

Shermont Baptist Church

February 2025 Newsletter

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Ryan's Reflections

As we enter the month of love, I was reminded of an old fable regarding problems of the heart:

There was a very fearful mouse that heard a very famous and powerful magician was coming to town. The mouse was so happy, his fearful life of worry could change if he could get to the magician.

The date arrived and the mouse was so afraid, but he pressed the crowd. He asked the great magician. I am so afraid of the cat; would you please turn me into a cat? The magician said that is easy. ABRACADABRA the mouse was changed into a cat. He thanked him.

Down the block the mouse, I mean cat, saw a dog. Great fear filled the mouse-cat. He returned to the magician and said: I am afraid of the dog. Can you please help me? Sure, ABRACADABRA and the cat was now a dog. Wow, this dog's life is wonderful!

Before the dog left the circus grounds the dog heard the lion roar and great worry and fear filled the dog. The dog ran back to the magician's room and explained that being a dog was very nice, but he was very afraid of the lion. Sir, could you please turn me into a lion? I will have no fear as a lion.

The magician said: Ok, ABRACADABRA, you are a lion. The mouse, cat, dog, now lion left the room. He now has no reason to fear or be afraid, he is the mighty lion. As the lion roared a few times he was so thankful.

About that time the lion saw a human. The human cracked his whip and shot off a round from the blank gun. Great fear grew in the lion's heart. This fear and worry is killing me, said the lion. So, he returned to the magician and he asked, I am so afraid as a lion, could you please make me a human?

The magician said: No, absolutely not . . .for all you have is a mouse's heart. With that, the magician turned the lion back into a mouse. He went on to say, "See the problem of the heart is the heart of the problem."

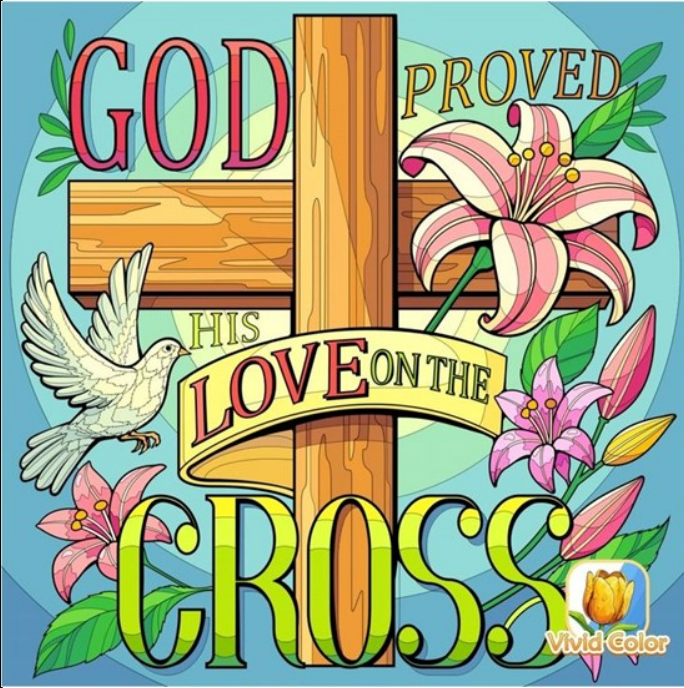
The lion still had a mouse's heart. The dog still had a mouse's heart. The cat still had a mouse's heart. The outside may change, but the fear, worry, and problems will still be there unless there's a change of heart.

Too often we worry about the outside rather than remember what change He has done in our hearts. May we feel His love, share it with others, and allow His Spirit to bring about whatever changes need to be made in our lives.

For His kingdom and for His glory!

Pastor Ryan





February is known as the “love” month!

We have two daughters and five granddaughters and praise the Lord now two great grandsons! Over the years the female influence in our house and sometimes sent my husband out the door. Bless his heart!

We have watched our girls fall in “love”, fall out of “love” and fall in “love” again. We have listened to our girls as they have laughed, danced and cried over relationships. And praise God we have watched as some of them have committed to a lifetime partner.

The “love” we experience between family members, friends, co-workers and church family is wonderful, joyous, fun, stressful, fickle, and sometimes hurtful.

TRUTH!

We are told to “love like Jesus does”, but I don’t think we really can fully understand that kind of love. He loves us unconditionally! He loves us so much that He gave His life for us! His love never fails! He wants the very best for us! Now that is a love we need to strive for daily! Lord help us!

I’m so thankful to know that Jesus loves me! Not just because the Bible tells me so, but He shows me everyday. In my weakness HE is strong! Yes! Jesus loves me! Hallelujah!

Because of Jesus love,

Ellen



EASTER CHOIR KICK-OFF

If you are interested in singing with us in the Easter Cantata we would love to have you. Please let me know and I will have music ready for you. Come join us for our kick-off on

Saturday, February 8th 10:00 am.

We will have homemade soup and sandwich luncheon following practice.



February Birthdays

Feb 1	Leigh Laughorn, Norma Pleasant	Feb 16	Randy Barrett, Brenda Jones
Feb 4	Kim Baldrige		Bobby Pleasant, Jr.
Feb 6	Madison Laughorn, Deb Mitchell	Feb 17	Amber Poteat
Feb 10	Elizabeth Alvis, Butch Cassada	Feb 21	Marc Dalton
Feb 11	Gwen Moschler	Feb 22	Mark Satterfield
Feb 13	Josh Speagle	Feb 25	Donald Bailey
Feb 14	Donna Hutson		
Feb 15	Keith Cassell, Jaxon High Ramona Woodson		



Happy Birthday to All!

Library Spotlight—Linda Godfrey

Benefits of Reading:

- Helps to develop empathy
- Improves critical thinking skills
- Builds vocabulary and enhances social skills
- Strengthens your brain
- Can help reduce Stress
- Helps to build and maintain memory
- Strengthens writing skills
- Can improve sleep
- Strengthens language and communication skills
- Builds problem solving skills

WWII Book—*Runner's Run* by Rick Barry

This is the story of an American soldier's dangerous trek through enemy territory. The soldier was a gunner on a B-24 bomber. He had turned against God before joining the Army. This book is about all he went through during his very long time in the enemy area and all the people who helped him. During this time, he continues to see God's work in his life. This is the type of book you can't stop reading. So, check it out, enjoy and also learn more about the war.

Linda Godfrey



Missions / Outreach

What does the Bible say about mission and outreach?

1 Peter 4: 10-11- "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

Your unique talents and abilities are not just for your benefit but to bring joy and glory to God through your service to others. This profound sense of joy and happiness you experience in your mission outreach is a testament to the fulfillment it brings.

Our mission / Outreach efforts have been a cornerstone of our church's identity. Shermont, a church known for its generosity, has consistently planned and executed impactful mission projects. We've witnessed remarkable results, such as surpassing our church goal for the 2024 Lottie Moon Christmas offering, contributing a significant \$20,001.00. Your contributions have directly helped provide vital resources and support to international missionaries, enabling them to spread God's word to those who may not have heard otherwise. Your continued support is crucial in maintaining this momentum.

As we step into February, let's work diligently together to expand our mission/outreach ministry. The church as a whole is responsible for seeing the mission/outreach of Shermont succeed.

Mission/outreach holds no assigned person in charge. I have been involved in missions and ensured our church's involvement. Your ideas and initiatives are not just welcome but crucial to our success. Please let me know if you have any ideas or want to lead a mission/outreach project. I never want to hinder someone else's desire for service. We are a church family who should work together for God's glory.

Our church is a mission group, and your ideas and initiatives are not just crucial but indispensable to our success. You are all valued and included in this mission, and your unique contributions make our church community so special.

In February, we will collect items needed by **Habitat For Humanity**. Your contribution is not just a donation, but a significant step toward their vision of providing everyone with a decent place to live. These items are essential for the volunteers who work on the construction sites, and your donations will directly support their efforts.

Items needed:

- **Work Gloves (Size Large)**
- **Dust Mask**
- **Paint Brushes (All Sizes)**
- **Paper Towels (Shop Grade Blue)**
- **Trash Bags**
- **Bottled Water**

We will have an opportunity on **February 22 from 9:30 to 2:30** to assist with painting the interior of a home. Your participation is not just a donation of time; it's a significant step towards Habitat for Humanity's vision of providing everyone with a decent place to live. A volunteer sign-up sheet is available on the Sunday School floor and in the vestibule. Please take a moment to pray about this mission project and consider signing up if you're willing to dedicate your day to helping this non-profit organization. I will contact each person who has signed up to volunteer.

Habitat for Humanity's vision:

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Their principles:

- **Demonstrate the Love of Jesus Christ.**
- **Focus on shelter.**
- **Advocate for affordable housing.**
- **Promote dignity and hope.**
- **Support sustainable and transformative development.**

Love in Christ,

Amanda Crews



Winter Jam

If you are a student from grades 5-8, we invite you to join us at Winter Jam on February 15. It will be an awesome time of praise and worship! We leave from the church at noon, eat lunch/dinner in Greensboro, and return to the church between 11:00-12:00a. Be sure to invite your friends as well!

Kid's Valentines Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 22 from 5:00-8:00p as the kids will enjoy food, fun, and celebration! Parents can take this opportunity to catch a nap, go on a date night, or just enjoy a little peace and quiet.



D-Now 2025

Shermont youth will join with many other local youth groups for a time of fun and worship. The speaker this year is Rob Turner, and the band will be Liberty Worship Collective. Students will dive into the topic of the "Battle for the Heart" from Romans 6. Mark your calendars for March 7-9th, and start inviting your friends for this awesome week-end experience! A \$40 registration fee is due no later than February 5.

Dylan