

Blackwater Baptist Church

2021 – A Time of Renewal!

Pastor Lynn Hardaway
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January 2022

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Faith for 2022...

Based on God's words to him, Joshua must have been seeing the task of Canaan's conquest as a tall order, considering his own minimal experience as a

military leader. He could not see the future; all he had were the promises God had spoken to Moses. Joshua needed a fresh encounter with Jehovah, one that would assure him of the LORD's continued favor on him and the nation of Israel, so God met with him and gave him these words, which are pointedly helpful to us as we enter 2022:

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9, NKJV)

Year-end prognosticators have offered up their “prophecies” of what 2022 will look like, and one thing is sure – no one really knows for certain. Omicron, inflation, supply chain issues, travel restrictions, COVID test shortages; these are going with us into the start of the New Year!

For some, the situation looks bleak and dark and dangerous; but, for people of faith, people who walk with God, the days ahead are filled with the bright hope of God's promise to go before us and stay with us, no matter what the future holds. Are you ready for the adventure?

The joy of belonging to a church family is knowing we will step into the future together, with our hearts focused on Christ and our hands active in the mission He has given us. “Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.” (1 John 5:4) Let's start 2022 with great faith in our great God!

January

- We prayed for people who had gotten the dreaded Covid virus, including Debbie K, Richie, and Pastor Newman.

February

- Plans began formulating for a Blood Drive. Unfortunately, the drive had to be cancelled due to Red Cross computer issues.

March

- March 14 marked one year since the church had closed its doors to indoor worship.
- Children's Church for 6–12-year-old kids began! This was the only class open indoors at this point. They all had to wear masks.

- At the end of March our worship services were changed to start at 10:00am. When we had met outdoors the year before, the services started at 9:00am.
- After long years of service to BBC we were saddened to hear Pat Riddick announce his retirement from all his jobs at church. He has served faithfully and now takes care of his beloved Adabelle.

April

- Easter sunrise services were held and it was pretty awesome to have so many attending!



- While church was still closed to foot traffic Craig and the maintenance team began renovations in the social hall. This included the removal of carpet and new vinyl flooring installed,

installation of a feature wall with electric fireplace, removal of the folding divider wall, removing wallpaper, and completely painting everything! Fabulous job and results!

- BBC donated \$2,000 to help the Bridge Network mission to rescue victims of human trafficking.

May

- The old worn-out brick church sign in front of the building was removed by demo team Craig, Don, Curtis, Isaiah, and Jacob.
- The By-laws were amended to change the meetings from monthly to every 3



months. We just didn't need to meet more than that on a regular basis!

- The Praise Team asked for and received a list of your favorite songs through the Facebook group. Some songs have already been done and more will be enjoyed soon!

June

- Our new hand-crafted steeple was installed, thanks to Craig, Curtis, Randy, Don, Justin, and Ken Jensen. Special thanks to neighbor Michael Robinson for creating and donating it to BBC.



- On June 13 Nicole Phillips was voted in as our new staff Youth Director. She and Missions Director, Ashley Boyett, quickly got started planning a long-awaited Vacation Bible School.



- We started "testing" church pews donated to BBC from another church, checking for comfort and dependability. In July the church voted not to keep them, preferring our older and much more beautiful ones instead.



• June 27 – A grand picnic was held on the church grounds with tons of food, games for the kids and plenty of time to just sit back and chat with neighbors!



July

- By now the Ladies were used to singing curbside in the parking lot! Thank you, Sound Team, for all the hard work you put in that makes everything easy for the rest of us!
- Annual volunteer forms for the 2021-22 church year were given out. Many thanks to all who agreed to take a job. We are one blessed church!

August

- Vacation Bible School was held in early August. There were 55 kids enrolled and everyone had a terrific time. Over \$400 was donated to benefit the Crisis Pregnancy Center.
- Following VBS the church closed for two Sundays after a several people tested positive for Covid. The closure was just precautionary. Nothing more happened and BBC reopened as usual after the 2-week interlude.
- Backpacks and school supplies were collected and donated to Creeds School.
- The annual business meeting was held to vote in new officers and volunteers for the coming year.

September



• The new church year began with Sunday School classes in full swing. There were a few changes though... the Sanctuary class merged with the Joyful Adults and now they all meet in the social hall each Sunday morning. The new College & Career class meets in the room behind the sanctuary and sometimes even outdoors (see photo above). The Tween class is now located in the classroom by the kitchen. Life Matters meets across from the High School class. There are also several Sunday School classes available for the younger kids to learn about Jesus!

- The Prayer Group began meeting in September with 16 in attendance. The group met to pray for our nation and its leaders.



• On September 25 BBC held its first outdoor movie night. The popcorn popper was in high demand as over 50 people attended, bringing chairs and blankets to enjoy the showing of "Ferdinand" which was a big hit with the little ones! There was even a falling star in the sky to enjoy! Thank you to Youth Director Nicole, for planning this event!

October

- We donated 21 Christmas backpacks for Appalachia this year. Many thanks to Ashley, Tripp, and Julia for delivering them to Hampton!
- The Fall Festival was a great success with lots of new faces showing up. The kids had a great time enjoying the bounce house from the Bridge Network, making bead bracelets, eating popcorn and cotton candy, and playing lots of games. Hayrides and lots of games were enjoyed by all. The winners of the Chili Cookoff were Jeremy & Hollie Schratwieser. The best decorated Trunk winner was Brittaney Kovacs. Doug wore the winning Adult Costume. Maddison Nolette won best costumer for 0-4years. (The other two age group winners were BBC visitors).

November

- After missing this special event during Covid year it was nice to enjoy “Randolph’s 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast” sponsored by the Deacons. All proceeds went to Special Olympics.
- All BBC Sunday School classes were entered in a food drive competition, with each class assigned specific items to donate. Congratulations to the Preschoolers & Pre-K group, who together won the donuts reward for most donations. A total of 297 food items were donated to the local Ruritan Club’s annual Thanksgiving Food Baskets.
- Our 2nd Thanksgiving luncheon was held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Thank you to Susan C. and Ashley B. for organizing everything!
- Parents Night Out offered lots of food and fun for twelve kids while their parents shopped the night away on Black Friday. Proceeds went to Kaylee’s Legacy Lego Collection.
- Throughout November and December we asked for Lego sets for Kaylee’s Legacy Lego Collection. You donated 32 Lego sets for children fighting cancer.

December



- On December 18 the Luta Tebault Circle held a Cookies with Santa party. 19 kids showed up to

enjoy lots of milk and cookies and heard Santa read the Christmas Story.

- A big thank you to Debbie K, Hollie, Grace, Ashley, and Kelli and all the kids who worked so hard to bring us the annual Christmas Play on December 12.



It’s always such a treat to see our kids tell the story of Jesus’ birth!



- On December 17 9 singers went Christmas caroling to 17 local shut-ins and sick in 8 homes. (Missing

from photo is Debbie & Linda).

- The parking lot poles and chains were replaced with free parking lot bumpers that John S. was able to procure for us. Craig C. took on the task to



remove the posts and chains and installed the new bumpers. Thank you for a job well done!

- Another wonderful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was held on December 24.

When you support missions, you help tell the world about Christ!

- In 2021 BBC contributed **\$3,020.00** to the **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering**



which goes to home missions through the North American Mission Board. The North American Mission Board serves the United States, Canada and U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

- So far BBC has given **\$5,971.00** to the **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**. This offering supports international missions with 100% going to missionaries in the field.

From the Youth Director

We've had a phenomenal year at Blackwater Baptist Church. Our children and youth ministries have been thriving! We currently have multiple classes for children on Sunday mornings. At our 9:00am Sunday School hour we have separate age groups for Pre-K, Elementary, Middle School, and High School. During the 10:00am worship hour we have a class for the Pre-K age group and Children's Church for Elementary age group.

We began a new program on Sunday nights for our teens call "Crosswalk." We fellowship together with snacks and music, followed by a game, and then we end the night with small group time where we have discussion over God's word.

We have had some great outreach opportunities such as our Family Movie Nights. Our teens served concessions while families spent time with one another, their church, and local community. We invite folks from the surrounding neighborhood to attend as well.

Our youth have had a couple of fun events such as Apex Entertainment and Busch Gardens. In the spring we look forward to going to Christian concerts, such as Winter Jam and having some outside adventures together.

We have a great group of kids coming to discover Jesus each week at BBC. Our Pre-K group is around 8 kids, Elementary around 12, Middle School around 8, and High School around 12.

None of this would be possible without our amazing volunteers! We are so grateful for their willingness to serve in the church body and for the love of Christ they show our kids each week. Thank you to:
Pre-K: Ashley & Doug B., Debbie K., Lisa N., Hollie S., Sandy L., Lynn R., Bonnie S., and Ashley F.

Elementary: Jeremey S., Ashley & Doug B., Jena B., Jessica N., Lindsay G., and Erin G.

Middle School: Nina A. and Jennifer R.

High School: Doug B. and Samantha S.

Our church is looking forward to another great year and hopes to see more families in the Blackwater area come be a part of our church body.

Nicole Phillips

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2021 Guest Speakers:

- Rev. Joe Newman
- Dr. Dwight Buchholz
- Rev. Tom Thomasson
- Rev. Boyd Harrington
- Rev. Terry Riddle
- Rev. Tad Ramsey
- Rev. Steve Sileo
- Dr. Matt Frewell
- Rev. Tag Kilgore
- Keith Maddrey

2021 New Church Members:

- Nicole Phillips
- Zack Phillips
- Geney Holley

2021 Lost Church Members

- Catherine Dailey – passed January 17, 2021
- Richard Dailey – passed February 10, 2021
- Kyle & Lauren Anderson – left October 17, 2021
- Laurie Goodman – left October 21, 2021

Your Deacons

(A – D)	Don Arth (<i>Chairman</i>)	757-421-0620
(E – J)	Craig Creamer	757-777-6434
(K – O)	Kevin Rowell	757-416-4537
(P – Sg)	Jeremy Schratwieser	252-435-2605
(Sh – Z)	Curtis Shirley	757-620-1556

Special thanks to Ashley Boyett, Susan Creamer, Linda Jordan, and Nicole Phillips for sharing their photos.

