



God's News for Antioch

January 2025

Antioch Covenant Brethren Church

23502 Senedo Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22664

(540)459-3661

George Bowers, Senior Pastor

Let's Keep This Resolution!

Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Early Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

**Nursery Provided &
Children's Church**

Senior Pastor: George Bowers

**Associate Pastor for Youth and Visitation:
Dale Bennett**

**Pastor Administrative Assistant/Clerk:
Becky Leland**

Treasurer/Bookkeeper: Dorothy Boyer

Deacons: Don Sherman, Jr., Chair

John Anderson, Co-Chair

Phill & Sue Noel

Becky Leland

Benny & Tammy Andes

Tim & Kathy Cooper

Norma Doman

Penny Adams

Tom Brower

Matt & Brenda Wendling

Noah & Amy Hepner

Diane Pence

Building & Grounds Chair: Jay Swartz

Pastoral & Worship Chair: Diane Pence

Finance Chair: Doug Doman

Discipleship Chair: Stephanie Chapman

Church & Family Fellowship Chair:

Sonya Edwards

Mission & Witness Chair: Allen Bowers

Sunday School Superintendent:

David Sherman

Church Board Chairman: Bernie Adams

Church Board Co-Chairman: Doug Doman

Moderator: Keith Zirkle

The Old Year is in the books and the new one is upon us! Our attention has turned from the holidays to regular days and many of our resolutions have already succumbed to our old habits. There is one resolution, however, we should definitely keep! Many people resolve to attend worship each week and we should certainly start off the New Year on the right foot!

In September of 2022 thousands of people lined up 10 miles and waited 24 hours to see Queen Elizabeth's coffin. While this was an incredible gesture of respect for a dead monarch, it seems we should at least show as much honor for a living One who rules over all. I don't know of a single church that has a 10 mile 24 hour wait for worship.

Weekly worship, Sunday School, daily devotions, and Bible Study are all forms of weightlifting to build our spiritual muscles. Athletes don't wait until they're in a game to work out. They start months before the season even begins building strength and stamina so they will be ready when the difficult times come.

So too, all players in this game of life will encounter challenges. Events happen to all that stress us mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Just as it would be foolish for an athlete not to prepare beforehand for certain game-time situations, it's equally unwise not to prepare our souls for life's inevitabilities.

To take the analogy further, no football player would ever think of facing an opponent without his teammates. Life is a contact sport that requires teamwork. We need others to help us meet our difficulties and we need to be there for them as well. We are not born again as orphans but into God's family, His church.

Some claim they don't need a church and yet, they often call the church to pray for sick relatives, conduct funerals, officiate weddings, or assist with community events. When terrorists attacked our nation on 9/11, many turned to the church for an-

swers and guidance. Thankfully, churches were there to offer comfort, prayer, and encouragement.

Others only call the church when they have a financial need. While Scripture indicates the church's first priorities are its own elderly and needy, most churches in our community provide thousands of dollars in direct assistance in addition to regular support of community ministries such as Family Promise, Alliance for Shelter, various food pantries, and more.

At times people object to worshipping with other believers because of the hypocritical nature and sinful attitude of some in church. And there are sinful hypocrites in church. We all are in some way or the other, but in worship we confess our sins and seek God's help to live differently.

Plenty of people at Walmart aren't perfect and yet most of us return time and again. There are many times we don't save money or live better and yet we keep going back. Though most employees there are nice, some aren't, but we don't quit because of a bad experience. And we need Jesus even more than we need groceries. I keep thinking of three middle school girls in Sierra Leone who were determined to attend Christian worship even though they knew they'd be beaten for it by their Muslim parents.

I read recently that we can be committed to church without being committed to Christ but we can't be committed to Christ without being committed to His Church. The Bible tells us that the church is Jesus' Bride and Ephesians 5 says He died for the church. If the church is that important to our Savior, it should be that important to us too.

As we consider our resolutions for 2025, I encourage all of us to be in church each Sunday we are physically able that we might worship God and encourage other believers.

Happy New Year!

George

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REMINDER REGARDING CHARITABLE GIVING RECEIPTS FOR THOSE USING THE ANTIOCH PAYPAL LINK ON THE WEB PAGE:

Please make sure you print the receipt from PayPal to use for your charitable giving receipt for income tax purposes. The donations given using the PayPal link are not included in recording that is done from tithes and offerings collected during the regular church offering.

Antioch Little Duckling Preschool continues to enroll children. If you or someone you know is interested, have them call the Preschool at 459-9486. The preschool is always looking for donations of stickers, crayons, craft kits (35), treats, and paper products. If you would like to donate to the preschool scholarship fund. Checks can be sent to the church or added to the offering. In the memo line it can be earmarked for the scholarship fund. Blessings, Amy Babcock, Director/Teacher, Antioch Little Ducklings

Ongoing needs of Family Promise include:

Dishwashing liquid Air freshener Toilet bowl cleaner Shower/bath cleaner Deodorant (men & women)

SPREAD THE WORD

Please spread the word! Antioch's Sunday Worship Services are available on YouTube and you can find them by typing YouTube into your browser and then searching for AntiochCBC. Past services and Bible Studies are there as well. In addition, you can find out more information about Antioch at www.antiochcbc.org including upcoming events, sermon note sheets, ministries, mission opportunities, children's activities, Antioch's history, how to meet Jesus, and much more!

Sign Your Child Up For Free Bible Classes!

Weekday Religious Education Classes are being held this school fall and are open to all 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders. Go to www.Biblebreak.com and click on Sign Up! Share with your friends and spread the word! All 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders are welcome but every participant needs to register and have a signed permission slip. See Pastor George or Dale for any questions. SCWREA may very well expand into 5th grade before the end of this school year! Pray for God to open that door!

Join Antioch's Choir!

The Antioch Choir practices are on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and the group will lead worship and provide sharing of gifts for both services once a month on 4th Sundays. If you are interested in joining the Antioch Choir or have questions, please contact Nancy Bowers in person or at gabowers@shentel.net.

Meals Ministry Opportunity!

Would you be willing to provide a meal for a church family in need? A Meals Ministry team is being formed to help church members when a need for a meal(s) arises due to a surgery or extended illness. We would like to comprise a list of people who would be willing to provide a meal if called upon. You don't have to be a "Betty Crocker" in the kitchen to help out. A casserole, soup and salad, or a pizza and salad, etc. can easily feed a family. Could you pick up a rotisserie chicken, some potato salad and rolls and drop it by someone's house if called upon? Are you comfortable calling DoorDash? Please prayerfully consider if you could lend a hand and be a part of this outreach. Please contact Leslie Helsley by text or phone at 540-325-7127 or by email at slbcbj@yahoo.com and she will be able to answer your questions and get you on the list. You can also call Yvonne Ryman on her cell 540-333-4035 or by text. We recognize that many in our church are already addressing this need but are hoping to reach others who may also have a heart for this ministry. A sign-up sheet will also be available on the table in the fellowship hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Antioch's Theme Verse for 2025:

Pastors George and Dale invite you to memorize, meditate, and live out the following verse for 2025. It will be our "Theme Verse of the Year" and this will be special emphasis in worship, sermons, outreach events, etc.

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. John 17:23

Becoming a Member of Antioch Church

If you would like to become a member at Antioch by baptism or transfer or have questions, please see Pastor George or Pastor Dale.

What Is Your Gift?

Do you have a musical talent? Do you play the guitar? The violin? The harp, harmonica, or banjo? We are looking for musicians to join AWE. We would love to have you join us! Please reach out to Amy Hepner at 540-323-0171 or talk to anyone n the AWE Team.

Church Nursery Help Needed

Nursery volunteers are needed for both services. Please, if you are able, consider volunteering in the nursery.

Disaster Work:

Samaritan's Purse is constantly looking for volunteers to go on Disaster Mop up and rebuild trips. See Pastor George if you are interested in either.

The Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center has an immediate need for the following:

Newborn diapers	Finger nail clippers (baby)	Pacifiers and clips	Lotion & baby wash
Nasal Aspirators	0-3, 3-6 onesies	Small baby books	Preemie clothes
Diaper Bags	Similac Soy Formula	Baby Bottles	Teething rings
Small hand held toys	Similac Advance Formula	Infant and Toddler Tooth brushes and tooth paste	

Cancellation Notifications:

Cancellations of the worship service due to weather will be sent out on the email chain. For those without email, announcements are usually posted on WHSV (Channel 3). A decision is usually made by 7:30 am Sunday morning. If anyone would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please let Brenda Fadeley know by emailing her at bfadeley67@gmail.com

Antioch Winter Camp

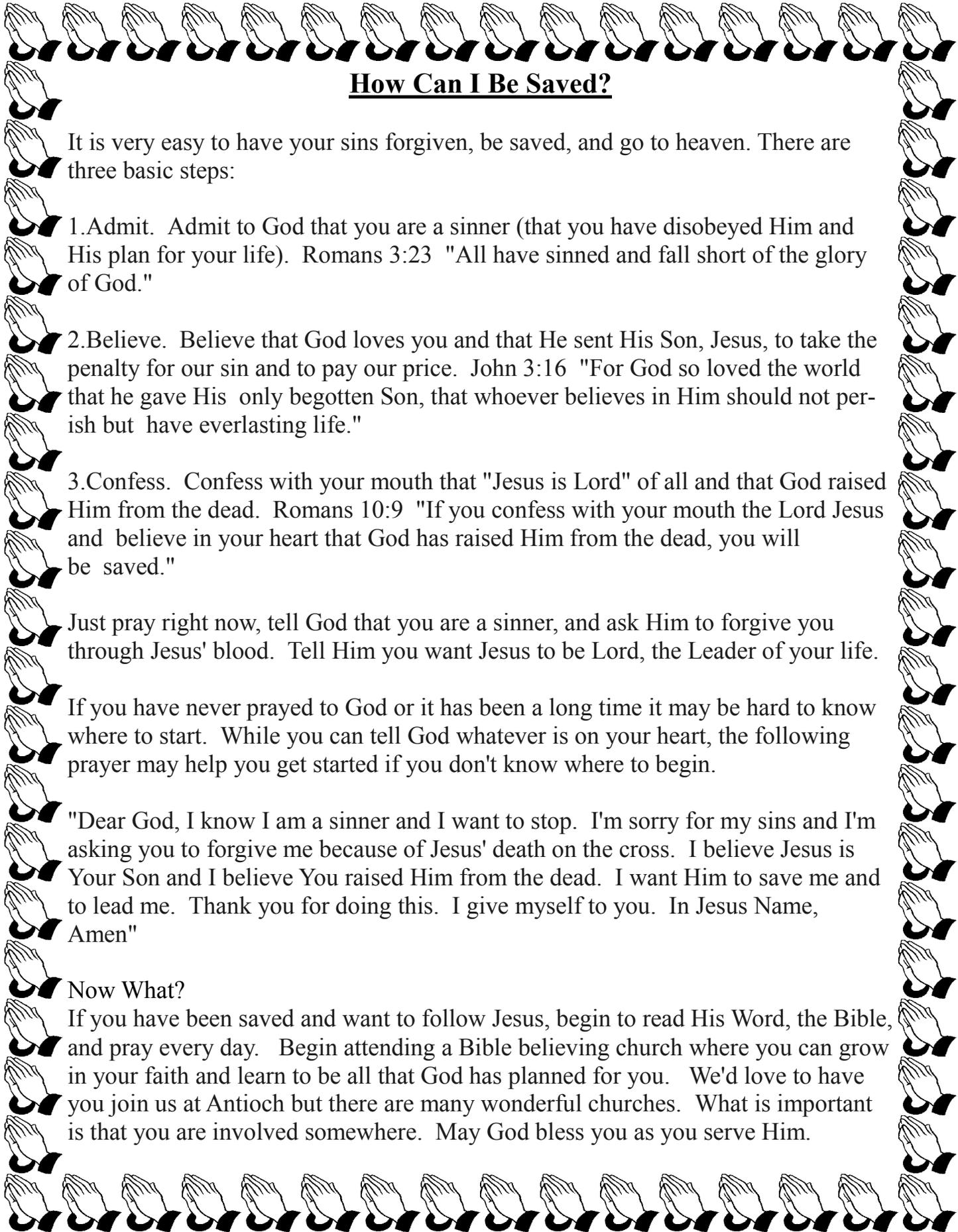
Antioch Winter Camp is almost here! The camp is at Brethren Woods again this year and it is for grades K-12th. The cost is \$20 a child and the date for the camp is Jan 31-Feb 2nd. We will leave Antioch at 5 pm on Friday Jan 31 and return at 11 am on Sunday the 2nd. We have set a cutoff date for Jan 26, so sign your child up now. For more information: contact Pastor Dale or Becky Leland.

Congratulations to....

Congratulations to Ashley Coulson, who was one of 10 in the state of Virginia to receive the 2024 Volunteerism & Community Service Award from Governor Glen Youngkin.

Congratulations to Anita Scruggs on the book she published entitled Three Grays And Me.

If one part of the Body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
1 Corinthians 12:26



How Can I Be Saved?

It is very easy to have your sins forgiven, be saved, and go to heaven. There are three basic steps:

1. Admit. Admit to God that you are a sinner (that you have disobeyed Him and His plan for your life). Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

2. Believe. Believe that God loves you and that He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the penalty for our sin and to pay our price. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

3. Confess. Confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" of all and that God raised Him from the dead. Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Just pray right now, tell God that you are a sinner, and ask Him to forgive you through Jesus' blood. Tell Him you want Jesus to be Lord, the Leader of your life.

If you have never prayed to God or it has been a long time it may be hard to know where to start. While you can tell God whatever is on your heart, the following prayer may help you get started if you don't know where to begin.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner and I want to stop. I'm sorry for my sins and I'm asking you to forgive me because of Jesus' death on the cross. I believe Jesus is Your Son and I believe You raised Him from the dead. I want Him to save me and to lead me. Thank you for doing this. I give myself to you. In Jesus Name, Amen"

Now What?

If you have been saved and want to follow Jesus, begin to read His Word, the Bible, and pray every day. Begin attending a Bible believing church where you can grow in your faith and learn to be all that God has planned for you. We'd love to have you join us at Antioch but there are many wonderful churches. What is important is that you are involved somewhere. May God bless you as you serve Him.

2025 ANTIOCH ORGANIZATION

<u>Senior Pastor</u>	George Bowers
<u>Associate Pastor Youth/Visitation</u>	Dale Bennett
<u>Pastoral Admin Asst/Clerk</u>	Becky Leland
<u>Treasurer /Bookkeeper</u>	Dorothy Boyer
<u>Custodian</u>	Dianne Funkhouser
<u>Moderator</u>	Keith Zirkle (2023-25)
<u>Assistant Moderator</u>	Barry Arey (2023-25)
<u>Church Board Chairman</u>	Bernie Adams (2024-26)
<u>Church Board Co-Chair</u>	Doug Doman (2025-25)

Executive Committee:

Bernie Adams (Chair) Doug Doman (Co-Chair)
Don Sherman (Deacon Chair) Stephanie Chapman (At large)
Diane Pence (At large) Ex-officio: George Bowers (Pastor)

Commissions:

<u>Pastoral And Worship</u>	<u>Term</u>
Allen Bowers	2025-27
Laurie Eaton	2024-26
Diane Pence	2023-25 Chair
Debbie Cummins	2024-26
Suzanne Clarke	2023-25
Nancy Bowers	2024-26
Lori Mumaw	2025-27 Co-Chair
Amy Hepner	2024-26

Finance

Doug Doman	2023-25 Chair
Jeff Walters	2025-27
Sheryl Jett	2023-25 Co-Chair
Don Sherman, Jr.	2024-26
Fred Hepner, Jr.	2024-27
Garrett Coffey	2024-26

Discipleship

Suzanne Clarke	2025-27 Co-Chair
Laura Brown	2025-27
Leslie Helsley	2023-25
Tony Turley	2023-25
Stephanie Chapman	2025-27 Chair
Ashley Bowers	2024-26
Jane Byrd	2024-26

Church Family and Fellowship

Sonya Edwards	2025-27 Chair
Liz Mauck	2023-25
Ronda Mace	2025-27
Alice Spence	2024-26
Buck Spence	2023-25
Marie Sherman	2024-26
Tabby Lear	2024-26
Mary Vann	2023-25

Mission and Witness

Jonathan Ryman	2023-25
Becky Leland	2023-25
Sharon Kessler	2025-27
Allen Bowers	2024-26 Chair
Tony Turley	2025-27
Rick Kessler	2024-26
Madison Coffey	2023-25 Co-Chair
Ronda Cook	2023-25

(Revised 12/9/24)

Building And Grounds

Jeff Jett	2024-26 Co-Chair
Freddy Reedy	2025-27
Jay Swartz	2024-26 Chair
Noah Hepner	2024-26
Dale Sherman	2025-27
Scott Babcock	2023-25
Mark Lenick	2024-26
Joey Reynolds	2024-26

Nominating and Personnel

Norma Doman	2024-26
Chris Cook	2025-27
Dee Sherman	2023-25

1 year terms for these:

Head Ushers: Guy Pence/Fred Hepner

Asst. Head Ushers: Benny Andes/Brenda Fadeley

2025 Regional Conf. Delegates: Sheryl Jett, Diane Pence, John Anderson

2025 Annual Meeting and Worship Conference Delegates: Penny Adams, Becky Leland, Nancy Bowers, Suzanne Clarke

Youth Team Leaders (Sept to Aug terms):

Antioch Youth for Christ (Grades 9-13): Becky Leland, Allen & Ashley Bowers

Middle Youth (Grades 5-8): Tatiana Morton,

Junior (K-Grade 4): Bailey Beaune, Ronda Cook, Amy Babcock

Deacons:

Don Sherman, Jr.	2023-25 Chair
Phill and Sue Noel	2023-25
Benny and Tammy Andes	2025-27
Tim/Kathy Cooper	2023-25
Penny Adams	2023-25
Becky Leland	2023-25
Norma Doman	2024-26
Matt & Brenda Wendling	2025-27
Tom Brower	2024-26
Noah & Amy Hepner	2024-26
Jon Anderson	2024-26 Co-Chair
Diane Pence	2025-27

Preschool Board: (Terms from 7/1-6/30)

Tonya Ketterman	7/23-6/26	Antioch Rep
Tiffany Cummins	7/25-6/28	Antioch Rep
Tammy Andes	7/24-6/27	Antioch Rep
	24-25	Parent Rep
Amy Babcock	Director	
Linda John	Community Rep	
Bernie Adams	Church Board Chair	
George Bowers	Pastor	
Dorothy Boyer	External Treasurer	

Sunday School Superintendent David Sherman
Assistant

*Happy Birthday to our
January Birthday People*



Intentionally
left blank for
web page
posting.



*Happy
Birthday
and God
Bless You!*



*Celebrating Marriages for
the Month of January*



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web page posting.*

*Happy
Anniversary!*



2025 Weekly Prayer Emphasis:

During 2025, the Pastors, staff, and Church Board invite you to join them in weekly prayers for our church. Please spend some time each week, and ideally each day praying about these items:

Week of:

January 5 Pray that we as a church will glorify God each day in 2025!

January 12 Pray that souls would be won and God glorified at the Sportsmen's Banquet.

January 19 Pray that God would sanctify each member by His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit.

January 26 Pray that God would develop and deepen unity in Antioch.





Camp HOPE America - Massanutten Mountains

New program coming to Shenandoah and Page Counties!

Camp HOPE America is a nation-wide program to support youth who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence. The two key components, a year-round program and a week-long summer camp, are designed to help them heal and thrive by connecting with caring adults and peers in a safe, supportive environment. Activities are designed to help youth build self-awareness, confidence, and the skills to overcome challenges, set boundaries, and work toward their long-term goals.

Join us in shaping the future of Shenandoah County!



www.shenandoahfyi.com/camp-HOPE



Antioch Church



Dear George:

This is the column to address questions that are submitted during the month. The answers will be based on Biblical interpretations. If you have any questions, either email them to George or put them into his church mailbox and he'll try to get to them as soon as possible. It may take a little while, but he will attempt to answer your question eventually!

Dear George:

Why do you always mention the page number for the pew Bible each Sunday at the beginning of your sermon?

Signed,
Just Wondering

Dear Just Wondering:

You are correct. I usually include that comment each Sunday during the early part of each sermon. There are a couple reasons for this. First and foremost, it is an encouragement for everyone in worship to actually follow along in their Bible and not just listen. This helps to focus our minds and insures that the speaker (me or whoever) gets the Scripture right. Each believer is responsible for his or her own growth and development in Jesus and each should be sure not to be misled by me or anyone else.

For this reason, all members and regular attenders are encouraged to bring and use their Bibles each Sunday. Although Bibles are now convenient apps on our cell phones, I discourage their use in worship as the temptation to jump from Scripture to social media or other apps is very powerful.

The reference to the Pew Bible is especially user friendly for the unchurched guest who may be with us any given morning. Antioch is blessed with guests nearly every, if not every, Sunday. Since some guests may not have been to worship before, this is a way to help them find the Scripture and also calls their attention to the sermon note sheet they may not be aware is in the bulletin. Since many unchurched guests aren't familiar with where the books of the Bible are located, this is a quick way for them to find it without frantically turning to the Table of Contents and getting behind or appearing embarrassed because they don't know where to find the reference. There are two page numbers on the sheet since we have two different pew Bibles at Antioch at present.

Blessings,
George

Gospel Music and Trips Update

PromisedLand Quartet will share a concert during worship on January 5 at Antioch!

Go to SONshineMinistriesVA.org to find out more about other concerts and bus trips as well as a listening schedule for WBTX and ministries sponsored by SONshine Ministries.



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Please NOTE: Weekly Bulletin Announcements contain the latest info.						
			1 NEW YEARS DAY	2 <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>	3	4
5 PromisedLand Quartet in Worship! Bring a Friend Sunday and Fellowship Meal after worship	6 4 pm, Grief Support Group in New Basement	7 Preschool Board meeting	8 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch 3:30-7:00pm, BLAST for youth K-8th	9 7pm, Choir Practice <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>	10	11
12 <u>Discipleship Meeting after Church</u>	13 6:30pm, Executive Committee Meeting 7pm, Church Board Meeting	14	15 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch 3:30-7:00pm, BLAST for youth K-8th	16 7pm, Choir Practice <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>	17	18 5:30pm Sportsman's Banquet
19 February Newsletter Items due to Sheryl Jett <u>Deacon Meeting after Church</u>	20 4 pm, Grief Support Group in New Basement	21	22 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch 3:30-7:00pm, BLAST for youth K-8th	23 7pm, Choir Practice <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>	24	25
26 Mission & Witness Meeting after Church	27 7pm, Congregational Business Meeting. <u>Prayer at 6:30pm.</u>	28	29 9-10:30am, Morning Bible Study 11:30am Men's Lunch at Ben's Diner, Women at Italian Touch 3:30-7:00pm, BLAST for youth K-8th	30 7pm, Choir Practice <i>Custodians cleaning the church</i>	31 Winter Youth Retreat	

Cutting Guilt's Chain

George Bowers
November 2024

The poison ferments down in the soul,
Exacting an overwhelming toll.
Past's guilt and all its bitter blame,
With ever-increasing disgraceful shame.
And the Devil often stirs this pot,
That steeps in bitter regretful rot.
There is a cure for this great pain,
A way to cut guilt's massive chain,
A way to rid all shadowy shame,
That way, that cure, is in Jesus' name!
Oh come to Him and flee from doubt,
For He can clean your poison out!
And in its dreadful sin-stained place,
Leave joy and peace and healing grace!

Newsletter:

If you have information for the church newsletter, please send it to Sheryl Jett. Please send her all birth-days and anniversaries so we can recognize those in the church newsletter. Please email her at: the-boys@shentel.net or put it in her mailbox at church.

News from the Library:

Please remember to come check out the many books that the Antioch Library has available!

Reminder: If you would like to donate books to the Antioch Library, please contact Becky Reynolds (rwreynolds71004@gmail.com or 540.325.4433) to let her know. You can also leave books in Becky's church mailbox. Please do not leave boxes of books in the Library, due to a Sunday School class meeting there every Sunday.

Sharing of Gifts and Worship Leadership:

If you are willing to lead worship, lead music, or share a gift during worship contact Sister Amy Hepner of the Pastoral and Worship Commission.

Dates for 2025 Antioch Ministry Plan God Willing

Every Sunday	10 a.m. Worship of Almighty God
Every Sunday	8:45 a.m. Sunday School to study and apply God's Word.
BLAST and PM Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from Sept 17-April 29
Morning Bible Study	Most Wednesdays from Sept 10-May 20
January 5	Bring A Friend Sunday & Fellowship Meal afterward
January 5	PromisedLand Quartet Concert in Worship
Jan 18	5:30pm Sportsmen's Banquet (Jan. 25 Snow Date)
Jan 31-Feb 2	Winter Youth Retreat
Feb 7	6-9pm Night to Shine at American Celebration on Parade
Feb 16	Meet Your Deacon Sunday/Deacon Installation
March 29	WRE Concert
April 12	Apologetics Speaker-Andy Bannister
April 13	Palm Sunday Worship Love Feast following
April 18	7pm Good Friday service
April 20	6:30am Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast 2 nd service at 8:30am
May 18	Graduate Recognition With Meal Afterward
June 1-5	CBC Regional Sr. Camp
June 8-12	CBC Regional Jr. Camp
June 9-17	CBC Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico
June 22-25	Vacation Bible School
Aug 17	Church Board Planning Retreat
Sept 7	Outdoor service, picnic at Maurertown Park
Sept 14	Sunday School Move Up Sunday/Back to Church Sunday
Oct 5	Love Feast following worship
Oct 19	CBC Sunday and Fellowship Meal
Nov 23	6pm Community Thanksgiving Service
Dec 21	Christmas Program
Executive Committee Meetings: 6:30pm: Jan 13, April 14, July 14, Oct 13	
Church Board Meeting Dates: 7:00pm: Jan 13, April 14, July 14, Oct 13	
Congregational Business Meeting Dates: 7:00pm: Jan 27, April 28, July 28, Oct 27	