

The Witness
Western Heights Baptist Church
24416 Cox Rd.
Petersburg, VA 23803

E-Mail: westernheightsbaptist@gmail.com

Web Site: www.westernheightsbaptistchurch.org

Phone: 804-733-8172

Fax: 804-733-8195

Rev. Jonathan Dundalow

March 2016



Western Heights Baptist Church
24416 Cox Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT 17
Sutherland, VA 23885

Address Service Requested

It's hard to fathom that the all-powerful God of the Universe would see fit to allow us to choose Him or to deny Him. Of course God could make us all bow the knee. Upon His return every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. However, in the interim He allows us to have free will and determine how we will respond to His calling and purpose for our lives. Scripture makes it clear that everyone will not use their free will to respond to his loving invitation and surrender to His Grace. In fact, it points out many instances in which individuals hear clearly God's message for them and yet they "harden their hearts". To harden the heart means to simply reject the message that God has delivered to you. The Bible warns against hardening your heart. Hebrews says repeatedly that we are not to harden our hearts as in the days of the rebellion. Also, everyone who hardens their heart to the Lord in the Bible then endures God's judgment in some manner. In Ezekiel 36:26 God shows His desire to remove our hardened hearts and to replace them with a heart of flesh. His desire is for us to have a heart that feels and responds with sensitivity to the moving and directing of His Spirit. Perhaps it's been a while since you have felt the Lord truly move in your heart? Is it possible that somewhere along the line you decided to ignore His direction and then over time you have lost your sensitivity to the Holy Spirit entirely? While it is possible for that to happen the greater question is what to do about it? If God is pricking your heart through this article and revealing to you something that He has wanted changed in your life don't wait, simply respond in obedience. Don't give your heart a chance to become atrophied again but rather repent and use this opportunity to be restored to fellowship with the Savior. Let God give you a heart of flesh again that you might experience not only His love but the love of and for those around you.

April Birthday List

1	Michelle R. Stech	18	Michael Via
2	Joseph "Joe" Keeney	20	Jennifer Baird Key
3	Jessica Neddo		Dan Martin
4	James Underhill	22	Gilbert Marek
	Linda Lewis		Patricia Johnson
5	Howard Brandon		Shelley Danels
	April Norris		Marie Price
6	Layne Michael Spencer	23	Brooke Mitchell
	James "Matt" Via		Otis Hill, Jr.
7	Richard McCoy		Justin Brown
8	Jesse Wray	24	Kenneth Silvey
	Hailey Lane		Gloria Staples
	J.D. Steele	26	Heather M. Whirley
9	Patrick Antkowiak	27	Lauren Boyd
	Mike Beals		Daniel Lipford
10	Rebecca "Becky"		Gerald (Sam) Berry
	Thomas		
12	Elbert Townsend, Jr.		Julie Massey
	Tim Wilson		Elaina Renee' Orton
13	Camille Fischer.	28	Haley Ramsey
	Harper Mills		Sharon Wade
14	Meredith Ligon	29	Mike Freeman
15	April Cothron Price	30	Johanna C. Munford
	Colby Slade		Rachel Mitchell
16	Vicki Evans-Reith		Seth Seay
	Katie Leggett		
17	Sherry Breeden		
19	Dave Barton		

March Birthdays

1	Jim Lafoon	22	Jason Hudson
	Michael Clemens		Edward Slade
	Joseph Wray		Debbie Zimmerman
3	Michael Edmonds	23	Mike Brown
4	Alicia B. Weyforth		Cynthia Reese
	David Criswell, Jr.		Betsy Berry
5	Robert "Bobby" Belvin		Kim Lovin
	Conner Danels		Wendy Crance
6	Robert "Robbie" Bishop	24	James Robertson
	Phyllis Reish	25	Megan Demaline
7	Keri Eley		Artie Daniels
	Tynecia Taylor		Chris Hayes
8	George Holley, Jr.	26	Paul Chapman
	Debra Grammer		Marland Cook, Jr.
	Cheryl Price	28	Kimberly Green
	Carolyn Williams		Walter Witt, III
12	Ann Holderfield	29	Crystal Arrington
13	Chris Dimaio		Betty Mayes
	Chelsi Holderfield		Taylor Perkinson
14	Henry Beals, Jr.		Rebecca Price
	Leslie Bostic	30	Amanda A. Spencer
	Rachel Canaday		Michael Hayes
	Keri Eley		Shannon Pannill
	Megan Thomas	31	Gregory Guyette
	Alisha H. Young		Holly Johnson
15	Donnie Bostic		Rita Louk
	John Miller		
	Ashley McFarland		
	Patty Pletcher		
	Justin Storey		
16	Dyllon Bostic		
	Penelope Jane Faulkner		
18	Emily Wenzel		
20	Renee Allred		
	Pamela Cunningham		
21	Elizabeth "Liz" Marshall		
	Preston Westmoreland		
	April Johnson		

These are the names of individuals who are either church members of WHBC or are enrolled in our Sunday School. Please advise the church office (733-8172) of any additions or corrections. Thank you!

God wants what's best for us and yet He still allows us to choose if we choose Him then we are choosing life. If we reject Him, we are choosing death not only spiritually but possibly even physically. For the people of Egypt, it cost them their first born and then an entire army. I pray that we would learn from their mistakes and stay obedient to God's direction so that we might bring Glory to His name and avoid temporal and Spiritual disaster.
Until He Comes,

Until He Comes,
Jonathan Dundalow
Galatians 6:9



A Note From The Children's Director

We are getting ready to head in to March! I hope you have all gotten connected in through Planning Center. Planning Center is a great resource for our church and is very helpful as we plan for space usage, calendar events, schedule nurseries, and contact volunteers. Please get connected! WE are in need of a few more great workers! Our children need loving, kind members to help lead them in the ways of the Lord. There are so many ways to help. With Planning Center, you have the ability to block out dates that you are unavailable. You can also set it to schedule you once monthly, once bi-monthly, or once every 6 weeks...with every option in-between! Once a schedule is submitted you also have the ability to accept or decline it. In other words, your schedule is totally dependent on you 😊 Planning Center also sends you email or text reminders depending on how you set it up. There are lots of opportunities!!! I would love to add 12-14 adults to our rotation. Can you Help?

Hello church family! As we draw closer to the birth of baby Audrey Grey I have been constantly reminded of the fact that you all are in fact a family. We have been so blessed in coming to WHBC. We thank you for welcoming us with open arms! In the last few months many of you have personally ministered to us in various ways, and we thank you for that as well! As we approach this new stage in our life with Audrey on the way, we know that we will continue to feel the love from you all as we struggle through lack of sleep and the abundance of dirty diapers. This whole experience has reminded me of what I like to call the horizontal role of the Church. Many of us are tuned into the vertical role of the church, which is to glorify God and be led and lead ourselves into the act of corporate worship. This is something that we see every week on Sunday morning as we all step into the presence of God through worship. The horizontal role of the church, however, is also vitally important. Because of our love for God, the Church responds to the truth of the grace and love of God with the outpouring of grace and love to our church! We are called as a church body to minister to and care for the flock of God in a way that is not self-flaunting, but in a way that shows the power of Christ through us! We are inherently selfish and self-centered people. It is a testimony to the grace of God when we lay down our desires, die to self, and serve others before being served. You all have exemplified this in our lives, and I know you will continue to do that! I pray that we will grow in our desire to serve not just our staff, but the entire church! As you love your Christian life in the Church, remember the truth of Luke 9:23. One who follows Jesus must die to self, carry their burdens, and strive to look like Christ, who came to serve and love.

Dustin Harris

Upcoming Events at WHBC for March:

Mar. 2nd – Women’s Bible Study 10AM; Men & Women’s Bible Study 6:30PM

Mar. 5th – Marriage Enrichment Bible Study 6:00PM

Mar. 6th – Baptismal Sunday

Mar. 9th – Business Meeting 6:30PM

Mar. 12th – Easter Egg Hunt for the Littles 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall
Marriage Enrichment Bible Study 6:00PM

Mar. 16th – Women’s Bible Study 10AM; Men & Women’s Bible Study 6:30PM

Mar. 18th -19th – Women’s Retreat

Mar. 23rd – Women’s Bible Study 10AM; Men & Women’s Bible Study 6:30PM

Mar. 27th – Easter Sunday

The SBCV is offering a free conference to Children’s Ministry workers! This event is Saturday, March 5th and is being held in Midlothian. I would love to get you registered for this event. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more about serving children. There will be lots of ideas and helps for those of us who serve in this very important ministry. Let’s GO!

Our Easter Egg hunt for the Littles is right around the corner! Saturday, March 12th. This event is for children thru age 5. Please invite your friends with Littles too. This will be an indoor event and will begin at 10am. The children will hunt eggs, assemble their snack, and hear a story. Children should bring a “basket” to put eggs in. We would like it if the congregation would donate candy to fill the eggs! Follow this link to register your kiddos for this fun Easter event!

<https://westernheightsbaptistchurch.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/19996>

I am looking forward to Spring! I know you are too 😊

HIS Servant,
April Norris



A note from the Sunday School Director

We are almost there. Spring is almost here (I hope). Like the weather in Virginia is always changing, so are events for the Sunday School! Friend Day has been moved to September 18th. Please mark your calendars and be praying about who He would have you invite as your friend.

The class Pastor Dustin is teaching, New Testament Survey Overview and Proposal, will start June 5th. Again, mark your calendars. Please make this a matter of prayer also. This class is open to anyone who would like to attend and will be during the Sunday School hour. More information will follow as we get closer to June.

Has the Lord been speaking to you about getting more involved in Bible study? Please see Allan Kissner or me if class information is needed or if you have any interest in leading a class. This can be a very interesting and challenging ministry, are you up to the challenge? I hope to see you Sunday at 9:45 for Bible study.

In His service,
Robert Tucker

*Women's Retreat is quickly approaching... and
you don't want to miss out...*

Theme: Love not Live - Ezekiel 36: 26-27

Dates: March 18th and 19th

Place: IMB (International Mission Board)
16492 MLC Lane Rockville, VA

Time: Vans leave church at 5:30 on March 18th and Return
March 19th approx. 4:00

Personal cars can arrive at IMB after 11:00 am on Friday

Dinner - Short Pump area to be announced approx. 6:30-8:00

IMB Retreat Center and Speaker Cost: \$30 check or cash;
\$32.00 online includes lodging (2 per room), linens, breakfast,
lunch and snacks.

Saturday conference ends after lunch around 1:30 - travel to
Short Pump for shopping or movie

Speaker - Amy Stewart

Music: Lori Sturt

Sign up Deadline March 4

Please use the link below to register online!

<https://westernheightsbaptistchurch.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/16098>

