

MARCH 2021

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Can you believe it's been one year since the pandemic came to our region? I don't think any one of us could have imagined the challenges that these past twelve months have brought. Individuals and families, young and old – we've all struggled to come to grips with life during a pandemic.

And yet, there have been real glimpses of beauty over the past twelve months. It strikes me that oftentimes, we see God's love and grace best through other people. And I've certainly seen it in so many of you through the recent months. Like a couple of weeks ago, when Lois Grissom and Phyllis Henley met at church masked up to construct a "Lent Wreath" to help our church family observe the season of Lent together. Or Mila Spaulding and Susan Angel, who created make-your-own Lent wreath packages and dropped them off on the front porches of children in our church family. I've seen real beauty and excitement from our Food Service Committee (Wayne Melton, Connie Jones, Tami Ricketts, and Mike and Kathy Nicholas) who last week prepared over 100 to-go meals for our church family and community. I think of Shannon Wilson's leadership in our food drive last summer – where we collected over 2500 lb of food for the vulnerable in Goochland County. I think of Angela Bassett's creativity in coordinating an inspiring, socially-distanced, outdoor Christmas production. And Kitt and Robert Townsend's generosity in providing pizza for all who played a part in that Christmas production. I think of the way Wayne and Ellen Melton have helped Waverly Health navigate the end of his life and Carolyn Heath navigate a move to a new facility.

There's beauty in small things, too. Like Jeff Parrish repairing the doorknob on our janitorial closet. Or the selfless delivery of Wednesday night to-go meals by folks like the Nicholases and the Spauldings to homebound church families. Of Phil Egolf's regular mowing of our church lawn. Or of one of high school students, Nate Arnold, running the camera on Sunday mornings to help us stream our service on YouTube.

One of the paradoxes of our faith is that oftentimes, light is seen best in the dark. In spite of the darkness and difficulty of the past year, we've seen the light of Christ light up in ways we'd never have expected. And it reminds me that God's love is demonstrated best not through the "Super Christians," but through normal people – like you and me. That's why I'm so grateful for the beautiful ways our church family has demonstrated God's love, even in the midst of a difficult year. Of course, there's always a risk whenever a pastor names people that he or she will inadvertently leave other names out. Undoubtedly, many others have helped out without getting recognition. I'm grateful for you, too.

The vaccines being distributed and slightly lower rates of COVID transmission are positive signs that point us to the emergence of a new, post-pandemic reality. We're all looking forward to that. But one thing won't change. God will still be looking for normal people to demonstrate his love in a visible way. It's my prayer that we'll all find ways to shine his light in our words, thoughts, and deeds in the months to come. Because the world – and our church – is a better place when we do.



GOOCHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1771

PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.

Address:

2454 Manakin Road
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103

Church Office: 804-749-3522

Church Fax: 804-749-4510

Email:

Goochlandchurch@gmail.com

Website:

www.goochlandchurch.org

Facebook:

GoochlandBaptistChurch

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz
Pastor

Kelly Anderson
Minister to Students

Deacon Minutes

Jeff Parrish

I just can't help to admire the beauty of the place where we worship every week. The proud bell tower that stands as a monument to our promise to God, that he is the center of our life as that bell is to ours as we enter the property every Sunday. This summer as we worshipped outside, I overheard several people say how beautiful the church was and the background of beautiful weather made it all the better. I am on the Building and Properties committee, and it is a personal mission of mine to help preserve the beauty and integrity of this building for the future worshipers at our church. We have some of our loved ones here on the property who have passed on into the loving arms of God, and I know that we all share the same passion as they did to keep our second home as beautiful as it was when they did their best to preserve the pride of Goochland Baptist Church. I hope some of you will take the time to walk through the older section sometime, and feel the charm of the original church building, and browse in the history section and admire the old pictures as our church grew. I walk through on occasions early in the morning to check out things, and I can feel the prayers still continuing into heaven to God's ear and I feel Christ while I am there.

I travel all around the state to many churches to bring value in lighting and energy savings to help them retain money from their electric bills to put dollars hopefully toward outreach. I always seem to bring up Goochland Baptist as a bragging issue, just because I know our church is tops in the beauty category. This year we celebrate 250 years as a church, (our country isn't that old) and ever since the Nuckols Meeting House, as we were called in those days, have made the praise of God foremost in our lives.

Goochland Baptist Church is a very special place for all of us and I hope that the people who visit us will feel the same way. I have enjoyed going back to church these last few months and it has been so nice seeing everyone and I look forward to getting back to the Sanctuary in the original building and feel the history and love for Christ beaming out of the walls and feeling the warmth of the sun coming through the stained glass windows as we worship.

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. Ecclesiastes 3:11

GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

I'm grateful for this past year and the ways that our church family has joined God in His mission together in our community. I'm reminded of Acts 2:41-47, when the early church began right after Jesus ascended into Heaven. What was unique about the early church? They gathered in each other's home, broke bread together around the table and they had everything in common. They shared the common goal of following Jesus and being on mission with God and developed a community of love, kindness and following the heart of Jesus. As we move ahead into the spring time where new life is developing may we be reminded that God is granting us life anew as we follow in His spirit. May we all be encouraged by that and by each other as we move further into the new year.

Wednesday Nights @ 6:00-7:00 pm

In the Multipurpose Room.

Follow us @GBCVASTUDENTS

or visit www.goochlandchurch.org/students.

Please note that all of our youth ministry gatherings will adhere to CDC guidelines and rules that have been set forth by our GBC regathering team



**Registration is still open for our summer mission trip
June 27-July 3, 2021**

The total cost for the trip is \$300 per student.
Please contact Kelly for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER *TO GO*



To reserve your meals, call or text

Wayne Melton at 804-380-4528 by Monday at 9:00 PM.

ON THE WAY: WEDNESDAYS @ GBC

Online

Join us online **Wednesdays at 7 pm** for a real-time gathering for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study.

To be added to the email list or learn more,
email goochlandchurch@gmail.com or call 804-749-3522.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

March 5	Victoria Parrish
March 6	Mary Stanley
March 7	Betsy Alvis Betty Meador
March 14	Shannon Wilson
March 17	John Audia Sheila Claytor
March 17	Diane Proctor
March 18	Ida May Nelson
March 20	Rebecca Michels Keith Spaulding Russell Starke
March 21	Brandon Arnold
March 22	Kathy Nicholas Craig Williams
March 23	Ginger Dyson Audrey Taylor
March 24	Richard Ciofani
March 25	Patricia Alvis
March 26	Dennis Alvis
March 29	Kristie Gee
March 30	Jackie Ford Jessie Stewardson
March 31	Nate Arnold

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Lois Grissom and Phyllis Henley for their work on the Lenten Wreath at the front of the Multipurpose Room.



LIVE STREAM

SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM

To watch, visit **Youtube.com** and search "**Goochland Baptist Church**" or follow the link at **www.goochlandchurch.org** and in our weekly emails.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Goochland Baptist Family:

As you're well aware, the COVID-19 virus is spreading through our community more quickly than ever. Positivity rates are up, and just about everyone knows someone who has tested positive. Our Regathering Team met this week to reevaluate Goochland Baptist's response to the pandemic. From the beginning, our Regathering Team has remained committed to the importance of corporate worship (Isaiah 43:21), the importance of human connection (Genesis 2:18), and the importance of caring for our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us (1 Corinthians 12:22). These values guide our decision-making.

We know that not everyone is comfortable with in-person worship in a season like this. In fact, for many of church members who are more vulnerable to COVID-19, it's best to worship from home. However, our Regathering Team has decided to continue worshipping in-person following the guidelines we established last fall, including wearing masks over the nose and mouth and social distancing.

We want to be clear with our church family about our response if someone who attends worship tests positive for COVID-19. Pastor Curt has talked with the Chickahominy Health District to make sure the Regathering Team's response aligns with the best practices for our region. What's outlined below is our plan to try and keep everyone as safe and informed as possible.

First and foremost, if you've attended GBC in-person activities and test positive for COVID-19, please contact Pastor Curt or your deacon ASAP. We will never share the identity of persons with COVID-19 with the church family without their consent. By letting us know of your COVID-19 diagnosis, you allow us to do everything reasonably possible to protect the greater church family.

When we learn that someone who has tested positive attended one of our in-person gatherings within the last 14 days, we will take the following actions:

- **First**, we'll contact everyone who attended the event with the person who later tested positive for COVID. We keep records of who attends every in-person gathering to aid in contact tracing.
- **Second**, following the guidance of the Chickahominy Health District, we'll advise everyone who attended an in-person gathering with someone who tested positive for COVID to talk to their primary care provider and get tested for COVID-19. Most providers recommend taking the send-off test, which is much more accurate than the rapid test.
- **Third**, if we are aware that specific people were in close contact with the person who tested positive (i.e. sat near, had a conversation with), we will let those particular people know that they were in close contact with someone who tested positive. The Chickahominy Health District recommends folks who were in close contact with an infected person self-quarantine for seven days, even if they get a negative COVID-19 test result. Research suggests that people who test negative sometimes still transmit the virus, especially if it was a false negative.
- **Fourth**, following the direction of the Chickahominy Health District, we will cancel the next week's service to allow a full 14 days between services. For example, if we have someone who tests positive in our Sunday morning worship service, the next Sunday's worship will be online only.

If you have any questions about our protocol, please don't hesitate to reach out. Hopefully later this year we'll turn a corner and we can return to some form of normalcy. Until then, you can be assured that we will do everything reasonably possible to keep you informed of potential exposures to COVID-19. It's our prayer that you stay healthy, and that God's presence sustains and guides you in this season. Please let us know if we can help in anyway.

Sincerely,
GBC Regathering Team

Guidelines for Indoor Worship

Established by the Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

We will be doing the following in an effort to keep our church family safe:

- Sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (including doorknobs and bathroom fixtures)
- Offering hand sanitizer and face masks upon entrance to the church
- Refraining from passing things (bulletins, offering plate, Lord's Supper)

Each person will be asked to do the following:

- Wear a facemask at all times while they're inside the church building. (Children under age 2 do not need facemasks.)
- Practice social distancing, remaining at least six feet apart from those outside your immediate family.
- Refrain from bringing food or drink into the church building.
- Use the bathroom before or after the service, but remain in your seat once you've been seated for worship. (Worship will be approximately 45 minutes long.)
- Visit with our church family outside of the church building after the service.

Worship itself will look different.

- In an effort to reduce traffic, an usher will show every individual or family to their seats. (We will seat from the outside of the rows moving in.)
- Ushers will leave four seats between each individual or family unit to ensure over 6 feet of social distancing.
- At the conclusion of the service, ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows.
- We will not pass the offering plate, but there will be a box at the entrance of the Multipurpose Room for our church family to drop their offerings into.
- We'll have music, but there will be no congregational singing.
- Children may come forward for the children's sermon and sit on pre-arranged mats to ensure social distancing.
- We will not be printing out bulletins. Instead, we'll use the monitors to guide the service.
- Our pastor will preach behind a clear shield and exit the building immediately after the service, so he can greet you safely outside.

Who shouldn't worship indoors?

- If you have a fever, cough, or sore throat, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If you or someone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home and worship with us online.
- If for any reason, you're not comfortable with the guidelines the Regathering Team has established, please stay home and worship with us online!

We will continue to monitor state and local guidance concerning COVID-19 and will make necessary adjustments to our worship guidelines as needed.

Goochland Baptist Church Regathering Team

Kelly Anderson
David Angel
Susan Angel
Angela Bassett
Kristie Gee

Elizabeth Hobbs
Curt Kruschwitz
Erin Kruschwitz
Jeff Parrish
Mila Spaulding

Gayle Stanley
Russ Starke
John Webb
Shannon Wilson

PRAYER REQUESTS

Allen Bowles—health concerns

Ann Bowles—her cancer has spread and she has started chemo treatments.

Ebu Brown—recovering from COVID-19 at home. Doctors says this will take weeks to recover from.

Daphne Longenecker—at HDHF for irritation following an injury of her other foot

Doug Brandmahl—health issues

Debbie Dunlavey—cancer

Jackie Eby—Brookdale

Janet Faudree—health concerns

Barbara Fillion

Carolyn Heath

Selma Herweyer—has moved to Memory Care Center and is on hospice

Lila Hicks—recovering from knee replacement

William Hicks

Scott Hobson—continued prayers that his cancer remains low and continues to respond to treatment.

Janet Koch—recovering from today's knee replacement surgery

Connie Long

Daphne Longenecker—hospitalized at HDHF for her foot

Hazel Melton—having some trouble with an eye issue

Rebecca Michels—Please pray that the cancer can be contained and eliminated. Please pray for CJ, Kendall, and Tanner as well.

Linda Moore - pray that antibiotics treat her infection before her upcoming surgery

Rick Murren - Hospitalized at St. Francis

Lee Proffitt - husband Jim has now transferred to Beth Shalom for rehab

Adelaide Stanley - has moved to Beth Shalom

Mary Stanley—Beth Shalom

Wanda Waldrop

Bob White—health concerns

Julia White

Family & Friends of GBC Members

Jeanie Allen—friend of John Webb and Mike Nicholas, surgery

John Bartlett—Linda Moore's brother has C-Diff.

Roger Bourgeois—(Linda Moore's uncle) exposed to Covid. Has other health issues and a disabled daughter he cares for.

Diandra Camacho—prayers for arthritis and its treatment

Jim Crews—(Carla Yuen's neighbor & friend) had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck.

Roger Foster (friend of Mike Nicholas and retired Henrico County police officer) has terminal cancer.

Audrey Geraci (Denise and Gerard Huff's niece) stage 4 metastatic melanoma. She is 36 years old and has three young children.

Clarence Hall Jr. and Carol Hall, his wife; kin to Willy Hall and Hazel Melton.

Janice Hanner—undergoing treatment, pancreatic cancer

Kelly Harris (Jim & Brenda Allen's daughter)—Health concerns

Margaret Holland (a member of the community) she suffered a stroke

Dan and Sherry Kittelson—Kitt Townsend's newlywed brother and sister-in-law.

Mary Anne Lawson—(Gwen Padgett's cousin) having trouble with shoulder that was repaired.

Rebecca Michels' Mom

Jan Moritz (friend of Richard Ciofani & Sandy Fisher)—cancer diagnosis

Gwen Padgett's cousin Nancy—multiple health concerns and her husband Eddie had a small stroke

Wayne Parent (Hazel Melton's Brother in Law)

Mrs. Calvin Porter diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Rhonda Powell—friend of Daphne Longenecker, has esophageal cancer

Lee Proffitt's sister in law, **Pearl Turman**, bladder cancer

Lee Proffitt's brother, **Raiford Turman**, home

Tami Ricketts' mother has breast cancer at 91 and has declined some this past week

Sue Snead (friend of Ann Bowles)

Dolly Vopelak—(Ken Stalls' mother in NC)

Nell West—(Aunt of Audrey Nuckols and Lois Lane) recovering from surgery

Sharon Wood—Hazel Melton's sister, health issues

Our Sympathy To:

Amy Robinson and family for the loss of her grandmother, Scottie Robinson.

Please email goochlandchurch@gmail.com with new prayer requests, changes to prayer requests, or to be added or removed from our Prayer Request Email List.