



MELROSE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

March 2026

## Something To Think About



### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: “EMBRACING NEIGHBORS, NURTURING HOPE”**

If you, like me, have spent your whole life attending a Baptist church, then you are probably familiar with the seasonal rhythm of a “missions offering” around Easter and Christmas.

Christmas was celebrating the nativity and Lottie Moon, and Easter turned our focus to resurrection and Annie Armstrong. (By the way, if you don't know the names of Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong, I would encourage you to do a quick Google search to learn about the important work of these two women!)

While denominational battles have changed the terminology we use for our missions emphasis, many Baptist congregations have remained in a rhythm of emphasizing support for missions during these seasons of the year. But what is it that we are supporting as we, at Melrose, are invited to give to the Offering for Global Missions through CBF?

The best answer I can give is found in the theme that CBF has chosen for this year's offering – “Embracing Neighbors, Nurturing Hope.” When we think of missionaries, we often think of someone who travels to another part of the world to tell people about Jesus. However, as I have had the opportunity to meet several of our missionaries (or field personnel, as we tend to call them now) and hear from many more over the years, again and again what I hear from them is that the proclamation of the gospel is dependent upon sustained presence. Effective mission work that truly leads not just to conversion but to lasting life transformation does not take place by just dropping into a neighborhood for a week, preaching a few revivals, and then moving to the next town. A missionary is someone who commits to being present in the community with the people God has called that missionary to share the gospel with through word and deed. It is only through sustained presence that individuals and families and communities develop a trust that helps them know that God and God's people truly love them and aren't just trying to take something from them. It is only through sustained presence that communities understand that the power of the gospel is not just the power to go to Heaven

someday. It is the power to change the world right now. Our field personnel work in every part of the globe planting churches and running hospitals and schools and feeding the hungry. But, just as importantly, they are working in every part of the globe listening to people in the community, building true and lasting friendships, advocating for those who are being overlooked, and just being a good neighbor in whatever neighborhood God has placed them. Sometimes the best expression of the gospel is not in a sermon or a tract but in a hug that lets a neighbor know, “I am with you, God is with you, and neither one of us is going to leave you to face life alone.”

This is why our support of the Offering for Global Missions is so important. The funds that are given through the Offering allow for our field personnel to live and serve long-term in the communities where they are called to serve. Most of our field personnel are serving in communities here in the United States and around the world where resources that would allow them to support their presence and their ministry are extremely limited, if they are available at all. The Offering for Global Missions allows them to truly be present in the communities in which they are called to serve and build the relationships and the trust that helps individuals and families in these communities know that when we say, “For God so loved the world,” the “world” includes them. Our dollars and cents become the listening ears, the working hands, and the loving arms that embrace neighbors all over the world and give them hope like no other.

If you would like to make a donation to the Offering for Global Missions, you can use one of the specially marked envelopes in the pew or you can give online at:

<https://cbf.net/global-missions/ogm/>.

- Pastor Mark

# Being Gregarious



## What day is it?

This is National Dance & Tortilla Chip & Trading Card & Spay Day

## On this date:

In 1839, William S. Otis received a patent for the steam shovel. In 1938, the first nylon bristle toothbrush was made.

## Need advice?

If an electric plug fits too snugly and is difficult to pull out, rub its prongs with a soft lead pencil and it will move in

and out more easily.

## LOL:

My wife was giving our newborn his bath, and my daughter was watching. Suddenly she came running to me and hollered, "Dad, his biblical cord fell off!"

*Bu-dum-dum-chhh*

## Spiritual Nourishment:

Nehemiah 5:9 "Then I said, "What you are doing isn't right. Shouldn't you walk in the fear of our God and not invite the reproach of our foreign enemies?"

Al Schierbaum writes:

Most would agree that character is vital for success in any organization, team or family, yet today's news is filled with examples of bad character. Nehemiah was in the process of building a wall, but he recognized that if some character issues were not addressed, the completion of the wall would be insignificant. Rebuilding a physical wall was not all that God had called Nehemiah to do. God called Nehemiah to a much greater ministry – a ministry to the heart.

Nehemiah was faithful in his firm denunciation of injustice, exploitation and pride. He then set an example of godliness by the way he lived his life. As the leader, Nehemiah made changes that produced good character. First, he put a stop to the injustice and exploitation of the people by their leaders. Wealthy Jews had exploited the people with high taxes and slavery. Second, Nehemiah mandated that the leaders were to care for the well-being of the people. I was talking recently with a head football coach who told me about another football coach who wanted to obtain an open assistant position, and he

came to the interview carrying a briefcase filled with all his plans for the defense. At that point the head coach said, "I don't care what is in the briefcase because I can get a hundred coaches to teach these kids how to block and tackle. What I want to know is how much you will care for the kids. Will you love them more than yourself?"

Third, Nehemiah understood the value of servant leadership. The character of a team reflects the character of the coach, and players will do what their coaches allow them to do. Fourth, Nehemiah was a model of servant leadership. He did not abuse the privileges afforded him as governor because he loved the people and wanted to please God.

How does your personal character reflect what you are teaching others in your care?

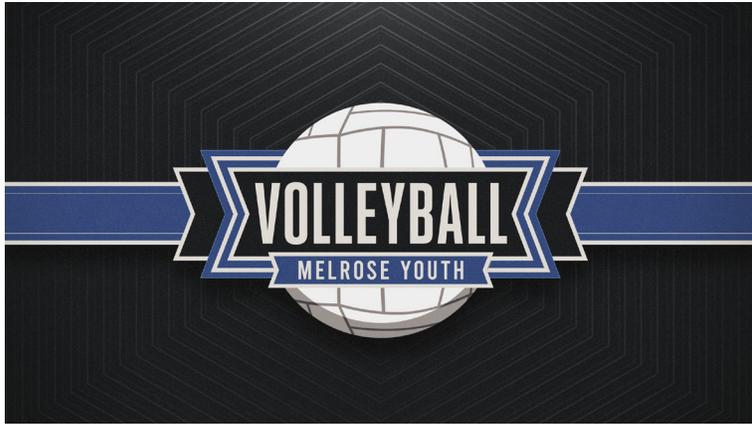
Have you determined the character traits you feel are most important?

How much 'servant' is in your leadership style?

*(Information shared is borrowed from the following sources.)*

- *The Coach's Bible*
- *The Big Book of Church Humor -or- Religious Humor*
- *Who Knew? 10,001 Easy Solutions to Everyday Problems*
- *365 Trivia Twist Devotions*

# Children & Youth Updates



## JOIN THE YOUTH VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE!

Melrose youth are invited to participate in this year's Roanoke Valley Baptist Association's Youth Coed Volleyball League. Play will begin on March 19th! If interested, please let Pastor Greg know ASAP!



## CHILDREN'S INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON

Children ages 5-12 are invited to Hollins Road Baptist Church on Saturday, March 14 from 11 AM-1 PM for an international luncheon. This event is a great way for children to learn more about the world and discover the amazing mission opportunities there are!



## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026!

Registration is now open for the biggest adventure of the year! Children in pre-K through completed 5th grade are welcome to join us for "Discovery on Adventure Island" June 8-10 from 9 AM- 12 PM. Join us as Beacon guides us on a 3-day quest to search for God's great light. Register now by going to the church website [HERE](#).



## SUMMER CAMP: CAMP WARD HAVEN

The Roanoke Valley WMU is hosting a children's camp at Ward Haven from June 22-26 for children in grades 2nd-9th. This camp offers a week full of activities including Bible Study, games, dancing, and more! Cost is \$100 per child but there are scholarships available for those in need.

**Interested?** Contact Asheley Shepherd at [asheleykshepherd@yahoo.com](mailto:asheleykshepherd@yahoo.com)!

# Ministry Updates



## BIBLE JOURNALING FELLOWSHIP

Are you looking for a new, creative way to study God's word? Come and join us for Bible Journaling Fellowship on Saturday, March 8 from 10 AM-12 PM. This month we will be journaling on Matthew 6:9-13, the Lord's Prayer. Materials are provided!

## EASTER FOOD BOXES

The WMU Groups are collecting food for Keystone Community Center and Friendship House Roanoke. All donations are used to pack their Easter food boxes that are distributed to families in need. Donations are due to the church by Sunday, March 8.

### Items Needed:

- 15 oz cans of peas, fruit, corn, and green beans
- Canned soup- tomato, chicken noodle, and vegetable
- Evaporated milk
- Brownie mix
- 25 ft. roll of aluminum foil
- Plastic wrap
- Just add water pancake mix
- Pancake syrup- plastic bottle
- Spaghetti noodles
- 24 oz. can of pasta sauce
- Saltine crackers
- Box tea- no black
- Gelatin Jello- not pudding
- Cooking oil
- Dish detergent
- Salt
- Cereal
- Jelly or jam
- Peanut butter
- Chicken gravy
- Hamburger Helper
- Mac-n-Cheese

*Please only purchase items in plastic jars- no glass.*

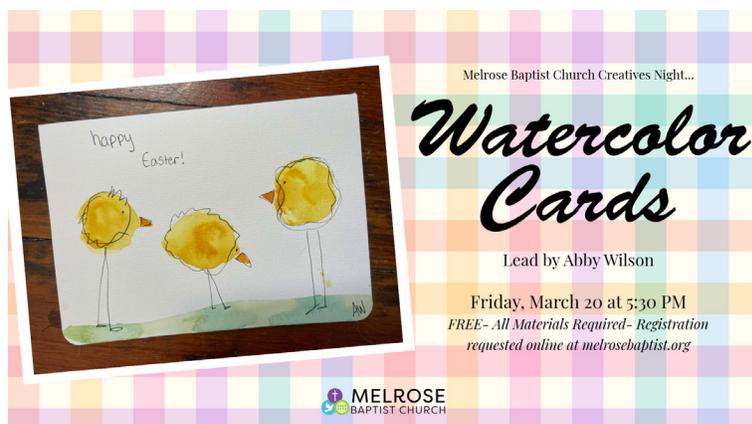
## PRAYER FOR WMU MISSION TRIP

Please be in prayer for those who will be traveling with the local Women's Missionary Union to Nickelsville, VA from March 1-5. During this mission trip the women will be handing out books and hygiene items to local school children.



## CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

Please mark your calendars for this month's church Business Meeting on Wednesday, March 18 at 6:15 Pm in the Sanctuary.



## CREATIVES NIGHT: WATERCOLOR CARDS

We invite you to join us for this month's Creatives Night as Abby Wilson will be showing everyone how to make simple, fun watercolor cards. This event is free, open to everyone, and all materials will be provided. Those attending are asked to please register on the church website so we can properly prepare.

## WMU SPRING MISSIONS CELEBRATION

The local Women's Missionary Union invite all to join them at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on Monday, March 23 for their Spring Missions Celebration. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM and is \$12 per person. Worship will begin at 6:30 PM. Please RSVP to Kathryn Sowers by Monday, March 9 at 540-529-0861.

# Upcoming Events



## JOIN PASTOR CONNIE FOR FAITHFUL FITNESS!

Pastor Connie invites everyone to join her on Friday mornings at 10:30 AM for a fun, low impact, chair exercise class. No special equipment needed and free!



## DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP

Dartball Fellowship invites everyone to monthly play on March 2 and 9 at 6:30 PM in the church Fellowship Hall. All levels of play are welcome to come and experience this unique game of baseball and darts!



## ALL INVITED- PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Baptist Men invite all to join them for a home cooked breakfast on Sunday, March 8 at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary.

## Climbing to New Heights

Spring Church Leadership Training

Saturday, March 21, 2026

9:00 AM – Noon

Melrose Baptist Church

Roanoke, Virginia

Register by Friday, March 14!

## SIGN UP NOW- SPRING CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

The Barnabas Partnership is hosting a Spring Church Leadership Training day here at Melrose Baptist on Saturday, March 21 from 9 AM-12 PM. The Barnabas Partnership works to educate and support ministers and churches to be able to continue the Kingdom work. There will be sessions on social media for the church, understanding the cycles of church life, building relationships, and building an effective Deacon ministry.

Interested in this event? Register by Friday, March 14 by going to [barnabaspartnership.com](http://barnabaspartnership.com)!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$9.00 per person or \$20 for a family up to 4 people. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631, on the Melrose Baptist Church mobile app, or the church website **HERE**.

### February Menu

- 3/4: Grilled chicken, potato salad, green beans, eclair cake
- 3/11: Roast pork, hashbrown casserole, squash saute, berry oatmeal bars
- 3/18: Lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, Tara's brownies
- 3/25: Barbecue, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, carrot sheet cake

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

### Ushers

3/1: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth  
3/8: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth  
3/15: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill  
3/22: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill  
3/29: Don Slone, Debby Hill

### Courtesy Team

3/1: Billy Martin, Donnie Daniels  
3/8: Jeff Poore, Annie Richerson  
3/15: Larry Wirt, Gerald Willis  
3/22: Steve Kennedy, Larry Hicks  
3/29: Gary Dixon, Billy Martin

### Safety Team

3/1: Gary Hurd, Suzanne Moses  
3/8: Gary Dixon, Jeb Wallace  
3/15: Larry Hicks, Barry Wickham  
3/22: Allen Journell, Larry Wirt  
3/29: Danny Jarrett, Steve Kennedy

### Youth Dinners

3/1: Janet Bain, Linda Broughman, Alyce Bowman  
3/8: Rhonda Kessler, Diana Hackworth  
3/15: Lynette Martin, Jenny Moorner  
3/22: Annie Richerson, Courtney Jones  
3/29: Amy Crawford, Jan Heath

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of June Caldwell by:  
Joyce Loogar  
Mary Kamm

In Memory of Larry Davison by:  
Harry and Jean Davison

In Memory of Michael Thomas by:  
Pat and Don Brockman  
Cindy Driscoll.

## THANK YOU NOTES

"Melrose Church Family,

I want to thank you for the kindness shown to me during my hospitalization. A special thanks to Pastor Mark, Debby, Karen, and Chip. Thanks for the visits, flowers, phone calls, cards, and especially your prayers.

While I am still dealing with this problem, I ask for your continued prayers as I will have back surgery on Feb. 25.

It is really a comfort to know you all are praying for me. I am truly blessed to be a part of this family of grace.

In His love,  
Judy Catron

## MOST RECENT FINANCE REPORT- JANUARY

### January 2026

Monthly Income: \$63,600.62

Monthly Expenses: \$65,673.57

### Year to Date

Total Income: \$63,600.62

Total Expenses: \$65,673.57

# March Church Calendar

## March 1-8

### SUNDAY- 3/1

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Fork Fellowship  
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts  
5 PM Seeds of Youth

### MONDAY- 3/2

6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

### WEDNESDAY- 3/4

10 AM Staff Meeting  
10 AM Beth Calloway  
2:30 PM Stitch & A Prayer  
3:30 PM 5th Block  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6 PM Youth on Mission  
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts  
6:15 PM Bible Study  
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY- 3/5

6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

### FRIDAY- 3/6

10:30 AM Faithful Fitness

### SATURDAY- 3/7

10 AM Bible Journaling Fellowship  
10 AM Decor Committee

### SUNDAY- 3/8

8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Ibada  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Fork Fellowship  
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts  
5 PM Seeds of Youth

## March 9-15

### MONDAY- 3/9

11:30 AM Personnel Committee  
6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

### WEDNESDAY- 3/11

3:30 PM 5th Block  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6 PM Youth on Mission  
6 PM Finance Meeting  
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts  
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting  
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY- 3/12

10:30 AM Alma Hunt  
5-7 PM Event at Keystone Community Center  
7 PM LaVora Sprinkle

### FRIDAY- 3/13

10:30 AM Faithful Fitness

### SATURDAY- 3/14

9 AM- 4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use  
11 AM Children's International Luncheon at Hollins Road BC  
5-9 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

### SUNDAY- 3/15

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Ibada  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Children's Committee  
12 PM Fork Fellowship  
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts  
5 PM Seeds of Youth  
7 PM Youth Council

## March 16-22

### MONDAY- 3/16

10 AM Bible Study  
6:30 PM VBS Station Leaders Mtg.

### TUESDAY- 3/17

10 AM LAAF  
1:30 PM Staff Meeting  
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells  
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY- 3/18

3:30 PM 5th Block  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6 PM Youth on Mission  
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts  
6:15 PM Business Meeting  
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY- 3/19

Youth Volleyball Game  
6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

### FRIDAY- 3/20

10:30 AM Faithful Fitness  
5:30 PM Creatives Night:  
Watercolor Cards

### SATURDAY- 3/21

9 AM- 12 PM Barnabas Partnership Leadership Training

### SUNDAY- 3/22

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Ibada  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Fork Fellowship  
5 PM Children in Action & Worship Arts  
5 PM Seeds of Youth

## March 23-29

### MONDAY- 3/23

10 AM Bible Study  
5:30 PM WMU Spring Missions  
Celebration at Mount Pleasant

### TUESDAY- 3/24

10 AM Staff Meeting  
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells  
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY- 3/25

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6 PM Youth on Mission  
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts  
6:15 PM Prayer Meeting  
7 PM Choir Rehearsal

### FRIDAY- 3/27

10:30 AM Faithful Fitness

### SATURDAY- 3/28

12-5 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

### SUNDAY- 3/29

*Palm Sunday*  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Ibada  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Fork Fellowship  
5 PM Children in Action &  
Worship Arts  
5 PM Seeds of Youth

## March 30- April 5

### MONDAY- 3/30

10 AM Bible Study  
10 AM Decor Committee  
6:15 PM Deacons Meeting

### TUESDAY- 3/31

10 AM Staff Meeting  
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells  
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

### WEDNESDAY- 4/1

10 AM Beth Calloway  
2:30 PM Stitch & a Prayer  
3:30 PM 5th Block  
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner  
6:30 PM Tenebrae: Lord's Living  
Supper

### THURSDAY- 4/2

6:45 PM Fellowship Hall in Use

### FRIDAY- 4/3

10:30 AM Faithful Fitness

### SATURDAY- 4/4

11 AM Easter Community Event  
2:30 PM Decor Committee

### SUNDAY- 4/5

*Easter Sunday*  
7 AM Easter Sunrise Service  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship  
12 PM Fork Fellowship