

February 2019 Newsletter

Madison Avenue Baptist Church

1703 E. Laurel Street, Goldsboro, NC 27534; 919-734-3761

February Birthdays:

2	Dorothy Allsbrook	19	Fran Periconi
4	Mildred Renfrow	23	Brook Mayo
10	Katie Lail	25	Gary Gray
11	Cassidy Morris	26	Allison Pridgen
19	Betty Edwards		

February Calendar of Events:

3 (Sun)	Church Council-2:00pm
6 (Wed)	Covered Dish Supper-6:00pm
10 (Sun)	Baptist Men and Women's Breakfast-8:00am
15 (Tue)	Deacon's Meeting-7:00pm
25 (Mon)	Very Special People Meeting-11:30am

Deacon Corner

OUR MEMBERS WITH HEALTH ISSUES

We have quite a large number of our Madison members who are experiencing health concerns that prevent them from attendance and participation with our church family the way that they would like. It is both our opportunity and responsibility first of all to pray regularly for these individuals. But in addition to our praying for them, we need to maintain contact with them whether by a visit, a phone call, or a card. By no means should we forget our members who are in care facilities. Mary Ellen Owensby has been at Brookdale on Berkeley Boulevard for the past several years. Mary Franks has been a patient at Goldsboro Assisted Living for several years. Both these individuals like very much to be remembered by our church family. We currently are offering special prayer for Elisabeth Jewell because of her difficult recovery and continued pain following her back surgery, for Mildred Renfrow who has been both hospitalized and in nursing care at Willow Creek since two week before Christmas; for Loretta Grant who is a patient at Wayne UNC Health Care and for several of our shut-ins; namely, Meredith Liles and Hilda Strider, JoAnn Tart, Faye Carawan, Penny Westover, Nina Crumpler, and Joyce and Bobby Frederick. There are others who attend services when they are able but who have difficulty with mobility, breathing, or other health issues; namely, Emily Barsh, Doris Hinnant, Carolyn Compton, Gladys Edwards, Ed Edwards, and Pat Callahan. If your name has not been mentioned here and you wish or need to be placed on our regular weekly prayer list, please call Darlene in the church office or call me and your name will be added, and you will be prayed for regularly.

For the rest of us who are blessed with reasonably good health, please let's not forget all those whose lives can be made brighter by our showing our love and concern for them in ways that really count.

PASTOR SEARCH EFFORTS

At last report, our Pastor Search Committee was involved with a prospective pastor. Please pray diligently that the continued work of our committee will soon bring to Madison just the pastor that our Lord knows is right for our church. We all owe a big thank-you and diligent prayers for the efforts of this committee.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON SEATING ARRANGEMENT FOR WORSHIP

Several members have expressed their appreciation for the change in our seating for Sunday morning worship, stating that they feel that the atmosphere for worship has definitely been enhanced. We are encouraging all of our folks who can do so to sit in the row seats rather than at the tables. There may be a few individuals who feel that sitting at a table allows them more help in getting up and down. Certainly for those who need the support of the table for getting up and down, please continue what is best for you. Our current practice allows us to use four ushers to receive the morning offerings during the service after having prayer with the pastor in the kitchen before seating themselves on the front row of seats.

CONTINUED DIFFICULTY WITH CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THOSE SPEAKING

Unfortunately clearly understanding the spoken word in the fellowship hall continues to be difficult for a number of individuals. There appears to be just enough reverberation to cause problems for understanding what is spoken. Hearing is not the problem. There is ample volume, but the sound that is amplified is distorted to a degree by the reverberation. Our deacons and our Property Committee will attempt to address this problem in an effort to determine what can be done to remedy the sound problem. We really need to hear from all those who are having difficulty understanding what is being said when a person is speaking. This is especially crucial during morning worship when Pastor Randy is preaching.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The church Bylaws Committee will soon be engaged in a major revision of the Bylaws. Purpose of the revision efforts will be to simplify significantly the standing committee structure by eliminating some, changing the organization of others, and to eliminate so much wordage in a number of places as well as restating and redefining responsibilities in quite a few areas. Once the proposed revisions are complete, the document will be presented to the church for examination and action. Please pray for the committee as this work is begun. Members of the committee are Carolyn Compton, Susan Edwards, and I. K. Williamson.

I. K. Williamson, Diaconate Chair

Memorials made during the month of December were in honor of Evelyn Reaves and in memory of her husband, Richard Reaves.

Pastor's Article for February

America has a great spiritual heritage founded and led by men and women who recognized the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the supremacy of the Bible. We celebrate two such men during the month of February - George Washington, our first President, and Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth.

George Washington was a great man of prayer and godly living. He was, and is even today, greatly respected and admired as an outstanding leader. His great leadership came from his relationship to his savior, Jesus Christ. George Washington said the following:

"While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support."

"It is impossible to rightly govern ... without God and the Bible."

"Without a humble imitation of the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed nation .. we can never hope to be a happy nation."

Abraham Lincoln was president during the darkest moments of our nation's history. Many times he made reference to God's sovereignty and to prayer. He said the following:

"It is the duty of nations .. to own [admit] their dependence upon the overruling power of God .. and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

"The only assurance of our nation's safety is to lay our foundation in morality and religion."

"But for (the Bible) we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare .. are to be found portrayed in it."

"I believe the Bible is the best gift that God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this Book."

As we celebrate the births of these two great presidents let us be reminded of our great spiritual heritage we have as Americans. Would you pray with me that God Almighty will bring a sweeping revival and spiritual awakening to our land? May we once again turn to God in the affairs of our nation, our churches, our communities, and our homes.

Pastor Randy

Your Swap-A-Book Library

The Swap-A-Book library wishes to thank the contributor of the new books. Please check out these new additions and the much-needed book case from the Grace-Winsome Classroom. (This belonged to Charlie Jean McDonald. The first three book cases were gifts from Eileen and Wade Henderson.)

Stop by and see the entire shelf of Amish-related books by several authors. You will find them interesting and enjoyable.

For mystery and detective lovers, there are titles by James Patterson, David Baldacci, Sandra Brown, Robin Cook, Tom Clancy, and others. All for the taking!

Billy Graham has a collection, along with devotional and inspirational books.

Your contributions to the library are greatly appreciated. However, you do not need to “bring a book” in order to “take a book.” Please return the book when you are finished reading.

This is a good time to clear away books you have at home that need a new reader audience. Thank you for supporting this church project.

*Phyllis Creech,
Swap-A-Book Coordinator*

Senior Adult News

At our Very Special People meeting on January 28, we heard lots of positive comments about four activities in December: Stoney Creek Baptist Church's *Night in Bethlehem; Christmas Presence* concert at Meymandi Auditorium; *Christmas by Candlelight* at First Baptist Church in Mt. Olive; and the *Boar's Head Festival* at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Kinston.

Seniors are encouraged to attend the *Senior Games Health Fair*, on Friday, February 1, from 9:30 am – 12:00, at Peggy Seegars Senior Center. Free health screenings, health information, free lunch, door prizes. Call Rob Phillips at 919-731-1589.

One event we look forward to each year is the *SeniorFest* at Chowan University. This year we hope to take a full bus on Tuesday, March 26. We will leave from the church at 7:00 am. Cost is \$15 per person and includes a great country style buffet. We might even stop by Simply Natural Creamery on the way home.

Love Memorial Baptist Church will host our spring meeting on *Neuse Association of Baptist Seniors* on Thursday, May 16. Please plan to attend. Lunch is covered dish.

Possible Activities in 2019:

Day trips to NC Lighthouses

Overnight trip to Norfolk