

MARCH/APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



1637 Holly Grove Drive, Bumpass, VA 23024 (804) 556-1138



Holly Grove Christian Church Established 1874



Our Mission

The mission of Holly Grove Christian Church is to attempt to be the eyes, ears, hands, and feet of Jesus, as we serve our community and share His love.

Bits from Bob

"Hey God!"

Have you ever asked God a question? I surely have. Questions such as: "How long?" and "When?" Events in life have caused me to ask those kinds of questions. How about you? Are things going on in your life today that have you feeling frustrated, discouraged, or anxious? Sometimes we ask God, "Where are you?"

A little boy named Jimmy was laying on a hill in the middle of a meadow on a warm spring day. As he lay there looking up at the clouds he began to think about God. "God? Are you really there?" he shouted out. To his amazement a voice came from the clouds, "Yes, Jimmy? What can I do for you?" Jimmy asked, "God, what is a million years like to you?" God responded, "A million years to me is like a minute." "Well, then, what's a million dollars like to you?" "A million dollars to me, Jimmy, is like a penny." "Wow!" remarked Jimmy. "Can I have one of your pennies?" God replied, "Sure thing Jimmy, just a minute."

In Isaiah Chapter 40 verse 28 there is a question:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom."

The Israelites asked for help in bondage and God sent Moses.

The Israelites asked God for direction and guidance and he sent them prophets and kings.

The nation of Israel asked for the Messiah to overthrow Roman Rule and He sent Jesus.

The disciples were filled with discouragement, fear, and grief over the crucifixion of Jesus and God sent them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is good to cry out to God in our time of need but hold fast in your faith with the assurance that **God Sees, God Hears, and God Knows** what we are going through. Praise God for what He has done, for what He is doing, and what He will do in the future!

God Bless!

Bobby

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Announcements

- Our next bi-monthly board meeting will be on Wednesday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.
- We are still working on the details for Easter and will know more after the Worship Committee meeting and Board meeting. Details will be confirmed in the Sunday, March 21st bulletin.
- The March/April/May "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are in the fellowship hall on the table by the door and will be available on the front porch on Sunday mornings so pick up a copy and enjoy quiet time with God.
- There are two new private Facebook pages. There is the "Holly Grove Christian Church Private Prayer & Study Group" for sharing prayer concerns, reflections and other information that we may not wish to put out to the world on the regular Facebook page and there is the "HGCC Youth Connections" group that is geared towards keeping youth and parents of youth informed and connected. Once we get youth groups going again, this will be important to that.
- We do have an Instagram page now. Look for Hgcc1873 to search for this platform.
- The Pruners Food Pantry will continue to be open on Saturdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. If you would like to volunteer, please see Dianne Montgomery or email her at dianne.montgomery1949@gmail.com. If you would like to help by giving a monetary donation to this fund, please see Dianne or you can write a check to Holly Grove Christian Church and include "Food Pantry" in the memo portion or you can give safely online. We continue to require that all volunteers and patrons wear a mask when entering the building. If a patron does not have a mask, we will provide one.
- Our Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) meets on the second Wednesday night of the month at 7:00 p.m. for study and worship. The group schedules various service projects monthly. For March, the group will send a donation to their State Spring project. In April, the group will send a monetary donation to the Goochland Free Clinic and do blessing boxes. If you would like to help with these projects or join the CWF group, please see Patricia Hicks, President if you have any questions.
- If you would like to give a monetary donation to the church, you can give at the Sunday service or safely give online via Givelify @ <https://giv.li/w063gb> or on our website @ <https://www.hollygrovechristian.com/>.
- If you would like a church t-shirt, we still have them in all sizes! They are green, with a small Christian Church, Disciples of Christ logo with holly leaves and chalice on the front left upper side and says "Follow Me to HGCC" with the church website printed on the back. They are in the fellowship hall on a bench and are \$15.00 each. There is a box to leave cash or a check to Gwen Rose.

- Be on the lookout for Andy Rose's emails with Sunday morning sermons, the Children's Worship and Wonder Program video and a mid-week video series called "The Message."
- With questions on reserving the church, fellowship hall or gazebo, please contact Byron Wilson, Vice Chairman.
- If your birthday or anniversary is not on the calendar, please let Cindy Wilson know, so you can be included and celebrated!

Wedding



Congratulations to Lauren Powers and Kevin Jackson on their marriage that took place on Saturday, February 13th. We wish the Jacksons a lifetime full of love, laughter and happiness! Lauren is the daughter of Lorrie Barnes.

Bible Studies



Pastor Bob Lane will resume the Adult Bible Study on Wednesday, March 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. He will continue the study on Acts. We will adhere to the CDC guidelines for social distancing and the area and bathrooms (if used) will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use.

Pastor Andy Rose began a "Faith Formation" class/study program for Elementary school aged Children on March 3rd. This program is offered on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., free of charge and each participant is given an age-appropriate Bible, a course booklet, and weekly lesson guides/activity sheets. The program is based off the "Shine Curriculum" which you can learn more about at <https://shinecurriculum.com/>. Each group session will involve lessons and readings from the Bible and other sources, music, activities, prayer, and time for questions. Between these sessions, activities and additional resources will be sent out for you to do together as a family. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Rose.

Calling all "artists" from ages 1-99!

As a fun and unique way to raise money for the Food Pantry we are asking you to create and donate a piece of artwork showing your interpretation of "Loving your neighbor" that will be displayed and sold, with all proceeds going to the food pantry. Kids and youth are especially encouraged to participate, but artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome! It can be a drawing, painting, mosaic, photo, sculpture, knitted item, etc. **Please submit your art by March 7th along with the artist name, age, and short description of the artwork.** You can drop it off in the fellowship hall at church, bring to the Sunday Worship service or give to Andy Rose. Once we have all the submissions, we will do an online sale/auction.

HOLLY GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

March 2021

◀ February

April ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Danny Dean – B	3 Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m.	4 Mary Britton – B	5 World Day of Prayer	6 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
7 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. Deadline for Artwork to be submitted for the Art Contest Mary Anne Barlow – B	8	9	10 Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. CWF Meeting – 7:00 p.m.	11	12 Patrick Barnes – B Rhonda Gorman – B River Harris – B	13 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Don Richardson – B
14 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins (advance your clock forward one hour) Worship Committee Meeting after the Worship Service Stephen & Janette Rose - Anniversary	15	16 Skylar Barnes – B	17 Adult Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Church Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. <u>No</u> Children's "Faith Formation" Class St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Thomas Klein – B Spring begins!
21 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. (Prayer Cross) Eddie "Mule" Hendrick – B Robbie & Kristy Trayer – Anniversary	22 Winnie Chenault – B Michael Shores – B	23 Kyle Smith – B	24 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. Ember Franklin – B	25 Dale Lipscomb – B	26 Nancy Franklin – B	27 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.
28 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. (Prayer Cross and Palm Sunday) Missions will receive our Easter Special Offering Robbie Bagby – B Elizabeth Lloyd – B	29	30 Michelle Crowder – B	31 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. Jane Harris – B Shirley Masten – B John & Shirley Masten - Anniversary	B - Birthday		



HOLLY GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April 2021						
◀ March						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 p.m.	2 Good Friday Jamie Lloyd – B Wyatt Wilson – B	3 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Lent Ends Tony & Barbara Jeanne Goolsby - Anniversary
4 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service – <u>7:00 a.m.</u> (outside) Last Day for Missions to receive our Easter Special Offering Christian Trayer – B Brooke Vincze – B	5	6 Autumn Lee – B	7 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m.	8 Mary Hicks – B	9	10 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Elsie Harris – B
11 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. Ronnie Bagby – B	12	13 Lucille Gammon – B	14 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. CWF Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Pat Harris – B Steve Montgomery – B J.D. Allison – B	15 Lloyd Hicks – B Sherrie Sommer – B Alexander & Jordin Wilson – Anniversary	16 Pete Smith – B Rhonda Welton – B	17 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Mariah Rose – B
18 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.	19 Carol Jean Smith – B	20	21 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. Porter Rudolph – B Justin & Tammie Allison - Anniversary	22 Earth Day	23 Grayton Clough – B Tom & Amy Boothe – Anniversary	24 Pruners Food Pantry Open – 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Brenda Parker – B
25 Worship Service – 10:30 a.m. Jessica Ahern – B Herbie Bagby – B Brianna Beckley – B	26	27 Matthew Bagby – B Timmy Clough – B Alex Lloyd – B	28 Bible Study – 11:00 a.m. Children's "Faith Formation" Class – 6:30 p.m. Toriana Bagby – B Doris Fox – B Cindy Wilson – B	29 Mary Alice Noel – B	30 Coltin Clough – B	B - Birthday

✝ **EASTER BLESSINGS** ✝

Brief Highlights from the Jan. 20, 2021

Board Meeting

Chairman Tammy Mayo called the meeting to order with 14 members present and Dianne Montgomery opened with prayer.

Mary Anne Barlow presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 17, 2020 through January 18th, 2021. There was \$91,958.87 in the general operating funds.

There was \$14,279.43 in receipts, \$12,248.68 in disbursements and \$10,013.43 was income from the plate. We have \$149,192.65 in CD's. The Samaritan Fund has \$2,905.38. The fund received \$100.00 and gifted \$0. The Parsonage Saving Account has \$13,293.10 and has a CD of \$25,000.00. Report was accepted.

Mary Anne Barlow presented the Cemetery Treasurer's Report dated November 18, 2020 through January 18, 2021. Current Principal Amount in CD (not to be used for upkeep) is \$26,935.00. The current amount in General Checking (to be used for general maintenance for the cemetery) is \$24,416.08. Report was accepted.

Mary Anne again raised a concern that the funds invested in CD's are earning minimal interest and suggested that we should maybe consider investing in low-risk stock. Andy Rose suggested Dominion Energy Reliability Investment Program that currently pays 1.4% interest and is risk free. After a discussion around seeking advice from a professional and planning for capital improvements, Byron Wilson agreed to arrange a call with an investment advisor.

Robert Bowman, Property Chairman presented a report on jobs completed November 2020 through January 2021 and a list of future repairs to be completed in April and May. We have received a proposal from Lloyd Hicks for grass cutting and a motion was carried to accept his proposal. There appears to be a leak in the water lines. We are currently using a bag of salt every three days due to the volume of water passing through. A plumbing company will be coming out to determine the source of the leak. Wilson Mechanical has been to the church to look at the heating system to replace it and we are waiting on a bid.

Patricia Hicks, CWF President presented a report of projects for November – January.

Byron noted that the progress toward the Sanctuary renovation project was put on hold because of the lockdown and asked whether we should continue to hold or proceed with the collection of bids to do the work. This led to a much larger discussion of current

improvements that are required and the prioritizing of such.

The projects at hand are the antiquated heating system, plumbing leaks, condition of the roof and the renovations to the Sanctuary walls, windows and audio/visual system. It was agreed that Billy Lloyd will work with a contractor to determine the condition of the roof and secure a bid for repair if required.

Robert will obtain bids for replacing the HVAC system and plumbing repairs. Byron will secure bids on the Sanctuary renovations. All bids are due at the next meeting of the Board.

There was discussion around whether we should continue to offer drive-in worship services or move the service inside the Sanctuary. It was decided to continue drive-in services until the next Board meeting. The motion was carried with two opposing votes.

Nancy Lloyd noted that she has been sending flowers to the family's home of the member who has passed away.

Rev. Bob Lane closed with prayer.

Elder and Deacon Serving List **March 7th through May 2nd**

Group I

Billy Lloyd
Nancy Lloyd
Robert Bowman
Steven Klein
Josh Lloyd
Jordan Trayer

**Group I will be serving: March 7
March 28
April 18**

Group II

Tammy Mayo
Gwen Rose
Tom Boothe
Donna Davis
Rhonda Gorman
Carrie Vincze

**Group II will be serving: March 14
April 4
April 25**

Group III

Dawn Lipscomb
Andy Rose
John Kruep
Matthew Kruep
Zach Lipscomb
Hunter Trayer

**Group III will be serving: March 21
April 11
May 2**

Andy's Corner

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

Recently, one of our congregants, asked me a question "When do children normally become curious and interested in God and the Bible?" This simple sounding question has an answer that is far from simple. It has been my observation that children, if they become interested in matters of faith and spirituality, start to seek it out anywhere from ages 4-12 give or take a few years...and that is the kicker, the big IF. Some children never become curious about it, or if they do, it often passes un-noticed. The reason for the 'if and when' I think depends on two key factors: exposure (i.e., church attendance/home worship) and a culture of curiosity and desire for knowledge in the home. The exposure piece, despite "declining" church attendance nationally, is not so much the issue as children are often exposed to some form of Christianity or faith practice, even if their immediate family are not church-goers, through their friends, media, funerals & weddings, or extended family members who attend services. The issue we find here is often not the exposure itself, but the quality of that exposure. That is a "sermon" for another day but suffice to say if you only knew about Christianity by what you saw of it on TV, you would indeed be led astray.

What I would like to talk about today is the second factor, the culture at home created by us adults.

Children are born curious, we all start out wanting, needing, seeking to learn more and more about the world around us. Any of you that have spent much time with a young child know full well the constant barrage of why, what, and how questions that seem to pour endlessly and effortlessly out of them. It is a blessing to be curious, a blessing to seek knowledge and desire to expand your horizons... it is also a blessing that sadly many people lose as they enter adulthood or find harder to maintain.

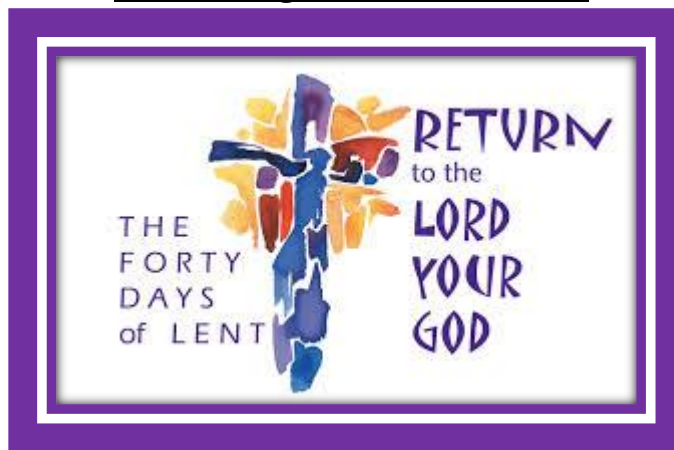
As adults we often like to think we have it all figured out and that we know why things are the way they are, and we are content with that. We become comfortable with a certain level of ignorance and a deficit of curiosity. This is not a good way to live our lives, and it is not the way God intended us to live them either. Our creator instilled in his creations a natural curiosity, especially in Humans...it is what has allowed us to go from riding horses to riding rockets into space in less than 60 years and to push the limits of art and music to exciting new places. But what about our spiritual curiosity? What kind of culture of knowledge do you cultivate in your home and in your family? Are you comfortable with asking the tough questions of God, and constantly seeking answers knowing that some answers you will never find, and acknowledging that you don't know the answer, but you are looking for it? God wants us to keep that spirit of childhood, the unquestioning faith in God's loving existence and power and the fully questioning attitude of how to serve and interact with God and each other. God expects each of us, alone and together, to ask those tough questions, to constantly search and study the scriptures and other sources for knowledge and insight. The Bible, shared in part by four major religions, is unique because it is not a "dead" book, it did not just appear one day fully formed, able to be read once and completely understood...no it is a living book, miraculous in its ability to speak to our modern issues and adapt to our changes in language even though the newest part of it is around 1800 years old. You can, and should, read the Bible over and over using Jesus' Gospel as the lens and ask yourself (and others) these things: "What does this mean?", "Is there another meaning?", "Why was this relevant in the time and context it was written, and why is it relevant now?" Beyond the Bible you should also seek out and study other resources, still using Jesus as your lens, because God and the Holy Spirit did not just stop speaking 1800 years ago. Numerous prophets, writers, thinkers, artists, and everyday people (maybe even you!) have continued this story over the last two millennia. Contemplative prayer (less talking to God, more listening to God) is also a very important way to seek out God. Be curious, be a seeker of knowledge, be like a child! Our tradition, the Disciples of Christ, held constant individual study and interpretation of scripture and divine experience as a founding principle. It's why we don't have creeds or "statements" of faith that members are required to follow and believe like other traditions; we are called to be seekers of knowledge. I would encourage each of you to make a concerted effort to be curious, to ask questions, and to study our relationship with our creator and each other both in your homes and together in groups. Show your kids that you want to explore too, it's ok to show them (and yourself) that there is much more to be learned. Also, take advantage of the studies offered by Pastor Bob, myself, and others...and if those aren't convenient or available to you...or maybe not your style, then we welcome you to form your own small group study with your friends and family in a time and place of your choosing. Whatever you do, don't let yourself be deceived and led into the "comfort" of thinking you have it all figured out, none of us do, not even Pastors.

Peace be with you always,

Andy

Cell Phone Number: 804-512-5153/Email Address: nrfarmshg@gmail.com

Something to Think About



Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. In our Christian religion during the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites itself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert and in spiritual preparation for the celebration of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. This is a time to make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs we need to repent and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth we especially need to ask God's help in dealing with. It is an incredibly special time for Christians to reflect on Jesus Christ and **ALL** He has done for us. So, what will you do this Lenten season as we journey towards the Cross?

John 3:16 says:

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Our Prayer Cross



To mark the journey of Lent, a wooden cross will be placed on the front sidewalk/porch area on Sunday, March 21st and Sunday, March 28th to be used as a Prayer Cross.

During a quiet time of silent prayer, near the beginning of the Worship service, you will hear a hammer striking. Take this time to reflect on the pain and suffering leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. As we open ourselves before God, we place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands. We pray that this will be a moving time for reflection and a powerful call to prayer.

You are invited to write your prayer requests on paper and place them on the cross. You can write them on a piece of paper at home, bring with you and place on the cross or there will also be small pieces of paper in a container near the cross that will be available for you to write on.

At the close of our Palm Sunday service, our prayer requests will be removed and burned, to symbolize releasing our needs to God and to humble ourselves before God, that without Him we are but dust and ashes.

Recent Holly Grove Happenings



The Church in the Snow (This beautiful picture was submitted by Judy Wyatt)



*Oh my stars Jordan Trayer! You are very high up! Thanks to Jordan for helping Property Chairman Robert Bowman replace the valance lighting in the Church Sanctuary.
(picture submitted by Robert Bowman)*



This is a picture taken from a very special silly video called "Welcome to Holly Grove?" from the mind of Gator Rose and Gator Film Productions. It came out on January 19th but if you have not seen it or would like to view it again, go to <https://youtu.be/X6gCmY6WTqw>. Thanks to Gator and and his dad Pastor Andy Rose. We hope you two are working on another video for us!



Look at these benches on our front porch of the church! They have been reconstructed thanks to the beautiful work of Norman and Gwen Rose!

If you should have any articles or pictures for the next newsletter, please give to Cindy Wilson or email to bccawilson@yahoo.com.