



# Muncy Baptist Church Newsletter



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### **Drawing Closer: Hope Amidst Challenges**

*with Rev. Rob Rice, Pastor*

Over my years in ministry, I've been aware that there are some phrases that I love to use in my preaching and conversation. Most of the time, I've found that when I get caught on a phrase, I tend to overuse it, and when I come to this realization, I do everything in my power to not use that phrase. When I was first preaching, my go-to phrase was, "you see." It's not overly problematic, but when you say it 20-30 times in a sermon, it gets a little annoying. A few years ago, I got hooked on the phrase, "to be honest." The goal was to exude transparency, but as Pastor Don reminded me, "I want my pastor to always be honest with me." I've tried my best to put that phrase away, but I need to use it in this article, because I feel the need to be totally transparent with you.

To be honest, the last month has been difficult for me and our church family. With the death of two beloved members of our congregation, Darla and Tom, my heart aches. I'm sure yours does, as well. It's hard to not think of these dear friends without a twinge of sorrow that they aren't with us. What makes it harder is that thinking of these two losses often opens the doors of my mind for memories of so many dear family and friends that have passed around this time over the years. It's hard not to get caught up in sorrow and sadness, and to be honest with you (sorry Pastor Don), there are moments that I wonder how I will lead our church through this challenging time.

*...continued on page 2*

But it's in these moments, that I find God giving me another go-to phrase. It's a phrase that is far more meaningful than my crutch, "you see," and far more pastoral than "to be honest." The phrase is "God is our refuge and strength." Those are the words that open Psalm 46. Unlike some other Psalms which tell us the occasion for which they are written, Psalm 46 doesn't speak to a specific time or place. It also doesn't tell us who is the author, and while there is some speculation by scholars that it was written during a threatening time during Hezekiah's ministry, that really doesn't matter.

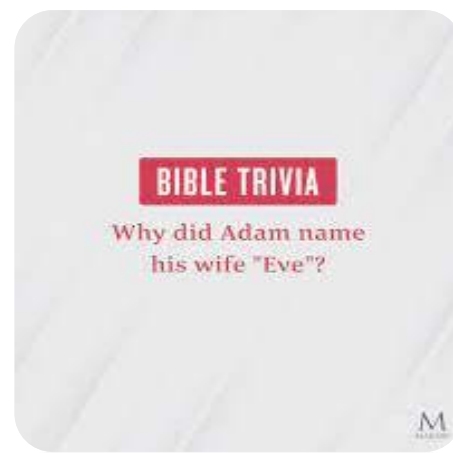
What matters instead is how the Psalm speaks to many moments in our lives, particularly the difficult ones. With the words of Psalm 46 in my mind, I am reminded that I can turn to God when life gets tough. When I feel I don't have the strength to do what He has called me to do, this Psalm reminds me that He is my strength. Later in the Psalm, there is a reminder that God is not some distant deity; instead, He is Ever-Present. Whenever I need Him, in the moment that things get tough, He is right beside me. When I weep, He is beside me weeping. When I feel overwhelmed, I can rest in His Presence. When a flurry of activity threatens to cause my anxiety to consume me, I can be still and know that He is God.

In the midst of tragedy that simple phrase has changed my life. No, it hasn't taken away my pain, and there are still moments when life is hard, but it has reminded me of a great truth, that God is with me, and even when life seems to fall apart, my God will never abandon me.

The wonderful part about this go-to phrase is that it isn't just for me. It's not just something for your pastor to quote, it's given to all of us today. I know it has been a challenging time for our church, but I pray in the midst of this challenge, we would look to God as our refuge and strength, and that as we wait in stillness for Him, we would see Him exalted and glorified in our lives and in our church!

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**Ready for some trivia?**  
**See if you know these answers *without* looking them up!**  
**The answers will be at the end of the Newsletter, on page 5.**



# A Willing Witness

## Response – Individuals to Receive Christ as Their Savior

with Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, Associate Pastor

Muncy Baptist Church

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We must encourage others to trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says:

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” Revelation 3:20*

*“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” John 1:12*

*“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” Romans 10:9-10*



This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Jesus Christ – to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ do the following:

1. Read your Bible every day to know Jesus Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about the saving grace of Christ Jesus.
4. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where God's Word is fully preached.
5. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

Use the verses found above and help others to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Do the steps above and assist the individuals you are witnessing to – to do the same and both of you will have:

PEACE WITH GOD

# God at Work

**Good News Club Supported!**  
*with Whitney Bernan*

The ladies' Soup Supper and Silent Auction on Tuesday, April 8, was a success thanks to the participation of many helpers. Twenty-four women interacted, met new people, laughed, and enjoyed a smorgasbord of soups, bread, and dessert. The women purchased one or more \$.25 tickets to bid on as many of the over 60 items as caught their interest. Donated items ranged from sea shells and a hand painted basket to dishes and handmade journals. The fun evening raised \$300 for a local Good News Club, an organized one hour weekly Christian program after school for elementary students.



# Anniversaries & Birthdays

## Anniversaries in May

Harvey & Carrie Breneisen	05/04
Sandy & Whitney Bernan	05/08
Jeffery & Rachel Powers	05/18

## Birthdays in May

Ashley Johnson	05/01
Lois Geib	05/01
Sally Dunmire	05/01
Lori Long	05/01
Denise Taylor	05/02
Paula Schwenk	05/04
Hattie Rose	05/06
Trenton Morrison	05/08
Shari Michael	05/09
Chloe Woodruff	05/13
Wyatt Parent	05/14
Lindsay Rogers	05/16
Jade Duhaime	05/19
Pam Rearick	05/20
Joe Eshenaur	05/21
Dr. Warren Fisher	05/25



**Don't see your anniversary or birthday?  
Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you!**

*Answers for Bible Trivia on page 2: Antichrist; Because she would become the "mother of all living."*