

Being Prudent People

As you have probably noticed, there are **security cameras and electronic door access panels** located in and around our facility. This system was presented by our Safety Team, discussed, and approved at our church business meeting in November. Here are a few reasons why the system is a much needed and welcomed improvement....

- First, **don't think of this as "Big Brother"** watching your every move. **The main purpose of the system is to record what takes place in and around our facility.** Even what is recorded will only be kept for a certain amount of time before being recorded over. This is a "closed system" which means it cannot be accessed from an outside source or from the internet. All recordings are kept on a hard drive on our premises and not "in the cloud".
- **There is no "central monitor" that someone will be watching.** The Safety Team will use a tablet to monitor entrances & parking lots on Sunday mornings. Our church office will use a tablet during the week to monitor the fellowship hall entrance to let people in as we have in the past.
- **You all can be scary!** There have been times when we are working in the office and have no idea that someone has entered the building. Suddenly we get that uneasy feeling that we are being watched only to look up from what we are doing, and someone is standing in the doorway staring at us! Trust me...it makes our hearts skip a beat. **This system will alert us to the fact that someone has entered the building.**
- **With the increase in hate crimes toward places of worship in the US,** having this system may help keep someone from doing something harmful. It's kind of like having a dog at home or a sign in your yard that says, "This home is protected by... Security Company". These things help protect your home. In a similar way, **we are protecting our church.**
- Over the last several years we have had what appear to be attempted break-ins to our facility and we had a catalytic converter stolen from one of our church vans. **Having this system will allow us to go back and look at video to help determine who was on our property at a specific time.**
- **Our back parking lot is out of sight and there have been numerous signs of "shenanigans"** taking place on our lot and so hopefully the cameras will help alleviate some of that.
- **There are cameras in each of our children's classrooms on the lower level.** Again, not for watching what is happening, but for allowing us to go back and look at footage if someone makes an accusation against one of our weekday childcare workers or, heaven forbid, one of our church volunteers. In this case, **the cameras are more for the safety of our adults who work with children.**

As **Proverbs 22:3** tells us, ***"A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."*** We want to be as prudent and proactive as we can in helping to keep Mill Creek a safe place to worship and study God's Word. And we want a safe place for parents to entrust their children into our care on Sundays and throughout the week.

March has me looking forward to participating in the **mission trip to Nickelsville** at the beginning of the month. This has always been a wonderful trip as folks from churches in the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association gather to **serve children, families, schools, and those in need in the southwest portion of our Commonwealth.** We will go to various elementary schools to read to children and allow them to take home books of their own. They will be given ditty bags filled with hygiene items that we distribute which are always a hit. It's amazing what joy can be found in a bag filled with shampoo, soap, wash cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a comb. These are precious items to a child that may not have them. It always reminds me of how we can take the smallest things in life for granted. Other people will help at the Gate City Food Panty, some will visit the Nova Health & Rehab Center, while part of the group will be working to make home repairs for people who can't afford them. **You can be part of this trip by committing to pray for our team.**

Grace and Peace,
Danny

Our Stewardship

8:30/11:00 Service Nursery

March 1 Debbie Rago & Teresa Witt/Victoria Chocklett & Kacey Bryan
 March 8 Debbie Rago & Bonnie Davis/Jess Hayden & Kayla O'Bryant
 March 15 Danielle Tolley & Chelsea King/ Mary Bowser & Patricia Lightner
 March 22 Debbie Rago & Morgan Thorne/Anna Clark & Danielle Tolley
 March 29 Debbie Rago & Caryn Connor/Katie Imron & Ashley Ulma

9:45 Sunday School Nursery

March 1 Rene & Ned Jeter
 March 8 Rachel Witt & Sandra Kidd
 March 15 Kayla Anhold & Annette Shaw
 March 22 Kelly & Erik Olson
 March 29 Kate Lawrence & Rachel Davis

8:30/11:00 Service Toddlers

March 1 Kim Lawrence/Danielle Tolley
 March 8 Jennifer Ferguson/Mary Bowser
 March 15 Melissa Peery/Jess Hayden
 March 22 Marybeth Rush/Andy Shotwell
 March 29 Sandra Kidd/Anna Clark

8:30/11:00 Service Preschool

March 1 Cindy Holland/Kayla O'Bryant
 March 8 Luke Winand/Laura Epperly
 March 15 Sharon Ernest/Melanie Thacker
 March 22 Chelsea King/Nikki Cook
 March 29 Jordan Kidd/Rachel Witt

8:30 Service Greeters

March 1 Nancy Epperly, Pat Shotwell, Teresa Simmons, Mark Painter, Brian Stevens
 March 8 Judy Prease, Jimmy Brugh, Melissa Peery, John Plenge, Philip Christian
 March 15 Lesa Mabe, Sue & Jerry Sweet, Pam Gibson, Shawn Crist
 March 22 Debbie McAllister, Pat Shotwell, Carol & Robbie Theimer, Ronald Stevens
 March 29 Mark Painter, Becky Meadows, Richard Simpson, Jeff Gibson, John & Rachel Edmonds

11:00 Service Greeters

March 1 Klayton Akers, Deacon Witt, Don Epperly, Melissa Peery, Hank Rogers
 March 8 Bruce Lightner, Wayne & Sandy Myers, Kelly Denison, Jonathan Simmons
 March 15 John Murphy, Pam Morris, Sidra White, Brian Simpkins, Adam Davis
 March 22 Donna Mack, Donnie Johnson, Ferguson Family, Harry & Curtis Akers, Bud Mack
 March 29 John Caldwell, Bruce & Patricia Lightner, Erik & Charlie Olson, CJ Boothe

8:30/11:00 Service Ushers

March 1 Mark Painter & Phillip Simmons/Melissa Peery & Klayton Akers
 March 8 Judy Prease & Jeff Gibson/Wayne & Sandy Myers
 March 15 Jerry & Sue Sweet/ John Murphy & Brian Simpkins
 March 22 Nancy Epperly & Pat Shotwell/Donna Mack & Don Johnson
 March 29 John Caldwell & Buck Ferguson/ Bruce & Patricia Lightner

Our Kingdom Giving

	SS	8:30am Worship	11:00am Worship	Regular Offering	Building Fund
February 1	No Services Due to Weather			\$14,749.00	\$500.00
February 8	235	190	146	\$22,415.00	\$2,975.00
February 15	266	244	149	\$28,244.00	\$1,115.00
February 22	235	200	134	\$17,413.00	\$2,007.00

Remember that in order to meet our annual unified budget, we need \$12,988/week in offerings.

Happy March Birthday!

- 1 Brooke Boone
Kelsey Firebaugh
Grace Ferguson
- 2 John Dennis Caldwell
Stacey Brugh
- 3 Luke Witt
- 4 Scott Basham
- 5 Kaeli Berry
- 6 Judy Lee
- 7 Leonard Montgomery
Lynette Ferguson
- 9 Andy Shotwell
Joella Bryan
- 10 Paul Kreklow
Kyle O'Bryant
Brian Stevens
- 11 Joyce Mandeville
Eli Johnson
Abby Humphries
Lexington Olson
Whitley Thompson
- 12 Sissy Simpson
Adam Bowser
Carson Cook
- 13 Dylan Mack
Mike Fridley
- 15 Steve Kidd
- 16 Grace Witt
- 17 Gail McCampbell
Pat Wertz
- 18 Clara Simmons
Melody Bowyer
- 20 Buck Ferguson
- 21 Dana Kreklow
- 22 Austin Chocklett
Philip Christian
Charlotte Martin
- 23 Jacob Barnard
Griffin King
- 24 Kevin Marshall
- 25 Robin Erickson
- 26 Kenzie Anhold
Jacob Holdren
Isiah Moran
- 27 Josh Witt
- 28 Ann Elkins
Ashleigh Kritzberger
Jerry Sweet
- 29 Kelly Denison
- 30 Jennifer Simmons
- 31 Tessa Blair

MUSIC NOTES.....



I want to reiterate something I talked about in worship a few weeks ago. You know sometimes it is so easy to praise and worship the Lord and there are other times that it's not easy because we've had a bad day or week or month. Let me encourage you to praise God whether you feel like it or not. It is never a bad time to give Him praise!

Our Adult Handbell Choir is going strong and will be presenting beautiful music throughout the worship services on Sunday, March 15th. It is always such a treat to hear the bells lift praises to our Lord.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is on March 28 at 11:00am. Bring your kids and grandkids and join the fun!

Our Adult Choir will be presenting special music for Palm Sunday on March 29th, Maundy Thursday on April 2nd and Easter Sunday which is April 5th this year.

We will have our Maundy Thursday potluck and service on Thursday, April 2nd. Friday, April 3rd is Good Friday and we will meet on the front lawn of the church at 3:00pm to remember Jesus' death on the cross by draping the cross in black. These are two very special services and I invite you to attend.

Our Whole-notes choir is practicing hard on "**Mission Possible**", a musical/drama about how God can use us to share His gospel right where we are every day. Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3rd, at 6:00pm now because you don't want to miss it! Our Half-notes choir is having fun learning new songs and will also be joining the Whole-notes on May 3rd to present what they have learned this year. Both of our children's choirs will be singing in the worship services on the Sunday after Easter, April 12th.

For His Glory
Cindie

Sit Down and Count the Cost

Luke, the friend of Paul, records in Luke 14:25-33 Jesus' instructions on counting the cost of being a disciple. In simplest terms, Jesus says a disciple must hate his own family and even his own life, bear his own cross, build a tower to completion, determine the necessity of war and peace, and use all our resources and abilities to serve God.

At first reading, it can be surprising to hear Jesus tell His followers to "hate" their own family. In this context, however, the word "hate" means to "love less," not to act with hostility. To be His disciple, you must make Him the highest priority of your life even above loved ones and life itself. Following Jesus means coming to Him without reservation and offering Him your full devotion.

To "bear your own cross" is a call to follow the pattern of Jesus by embracing shame, suffering, and surrender. You must thoughtfully consider the sacrifices required to follow Him. Jesus was perfectly submissive to the Father's will, walking in complete humility.

The builder who cannot complete the tower illustrates how many people have a solid foundation in biblical truth but fail to keep building their lives on Christ. This is not only shameful; it also reveals a lack of discipline to build a strong, resilient life for Him. Similarly, a king who does not carefully decide whether peace is wiser than war is considered foolish. In both examples, the builder and the king, there is a failure to truly count the cost required of them.

The central idea of Jesus' teaching here is that it costs something to be His disciple, and we must carefully count that cost. At the same time, we should remember it ultimately costs far more to reject Him. Sit down and count the cost. Are you devoted to God, connected to God's people, and participating in God's mission?

Brad Hamilton
Minister of Discipleship and Outreach



For me, March has always signaled the beginning of the end of the school year. Between Easter activities and Spring Break, it can really only mean one thing - summer break is on its way! So students (and parents), hang in there just a little longer. There is light at the end of this school year tunnel!

This month, our youth will be helping out with our church Easter Egg Hunt on March 28. If you are available, we could really use as many volunteers as we can come up with to help and make this event a success. Also, please note that we will NOT meet on Wednesday, March 25th due to Botetourt County Schools being on Spring Break. Finally, if you are planning to attend Jamarama at Camp Eagle in April, please sign up in the youth room by Sunday, March 29th.

Blessings,

Josh

Minister of Youth

540-521-9266

Upcoming Events:

3/25- NO Wednesday Evening Activities

3/28- Easter Egg Hunt

3/29- Jamarama sign up deadline

4/17-19- Jamarama @ Camp Eagle (\$85)

Youth Culture Corner:

Parents As Disciplers

As the primary influence and discipler in a child's life, parents must be purposeful in bringing up their children in the instruction of the Lord. Deuteronomy 6 reveals parents are to set specific time for teaching and learning while taking advantage of opportunities that arise organically. Both are needed: time set aside as a regular rhythm, and teachable moments that come about driving home from sports practice.

For many parents this can seem overwhelming. *Where do I start? What do I read? My kids are not interested.* Start by setting a goal for you and your family. Then take one step at a time towards that goal. A parent can't do *everything* (and certainly can't start with *everything*), but a parent needs to do *something*. Purposeful actions added up over time produce beautiful fruit. Intentional times of spiritual formation at home do not have to be a huge production.

A few ideas you can start implementing:

- Write down one thing this month you would like to implement. Start where you are, not where you want to be.
- Prayer: Before praying together at a meal, have everyone share one thing they are specifically thankful for. Pause for prayer as your child heads to school or before bed.
- Read or Study: Set a weekly time to read and discuss a bible passage or chapter. Make it a point to discuss passage and sermon after church.
- Set non negotiables: Explain why you have made these choices in an age appropriate way. Why do you prioritize gathering with your church family? What boundaries do you have with technology? Are there lifestyle choices that all your child's peers are making that you are seeking to avoid?
- Specific topics: Set aside specific time to talk through topics such as sexuality, pornography, vaping, abortion, dating, or healthy technology habits. Teach how to wisely steward our time, talent, and treasure. If your high school student gets a job, help them think through how they spend, save and give generously with their new income.
- Involve your child in choosing what to learn or study. Are there any specific topics that interest them?

From the Deacons' Desk

Strength For Life's Seasons

As we enter the end of a long COLD winter season, look closely and you can see the shadows of new growth and the freshness of spring on the trees. Seasons change and, just as the seasons, we all go through the ups, downs and challenges of life.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible that encourages me is Philippians 4:13...

"I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me."

Paul is writing this and saying, whatever situation he has to face and whatever challenges that life throws at him, he does not have to go through it alone. Having a relationship with God and making him the center of our lives will strengthen us. He is with us always. In our trials, we will find strength and growth as we lean on our Lord and Savior. Hallelujah!

So, whatever you are facing or whatever season of life you are in, remember...

***"You can face anything
through your Lord Jesus Christ who strengthens you."***

Many Blessings to you,
Donna Mack
Deacon



New Sunday School Class

Beginning March 22

Waypoint is a new Sunday School class for **post-college young adults**, taught by Jake Bryant; it is an expository, discussion-based study that works through Scripture verse-by-verse and emphasizes practical application for navigating work, relationships, decision-making, and the unique challenges of this season. The class begins on **Sunday, March 22nd in room M-8** (across from the Youth Room). Contact Pastor Brad for more information.

Appalachian Trail Ministries

*But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of
Jesus His son cleanses us from all sin."*

1 John 1:7

The Hikers are on their way! Donations are needed for Mill Creek's Blessing Bags and Appalachian Trail Ministry. Monetary Donations are requested and encouraged throughout the year for the purchase of specific size and type of items suitable for thru-hikers and their hiking needs. This year, all items will be purchased by Mary Hinman with donated funds. A packing party will be scheduled for bag assembly in March. Contact Mary at 540-580-0020 for more details.

Welcome New Members



**Welcome
To our Church**

Dawn Watson joins by profession of faith & baptism. Her address is 414 Summit Ridge Rd., Daleville, 24083.

Carolyn Trainor joins by transfer of letter. Her address is 121 Blue Bird Lane, Fincastle, 24090.

Scott, Laura & Katie Grace Barrett join by transfer of letter. Their address is 482 Blue Bird Lane, Fincastle, 24090.

Our church family rejoices in their decisions.

*With
Sympathy*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mike Clement and his family with the passing of his wife, Mary.

Daytime Mission Group Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th, 10:00am

Come and hear about our most recent mission outreach -- the SW VA Mission Trip! Learn about the school visits, the construction projects, the food pantry work, and the visit to a nursing home. The meeting begins at 10am and a potluck lunch will follow. Contact Judy Deel for more information. (540.759.1914)



If you missed the February 26 prayer blanket training, and you want to get involved in this unique ministry of Mill Creek Baptist Church, please contact Josephine Powell at 540-588-2807 or Sharon Ernest at 540-874-5074. We will meet anyone at their convenience at the church for training. All supplies are provided by the ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

Prayer Blanket Ministry Team

RVBA WMU Spring Missions Celebration March 23

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
3000 Pitzer Road, Roanoke, 24014

Speaker: Dr. Bethany Warren Hunter,
Executive Director/Treasurer
HerMission Virginia WMUV

Meal served at 5:30pm

Baked Spaghetti (with ground beef and vegetarian), Bread,
Ceasar Salad, Cheesecake Bites for Dessert, Drinks
Cost -\$12.00

Worship/Meeting at 6:30pm

Contact: Kathryn Sowers at 540-529-0861 or email
kacky3@verizon.net to make meal reservations
by Monday, March 9.

Checks payable to "RVBA WMU".

Mail to Kathryn Sowers at 1214 Jeanette Avenue,
Vinton 24179.



Mission Luncheon Sunday, March 15 Hosted by the Greater Outdoor Ministries

**Menu: Pork BBQ Sandwiches,
Slaw, Baked Beans, Chips &
Dessert**

Eat in or take out.

Meals will be available after Sunday School
and after the 11:00 worship service.

All proceeds will go to support our
annual Fishing Rodeo.

Christine Caine + Lisa Harper

The Promise and Power of Easter

Captivated by the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus

Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and His victory over everything that holds us back in our earthly lives. We **invite all women to join us** for a special Bible study, "The Promise and Power of Easter" by Lisa Harper and Christine Caine, **beginning Tuesday, March 10, at 6:00pm.** During this **4-week study**, we will relive His steps with a heart full of hope while seeing it all with eyes of faith! Celebrate Easter focusing on the promise and power of Jesus as we draw closer to Him. Susan Plenge will lead the study. Reach out to Susan at 540-588-4330 and let her know you're coming!

Save the Date!

Blood Drive

Saturday, April 11

9:00am-1:00pm

Mill Creek Baptist Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU from the Dominican Republic Mission Team as the 2026 Dessert Auction is in the books! Another year and..... God Provided Immeasurably MORE!



The Dessert Auction provides so many opportunities for folks to help support the **Preescolar Cristiano Brisas del Este in Santo Domingo** from praying, to baking, making items, giving a donation for a boxed lunch, or being the highest bidder for an item being auctioned. It is one of the most humbling experiences as we watch God work in the hearts of people.



For those of us who make the trip, we see the beautiful faces of the children and adults who live in poverty in the barrios of Brisas del Este. Most who support this preschool and these people have not stepped foot in the country. However, you continue to 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 join Him in the Dominican Republic and you continue to be faithful and generous. The annual cost to operate the preschool is \$24,000. To date, the auction fund total is almost **\$34,000**. We send all of the money given at this event to the preschool where they lovingly teach with dedication and patience.

Our team is scheduled to go to the DR March 27–April 4. 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 at the school, at the church and in the community.

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

Love, The Dominican Republic Mission Team

Peggy & Gino Arbogast, Melissa & Abby Cook, Judy Deel, Chad & Laura Epperly, Shelba & Buck Ferguson, Rene Jeter and Luke Winand

Mill Creek Family,
 Wanted to thank Danny & all my lovely friends
 for those amazing prayers that lift you
 up in times like these! God Bless.
 Love in Christ Always,
 Cindy Morris Wolfe
 Family of Nancy Morris

Thank you for the outpouring of encouragement,
 love, and support that you
 have extended during my recent
 illness over the past couple of
 months. They have all brightened
 my days.
 Sally Quirin

2026 Southwest Virginia Partnership Mission Trip March 1-5

Eighteen from our church will be joining others from the Roanoke area to travel to far Southwest Virginia for this annual mission trip. This ministry is sponsored and led by the WMU of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association and the work is done in cooperation with the Southwest Virginia Partnership. Our volunteers from Mill Creek will have "boots on the ground", but many more from our congregation are a part of the team!

Books for Children—Thank YOU!

There has been much support as preparations have been made to visit school children in nine different schools in Scott, Lee and Russell Counties. About 1700 students will be visited and most will receive three books from our BookNet donations. That means that over 5000 books will be transported and distributed! Bibles and Bible storybooks will be offered to students, as well. In addition to "in school" visits to nine schools, the team will drop off books at four additional schools in the area. Many books have been donated and processed and we are grateful to be able to give them away to all these students! BookNet has found a home at Mill Creek in the Fellowship House. Books are stored in the basement of the house. Since last spring's mission trip, BookNet workers are happy to have found ample working space there. Many have come together to assess, sort, label, and count books.



Handmade Gifts for School Personnel—Thank YOU!

Our Mill Creek Ruggers have donated a dozen hand crocheted rag rugs which will be given as a gift to the one person in each school who offers the most help to our BookNet Teams. Ruggers and others who are skilled in crocheting have made cotton dish cloths. These cloths, a large serving spoon, and a note that says "Lunch Ladies Love To Stir Things Up" will be given to cafeteria workers in the schools we visit.

Ditty Bag Donations—Thank YOU!

Our annual collection of monetary donations to purchase hygiene items to put in ditty bags has resulted in gifts of over \$1800. In addition to financial support, several productive sewing sessions to make ditty bags have been held. Seamstresses from our church and community have brought their sewing machines, scissors, and cotton cloth and have spent several Saturday mornings working on ditty bags. Women in other churches have been working, too, and we have lovely handmade drawstring bags for the students! Over 1400 bags will be given!



Additional Support—Thank YOU!

Our third Sunday mission lunch in January and monetary gifts from many raised over \$2200 to help with the cost of construction projects that will be done by our team. Our church bus and van will be put to good use to transport volunteers, books, Bibles, rugs, dishcloths, and other supplies. Our Missions Development Team has provided \$1000 which will be used for additional expenses that the team may incur such as gas for the bus and van.

Prayer Support Requested

The prayers of our church family are needed for our Southwest Virginia team members who include: Randy and Melissa Barnard, Dan and Mary Bowser, Susan and Daniel Bratcher, John Caldwell, Judy Deel, Chad Epperly, Don Epperly, Jill and Matt Ferguson, Ruth Fix, Mary Hinman, Bruce Lightner, Bill Potter, Danny Quirin, and Debbie Rago. Please pray for the team and their safety as they travel. Pray that their visits will be an encouragement to all. Pray that God will be honored in all that is said and done in His name.

“Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 (CSB)

Why is the Easter Offering Named for Annie?

In 1895, an offering was first collected for the work of the Home Missions Board. In 1934, this offering was renamed the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions to honor the work of Annie Armstrong as a tireless advocate for giving, praying and going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who did not know him. Today, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes to train, resource, and send more than 2,400 missionary families across the United States and Canada. **One hundred percent of the offering goes to the missionaries, none to administration.**

10 Things You Should Know About Annie Armstrong

1. Annie Armstrong was born on July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, Maryland.
2. From a young age, she went with her mother to the missionary meetings of Woman’s Mission to Woman. It was there she developed a heart for missions.
3. Annie helped plant churches.
4. Although her family was very wealthy, she had a heart to serve those who lived in poverty and addiction, especially the impoverished who lived in rural areas.
5. Annie mobilized women to reach beyond the bounds of race by organizing missions to African Americans and Native Americans.
6. In 1882, Annie helped organize and became the first president of the Woman’s Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland.
7. On May 14, 1888, Annie helped women from 12 states form the Executive Committee of Woman’s Missions Societies, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. This organization would officially be named Woman’s Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1890. She was elected as corresponding secretary.
8. In 1888, Annie was elected corresponding secretary of the organization and her motto, “Go Forward” was chosen. Annie wrote hundreds of letters to raise awareness and promote giving to missions. It was in this year that a foreign missions offering was established to send a missionary to China to relieve Lottie Moon.
9. Annie Armstrong served WMU until 1906. During that time she never took a salary.
10. Annie died on December 20, 1938, the year of WMU’s 50 anniversary.

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 on Sunday, March 1.

Your Gifts at Work

When you give to Annie Armstrong, it’s more than a gift; it’s a life-changing investment. Your generosity enables people to encounter the gospel, experience healing, and walk in the fullness of God’s purpose. With each dollar, hearts are opened, lives are renewed, and communities are changed forever.

The NAMB’s national goal is \$78 million. Mill Creek’s goal is \$6000. Offering envelopes will be available in the vestibule and at the fellowship hall entrance. You may give online by going to millcreekbc.com and clicking on the GIVE tab.



**Week of Prayer
for North American Missions
March 1—8
Our Church Goal: \$6000**

AAEO WORD SEARCH

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering helps missionaries in North America share the gospel of Jesus Christ in North America. Find and circle the words from the word bank below and then pray that God will bless and multiply the gifts given to the offering.

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

WORD BANK

Annie Armstrong

Bible

Church

Gospel

Jesus

Missionary

Missions

North America

Offering

Prayer

Valentine's Day Love Your Neighbor Mission Trip

1 John 3:18 *"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth".*



On February 14th, eighteen adults, children and youth joined together to wish our neighbors at the Royal Apartments and the Senior Residences a Happy Valentine's Day. Our Mini and Mighty Mill Creek Explorers had worked several Wednesday nights to prepare cards and crafts for our neighbors. They had



decorated and filled gift bags with mugs and treats which included soup and crackers, hot chocolate, Oreos, peppermint candy, and MORE! All twenty apartments were visited and about half the folks were home. A total of 26 gift bags were delivered. During the visits our Valentine gifts were given, concern was expressed and prayers were offered. To our delight one of the residents prayed for us! He thanked God for the fact that Mill Creek Church was not just the

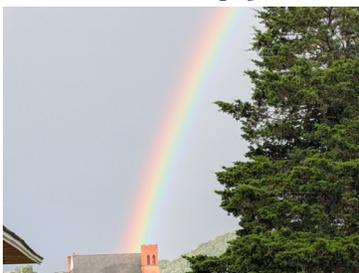


church inside the building, but was one that moved outside the building to be the church. Later a text message from that same individual expressed these thoughts:

"I can't begin to tell you how many times y'all have lifted my heart. Makes me so happy to see the children so involved in outside ministry. May God continue to bless."

He also sent these photos of the church which show his view from his apartment with this comment:

"I hope your members enjoy the pictures."



1 John 4:19 *"We love because he first loved us."*



OCC March Collection WOW toys like stuffed animals and dolls

For your convenience, there is a collection box near the fellowship hall entrance.



Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers



The Minis and Mighties have had some snow days but that has not stopped us from exploring God's Word and having fun!

We celebrated Valentine's Day by making Valentine bags and receiving Valentine's from our leaders. We also had a great time making ice cream sundaes and playing Valentine Bingo.



In missions we made cards for our neighbors and prepared goodie bags to be delivered on Valentine's Day to help brighten our neighbors' day! Our visit and gifts were very much appreciated.

Our kiddos have so much fun on Wednesday nights and we would love to have more friends join us! If you know of anyone age 3 to 5th grade, please invite them. For more information you can reach out to Peggy Arbogast at 540-520-0107.



February certainly reminded us that winter is still in charge! The month brought extremely cold temperatures following the snow and ice storm that moved through our area. Because of the severe weather conditions, our Center was closed for two days to ensure the safety of our families and staff. The County schools were also affected, closing a total of five days during the month.

After the storm passed, the temperatures remained bitterly cold for more than two weeks. Unfortunately, the extended freeze meant that our children were not able to enjoy any outdoor playtime during that period. As you can imagine, that made for some very energetic little ones inside! Our teachers did a wonderful job planning extra indoor activities to keep everyone engaged, active, and smiling despite the winter chill.

Despite the frigid weather, there was still plenty of fun and creativity happening inside. Our school-agers and preschoolers enjoyed making Valentine's crafts to decorate their classrooms, adding bright pops of color and cheer during the cold days. Our preschoolers celebrated Valentine's Day on February 13th. They enjoyed special Valentine's snacks generously provided by our parents and had a wonderful time passing out Valentine's cards to their classmates.

As I write this article, we are thankful to see warmer temperatures slowly melting away the snow and ice. The excitement among both the staff and children is growing as we look forward to getting back outside very soon. Fresh air, sunshine, and playground laughter are just around the corner!

See you next month! Cherry



VBS 2026

July 12-16

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids will plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. As you are planning your 2026 summer vacations, please remember to keep this week open! Please be in prayer about how you can participate in one of our largest community outreach opportunities.

VBS Commitment Sunday will be April 12th!



March 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	2 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions	3 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Men's Breakfast @ Greenwood Restaurant 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House	4 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions 5:30pm Whole-Notes & Half-Notes Practice 5:45pm Prayer Meeting in Room M-1 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	5 SWVA Mission Trip Week of Prayer for North American Missions	6 Week of Prayer for North American Missions	7 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins Week of Prayer for North American Missions 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:30am Informational Meeting for Standing Rock Mission Trip 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Informational Meeting for Standing Rock Mission Trip	9 6:00pm BWNG Potluck in Fellowship Hall	10 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 10:00am Daytime Mission Group in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Promise and Power of Easter" Study in Fellowship House	11 5:30pm Whole-Notes & Half-Notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	12	13 Newsletter Articles Due	14
15 Romania Mission Trip Deadline to Sign Up 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Mission Luncheon for Outdoor Ministries 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Mission Luncheon for Outdoor Ministries, Deacons Meeting	16	17 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Promise and Power of Easter" Study in Fellowship House	18 5:30pm Whole-Notes & Half-Notes Practice 6:00pm Supper for Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers 6:30pm Mini & Mighty Mill Creek Explorers, Youth Activities/Bible Study, Adult Bible Study, Adult Handbells 7:35pm Adult Choir Practice	19	20	21
22 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	23 5:30pm RVBA WMU Spring Mission Celebration @ Mount Pleasant Baptist	24 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Promise and Power of Easter" Study in Fellowship House	25 No Wednesday Evening Activities	26	27 DR Mission Trip	28 DR Mission Trip 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt
29 DR Mission Trip Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:20am - 9:55am Holy Grounds Coffee Shop 9:45am - 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	30 DR Mission Trip	31 DR Mission Trip 9:30am "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Bondage Breaker" Study in the Fellowship House 6:00pm "The Promise and Power of Easter" Study in Fellowship House				

Mill Creek Baptist Church
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Mill Creek Baptist Church

Pastor.....Danny Quirin
Minister of Music.....Cindie Hayden
Minister of Discipleship & Outreach....Brad Hamilton
Minister of Youth.....Josh Witt
Director of Children's Ministry.....Peggy Arbogast
Administrative Assistant.....Sandra Kidd
Pianist.....Marcia Neighbors

Join Us for Easter at Mill Creek

Palm Sunday, March 29

8:30am Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, April 2

6:00pm Potluck in Fellowship Hall

7:00pm Service

Good Friday, April 3

3:00pm Cross Draping Service on the front lawn

Easter Sunday, April 5

6:45am Sunrise Service followed by Breakfast

8:30am Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00am Worship Service



EASTER
egg hunt

Saturday, March 28

11:00am

All children are invited to our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28 at 11:00am at Mill Creek. We will begin in the Sanctuary with the Easter story. After the egg hunt, we will have hot dogs, chips, and dessert! There will be lots of eggs filled with goodies! Bring your Easter basket and come join the fun!

