



545 Commerce Ave NW
Warren, OH 44485
330-775-3401
www.ohiosvba.org

the Steel Valley Baptist Association COMMUNICATOR

January, 2022

Sandra Parks
Secretary, Treasurer
sandra@ohiosvba.org

Gary Frost, 917-817-6287
Associational Missionary
gary@ohiosvba.org

Everything is Different Nothing has Changed



David Jeremiah

Chances are you've had a cup of coffee today, and the chances are the word "Starbucks" was on the cup. The now famous coffee company began in the Pike Place Market in Seattle in 1971. Since then, Starbucks has experienced the ups and downs of the economy, occasional missteps in corporate management, and the pressures of a rapidly expanding global enterprise. Despite all the changes and challenges, Starbucks persevered and developed a loyal customer base. Today it's the largest coffeehouse company in the world with 32,660 outlets in 83 countries. One of its secrets is a little green booklet about the size of a passport that tucks neatly into the apron of every employee. *The Green Apron Book* expresses the company's core values, which it wants to brew into every cup of coffee.

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Pastors' Zoom Mtg

The next pastor Zoom Meeting for fellowship and prayer is the third Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7 PM. The Zoom meeting can be accessed by clicking on the following button if this document is a PDF:

Zoom Mtg

Executive Board Mtg

Our next scheduled business meeting is this coming Monday, January 10, at the New Covenant Baptist Church.

Location Change

Church Funerals

First Baptist Church, Newton Falls will be hosting an information meeting from "ChurchFunerals Direct." This is a company that offers reduced costs related to church funerals. ChurchFunerals Direct, Inc. is a licensed funeral home and technology company that has developed a system and business model that connects consumers with licensed funeral homes and directors that conduct traditional, full-service funerals at greatly reduced prices for consumers who use the ChurchFunerals Direct service.

The one-hour information meeting will be held at the church beginning at 3:00 PM on Sunday, February 20, 2022. For additional information please contact Pastor Steve Spurlock at (330) 872-7055. The public is invited.

Association Music

The next 5th Sunday MusicFest will take place Jan. 30 at Austintown Baptist Church. If you have a musical selection please contact Pastor Chuck at pastorhoma@gmail.com

Church Strengthening

According to our bylaws, "The Church Strengthening Team exists for the purpose of strengthening association churches in the areas of worship, evangelism, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, and education. The team will assess needs of the churches and missions and help provide training to develop leaders and encourage mission involvement." Now that's a challenge!



Randy Langham

Worship and Fellowship

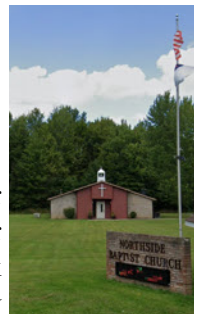
Join us at Austintown Baptist Church on Jan. 30. See article below left.

Church Highlight Northside Baptist Church

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We thank the Lord each day for the grace and mercy He has bestowed upon us. As a small congregation, throughout the pandemic, we have had our ups and downs but the Lord has, "provided all our need according to His riches in glory." Because of His faithfulness, we are looking forward to what He has in store for us in 2022. We covet your prayers.

Pastor Brian Picard

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In a greater way, God's children have a little Book we can tuck into our pockets or purses, which provides the core principles we need to stay strong in an unstable world. In times like these, we have an anchor.

And the times are changing quickly. No one has any idea what the world will look like in ten years, let alone twenty or thirty. The rapid development of technology is more than we can take in. Those of us over the age of forty were born before the digital revolution really started. We've learned to use laptops, cameras, the Internet, and our personal electronic products, but it's like learning a foreign language. But those under the age of forty have grown up with the digital revolution, and to them it's their mother tongue. This has created the biggest generational gap since rock and roll.

Even greater is the moral generational gap. Those over forty in the western world grew up in a culture that still retained a semblance of its historic Judeo-Christian heritage. Our worldview contained some remaining vestiges of biblical truth. But our children are growing in an increasingly secular society.

If we're not careful, we'll let these dynamics shake what we believe; or we'll let the pace of change disorient and discourage us in our Christian life and service.

Sometimes we feel anger at the rapidity of change. Even in churches where the historic faith is still constantly proclaimed, people can feel frustrated at changes in styles of music, worship patterns, schedules, dress codes, and ministry goals.

But don't despair. The things that matter most haven't changed one iota. The little Book in my suit pocket is as unchanging as Him who is from everlasting to everlasting. That strengthens us whatever change may come. When the English vicar

Henry Lyte learned his health was failing, he grappled with how to react. He'd ministered twenty-three years to his seafaring people in the fishing village of Lower Brixham, Devonshire, England. He had lived with his family in a lovely home overlooking the coast. But at age 54, he reluctantly left his dear church to travel to Italy, hoping the warmer weather would be therapeutic. He passed away during the journey, but left behind a hymn he had penned for his own comfort: "Abide with Me." The second stanza contains a line we can all adopt as our prayer: "Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me."

That prayer is based on sound theology. In Malachi 3:6, we read: "For I am the LORD, I do not change." Hebrews 1:10-12 says, "The heavens are the work of Your hands... Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail."

If God does not change, neither does His peace. Remember what Jesus told the disciples in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

His strength doesn't waver. His love for us never lessens. His purposes don't falter. God is in control, and the One who doesn't change is more than sufficient to care for us amid the things that do change. We can rest securely in that.

To the world, it's *here today and gone tomorrow*. For the believer, it's *Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). So when everything seems to be different, remember that nothing has changed.

He hasn't changed, nor can He fail. You can fully rely on Him now and always.

(This article was edited)

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Fellowship in Kentucky

Just asking. Any of you interested in joining a group on a bus to visit the Creation Museum and the ark in Northern Kentucky?



Evangelism, Discipleship and Education



The next semester for O.N.E. School starts in a couple of months. As of now the plans are to have a Discipleship class on Evangelism. Sorry, the course topic is not definite just yet. As you might guess, the course will contain some Education as well.

This next class will be unique in that it will be held for seminary credit, Bible college credit, and for the regular certificate credit.

Ministry

Hmm. We will look into this.

TIMOTHY + BARNABAS
PASTORS & WIVES RETREAT

Join us in Cincinnati!

You pour into others every day. Let us pour into you.

Join with other ministry couples from around the country to receive encouragement and instruction from Johnny Hunt and other seasoned leaders from the front lines of ministry.

APRIL 20-22, 2022
Westin Cincinnati
21 E. 5th St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202
Pastor and Wife: \$299 | Pastor Only: \$149

Register at timothybarnabas.org

Finances

As of December 31, Steel Valley has the following financial totals regarding the calendar year January to December:

Year-to-date Budget: \$70,635.00
Year-to-date Income: \$38,864.18