



1310 Cambria Street, NE
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073
(540) 382-2490

January News

Sunday Mornings

9:45 am : Sunday School
11:00 am : Morning Worship

Pastor's Note

The Power of Prayer for a New Year

It is a new year. It is another milestone. And it is another opportunity to create a new goal. Last year, we began reading through the Bible chronologically. For those who took on the challenge, I hope it was a rewarding experience. I know for myself personally, there were several instances of "I had forgotten that" in reading through the accounts of the saints and the work of God.

I believe it is still a good practice of reading through the Bible. And I plan to go through the Bible again this year, not chronologically, but to read through God's Word in different formats to gain a fresh perspective on God's work in and around us.

To begin our new year, I want to challenge our church to be in prayer for the movement of God in our congregation. While we continue to work on the Disciple Making Cohort and setting our minds on the Great Commission, I believe it is good to be in prayer together for the ministry of our church in making disciples. But beyond that, I believe it is good to be in prayer for every element of our ministry.

J. Edgar Hoover said, "The spectacle of a nation praying is more awe-inspiring than the explosion of an atomic bomb. The force of prayer is greater than any possible combination of man-made or man-controlled powers, because prayer is man's greatest means of tapping the infinite resources of God. Invoking by prayer the mercy and might of God is our most effective means of guaranteeing peace and security for the harassed and helpless peoples of the earth."

That is the power of prayer!

All of us have had moments or seasons of prayer where we had serious problems or challenges that we brought before the Lord, and it seems as if He did nothing in response. The silence of God in those times is hard. Our faith tells us to trust, but our hearts are longing for action.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8 – Myra Conner
- 10 – Bill Moore
- 11 – Wanda Wirt
- 12 – Gary Smith
- 15 – Kirby Conner
- 23 – Tom Schuler
- 26 – Sam Jennings, Ed Wilson
- 31 – Stephen Wills



Pastor's Note, Continued

What do you do when you have asked God to heal your addiction and yet you are still drawn to the thing that is killing you.

What do you do when you have suffered an injustice no one in authority seems to care?

In Luke 18, Jesus teaches us about the persistence in prayer:

¹ Then Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

For the month of January, I will be engaging a new format – just for the opening series – on The Sacredness of Human Life. My hope is that as we look at different aspects of the challenges before us in our world, we can narrow down the challenges to what we can do locally as a church.

The subjects during the month of January will be covering how there are different aspects of the sacredness of human life: The Hunger Epidemic; Geriatrics; Human Trafficking; and Respecting the Origin of Human Life.

The format I am hoping to engage is to host key people each Sunday on the particular subject and do a short interview with them at the beginning of the message. While the challenge on a global scale can be daunting, my hope is that in hearing from someone local, we can see what we can do locally, to address each challenge.

So, our first focus on prayer for the new year will be on what we can learn from these guests as we address each issue and learn what God would have us to do in response.

While we may be overwhelmed by the work ahead, we serve a God Who is all-powerful and willing to hear our prayers. I close with the encouraging words from the prophet Isaiah in chapter 40:

²⁸ Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and His understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Keith Crowgey, Pastor

A Word From Our Music Ministry

A Time to Reflect

The year 2025 has come and gone, and now is a time to reflect, and remember and give thanks to God for our many blessings. It seems like it's been a crazy weather year in many places across the world. Jamaica experienced one of the worst storms in history. I can't even imagine how long the rebuilding process will take. That's just one of many examples. Fortunately, those of us in Southwest Virginia have been spared the devastation so many people have experienced. We must never take the basic comforts of life for granted.

I'm sure last year will be remembered as having the longest government shut down in history and then there's the tariffs that the media focused on for months. Was this a good or bad move? I'm not really sure. I guess time will tell. Ask me a year from now. In the mean time, I'm going to assume our President knows what he's doing.

Last year we had to say goodbye to some influential Christian leaders, like Dr. James Dobson. I so appreciate his contribution to helping Christian families through his writing and radio ministry. Years ago, he wrote a book called "The Strong-Willed Child." I raised one of those and recall his book being very helpful.

Of course, there's also the tragic death of Charlie Kirk. I really didn't know much about him until after his death, but he'll certainly go down in history as a martyr for the cause of Christ. I invite you to join me in giving thanks to God for all the conversions that have taken place in the aftermath of his death.

More locally, we had to say good bye to some church members like Velma Walton. Though she was not well known like James Dobson, she was certainly a faithful servant of Christ. I only wish I had known her in her younger years. She was already very frail when I came to Cambria. But I appreciated her sweet spirit.

I'd like to take this opportunity to celebrate our church small groups. I am confident this has been a very positive step forward for our church in 2025. This has provided an opportunity to build some closer bonds with a small number of church members. Even in a small church like Cambria, we can't be everybody's best friend. However, with a little effort, we can be part of an inner circle of people we get to know well, just like Jesus did.

I'm proud of my wife for learning how to play the full drum kit. Most of you only hear her play for 20 minutes or so on Sunday morning, yet have no idea how many hours of practice have gone into making that possible. I'm grateful for her contribution. I'm also glad that Monica got a new knee this year. This has been needed for a long time. Though the recovery has been harder than either of expected, the worst is now behind us. Let me encourage you to count your blessings.

Gary Allen, Minister of Music and Worship

Announcements

New Year's Eve Celebration

Join us in ringing in 2026 with us! Wednesday, December 31st. If you have ideas for or are interested in helping plan a New Years Eve celebration please see Deborah Phillips.

First Sunday Fellowship Breakfast

Bring a friend to join us for our First Sunday breakfast before service Sunday, January 4! This month's breakfast will be organized by the Fellowship Team. As a reminder, the Fellowship Team will also be making coffee and setting out the welcome flags on Sunday mornings this month.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Please join us for a time of fellowship and food at Gran Rodeo in Christiansburg on Wednesday, January 7 at 11:30am. All ladies are welcome to attend. If anyone has any questions, please contact Lois Banyai at 540-998-3376.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast meets the second Wednesday of every month at Country Kitchen in Christiansburg. This month they will be meeting Wednesday, January 14 at 8:30 am. All men are welcome!

Prayer Meetings

Friendly reminder for 6:30pm Wednesday night prayer meetings led by our deacons.

Choir Rehearsals Resume

Choir will resume on Thursday, January 8 at 6:45pm. Thank you to everyone who participates in this together!

Church Leadership Council

Our quarterly Church Leadership Council meeting is on Tuesday, January 27 at 7:00pm.

Christmas Dinner, 2025



Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre



Cambria Baptist Prayer Guide

Cambria Baptist Prayer Guide

January 2026

1. Prayer Praises/Blessings

Robert Morris, Nancy Miller's friend, Home, off Chemo, no Tumors!
Mike Hymes (Fred N.) Tazewell. Good reports on Bladder and Prostate Cancer from Mayo Clinic. Encouragement from Jim and Becky Courson, IMB Missionaries
Gary Smith, new job! R.L. Price Construction

2. Prayer for the Lost / Unspoken

Pray for opportunities to build relationships to bring someone to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Banyai Family. All unsaved, several unspoken
People who desperately need employment

3. Prayer for Revival! Ministries of the Church

Pray for our Pastors / SS teachers / attendees / hearts to receive God's Word / God be glorified.
Pray for our Students of all Ages!
Children's Activity Coordinator Position
Silar Moore – Young Men's Bible Study
All About Jesus Boy's Ministry
Disciple Making Cohort – Pastor and Deacons
Gideon Bible Ministry
Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC)
Western Blue Ridge Baptist Network ministries
Agape Center Ministry
Local Church Spotlight: Faith Missionary Baptist

4. Prayer for pending or recovering surgeries and Ongoing Treatments

Stephanie Boyd (Connie Moore) Breast Cancer
Denise Reynolds (Lois' sister) Treatment for UTI
Candy Woolwine, Oligodendroglioma (Brain cancer) Radiation & Chemo Treatment RMH
Bonnie Wimmer – (Connie's sister) Radiation Treatment in Pulaski for skin cancer (chin)
David Dove – Under care for CHF at Duke.

5. Prayer for the Brokenhearted / Down in Spirit / Lonely / In need of direction

Pray for spiritual warfare against evil spirits.
Andrew Phillips – to return to his first love in Jesus, communication with Timothy and Debbie.
Marzie Flemming -Judy Baker's sister, cancer in throat - Vanderbilt. Also grieving loss of husband
Linda (Friend of Judy Baker) lost grandson.
Laura Sandford – Visitor. Lymes disease,
Beth – Church Hurt, Jason – Oxygen deficit.
(Keith) Phillip Caulder – Gary Smith's cousin, in need of Spiritual sight.

6. Prayer for Shut-ins / In Nursing Home Widows / Widowers / Others that have lost loved ones

Bob Pohner Jackie McCoy
Aubry Conner - Commonwealth Senior Living
Susan Chase (Bakers) Memory Care
English Meadows Memory Care:
Olen Gardner Carolyn Reilly – (Bakers)
Helena Sams (Rev. Robert Crawfords Daughter)

7. Prayer for Local / State / National Leadership / International News

War in Ukraine and Russia
Conflict between Israel and Iran
Peace for these countries and the innocent citizens affected by the war.
First Responders
Medical Staff, Doctors, Nurses, Technicians
Peace for our nation, and peace for the world.

8. Prayer for the sick and afflicted

Mike West – Cancer, Barretts Esophagus.
Jackie Caldwell – Health Problems
Allen Sumner (R.Smith) battling cancer.
Barbara Wall (K Dickenson's mom) Fell, broke wrist. Also healing from pelvic fractures.
Steve Miller (Nancy's son) Pray for normal blood work
Telan Millington (Chris' brother) Lead in blood
Cindy Gentry – Chronic Skin cancer
Rev. Carl Early – Blood Clots/Pneumonia – Home and doing well.
Robin Caulfield – (Carol Burruss Daughter) Genetic Testing – PMR (Autoimmune disease)
Carolyn Plaster – In need of in home care.
Carolyn Winters – Kidney failure
Carol Burruss - Poor Health

9. Prayer for Missionaries

Brandon Brooks – Student ministry.
Graham Rogers – Europe, unreached people
Jeff & Becky Hrubik (Lois' brother) Brazil.
Hrubik Family – Missionaries to Tokyo, Japan

10. Other Prayer requests

Jenna McKendrick – Gary Smith cousin, needs job
Brady Baker – Eddie/Judy's son. Fort Meyers, FL in need of a job

A Story Worth Telling

By Mandy Hewitt

As a teen, I was asked to stand up and share my testimony at a summer beach camp. Undoubtedly, I was nervous to speak in front of a large crowd of my peers, but I remember an underlying fear that my story wasn't worth sharing. I had grown up in church, was taught the gospel my entire life, and trusted in Jesus as my Savior and Lord at an early age. I didn't have a dramatic story of rebellion before turning to Christ. Would my story matter?

Through that experience and as I matured in my faith, I realized a very important truth: Even as a small child, I was just as dead in my sin as a middle-aged atheist turned Christian, or a rebellious college student, or a deathbed convert. My sin had been enough to separate me eternally from God, and just as in every resurrection story, bringing this dead person to life took nothing short of a miracle.

STORIES OF REDEMPTION IN SCRIPTURE

When looking at the stories of redemption shared in Scripture, it doesn't get much more dramatic than Paul's. He was literally stopped in his tracks by the voice of Jesus (Acts 9). But how did Paul describe himself prior to his conversion? He testified he was "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless" (Phil. 3:5-7).

Paul was basically describing himself as a religious "superstar." Like me, he grew up in church and followed all the rules, but as he wrote in Ephesians 2 of humanity's sinful condition, he, too, was dead in his "transgressions and sins" (v.1). Yet after he came to know Christ, he was able to say, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ... and God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus" (vv. 4-6).

Paul's story was worth telling time and time again, not because of his life circumstances or what he did to get God but because of what God did to bring him to Himself. He resurrected Paul, a spiritually dead person. When sharing the gospel with others around you, pray God would use your story to make the truth clear to them.

WHY YOUR STORY IS WORTH TELLING

Before you count your story out, think of all the stories of salvation you've heard over the years, the lives you've witnessed being changed both suddenly and slowly over decades. All those stories can be used to encourage fellow Christians in one way or another. They all need to be told. The commonality in each of those stories is the gospel—that "because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions" (Eph. 2:4-5).

Pray God would regularly remind you that no matter the details of your journey to faith in Him, He is the main character of your story of salvation, and the gospel is the central point. Ask Him to remind you that story is always worth telling.