



## Snow Creek Christian Church

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September 2021

## Reflections

Between November 2020 and the middle of February 2021 there were over 100 confirmed cases of Covid-19 reported each week in our area. Over the past two weeks we have again exceeded this 100-case threshold for the first time since then. To my knowledge, these are the only two windows of time when people in our congregation have come down sick with the virus.

The University of Virginia in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Health has published a model giving a range of expected cases in the weeks between now and the end of the year. That model predicts with 95% certainty that we will remain above this 100-case threshold until at least November. Their best guess is that we will be above it until December.

What is more alarming is that this same model predicts that cases will peak somewhere between 600 and 700 cases a week in this area. The worst-case scenario that the model finds plausible would involve nearly 1,300 cases a week. To put that number in context, the peak of the winter surge occurred during the first full week of 2021 in which there were 354 cases

reported, about half of what is predicted for this fall. We are expected to be close to or surpass the winter peak within the next week and to be well past it for the next two months<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, this increase in cases will be much more heavily concentrated among a smaller population of people who have not received vaccination against the virus as statistically only a small percentage will 'break through' in those who have been vaccinated\*.

To sum up, the pandemic is poised to become worse than we have seen in our area very soon. I hope that I am being Chicken Little here and that none of this comes true, but it would seem irresponsible not to inform the congregation of the expected situation or to look for ways to avert the worst effects of it. If anyone has thoughts or suggestions for how we should go about doing so, please let me know what is on your mind.

There are a number of steps the church could take in that regard, but I would be remiss if I did not mention the vaccines. By far the most effective step that the church could take to protect its worshippers from Covid-19 is to have everyone in the building fully vaccinated

against it. Masks, social distancing, deep cleaning, or any other mitigation effort that has been employed against it have been found to be far less effective. They all have been found to help dramatically, but there is a very clear solution to being able to provide safe worship opportunities and that is the vaccine. It is misguided to discuss these other strategies without first doing all that the church can to encourage everyone who walks in our doors to be vaccinated.

The vaccines are safe. Outside of rare allergic reactions that exist with all vaccines, the only other adverse side effects that the CDC reports have been found in less than .0007% of recipients. None of these cases have been fatal out of over 367 million doses that have been administered in the US. Covid-19 on the other hand has killed well over 600,000 people in this country already<sup>3</sup>.

The vaccines work. People in Virginia who have taken any one of the three available are over 13 times less likely to contract Covid-19. When they do they get less sick. Of the 4.7 million Virginians who are vaccinated only 83 have died of a breakthrough case. This is compared to 11,842 unvaccinated fatalities<sup>2</sup>. The vaccine is not bulletproof, but it is by far more the most effective way to protect yourselves and others.

The vaccines are cheap and easy. You can get them at any pharmacy for free. The whole process should not take more than 30 minutes.

I know that there is a great deal of controversy surrounding this vaccine. I have tried to avoid

preaching on this or harping on it in worship because it is so divisive. But it would be irresponsible for me as a pastor not to make crystal clear that I am asking everyone in the church to get vaccinated. This is for two reasons and two reasons only.

One, I have seen the devastating effects of this disease. A member of my former church who I was close to has died from it. My own father had to go to the hospital with it. Most of my family and many in the congregation have been inconvenienced in all kinds of ways due to the effects that this has had on schools, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, and society in general. I do not want to see anyone else put in these situations.

Two, the only way for this to be put behind us is to get a large percentage of the population to develop immunity, either from getting the disease or getting the vaccine. Otherwise, we will keep having these surges in 2022 and beyond. Masks, lockdowns, ignoring the issue, it is clear that none of these solutions have worked to defeat this virus. More people will get sick and more people will die.

As Christians we believe in a Savior who taught us how to sacrifice out of love for others and who not only spiritually saved souls but also healed people from physical ailments. To get a shot to try and help end the pain that this will cause so many others is a small but powerful way to follow Christ's example and bless you to all who have done so. To those who have not, I urge you to do so for your own health, the health of the church, and out of love for your neighbors.

God be with you. Scott.

<sup>1</sup> For our area, I am using the data provided for the Martinsville-Henry County metro area. Projections by the VDH are made by metro area and Franklin County is lumped into the Roanoke metro area. The Martinsville data is thus much more representative of the situation in Snow Creek. You can find the charts for both here: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-data-insights/uva-covid-19-model/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-in-virginia/covid-19-cases-by-vaccination-status/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>



*Due to the high prevalence of Covid-19 in our area, this Sunday, September 5, Snow Creek Christian Church will resume drive-in worship services. We will continue with the drive-in service next week, September 12. Following that service (9/12), we will have our regularly scheduled board meeting in the picnic shelter (weather permitting) where we can further discuss the best way to move forward in providing worship opportunities that are both meaningful and safe. Everyone's feedback is welcomed and encouraged.*

*For these two weeks, we will cancel our regularly scheduled Sunday school classes. We will also not have the scheduled men's prayer breakfast on September 5. Rescheduling of any other events will be discussed at the September 12 board meeting.*

*I apologize for the short notice of this decision and any inconvenience it may cause. However, in discussion with the elders it was deemed necessary to act quickly to respond to the rapid rise of Covid-19 cases in our area. If anyone has questions about this change please feel free to contact me by email or by calling the church office (276-638-5272) or my cell phone (434-942-6063). Thank you all so much for the flexibility and grace that you have shown throughout this entire pandemic. Enjoy the rest of your week and God be with you.*

*Scott.*

## September Lectionary Readings

Sermon topic.3

Sermon topic in *italics*

September 5 (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- Psalm 125
- James 2:1-17
- *Mark 7:24-47*

September 19 (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

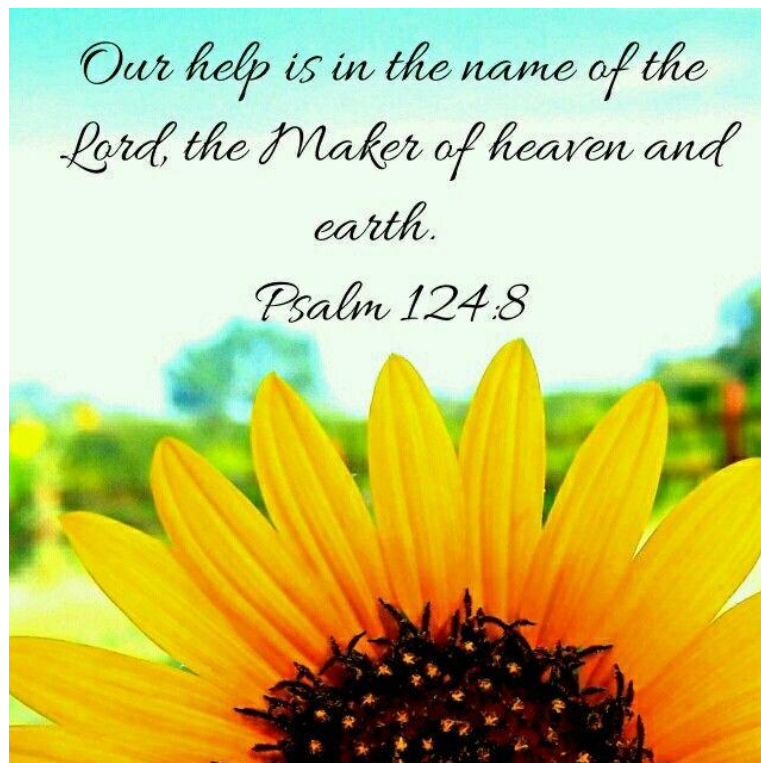
- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Psalm 1
- James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- *Mark 9:30-37*

September 12 (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Proverbs 1:20-33
- Psalm 19
- *James 3:1-12*
- Mark 8:27-38

September 26 (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

- Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22
- Psalm 124
- *James 5:13-20*
- Mark 9:38-50



# Church Board Minutes

## Snow Creek Christian Church Board Meeting

11 July 2021

G.B. called the meeting to order. Del had our opening prayer. Minutes were reviewed. Del made a motion to approve the minutes and Kay seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report-** There was no treasurer's report.

**Pastor's Report-** Scott wanted to thank everyone for their contributions in bringing the worship services back in the sanctuary. Homecoming has been scheduled for September 26 beginning at 10 AM with Bill Spangler being the guest preacher. The Spiritualaires will perform at 11:00. This will be followed by a church luncheon. Barbara made a motion to move forward with this date and Joyce seconded, motion approved. It was discussed whether the church wanted to have the meal catered or have the meal supplied by the congregation like in the past. At this time, we will move forward with everyone bringing a covered dish.

The congregation also needs to decide if we want to move forward with the Fall breakfast. This would fall on the Saturday, a week after Homecoming. Scott said that recording the in-person service to send out for those at home was becoming an issue. It takes too long to upload and he is not able to send out in a timely fashion. At this time, we will not continue recording the service, however there will be printed copies at the back of the church.

### **Committee Reports-**

**Old Business-** Krystal has been working with someone at Farm Bureau in regards to another option for the church insurance. An appraiser will be out Wednesday.

**New Business-** George has possession of the molasses mill. He said it was all to pieces and asked about scrapping. Del made a motion to scrap and Doug seconded, motion approved.

The church has a septic problem when a lot of people get together. Joyce made a motion to get the septic system serviced before Homecoming and Kay seconded, motion approved.

Kay had a sample globe she had purchased from Hobby Lobby for \$6.00. A tea light could be placed inside and they would be used inside in the church windows. Joyce made a motion to purchase 10 more and Barbara seconded the motion, motion approved.

### **Calendar of Events-**

Saturday, September 25 Preparing of the grounds

Sunday, September 26 Homecoming

Saturday, October 2 Fall Breakfast Fundraiser?? **Cancelled**

?? Community Thanksgiving Service

Scott had our closing prayer.

Meeting Adjourned. Respectively Submitted,

Susan Walker, Secretary





**In him [Jesus our Lord] and through  
faith in him we may approach God  
with freedom and confidence.**

**- Ephesians 3:12 -**



# Homecoming

The Homecoming Celebration will be at the Church, Sunday September 26. We will be celebrating the 149th anniversary of our Church. The guest speaker will be our Regional Minister of Virginia, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning. The Spiritualaires, (pictured below), will provide music for the service. A meal will follow the Service. More details will be provided regarding the meal. Our regional minister in Virginia, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, will be our guest speaker for our 2021 Homecoming celebration. The Homecoming Celebration will be at the Church, Sunday September 26. We will be celebrating the 149th anniversary of our Church. The guest speaker will be our Regional Minister of Virginia, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning. The Spiritualaires, (pictured below), will provide music for the service. A meal will follow the Service. More details will be provided regarding the meal in the future.in the future.

If changes occur with the Homecoming arrangements the Church Family will be notified By email, at the Sunday Church Services, and posts on the Church website.

## *Past Ministers-Our Roots*





Bill Spangler-Dunning is well known to many in the regional and general church as he comes to Virginia having served for the past ten years as Regional Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Upper Midwest.

Bill Spangler-Dunning served as a student minister in Midway, MO and in Frankford, KY. Following graduation from seminary he served as youth minister at First Christian Church in Glasgow, KY and in a Three-person Team Ministry at First Christian Church in Owensboro, KY. He fell in love with the gathering focus of Regional Ministry when he was allowed to serve as the West Area Youth Coordinator in Western Kentucky. This experience led to a call to become the Associate Regional Minister for Youth, Camp and Conference Center ministry in his home Region, The Christian Church in the Upper Midwest. After 8 ½ years in that role he was called to serve as Regional Minister for the past 10 years.

Spangler-Dunning brings a love of Regional Ministry and a belief that God provides enough in the community to change the world together. His approach and focus in Regional Ministry is to gather and connect the people of the region and build relationships between one another. **“I love to encourage churches and individuals to follow their passions in ministry,”** says Spangler-Dunning. Bill focuses on a permission giving/blessing in his role as Regional Minister. He further explained, **“I believe that if we are able to find our way toward real wholeness, then, as the Body of Christ, new ministries will arise.”** He calls this way of being church – Disciples Together. Bill looks forward to being “Disciples Together” with us and hearing the stories of Virginia congregations and their members as he begins ministry with us in August of 2019.

Rev. Spangler-Dunning is married to Rev. Amy Spangler-Dunning and together they have a son, Tristan Spangler-Dunning. Amy grew up in Richmond Virginia and is both an Ordained Minister (Lexington Theological Seminary) as well as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (Masters from Drake University). Tristan is a sophomore at Chapman University in Orange California. Rev. Spangler-Dunning graduated from Culver-Stockton College and obtained his MDiv at Lexington Theological Seminary.

*Bio information available from [www.deciples.org](http://www.deciples.org)*





# Spiritualaires



Let the words of  
my mouth, and  
the meditation of  
my heart, be  
acceptable in thy  
sight, O LORD,  
my strength, and  
my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14





## *In Memory of Bernice Eggleston Oakes*

Bernice Rebecca Eggleston Oakes, age 91, of Snow Creek passed away on Saturday, August 28. She was born on September 22, 1929 to the late Nannie Wingfield and Joseph Richard Eggleston.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 72 years, William Carlton Oakes; brothers, Tommy J. and Jack Eggleston, Randolph Davis; sisters, Josephine Haynes and Johnsie Wells; and granddaughter Laura Cabell Oakes.

Surviving are her son, Gerald (Anne) Oakes; daughters, Joyce (Jim) Thompson, and Cynthia (Ricki) Oakes; grandsons Adam and Brian (Maia) Thompson; and beloved great grandson, Avery Carlton Thompson; sister-in-law, Ruby Mae Oakes; numerous nieces and nephews; and two "just like" daughters, Donna and Mollie.

Bernice worked at DuPont in Martinsville for 33 years before retiring in 1985. She was also a member of the Snow Creek Christian Church. Bernice was an excellent old fashioned Southern cook and loved feeding her family and friends. Bernice enjoyed hunting and stock car racing. Bernice was blessed to be able to stay in the family home almost to the end of her life due to the devoted care of her daughter Cynthia and husband Ricki.

Due to COVID, a memorial service will be scheduled later. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Snow Creek Christian Church or charity of your choice.

*Arrangements by Flora Funeral Service and Cremation Center, Rocky Mount.*

Bernice was a long-time member of the Church and Snow Creek Community. She and Carlton were always fun to be around. Bernice had a great sense of humor and made the most hilarious comments. She was blessed to live in this great area with Carlton and her loving family for so long. She will be truly missed.

Barbara



## **LET'S CELEBRATE**



### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

7 Jimmy Doyle,  
7 Susan Norton  
8 Nancy Plybon  
9 Betty Lou Mitchell,  
9 Susan Doyle,  
9 William Stowe  
10 Jimmy Martin  
12 Kevin Doyle  
14 Phillip Coppins  
17 Michele Turner  
19 Howard Mitchell  
24 Morgan Washburn  
25 Leon Washburn  
26 Jacob Washburn  
26 Bill Oliver  
27 Andrew "Drew" Oliver  
29 Diane Arrington,  
29 Roxie Belcher

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

3 Trey Washburn  
4 Donald Belcher  
10 Ruth Davidson  
10 Russell Tilley  
10 Lucas Perdue  
13 Ricky Doyle  
16 Brian Doyle  
17 Ken Beall  
18 Jeannie Plybon  
22 Jennifer Brown  
25 Mike Doyle  
25 Max Mitchell  
28 Janet Perdue  
29 Taylor Biggs

### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

13 Donald & Roxie Belcher  
14 Terry & Tressi Mitchell  
19 Lee & Molly Mitchell  
23 Dean & Jane Arrington  
27 Eddie & Jennifer Brown

### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

24 Jimmie & Vivian Doyle  
28 Ryan & Melissa Haynes

If you have information for the newsletter on our church family, please email me at [barbsmith@b2xonline.com](mailto:barbsmith@b2xonline.com) or call me at 540 352 4535 or relay in person.

If you are currently not receiving a Newsletter by email and would like to receive one, please email me to add you to the email mailing list at [barbsmith@b2xonline.com](mailto:barbsmith@b2xonline.com).



# PSALM 1

1 Blessed is the man  
    who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
    nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
    and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3 He is like a tree  
    planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
    and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.  
4 The wicked are not so,  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the  
judgment,  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the  
righteous;  
6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

