

# BLACKWATER BAPTIST CHURCH



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## FROM THE PASTOR

### He Sees What Is Ahead

Israel had finally, after forty long and arduous years of wearisome wasteland wandering, reached the border of the Promised Land. Great anticipation for what was ahead filled their imaginations with fantastical scenes of conquest and possession of villages, farms, hills and valleys already tamed and tilled by the current occupants of territory Jehovah-Jireh had guaranteed to the twelve tribes of Abraham's descendants.

Looking back at their history since leaving Egypt reminded them of the disobedience and faithlessness of their fathers. Their childhood and youth had been filled with blowing sand, blazing hot boulders, temporary tents and familiarity with the cloud that covered the tabernacle, guiding them from one location to the next on their four-decade trek across and around and over the Sinai wilderness wadis.

Moses must have experienced some degree of envy as he looked into their faces, realizing they would soon be walking where he could not go. He described the land on the other side of the Jordan River as "a land the LORD your God cares for; **His eyes are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.**" (Deuteronomy 11:12) Every hour of every day, down in the valleys and high up on the hills, God never turned His attention away from this precious, priceless ground they would be the possessors of for generations.

We share some similarities with those desert warriors; we have a year behind us with recorded deeds and words we cannot change or redo. We can retell the stories from the past that brought us to the edge of the New Year. Ahead of us are valleys and mountain tops, none of which will be a surprise to our God. Because of His omniscience (He knows everything about everything), we can enter 2019 with confident faith that His eyes have already seen every moment of every day ahead of us, and He has promised to both go with us from here and be waiting for us when we get there!

## A BACKWARD GLANCE

To see where we want to go we first have to see where we've been in 2018...

### January

- Our first 2018 blood drive was dedicated to the memory of Leslie Saunders, who had been dedicated to making our annual blood drives so successful. We collected 29 pints in her name!
- The Young Couples Group began doing community service, helping neighbors with yard work, minor construction, and home repairs.

## February

- Souper Bowl Sunday is always win-win for everyone! Donations of bread and soup came in and we had so much fun sharing God's word in this "spirited" friendly competition among Sunday School classes. The Life Matters Class took the 2018 trophy! *Last year 65 people of all ages were registered in Sunday School!*
- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Rev. Chuck Haley.
- We donated new white towels and bus passes for homeless shelters in support of the Bridge Network's mission project.

## March

- The GAs & RAs sponsored a spaghetti dinner benefiting the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO).
- Easter lilies were ordered and proceeds went to the AAEO.
- The Pew Committee began evaluating ways to increase the number of seats in the sanctuary.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt was a rousing success with lunch also provided for attendees. Jeremy Schratwieser presented the true story of Easter to the children. (Photo Credit: Ashley Boyett)
- A baptism service welcomed two new members to our church family.



## April

- We celebrated Easter on April 1 with both an early sunrise service and traditional worship at 10am.
- Small Group Bible Study started, meeting in homes every two weeks.
- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Rev. Daniel Campbell.

## May

- The church windows were washed by the hands of lots of volunteers.
- BBC became a proud sponsor of the Creeds Braves T-Ball Team! God is using baseball to spread His love and word to the community!
- A Child Dedication Service was held and the church promised to undergird the parents of three little ones as they raised Godly children.

## June

- Our focus in June was on the very successful "Rolling River Rampage" Vacation Bible School. *Approximately 75 kids and workers participated in the week's activities!*
- We began collecting items for the Eastern Shore Migrant Ministry supplies.

## July

- An open planning meeting was held to get new ideas and suggestions as we began looking towards our next church year.
- Another Baptism Service was held with a beloved one coming to Christ.
- Everyone had a great time at our first community barbeque dinner with music by "Fond Memories."

- God touched hearts to do His work in 2018-19 when volunteer forms were distributed.
- Lauren conducted Basic Life Support classes to train children's workers to keep our youngest ones safe.
- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Rev. Phillip Botts.

## August

- Sarah Whitson and Andrea Daniels headed up a successful blood drive with 37 pints collected!
- The Luta Tebault Circle sponsored a school supplies collection.
- The Board of Directors (aka Church Council) held their first meeting in preparation for the new church year in September.
- The Annual Business meeting was held on August 26. New officers, teachers and volunteers were officially accepted by the church.
- Congratulations to our 2018 scholarship winners: Andrea Daniels, Christen Davis and Paige Riddle.

## September

- We started the new church year with a new motto: "More People Following Jesus Together in His Love."
- The entire Sanctuary was updated! Cracks were repaired and walls cleaned and painted a light eggshell color. It's welcoming, brighter and beautiful!
- The annual church picnic was planned for September, but was delayed due to Hurricane Florence.
- The Luta Tebault Circle gave a Senior Luncheon.

## October

- Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat Night was the best ever with estimates of 200-250 people attending! Congrats to Alice Savage, who won the Chili Cook-off! (Photo Credit: Jessica Newton)



- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Rev. Todd Holt.
- We participated in the collection of items to send to Pine Valley United Methodist church in Wilmington NC. They were providing meals, laundry and shower services to linemen working in the area after the devastation by the hurricane. We

took up a love offering, matched by BBC and donated \$3,138.00 to buy bulk supplies for Wilmington through the Bridge Network.

- The church picnic was held at Munden's Point with perfect weather for fried chicken! (Photo Credit: Susan Creamer)
- BBC began accepting financial donations on the church website using Givelify.
- The reactivated Joyful Noise Choir, directed by Linda, began rehearsals for a Christmas Sunday presentation.
- We collected Christmas Backpacks for Appalachia for donation through the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV).
- Our teen girls begin the Sadie Robertson Bible Study



## November

- We collected new items for the Bridge Network annual Christmas Store.
- Christmas play practice began.
- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Rev. Tommy Speight.
- We had a wonderful community Thanksgiving service on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. It was a time of thankful testimonies, praise in song, and much fellowship.

## December

- Our awesome BBC kids took over church on Youth Sunday! What a wonderful worship service the kids produced! (Photo Credit: Susan Creamer)
- We enjoyed the message of guest speaker Glenn Weaver.
- Members caroled at Currituck House Nursing Center in Moyock.
- We loved seeing the kids share Jesus' story in the annual Christmas play! (Photo Credit: Andrea Daniels)



- The Joyful Noise Choir presented "Let Earth Receive Her King" Christmas musical on December 23. Thank you Pat R., Danny, Don, Debbie K., Pat W., Debby B., Laurie, Hollie, Nina, and Lindsey for volunteering! (Photo Credit: Stephanie Gwaltney)



- Our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service was stunning in simplicity and reverence for God's unspeakable gift to us.

## **Baptisms**

During 2018 our BBC family was blessed with the following new church members:

Josh & Jena Brunson  
Jacob & Jessica Newton  
Rick & Debbie Setzer  
Henry & Kathy Smith  
Brody Stewart

## **We Mourned the Loss**

Mrs. Shirley Falls  
Mr. Norris Shirley  
Mrs. Cheryl Dunn

## **Continue to Pray for our Prayer List:**



# For. Your. Information.



**THE BBC CHURCH COUNCIL** met to formulate plans and goals for 2019. These goals include increasing Sunday School attendance and member involvement, building community outreach event activity, and increasing the church membership.

Current council members are: Dr. Hardaway, Linda Jordan (Secretary), Susan Creamer (Treasurer), Ashley Boyett (WMU Director), Craig Creamer (Building and Land Committee Chairman), Hollie Schratwieser (Director of Music), and Curtis Shirley (Sunday School Director).

**A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** for adults of any age will begin at 9am on January 13 in the Sanctuary. Pastor Lynn will lead this class each Sunday with a focus on discipleship for new believers. The curriculum will be "Believe," covering the basics of the Christian life:

- ❖ 10 Key Beliefs of the Christian Faith
- ❖ 10 Key Practices of a Jesus Follower
- ❖ 10 Key Virtues of a Person Who is Becoming More like Jesus.

If you are not yet involved in a class, this is a great place to belong!

**PRESERVE THE PAST TO GIVE TO THE FUTURE!** If you have any photos or articles from BBC's past please share! Contact Linda or Susan Creamer so they can copy, scan, or otherwise add your items to our church archives.

**NOW ACCEPTING BBC DONATIONS ONLINE** with the Givelify app. Just go to the donate page on the church website @ <http://www.blackwaterbaptist.org/donate.html>. Follow the simple instructions and you'll be able to donate regularly and easily anytime you want!

## COMING UP

**BUSINESS MEETING:** January 6 @ 6:30pm. The meeting is preceded by dinner at 6:00pm, hosted by the Life Matters Sunday School Class. Fried chicken is provided by the church so bring a side dish or dessert and come enjoy the fellowship!

**WMU SUNDAY:** January 13. The ladies take over the worship service, performing all duties and providing music. Our sponsored missionaries William & Ashley Freeman will share with us!

**YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE:** January 18-19 at London Bridge Baptist Church. YEC challenges Middle & High School students in their faith and launches them into a lifestyle of sharing their faith. Contact Doug if interested!

**SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY:** February 3 during the 9:00am Sunday School hour. Classes meet in the Social Hall for a Bible trivia contest. Winning class gets custody of the trophy for the year.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** February 6. Contact Andrea or Sarah for more information

**WINTER JAM:** February 24 for 7-12 grade youth! Tickets are \$20. Contact Samantha Savage for details and to reserve your spot in Jam Nation 2019!

**See the church calendar for more events! Contact Linda with corrections or changes!**

# SOUND of MUSIC

**The Blackwater Bellas** gave their first performance during Youth Sunday, December 2nd. Meadow Cortazzo, Eliza Davis, Emma Hardaway, Eryn Graves, and Grace Schratwieser, sang “I Can Only Imagine.” Gotta say, they were pretty awesome! BBC is looking forward to more from this budding ensemble.



**The Joyful Noise Choir** presented “Let Earth Receive Her King” on December 23. After weeks of practice the big day arrived to a packed congregation. Solos were sung by Laurie Goodman and Debby Bradshaw. The rest of the group included Hollie Schratwieser, Nina Ambrose, Lindsey Guinazzo, Debbie Keller, Pat Washington, Danny Jordan, Don Arth, and Pat Riddick. Linda Jordan was the director. Plans are now in discussion for an Easter special! (Photo Credit: Stephanie Gwaltney).



**The Audio Team** welcomed Kevin Rowell and Chris Yawman to the list of official sound system technicians. Trained by head tech, Rob Goodman, Kevin and Chris will take turns at the sound helm with more frequency in 2019. Eventually, the team plans to provide assistance to groups needing amplified sound at events outside normal “church” hours. Always contact the Audio Team before using the sound system yourself!

**The Sanctuary Band** (with Lynn Hardaway on guitar, Pat Riddick on harmonica, and Linda Jordan on keyboard) could use a few more members! If you feel led to share your talents please let them know! Rehearsals are usually held on Saturday evenings.

# WOMEN ON MISSION

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by mailing Christmas Cards or purchasing poinsettias or contributing financial donations.

Poinsettias were placed in church by:

- Pat & Adabelle Riddick, in memory of Marian & Buster Riddick
- Pat & Adabelle Riddick, in memory of Clarabelle & Horace Shirley
- Austin & Alice Savage, in memory of Jack & Virginia Savage
- Austin & Alice Savage, in memory of Don & Opal Hill
- Jennifer & Page Riddle, in memory of Grandpa Donnie
- Kevin & Lynn Rowell, in memory of Vicki Rowell
- Kevin & Lynn Rowell, in memory of Linda Howell
- James & Susie Kovacs, in memory of Emery & Eunice Kovacs
- Tripp, Julia & James, in honor of James & Susie Kovacs
- Don & Phyllis Arth, in memory of Earl McClain

