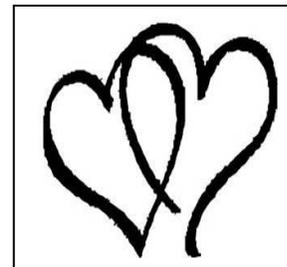


*The February
sunshine steeps
the boughs and
tints the buds and
swells the leaves
within.
- William C. Bryant*

BRUINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH **February 2016 NEWSLETTER**

1790-2015

4784 The Trail Bruington, Virginia 23023



Usual schedule

(Please check monthly calendars and weekly bulletins for any changes.)

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Bible study and prayer service or monthly business meeting
7:00 p.m. Choir practice

Saturdays

10:00 a.m. Community clothes cupboard open first Saturday of each month

Sundays

9:00 a.m. Breakfast for all, prepared by the men - fifth Sundays only
9:00 a.m. Deacons meet on first Sundays and WOM meet on third Sundays
9:00 a.m. Sunday School breakfast fellowship on fourth Sundays
10:00 a.m. Sunday School each week
11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Communion on first Sundays, Mission groups on 3rd Sundays

FROM OUR PASTOR-

A Good Story that Makes a Great Point

A bit of humor with a pertinent point can help us understand a basic truth. I heard about a hog farmer who refused to have anything to do with his church because all he ever saw was a bunch of hypocrites who were members. He always named the same one or two individuals in the church when he talked about how bad things were.

One day the pastor came by for a visit. He wanted to buy a hog. With pride, the farmer showed his pastor the entire herd. After looking at them all, the minister pointed to a scrawny, sickly, ugly little runt and said, "I want that one. He is the scrawniest runt I have ever seen."

"But look over here at all these fine fat pigs," said the farmer. "Don't you want a good one?" "That's all right," replied the pastor, "I want the runt." After the purchase was completed, the pastor spoke, "Now I am going to haul this runt all over the place and tell everyone that is the kind of hogs you raise." The farmer cried out, "Wait a minute. That's not fair. I raise fine hogs. An occasional runt shouldn't ruin my reputation and mean that I don't have very fine animals."

"I know that," said the pastor, "but I am only following your example. Just because there are a few hypocrites in our church doesn't mean that the whole church is made up of hypocrites."

Perhaps this bit of humor with a pertinent point can teach us a truth. The church isn't perfect, but it is the fellowship of God's people and we all need to be active participants.

The Significance of Lent

Our word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten," meaning "the time of lengthening days" or simply "spring" Lent as we know it extends for forty days, excluding the Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The last week before Easter is Holy Week and is set apart for special emphasis.

Around 313 A.D. the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and declared it to be a legal religion. In doing so he created some problems. Converts to the newly popular faith increased quickly but only partly understood it. Now that secrecy was no longer necessary, devotion tended to

relax for the faithful. Extensive teaching was essential for the training of converts. A period of forty days, paralleling the approximate forty hours between the crucifixion and resurrection was set aside prior to Easter for this purpose.

Lent is a time to renew, strengthen, and encourage our spiritual lives. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season. The name comes from the custom of putting ashes on their foreheads to signify their repentance of sin. Whether or not this symbolic action occurs is insignificant; repentance over sin is essential. As we spend these days leading to resurrection, take time in your life to dwell upon Christ's sacrifice and our need for forgiveness from sin.

A New Learning Group for Young Adults

Some of you have heard that we are starting a new group to study the Bible and have fellowship together. This is an exciting time for Bruington Baptist Church. As pastor I hope that you or someone in your family will want to be a part of this group of young adults. We have no definite age requirements. If you think you are a young adult then we welcome you, married or single, with children or not, knowledgeable in the Bible, or just beginning to look at God's word: You are welcome. We will do our best to find the right time to gather. Please contact me at gabcpas@comcast.net to express your desire to have a closer walk with our Lord through study of His word. Roger Collier

From the Deacons

There will be a Deacons' retreat on February 27 from 9-12 led by Rev. Ed Inabet. We will discuss ministering to members of the congregation and community in times of stress and special need. All deacons are asked to attend. We rely on you to inform us of any circumstances where we can help. Do not hesitate to contact us. Ron Thompson

From the Food Pantry and Clothes Cupboard

The food pantry has been depleted by the needs of those in this community. Please help restock the vegetables, fruits, meats, peanut butter and jelly, cereals, and other boxed items. The gratitude of the families we help makes this ministry so worthwhile. Nourishment is a daily need. Children in our community should never have to feel the desperation that comes with being hungry. When you are shopping, set aside a corner of your basket for our pantry. The clothes cupboard also continues to serve many in our community. Your generosity makes this ministry possible. There is nothing better than seeing someone arrive cold and leave in a warm coat or seeing a mother so grateful for clothing for her children. These ministries show that we have learned the lesson in the teaching of Jesus recorded in Matthew 25:35-40 ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' ³⁷ "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, *when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!*' Don't miss one opportunity to meet these needs and love one another. Velma Wharton, Nancy Thompson, Anita Martin, Dorothy Shipes

From the Treasurer

When Mother Nature gives us a snow storm such as we recently had, we miss the comfort and joy of gathering together to worship the Lord. Hopefully, those Sundays will be few. Please remember that the church's expenses continue even when we aren't able to meet and take up an offering. Our average for the past two weeks is \$1,628 - below our budget needs of \$1,929 per week. I am happy to report that we did collect \$862 for the Lottie Moon offering, which exceeded our goal.

Ann Porter

WOM

Our special Women's Service will be on Sunday February 14. Our spring WOM mission study will be held at Bruington this year on Sunday, March 20 at 2:30 p.m. Reserve that afternoon to join us as we gather with other churches for a time of study and fellowship. Our regular meetings are the third Sunday in each month at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to join us as we study and plan mission work for our church and community. Jane Wyatt

Cemetery Committee

Please take time for upkeep and repair of cemetery monuments and burial spaces. There are many broken, falling, or fallen stones. Take note of repairs needed, so we can keep the cemetery a respectful and beautiful area. The church maintains the grass, but individual families are responsible for site and stone upkeep. If you need assistance with whom to contact for repairs, we will try to help you. Ron Thompson

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request that you would like to add to our prayer chain or prayer list, please call Dorothy at 769-7044 or use missdaisy445@aol.com. Or call Barbara Wright at 769-1210. Help us keep up with the needs and joys of our congregation.

TRY OUR NEW CHURCH WEBSITE! www.BruingtonBaptistChurch.com
and our new email address bruingtonbaptistchurch@gmail.com

February Birthdays
3 Stephanie Turner
9 Anne Fortner
17 Kevin Shipes
25 Brooke Gwathmey
Anniversaries
14 Karen and Brad Poore

Special February Dates to Remember
10 Ash Wednesday Service
13 Valentine Banquet
14 WMU Sunday and Offering for
Global Missions
21 Singspiration at 2 p.m. with
reception following
27 Deacon Retreat
28 Fellowship Breakfast-Caroline
Jones class hosting