



# BRIDGES

*A Newsletter of New Baptist Church - February 2021*

## Being a Blessing

Many years ago, I came across a saying attributed to Augustine of Hippo that went something like this; “There are three reasons why people seek education. First, they want to show how smart they are to everyone else. Second, they seek education out of love for learning. And third, they seek education and learning for the purpose to better serve others.” I have always liked Augustine's saying because it shows the importance of investing in one's own growth and development as an important part of caring for others. Or, to say this differently, you are as much (or more) a blessing to others in who you are versus what you do. Or, to say this as Jesus would say it, “First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean (Matthew 23:26).” We bless others when we ourselves are whole, holy, and healthy.

This principle of self-care and learning can be applied to nearly all forms of professions. We expect doctors, school teachers, pilots, truck drivers, and auto mechanics to have the skill and knowledge to do what we ourselves can not do. As expected, I often find myself blessed by people who have a skill or knowledge gained out of many years of hard work or school. People who have invested in themselves through forms of education or training are a blessing to others. Now, let us take this principle and apply it to the church.

When a church says something like, “We want to be a blessing to our community,” it generally leads to the start of an outreach ministry. We (Christians) often interpret “being a blessing” as some action we need to do to help others. Doing ministry is very important, but all ministries that seek to be a blessing

to others will always be limited by the depth of character of those who do it. Thus, being a blessing is not just a call to action; it is a call to a deeper walk and fellowship with Jesus. A fellowship with Christ that produces in you a new you shaped by Christ.

Psalm 84:6 describes the world we live in as “the Valley of Baca,” a valley of chaos, mourning, and desolation. But, the Psalm says that those who have set their heart on the Lord turn this valley of Baca into a place of springs. Or, to say this in another way, if you want to bring change to this world of chaos, sorrow, and lost lives, then seek the Lord, and then through you, this world will be blessed (made into a place of springs). This means that for us, the church, to be a blessing to others begins with ourselves knowing and enjoying God's love. The deeper our souls grow and are filled with the presence of God, the more peace we bring into this world. The greater our righteousness conforms to the righteousness imputed to us by Christ, the more truth is put on display. The greater our joy increases through enjoying God, the more life and light we provide for people in darkness. The more we care for ourselves through seeking the Lord, the more we will truly bless and be God's vessel of redemption in this world. Let us be a blessing to where God has placed us, and let this blessing begin with our love and desire for God.



“5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion (Psalm 84:5-7)”

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Trent Eastman

**FEBRUARY**  
Birthdays

- 1 - Eli Eagan  
Debbie Harman  
Warren Napier
- 2 - Gwen Caldwell  
Chris Chaney  
Curt Mann  
Terry Smith
- 4 - Tyler Hampton  
Ripley Haney
- 5 - Gary Norris  
Amy Smith  
Taryn Elise Wilson
- 7 - Alissa Stricker
- 8 - Jeremiah Cruz  
- Tammy Hager
- 9 - Carrie Brown
- 10 - Suzanne McCallister
- 11 - Leigh Frye  
Debbie Weston
- 13 - Mary MacClellan  
Gage Ross
- 14 - Marion Sansom  
Taylor Ross
- 15 - Regan Alford  
Carol Arkell
- 16 - Charles Bonecutter  
C.R. Brown
- 18 - Gavin Blake  
Cliff Mol  
Darrell Walden  
Josiah Wise
- 19 - Pattie Baxter  
Kim Day  
Charlene Kendall
- 20 - Sharon Blankenship  
Dave Gatrell  
Joshua Sierson
- 21 - Roger Barcus
- 22 - Jim Benson  
Brittany Kendrick  
Myra Lydick  
Paula Omer
- 23 - Karen Dailey  
Caleb Wise
- 25 - Dolores Adkins  
Lisa Caviani
- 26 - Madden Casto  
Jim Daniels  
Sarah Miller  
Susan Skaggs
- 27 - Jean Spurlock
- 28 - Janice Mann  
Betsy Wilson

*Anniversaries*

<i>Mark &amp; Jo Ellen Willett</i>	<i>2/1</i>
<i>Ron &amp; Lisa Caviani</i>	<i>2/6</i>
<i>Raymond &amp; Carolyn Spurlock</i>	<i>2/6</i>
<i>Ronnie &amp; Lanna Waugh</i>	<i>2/10</i>
<i>Bret &amp; Pam Woodall</i>	<i>2/14 (40<sup>th</sup>)</i>
<i>Fred &amp; Linda Cummings</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>Travis &amp; Roberta Noble</i>	<i>2/16</i>
<i>Justin &amp; Bethany Cox</i>	<i>2/19</i>
<i>John &amp; Pat Baisden</i>	<i>2/22</i>

**Senior Adult Fellowship Luncheon News**

[No Meetings Planned for February & March](#)

Until the covid situation is under control, we have no plans for senior luncheons. We miss you, we love you and we pray that you will stay safe.

**❄️WOMEN'S MINISTRY ARTICLE❄️**

❄️When you hear the word "February" do you feel frosty and chilly? Or do you see His GRACE all around you? Why don't you try looking out your window throughout this month... glory in the stark beauty of the coldness of the winter days... bask in the warmth of God's love deep in your spirit... contemplate the purpose of this season... and thank God for the promise that we are never forsaken! Because all things, even this coldest of months, can work for good as we look for His design and purpose!

❄️Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases, we will NOT be doing any in-person Bible studies at this time. Lacie Casto has organized an online study titled "Get Out of Your Head" by Jennie Allen. It is on the book of Philippians and the study books are also available online. Please contact Lacie on the New Baptist Church Facebook page or at her number in the church directory if you are interested. You may miss a couple of lessons, but there are still several sessions left.

❄️Otherwise, remember that there are all kinds of studies available both online and in book format. Maybe now is the time for you to explore a favorite book of the Bible, or an interesting person in Scripture, or a topic you want to know more about. And if you like interaction and discussion, call up a friend to see if she might want to join you. Staying grounded in the Word is what's important!

❄️Meanwhile, please stay safe! We all look forward to the day when we can meet face-to-face and share the wonders of God's Word together in our small groups. Until then, be sure to savor the wonderful GRACE of our Lord! "Be strengthened by the GRACE that is in Christ Jesus."--2 Timothy 2:1

**For Good...  
Dolores Adkins**



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks. —Max Lucado, *Fearless*

**From the Board of Finance**

**Correction to Information Published in December 2020 Newsletter**

CARES Act (Tax Law Change)

The CARES Act, which became law in March 2020, included a new tax deduction for individuals:  
(1) who made cash donations in 2020 to public charities (such as New Baptist Church), and  
(2) who do not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes.

This deduction reduces the donor’s adjusted gross income and taxable income.  
It is limited to \$300 per return (\$150 for those individuals who file married separately).



**March 6, 2021**

Parchment Valley Conference Center in Hill Hall  
The event will also be online via Zoom.

***The Book of Galatians: Amazing Grace***

featuring: Dr. Trent Eastman  
Pastor, New Baptist Church and  
Adjunct Professor, Palmer Theological Seminary

The in-person event will be limited to 25 people.

Conference Fee: \$20 per person  
Pastors pay half price \$10

Registration Deadline (with money enclosed):  
March 3, 2021

Registration begins at 9:00am, instruction will  
start at 9:30am and the event will end at  
3:00pm. Fee includes lunch and snacks.

Register online at [www.wbc.org](http://www.wbc.org)

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Sunday,  
February 21, 2021

Hello Ladies!

We would like to invite you to join us  
on Thursday evenings for exercise  
and some social distancing fellowship.



Doors open at 5:15ish for you to pick a place on the dance  
floor. We start dancing at 5:30pm and workout for 50  
minutes then have a short devotion with prayer time.

This exercise experience is for all levels of fitness.  
Stephanie Spencer leads the class with high energy and  
intensity. Carla Booth shows the modified version of the  
routines for those less coordinated.

Please come and enjoy the music. Start with the foot  
work then add the arm work. Do what you can and  
increase your heart ♥ rate!

If you have other questions we have a  
Facebook page

♥REFIT® with Steph and Carla.  
or give us a call.

**304.544.1467 Stephanie Spencer**  
**304.617.7289 Carla Booth**

For more on ReFit, check out this site:  
<https://refitrev.com/>



**Lauren Sommerville Falkner** and **Caroline Kinder** made  
the President's list last semester at MU. Lauren is Lois  
Merritt's granddaughter and Caroline is Joyce Kinder's  
granddaughter.

Congratulations to **Nathan & Brooke (Estep) Welch**. Nathan and  
Brooke were married on Saturday, January 23 in a beautiful  
ceremony at New Baptist. We wish them much happiness as  
husband and wife.

**Prayer Concerns**

(Please let the church office know if there are any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer concern list.)



**Church Family and Friends:**

**Church Family and Friends:** Karen Pruitt Adams, Chelcie & Coralie Adkins, Nancy Adkins, Mickey Bane, Jenny Benson, Dean & Cookie Caldwell, Mary Clifton, Pam Cole, Jack Cook, Rose Davis, Sally Davis, Tessie Deuser, Tracy Foster, Patty Green, Toni Gygi, Doris Halcombe, Minnie Harris, Anna Holstein, John & Linda Hovey, Sandy James, Pete Jones, Bill Lapole, Virginia Lawrence, Joseph Leggott, Joyce Mannon, Roy Maynor, Pat Meredith, Linda Miller, Charlie Morris, Grace Napier, Carol Newlon, Bob & Paula Paden, Barbara Pauley, Carl Pemberton, Sr., Ginger Poteete, Carolyn Powers, Lena Powers, Vicki Rickard, Carol Richardson, Walter & Marion Sansom, Peggy Saunders, Dale Shao, Major & Lynnette Simms, Jim & Ann Spurlock, Raymond & Carolyn Spurlock, Judy Swann, Grover Tadlock, Earl & Teresa Trawick, Pat Vickers, Don & Ellen Walker, Dave Watkins, Ronnie Waugh, Nolice White, Mary Lee Wilkes, Mark & Jo Ellen Willett, Sharon Wimmer, Bret Woodall

**Additional Prayer Items:**

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| our pastors            | all affected by the Covid-19 crisis |
| our community          | unsaved loved ones                  |
| our military personnel | our government leaders              |
| our country            |                                     |

**Death in the Church Family**



**Dr. Duane Eastman**, 80, of Anacortes, WA, passed away Friday, January 8, 2021. In 1951, Duane was saved in a revival. The preacher at the revival announced: "This is no ordinary salvation." The rest of Duane's life and his church and family legacy, have confirmed these words. Duane and Myrna (Reimer) married in September of 1963. Duane began his pastoral ministry in Portland, OR at an inner city Reformed church shortly after that. He pastored several churches throughout Oregon for many years. In 1992, they moved to Anacortes, WA, where he pastored the First Baptist Church of Anacortes for 14 years. During this time, he earned his Doctor of Ministry. Duane officially retired in 2006 after 40 years of full time ministry and enjoyed a long road trip with Myrna and visited 30 states. From 2013 to 2015, Duane served as the Senior Adult Ministry pastor at New Baptist Church. In 2017, he authored his book, *Refining Fire*, sharing the message of God's grace. Duane lived a three-point sermon - love the Word and grace of God, love your family, and love the church. He is survived by his wife, Myrna; sons, Tim, and Trent (Christie); two grandsons, Jacob (Hannah) and Joshua; and one sister, Bertina, as well as many, many friends who loved him and will miss him dearly.

**JANUARY**  
**FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

	<i>YTD</i>
<b>FAMILIES SERVED: 208</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>INDIVIDUALS: 479</b>	<b>479</b>
<i>INCLUDES</i>	
CHILDREN: 111	111
SENIORS: 136	136
HOMELESS: 14	14
<b>HYGIENE KITS: 88</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>SCHOOL FOOD PACKS: 0</b>	<b>0</b>

Thanks for your support!



**Always choose love**

God wants us to choose to love him freely, even when that choice involves pain, because we are committed to him, not to our own good feelings and rewards. He wants us to cleave to him, as Job did, even when we have every reason to deny him hotly. That, I believe, is the central message of Job.

Satan had taunted God with the accusation that humans are not truly free. Was Job being faithful simply because God had allowed him a prosperous life? Job's fiery trials proved the answer beyond doubt. Job clung to God's justice when he was the best example in history of God's apparent injustice. He did not seek the Giver because of his gifts; when all gifts were removed, he still sought the Giver.

-Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*



### God's Providence

God's leading and providence in our lives is often seen in hindsight. We look back at times and events and see that God had worked to have us in the right place at the right time for His purposes. Let me share what I mean.

In September Becky and I made plans to be in Florida for the month of January. Our reservations had been confirmed for four weeks on the beach, oceanfront. If you know us that is a favorite place to be. The rhythm of the ocean has a way of calming us and relieving any stress we carry. To say the least, we were looking forward to warm weather and sand and sea. As Covid-19 began to surge after Thanksgiving and as we looked at Florida, we were growing a little cautious. The news of the vaccine came. We were to leave on January 3 right after Jase Cox's baptism.

Just before Christmas we decided to cancel our plans and stay home. We didn't want to jeopardize spending time with Becky's mother and our 8-month old grandson, Nolan. We were disappointed but knew it was the right decision.

Come now to the first week of January. Pastor Lee is quarantined and then the news of Duane Eastman's physical condition and Pastor Trent's need to be with his family in Washington State.

The Lord knew long before we did what would be needed here at New Baptist. It has been my honor and privilege to preach in Lee and Trent's absence. It is exciting to know that as we follow God's prompting and direction in our lives that He has a plan especially when we do not see it. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) says, *The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*

It is encouraging to know that we can plan and as we walk by faith the Lord will set our path or steps where He wants them to go.

In the message on *Connecting with God's Word* I shared a sample of my daily devotions that I journal each day. I post these devotions on my blog. If you are interested, my blog is [www.rlcrouch.com](http://www.rlcrouch.com).

I thank God for the opportunity and honor of serving on the staff of New Baptist. As I look back over the past month it is comforting to know that God knew along what was needed and brought it about. With a smile I can say, "I look forward to Trent and Lee being back and at full strength again."

*Pastor Rouch*



### Notes from Choir Director

The new year is a month old; celebrations of Christ's birth have been put away and stored in our memories. The choir is still unable to sing as a whole, but we can still lift our voices in praise to our Lord as individuals. The Fanny Crosby song "Praise Him! Praise Him!" comes to mind. This song published in 1869 is rich in praise and joy. Jesus is hailed as Rock, Redeemer, Prophet, Priest, and King. This American poetess wrote over 9,000 poems many of which were set to music and have been published time after time in hymnals proving the truth she wrote about stood the test of time. This particular song encourages us to "tell of His excellent greatness". Excellent greatness being greatness beyond expectations. And isn't that the truest statement of our Savior? He is our "hope of eternal salvation"; He "bore our sorrows"; His "love [is] unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong". She so eloquently penned words describing Jesus in such a way one might think he is out of reach but then her words gently remind us that "like a shepherd Jesus will guard His children, In His arms He carries them all day long." WOW! Our Jesus, our shepherd, carries us, his little ones in his arms! There are always reasons to sing praises and for that I am thankful!





## New Baptist Church

610 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Huntington WV 25702

### Office Hours:

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Tuesday thru Friday

### Phone:

304-523-3355

### E-mail:

[newbaptist2008@gmail.com](mailto:newbaptist2008@gmail.com)

### On the Web:

[www.newbaptistchurch.com](http://www.newbaptistchurch.com)

### Pastors:

Rev. Trent Eastman  
([trente@me.com](mailto:trente@me.com))

Rev. Lee Boso  
([leeboso@gmail.com](mailto:leeboso@gmail.com))

Rev. Robin Crouch  
([rlcrouch1948@gmail.com](mailto:rlcrouch1948@gmail.com))

### Service Hours:

#### Sunday

##### 9am Worship Service

- Traditional Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

##### \*11am Worship Service

- Praise & Worship Hymns
- Social Distancing Practiced
- Masks Required

\*The 11am service is also live  
streamed on FaceBook  
([@NewBaptistChurchWV](https://www.facebook.com/NewBaptistChurchWV))

#### Wednesday

6pm

Pastor's Devotion on  
Facebook Live

NBC Food Pantry  
Tuesdays 10am-4pm

NEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
610 28<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
HUNTINGTON WV 25702

