPRECIATED, THE FOOD AND DECORATIONS WERE AMAZING, AND WE HAD A JOYOUS EVENING TOGETHER.





BACK PACK PROGRAM

Don't forget to bring in bowls of Mac 'n Cheese for our "Back Pack Program" for schools. If you would like to help, bring in Mac and Cheese bowls and place on the bottom shelf of our food rack outside the choir room. Martha Howard will deliver each month to be included with other food staples. Several churches are contributing to fill the need of hungry children identified by our schools. Back packs are sent home each weekend throughout the school year. Thank you for prayers for these children and for helping these programs.



December 27th found Berryville Baptist Church preparing, and serving a delicious lasagna dinner for the Soul-Ful Community Dinner. The Soul-Ful Community Dinner is held on the last Thursday of every month at Duncan Memorial Church. This dinner is sponsored by different churches in the Clarke County Community who prepare and serve the meal. Many thanks to all of our church members who participated. We served over eighty people and the evening was enjoyed by all.



WINCHESTER AREA TEMPORARY THERMAL SHELTER Once again, Berryville Baptist Church participated in the local W.A.T.T.S. program. Clarke County hosted 35 men and women for one week at the Ruritan building. The men and women had warm shelter for the week nights and local churches prepared meals, provided clothes, toiletries and fellowship.

THE MEN'S LOCKER ROOM IS NOT THE PLACE, OR IS IT?

He is a Baptist preacher. Now for thirty six years straight. He preaches what's right and what's wrong. Always with compassion, humility, love. He believes that God loves all people equally regardless of their past, present status, ethnic makeup.

On the Sunday before Christmas, December 23rd, at three in the morning this pastor was wide awake. Getting up he went through a normal set pattern: coffee, cereal, and a shave.

Now it was still only four in the morning. Why not go to the gym? It's open 24-7. Who would be there at such an early hour? Smiling to himself, he thought maybe the attendant on duty would play his favorite classical Christmas music over the speaker system.

Upon arriving, it was still pitch black outside at five a.m. There was one middle-aged man lifting weights over in the corner. The preacher walked into the locker room to change into his standard work-out garb: navy wind pants, sleeveless hoodie sweatshirt, and white Stan Smith tennis shoes.

There he sat. He sat facing the preacher as he entered. Picture the room with lockers on one side, three showers to the back, toilets and sinks to the front on the other side, and a sauna room in the middle with cracking vinyl chairs to its back wall facing out. There he was just sitting. The preacher knew right away he was homeless. He was a rather large man around the middle, in his thirties to early forties, wearing layers of clothing, and trash bags on each side of where he was filled with what one would assume were his belongings.

In only a few hours the preacher would stand in the warmth of a decorated place of worship: poinsettias, fresh wreaths, a twelve-foot Christmas tree, and lit candles in the windows. People would gather wearing their Sunday best, and this preacher in his blue suit, red tartan tie, and white cuff-link shirt.

But not now. Now the preacher thought to himself that this is not right. The locker room is not the place for the homeless. Aren't there safe, guarded shelters? The locker room is not the place for anyone to spend the night.

"I'll speak to the attendant on duty," he thought. "Maybe send a letter to the manager. Will my clothes be safe? I'll keep my keys with me. One can never be too careful. Especially with a homeless man sitting there alone watching, looking. The locker room is not the place, it's not right."

He performed his usual routine. Three sets of twelve reps (that's technical weight lifting jargon) of bench presses, arm curls, and shoulder lifts. Mirrors were on every wall from top to bottom. Weight lifters love to look at themselves.

Then he was done. The workout was finished. As he reentered the locker room to change back and make his way home to dress for church, there he sat. Same person, same chair. It was eerie. The gym was a place to exercise, lift weights, and do cardio. It was not the place for a fat homeless man, wearing layers of clothes, surrounded by trash bags of belongings to spend the night. Someone needed to speak up; say something.

As he walked out past the check-in desk, the night attendant was not there. Forget it the preacher thought to himself. I have more important things to focus on: all the stuff of doing church on the Sunday before Christmas. Helping God's people celebrate the great gift of Christmas.

Moving outside the cold hit him. It was only nineteen degrees in the coldest part of the night before the dawn of a new day. Now the preacher felt a sinking sensation. It was the night attendant who might not darken the door of a church building once during the Christmas season who let this man called homeless spend the night. She knew when he came in, where he was, and how long he stayed. Was it she who took him coffee and biscuits? The preacher had seen the empty bag and coffee cup. She knew and allowed it to happen.

She knew. And the preacher suddenly remembered the words of Jesus, "In as much as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me." On that cold December night it was the attendant who brought a smile to the face of God. The preacher saw and passed by on the other side.

Pastor Dan Stanley

FROM YOUR PASTOR During this winter season please be faithful in your tithes and offerings. I am grateful for your faithful stewardship. The ministry of our church depends on your giving. Please note we are currently having our front doors refurbished. We will also need to have work done on the brick wall to the side of our sanctuary and plaster work on the inside due to a water leak. This work will cost approximately \$12,000.00. Our front doors are original and cannot be replaced.

Thanks, Pastor Dan



PULPIT SWAP Today we are joining with our neighboring churches to observe the Annual Pulpit Exchange. Our guest speaker today is Rev. Jim Smith from Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church. We welcome him to our worship this morning. Your pastor is speaking at Crums United Methodist Church.