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NAVIGATING THE NEUTRAL ZONE

After the ending of a pastor's ministry in a congregation, and prior to the beginning of the next pastor's ministry, the in-between phase is known as "The Neutral Zone." The negative emotions are subsiding and members find themselves in an awkward position. It is often a place of fear; like being between trapezes. It is like Linus when his blanket is in the dryer; there is nothing to hold on to!

Frustration and tension increase, folks seem to be moving at half-speed, and it is not uncommon to hear about good people choosing to look elsewhere for a church home.

Some descriptions of the neutral zone:

1. People's anxiety rises and their motivation falls.
2. People in the neutral zone miss more church than at other times.
3. Old grievances, previously patched over or compensated for, reemerge in "full flower."
4. Priorities get confused, information is miscommunicated, and important tasks go undone.
5. People want to polarize: some want to rush forward and others want to go back to the old ways. Consensus breaks down and the level of discord rises.

I am sure you have seen some of these signposts in the last few months at Blackwater; they are normal for every organization. There is no way to condense the neutral zone and speed through it. It's like having a baby – it takes nine months to have a baby, no matter how many people you put on the job!

Be patient with each other and with me as we work through the Neutral Zone together – we will get to the other side of it!

Dr. Lynn Hardaway

CONDOLENCES:

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to

- Helen Lane for the loss of her sister
- Alice Savage and her family for the loss of Alice's father
- Beverly Miller and Carrie Robertson for the loss of Beverly's mother/Carrie's grandmother.

WE'VE ADOPTED!

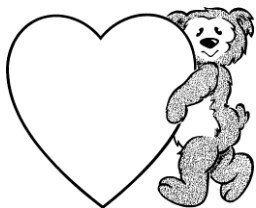
On Sunday, January 18, Southern Baptist missionary to Myanmar, Ashley Freeman, gave BBC a wonderful presentation about the life that she and her family now live in order to spread the gospel to an unreached people group a very long way from home.



Ashley and her husband, Bill, are among the 5000 missionaries ministering through the International Mission Board. Ashley and Bill along with their three children, Moses, Micaiah, and Phoebe, have made deep sacrifices and commitments to do God's work. Because of close ties (Ashley's mother is a retired Camden elementary school teacher) BBC has decided to become a regular supporter of their family and their work. We'll offer financial support as well as plenty of prayer and encouragement. Updates will be posted on the hall bulletin board so our church members can 'get to know' the Freemans in a personal way. They'll be *our missionaries* and part of our extended BBC family!

GAs, RAs & ACTEENS

➤ GAs & RAs:



Our youth will be participating in Children's Ministry Day on February 15. They will be making Valentine's and baked goodies to share with our local firemen to thank them for all that they do in our community.

➤ GAs & Acteens:



Our Acteens and GAs are having their first skate-a-thon on February 7 at Haygood Skating Center. The funds that they raise will go towards Relay for Life which funds cancer research. If you would like to donate to this great cause see any one of the GAs or Acteens and ask how you can help. If you would like to come skate with us, we would love to have you!

MISSION PROJECTS:

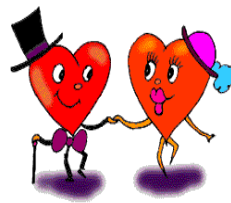


SBC of Virginia is partnering with Gleaning for the World, a Virginia-based non-profit, faith-based organization. They have a special ministry called **The Teddy Bear Brigade** which offers a unique opportunity for churches and families who want to reach out beyond their walls to impact children eternally. Just collect new and "gently loved" stuffed animals. Gleaning for the World will clean the "gently loved" stuffed animals prior to shipping them out. A donation box is in the hallway, deadline for donations is February 8.

New Mission Project: The Bridge Network Baby Boutique is in need of supplies. We'll be collecting the following baby items through the end of February: Infant and toddler clothing through size 4T, washing soap, wash cloths, shampoo, lotion, towels and diapers.

Souper Bowl! Because this is SuperBowl month, for the rest of February we will be collecting canned soup and bread or crackers for our own Souper Bowl. Please try to bring items on each of the next 2 Sundays to be donated to local food banks!

ADULTS ON MISSION



The Adults On Mission group is hosting a Valentine's Dance for the residents at the Currituck House Assisted Living Home in Moyock from 2-4 on Valentine's Day. Any adults or teens interested in helping please contact Lynn Ball.

CROCHET CLUB



Linda recently donated five blankets she crocheted to the residents at the Currituck House Assisted Living Home in Moyock. As an ongoing project of the Crochet Club, residents have requested more handmade hats, hand muffs and lap rugs. The Crochet Club really needs more help making them. If you're interested, we'll even show you how!

The residents sent a thank you card for all we have done for them.

Watch the bulletin for Crochet Club meeting dates; meetings are irregular until the weather gets warmer.

Yarn donations are always appreciated.

LUTA TEBAUT CIRCLE



The Luta Tebaut Circle is busy planning their spaghetti dinner in March to raise money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Stay tuned for more information!

Our next meeting is February 16 at Kelli Whalen's home. We would love to have more members join!

RUTH WALDEN CIRCLE

The Ruth Walden Circle will meet at the home of Diane Horsley on February 24th at 1:00. We will have a short meeting, then enjoy dessert, and watch the movie *Heaven Is For Real*.

The Circle would love to have a few new members. If you are interested, please contact Pat Washington at 432-0427.

CENTENNIAL/JENNIE MCCLAIN CIRCLE

The Centennial/Jennie McClain Circle meets on the 1st Friday of each month @ 12:00 usually at Creeds Café – (Date and location subject to change when there is a conflict with a member).

The February meeting will be held February 6 at Creed's Café at 12:00.

We would love to have some new members, anyone interested please let us know!!!!

OTHER BBC HAPPENINGS



Alcoholics Victorious - 12 Step Recovery Program
Meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month.
The next meeting is Saturday, February 28 @ 9:30 a.m.
See Nina for more information or email:
AV@blackwaterbaptist.com

COUPLES NIGHT EVENT



On January 23, 9 couples shared an Italian themed dinner and games. The evening started off with several people being late due to an automobile accident. The group prayed over the accident victim and paramedics as the Nightingale landed in the field behind the church.

After plenty of great Italian food, a few rounds of team games, and lots of laughter the evening ended with high anticipation for next month's Couples Night, which will be held on Friday, February 20th at 6:30 pm and hosted by Don and Phyllis Arth. It was decided to be a Mexican themed dinner and more games. Please see Lynn Ball by February 16th if you are interested in attending!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Always subject to change, please refer to the weekly bulletin for any updates

- Feb. 6 – Jennie McClain Circle Meeting
- Feb. 7 – GA/Acteens Skate-A-Thon
- Feb. 8 – Deadline for new and gently used stuffed animals for The Teddy Bear Brigade
- Feb. 16 – Luta Tebault Meeting
- Feb. 20 – Couples Event
- Feb. 24 – Ruth Walden Circle Meeting
- Feb. 28 – Alcoholics Victorious 9:30 a.m.
- March 22 – 6:00 Covered dish dinner
6:30 Business Meeting

Join Us Sundays:

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.

REMINDERS

- **2014 Church Contributions** – Your tax statements are available in the box on the hall table.
- **Your help is needed:** All BBC members are asked to help supply food for **funeral receptions**. This responsibility is not solely on the Funeral Committee. This shares the burden and helps everyone to be able to focus on the affected families during their time of loss.***Contact Nancy Daniels 421-2467** to be added to the Notification List when a need arises.
- **Save your Labels for Education box tops!** A small collection box is on the hall table for donations of Campbell's barcodes, box tops for education and Farm Fresh receipts.
- **Canned goods collection** is ongoing. The canned goods are donated to local families in need. The box is in the hall under the table.



1 John 2:3-11 (NIV)

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the dark-ness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.