

# Ash Avenue Baptist Dispatch

ISSUE # 153

MARCH 2011

## From Eure Pastor's Desk

by John D. Eure



study by  
Gary Chapman

Special Studies  
Sunday School  
Class

Beginning at  
**10:00am,**  
**March 7<sup>th</sup>, through**  
**April 18<sup>th</sup>**

Join In whether  
you come as a  
Married Couple  
or Individually

Determine which love language you, your spouse, and children speak! Learn how to speak each other's language which results in better relationships and communication.

Contact  
**Joy Eure**  
with any questions



It's amazing the things people will cling to and save. I must admit, I'm one of those *pack rats*. Now, I'm not as bad as some, but I could be better.

Actually, being married to Joy has been a big help in purging the house of things that aren't really necessary for holding on to memories. By purging myself of material things, I've actually found that it has made room for newer memories and a freedom to choose how I possess things... not allowing things to possess me.

Today's church faces the same issues. We seem to hold on to things (material, traditional, programs or otherwise) that really don't matter in the bigger picture of God's will. These things may even add weight and cause sluggishness in fulfilling the purposes of Jesus.

Recently in the *Religious Herald*, editor Jim White's editorial zoomed in on churches holding onto things that don't work. (By the way, the *Religious Herald* is the news journal for Virginia Baptists... hope you'll consider subscribing).

In his editorial, Jim published a letter from the fictitious Aunt Ida of the Blue Bell Baptist Church. In her letter, she mentions visiting a relative and attending worship with her at *Bypass Road Baptist Church*. Aunt Ida was proud of that church for making a decision to sell off the old handmade pews that were over 140 years old. The church did this during a renovation project.

Then Aunt Ida reflected on her home church. A clock from 1878 hung in the sanctuary. Not only did it not work, it was beyond repair. A suggestion was made to replace it with a working one. That was when the grandson of the clock's donor protested and

the church dropped the issue.

Aunt Ida then wonders, "...*how many churches are hangin' on to things that don't work any more. In our case, it's a clock. But I guess it could be a program of some kind or the order of worship or tent revivals or whatever. I have to hand it to Bypass Road for havin' the gumption to turn their faces to the future and let go of some parts of the past.*" ["Are Churches Holding On To Things That No Longer Work?" by Jim White, *Religious Herald*, Tuesday February 15, 2011]

For some reason, our human minds merge spiritual truths with lesser, tangible objects or ideas. For example, to some believers a suggestion to change the Sunday morning worship time from 11:00 am is a sign that the End Times are approaching. I've often heard the last seven words of the church are, "*We've never done it that way before.*" But I believe the saddest words are when an individual brother or sister says, "*I don't see a need for it.*"

It's amazing how a church can become so *practical* rather than *faithful* when it comes to *spiritual* matters. Yet it can become *hysterical* when changing things that have become *traditional*.

For a church to move forward and for its members to grow spiritually, we must take a look at our *identity*.

If our identity is truly found in Christ, then we must allow His Holy Spirit and His Word to lead us. To be the church means that the will of Christ must lead. This is difficult for our human nature for it desires to *hold on* to our memories of the past. Spiritual growth learns from the past while embracing the continual changes Christ desires to make in us.

If we find that our identity is anything other than God's Spirit and Word, then we cease being the *church*. Though we may gather to worship, sing, and pray, it is no longer for God's glory, but for our own. Missions becomes community action without an eternal purpose; membership focuses on bolstering the organization, rather than souls saved and growing in Christ. Oh, Jesus is mentioned; but twisted to fit our plans rather than His will.

Perhaps this is why Jesus warned His disciples as they *ooh-ed* and *aah-ed* at the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem. They placed their identity in it: their heritage, nationality, salvation, and hope. "*Do you see all these great buildings?*" replied Jesus. "*Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.*" -**Mark 13:2** [NIV].

Let's not foolishly forget our heritage, but let's not allow the past to keep us from making history... better yet, to keep us from telling *His* story. This doesn't mean we'll throw out every item, program, or idea. It does mean we place everything we have on the Lord's table. It is all His... in Christ, we are His. Let's cling to the One who is Eternal and True. As we do, we'll be freed from bondage to *things*, and will be freely, forever anchored to the *Author and Perfecter* of our faith.

Daylight Savings  
begins at **2am Sunday,**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>.** Remember  
to set your clocks **ahead**  
one hour at bedtime  
Saturday.

One of the exciting new min-



**March**

- 3/6 Don Williams  
Victor Crump  
Dickie Fallen  
Don Gainey
- 3/13 Ricky Brogden  
Jim Chandler  
Fred Flinn  
Mike Harris
- 3/20 Randy Guill  
Jeff Cox  
Randy Hupp  
Jason Snead
- 3/27 Jimmy Allen  
Gene Comer  
Jerry Crenshaw  
Daniel Wilborn



**AABC Offering  
Report as of 2/23/11**

**Budget offering  
received...  
\$ 27,676.43**  
**Budget offering  
needed...  
\$ 31,462.00**  
**Budget deficit:  
( 3,785.57 )**



- **During SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
The March Nursery Coordinator:  
**Jami Hunt.**  
Assistant: **Faye Gainey**  
Please contact Jami one week prior  
to your assigned date if you are  
unable to assist.

- **During WORSHIP**  
The March Nursery Coordinator  
is **Brenda Hancock.** If you are unable  
to assist on your assigned date, please contact  
her one week prior to that date.  
**Volunteer Assistants:**  
March 6th- Joy Eure  
March 13th- Sarah Brogden  
March 20th- Marissa Hupp  
March 27th- Dickie & Helen Fallen

- **March Children's Church Leader:**  
**Julie Blanks**

**WMU NEWS**

**10am - Tuesday,  
March 1st  
Eva Saunders**

**2pm Monday,  
March 7th  
Nonie Gravitt**

**7pm Thursday,  
March 10th  
Sisters Serving  
Christ**

New Hymnal given  
in memory  
of Hilda Johnson  
& in honor  
of Elton Johnson.

Given by  
Billy & Clara Johnson

**Calling All Kids!**

If you attend the Sunday Night Mission  
Friends (GA's & RA's) at least ten times  
between February 27th & May 15th you  
will be rewarded with a day of bowling,  
with the children as a group. This will  
be paid by Children's Committee



**Sam & Susie Eubank**  
4438 Hwy 58  
Buffalo Junction, VA 24529

**Louie Seabolt**  
1431 Jackson Ridge Rd.  
Greensboro, GA 30642-5279

**Lenten Luncheon Schedule**

March 9 - April 20, 2011

Lenten Luncheons are hosted each week at **First Presbyterian Church** beginning on Ash Wednesday and concluding on the Wednesday before Easter.

Even though these luncheons are held at First Presbyterian, in a true spirit of community involvement the devotion each week will be provided by a Pastor from a different area church, as indicated in this schedule. **The devotion begins at 12:30 and concludes promptly at 12:45.**

March 9	Rev. Gary Butterworth Trinity/St. John's Episcopal Churches	12 to 12:45
March 16	Rev. Dave Anderson First Baptist Church	12 to 12:45
March 23	Rev. John Eure Ash Avenue Baptist Church	12 to 12:45
March 30	Paul Nichols First Presbyterian Church	12 to 12:45
April 6	Rev. Ed Rigg Main Street Methodist Church	12 to 12:45
April 13	Rev. George Gorman Shady Grove Methodist Church	12 to 12:45
April 20	Dr. Russell Lee First Presbyterian Church	12 to 12:45

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. Bring your bag lunch. Desserts will be provided by the various churches. Beverages will be provided by First Presbyterian Church. **Invite your friends!**



What a blessing to be a part of the Ash Avenue Church family. Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits during my surgery and recovery.

God answers prayers!  
May God bless each of you!  
- Faye Newton

To my Ash Avenue Baptist Church Family, I would like to thank you for your phone calls, cards, gifts, and especially your prayers. As we all know it was because of the prayers that Brittany was returned home safe. The support that was given to us was amazing and also much needed. We are truly blessed to have such a loving and caring Church Family. **God bless you all!** With much love,

- Benny & Brittany



**Properties Contacts for March  
are**

**Randy Guill & Calvin Owen**

**Deacons of the Month for March  
are Jay Camp & Randy Guill**

**Need to use the church van this month?  
If so, contact Jay Camp for availability.**



**Ash Avenue Baptist Church  
900 Ash Avenue  
South Boston, VA 24592  
(434) 572-2006**

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