

March 2025

Volume 20, Number 3

Millfield is a welcoming, loving and accepting church, working to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our church family, our community, our state, our country, and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Millfield News

Notes from the Lilly Pad

Our Lord has blessed us with some beautiful snowfall this winter season! I hope you all enjoyed watching it come down as well as maybe even building a snowman or having a snowball fight! I

believe we can begin to prepare ourselves for the beautiful spring that's just around the corner. I hope you all are doing well and have managed to stay clear of the flu! It has taken a toll on many households this winter.

Despite all of the germs being spread, Millfield has been busy glorifying God. Our youth ministry has been in full force. Our Women's Bible study has been a success and our men's gathering is flourishing! Praise God for His continuous abundance of love as we are able to gather together and worship Him! We should never take our freedoms for granted and always be grateful for the opportunities we have to meet together, encourage as well as disciple one another.



Since the new year we have been on the topic of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit is mentioned more than 100 times in the Old Testament. There are over 260 passages in the New Testament that refer to Him. He's mentioned 56 times in the four Gospels and 57 times in the Book of Acts. The Apostle Paul writes about the Holy Spirit 112 times in his Epistles and He is mentioned 36 more times in the remaining Books of the New Testament.

We see that He is the eternal Spirit in Hebrews 9:14. He is the Spirit of Christ according to Romans 8:9. He's the Spirit



(Continued on page 2)

Notes (Continued from page 1)

of God written in I Corinthians 3:16. The gospel of John describes how He is the Spirit of truth in chapter 16:13. Church, keep in mind that the Spirit of truth was undermined by the first lie ever told by Satan in the Book of Genesis. This untruth or lie brought about sin into the world! Praise God the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of grace as mentioned in Hebrews chapter 10 verse 29.

The Holy Spirit possesses divine love (Rom. 5:5), divine righteousness (Rom. 8:4), divine Holiness (Rom. 1:4) and divine life (Rom. 8:2). He is our comforter according to John chapter 14:26 and He grieves for us as the Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 4:30. When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in all who put their faith in Him. Upon your salvation the Holy Spirit brings with Him a Spiritual gift that God entrusts specifically to you. This gift is given to you to give you power to do the work that God has for you as a follower of Christ.

As followers of Christ who have surrendered our lives to Jesus, we all have work to do. We have to pray that God will reveal our spiritual gifts to us so that we can develop them, so they will empower us to do whatever work God has laid out before us. As we approach the Easter season, I encourage you to spend time daily putting focus on the cross. I encourage you to find a quiet place to spend time

with God focusing on the sacrifice Jesus made for you and I. Pray and place focus on the resurrection as well as Jesus' second coming.

When you do these things the fire of the Holy spirit will begin to go from a spark to a huge flame within you. You will begin to recognize the work God has for you and your eyes, mind and heart will be on the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). When that fire begins to flame up inside you, you begin to shine and when you shine you illuminate Jesus! Church, I encourage you to be salty and stay lit! (Matt 5:13-16)

Pastor Kelby Lilly



A sweet moment between Mrs. Frances Hardy and Wilder Lilly caught on camera.



Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7:00 pm.

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

Easter Extravaganza: We are **currently** collecting plastic eggs and small candies and/or toys to fill them with for our Easter Extravaganza. Please see Marindy Creef for questions.

Food Bank Truck Delivery: Monday, **March 10** at 10:00 am.

Men's Bible Study: Thursday, **March 13** at 6:30 pm.

Men's Breakfast: Sunday, **March 16** at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

Youth Meeting: Sunday, **March 16** at 4:00 pm.

Bagging Groceries: Tuesday, **March 18** at 6:30 pm. Women's Bible Study will not meet this evening, and we encourage everyone to go to Ebenezer Baptist Church to help with bagging groceries. Many hands make light work!

Bags of Hope Distribution: Wednesday, **March 19** at 8:30 am. Distribution begins at 10:00 am.

Community Day Meeting: There will be a meeting to begin planning for Community Day on Sunday, **March 23** immediately following worship. If you have questions or ideas, please join us!

VBS Planning Meeting: The first VBS meeting for 2025 will be Monday, **March 24** at 6:30 pm. If you have any interest in helping with our finding out more about VBS this year, please come!

Men's Bible Study: Thursday, **March 27** at 6:30 pm.

Youth-Led Service: The youth will be leading service on Sunday, **March 30**. This will be a non-traditional service. We hope you will all attend!

WMU Meeting: Saturday, **April 5** at 10:00 am.

Deacons Meeting (tentative): Monday, **April 7** at 7:00 pm.

Quarterly Conference: Thursday, **April 10** at 7:00 pm.

Easter Extravaganza: Palm Sunday, **April 13** immediately following worship. This will include a covered dish lunch, and activity for the children, and an egg hunt.

Cody Stallard Memorial Scholarship: Applications are now available. Application packets are in the vestibule, and will be accepted through **May 15**. The high school or college applicant must be a member of Millfield Baptist Church, or the child or grandchild of a member. For any questions, please see Tracey or Kenneth Stallard.

HopeTree Golf Tournament: The annual HopeTree Golf Tournament will be held May 12. Registration is due by Thursday, **April 24**. Registration is \$200 per individual or \$700 per team. Hole sponsorship is available for \$200 as well. To register or for questions, please contact Development@Hopetreets.org or call 540-389-2112.



Disasters May Pass, But the Work of BGAV Continues

“This is where my family has always lived, and we don’t want to live anywhere else.”

That was the sentiment Mary shared with the Disaster Response leaders who arrived to assess the damage in her home after Hurricane Helene. What they found was a tiny cinder block home with basic plumbing and very few amenities. By most assessments, of the roughly 70 homes volunteers have helped restore to this point, this home was one of a few that could have been torn down. But she was adamant that she would only leave if they promised to repair it instead of tearing it down. In the past several weeks, volunteers have gutted the home, rebuilt the interior, replaced the roof, and rewired the house. The one upgrade she was willing to accept was a water heater, which the team gladly installed.



One of the biggest challenges that communities face after a disaster is that the rest of the world moves on, but the community is still living in the aftermath. As we enter 2025, the response to Hurricane Helene in Southwest Virginia continues, and BGAV started the new year with a big team infusing new life into the community. Baptist Collegiate Ministry teams from several schools joined other volunteers to serve during the first week of the new year. The work continues to focus on rebuilding homes that have already been cleaned, but with new homes still being identified—and some homes having most work complete—they were able to divide into teams for cleanup, rebuilding, and delivery of new appliances at homes that have already been repaired.

Local volunteers continue to be the backbone of the response, with volunteers from across the state serving alongside them—

Mission News (Continued from page 4)

some having served two, three, or more times. People whose homes seemed beyond repair have slowly been able to return, finding those homes in even better condition than they were before the storm. As the site reopened after the break at Christmas, plans were already in place to serve through at least Easter, with a few young adult and youth opportunities in the planning stages for late spring and summer. This work has been possible because so many volunteers from across Virginia have committed to serving long term, and the work in Southwest Virginia will continue as long as there is need.



For more information about BGAV Disaster Response and to donate, visit <https://impactmissionsmovement.org/disaster-response/what-we-do/>

Christian Persecution in 2025: Who Knew?

Have you ever felt like Job? Sure, we've all had bad days (or years) and some have had more than their share of sorrow. But a man named Luka from northwest Nigeria truly found himself walking in Job's footsteps. He was not far from home the day that militant Muslims attacked his community and others nearby, killing 30 people which included his wife, parents and all but one of his children who was shot and seriously injured. He also lost his house and farm. The reason? They were Christians.

The World Watch List estimates that over 380 million Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination (about the population of the United States). So what does this persecution entail? Death/torture, imprisonment, destruction of homes, forced conversions or forced marriages, discrimination that prevents education or employment, business shut downs, church closures or bombings (with members inside), banning of Bibles and other Christian communication.

Where does the persecution come from? It depends on the location. The most likely sources are Muslim governments or fanatical groups, communist governments and authoritarian states. If someone trying to reach their neighbors for Christ interferes with a drug runner or a militia's recruitment for soldiers, that person may face death. There are also fanatical members of other faiths who will attack those who identify as Christian.

One relief organization called Release International recently reported the trends they believe will develop this year in the most dangerous areas for Christians. Here are some of those places:

Afghanistan: Sharia law says that conversion to Christianity carries the death penalty.

Pakistan: It is not illegal to be a Christian but blasphemy means life imprisonment or execution and Christians have been accused just for posting Scripture on social media. Militants are trained to file complaints against Christians. Just an accusation can mean death, even before an official arrest is made. Youth are being taught in school to be extremists. There are abductions and sexual abuse. Christians are seen as pro-Israel so they are sometimes attacked as a form of revenge.

Eritrea: Oppression has intensified. Medicine and edible food cannot be taken to prisoners so many die there. Others are taken to labor camps on government farms.

China: Pastors are blacklisted, restricting travel. They are also sent to indoctrination sessions where

(Continued on page 6)

Mission News (Continued from page 5)

they are taught what is acceptable to preach. While execution is not currently the law, Christians may die from torture or poor prison conditions. The Chinese Communist Party has adopted a policy of Sinicization which seeks to make Christianity more palatable by injecting party beliefs into the church. Portions of Scripture have been rewritten, according to U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher. The story of the woman caught in adultery ends with Jesus stoning her. The first of the ten commandments was changed to, "Resolutely guard against the infiltration of Western ideology." Even Buddhists and Muslims have been persecuted, as no uncontrolled religious ideas will be tolerated.

North Korea: House churches fared better during COVID since officials were reluctant to enter homes but now there is less freedom. Border security has been tightened. North Korean Christians who escaped to China will likely be sent back to North Korea where they may be executed.

Ukraine: Citizens fear that if Russia takes control, they will lose their religious freedom as Russia has control of the Orthodox Church and would likely do the same in their country.

Nigeria: This is now considered one of the most dangerous countries in the world for a Christian to live. There were 8,000 Christians killed in 2023. The New York Post said that over 52,000 Christians there have been murdered for their faith since 2009. In the same time period, 14 million Christians were driven from their homes. A U.S. State Department spokesperson said in 2023, "Christians are killed for sport, especially Christian children."

However, Nigeria is projected to be the third largest Christian population in the world by 2050. On the other hand, Christianity in Europe is declining drastically and America is not looking much better. What can we do in the face of such great tragedy?

- ◆ First and most importantly, we must pray. Remember Luka from Nigeria? He gave us some suggestions on how to do that: (1) Pray for the violence against Christians to end. (2) Pray for healing for the injured and those who are grieving and traumatized. (3) Pray that terrorists will be convicted of their wrongs and accept the gospel. (2) Pray for his country.
- ◆ Support organizations that help persecuted Christians. There are a number of groups to be found online but be careful to investigate their reputation and their handling of donations.
- ◆ Raise awareness at church, on social media, with family and friends. Write to your representatives and support legislation that protects the freedom of religion.
- ◆ Volunteer with relief organizations. Help is sometimes needed to pack aid packages, help with office tasks or organize events. Check with local and international groups for opportunities to get involved.
- ◆ Keep in mind that people of other faiths sometimes suffer, too. Since the 2009 uprising in Nigeria mentioned above, 34,000 moderate Muslims' lives have been taken by extremists.

It's also important to note that Luka was tempted to question God and hate his enemies. But he recalled the story of Job and left them in God's hands. He said, "...if I can touch anyone's life while I am here and help them, that is what I must do. I believe that is why God spared my life."

Let's remember to thank God for the freedom we are blessed with in America but never take for granted that it will always last. German pastor, Martin Niemoller, was slow at first to recognize the Nazi danger in World War II. He wrote:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

Prayer Requests



Margaret Simms

Wesley Garner

Bob Felts

Nick Cook, Brian Cook's dad.

Andrew Tanner, Sarah Dowless' boyfriend, is in Kyiv, Ukraine. Please pray for his continued safety.

Nancy Stephenson

Lucky Jones, Tanya Moore's father.

Robin Goodrich, Bobby Goodrich's wife and a friend of members of Millfield, has kidney cancer.

Aaron Parker, Cathy Simm's son-in-law, has been deployed to Bahrain.

Joell Bryant, a friend of Sarah White's, has breast cancer.

Sonny Warren is having trouble with his knees.

Ron Cornwell

Andrea Cornett is dealing with health issues.

Sharon Gunter, a friend of the McQuarrys'.

Bobby Stephenson

John Wayne Johnson has stage 4 prostate cancer.

Marindy Creef

 **WMU**® : *Women in Action*

The next WMU meeting will be

Saturday, **April 5** at 10:00 am. Coffee and light

refreshments will be provided. All women of

the church are invited to attend.





From the Deacon's Desk

The Purpose Driven Model—Part II

If you've been following along with me in our newsletter, you received a glimpse last month into the foundational basis of Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in Lake Forest California, and how his principles of organization are pretty much applicable anywhere. I think that we would all agree, church should be made to be meaningful for those that are present. Roles and expectations for those participants as well as for the church itself should be clear. Questions such as, what is my job as a nonbeliever, what do I do as a new believer, what do I do if I quit believing, and what is the pastor's job, or the deacon's job should be answered to prevent any confusion, unrealistic expectations, or role ambiguity. The five basic purposes of the church touched on last month may seem obvious to someone who has been a churchgoer for most of their lives, but as a refresher and for the unchurched it is necessary to more clearly spell out why the church exists in the first place, that way roles and expectations can be clear regarding the relationship from the beginning.

The first of these purposes is worship. The church's first purpose is to worship God. If this isn't stressed as paramount then there likely would be uphill battles and failed attempts at capturing the remaining four purposes, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. Worship is the glue that binds the remaining functions together. Next, we have ministry. This is done by people, for people in the name of Jesus. Hopefully, if done correctly, this is when others get to see Jesus through us. Our kind words, actions, prayers, and cards at the most opportune time to someone else, even if we may not be privy to the finite details of their needs further exemplifies that only God could have had his hand in it. Third, we have evangelism. This is one that I see in my own experience falling slightly short of the finish line in many small country churches. As humans, we all enjoy being comfortable. A sanctuary, filled with other like-minded Christians has a tendency to become somewhat of an echo chamber. Comfortable yes, but not outside the boat of our comfort zones executing this privilege. If you happen to be at church on Sunday morning to hear the pastor preach for 30 minutes great, if not then the message isn't heard, disseminated, or shared with anyone else. It is imperative to remember our purpose is to be ambassadors for Christ, and vigilant in our endeavors to tell the world the story. Fellowship, on the other hand, in the same aforementioned churches, is far less of an issue. With smaller congregational sizes, going, baptizing, and teaching makes it easier to belong and to maintain the feeling of family that is automatically created by being surrounded by other believers "As Christians, we're called to belong, not just to believe". The last purpose of a church can best be captured with the following summation from Colossians. "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ" (Colossians 1:28). Discipleship can simply be defined as one who accepts and assists in spreading the principles of another. Once we've reached the unchurched non-believers, that remains only half the battle, they still need to be taught to be believers and followers of Christ.

I look forward to next month as we wrap up our discussion of the Purpose Driven Model and how it not only applies to the church but to many other facets of our personal and professional lives. Until then, God Bless.

Chris Cornwell

Deacon Chair

March					
Psalms					
1	Chapter 50-51	<p><i>2025</i></p> <p><i>Bible</i></p> <p><i>Reading</i></p> <p><i>Plan</i></p> 			
2	Reflection				
3	Chapter 52-54				
4	Chapter 55-56				
5	Chapter 57-59				
6	Chapter 60-62				
7	Chapter 63-65				
8	Chapter 66-67				
9	Reflection				
10	Chapter 68				
11	Chapter 69				
12	Chapter 70-71				
13	Chapter 72				
14	Chapter 73				
15	Chapter 74-75				
16	Reflection				
17	Chapter 76-77				
18	Chapter 78				
19	Chapter 79				
20	Chapter 80				
21	Chapter 81-82				
22	Chapter 83-84				
23	Reflection				
24	Chapter 85-86				
25	Chapter 87-88				
26	Chapter 89				
27	Chapter 90-91				
28	Chapter 92-93				
29	Chapter 94-95				
30	Reflection				
31	Chapter 96-98				
				April	
				Psalms	
				1	Chapter 99-101
				2	Chapter 102
				3	Chapter 103
				4	Chapter 104
				5	Chapter 105
				6	Reflection
				7	Chapter 106
				8	Chapter 107
				9	Chapter 108-109
				10	Chapter 110-111
				11	Chapter 112-114
				12	Chapter 115-116
				13	Reflection
				14	Chapter 117-118
				15	Chapter 119:1-32
				16	Chapter 119:33-72
				17	Chapter 119:73-104
				18	Chapter 119:105-126
				19	Chapter 119:127-176
				20	Reflection
				21	Chapter 120-123
				22	Chapter 124-128
				23	Chapter 129-132
				24	Chapter 133-134
				25	Chapter 135
				26	Chapter 136
				27	Reflection
				28	Chapter 137-138
				29	Chapter 139-140
				30	Chapter 141-143

February '25

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April '25

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 Ramadan (1st day)
2 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Outreach Committee 3:00 pm New Believers Q&A 4:00 pm Youth	3 6:30 pm Building and Grounds meeting	4 Mardi Gras 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	5 Ash Wednesday 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	7	8
9 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	10 10:00 Food Bank Truck Delivery	11 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	13 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	14	15
16 8:00 am Men's Blast 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 11:00 am Communion	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 6:30 pm Bagging Groceries	19 8:30 am Bags of Hope Distribution 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 Vernal equinox (GMT)	21	22
23 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Community Day Planning Meeting	24 6:30 pm VBS Planning Meeting	25 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	27 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study	28	29
30 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Youth will lead worship	31	4 Dustin Cutright Frances Hardy 7 Charles Bailey 8 Carol Jean Felts Bobby Stephenson	10 Josephine Branch-Tucker Martha Holdsworth 12 Kara Gale 13 Roger Bailey Ermeef Creef	13 Sharon Whitehead 16 Emily Matous 19 Paula Bailey Justin Bailey Diana Tate	20 Nancy Stephenson 23 Tom Swindell 26 Matthew Jarvis 28 Steve Cabell Whitney Haywood	28 Brenda Lowe 29 Elyn Hassell 31 Daniel Felts

