

Shermont Baptist Church

May 2025 Newsletter

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Ryan Riley*

Associate Pastor: *Mr. Dylan Gary*

Music Director: *Mrs. Ellen Petty*

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Ryan's Reflections

Recently I came across a true story illustrating the influence of a Godly mother:

It was 1950, and Susannah Prentice lived in Maine with her husband Miles and their three children, Annie, James and John. The family were all Christians except for John, the youngest son. He attended church with the family but was skeptical about faith and prayer.

Miles Prentice was a lobster fisherman. He was barely able to catch enough lobster to support his family. Even though storms were approaching, Miles decided he had no choice but to go check his lobster traps, hoping to catch enough to pay the electric bill, due the next day.

Miles and his oldest son, James, headed out to sea on their small lobster fishing boat. As the storm raged, Miles and his son fought hard to keep their boat afloat. They ended up being carried out to sea. And when the storm finally passed, Miles and James were in trouble. It was dark now. The clouds in the sky meant there were no stars for navigation.

Meanwhile, back at their two-story home, Susannah knew that her husband and son would not be able to find their way back home. So, she took a lamp and put it in the attic window, hoping its rays would serve as a beacon to direct them safely home. Her unsaved son, John, said, "It won't do any good!" Nevertheless, Susannah kept the lamp lit.

Out on the sea and in the darkness, James saw a faint light in the distance. He pointed it out to his father. "We'll steer for that!" said Miles. And slowly they made their way toward the light and shore. Seeing the light in the window, and assisted by Susannah's prayers, Miles and James were soon safely ashore. The family hugged each other in a happy celebration.

John asked, "How did you make it back in?" And James said, "We steered by the light mother put in the window, but we didn't know what was out there." To himself, the unsaved son John thought, "Maybe it is time for me to steer my life by mother's light." Susannah Prentice not only put a light in the attic window, but she also let her light shine in front of her family.

A few months later, the unsaved son John became ill. The doctor examined the young man. And then he gave them the grim prognosis, "He won't live long." As death approached, the young man said, "Don't be afraid for me. I will make it to the safety of the heavenly harbor, because I have steered by mother's light and have found the Savior, Jesus Christ."

May we never discount the impact of a Godly mother's example, prayers, and love.

Thankful for the Godly example and impact of so many,

Pastor Ryan

To God be the Glory! Thank you Shermont Choir for all of the hard work you put into our Easter Cantata! Thank you sweet Jesus for your presence and anointing!

One of the songs I used in the cantata, that was not necessarily an easter song was "I Speak Jesus". Before Christmas God laid this song on my heart for us to do for Easter. I really questioned this so many times. I love this song! In my mind I kept thinking this is not going to fit in with our other songs. God kept speaking to my heart that I was suppose to use this song. I'm so thankful He was persistent and I listened. The message in this song is so powerful! When we speak Jesus' name over our families, over anxiety, over addiction over darkness ...circumstances and lives are changed! Hallelujah!

This is the narration we used with this song:

We are here to tell you that there is **POWER**
in the name of Jesus to transform our lives and our world!

PEACE can be found when we speak the name of Jesus over every heart and every mind!

When we speak the name of Jesus over someone or something, we remind the powers of darkness, that try to enslave and destroy us, that Christ has already defeated them by His death and resurrection and they must bow to **HIS** authority.

When we speak the name of Jesus over our families we are declaring that we will bring HIS love, HIS holiness and HIS influence into our homes.

JESUS.....YOUR NAME IS POWER!

JESUS....YOUR NAME IS HEALING

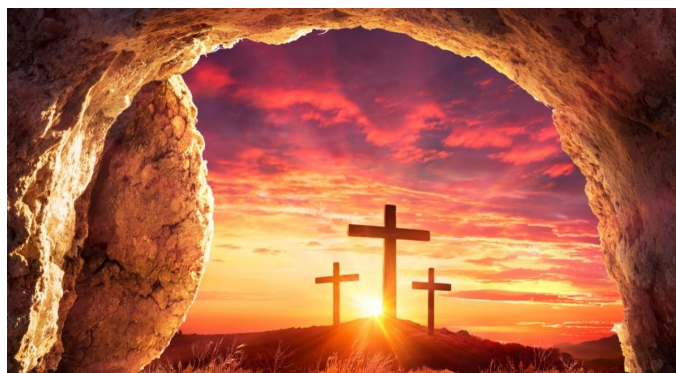
JESUS....YOUR NAME IS LIFE!

This is my prayer for my Shermont family! That we would boldly speak the name of Jesus over every decision we make, over every circumstance we face, over our children, over every dark cloud that dims our vision, over our loved ones that don't know Jesus and over every sickness we face!

I speak the holy Name.....Jesus!

Because of His resurrection!

Ellen



May Birthdays

May 2	Jason Reece	May 20	Sydney Fields, Kirsten Harper
May 4	Chuck Davis, Riley Wingfield	May 21	Crystal Wingfield
May 6	Shana High, Penny McDaniel-Jones	May 22	Roger Crews
May 7	Ruth Williams	May 24	Ruth Johnson
May 8	Jude Riley	May 25	Logan Clayton
May 12	Emily Hill, Samantha Martin	May 26	Bob Grace
May 15	Charlene Presley, Jason Presley	May 27	Scott Presley
May 16	Carol McDowell	May 28	Winnie Hutchens
May 17	Andrew Crews	May 29	Virginia Rice
May 18	Ray Moschler, James Petty	May 30	Tammy Warren
	Adam Poteat, Allen Taylor	May 31	Charles Brumfield, Blake Presley

Happy Birthday to All !

Library Spotlight—Patsy Poteat

If you love a good suspenseful story, I have the author for you! Colleen Coble is a master at mystery and keeps you guessing until the very end. We have a number of her books, but here are a few I recommend:

Series:

Break of Day

Dark of Night

Edge of Dark

Individual Titles:

Strands of Truth

What We Hide

The Stranger's Game

I Think I Was Murdered



Happy Reading!

Patsy Poteat

On March 23, 2025, at 12:41 pm, Channing and I welcomed our second son into the world, Thomas Asher Warren. Prior to Asher's arrival, we had to make the drive to Greensboro Women's Hospital. During the ride there, as Channing experienced a contraction, I could hear her breathing as she tried to control the pain which in turn resulted in my foot steadily increasing pressure on the accelerator. Though we were ecstatic about meeting Asher, we knew the pain that Channing would have to go through to deliver him. I knew that I would have to be her watchful supporter and encourager as she experienced labor for the second time. Ultimately, what pressed her forward in this process was that guarantee that at its conclusion, she would meet this "new life."

Having gone through this miracle a second time, I could not help but think about Genesis 3:16, in which Moses writes how God rendered judgment, "To the woman He said, 'I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will birth to children...' I've often asked myself, why was this specific judgment ascribed to women? Why does extreme pain have to be experienced so that a new life can be welcomed? In Genesis 3:17, Adam is told that he and his seed will have to toil the ground to produce food from it; however, this food which guarantees continued survival, does not bring new life.

In thinking about this passage, I cannot help but think about the crucifixion. Certainly, based on our knowledge of the Roman's methods, Jesus experienced more pain and suffering than we can imagine. However, the suffering He experienced produced new life as He was resurrected. Not only did He become a "new creature", but He also made it possible for us to become new creatures! As Jesus hangs upon the cross, He quotes Psalm 22, saying "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Though we have been taught that this cry was due to the Father turning away, but Jesus is using His dying breaths to teach a lesson about who He is and what He is doing. He is quoting only a part of the Psalm because the surrounding Jews, especially any rabbis present, knew the end of the Psalm read, "They shall come, and shall declare his [God's] righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this." The only righteous man who could stand in the presence of the Father, experienced tremendous pain and suffering so that He could stand in our place before the Father, justifying us under His law.

As I've previously written, God uses His creation as a tool to teach us who He is. If we are good students of His Word, we can readily see Him in our application of the text to our lives. So, in thinking about Genesis 3:16, we see that early in His story, God was teaching His creation that through pain and suffering, new life will come. God knew that He would send His son to redeem and repair the broken relationship with humanity; He knew that the Son would suffer; but He knew that through the Son's suffering and pain, new life would result. We become so excited, as we should, for babies to enter this world, so let us remember to get as excited to welcome a new life in the faith.

Yours in Christ,

Colby Warren, Chairman



Missions

Thank you for your unwavering support for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The 2025 Easter offering theme, “Step into the story,” Was a call to action that you all embraced wholeheartedly. The Bible says in 3 John 1:7-8, “For they have gone out for His name's sake...Therefore, we should support people like these to be fellow workers for the truth,” resonated with our church's mission.

Our **goal of \$5000** was not just a number, but a symbol of our collective commitment. As of this past Sunday **we have collected \$6,387**, exceeding this goal! Every dollar given goes to train and resource more than 3,000 missionaries, and their families, involved in church planting and compassion ministries who share the life-transforming gospel of Jesus Christ across the United States, Canada, and territories. Your support is making a tangible difference in their lives, enabling them to spread the message of hope and love. Your generosity and dedication are truly commendable.

We are filled with anticipation and excitement as we look ahead to May's Mission service opportunity. This mission is not just a time for service, but a chance for us to come together and significantly impact caregivers within our church. We are eager to make a real difference in the lives of our church family, which includes older family members who require much care. Your participation and enthusiasm are key to the success of this mission.

Kim Baldridge and Laurie Taylor have identified a significant need within our church family—the need for a **“Companion Care”** ministry at Shermont. The ministry is a service that shows our love and care for our elderly members. The volunteers could watch TV, work a puzzle, and help them with small tasks to support the person and the caregivers. Your support and involvement in this ministry will make a profound difference in the lives of elderly members and their families. Your empathy and willingness to help are greatly appreciated.

Statistics have shown that cognitive decline can occur when older adults are not exposed to daily conversations and activities. Kim and Laurie would like to recruit others who are willing to serve alongside them in this ministry. You will find a volunteer sign-up sheet to help; soon a meeting with Kim and Laurie will take place. There will also be a sign-up sheet if you are a caregiver to older people and need someone to come in so that you can have a break and care for yourself.

If you have any questions about the **“Companion Care” ministry,
contact Kim Baldridge at 434 421-2279.**

Serving alongside you in Missions,

Amanda Crews

Graduate Sunday

Graduate Sunday will be **Sunday, May 18th**. We are excited to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the Shermont graduates. If you are a member or regular attendee and would like to be recognized during the service, please send your picture and a short explanation of where you are graduating, and what your future plans are, to secretary@shermont.org by **May 11th**. This includes our adult graduates, also!



End of School Parties



This year we will have the kids/youth end of school parties on different days.
The kids party will be on Wednesday, May 21. It's Water Night!

Ages: 3yrs old—5th grade **Time:** 6:30—7:30 pm

Bring your children dressed in their water attire and shoes. Be prepared for them to get wet! Pack a towel and dry clothes to wear home.

We will have popsicles and Goldfish for snacks.

The youth ***Annual Bonfire Hangout*** will be at White Oak Worship Center on Wednesday, May 28 starting at 6:30pm.



The youth party will be on Wednesday, June 4.

We invite students to join us as we celebrate their efforts throughout the school year and anticipate summer break!



Moving Up!

Our kids ministry is Pre-K—5th grade, while our youth ministry is 6th—12th grade. We know there are several 5th grade students who will be transitioning into the youth at the end of the school year.

Beyond the End of School Parties, graduating 5th graders are encouraged to participate in our youth activities. We would love to see you at our Wednesday night Bible studies (6:30pm) or our special events we will host throughout the summer!

Keep an eye out for our summer calendar to know what events are going on.



Dylan