

The Tidings

Antioch Baptist Church

Serving God and our Community since 1776

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

*For everything there is a reason, a time for every matter under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted*

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also, that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil –this is God's gift to man.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 11-13

We seem to be in a rush for everything we do in life. We move quickly from one thing to the next, rushing our lives away. Then we hear the words of Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes for “there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven.” There is time for each and everything, including time to rest. Life was meant to have seasons, a rhythm of life matching the timing of God for us.

He also reminds us there is “a time to be born, and a time to die.” At this point you may be saying, yes, we all know that if we have been born that we will have a time when we die. All one must do is walk around a graveyard to know that. Although we do know it *practically* do we know it *personally*?

What happens between the time we are born, and die is not really measured by the years, but the quality of the fruit. That's why the second analogy is there to give perspective. A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted reminds us of the life cycle of all things. Plants have a shorter life cycle and it may be easier for us to see and understand life has a beginning and an end. Dietrich Bonhoeffer only lived until his thirties and facing death in a concentration camp did not see this length of his life as the measure of its worth, but its fruitfulness and purposefulness for God is the value. Jesus too, only lived to thirty-three years old, yet he forever changed the world.

We know that we are born but we too often don't want to think about this death thing at all, or if we are willing think about it, it is sometime later, but not now. Many think they will live forever or be called home before we have to die. In verse eleven we are reminded that he has everything thing beautiful in its time and that God has put eternity into man's heart, yet he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to end. We are like the plants in the span of eternity, we live but a short while on this earth, but will we be fruitful for the one who created us.

We cannot know all that God has in store for us for eternity. We do not know how many will be the number of our days. What we can know, and control is what we will do with those days. We are reminded to “be joyful and do good as long as we live”, not that we must live long to do that. This is not about how much time, but how in the season(s) we have to live will we produce fruit, fruit that lasts. It is about faithfulness. There is a time and a season for everything, and he has made everything beautiful in its time.

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SANDSTON, VIRGINIA 23150

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Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating in the month of MAY: Linda Bradley(1), Taylor Gartrell(2), Wellford Dowdy(2), Starr Eberhard(4), Linda Newcomb(6), Kalli Gordon(7), Robert Ragland, Jr. (7), Donna Burgess(8), Andrew Sanders(8), Linda Moorefield(8), Thomas Globig(11), Madison Roberts(12), Jacob Boatwright(15), Merle (Dootsie) Watkins(16), Lynda Gouldin(17), Grace Zahn(20), Denny Adams(24), Leroy Ferguson(24), Ron Cook(25), Mitchell Flournoy(25), Debbie Locks(25), Rick Wilder(29), Bonnie Winn(30), Shelia V. Jackson(31), Taylor Zahn(31)

(If your birthday has been inadvertently left off the birthday list or entered incorrectly, please contact the Church Office.)

WMU – WOMEN’S MISSIONARY UNION

OUR MISSION: ... TO INFORM AND INSPIRE Christians to influence their world for Christ.

WATCHWORD: “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings”.
(1 Cor. 9:22b-23 NIV)

Do you know anyone with mental illness? Do you know in America approximately 43.8 million adults or 1.25 suffer from a serious mental illness. 1 in 5 children 13-18 has or will have a serious mental illness? It’s real, and it’s affecting practically every family across the United States. How can we help? First and foremost by educating ourselves to dispel any commonly held misconception. (1)Acknowledge the issue and reach out in compassion. (2)Offer reassurance that you care. (3)ask questions. (4)LISTEN. (5)TTreat them with respect. There are many other ways also. The May Missions Mosaic list other ways. Be sure to borrow a copy from a WMU member and read this very interesting article. We need to walk alongside those who are suffering and offer the hope of Christ.

A reminder that the Leslie & Hazel Watson Offering for Dover Baptist Association Missions will be observed during the Week of Prayer May 20-27. Our goal for the church is \$500.00. The Hallelujah Goal for Dover is \$39,500.00.

We are happy to report that 321 bags of cookies (prepared by Antioch) was delivered to Dover Association for the Raceway Ministry.

May mission project will be gift cards for Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North & South Dakota. Contact Pat Chalkley for information.

Our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

Joyce Adams, Reporting for WMU

**Penny
Social**

If you haven’t made it to a meeting of the Antioch Senior Group yet, bring \$1.00 and come to the penny social on Monday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall!

Not sure what that is? Ask a senior!

We welcome your donation of good junk!

Covered dish luncheon follows the meeting.

BRING A FRIEND!

Don’t let your friends and neighbors miss out on the fun of being part of our group! Invite a new member and win a prize!