



# WELCOME

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

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# The Voice

**March 2024**

*"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." Mark 15:6*

## Message from our Pastor Dr. Shawn White

Paul provides a wonderful declaration in Romans chapter 10: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But Paul knows that while this is an easy step of faith, there needs to be some groundwork – essential groundwork! After his declaration, Paul asks a series of questions with each question presuming a negative answer, "They can't!" These four questions are: How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? [They can't]. And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? [They can't]. And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [They can't]. And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? [They can't].

In other words, people experience salvation by calling on the Lord, but can only call if people first go to them with the good news. This edition of the Voice is about going. First, there is the preaching series that forms the first part of our GROWTH theme, and this is Going – To Grow We Have to Go! Second, we are approaching Easter, and this means it is time for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This offering allows others to go on our behalf throughout North America.

As you read about "going," may you consider the question, "Where and to whom are you sent?"

*Baby Shower  
James & Alisha  
Maloyed  
March 2nd  
11:00am  
FBC Fellowship Hall*

*The item for the  
Bland Ministry  
Center for March  
is Ramen Noodles*

*Please place your  
Easter Egg Hunt  
candy in the  
donation box  
outside the  
Nursery*

## Mission and Ministry Opportunities

**Baptist  
Women's Day  
Circle**

**3rd Thursday at  
10:30 am**



**Ruby J.  
Louthan  
Circle  
Meeting  
March  
18th at  
6:00 pm**

Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

*Happy  
EASTER*



**OASIS  
Game Night  
at the church  
Saturday,  
March 23rd  
4pm**

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <b>Baby Shower, baby boy Maloyed 11am</b>
3 <b>TeamKID and Youth 5pm</b>	4	5	6 <b>Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</b>	7	98	9
10 <b>TeamKID and Youth 5pm</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time</b>	11 <b>CLC Meeting 6:30pm</b>	12	13 <b>Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</b>	14	15	16
17 <b>TeamKID and Youth 5pm</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	189	19 <b>Ruby J. Louthan Circle 6pm</b>	20 <b>Church Supper 5:45pm Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</b>	21 <b>Women's Day Circle 10:30am</b>	22	23 <b>OASIS—Game Night 4pm at the church</b>
24 <b>TeamKID and Youth 5pm</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	25 <b>Deacon's Meeting 6:30pm</b>	26	27	28 <b>Maundy Thursday Service &amp; Dinner 6pm</b>	29 <b>Good Friday</b>	30 <b>Easter Egg Hunt—Indoors</b>
31 <b>EASTER</b> 						

## March Birthdays

March 03 Gail Gregory  
 March 06 Dixie Aker  
 Kylie Bowers  
 Nathan Figueroa  
 Ruth Hoosier  
 March 09 Keith Filer

March 14 Freda Linkous  
 March 16 Mark West  
 March 20 Kenneth Shumate  
 Derek Wright  
 March 23 Bill Hinchey  
 Alisha Maloyed

March 24 Debbie Kensinger  
 March 25 Stephanie Bowers  
 March 27 David Figueroa  
 Melissa Shumate  
 March 30 Marilyn Pruett

## March Anniversaries

March 06 Abel & Abike Solademi    March 27 Evan & Cassie Abbey  
 Don & Lois White



## Continuation of the opening Message from Dr. Shawn White

I wonder if we have sometimes misheard or misread Jesus' instructions to his disciples. Often the way believers behave is, "Invite the world to Church so that others (Sunday School teacher, Bible Study Leader, Pastor) can make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and they (Sunday School teacher, Bible Study Leader, Pastor) can teach them to obey everything I have commanded. And lo! I am with you always until the very end of the age."

There is great benefit, of course, to inviting others to come to worship. At the same time, however, followers of Jesus have perhaps lost the edginess of what Jesus was asking his disciples. The main command in Matthew 28:19-20 is "make disciples." They are to help other people become as they are by then going, baptizing, and teaching.

Our theme for 2024 is GROWTH, for which each letter stands for each of our six series. The G is the series on "going." If we are going to grow, we must go. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all describe Jesus' life as one of going and being on the move. As Matthew quotes Jesus as saying, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Jesus' disciples continue that legacy of going. Throughout the book of Acts, the Apostles move from place to place demonstrating Jesus' admonition that "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The apostles go, and as they do the Church expands from Jerusalem to Rome and beyond.

The dynamics begin to change in the New Testament, however. The apostle Paul plants churches in communities. These churches stayed in those communities. Yes, they nurtured other prophets and evangelists who travelled from community to community, but they grew in their own communities. Yet, I would argue they still were asked to "go" even if they did not leave their communities. Paul encourages the Galatians to, "not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Later he will admonish the Corinthians that, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Do good. We are ambassadors proclaiming reconciliation. These are acts of churches that are going. As we reflect on GROWTH in 2024, we need to plan how we will go. You are encouraged and invited to join us in this conversation for 2024 and beyond.

## WHY IS THE EASTER OFFERING NAMED FOR ANNIE?

In 1895, an offering was first collected for the work of the Home Missions Board. In 1934, this offering was renamed the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions to honor the work of Annie Armstrong as a tireless advocate for giving, praying, and going to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those who did not know him.

### 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ANNIE ARMSTRONG:

1. Annie Armstrong was born on July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, Maryland.
2. From a young age, she went with her mother to the missionary meetings of Woman's Mission to Woman. It was there she developed a heart for missions.
3. Annie helped plant churches.
4. Although her family was very wealthy, she had a heart to serve those who lived in poverty and addiction, especially the impoverished who lived in rural areas.
5. Annie mobilized women to reach beyond the bounds of race by organizing missions to African Americans and Native Americans.
6. In 1882, Annie helped organize and became the first president of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland.
7. On May 14, 1888, Annie helped women from 12 states form the Executive Committee of Woman's Missions Societies, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. This organization would officially be named Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1890. She was elected as corresponding secretary.
8. In 1888, Annie was elected corresponding secretary of the organization and her motto, "Go Forward" was chosen. Annie wrote 100s of letter to raise awareness and promote giving to missions. It was in this year that a foreign missions offering was established to send a missionary to China to relieve Lottie Moon.
9. Annie Armstrong served WMU until 1906. During that time she never took a salary.
10. Annie died on December 20, 1938, the year of WMU's 50 anniversary.

### THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING TODAY

Today, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes to train, resource, and send more than 2,400 missionary families across the United States and Canada. One hundred percent of gifts given to this offering goes directly to the missionaries for their use in the field. None goes to administration.

Our church goal is \$3,000.00, please pray toward your contribution for this offering.



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*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that who so ever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal live." John 3:16*



First Baptist Church  
of Bluefield

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*