



## FROM PASTOR BARRY TAYLOR

### THE CHARACTER OF HOPE

*"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."*

Romans 5.1-5

I named my daughter Hope. I told her a long time ago that, if she ever decided she didn't like her name, she had no one to blame but me. I was determined to name her "Hope."

You see, in my opinion the two most beautiful words in the Bible (and in the English language) are "grace" and "hope." John Wesley defined "grace" as God's "free, undeserved favour... man having no claim to the least of his mercies... For there is nothing we are, or have, or do, which can deserve the least thing at God's hand." As the Apostle Paul writes in the Scripture text above, through Jesus "we have gained access by faith into the grace in which we now stand." And what is the grace in which we now stand? "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5.1).

Grace is amazing, indeed. But, Hope is just as amazing.

The classic definition of "hope" is "to trust in, wait for, look for, or desire something or someone; or to expect something beneficial in the future." John Piper writes that "Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future — it expects it to happen." Hope is not emotional ecstasy...it is faith-based expectation, grounded in the ultimate reality of the glory of God. That is why the Christian hope never "puts us to shame."

Implicit in this definition is the source of hope: it is not to be looked for outside, but rather located inside. In Romans, Paul makes the implicit explicit: "suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Hope is born of character.

(Continued on next page...)

Paul makes the bold claim that our struggles and sufferings should be viewed, not as the enemies of hope, but as the building blocks of hope. We can rejoice in our sufferings because they teach us to persevere... to "hang in there" by faith. And, as we hold on through our struggles, our faith is tested and refined...it is proven genuine. Indeed, that is the definition of the Greek word for "character" ("dokime"): "tested and approved as genuine." That proven character goes on to be an internal wellspring of hope for us. How? Because, as Douglas Moo puts it, "Hope, like a muscle, will not be strong if it goes unused." Hope grows when we are forced to look to the future with internal faith instead of trusting in external events or personal resources.

Hope is not found around us; hope is found within us. Hope is born of character.

Character matters. It always has. It always will. The times in which we live are the result of too easily forgetting this basic universal reality. We must once again embrace this truth: Christ IN US is the hope of glory (Colossians 1.27). "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2.20). Character produces hope, and "hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

If we are in Christ and Christ is in us, nothing in this world can take hope from us...because nothing in this world has given it to us. Our hope is not in political leaders, social media, or cultural trends. In the words of the old hymn, our "hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness."

That's what makes the word "hope" so powerful...and so beautiful. And that is why I named my daughter Hope.

As always, it's a privilege to be in ministry with you.

Grace and peace,  
Barry

## MISSIONS MOMENT

During May in honor of all Mothers, our monthly mission focus will be on collecting spare change for Transitions Pregnancy Solutions by participating in their annual fundraiser, "Baby Bottle Boomerang". Come by the church and pick up a baby bottle to collect your change or pick one up on Sunday morning. Save your spare change all month long and then place your full baby bottles in the Missions Drop-Off area of the Fellowship Room. If you fill up your baby bottle during the month, you are welcome to get another one. As always, your support of these monthly mission projects is greatly appreciated!



# FAITH FAMILIES

"WE ARE GOD'S ACCOMPLISHMENT, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD THINGS. GOD PLANNED FOR THESE GOOD THINGS TO BE THE WAY THAT WE LIVE OUR LIVES."

EPHESIANS 2:10

Faith Families is the new name for our children and family ministries here at Fairview Church. FAITH FAMILIES includes BIG FAITH on Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m., GODLY PLAY on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and J.U.M.P on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

## GODLY PLAY

In our May Godly Play Circles, we are celebrating The Miracle of Easter! We will experience the joy Jesus' friends felt as He appears to them after the resurrection! Each friend saw and recognized Jesus in different ways. We will reflect on all the ways we see Jesus' love for us each day.

## J.U.M.P MAY Missions

In April we finished up our BUSY BAGS for children who spend time in medical waiting rooms. In May we are helping create games and activities to use when we welcome children to Family Fun Day here on May 10. We are celebrating our year of Missions together!



8:30 and 10:00 a.m. each Sunday

Big Faith is an opportunity each week for our children to study scripture and build skills to put their faith into practice every day! May's study is **A Recipe for Love** and focuses on Jesus teaching us to love and welcome others. We will learn to show God's love through empathy, kindness, compassion and forgiveness.



Scan the QR Code to register your family for VBS!

Or

To join the Camp Firelight Ministry Team



June 22-26

VBS Team Members

Needed:

Station Leaders

Crew Leaders

Decoration Crew

Contact Amy Grogan, VBS Director  
amygro@comcast.net

Margaret Snider, Children's Ministries  
children@gofairviewchurch.org





**JOSH MARLOWE**  
**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT**  
**MINISTRIES**  
**& CONTEMPORARY**  
**WORSHIP**

Hey Fairview family—

Can we just take a second and say... y'all are awesome. Seriously. Whether you were stuffing eggs, stacking chairs, praying behind the scenes, or just showing up with a smile—you helped make Easter special. Thank you for being a church that shows up big in the name of Jesus.

Now that the lilies are wilting and the candy's been mysteriously "re-distributed" (a.k.a. eaten by parents), it's easy to let Easter fade into the background. But here's the truth—Easter wasn't the end of the story. It was the beginning.

After the resurrection, Jesus didn't just disappear. He met with His disciples. He shared meals. He reminded them who they were and what they were called to do.

Acts 1:8 says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..."

That's not just for the disciples—that's for us too.

That's what we're reminding our ROOTS youth: Jesus is alive, so now it's time to live like it.

And they're doing just that.

We just finished up Barry's BLESS study, and the kids really connected with it. It challenged them to think about how they're living out their faith in real, practical ways. Now we're kicking off a new series all about prayer—how to grow their prayer life, make it meaningful, and stop treating it like a last-minute group project due at midnight.

Speaking of meaningful—can we brag on them for a second?

10 of our teens came out to help with the church's Easter Egg-stravaganza. That's 10 teenagers who willingly got up early on a weekend to serve others. If that's not the work of the Holy Spirit, I don't know what is.

Now, one quick request (okay, maybe not quick—but definitely important): we need meal volunteers.

ROOTS is growing. And so are their stomachs.

We have a solid meal plan in place—no guessing, no surprise casseroles (they're picky, y'all)—but we need folks willing to help make those meals happen. If you can cook, order takeout, or know where a microwave is... you qualify.

If you've ever thought, "I'd love to help the youth but I'm not great with teenagers"—great news! You don't have to teach a lesson or run a game. You just have to feed 'em. And let's be real, feeding teenagers is practically a spiritual gift.

Thank you for continuing to love, support, and pray for this ministry. We feel it every week—and we're grateful for every one of you.

—Josh Marlowe



# FAMILY FUN DAY

AT FAIRVIEW CHURCH

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH  
11AM-2PM

EVERYONE WELCOME FREE ENTRY

FOOD, FACEPAINT, CRAFTS, GAMES & MORE

RAIN DATE: MAY 17



*Ladies  
Fellowship*

*May 14 - 12:30pm*

*May 15 - 6:00pm*

Restaurant is Olive Garden.

Please make plans to join us!

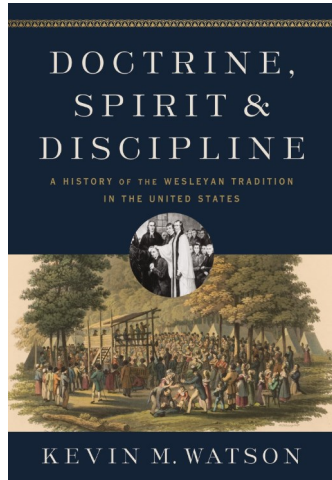
# READING NOOK

By Bobbie Nordon



For the month of May, I have added a book that was recommended by Pastor Barry: **Doctrine. Spirit & Discipline** by Kevin M. Watson. This book has received some

of the best customer reviews with an overall rating of 4.9 out of 5 stars.



It offers a broad survey of the Methodist movement as it developed and spread throughout America from the colonial era to the present day.

One reviewer wrote, “This well-written work will be of interest to both students and laity alike. Highly recommended.

Happy reading!

# THANK YOU

Thank you so much for all the kind words, calls, messages, cards, and especially the prayers during the recent loss of my mom. The love that this church family has shown to my family has made a very difficult time more bearable.

Thank you,  
Miranda Harden and Family



Many thanks to everyone that has remembered me by sending cards, bringing food, sending texts and making calls during my hip surgery and recovery. It was encouraging to have so many make contact in one way or the other. It is a blessing to be a part of such a caring church family. I especially give thanks to my Sunday School Class (Koinonia) for them laying on hands in prayer before my surgery. These efforts really make a difference and are very comforting.

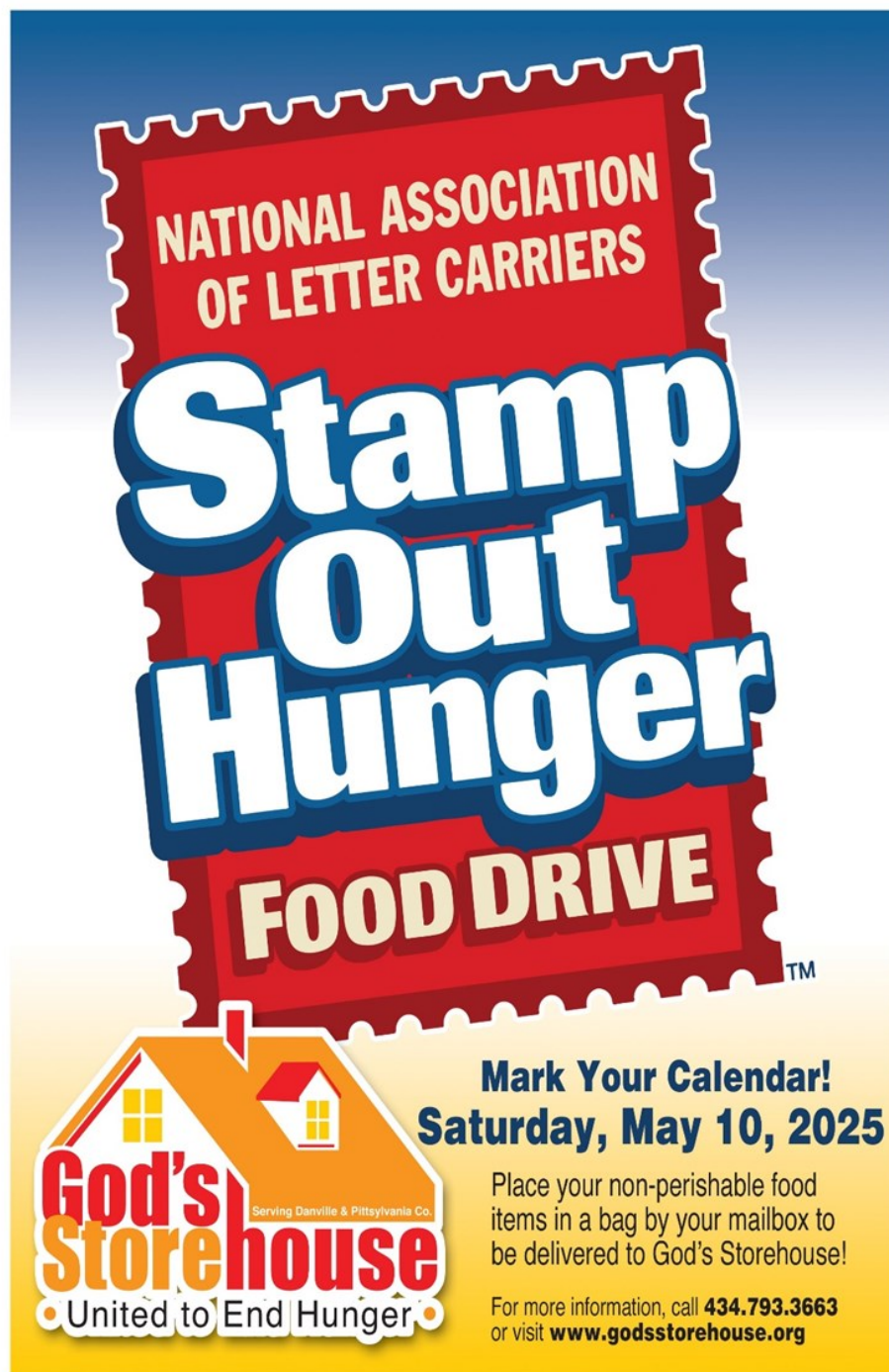
Bill Shelton



# SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY

We are excited to offer a new time to fellowship as we learn and study God's word. A new small group opportunity will begin on May 4, 2025. New Beginning Small Group A will meet on Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am. The group will meet in the New Beginnings Classroom. We have an amazing group of teachers who will lead us through our study. We will announce the title of our study within the next week or so.

New Beginnings Small Group B will continue to meet at 9:45 am in the New Beginnings classroom. Both small groups will be studying the same series, thus you can pick a time, depending on your individual Sunday schedule.



The poster features a large red stamp with a scalloped edge. Inside the stamp, the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, the words "Stamp Out Hunger" are written in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a blue outline. At the bottom of the stamp, the words "FOOD DRIVE" are written in a smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font. A small "TM" trademark symbol is located at the bottom right of the stamp. Below the stamp, there is a logo for "God's Storehouse" which includes a stylized house with a red roof and yellow walls. The text "God's Storehouse" is in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "God's" in red and "Storehouse" in orange. Below the logo, the text "Serving Danville & Pittsylvania Co." is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the text "United to End Hunger" is written in a white, bold, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo, the text "Mark Your Calendar! Saturday, May 10, 2025" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "Place your non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox to be delivered to God's Storehouse!" is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text "For more information, call 434.793.3663 or visit www.godsstorehouse.org" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF LETTER CARRIERS**

**Stamp  
Out  
Hunger**

**FOOD DRIVE** <sup>TM</sup>

**God's Storehouse**  
Serving Danville & Pittsylvania Co.  
United to End Hunger

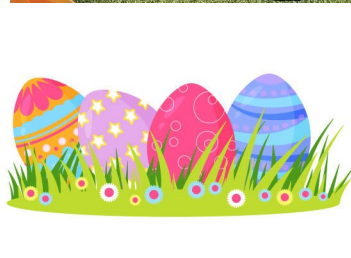
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or visit **[www.godsstorehouse.org](http://www.godsstorehouse.org)**



# Easter at BKK





# WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
<b>April 6</b>	51/82	53	\$10,324.50
<b>April 13</b>	65/99	59	\$10,129.50
<b>April 20</b>	69/128	54	\$8,669.05
<b>April 27</b>	35/156	TBD	\$6,306.00

Average Weekly Giving in April 2025:

\$8,857.26

2025 Budget approved by Admin Board :

\$573,877.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2025:

\$9,190.54

2025 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:

\$11,036.10

\*Denotes views of online worship videos for the first week available for viewing.

Vimeo views are multiplied by 1.5 to account for families watching together.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Patsy Martin	15	Suzanne Giffen	27	Beth Smith
6	Bill Shelton		Ann Jennings		Tara Mancl
9	Stacy Dillion		Neal Morris	30	Vic Brooks
12	Jim Mitchell		Kaitlyn Sage	31	Garrett Franklin
	Barbara Swanson	17	Beryl Clifton		
	Lisa Moore	22	Neal Tanner		
13	Shane Connor	25	Martha Sue Thompson		

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Forrest & Lynn Burton	22	Gary & Carrie Jack
5	Acie & Wendy Brooks	27	Brian & Julia Boles
10	Jim & Martha Mitchell	31	Steven & Laura Ashworth
12	Joey & Laurie Ann Searce		
17	Mike & Barbara Seamster		
18	Mike & Annette Tennant		
20	Granger & Kaitlyn Woodard		

**Fairview Church**  
**1013 Westover Drive**  
**Danville, Virginia 24541**

**Return Service Requested**

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**US POSTAGE PAID**

**PERMIT NO. 4**

**DANVILLE, VIRGINIA**



*Fairview Church is a Christ-centered, welcoming congregation that loves our community in visible and accountable ways.*

**STAFF:**

**REV. BARRY L. TAYLOR, PASTOR**

**MARGARET SNIDER, DIR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY**

**JOSH MARLOWE, DIR YOUTH MINISTRIES/CONTEMP WORSHIP**

**DEBBIE DEANE, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

**DEEDEE DILLARD, INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR**

**HEATHER TAYLOR, DIRECTOR, BECKY'S KIDDIE KOLLEGE**

**WWW.GOFAIRVIEWCHURCH.ORG**

**FACEBOOK.COM/FAIRVIEWCHURCHDANVILLE**

**PHONE: 434-792-3391**

**EMAIL: OFFICE.FAIRVIEWCHURCH@GMAIL.COM**