



Pastor's Paragraphs – Alan Ray

As I was reading and preparing for a new online study experience (more about that in a moment), I was reflecting on the instruction that the Lord gave to Jeremiah for the people of Judah before they were taken into captivity in Babylon. God's people had already been warned that they were about to be punished, not only for their disobedience, but also for their willingness to worship other gods. In essence, God told his people, "You have been willing to live like pagans...I am going to send a pagan king to execute my judgment." At the time Jeremiah delivered this devastating message, there were other "prophets" who were either saying, "No, that's not going to happen," or "even if the Babylonians come, the trials will not last long and we will soon be back home." God told the people of Judah, "I still love you and I will sustain you as a people, but you need to prepare for the long haul. You are going to be in Babylon for 70 years, so settle down, settle in and keep on living your lives."

I think of those words to Judah with every week that passes by before we get back to some sort of normalcy in our life as a people, as a culture, as a church. We are told that it takes about 6 weeks, or 40 days to develop a new habit. I am pretty sure that is probably why the 40-day time period is prominent in the Scriptures. We have now been in the grip of the COVID-19 crisis, not for 6 weeks, but for 6 MONTHS. Some of us have developed habits that have helped us grow spiritually. Others, I fear, have developed habits that have taken many of our spiritual pursuits out of our daily routine. In order to help us grow, not just during the COVID-19 crisis, but going forward, we have come to the place where we are going to begin establishing some new ways of doing things, not just for the moment, but for the long haul. When we are finally able to gather safely for many of the regular activities and ministries that are familiar, we will resume most of them. There may very well be some that are changed permanently. By the same token, some of the new things we are doing may very well take a more permanent place among our ministries. For example, I expect that we will continue making worship available online in some form or another. I also expect that virtual meetings and Bible Studies will be something that will take place on a frequent basis in the future. This will enable more people (not just in Richmond but literally around the world) to share in worship or take part in a Bible study group.

Here is how some of that may look. We are going to continue the Wednesday morning Bible studies online for the foreseeable future. If you want to be part of that via Zoom, please email me at ray5778@gmail.com and I will make sure you get an invitation. In addition, we are about to add an evening study group on Sunday evening, beginning on September 13. We will combine discussing the sermon from that morning along with a discussion of the book *The Church in Babylon*, by Erwin Lutzer. In addition, I know many of you are missing Sunday School. We have made excellent Bible Study resources available to anyone through RightNow Media. Just in case you haven't been using this resource, you can log into the system and fill out a one-time profile. This will give you unlimited access to their material as well as special studies that we might put together. That link is <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/ridge>. In September, I will be preaching a series from the book of Jonah. You may want to take a look at Eric Mason's study series on Jonah at RightNow media. I will have it marked in the Ridge library. If you go to the Ridge Baptist Church channel, you can find it in "Pastor's Favorites." These are unusual days, but they are also days in which we have the unique opportunity to see God do some amazing NEW things! God bless you.



Children's Pajamas Pop In

Beginning Sunday, **September 13**, Pajamas Pop In will **begin at 7:30 p.m.** Children are invited to put on their pajamas and end the day with a virtual time of fellowship, a brief Bible devotional, and prayer.

Young Adult Zoom Gathering



Attention young adults ...

Abbie Duenkel is leading the Young Adult Zoom Gathering online the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7pm. The focus for the month of September will be "Anxiety."

For more information and how to participate, please email Abbie at ridgechurcheducation@gmail.com



Youth Transition to Fall Activities

The youth will **begin meeting in-person in the CLC on Sunday afternoons beginning Sunday, September 13th, 2020.**

We will meet from **4:30 pm-6 pm in the CLC.** All participants will be **required to wear masks and we will be practicing social distancing.** Zoom will still be provided for those who are unable to attend in-person. All students in 6th-12th grades are welcome to attend.

We will still be meeting online via Zoom for our Wednesday night Bible study at 7pm. Please contact Lindsay if you have any questions!

Alma Hunt Mission Offering for Virginia Missions:

Meeting Real Needs in Real Time

The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions will look different in the coming year, reflecting the changing world in which we live as we face the challenges of a global pandemic.

This annual state missions offering is a joint venture of the WMUV and the BGAV.

As always, this critical offering seeks to meet real needs of real people by funding ministries in a variety of specific areas. For the rest of 2020 and looking toward 2021, the allocations of this offering are being redirected in a way that will allow us to focus on human needs arising from the COVID-19 crisis.

The state missions offering will be distributed as follows:

- 70% of funds to WMUV-directed projects
- 30% of funds to BGAV-directed projects
- All projects have a direct correlation to COVID-19 relief efforts

Funds will be distributed monthly and will begin in Summer 2020 in order to respond more quickly to immediate needs

Ridge Baptist Church Alma Hunt Mission Offering Goal for 2020 is \$2,500.00.

Introducing Our New GA Leader!



My Name is Lynn Blevins, and I am so pleased to be the GA (Girls in Action) leader for the upcoming year. I am excited to study missions together, to find easy to engage in missions and to share God's love. Until we can meet again on Wednesday nights, I will have activities that can be done from home. Please email me at j.lynn.blevins@gmail.com if your first - sixth grade daughter would like to be part of the GA's this year.



With Heartfelt Thanks ...

On behalf of Diana, Jason and myself, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our family at Ridge Baptist Church for the many acts of kindness and generosity extended to us in the aftermath of the loss of our beloved Vickie. I honestly do not know how we would have made it as far as we have if it had not been for the outpouring of support from our brothers and sisters at Ridge.

Vickie loved the church and its people, and she was honored by your ready acceptance of us and offering us opportunities to participate and to serve in the church's ministries. The tributes to her that have been shared along with the many expressions of sympathy have touched us deeply and have confirmed to us that when Vickie, Jason and I felt that Ridge should be our church home, it was truly the Lord's leadership at work!

We cannot thank you enough for the numerous ways that you have reached out to us. We would ask that you still hold us up in prayer as we continue to struggle with the pain of Vickie's passing -- knowing that we have such a wonderful, compassionate family at Ridge that continues to walk our path of grief with us. Thank you all for being here for us and with us. *In Christ, David Howell*



Strength for the Wilderness

From Louise Crooks Women's Devotional Bible

VERSE FOR THE DAY: Numbers 21:4 PASSAGE FOR THE DAY: Numbers 21-4-9

AUTHOR: Millie Stamm

The Israelites had been traveling through the desert wilderness to the land of promise. The way was hot, sandy and rough; there was little water. But God had promised that he would guide them and provide for them. However, like many of us, they became discouraged. If only they had trusted God's promise that he who had led would continue to lead, if only they had believed that he who supplied would continue to supply, instead of being discouraged they would have been encouraged. Discouragement turns to encouragement when we look away from our circumstances and focus our eyes on the Lord.

In 1 Samuel 30 we read about David in the midst of trouble. The Amalekites had burned Ziklag, his private property and residence. But his distress drove him to the Lord. "But David found strength in the Lord his God" (1 Samuel 30:6). Someone has said, "To look around is to be distressed; to look within is to be depressed; to look up is to be blessed."

Today our way may be through the wilderness. It may be easy to become discouraged. Discouragement is a tool of Satan. The story is told that Satan was "going out of business." All of his tools were offered for sale. They were attractively displayed on a table. What an array - hatred, envy, jealousy, deceit! One harmless-looking one, much worn, was priced higher than any of the others. "What is this tool?" someone asked. "Discouragement," was the reply. "Why is it so expensive?" Satan answered, "Because it is more useful to me than any of the others."

Will our distress drive us to despair and discouragement or to God: May we, like David, find strength in the Lord our God.

Update Your Constant Contact Email Address ...



Have you stopped receiving our weekly Constant Contact update email? Have you accidentally unsubscribed, but still want to receive the email? Do you want to know how to stay connected to Ridge Baptist Church? If any of these are true, please contact the church office to let us know by emailing rbc5805@gmail.com.



Ridge Members at Home:

Jeanne Beckett Bruce Carlton
 Earline Isom Mary Helmick
 Jan Jones Ruth Kee
 Bea Rahmlow Donna Robinson
 Margaret Rosson

Ridge Members in Healthcare/ Hospital:

Phylis Benner, *Lighthouse Sr. Adult Living in MD*
 Mae Callahan, *Morningside Assisted Living*
 Mary Clark, *Lakewood HCC*
 Tom & Mary Jane Cook, *Lakewood HCC*
 Grace Lipscomb, *Lakewood HCC*
 Kay Myers, *The Laurels @ University Park*
 BJ Noel, *Autumn Care of Mechanicsville*
 *Betty Riddle, *Henrico Drs., Rm. 510, heart issues*
 Irene Taylor, *Brookdale of West End Richmond*

Friends of Ridge Baptist Church:

Carl Bottom, *Cheryl McCartney's brother*
 Ann Brogden, *friend of Shirley McClenny*
 Nancy Burks, *Cheryl McCartney's friend*
 *Debbie Dunn, *friend of Michael & Beverly Gleason*
 Bertha Faircloth, *regular attender*
 Helen Fitzgerald, *Pat Mahone's friend*
 Sally Frost, *Susan Smith's friend*
 Patsy Marks, *Joan Moses' sister*
 Pastor Buford "Boots" Marsh, *Tipi Wakan Church*
 Carol & Roger Martin, *BJ Noel's daughter & son-in-law*
 Deb Maddox, *Laura Gilmer's sister-in-law*
 Steve McCaskill, *Trudy English's son-in-law*
 Jimmy McNamara, *Beverly Gleason's cousin*
 Natalie Merryman, *Laura Gilmer's aunt*
 Joyce Rice, *Bob Dawson's sister*
 Glenn Wyrick, *friend of Nichole Fogleman*
 JoAnn & Charles Zahn, *BJ Noel's daughter & son-in-law*

Our Deepest Sympathy:

We express our Christian love and sympathy to Dawn Ford and family following the passing of her father, Bob Ford, on 8/2.



Ongoing Prayer Requests:

For our Ridge Extension Members
 For our military men and women representing the US
 For those ministering in Christ's name everywhere
 For the families and those suffering from the novel coronavirus
 For the healthcare workers, first responders, and all those deemed essential workers during the coronavirus pandemic
 For our government leaders



May God Bless You on Your September Birthday!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 9/1 Lena VanDevander | 9/14 Cori Bider |
| 9/2 Melinda Ray | 9/14 Cari Corr |
| 9/3 David Butler | 9/19 Samantha Weiss (13) |
| 9/3 Donnie Ford | 9/21 Woody Flora |
| 9/4 Jonathan Carlton | 9/23 Phyllis Coffman |
| 9/6 Pat Snead | 9/25 Dan Holt |
| 9/7 Ira Helmick | 9/25 Linda Wegner |
| 9/9 Mary Clark | 9/26 Bob Coffman |
| 9/10 Brent Banks | 9/26 Lynda Langhorne |
| 9/11 Peggy Burroughs | 9/27 Jan Jones |
| 9/12 Debbie Daniels | 9/29 Garrett Martin (15) |

NOTE: My apologies to Delaine Douglas for inadvertently leaving her off the August birthday list. My apologies also go to Trish Rice for incorrectly noting her August Birthday.

Delaine Douglas' birthday is August 16

Trish Rice 's birthday is August 15

Happy Belated Birthday! Theresa

2020 Ministry Stewardship Plan

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Sun., 8/2 | \$8,873.00 |
| Sun., 8/9 | \$5,482.00 |
| Sun., 8/16 | \$2,547.50 |
| Sun., 8/23 | \$1,508.00 |
| Sun., 8/30 | \$5,585.00 |
| Weekly Budget Goal | \$5,973.00 |
| YTD Congregational Giving | \$189,147.32 |
| YTD Budget Goal | \$209,055.00 |

September 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|------------------|
| <p><i>Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions Week of Prayer September 13 -20, 2020</i></p> | | <p>1 10am Children's Online Bible Stdy 8:30pm Facebook Live w/ Abbie</p> | <p>2 11am Online Bible Stdy w/ Alan 7pm Youth Zoom Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay</p> | <p>3 7pm Young Adult Zoom Gathering w/ Abbie</p> | <p>4 Promise Care Teacher In Service Day (Center closed to children)</p> | <p>5</p> |
| | | <p>6 10:30am Morning Worship/ <i>Back to School Blessing</i> 4pm Zoom Youth Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay 8pm Child Pajamas Pop In</p> | <p>7  Church Office & Promise Care Closed</p> | <p>8 8:30pm Facebook Live w/ Abbie</p> | <p>9 10am Online Bible Stdy w/ Alan 7pm Youth Zoom Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay</p> | <p>10</p> |
| <p>13 <i>Grandparents Day</i> 10:30am Morning Worship 4:30pm In-Person Youth Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay/CLC 7:30pm Children-Pajamas Pop In</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15 8:30pm Facebook Live w/ Abbie</p> | <p>16 10am Online Bible Stdy w/ Alan 7pm Youth Zoom Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay</p> | <p>17 7pm Young Adult Zoom Gathering w/ Abbie</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> |
| <p>20 10:30am Morning Worship 3pm Deacon Mtg – In Person/CLC 4:30pm In-Person Youth Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay/CLC 7:30pm Children-Pajamas Pop In</p> | <p>21 2020 Leadership Development Online Experience</p> | <p>22 8:30pm Facebook Live w/ Abbie</p> | <p>23 10am Online Bible Stdy w/ Alan 7pm Youth Zoom Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26</p> |
| <p>27 10:30am Morning Worship 4:30pm In-Person Youth Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay/CLC 7:30pm Children-Pajamas Pop In</p> | <p>28</p> | <p>29 8:30pm Facebook Live w/ Abbie</p> | <p>30 10am Online Bible Stdy w/ Alan 7pm Youth Zoom Bible Stdy w/ Lindsay</p> | | | |

Ridge Baptist Church

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Walk Through the Bible – September Readings

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|--|---|
| Sept 1: Proverbs 21-23; 1 Corinthians 6 | Sept 16: Isaiah 19-22; 2 Corinthians 5 |
| Sept 2: Proverbs 24-26 ; 1 Corinthians 7 | Sept 17: Isaiah 23-25; 2 Corinthians 6 |
| Sept 3: Proverbs 27-29 ; 1 Corinthians 8 | Sept 18: Isaiah 26-29; 2 Corinthians 7 |
| Sept 4: Proverbs 30-31 ; 1 Corinthians 9 | Sept 19: Isaiah 30-32; 2 Corinthians 8 |
| Sept 5: Ecclesiastes 1-3 ; 1 Corinthians 10 | Sept 20: Isaiah 33-35; 2 Corinthians 9 |
| Sept 6: Ecclesiastes 4-7 ; 1 Corinthians 11 | Sept 21: Isaiah 36-39; 2 Corinthians 10 |
| Sept 7: Ecclesiastes 8-12 ; 1 Corinthians 12 | Sept 22: Isaiah 40-41; 2 Corinthians 11 |
| Sept 8: Song of Songs 1-4; 1 Corinthians 13 | Sept 23: Isaiah 42-43; 2 Corinthians 12 |
| Sept 9: Song of Songs 5-8; 1 Corinthians 14 | Sept 24: Isaiah 44-47; 2 Corinthians 13 |
| Sept 10: Isaiah 1-4; 1 Corinthians 15 | Sept 25: Isaiah 48-50; Galatians 1 |
| Sept 11: Isaiah 5-7; 1 Corinthians 16 | Sept 26: Isaiah 51-53; Galatians 2 |
| Sept 12: Isaiah 8-9; 2 Corinthians 1 | Sept 27: Isaiah 54-57; Galatians 3 |
| Sept 13: Isaiah 10-12; 2 Corinthians 2 | Sept 28: Isaiah 58-60; Galatians 4 |
| Sept 14: Isaiah 13-14; 2 Corinthians 3 | Sept 29: Isaiah 61-63; Galatians 5 |
| Sept 15: Isaiah 15-18; 2 Corinthians 4 | Sept 30: Isaiah 64-66; Galatians 6 |

Ridge Baptist Church Worship Leaders and Staff:

Rev. Alan Ray, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Abbie Duenckel, *Minister for Christian Discipleship & Outreach*

Rev. Lindsay Ray, *Minister for Students*

Mr. Robert Blaylock, *Praise Team / Media Director*

Mr. Robert Coffman, *Music Ministry Director*

Mrs. Phyllis Coffman, *Church Accompanist*

Mrs. Theresa Altland, *Church Secretary*

Mrs. Louise Crooks, *Financial Secretary*

Thelma Ford, *Kitchen Technician*
