

MAY 2021

The Messenger

CURT'S CORNER

Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

When I think about it, it's hard for me to fathom everything our church family has experienced over its 250-year history. Some of our oldest members have told me they remember our church before the roads were paved, when people used to ride horses to church. Our church has lived through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the 1918 Pandemic. We've faced internal squabbles over theological issues. We've had serious aesthetic debates over the color of new carpet. We've lived through times of plenty and times of scarcity. But through it all, God's grace has brought us through even the most daunting challenges.

We've faced some unforeseen challenges this past year. But through it all, do you know what excites me most about Goochland Baptist? In a season where it would be easy to turn our focus inward and hunker down, our church family has instead reached outward to bless our community. Earlier this month, a dozen of us put on our masks and traveled to Goochland Cares to take all the food and clothes that our church family donated in the weeks prior to Easter. The leadership of GoochlandCares was thrilled to have a partner like GBC, they told us, because they could count on us to bring them what they needed most. We stayed around all morning to volunteer in their food pantry and their clothes closet. Personally, I was impressed with the scope of their outreach to our community. I'm thankful we can support that. As Jesus said, whenever we clothe the naked or feed the hungry, we're taking care of him, too. Thank you for making that possible.

I'm grateful for all the selfless work our church members have been doing, too, to support our church family and bless our community. Phil Egolf has faithfully mowed the church's grass. George Koch has spent hours working on the church flower beds, making them look beautiful for the spring. Gale Chaisson has organized our clothes closet to collect clothes for GoochlandCares, and Shannon Wilson has coordinated our food collection for GoochlandCares. Mila Spaulding has collected all of our household goods to take to Caritas. Our kitchen crew continue to make upwards of 100 meals for our church family and our community each week - and many of you take them to those who need them most! Our AV crew has worked hard to make sure our sound and live stream work every Sunday. And on top of all of that, a group of about ten of us spent a weekend attending a virtual fresh expressions conference that's started helpful conversations about creative ways we can reach out to our community.

Throughout history, the churches that have thrived, regardless of circumstance, are the churches who have focused not on themselves, but on others. When you think about it, that's essentially what Jesus says - when we focus inward (and try to save ourselves), we wither. But when we focus on giving of ourselves to others and to Christ, we find life. (See Mark 8:34-35 and Mark 9:34-35.) As we get closer to our 250th birthday, it's my hope that we'll continue to focus our energy outward.



GOOCHLAND
BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1771

PRAYER MINISTRY:

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer requests, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.



WEEKLY EMAILS:

If you are not receiving our weekly emails and Sunday sermons and would like to, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com.

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Dr. Curt Kruschwitz

Pastor

Kelly Anderson

Minister to Students

Deacon Minutes

Diane Proctor

As many of you know I retired this year, or as I say "I am on permanent vacation" after 53 years in the work force.

My first thought was what in the world am I going to do? It dawned on me I chose permanent vacation during COVID. I am in isolation with few family members, and my oldest and dearest friend who lives with in 5 minutes from me. There is a park near me with hiking trails that we have been blessed to use most every day which has saved me of pure boredom. While walking through the park I take in all of God's handy work. Beautiful trees, different kinds of nature, and think of all the blessings God has given me. This all got me to thinking what in the world is my purpose in life? God has certainly proven to me what his purpose is.

I have to say working, and all the stress of every day issues, I had not given it much thought. Now with the extra time I have on my hands and not living the the hectic life style; I have thought and prayed on this often.

I recently read an article by Crystal McDowell on this exact subject. How do we find our purpose? I also remembered GBC did a study on the *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren.

God has a purpose for each of us. We are born with a purpose and a calling because we are created in his image. God and his purpose are perfect, but we are not. We have fears and doubts that keeps us from living the purpose God has made for us. God wants us to stay focused on his purpose so we can stay focused on ours. God does not want us to focus on abilities we don't have. He wants us to focus on the talents he has given us, and use them to work for him. No matter how big or small your talents are, those talents can be used to serve God.

Crystal McDowell suggest we focus on scripture that is important to us. List the bible versus God uses to give your life purpose and direction. These versus will tell you who you are and what is important to you and what you are called to do.

Proverbs 19:21: *Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.*

Reach deep down into your heart, talk to God, and discover what God's purpose is for you. What are your abilities? What are your strengths? How can I use them to serve God?

GBC Student Ministry

Kelly Anderson

During our weekly Wednesday night youth gatherings, we have been reading through the book of Acts together. As we have been reading through, I'm struck by just how much this book translates to our current moment we find ourselves in now as the church in 2021.

Like the early church, we have had to adapt to the unknown. When Jesus first ascended into heaven, his apostles were stuck, staring up into heaven and had to be reminded by an angel that their work must continue. I'm sure they were asking each other "what do we do now?"

Like this past year, we as the church have had to adapt to the unknown of a global pandemic and adjusting to a "new normal" of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. During this time, we have had to lean more into the strength of the Spirit and where the Spirit is moving within our community.

Like the early Church who were sent the Spirit to go alongside them as a helper, we have had to become more attune to the Spirit during this season. Returning to our new normal will be an adjustment for us all, but my prayer is that we will continuously seek the Spirit and its guidance in what it means to be the Church here in 2021.



Wednesday Nights @ 6:00-7:00 pm

In the Multipurpose Room. Our Wednesday night youth group gatherings will continue this month.

Friday May 21

Flying Squirrels @ The Diamond

Flying Squirrels baseball is back!

On May 21, the Flying Squirrels will be playing at the Diamond. Students and families are welcome to attend! We will meet there at the Diamond near the front gates. Please let me know by Sunday May 16th if you plan to attend and how many tickets you will need. Tickets are \$8.00 per person.

Follow us @GBCVASTUDENTS

or visit www.goochlandchurch.org/students.

Please note that all of our youth ministry gatherings will adhere to CDC guidelines and rules that have been set forth by our GBC regathering team

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

TO GO

To reserve your meals, call or text

Wayne Melton at 804-380-4528 by Monday at 9:00 PM.

ON THE WAY: WEDNESDAYS @ GBC

Online

Join us online **Wednesdays at 7 pm** for a real-time gathering for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study.

To be added to the email list or learn more, email goochlandchurch@gmail.com or call 804-749-3522.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- May 1** Erin Wilson
Hailey Wilson
Carla Yuen
- May 2** Mackenzie Murren
Scott Ricketts
- May 3** Cynthia Alvis
- May 6** Jacquelyn Eby
- May 8** Mike Wilson
- May 10** Brenda French
Roger Moore
Mary Richardson
- May 13** Megan Arnold
Forrest Webb
- May 16** Michael Nicholas
- May 17** Josh Padgett
- May 18** Olivia Murren
- May 19** Aubrey Lingerfelt
- May 20** John Webb
- May 21** Teri Frank
- May 22** George Alvis
Lee Proffitt
- May 23** Erin Henley
Ellen Melton
- May 24** Hunter Bailey
Caroline Bassett
Al Henley
Rachel Henley
- May 28** George Henley
- May 30** Frank Faudree
- May 31** Robert Nuckols



Join us outside the church for a free, Yoga Class focusing on the story of Elijah. For more information, email e.kruschwitznp@gmail.com or visit www.goochlandchurch.org.



To watch, visit [Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Goochland Baptist Church" or follow the link at www.goochlandchurch.org and in our weekly emails.

THANK YOU...

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at GoochlandCares' food pantry and clothes closet in April.



MAY MISSION PROJECT

GoochlandCares has told us they especially need **1 pound (16 ounces) bags of beans**. They also need **canned beans and canned meats**. We'll be collecting these every Sunday morning in May.

GBC Goal: To collect 100 bags of dried beans.

In addition, Goochland Cares is looking for more gently-used spring and summer clothes to stock their clothes closet. They can be dropped off in the GBC Clothes Closet in the East Wing of the sanctuary building, or in the white, outdoor bin between the Sanctuary and the East Wing.



GET YOUR GBC GEAR

Mike Nicholas has helped design a custom GBC hat, made by Richardson in a stunning purple hue, and it is available at cost for \$15.00 each. A matching golf shirt with the identical embroidery on the left breast is available for \$18.00. Please submit all orders to John Webb, leader of the Senior Men's Sunday School Class.

EVERYDAY RESURRECTIONS

CURRENT SERMON SERIES



Go back and look at early Christian artwork depicting the crucifixion, and you'll discover something peculiar. There isn't much. And that's because for the early church, Easter proclamation wasn't about death, but about paradise. Not a paradise off in the sky somewhere, but as this world blessed and recreated by the Spirit of God. You see, the early church envisioned Easter not as an isolated, one-time event, but as a universal event that transforms the world. In other words, the resurrection isn't just about Jesus rising from the dead; it's about God's Spirit bringing new life to the whole world. The way the early church saw it, there were little resurrections happening among Christ's followers every day. That was the ongoing part of the Easter miracle. So for six weeks following Easter, we'll be surveying Acts to read about little resurrections - new life brought by God's Spirit - in the lives of Christ's followers in the early church. And we'll learn how to look for little resurrections in today's world, too.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Jerry Anderson—had a pacemaker put in

Allen Bowles—health concerns

Doug Brandmahl—health issues

Debbie Dunlavey—cancer

Jackie Eby—Brookdale

Janet Faudree—health concerns

Jean Fields—has been feeling ill and weak for the past week

Carolyn Heath—now living in Dogwood Terrace in Henrico

Lila Hicks—recovering from knee replacement and now is dealing some hip issues

Scott Hobson—continued prayers that his cancer remains low and continues to respond to treatment.

Janet Koch—recovering from knee replacement surgery

Connie Long

Hazel Melton—having some trouble with an eye issue

Rebecca Michels—undergoing chemo again

Linda Moore—has been in and out of the hospital

Rick Murren—recovering from hospitalization

Mike Nicholas—recovering at home from surgery; he welcomes phone calls.

Lee Proffitt—caring for her husband, Jim, who is facing some health concerns

Adelaide Stanley—doing PT at her new residence at Beth Shalom

Mary Stanley—Beth Shalom

Ralph Taylor—knee replacement surgery on Monday, April 19

Wanda Waldrop

Bob White—health concerns

Julia White

Family & Friends of GBC Members

Amy Richardson (Gwen Padgett's aunt) - spent two nights in hospital after a heart attack last week and is now recovering at home

John Bartlett—Linda Moore's brother has C-Diff.

Roger Bourgeois—(Linda Moore's uncle) exposed to Covid. Has other health issues and a disabled daughter he cares for.

Diandra Camacho - prayers for arthritis and its treatment

Jim Crews—(Carla Yuen's neighbor & friend) had a cancerous tumor removed from his neck.

Buck Cunningham—(Cindy Alvis' father) had shoulder surgery last week.

Roger Foster (friend of Mike Nicholas and retired Henrico County police officer) has terminal cancer.

Seay Garrison (friend of Jim Fields)—struggling with COVID-19

Audrey Geraci (Denise and Gerard Huff's niece) stage 4 metastatic melanoma. She is 36 years old and has three young children. UPDATE: latest MRI scans showed no cancer, lesions, or scarring from treatment. They'll do PET scans in the future to make sure there's no cancer anywhere in her body.

Mackenzie Green (High school friend of Caroline Bassett)—in a bad car accident and is in ICU

Clarence Hall Jr. and Carol Hall, his wife; kin to Willy Hall and Hazel Melton

Janice Hanner—undergoing treatment, pancreatic cancer

Kelly Harris (Jim & Brenda Allen's daughter)—Health concerns

Lucina Heath (Betsy Alvis' sister) —in hospital with COVID-19 and pneumonia

Margaret Holland (a member of the community) she suffered a stroke

Dan and Sherry Kittelson —Kitt Townsend's newlywed brother and sister-in-law.

Caroline Laughorn—(friend of Kelly Anderson) diagnosed with Leukemia for the 4th time at age 20

Mae Higgs—long time Goochland school bus driver is at VCU Oncology Critical Care Unit, room 110. She has just started a month long chemotherapy protocol for Leukemia. No visitors please but cards and notes are welcome.

Rebecca Michels' Mom

Gwen Nuckols (Iris Nuckols' sister-in-law) - chemo treatments for cancer

Mrs. Calvin Porter diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Rhonda Powell—friend of Daphne Longenecker, has esophageal cancer

Tami Ricketts' mother has breast cancer at age 91

Kellee Thurston (friend of Cindy Alvis) - recovering at home. Her new kidney and liver are working!

Dolly Vopelak—Ken Stalls' mother in NC

Nell West—(Aunt of Audrey Nuckols and Lois Lane) recovering from surgery

Sharon Wood—Hazel Melton's sister, health issues

Our Sympathy...

Jerry Anderson, whose sister passed away a week and half ago.

Please email goochlandchurch@gmail.com with new prayer requests, changes to prayer requests, or to be added or removed from our Prayer Request Email List.