

Shermont Baptist Church

February 2025 Newsletter

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Associate Pastor: *Mr. Dylan Gary*

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Ryan's Reflections

As I write this article, snow has covered the trees and the ground, and the beauty of winter's majesty is just outside my office window. I love it! However, this is for next month's newsletter. March: a month of new life, of Spring (March 20th) & of springing forward our clocks (March 9th).

I'm reminded of this report that came out in the 1990's: *A few years ago, when archaeologists began excavating in the courtyard of a medieval monastery, they found seeds that had been dormant for more than 400 years that had begun to grow. King Henry VIII had closed the monastery in 1539, and herbs tended by the monks died. But they sprouted to life again after the archaeologists disturbed the earth.*

Yes, in the midst of cold, snow-covered earth or even a cold, bitter soul, there is the potential for hope, for joy, for life to spring up if only someone would take the time and effort to cultivate (or disturb) the soil of the heart.

Perhaps your joy has become dormant; perhaps your life feels pointless; cheer up my friend! All that needs to happen is for you to allow the Master to stir your heart, your mind, your soul in such a way that you are reminded of His love, mercy and grace; to have that fire rekindled by His Spirit; to once again embrace that meaning and purpose we have as children of the One True Living God.

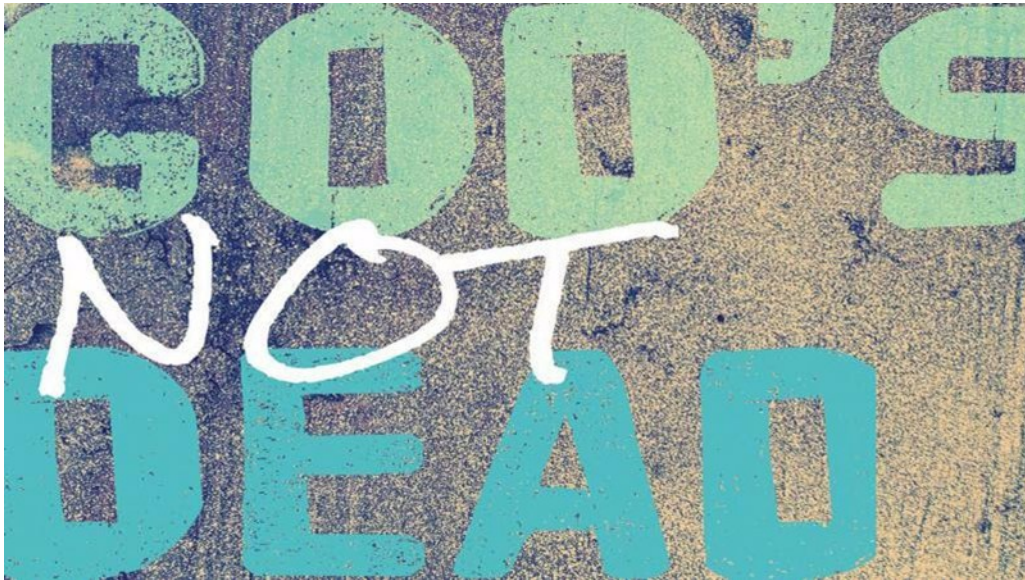
This Spring, allow the life of Christ to flood your soul, that together we might see His hand at work in and through us, perhaps even to the point of witnessing seeds that have been dormant spring to life because of our witness for His kingdom.

Thankful to be cultivating His garden alongside you,

Pastor Ryan



Notes from Ellen



Our **KIDZ PRAIZE** choir is working on the musical *"God's Not Dead"* to be presented during Worship on **Sunday April 13th**. If you have a child or grandchild, or know of a child that would like to participate in this, there is still time for them to learn the songs. **Kidz Praize** is for any child age K – 6th grade and they meet every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Children's Church room on the second floor. The director, Stephanie Ellis, does a marvelous job with these children and they **LOVE** her! It thrills my heart to hear these kids sing! They have so much talent and energy and they give it their all! We don't want to leave anyone out, so know **YOU ARE WELCOME** to come join the fun!

Our **Kidz Praize** choir will also join the adult choir Easter Sunday morning, **April 20th**, to present the first song of the Cantata; ***Alive, Forevermore, Amen!*** How exciting to have generations coming together to lift up our Risen Savior; the King of kings and the Lord of lords, in this musical tribute.

We will not present the Adult Easter Cantata twice this year but if you have family members that would like to hear the Cantata and can't come Easter Sunday then our last practice will be on **Wednesday, April 16th at 6:30 pm.** They are welcome to come; as long as they realize it will be a practice night for us. Pray for our choir as we work hard to bring glory to our Lord in our music and testimony! **HE IS WORTHY! AMEN!**

Singing for JESUS,

Ellen



March Birthdays

Mar 1 Kaylah Pritchett

Mar 4 Jeremy Sloane

Mar 6 Eric Mitchell

Mar 8 Eric Ellis

Mar 9 Al Powell

Mar 16 Louise Tucker

Mar 18 Mandy Riley

Mar 19 Eddie Boyd, Bessie Taylor

Mar 20 Erin Riley

Mar 21 Adam Harper

Mar 22 Judy Armstrong, Ethan Riley

Mar 23 Kathie Owen

Mar 25 Gary Gammon, Belva Presley

Mar 28 Pearline Buckner, Tim Kapornyai

Mar 29 Coy Hamlett

Mar 30 Donny Adkins

Mar 31 Phillip Hankins, Laurie Taylor



Happy Birthday to All!



Library Spotlight—Carol McDowell

The Five Love Languages by Dr. Gary Chapman

Quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, physical touch. Which of the five is the most heartfelt to you? Discover the key that makes you feel truly loved and show love to your mate. Dr. Chapman helps you figure out how to express your love and what makes you feel truly loved in return.

The Five Love Languages of Children by Dr. Gary Chapman and Dr. Ross Campbell

You can discover and speak your child's love language. Every child has a unique way of feeling loved. Parents find practical advice to build relationships at home. Also, specific help for single parents and teachers.

Carol McDowell



As a child, I was terrified of the dark; between my vivid imagination and an uncertainty of what may be hiding in the shadows waiting to jump out, sleeping alone was obviously a cause for major concern. This fear is one that I'm certain many who are reading this may have experienced when they were young, and one that my son now seems to share with his dad. My fear of being alone in the dark was so strong that I remember a family vacation during which I slept next to my father's side of the bed; my dad, recognizing my anxiety, slept all night with his arm hanging down and his hand on my chest. Of course, with dad's hand on me, all fears subsided. I knew that he would ensure no "monsters" or "ghosts" came after me during night.

As adults, we no longer fear the dark as we matured to realize that nothing is going to magically appear to "get us"; nonetheless, we do fear uncertainty and going into unknown territory. We experience anxiety when outcomes are not predictable or foreseeable. In the age of information, we seek answers online or through professionals, trying to get a handle on the "darkness" in our lives to ensure that no "monsters" will pop out. In thinking about my childhood experience, I could not help but think about the 23rd Psalm in which David writes, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters."

Our westernized image of this verse is often seen as Christ leading sheep along a lush green meadow through which a gentle river is flowing. However, this image is far from the one painted by David. If we take a trip to the Judean desert (where David lived and wrote the Psalm), we see that there are no such fields or streams, rather it's a vast desert. You see, in David's time, a shepherd would lead his herd from one tuft of grass to another in the desert. Grass grew around the base of large boulders; therefore, the shepherd led his sheep through rocks and dirt to reach the next tufts of grass. Moreover, a shepherd led his sheep to dried, low flowing riverbeds to drink, but he had to be mindful of what water may be coming from upstream as a large burst could occur from a heavy rain at the head of the water source. These creek beds were known as "wadis" and posed a danger of drowning a flock. But the Good Shepherd knows when to move His flock from danger.

With a cultural and historical understanding of Psalm 23, we understand that God does not promise us that difficult times will not enter our life. He does not promise us that we will not encounter darkness or uncertainty. Rather, he promises us something much deeper, He promises to be our shepherd, to keep His hand on us in the dark as He shepherds us through those difficult times to reach the nourishment we need. Let us remember we will encounter these times. However, His hand is on us, and, through His leadership, we will learn not to be afraid.

Yours in Christ,

Colby Warren, Chairman



Missions

In February we started collecting 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 **March 29th, 2025 from 9:30 to 2:30** to assist with final cleaning of two new homes after construction. 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

**BATTLE
FOR THE
HEART**



DANVILLE DNOW

D-Now Weekend

Youth will dive into the topic of the **“Battle for the Heart”** during this year’s D-Now. Attending youth will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, March 7 at 6:00 pm** for dinner before we depart. Be sure to go through the packing list to ensure you are well prepared for the weekend.

If you are not attending D-Now, you can still be a part of what is happening! I want to encourage everyone to be in prayer for the students and leaders this weekend. D-Now is an opportunity for students to grow in their relationship with God no matter where they are spiritually. Be in prayer that God would grow a passion in their hearts to see their Danville community reached with the gospel.

Volunteers

We are so thankful to the many individuals who have joined our volunteer team for students at Shermont! The ministry we do cannot be done by a single individual. The sacrifices you make have eternal impact on these student’s lives.

If you have not yet joined our student ministry team but you are willing to serve where God may lead you, we would love to have a conversation with you about what that may look like. We aren’t looking for experts. We are looking for those who are willing to love students, talk about the gospel, and have fun! If you have an interest in being a part of our team please let myself, pastor Ryan, or Colby Warren know.

Eggstravaganza Egg Collection

The Youth Committee is excited to host Shermont’s yearly **Eggstravaganza** on **April 12th, 2025**. One way you can participate in this event is to bring pre-filled eggs to be used during our egg hunt. You can place them in baskets located by the entrances. We also ask that everyone participate in this event by praying that God would use this event to encourage believers and save the lost.

Dylan