



THE VISION

March 2021

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

“In the Garden of Gethsemane” Please read (Luke 22:39-46)

This year, regardless of COVID-19, Easter week begins March 28th with Palm Sunday! Due to the virus, I am not sure if the community will have the Sunrise Service. I believe, whether we worship at VIMS or in the safety of our own homes, we can still celebrate Easter!

Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem included the betrayal night “In the Garden of Gethsemane.” Luke’s account begins with the religious leaders plotting to kill Jesus, followed by Judas Iscariot’s willingness to betray Jesus to those leaders. On this dark night of Satan’s attacks, Jesus has His Last Supper with His disciples and shares His predictions of betrayal and denial by the disciples.

Then we arrive at (Luke 22:39- 46), which is Jesus’ agony in the Garden. Verse 39 tells us that the Mount of Olives is located on the east side of Jerusalem. Geographically, Jesus journey takes Him up the southeast slope to an olive grove called Gethsemane, meaning “oil press.”

Verses 41-42 are crucial! Jesus was not praying to get out of His mission. Jesus is deeply sharing with God about His dreaded upcoming violent arrest, illegal trial, and excruciating crucifixion. How could this agonizing prayer time for Jesus be of help to us?

Jesus was full of pain. We too, feel full of pain and are fearful. Jesus is standing beside us. He is awake and alert to our needs; unlike His disciples who fell asleep in the Garden while Jesus prayed. Jesus knew His future was fixing to be so vicious and threatening that HE begged for a change in His mission. (v.42), “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done.”

Only Doctor Luke (v. 44), records Jesus sweating, as if it were, great drops of blood. Jesus is in extreme agony over our sins. Know this: Jesus did not give up or give in. He went willingly ahead with His mission to seek and to save those who are lost in their sins!

Jesus loves us. Luke is teaching us that on this night, Jesus felt such fear, yet He tenderly shares His personal agony with us. Today, we still wear our face mask to protect us from Covid-19. In (Luke 22), Jesus wears no mask of protection. We are witnessing a request for strength from the Father. Here is our personal encouragement: the very fact that Jesus prayed invites us to do the same! Whatever we face in our dark garden times, Jesus is beside us! We will never be alone! Let us be strong in the Lord as we move forward in our lives.

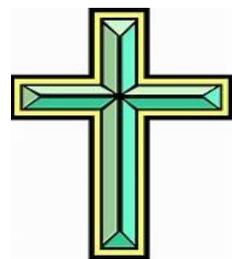
Pastor Bud Goude

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804-642-2555 IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES OR BY EMAIL:
***PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Deacon's Devotional

CALLED BY GOD

Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 4:19, Matthew 22:14

The call of God is not just for a select few, but for everyone. Whether you or I hear God's call depends on our spiritual attitude. (Matthew 22:14) This verse tells us that "many are called, but few are chosen." Those who have been chosen are in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and only those chosen ones hear the call. That is when they hear God asking, "Who will go for us." God does not single out someone and say: "Now you go."

Isaiah was not forced to comply to God's wishes. When he heard the call of God, he responded in complete freedom to say, "Here am I, send me." We so often try to qualify ourselves for service to God. As long as I dwell on my own qualities and traits and think about what I am suited for, I will never hear the call of God.

Isaiah was so attuned to God, because of being God's point man when Israel and Judah turned their backs on God, that the call of God penetrated his soul.

When God called His disciples, he did it without irresistible pressure from the outside. His quiet and passionate insistence to "Follow me" was spoken to men who were willing to heed His call. If we will allow the Holy Spirit to bring us face-to-face with God, we will also hear what Isaiah heard: "The voice of the Lord." We will say, without reservation: "Here am I: send me."

Jimmy Diggs

What's Happening In The WMU



Clean Up...Clean Out...And Help Others In The Process

We will be collecting clothing to donate to the Newington Baptist Clothes Closet Ministry during March and April. Newington collects and distributes all kinds of clothing free of charge to anyone needing it. Please only bring in clean clothing in good repair for men, women or children. You may leave the items in the bin in WMU bulletin board area. Thank you for helping us show and share God's love with our community.



Valentines Day Fun

On Sunday, February 14th your Women's Missionary Union (WMU) cooked and delivered a holiday meal for eight church shut-ins and their caregivers (16 lunches). Chili, muffins, salad and chocolate pie were on the menu. Laraine Sentz & Sharon Warren were leaders and various W.M.U. members contributed food and delivered the meals. Thank you ladies!!



Deacon of the Week

3/7-Debra Wood
 3/14-Sonya Anthony
 3/21-David Crummett
 3/28-Jimmy Diggs

Nursery Workers

3/7-H. Warren/TBD
 3/14-L. Walton/B. DeRosa
 3/21-Jamie/Bailey Moore
 3/28-H. Warren/A. Zepada

March Ushers

Sonya Anthony
 Stan Gandee
 Jamie Moore
 Stewart Wood



**CHURCH
 WORKERS**

March Tellers

Tommy Ashe
 Buddy Hogge

Sun. Sch. Nursery

Sharon/Howard Warren

Older Children's Church

3/7-TBD
 3/14-J. Hall/S. McElfresh
 3/21-M. McNeil/D. Gandee
 3/28-Emma Crawford

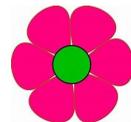
Younger Children's Church

3/7-Mike/Sarah Zipf
 3/14-N. Dyson/S. Anthony
 3/21-D. Goude/J. Marshall
 3/28-M. Wagner/R. Wells



Easter Crosses

Would you like to place a cross on the cross in Memory or in Honor of a Loved One? The donations for the crosses will go to support Benevolence. A cross can be placed for a minimum of a \$5.00 donation, but more will gladly be accepted. The Deadline will be Thursday, 4/1/21 and the crosses will be placed on the cross as the donations are received. The Cross Contributors List will be included in the Easter bulletin. Place your form & payment in the labeled box in the Narthex. Contact Paulette Ashe at 642-3251 for questions. Thanks for your generosity!



**“The Mission Moves Forward”
 Annie Armstrong Offering, March 7 - 14th, 2021
 GPBC Goal = \$3,000.00**

North America is a mission field of complex cultures and diverse religious practices. Missionaries here face challenges from secularism to language barriers to a historic health crisis. Yet, in spite of all the obstacles, God's mission always moves forward. Your partnership helps make it possible. With your support, thousands of missionaries are resourced to serve unreached communities and make an eternal impact.

What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) is the primary way we support mission efforts in North America. **One hundred percent** of gifts given to AAEO are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries serving across the United States and Canada.

Where Does Your Money Go?

Every gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering – 100 percent – goes to train, resource and send thousands of missionaries involved in church planting and compassion ministries across the United States, Canada, and their territories. Our partnership with Southern Baptist Convention churches and individuals makes this work possible.

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”
 1 Corinthians 15:58



Sunday Schedule
(during COVID)

Sunday School (All Ages)—cancelled
Worship Service—11:00 am
C.A.R.E. Ministry—cancelled
Youth Ministry—5:00 pm

Wednesday Schedule
(during COVID)

6:00pm: Children's Ministry
Online Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
7:00pm: Choir Practice

March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Bldg & Grounds Mtg 7:00pm	2	3	4	5	6
7*** Youth Council Meeting 12:00pm Deacon Mtg 3pm	8***	9***	10***	11***	12***	13***
14*** Children's Council Meeting 12:00pm AHG Event 1:00pm Daylight Savings Time Ends	15 American Heritage Girls 6:30pm Vision Articles Due	16 Armstrong Circle 6:30pm	17 Team Kid St. Patrick's Day Celebration 6:00pm 	18	19	20 Youth Movie Night 6:30pm Spring Begins
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28  Palm Sunday	29 American Heritage Girls 6:30pm	30	31			

***Annie Armstrong North
American Missions 3/7-3/14

March Birthdays:

Sarah Saunders 3/6
Tammy Greggs 3/8
Heidi Gibbons 3/9
Brayden Wagner 3/10
Connie Stewart 3/12
Stan Gandee 3/12
Patricia Ezzell 3/20
Linda Breaks 3/21
Joanne Shackelford 3/22
Kristi Patton 3/24
Jeanne Thompson 3/28
Bill Cahoon 3/29

Anniversaries:

L.T. & Rachel Wells 3/5
Kendall & Lorraine Sentz 3/7
Derick & Jennifer Hall 3/11