FIRST THINGS FIRST

March 2025



NURSE'S CLOSET

The Estelle Brooks Circle delivered clothes to the Nurse's Closet at Altavista Elementary School on Valentine's Day. We donated leggings, sweatpants and shorts for girls and boys in different sizes. These clothing items are used by the school nurse for children that get sick or have accidents at school and need clean clothes. We are still using the monetary donations from the Souper Bowl of Caring 2024 to buy these items.

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR

If you would like to place flowers in honor of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, or other special event, please reach out to a committee member and she will help you coordinate and have it mentioned in the Sunday bulletin. You can also sign up on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall beside the Adult Sunday School Classroom.





CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

On February 23, four of our deacons along with our pastor attended the ReKindle training held at Madison Heights Baptist Church. Our group attended sessions on 1) Breaking down your hospitality walls-making a better first impression 2) Rekindle your Church's Deacon ministry 3) Scarcity or Abundance-options for growing financial resources. This training was sponsored by Barnabas Partnership from Martinsville. Its founder, Steve Zimmerman, was recently a speaker at FBC.

WMU SPRING MEETING

Our guest speaker, Anne Brown from Gretna Baptist, spoke of the mission trips she took in 2024. Seeing firsthand of the destruction left from Hurricane Helene touched many hearts. Several churches are helping with the project to help those whose homes were heavily damaged from the flood. Our Mission Project is to help rebuild the damaged homes. We are asking for monetary donations or Lowe's gift cards to help those in need.

If you feel led, Sandra Finch will collect any donations on Sunday, April 6, 2025, and take to the Association office Monday, April 7, 2025

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday night suppers will be returning on April 2nd. This is an opportunity for outreach as we cover topics related to aging and end of life care.

BREAKFAST HOUR

The next breakfast will be on March 30th at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. A sign-up sheet for food is posted on the bulletin board at the kitchen entrance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday morning Adult Lifegroup will continue to have a series of lessons on 'The Words of Jesus' till the end of April.

BIBLE STUDY

A 7-week study on the book of Esther will be coming soon. Stay tuned for more details!

PASTORAL UPDATES

Alden will be in Greensboro for Navy chaplaincy duties on April 4th and 5th. He is still on schedule to spend about 7 weeks with the Chaplain Corps beginning on June 8th. R.G. Rowland has agreed to be here during Alden's absence.

PARISH NURSE NOTES

In my hospital nursing days, Nurses Notes were the pages in patient's charts that doctors and other nurses looked to really know what was going on with a patient. So I have chosen to use this as the title of my monthly column, hoping to give all of you what I see happening, or expect to see, or even want to see!

Since this is the column for your parish nurse though, I will include something spiritual: the difference between cure and healing. I'm using something I came across while looking for something else, which is how I most often find things of value that I didn't know I needed.

Cure may occur without healing; healing may occur without cure.
Cure separates body from soul; healing embraces the whole.
Cure isolates; healing incorporates.
Cure costs; healing enhances.
Cure combats illness; healing fosters wellness.
Cure alters what is; healing offers what might be. (Cure controls; healing frees.)
Cure is an act; healing is a process.
Cure ignores grief; healing assumes grief.
Cure rejects death and views it as a defeat; healing includes death among the blessed outcomes of care.

Back to the top of the list...both cure and healing may occur at the same time, which is the optimal outcome when cure is still possible. The goal to provide both is why centuries ago, hospitals were begun by religious organizations, with our own Virginia Baptist Hospital one of the last. It is no longer supported by Virginia Baptists in any real way, but the name still means something.

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