

The Marbury Messenger

Marbury Baptist Church
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Marbury, Maryland 20658
301-743-3701 - 301-753-6063

Pastor

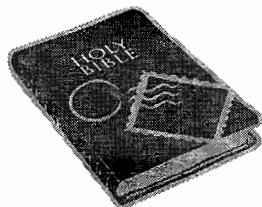
Rev. Tim W. Bean
Home: 301-932-2214

February 2008

Interim Music Director

John Bethune
Home: 301-375-7151

The Bible as a Letter



Soren Kierkegaard, a brilliant 19th-century philosopher, said this about the Bible: "The Bible should be read as a letter from God with our personal address on

it." How true!

The Bible tells us who's behind our amazing lives. The Bible makes it clear the source of our existence and explains how we're to live our years on Earth. The Bible gives us the best rules for living with others and for living in our own skin.

Scripture tells us of the wisdom of saints and the foolishness of scoundrels. It explains how God tries to relate to us. It guides us and provides strength and courage through our daily lives.

The Bible tells how God walked among us on Earth in the person of Christ. Most importantly, it details how Christ revealed God's immeasurable love for all humankind.

Finally, the Bible assures us that God not only cares for us here and now but will care for us in the hereafter. Forever and forever!

Clues to Aging Well

Whether or not we like it, "the days dwindle down to a precious few," as an old song puts it. We're aging daily and hourly. "The Moving Finger writes; and have writ, moves on ..."

The question, sooner or later, is: How do we best handle the aging process?

It begins with keeping a healthy spirit. The body ages, but our spirits can remain vibrantly

alive. We can keep spiritually alert by carrying on a conversation with God, truly listening more than talking. We can strengthen our spiritual life by attending worship services and reading the works of people who lived close to God, such as Mother Teresa, E. Stanley Jones, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others.

Keeping one's body in tune through exercise and diet are also keys to aging well. But just as important are fellowship with others, working on interesting projects, engaging in family activities, learning something new and traveling.

Most importantly, remember that you're never too old to grow in love for others. After all, St. Paul tells us that love "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends" (1 Corinthians 13:7-8, NRSV).

Thoughts for Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day, a time when thoughts turn to love. But what is love? Is it a box of chocolates, or a pretty valentine? Is it a red rose, or maybe a dozen? Is it a peck on the cheek, a fond embrace, or a big bear hug?

Well, sometimes love is known in those ways. But love, real love, is how we relate to God and to one another if life is what it ought to be — beautiful.

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that the first month of 2008 is almost gone. I never cease to be amazed at how quickly time passes. When I was younger I thought that the older we got the slower time would pass but the exact opposite is true. It seems to speed up with every passing year. I often wonder, "How did I get to be so old so soon?"

As we continue in 2008, I believe that this year can be the "YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY" for Marbury Baptist Church. I believe God wants us to seize those opportunities. Opportunities are a part of God's plan for this congregation. I hope that we will make the most of every opportunity which God brings to us.

To make sure that we are open to opportunities from God we must pray. Prayer is a necessity if we are to make the most of every opportunity.

I continue to encourage you to pray for three things for your family and for the church. Pray for protection. Pray for blessing. Pray for provision. All three of these are Biblically based. God protected His people. God blessed His people. God provided for His people.

As I close, it is my prayer that God will make the words of this hymn a reality in our lives at Marbury Baptist Church. Ponder on these words.

1. Set my soul afire Lord, for Thy holy Word, Burn it deep within me, let Thy voice be heard; Millions grope in darkness in this day and hour, I will be a witness, fill me with Thy pow'r.

2. Set my soul afire Lord, for the lost in sin, Give to me a passion as I seek to win; Help me not to falter, never let me fail, Fill me with Thy Spirit, let Thy will prevail.

3. Set my soul afire Lord, in my daily life, Far too long I've wandered in this day of strife; Nothing else will matter but to live for Thee, I will be a witness, for Christ lives in me.

Refrain: Set my soul afire Lord, set my soul afire, Make my life a witness of Thy saving pow'r. Millions grope in darkness waiting for Thy word, Set my soul afire Lord, Set my soul afire.

Love in Christ,

The Ten Commandments Restated

Above all else love God alone;
Bow down to neither wood nor stone.
God's name refuse to take in vain;
The Sabbath rest with care maintain.
Respect your parents all your days;
Hold sacred human life always.
Be loyal to your chosen mate;
Steal nothing, neither small nor great.
Report with truth your neighbor's
deed;
And rid your mind of selfish greed.

—Author unknown

Parable of a Church Choir

A certain choir director considered one Sunday how many of the gifted singers in the church were in the pews instead of the choir loft. Their voices, although they were gifts of God, were not bearing fruit.

And the choir director thought to himself, "They might as well be deprived of their voices because they will not sing."

But the Master Chorister spoke to the choir director and said, "Wish them not the loss of their voices. Tell them again of their responsibility to use their talents in My house. I will speak to them through My special Messenger and prick their consciences. Give them another chance to sing praises to Me."

And another chance was offered the inactive singers to be fruitful. Some rededicated their talents to God and bore fruit. But some refused to sing; and behold, their voices withered and disappeared. (With apologies to Luke 13:6-9)

Church Mouse

Congratulations!!!

To Valerie and Jesse Hanbury on the birth of

Brooklyn Noelle
December 11, 2007
8 lbs, 10 ozs, 21" long

To Stacy Elrod and Rudy Reudea, Jr. on their wedding on
December 28, 2007

To Virginia Hallock and Timothy King on their wedding
on January 12, 2008

To Michelle Buck, Melanie Hallock, Jennifer (Moore)
Ledford, and Terri Walker on receiving their Associates
Degrees from College of Southern Maryland on January
17, 2008.

Our Christian love and sympathy go out to members
of our congregation who have recently experienced the
loss of loved ones:

Brenda and Rebecca Abell - Husband and Father, Ronnie;

Darryl and Nikki Bradburn and Family - Mother, Lois;

Hazel Brady and Family - Sister-in-law, Aurilee (Willett)
Maddox;

Barbara Cockerham and Family - Sister-in-law, Mary
Jean Matthews;

Richard & Gale Elrod and Family - Father, Richard, Sr.;

Joe & Kay Stevenson (Custodians) - Great-grandson,
Angelo Turner;

Allan, John and Candace Wright and Families and Irma
and Carson Cockerham and Family - Mother and Sister,
Eileen .

Prayer Concerns

Rick Arbogast, Hazel Brady, Matt Clouse, Lauren
Cockerham, Esther Dudley, Jeannette Duke, George &
Marie Eccard, Catherine Huffman, Norma Hurley, Ruth
King, Debbie Reitz, George Rothgeb, Ellen Shaffer, Otto
Steinhauser, Elizabeth Warder, and Dorothy Wright.

Please pray for these individuals and their families as
some are ill at home, some in the hospital and some in
nursing homes.

In the Mail Bag

To My Church Family,

Thank you for the love and support given to my family in
our time of loss. The telephone calls, cards, flowers and
especially prayers have sustained us through the last couple
of weeks.

We want to say a great big thank you to Annie Leah and her
crew for preparing and serving a delicious meal for our
friends and family. The value of our church family cannot be
under estimated and truly comes to light in times like these.

Much love, Brenda and Rebecca (Abell).

"With Special Thanks"

Thanks for being so thoughtful — Your kindness is
appreciated. Thank you!

Joe & Kay Stevenson

For "Boxes of Love"

I want to say thank you so much for thinking of us over here.
We really appreciate everything you do for us. Everything in
the box will be used. You asked what we want, so I am
going to tell you. Beef jerky, granola bars, and any kind of
snack, gum, peanuts. All of those thing will be eaten up fast.
Thanks for everything!

Thanks again, Love, Cody (Krikstan)

Dear Church Members,

I would like to thank you for the two care packages I recently
received. The food items, hygiene products, and stationary
are greatly appreciated. The contents of the boxes were
distributed to the soldiers in my unit. It means a lot to know
we have people back in the States thinking of us and taking
the time to show their support.

Our unit arrived in Afghanistan in May 2007 for a 15 month
deployment. We are currently positioned in eastern
Afghanistan along the Pakistan Border. We are a medical
company, providing support to our combat troops, coalition
soldiers, and local nationals. In addition to providing direct
medical care, we train Afghan medical personnel and assist
in building local medical infrastructure.

Most soldiers in my brigade have been involved in direct
combat and over 25 have made the ultimate sacrifice for their
country. We ask a tremendous amount of these soldiers and
they continually impress me with their professionalism and
willingness to sacrifice to accomplish the mission. I work
with some of the finest young people our nation has to offer.
I thank you again for taking the time to show them your
support. God bless. Thank you,

—Christopher D. Milstead

P.S. I especially enjoyed the "nut-free" cookies.

Directory Changes

Change Address

PATTERSON, *Susan (Wright) & *Lee
104 Hawthorne Court
Greenwood SC 29646

THOMPSON, Sharlene & Rodney
7715 Kent Drive
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622 301-290-1028

WRIGHT, *Judy & Tommy
(Winter) 4323 Murfield Drive E.
Bradenton, FL 34203 941-727-9456
(Summer) 108 Rivers Run
Greenwood, SC 29649 (Cell) 678-923-2268

Add Name Under:

HANBURY, Valerie & Jesse
*Brooklynn Noelle

SIMMONS, Stacy & David
*Michael Lee

GALLAGHER, Liz & Gabriel
*Jacob, *Sophia, *Elijah David

Change Telephone Number

STEELE, *Lamar
..... 252-232-2716

STEELE, *Marcia & Russ
..... 850-623-9301
ZAGRODNICHEK, Bethany & Richard
..... 301-246-4272

Change Name and Address

HALLOCK, Virginia to KING, Virginia
Add under
KING, Tim
419 Sollars Wharf Road
Lusby, MD 20657 443-404-5660

Baptist Women's Day and Baptist Men's Day

Sunday, Feb 24 has been designated Baptist Women's Day. The ladies of the church will lead the Morning Worship Services. Please see Mary Frances Newland or Mildred Willett to volunteer your service.

We thank the Men of the church for their faithfulness and their leadership providing a great Baptist Men's Day service on Sunday, January 27.

An Island Vacation

by Nancy Hallock

As I sit looking out the window this morning at the gray sky, thermometer on 10 degrees and listen to the forecast for snow flurries, the thought of an island vacation sounds wonderful! So let's start planning now!

I would like to invite each of you to "Outrigger Island" this summer. We need to start making plans now for this adventure so join me in the fellowship hall on Sunday, February 24 after the morning worship service for more details. I am sure food will be involved.

More Than A Number

by Nancy Hallock

Math was not my favorite subject in school. Still not crazy about numbers...cell number, pin numbers, and oh the number of new gray hairs I see in the mirror each morning.

But let's look at numbers for a minute. The number of people currently enrolled in Sunday School is 151. A large number. A smaller number is 65, the average attendance since Christmas.

While I am not crazy about numbers, I do know that each number enrolled in Sunday School represents a person. Who is that person? First of all YOU are that person. YOU are very important to me and your class! YOU are missed when YOU do not attend.

Look around your class, not just at the number, but look to see who is there and who is not. Is there someone sitting next to you, across from you? I encourage each of you to contact by phone, email or a card (more numbers to look up, I know) someone who is missing from your class. I look forward to seeing each of you on Sunday mornings at 9:45!

Safe Nights

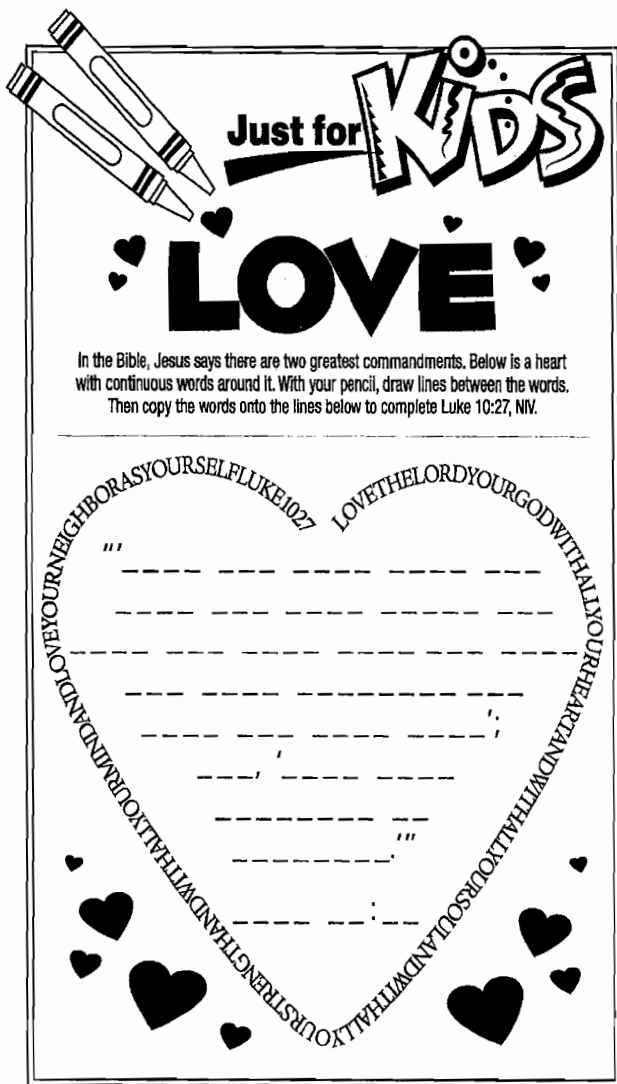
MBC is hosting the local Safe Nights program the week of March 16 thru March 23. Other churches in the County are also involved in this endeavor.

This is a program coordinated by Lifestyles to help provide shelter, food, and transportation for the homeless in Charles County.

We need many (140) volunteers to help with various duties to make this a successful event. Housekeeping is a vital part of this week's schedule. We will need cooks, servers, dishwashers, bathroom/kitchen attendants, monitors, laundry, pickup trucks, and drivers. These are only a few areas where we will need much help.

Of course, we will need many items; such as paper products, personal items for both men and women, books, magazines, games, craft supplies, bottled water, juice boxes, individually packaged cookies, chips, crackers, etc. A collection site has been set up upstairs at the elevator.

We covet your prayers and your help with this.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

A Meaningful Prayer

Lord, I do not ask for a faith that will move mountains, I pray, Lord, for enough faith to move me.

Great Expectations

Too many Christians expect a million-dollar answer to a ten-cent prayer

Watch Your Prayers

Don't pray for rain if you intend to complain about the mud.

Get Ready

Take things as they come—if you can handle them that fast.

List your prayer requests here!

The Real Meaning of Prayer

1. Prayer is not God doing things for us; prayer is God helping us do things for ourselves.
2. Prayer does not change circumstances; prayer changes us.
3. Prayer is not escape; prayer is conquest.
4. Prayer is not so much talking to God as listening to God. Prayer is not so much telling God what we want Him to do as it is listening to see what He wants us to do.

---William Barclay

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February Anniversaries

2 Robin & Greg Armstrong
12 Dorothy & Jay Wright
24 Pat & Jim Dawson
..... Susan & Lee Patterson
27 Irma & Bernie Dalcanton

February Birthdays

1 Kimberly Boykin
2 David Elder
..... Robin Wright
4 Stephanie Gomez
..... Robert James
..... Hayley Tanner
..... Arthur Willett
6 Michael Bland, Jr.
..... Austin Wood
7 Tim Beymer
8 Janna Freedle
..... Michelle Henderson
..... Patrick Wathen
9 Robin Armstrong
..... Cindy Benitz
..... Jimmy Garrett
..... Sallie McKeown
..... Tyler Peed
..... Dennis Wood
10 Lauren Bradburn
..... Elizabeth Finamore
..... Stefani Henderson
11 George Cockerham
..... Makia Fogle
..... Patrick McClure
..... Bill McConnell
12 Betty Deer
14 Jim Berry
..... Betty Lou Jenkins
..... Ron Stancill

15 Karen Coombs
..... Aubrey Harman
16 Jeanette Bland
..... Kayla Cooksey
18 Marvin Bennett
..... Mary Ellen Fennell
..... Karen Liddle
19 Kenneth Bowie, Sr
..... Jason McClaugherty
20 Greg Armstrong
..... Jackson Kmiecik
21 Savannah Revoir
..... Phyllis Shumans
23 Alyson Lowery
..... Jessica Riffe
24 Ora Stancill
25 Heather Henderson
..... Jeff Walton
..... J. R. Wheeler
..... Walter Willett
26 Linda Bean
..... Le'Sasha Fogle
27 Michael Grove
..... Harold Hudson
..... Zackary McKeown

Lent Begins

On Ash Wednesday, February 6, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

This Busy Day

Today is a gift
From God above
With time for our
work
And time for love.



When work pushes hard
And haste wants to shove,
That's just when we need
To share more Love.

— Peggy Ferrell