
March 2023 Volume 48, Issue 3

The Dove

Newsletter of the Mill Creek Baptist Church, 11475 Lee Highway, Fincastle, VA 24090, (540) 992-3474, office@millcreekbc.com

As God Grows His Church

In my daily Bible reading, I have recently been reminded of God's commands to Moses concerning the tent of meeting. That place was where the Israelites would go to offer sacrifices and meet with God. As you read through Exodus and Leviticus, it can seem repetitive when it comes to the specific details God went into concerning the size of everything, what things were to be made of, along with the details in the curtains, coverings, lampstands, and every other thing that went into the construction and use of the tent. Where I can so often get bogged down in the details, I am reminded that God is a God of order and detail, and He gave those specific instructions for specific reasons. I think one of the main reasons was because the place the people offered their sacrifices and worshiped Him was very important to Him. He knew it would become important to them and that it would help to set them apart from the other nations.

There are several times in Leviticus where we read, ***"You must keep My Sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am Yahweh."*** To ***"revere"*** something is to have a deep respect or admiration for that thing. In these instances, the "thing" to be revered was God's sanctuary. Today, church sanctuaries come in all kinds of shapes, sizes, and looks. From the first time I worshiped here at Mill Creek, I quickly realized that there was something special about our sanctuary. Since becoming the pastor, I have come to appreciate the history our sanctuary represents and the detail that the original building committee of eleven people went into as they met to plan and prepare for the construction of our current sanctuary. Over the past one hundred-twelve-years, others have sought to maintain the sanctuary that we enjoy, and we need to continue to take care of it for those who come after us.

I want to extend a special thanks to all who helped make the Sanctuary "facelift" possible. From the donor who provided the funds, to members of the property committee that helped move items from the vestibule, and the "music team" who helped take down speakers and monitors to get the sanctuary ready. Some of our younger "strong men" moved the pump organ from the vestibule to what will soon become our "History" room. All these hands helped to prepare for the sanctuary work to take place and now it has. If you haven't yet taken the time to look at it all, walk around and take notice of the fresh paint in the baptistry, sanctuary, the side entrance hall to the sanctuary, the vestibule, stairwell going up to the balcony and balcony, as well as, the fresh stain on the cross. It's all so pretty! Even though much of the work has been done, there are still some other things that will happen so keep your eyes open.

There is a team of folks working on creating a "History" room which is located at the end of the office hall in what was once a preschool room. It is now a large walk-through area to get to the elevator and back stairwell. When this room is complete, we will be able to see some of the historical artifacts, pictures and information concerning Mill Creek since its humble beginnings in 1804.

As God continues to bless and build His church at Mill Creek during this season in her history, we have another opportunity facing us. That is our parking. Let me say "Thank you" to Lewis Sifford who for some time now has graciously tolerated folks parking across the street at the entrance to their family sawmill. We are currently working on some alternative parking areas to help keep folks from having to cross Route 11 and to make room for all who come to Bible study and worship. The properties committee is looking into creating some parking spaces between Blue Ridge Turnpike and the church. We are also looking at the possibility of creating some parking spaces behind the apartments on property we don't own but the Barkett's, who do own it, have given us permission to use. If you were here during the construction of the fellowship hall building, you are already familiar with where I am talking about. We want to continually make room for those God brings our way! Parking farther away from the building and walking are a form of sacrifice for others. I hope you will consider things you can do to help make room as God grows His church here at Mill Creek.

Grace and Peace,
Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30 Service Nursery Workers

March 5 Debbie Rago & Clara Holland
 March 12 Debbie Rago & Anne Simmons
 March 19 Debbie Rago & Teresa Witt
 March 26 Debbie Rago & Travis Holland

9:30 Sunday School Nursery Workers

March 5 Sue Lee & Sandra Kidd
 March 12 Sue Lee & Kayla Anhold
 March 19 Sue Lee & Annette Shaw
 March 26 Sue Lee & Ned Jeter

10:45 Service Nursery Workers

March 5 Sue Lee & Kelly Olson
 March 12 Kayla Anhold & Jess Hayden
 March 19 Elizabeth Elmore & Chelsea King
 March 26 Sue Lee & Sandra Kidd

Preschool Workers (8:30 Service/10:45 Service)

March 5 Kelly Focht/Luke Winand
 March 12 Jennifer Simmons/Rachel Witt
 March 19 Cindy Holland/Melanie Thacker
 March 26 Jordan Lawrence/Nikki Cook

8:30 Service Greeters

Fellowship Hall, Child Care, Sanctuary

March 5 Pat Shotwell, Heather Gilliland, Donna Crawford
 March 12 Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, Bertha Brugh
 March 19 Jerry Sweet, Sue Sweet, Pam Gibson
 March 26 Vickie Martin, Mike Clement, Mary Clement

10:45 Service Greeters

Fellowship Hall, Child Care, Sanctuary

March 5 Kristi Berry, Jack Berry, Ryan Markham
 March 12 Sandy Moore, Donnie Johnson, Melissa Peery
 March 19 Johnny Morris, Pam Morris, Donna Lucas
 March 26 Donna Mack, Donnie Johnson, Wayne, Lynette,
 Hannah & Grace Ferguson

8:30 Ushers

March 5 Pat Shotwell, Donna Crawford
 March 12 Judy Prease, Jeff Gibson
 March 19 Jerry Sweet, Sue Sweet
 March 26 Mike Clement, Mary Clement

10:45 Ushers

March 5 Melissa Peery, Bill Wagner
 March 12 Donnie Johnson, Bill Wagner
 March 19 Johnny Morris, Pam Morris
 March 26 Donna Mack, Donnie Johnson

Counting

March 5 Heather Gilliland & Jimmy Brugh
 March 12 Lesa Mabe & Regarna Pannell
 March 19 Marty Martin & Nancy Epperly
 March 26 Melissa Cook & Mary Bowser

Our Kingdom Giving

| | SS | 8:30am Worship | 10:45am Worship | Regular Offering | Building Fund |
|-------------|-----|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| January 29 | 179 | 151 | 180 | \$9,524.00 | \$1,032.00 |
| February 5 | 186 | 146 | 144 | \$11,173.00 | \$1,535.00 |
| February 12 | 173 | 110 | 138 | \$10,141.00 | \$1,685.00 |
| February 19 | 157 | 140 | 137 | \$7,716.00 | \$1,272.00 |
| February 26 | 176 | 130 | 133 | \$6,979.00 | \$885.00 |

Remember that we need a combined \$12,270/week in regular offering and building gifts to meet our budget needs.

Happy March Birthday!

- 1 Brooke Boone
Kelsey Firebaugh
- 2 John Dennis Caldwell
Stacey Brugh
- 4 Scott Basham
- 5 Kaeli Berry
- 6 Judy Lee
- 7 Leonard Montgomery
- 9 Andy Shotwell
- 10 Paul Kreklow
- 11 Joyce Mandeville
Eli Johnson
Abby Humphries
Lexington Olson
- 12 Sissy Simpson
Adam Bowser
Carson Cook
Joy Nickelston
- 13 Dylan Mack
Mike Fridley
- 16 Grace Witt
- 17 Gail McCampbell
Emma Johnson
Pat Wertz
- 18 Clara Simmons
- 20 Buck Ferguson
- 21 Dana Kreklow
- 23 Jacob Barnard
Griffin King
- 24 Kevin Marshall
- 25 Robin Erickson
- 26 Kenzie Anhold
Jacob Holdren
Isaiah Moran
- 27 Josh Witt
- 28 Ann Elkins
Ashleigh Kritzberger
Jerry Sweet
- 29 Kelly Denison
- 30 Jennifer Simmons
- 31 Matthew Mandeville
Tessa Blair



**SPRING FORWARD
2023**

MUSIC NOTES.....



Thank you for all the warm wishes and congratulations you have showered on Philip and me in the birth of Miss Ripley June Hayden. We are now blessed with not only 2 grandsons, Wayland and Graham, but with our new granddaughter! We highly recommend being grandparents. It's the best!

The Adult Choir is working on a beautiful Easter Cantata entitled "Closer to the Cross". It has traditional music as well as new songs and more contemporary songs as well. The Adult Choir as well as the kid's choir will also be sharing at the Maundy Thursday service on April 6th.

Our K-5th grade children are meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30pm and are working hard on their speaking parts, songs, solos and motions for the songs for our Spring Musical in May. We are working hard but still having lots of fun!

We will be having a VERY SPECIAL Music Day on Sunday, March 12th at both services. You don't want to miss this great day of worship through music!

Don't forget to stop by the Missions Fair on Sunday, March 19th during the Sunday School hour and check out the Music booth for any information you might need to join our music ministry.

Psalm 98:1 "Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has performed wonders; His right hand and holy arm have won Him victory".

For His Glory,
Cindie

I would like to thank Mill Creek Baptist Church for my beautiful prayer blanket. A thank you to all the loving hands who prayed with each knot while creating my blanket. I absolutely love wrapping myself in it. Thank you again so much! The colors are perfect too!

Love,
Kathleen Ulrich



Dear Mill Creek,

Thank you so much for allowing me to come speak on January 29. It was an unbelievable experience to be able to share my testimony with my home church and be surrounded by so many people that love and care about me. And thank you all so much for your generosity towards my ministry at the luncheon! Mill Creek is truly a special place that I am proud to be a part of.

Thank you again,
Haley Shotwell



I would like to thank my Mill Creek Church family for the cards, calls, visits, prayers and the prayer blanket brought to the hospital for my unplanned stay. I was very fortunate that it was not as serious as we thought. I still have an upcoming test and maybe another hospital stay but should be a short one. I can say that it is comforting to know that we have church family to rely on in difficult times.

Donna Crawford

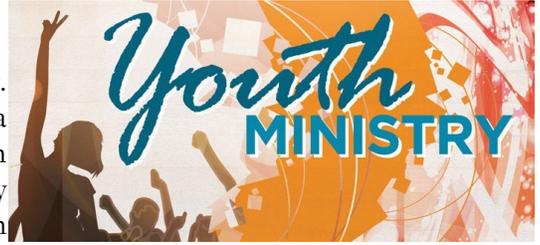


Congratulations to Ben & Jess Hayden on the birth of their baby girl, Ripley June, on January 30. Ripley weighed 9lbs. 5oz. and was 20 1/2 inches long. Proud grandparents are Philip & Cindie Hayden and Larry & Lisa Sumpter.



Prayer Matters!

Prayer has been one of the hottest topics in our society recently. The collapse of Damar Hamlin during an NFL game spurred a lot of conversations about prayer. This renewed interest in prayer led to Dan Orlovsky, an ESPN commentator, boldly praying on national television. The broader cultural conversation about prayer created a great backdrop for our series on the Lord's Prayer. This series really helped our students understand prayer and what the Lord's Prayer means.



Over our four-week series, we discussed what Jesus meant when he said "hallowed be your name" or "give us this day our daily bread." Overall, it has been encouraging to see how God is growing our students spiritually during this series!

During the month of February, the Mill Creek Youth had a fun trip to Winterplace to go skiing. It was a perfect opportunity for our students to enjoy a day on the slopes with friends. Events like these are a great time for students to make connections with each other and with youth leaders. It is often in moments like waiting in line or riding a ski lift that a lot of true ministry happens! If you have not joined us for youth activities, there are a lot of things coming up!

On March 3rd, we will have our annual Lock-in. The Lock-in will take place at church from 8:04pm-7:47am. We will go bowling, we will have pizza and snacks throughout the night, and there will be games and activities. Also in the month of March, we will be doing our annual envelope fundraiser. This fundraiser helps support student activities throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider giving to this fundraiser to help support our youth ministries.

On April 21st through 23rd, our youth are going to participate in a retreat called Jamarama with Bonsack Baptist. This retreat will be held at Camp Eagle. During this weekend, we will participate in service projects throughout the valley and hear solid preaching. Worship will be led by Virginia Tech Baptist Campus Ministries band. Please pray that God would use this weekend to help our students grow deeper in their faith!

In Christ,
Joel Elmore

Baked Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner

Saturday, March 25

4:00—6:00pm

At Limestone Park

\$10

Meals will include baked spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert.

All proceeds will benefit Limestone Park Ministries.

Contact Tommy Moore, Nancy Epperly, Pat Shotwell or Dawn Montgomery for tickets.



Welcome New Members

Herb Grisso joins by transfer of letter and Donna Grisso joins by baptism. Their address is 3450



*Welcome
To our Church*

Wheatland Rd., Fincastle, 24090.

Wayne & Sandy Myers join by transfer of letter. Their address is 228 Sanderson Ridge Ct., Roanoke, 24019.

Our church family rejoices in their decisions.

From the Deacons' Desk

Love Others

A Christian's love for others should mirror Christ's love for us. Because of His great love for us, He died for us so that we might live. Our love for others should be a compassionate love that goes beyond affection to self-sacrificing service. Because God is love, I cannot love and follow Jesus without loving and serving others. If I am fully surrendered to Him, my life will reflect a servant's heart.

We serve Jesus as we serve others. You might be like me sometimes, unsure where to serve. First, pray and seek God's direction. Then consider right where you are, and how God wants you to serve.

We are commissioned by Jesus to love our neighbor as ourself. This includes family, church family, friends, co-workers and our literal neighbors; the folks in our surrounding community whether we know them or not. There are endless and simple ways we can have a servant's heart. Jesus has called us to love others and be His hands and feet. Do others see Christ in you?

"Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children. And walk in love, as the Messiah also loved us and gave Himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

Tony Holdren
Deacon Chair



Dearest Pastor Quirin and the Congregation of Mill Creek Baptist Church,

On behalf of the BRC, Inc. Board of Directors and myself, I thank you for your continuing partnership and support of both the Center and the Interfaith Crisis Fund. It is a privilege to partner with you in our mission of connecting Botetourt residents to needed human resources. Your support helps us to continue offering existing programs that help those who are struggling the most and are the most vulnerable.



We thank you for your very generous donation of \$3000 to the BRC and for your equally generous donation of \$500 to the Crisis Fund.

Together we do make a difference in lives!

Love in Christ,
Melissa Lucas
President

P.S. Please pass along a huge "Thank you" for all the senior goodies everyone collected! We added to the Soup for Senior bags & they were overflowing—what a blessing!
Thank you!!

**Baptist Women's
Night Group
(BWNG)
Monday, March 13th
at 6:00pm**

All are welcome to hear Pastor Chuck Miller of Wheatland Lutheran Church as he speaks at our potluck dinner meeting on Monday, March 13 at 6:00 pm. He will talk about the partnership with Feeding Southwest Virginia in helping provide food to families in our area. He will be ready to answer questions about how we can help be a part of this ministry.

**FEEDING
AMERICA®
Southwest Virginia**



What Will You Give Up for HIM?

Spring, new outfits, new summer shoes, chocolate bunnies, coloring eggs, Easter baskets and Oh, the Easter Bunny. The things of Easter we see in stores and on TV.

But along with these various things, there is also a season known as LENT. Lent represents the 40 days leading up to Easter. The number forty is found in a variety of places throughout the Bible. Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mt. Sinai with God receiving the law and the Ten Commandments. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. After his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for 40 days to prepare for his ministry.

So, what is the definition of Lent? Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

Lent is a time of self-examination, repentance, fasting, reflection and preparation for the coming of Easter.

Repentance: to experience sorrow for and seek to change wrong behavior. Jeremiah 15:19

Fasting: to abstain from food. Psalm 35:13 These days, Christians around the world observe Lent in many ways. Some will choose to give up a specific item for Lent, more commonly a 'luxury' such as chocolate, or eating out. It is also becoming increasingly common for people to give up other things, such as watching TV, going to the gym or social media, in order to refocus their faith during this time.

Preparation for Easter: How will you and your family prepare for Easter during the season of Lent? Will you give up your favorite soda, favorite fast-food meal once a week, sweets, 30 minutes of your cell phone, social media or whatever takes you away from God. The true purpose of fasting is to empty us of one thing so that God can fill that place. One way to focus on Him during Lent is that every time you desire whatever you are fasting from, allow it to turn your attention toward God and what Christ accomplished on the cross.

Heavenly Father, open up our minds and hearts to You, Mold us, Father, to be that light on the hill that You would have us to be. Amen

Sue Sweet

Deacon Prayer Team

Daytime Mission Group (WMU) Meeting Tuesday, March 14th at 10am

Are you interested in hearing the latest about the Southwest Virginia Mission Trip? Then, you will want to join the Daytime Mission Group and learn about this recent ministry in Lee, Scott, and Russell Counties. Time will also be spent learning about North American missionaries who are supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. A potluck lunch will be enjoyed following the meeting. Please come! Contact Judy Deel (540.759.1914) for more information.

Soup for Seniors

Thanks to all who donated the canned goods and other food items for our annual Soup for Seniors collection. Our donations filled two and a half grocery carts and were distributed to needy seniors in our area. Many thanks to all for your generosity!

Dominican Republic Dessert Auction 2023

Once Again....God Provided Immeasurably MORE!

Going Once, Going Twice, SOLD! The 2023 Dominican Republic Dessert Auction was a God sized success.

There are not words to describe our gratitude to all those who attended and those who donated auction items and those who purchased items and those who were our awesome auctioneers. It was a wonderful time of fellowship which provided "immeasurably more".



The Dessert Auction, which benefits **Preescolar Cristiano Brisas del Este in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic**, is about so much more than the items that are auctioned. **It is a beautiful picture of the faithful giving of believers who want to change the lives of children and their families 1500 miles away, \$300 per child per year, one child at a time.**

It is easy to see how those who have seen the beautiful faces of those who live in poverty in the barrios of Brisas del Este would be willing to give so sacrificially...but most who support this preschool and these children have not stepped foot into the country. You respond faithfully every year to give a child a chance, not only for a better life as they break the cycle of poverty, but for an opportunity to personally know Jesus Christ as their Lord and be forever changed. And for this there is no way to adequately say **Thank You - for your time, your participation, your incredible talent baking/canning/jellying/woodworking/quilting/cooking, your bidding...GRACIAS! GRACIAS! GRACIAS!**

God has entrusted us with this opportunity to partner with Him in this ministry and you have responded faithfully and generously. The cost to operate the preschool is just under \$24,000. As of this writing, **\$31,130 has been donated** through the auction bids, luncheon and additional donations. 100% of this goes to the preschool - the preschool where they teach with love, dedication and patience.



But it's "just" a preschool one may think, where for just a while children can be nourished, educated and taught about God's love. While that alone would give a young child a foundation, God chooses to use this ministry to do **IMMEASURABLY MORE**. Ernan and his wife have partnered with others to provide **medical care, physical food, spiritual food, clothes, shoes, scholarships** to attend primary and secondary school and an **after school program** to help with homework for primary school aged children. This school year God has entrusted 142 children to the care at Brisas. Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays they work with 4 year olds which includes 34 boys and 35 girls. Then on Thursdays and Fridays the 3 year olds attend which include 35 boys and 38 girls. In addition to the Preschool, Ernan leads a **church that is thriving** because of the care he and Cinthya provide the community. It is thriving to the point that they are in need of more chairs and more space. The church is absolutely packed! So know that your very generous gifts will be multiplied. **Only God! To HIM be the honor and glory!**

Our team will be going to the DR March 25- April 1. Please be in prayer for our team as we travel and minister at the preschool and other locations in and around Santo Domingo.

Please continue to pray for Ernan and Cinthya and their work in Santo Domingo. Consider going in 2024.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20

The Dominican Republic Mission Team



MINISTRY FAIR

connect · grow · serve
Sunday, March 19
9:30—10:45am
In the fellowship hall
(No Adult or Youth Sunday School)

The aim of this fair is to promote Sunday School classes, ministries, and missions at Mill Creek. Please come and learn more about our different opportunities to connect, grow and serve. You will also have a chance to win some baked goods!

3rd Sunday
Mission Meal
Sunday, March 19
9:30—10:30am

Hosted by the Standing Rock Mission Team

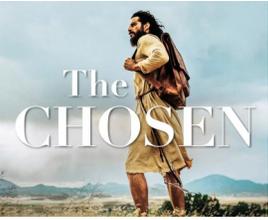
Menu:
 Eggs, sausage, sausage gravy, biscuits, and pancakes.

Eat in or take out.

All proceeds will go toward the Standing Rock Mission Team's mission trip in July.



The Chosen - Season 3
Tuesdays beginning April 11
9:30am & 6:30pm
At Mill Creek



We all have to choose: the wide road that leads to destruction or the narrow path that leads to life. The third season of the groundbreaking television show, *The Chosen*, picks up with how Jesus' followers apply His teaching to their lives.

Debbie Quirin will lead this eight-lesson interactive Bible study that works in tandem with each episode of the show. In modeling "the narrow road that leads to life" it includes: forgiving the way Jesus does, going when and where He says to go, grieving what He grieves, standing firm on His words and character, delighting in the things that please Him, asking because He says to, welcoming those He welcomes, trusting His will and way. You will be challenged to move from knowing who Jesus is to living out your faith by going the way of the Chosen.

Previous participation in Seasons 1 & 2 are not required! *The Chosen Season 3* books are available for preorder on Amazon for \$17.99. If you don't have Amazon Prime to get free shipping, you may contact Debbie at (540)529-0947 or deborahq9@gmail.com and she will order a book for you.

Music Sunday
March 12
8:30am & 10:45am

Join us for a service of special music and testimonies provided by the Mill Creek Praise Team.

Closer to the Cross
Celebrating the Journey of Christ
Sunday, April 2
8:30am & 10:45am

Presented by our Adult Easter Choir



Closer to the Cross will remind us of the agony that Christ endured on His way to the cross, while also declaring the power of His resurrection.

"If, then, there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:1-2 (CSB)

What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?

The offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the gospel.

Week of Prayer

The Week of Prayer for North American missions is annually observed by SBC churches to pray for missionaries, their ministries and their families. Prayer is the fuel for spiritually sustaining missionaries in places where the gospel is greatly needed, but often opposed. Prayer guides will be available in the bulletins on Sunday, March 5.

The Mission Field

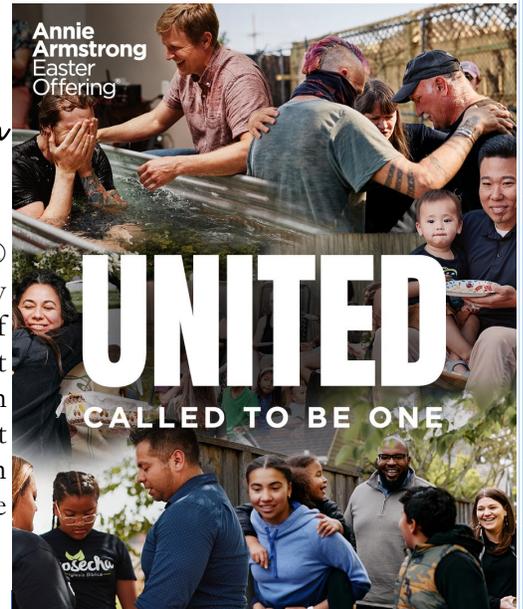
The North American Mission Board serves a diverse and complex region comprised of the United States, Canada and the territories of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

—Population: 371 million—Languages: 350—Estimated lost: 281 million

Your Gifts at Work

100% of your Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts support more than 2,400 missionaries across North America. Because of this, Southern Baptist churches have planted more than 9,400 churches in North America since 2010.

The NAMB's national goal is \$70 million. Mill Creek's goal is \$2500. Offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule and at the fellowship hall entrance. You may give online by going to our website, millcreekbc.com, and clicking on the GIVE tab.



**Week of Prayer
for North American Missions
March 5—12
Our Church Goal: \$2500**



WE LOVE BOOKS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who purchased books, cleaned out their children's bookshelves and donated to see that the team from Mill Creek and the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association had all the children's books that they will need to take to Southwest Virginia.

Our children on Wednesday night had a contest collecting books. They had the most fun counting the books each week! Since they ALL worked so hard and the numbers were SO close, ALL groups were treated with ice cream sandwiches!

The children (and their supporters) collected a total of 851 books!!! Most important though is that hopefully when our children pick up a book to read they will have a glimpse of how blessed they are. Maybe they will remember how they helped less fortunate children just a few hours away (the real winners of the contest).

2023 Southwest Virginia Partnership Mission Trip March 5 – 9

Over the past dozen years or more, Mill Creek folks have been a key part of the RVBA WMU's mission trip to Southwest Virginia. The first week of March, fifteen from our church will be joining others from churches across the Roanoke Valley to minister to our neighbors in Southwest Virginia. Please pray for our Mill Creek team members -- Peggy and Gino Arbogast, John Caldwell, Judy Deel, Mary Deel, Don Ditzler, Don Epperly, Chad Epperly, Matt and Jill Ferguson, Mary Hinman, Bruce Lightner, Bill Potter, Danny Quirin, and Debbie Rago.

Many of these will be delivering books, Bibles, and toiletries to school children in nine different elementary schools in Lee, Scott, and Russell Counties. Others will be helping to improve the home environments of those in need. Volunteers will also be providing the all important task of support by preparing meals and packing books and ditty bags for delivery to schools. All will be sharing God's love in tangible ways.

Our church has been very supportive of this mission trip. On February 26th, Ditty Bag Sunday, we collected about \$1900 to help with personal hygiene items and other needs. Some shopped to buy personal hygiene items to fill ditty bags. Our children and adults collected books to share with children who will be visited. Thanks to all who demonstrated your love and concern for others by giving!

You can continue to be a vital part of this ministry by praying. Pray for safety as the team travels and works. Pray for those who live in Southwest Virginia who struggle financially or may be dealing with drug abuse. Pray that Christ's love will be evident to all that the team encounters.



Operation Christmas Child Opportunity List

| | |
|------------------|--|
| January | Soap, Washcloths, Soap Boxes, Etc. |
| February | Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Etc. |
| March | Stuffed Animals, Stuffed Dolls, Etc. |
| April | Fashion Accessories: Hair, Jewelry, Sunglasses, Sewing Kits, Etc. |
| May | Quality Crafts |
| June | Personal Care: Combs, Brushes, Toothbrushes, Soap, Etc. |
| July | Quality Toys: Soccer balls with pumps, Barbie dolls, Etc. |
| August | School Supplies: August 4-6 tax free, school supplies, clothes & shoes |
| September | Clothes: Shoes, Socks, Underwear, Etc. |
| October | Letter Writing & Photos to Share |
| November | \$\$\$ Donations for Shipping & Handling |
| December | Prayers |

Pop Tops for Ronald McDonald House

Save your **POP TOPS** from cans including soda, soup and pet food for Ronald McDonald House!



Grab a house box or jar in the Fellowship Hall lobby and start collecting! Or, collect in a plastic bag or shoe box, or any container you like and bring them to church to add to our collection.

POP TOPS will be turned into our Roanoke Ronald McDonald house and will help to support people and their families who are experiencing critical medical issues.

This is a simple but significant way to help others in their time of need.

If you have questions, please contact Susan Rose Ditzler at 540-797-8430 and, Thanks!



Extended Preschool

What is Extended Preschool? This is the time when our Preschoolers leave the Worship Service (Early and Late) and have a Bible Story, snack and movie so mom and dad can participate in the worship service. We are very grateful for our volunteers who help facilitate this time. If you would like to get plugged in on Sunday mornings, please contact Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.



Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers



February is always an exciting time for our Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers as we celebrate Valentine's Day!

This year the kids celebrated by making Ice Cream sundaes and playing Valentine bingo. They also decorated their Valentine bags during craft time and the leaders filled their bags with Valentines for them to take home. Ms. Debbie made them Valentine cookies for a special sweet treat, too! During missions, we had special guests one

Wednesday night as Anzhelika and Ihor spoke to the children about the Ukraine. Music has been lots of fun as we have been learning Bible verses with motions put to music.

March will find us busy, busy, busy and we will begin to learn about the Fruit of the Spirit as well as memorize John 3:16. So, if you have or know a child who is 2 years old through 5th grade, please invite them to join us. We eat supper at 6pm and then activities start at 6:30pm. Kids are picked up at 7:30.



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 1

11:00am—1:00pm

Our egg hunt will be held at Mill Creek on April 1st with a rain date of April 8th for our Mill Creek and Child Care children. We will meet in the sanctuary for the Easter story at 11:00am. We will have hot dogs, chips and cupcakes.

We need filled Easter Eggs! Empty eggs will be available for you to pick up and fill. They will be located at the sanctuary, fellowship hall and child care entrances. You may place your filled eggs in the boxes marked "filled eggs" at the entrances.

To the Directors of Children's Ministry and Leaders of Mill Creek Baptist Church,

I want to take this time to thank you for the Advent Bag during the advent time. Yes I enjoyed unwrapping each and every day celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Jesus loves you and we do too!

Love in Christ,

Betty & Steve Swanson



WORD SEARCH

J O D U J Z U B D P R P A O L X R K N O D D Y U H
 P M P N C N M C N N N V J G P W R O X L P Q D D Y
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 X I P I A L A S K A N E W F O U N D L A N D X I A

Letters
 Give
 Pray
 Gospel
 Missions

Church Planting
 Compassion Ministry
 United
 Nebraska
 Alaska

Newfoundland
 New Orleans
 South Dakota
 Portland
 New York City

Twin Cities
 Annie Armstrong
 North America
 Baltimore



March 2023



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | 1 5:30pm Whole Notes Choir Practice (K-5) 5:45pm - 6:20pm Prayer Meeting 6:00pm Supper for Children 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study 7:35pm Adult Choir | 2 | 3 8:04pm Youth Lock-in Begins | 4 7:47am Youth Lock-in Ends |
| 5 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Worship 9:10am - 9:40am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship | 6 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions | 7 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 9:30am "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" Women's Study 6:30pm "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" Women's Study | 8 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 5:30pm Whole Notes Choir Practice (K-5) 6:00pm Supper for Children 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir | 9 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions | 10 Week of Prayer for North American Missions | 11 Week of Prayer for North American Missions |
| 12 Daylight Savings Time Begins Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Music Worship 9:10am - 9:40am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Music Worship 12:00pm Deacons Mtg. | 13 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall | 14 9:30am "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" Women's Study 10:00am Daytime Mission Group in Randy Daniels Room 6:30pm "Forgiving What You Can't Forget" Women's Study | 15 Newsletter Articles Due 5:30pm Whole Notes Choir Practice (K-5) 6:00pm Supper for Children 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 VBS Commitment Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:10am - 9:40am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Ministry Fair, Children's Sunday School & 3rd Sunday Mission Meal 10:45am Worship | 20 | 21 | 22 5:30pm Whole Notes Choir Practice (K-5) 6:00pm Supper for Children 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir | 23 | 24 | 25 DR Mission Trip 4:00pm - 6:00pm Baked Spaghetti Fundraiser Dinner @ Limestone Park |
| 26 DR Mission Trip 8:30am Worship 9:10am - 9:40am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship | 27 DR Mission Trip | 28 DR Mission Trip | 29 DR Mission Trip No Wednesday Evening Activities | 30 DR Mission Trip | 31 DR Mission Trip | |

Mill Creek Baptist Church
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(540) 992-3474

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Return Service Requested

**Mill Creek Baptist Church
Ministers... the Congregation**

Pastor.....Danny Quirin
Minister of Music..... Cindie Hayden
Minister of Youth & Discipleship.....Joel Elmore
Director of Children's Ministry.....Peggy Arbogast
Pianist.....Marcia Neighbors
Administrative Assistant.....Sandra Kidd



Save the Date!
VBS 2023
July 16-20



At "Stellar" VBS, kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light in everyday life. "Stellar" is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear and touch. Fun crafts, team-building games and cool Bible songs are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

As you are planning your 2023 vacations, please remember to keep this week open! It is going to be an amazing week of **shining Jesus' light!!** Please be praying about how you can participate in one of our largest community outreach opportunities. **VBS Commitment Sunday will be March 19!**

**March Collection
for Operation
Christmas Child**

Stuffed Animals,
Stuffed Dolls, etc.

Stuffed "friends"
for shoeboxes

