

# May 2018 Newsletter

## Madison Avenue Baptist Church

### May Birthdays:

1 Peggy Dunn	15 Edwin Jewell	27 Randy Outland
1 Janie Kincaid	16 Michael Saviak	27 Pat Callahan
6 Alden Pridgen	17 Carolyn Compton	29 Ralph Edwards
9 Stephen Aldrin	20 Norma Kornegay	31 Shellie Anderson
12 Roy Holloway	24 Daryl Richardson	
14 Dawn Anderson	24 Bryan Aldrin	
15 Beth Richardson	24 Spencer Gray	

### May Calendar of Events:

2 (Wed)	Covered Dish Supper at 6:00pm
3 (Thur)	National Day of Prayer – Goldsboro YMCA, 7:00pm.
6 (Sun)	Worship Service in Sanctuary
6 (Sun)	Church Council Meeting at 2:00pm.
13 (Sun)	<b>Mother's Day</b>
13 (Sun)	Baptist Men/Women Breakfast, 8:00am
14 (Mon)	Very Special People – Wilson – leave church at 9:45am.
15 (Tue)	Deacon's Meeting at 7:00pm
17 (Thur)	NABS Cover Dish at Madison Avenue Church at 12:00noon.
20 (Sun)	Dave Periconi Piano Recital in Sanctuary at 3:00pm.
28 (Mon)	Church Office closed for Memorial Day

### Pastor's article for May 2018

It's been a privilege to be your Transitional Pastor for these past eight months. Part of my responsibilities is to bring a biblical message each Sunday morning. A lot goes into sermon preparation for the preacher.

Below is an article from Thom Rainer of LifeWay entitled, Seven Ways Church Members Should Prepare for a Sermon.

What if church members began their own form of sermon preparation? For countless decades, we have heard about the role of pastors in sermon preparation. The number of hours they need to prepare. The priority of preparation. The role of prayer in sermon preparation.

But what if church members prepared for each sermon they heard? What if they believed their roles as recipients of the Word are also crucially important? I can see incredible church

revitalization taking place if church members took on their own responsibilities of sermon preparation. Here are seven ways members can actively prepare for sermons.

1. **Pray for the sermon.** For a few minutes, the church member should pray for the upcoming sermon. That prayer might take place during the week, the night before the preaching, or the morning of the preaching.
2. **Pray for the pastor who is preaching.** Pray that the pastor will understand God's message for that text. Pray that the pastor will have no distractions. Pray that God's Spirit will fill the pastor in both the preparation and delivery of the sermon.
3. **Pray for yourself as you prepare to hear the sermon.** Pray that God will speak to you through the message. Pray that you will not be distracted. Pray for clarity of mind and an open heart to receive the message.
4. **Read the biblical text before the sermon is preached.** If possible, read the text from which the pastor will preach. Read it thoroughly. Read it prayerfully.
5. **Take notes.** Take notes as the pastor preaches. You will have a greater focus and greater retention. Review the notes at least once during the next week.
6. **Seek an application to your life.** Ask God for discernment to help you understand how the sermon should change your life. Seek to understand the sermon not only in its biblical context, but in your life as well.
7. **Share with the pastor "one thing."** If possible, share with your pastor one significant takeaway from the sermon. Pastors hear countless "good job, pastor," or "nice message, pastor," but they long to know if God really made a difference in the lives of the church members through the preached word. If you are able to communicate just one takeaway from the sermon in person, by email, or in social media, your pastor will be greatly encouraged.

The preaching of God's Word is central to the life of the church. It makes sense that pastors should give it the highest priority. But doesn't it also make sense that church members should prepare as well?

*This [article originally appeared on ThomRainer.com](#) and is used with permission.*

Let's prepare together Sunday's message

Randy

**Seniors:** Please check the VSP Bulletin Board for information and signup sheets for upcoming events. Events now include:

VSP Trip to Wilson on May 14 to visit the Botanical Gardens and Whirligig Park with lunch at Parker's BBQ. Leave from church at 9:45 am.

NABS Covered Dish Luncheon on May 17, 12:00pm. at Madison Avenue Baptist Church

## The Deacon Corner

The current plans for the place for Sunday morning worship will be to hold the worship service in the sanctuary the first Sunday of each month and the remaining Sunday morning worship services during the month in the fellowship hall. This will give us the opportunity once a month to take advantage of the worshipful atmosphere of our sanctuary including the beautiful organ music that Dave Periconi always makes come alive. This meeting arrangement is not etched in stone and can be changed at any time that the church wishes to stay full time in the fellowship hall. We all enjoy the closer feeling of fellowship, good congregational singing, and the advantage of power point and other screen displays available in the fellowship hall; however, we do not want to fail to make use of a sanctuary that is so inviting and that could be made to accommodate some of these same electronic and video capabilities by growing our congregation and setting our minds to assuming the cost to gain some of the modern desirable components that are second nature in so many churches today. Certainly our worship of God is not determined by the location of worship.

We have a Pastor Search Committee at work attempting to learn from the church certain information that any prospective pastor will expect to know before even seriously considering a call as pastor. We all want the pastor that God has picked out for Madison Avenue Baptist Church. Let's all make praying for our Committee a daily priority and also praying for our church, Christ's church.

*I. K. Williamson, Diaconate Chair*

**National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 3, at Goldsboro - YMCA, 7:00pm. Pray for UNITY**

**Christian sympathy** is extended to Myra Mallard and family on the death of her Mother, and to Jewell Grantham and family on the death of Lee.