

# ABC Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 3

March 2018

Atwater Baptist Church

Good news! We have had our (late) annual meeting, finished our end of year and new beginnings celebrations, and aligned our finances! With our four special offerings, United Missions giving and two special offerings (Puerto Rico, California fire relief) we gave \$5794 to mission this past year!

Hard into Lent, we take time in worship to reflect on our Lord's 40 days of temptation in the wilderness as we progress toward Good Friday (the crucifixion) and Easter Sunday, the resurrection. Hopefully you have been reading along in the Lenten pamphlets we received at the start of the season. Reminding us both, of the serious sacrifice to give us new life, and the grace of forgiveness that only God can give. Easter is April 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Don't let it fool you!

Our Thursday night bible study will be moving on from "How to Study the Bible" with Howard Hendricks, to applying the lessons as we do an inductive study of Matthew 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount, beginning in March. Famous sections include "The Beatitudes," "The Lord's Prayer," and various well remembered quotes such as "take the log out of your own eye..." and "the wise man built his house upon the rock."

The night before this writing we were privileged to share with our global mission consultants to Muslim countries, Walt and Jeanine White. They have an exhausting schedule traveling "the silk road" bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Walt commented that "40 years ago when I began there were no Christians in Bangladesh. Now I can look at various places around the city and see "look there are Christians, "there" and "there" and "there." Often times we have no clue what God is doing, or how powerfully He works! So Praise God for missions to Muslim areas around the world!

Looking forward to a change of pace and warmer weather!

God bless us all,

*Pastor John*

**Mondays, 1:30 p.m.**  
900 Summerfield Drive

**Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.**  
9240 W Fruitland

**Thursdays 7:00 p.m.**  
Koinonia Room, Atwater Baptist Church



## Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Moderator	2
Missions	2
Worship Committee	2
Bonnie's Blog	3
Special Dates	3
Calendar	4
Birthdays	4
Annual Mission Report	5
Pew Bibles	5
Prayer	6



Spring is here, that means it is clean up time around our facilities. Let us all get together and have fun on the Saturday work day scheduled for March 24th. Come have a donut and coffee with us.

The large maple tree by First Street is dying and will have to be removed this spring before someone gets hurt with broken limbs falling.

Our small group bible studies are very inspiring, each group is on a different topic, Pastor's next study topic will be about the sermon on the mount. If you are not already involved in a group I urge you to come and try one.

Wishing everyone a happy Easter. Come worship with us!

*Richard Maddox*, Moderator



It's time for our America For Christ Offering. The theme is Equipping Disciples, Healing Communities, Cultivating Leaders (Ephesians 4:11—13).

God gave some apostles some to be Evangelists, some to be teachers to prepare God's people to work of service.

The goal is \$400. We will have envelopes in the pews and also flyers in the bulletins to show us where the needs are.

That we may grow and mature in our witness for Christ.

*Ruth Ann Gasaway*



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Our next evening get-together will be March 4<sup>th</sup> for Salad and Singing. Please come at 5pm and bring a salad to share. We'll have some good food and fellowship. The committee will supply bread and crackers.

Then at 6pm, we will have a singing time. This time we would like you to pick more contemporary songs. Our newer songs don't get enough exposure and we would like to learn some new ones.

By "new" we mean something written after 1970. That gives you a fairly wide range. You can see the copyright date at the bottom of the song in our hymnal. So let's see what we come up with.

"There will be no Easter choir this year but we will have special music for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Stay tuned for more announcements.

Next worship Committee meeting will be March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm in the Pastor's Office."

**Eileen Gasaway**, Worship Committee



Bonnie's  
Blog

Satan never stops trying to steal from us. He has managed to turn Christmas into a frenzy of commercialism and Easter into nothing more than a spring festival with green plastic grass, bunnies, and chocolate eggs. Also, he managed to take the heroic story of Patrick and turn it into an excuse to drink a lot and pretend to be Irish.

The truth is that Patrick was British. Kidnapped by Irish raiders, he was forced to work as a shepherd in Ireland. He escaped, but chose to return and made it his life's work to convert the wild Celts to Christianity. His story is an echo of Joseph, whose resentful brothers sold him as a slave. "When the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelite people, who took him to Egypt" (Genesis 37:28).

Joseph suffered many indignities, the worst of which was prison for a crime he didn't commit. But he came to love his adopted country and eventually rose to become chief assistant to the pharaoh. His wise leadership averted famine in the Near East.

This St. Patrick's Day you may choose to make merry with friends, wear some green, dance to some great music, and laugh a lot. But I hope you will also take a moment to remember heroes like Joseph and Patrick who chose to love their enemies and bring them God's mercy.

– Author Unknown

Agape, Bonnie

### Regular Meeting Times this Month

#### **Sundays:**

- 9:00 AM NLCC Worship
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM ABC Morning Worship
- 6:00 PM NLCC Youth Group

#### **Tuesdays**

- 8:00 p.m. Phoenix Group

#### **Thursdays:**

- 9:00 AM Art Class
- 9:30 AM Prayer

#### **Fridays**

- 7:00 PM—9:30 PM Phoenix Group

### Special Dates this Month.

#### **Sunday, March 4**

- 5:00 p.m. Salad Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Hymn Sing

#### **Tuesday, March 13**

- 9:00 a.m. Senior Brown Bag

#### **Wednesday, March 14**

- 9:00 a.m. USDA Commodities
- 1:30 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

#### **Tuesday, March 20**

- 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting

#### **Wednesday, March 21**

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**

#### **Saturday, March 24**

- 9:00 a.m. Church Work Day

#### **Tuesday, March 27**

- 9:00 a.m. Senior Brown Bag

#### **Friday, March 30**

**GOOD FRIDAY**



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

**5:00 p.m.  
Dinner  
6:00 p.m.  
Hymn Sing**

**March Birthdays**  
3 Jacob Gasaway  
4 Margaret Clamp  
10 David Futrell  
12 Brandon McCollum  
17 Katie Luxon  
21 Jaci Luxon

				1 9:30 a.m. Prayer	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. NLCC Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. ABC Worship	5	6 7:00 p.m. Phoenix Group	7	8 9:00 a.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Prayer	9	10
11 9:00 a.m. NLCC Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. ABC Worship	12	13 9:00 a.m. Brown Bag Distribution 7:00 p.m. Phoenix Group	14	15 9:00 a.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Prayer	16 11:00 a.m. Happy Trails Granny's For Lunch	17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>
18 9:00 a.m. NLCC Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. ABC Worship	19	20 <b>1st Day of Spring</b> 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting 7:00 p.m. Phoenix Group	21	22 9:00 a.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Prayer	23	24 9:00 a.m. Church Work Day
25 9:00 a.m. NLCC Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. ABC Worship	26	27 9:00 a.m. Brown Bag Distribution 7:00 p.m. Phoenix Group	28	29 9:00 a.m. Art Class 9:30 a.m. Prayer	30	31

**DEADLINE FOR  
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**



We as the Worship Committee are exploring the possibility of getting a new pew Bible. The current ones are getting a little old and worn. Also we feel we need a larger print size.

We need about 60 copies to cover the pews and few extra. We are thinking of the New International Version (NIV) in either black or blue covers with a readable print. See the example of part of a page.

The cost is \$10 per copy. Would you be willing to donate money for one or two or more copies of a new pew Bible? Don't send your gift yet. We would like to know what you think.

Send or give feedback to any committee member: Eileen Gasaway, Richard or Jeri Maddox, Donna Plett, Marilyn Peterson or Pastor John.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

Sunday  
March 11th

# GENESIS

## The Beginning

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing

## Missions Committee Report

Ruth Gasaway (Chair), Dawna McCreary

We present four offerings throughout the year. It was decided at the March board meeting to have a goal of \$400 for each offering:

America for Christ (March) \$422 was received in 2017

One Great Hour of Sharing (June) \$474

World Missions (October) \$550 (?)

Retired Ministers and Missionaries (December) \$535 with another \$100 given in January

In each offering we used posters, bulletin inserts each Sunday, envelopes and reports and sometimes video reports.

A special offering was taken in November for the victims of the hurricanes in Puerto Rico. It was decided to use the communion offering for November, funds from the Deacons' Fund and \$100 from the Sunday School class for a total of \$565, that was sent to International Ministries.

The Board also sent \$500 from the Deacons' Fund to the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the victims of the fires in northern California in December.

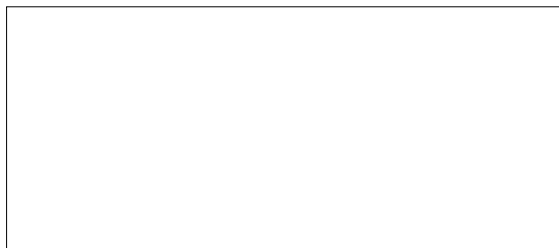
Due to budget shortfalls, it was decided that monthly contributions to Redwood Glen Camp and to the Wendells would stop in June. We continue to support Luran Bethell with a percentage of our income as well as the United Missions contribution, which also decreased to 2%.

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United In Christ,  
Growing in Grace  
Reaching Out in Love



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## NewsLetter DEADLINE

Wednesday, March 21



Find us on Facebook under Atwater Baptist Church. Please click on the like button on our page to start getting pictures and announcements!

## *Remember In Prayer*

Hanna Hoyt, Marie Pimentel, Helen Swickard, Dora Wilcox, Morgan Yarbrough, Eileen Gasaway, Pat Yarbrough, Gladys Alexander

**Our Military families, leaders, and president**

**Our Missionaries:**

Rev. Lauran Bethell,  
Steve & Cari Wendel.

Visit our church web site  
[www.atwaterbaptist.com](http://www.atwaterbaptist.com)  
for a more complete  
prayer list.