

# Millfield News

January 2023

Volume 18, Number 1

*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.*

## Frankly Speaking

Christmas Day was the last Sunday of 2022. Our worship service was a bit different than our typical Sunday services because it was indeed Christmas Day. Throughout the Advent season, I had encouraged the congregation to make a gift for Jesus and bring it to our morning worship on Christmas Day. I have encouraged previous congregations to do the same thing when Christmas had fallen on a Sunday. In those previous Christmas Sunday services, however, less than 10 people made and brought gifts for Jesus, and only two or three would voluntarily speak about their gifts before the congregation. And these

were congregations that were 5 or 6 times larger than Millfield in Sunday morning worship attendance.

So you can imagine how thrilled I was that many people made and brought gifts for Jesus, and somewhere around 13, 14 or 15 were willing to present them publicly to the congregation and explain their significance. It was a very meaningful, even emotional, hour of worship. I am proud to be the pastor of a congregation that is motivated to honor Jesus in creative ways and not just go through the motions of faith and worship.

Most of all, I was greatly encouraged by the Christmas worship. Everyone is aware that I am retiring at the end of January, 2023. It is quite common for a congregation to be dependent upon a pastor or a significant church leader for motivation and direction. Our Christmas worship showed me that Millfield Baptist Church is not the typical Baptist church. Worship, ministry and discipleship will continue even though after January 31, Millfield will not have a full-time pastor. There are plenty of people who love Jesus, and each other, enough to share the love, practice the grace and spread the joy of Jesus. Being and doing church is really not that difficult if we just stick



*(Continued on page 2)*

*Frankly Speaking (Continued from page 1)*

to the basics of serving the Lord by serving people. I know even better than I knew before that Millfield servants will not need to be told what to do—they will just do it.

I am reminded of a day when Jesus taught a huge crowd. As sundown neared, the disciples pointed out to Jesus that the people had been listening to His teaching all day. They had not taken a break for meals, so they needed to be dismissed so they could go home to eat. Jesus' response to their suggestion caught them completely off-guard. "‘You give them something to eat,’ He answered them" (Mark 6:37). They were totally unprepared for that instruction. The crowd numbered over 5,000, their resources were pitiful (5 loaves and 2 fish), and they had no ability to improvise. But they listened to Jesus, followed His instructions, and everyone had more than enough to eat!

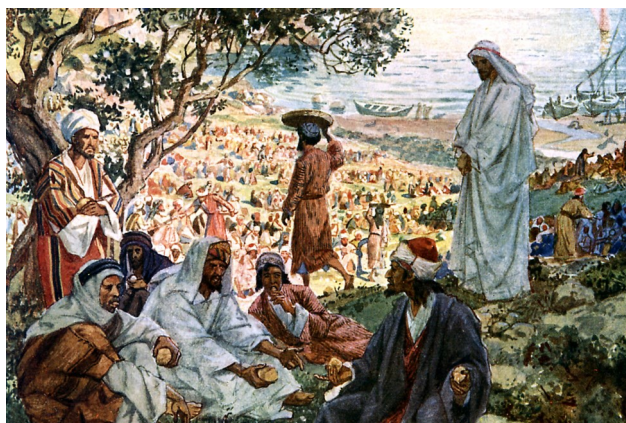
That is what will happen for Millfield during the period without a full-time pastor. People may have some anxiety about the future, wondering how the work can continue without a pastor. But Jesus simply calls you as disciples—"You give them something to eat." You will listen to Jesus and follow His instructions. Through the Holy Spirit and God-given talent, Millfield has more than enough people with the abilities necessary to be a vibrant church. Our folks can teach; our folks can sing; our folks can help; our folks can encourage; our folks can comfort; our folks can work. And more importantly, our folks are willing! Your dependence upon and commitment to the Lord can make the

interim period some of Millfield's greatest days.

It is time for me to step aside. I can do so with total confidence in the Millfield people. I am delighted with your joy. I am comforted by your compassion. I am humbled by your support. Most of all, I am expectant of your faithfulness. I know Millfield will thrive.

I love you all beyond measure, and my debt to you is immense. I thank God continually that I have had the incredible privilege of serving you as pastor. After 37 years in pastoral ministry, I know without a shadow of a doubt that every pastor needs to experience a Millfield Baptist Church. Your memory allowed me to weather many a congregational storm in the various churches I have served. And then, you let me return to close out my career. I am a servant of the Lord who is truly blessed, because of you.

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (II Timothy 4:6, 7). And you have helped me every step of the way. Thank you, Millfield.



# Upcoming Events



**Prayer Meeting:** Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

**Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.

**WMU Meeting:** Saturday, **January 7** at 11:00 am.

**Food Bank Truck Delivery:** Tuesday, **January 10** at 10:00 am.

**Deacons Meeting:** Tuesday, **January 10** at 7:00 pm.

**Quarterly Conference:** Thursday, **January 12** at 7:00 pm.

**Men's Breakfast:** Sunday, **January 15** at 8:00 am.

**Bagging Groceries:** Tuesday, **January 17** at 6:30 pm.

**Bags of Hope Distribution:** Wednesday, **January 18** at 8:30 am. Distribution begins at 10:00 am.

**Children's Church:** Sunday, **February 5**.

**Deacons Meeting (tentative):** Monday, **February 6** at 7:00 pm.



The next WMU meeting will be Saturday, **January 7** at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.



## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Many years ago, our Women's Missionary Union actively participated in mission programs for children. Mission Friends were designed for preschoolers, Girls in Action for elementary aged girls, grades 1-6, Royal Ambassadors for elementary aged boys, grades 1-6 and Acteens for our older girls. These programs provided an opportunity for children to grow spiritually, physically, mentally and relationally with others through missions involvement and character development. Children were offered the opportunity to attend summer camps and many asked Jesus into their hearts on these trips .

God called me to lead our GA's (Girls in Action) for many years while my daughter, Mattie was in elementary school. In the mid to later 1990's, I served as the Blackwater Baptist Association GA Missions Leader. One of the BBA churches originated a "GA Post Office" in their church and shared the idea with our associational churches. The "Post Office's" purpose was to raise funds for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by providing a means for church members to mail their Christmas cards to other members for only 25 cents each. The idea caught on to myself and other GA leaders and so the traditions began!

When I shared the idea at Millfield with a dear friend Donnie Bracey, he jumped right in and found an old wooden mailbox at his workplace that was perfect for our use! As I remember, we were so excited to clean up and design the old box alphabetically for sorting the Christmas cards by each family's last name and introduce this project to our church members. Our GA's would stamp the cards each Sunday in December with a Christmas symbol and sort them in the mailbox. Then families would gather around the hallway and retrieve their mail each week. At the end of the month, if cards were still in the slots, some wonderful angels would make sure that all mail was delivered.

On scanning through old church minutes, I was hoping to find the exact year that our GA mailbox originated, but was unsuccessful. If you are reading this and you

recall any additions or corrections to the memory of our GA Post Office, please piggyback on this article for next month! Or you may have a memory moment of your own to share in the new year ahead for our newsletter.

Thanks to several of the women who stepped up this year to stamp and sort the Christmas cards to keep this wonderful tradition alive. (What a great savings, to still mail a card for 25 cents!)



\$191.00 was raised for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for missions through the post office this season. Your donations are much appreciated!

*Sharon Patterson*



**Margaret Simms**

**Wesley Garner**

**Edith Barnes** has breast cancer.

**Annette Haywood** has breast cancer.

**Javier Gonzalez**, Tamara Capodanno's boyfriend, currently deployed on the USS Bush, and all other military, as well as their families and loved ones.

**Jennifer Clements**, Benji Goodrich's mother-in-law, has breast cancer.

**Donald Magee** has passed away. Please keep his loved ones in your prayers.

**John Moore** is having a health issue setback.

**Vicky Goodrich** is back on a PICC line for antibiotics every 8 hours until February and is under doctor supervision for multiple blood clots.

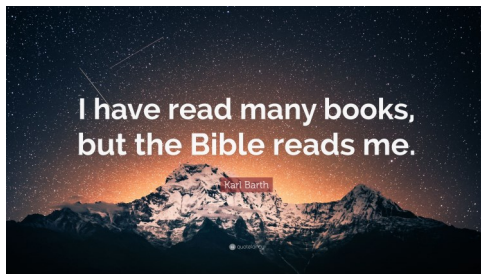
<b>January</b>	
<b>1 Samuel</b>	
1	Reflection
2	Chapter 20
3	Chapters 21-22
4	Chapter 23
5	Chapter 24
6	Chapter 25
7	Chapters 26-27
8	Reflection
9	Chapters 28-29
10	Chapters 30-31
<b>2 Samuel</b>	
11	Chapter 1
12	Chapter 2
13	Chapter 3
14	Chapters 4-5
15	Reflection
16	Chapters 6-7
17	Chapters 8-9
18	Chapter 10
19	Chapter 11
20	Chapter 12
21	Chapter 13
22	Reflection
23	Chapter 14
24	Chapter 15
25	Chapter 16
26	Chapter 17
27	Chapter 18
28	Chapter 19
29	Reflection
30	Chapter 20
31	Chapter 21

*2023*

*Bible*

*Reading*

*Plan*



<b>February</b>	
<b>2 Samuel</b>	
1	Chapter 22
2	Chapter 23
3	Chapter 24
<b>1 Kings</b>	
4	Chapter 1
5	Reflection
6	Chapter 2
7	Chapter 3
8	Chapters 4-5
9	Chapter 6
10	Chapter 7
11	Chapter 8
12	Reflection
13	Chapter 9
14	Chapter 10
15	Chapter 11
16	Chapter 12
17	Chapter 13
18	Chapter 14
19	Reflection
20	Chapter 15
21	Chapter 16
22	Chapter 17
23	Chapter 18
24	Chapter 19
25	Chapter 20
26	Reflection
27	Chapter 21
28	Chapter 22

**December '22**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Millfield Baptist Church

# JANUARY 2023

**February '23**

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2 3 4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> New Year's Day 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 11:00 am Childrens Church	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:15 Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 11:00 am WMU Meeting
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Food Bank Truck Delivery 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:15 Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Quarterly Conference	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>16</b> ML King Day	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Bagging Groceries	<b>18</b> 8:30 am Bags of Hope Distribution 6:15 Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Chinese New Year 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:15 Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	1 Becky Felts 4 Paige Dickerson 5 Josh Epperson Samantha Parker Hannah Perkins	6 Marty Vick 10 Joy Branch Jeremiah White 14 Sarah White 16 Randy Branch	16 Zach Goodrich 18 Audrey Peters 24 Sawyer Cornwell 25 Cheryl Parker 28 Kenneth Branch	28 Tristan Cornwell 29 Renee Strezze Clark 31 Cara Cutright	

