

Pastor Notes

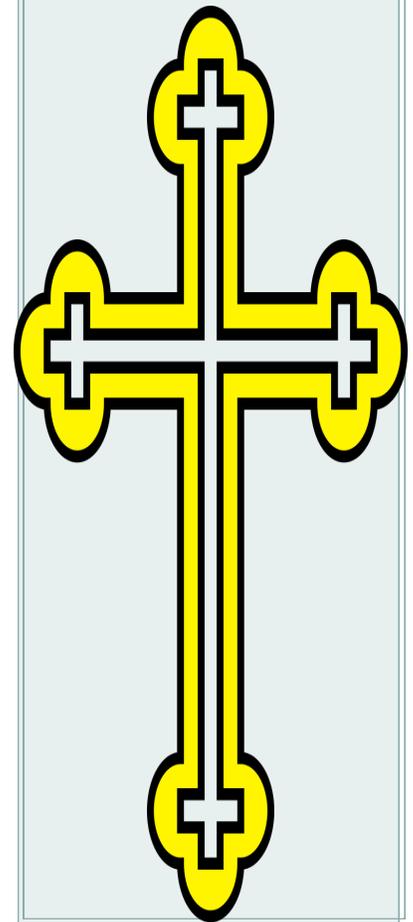
Church Matters by Jon D. Payne

Is the local church really that necessary for the Christian life? Aren't there better, more relevant ways to thrive spiritually as a Christian? It is my experience that an increasing number of believers are asking these sorts of questions.

Sadly, some doubt the importance of the church because they have been burned by unfaithful church leadership or wounded by a nasty church split. Others are tired of the hype and superficiality of consumeristic megachurches. Still others, due to a deficiency of biblical knowledge, downplay or even reject the organization, authority, and ordinances of the church.

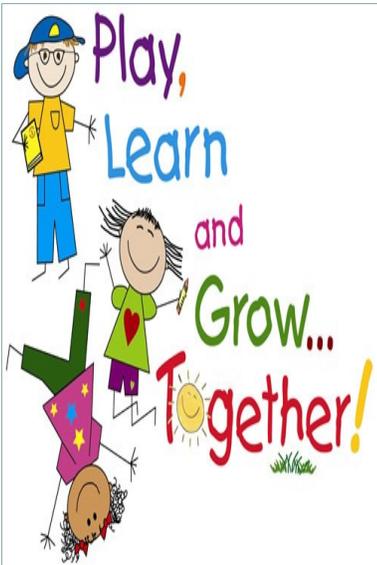
George Barna's research reveals contemporary attitudes on the matter. He writes that many evangelicals "are less interested in attending church than in being the church". He goes on to explain that a large "segment of Americans...are currently leaving churches precisely because they want more of God in their life but cannot get what they need from a local church."

This would all sound supremely spiritual if it weren't so profoundly unbiblical. The church as organism and the church as organization must be distinguished but never separated. God ordained the visible church as an organization for the gathering, protecting, and perfecting of the church as an organism – the members of the body of Christ (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:12-31). Therefore, being the church should never be divorced from being committed to a local church, we receive the divinely ordained means of grace – Word, sacraments, and prayer – from the hands of lawfully ordained ministers. Christians are never stronger in isolation from the faithful ministry of the local church. We need the church. The organized church is God's idea. The visible church is central for God's disciple making strategy (Matt. 16:18; 28:18-20; Heb. 10:19-25). Indeed, the local church plays a principal role in almost every page of the New Testament. It is through, not apart from, the ministry of the church that Christ and His benefits are efficaciously communicated to the elect and received through faith. A serious Christian, then, does not craft a mosaic or personalized spirituality outside the church. No, true faith believes Christ's promise to feed His sheep through the faithful ministry of a biblical church.



OUR STAFF

- Pastor Ted Williams
540-223-1565
- Cat Harlan
Administrative Assistant
540-832-3269
- Janice Franklin
Sexton



YOUTH & CHILDREN WORSHIP

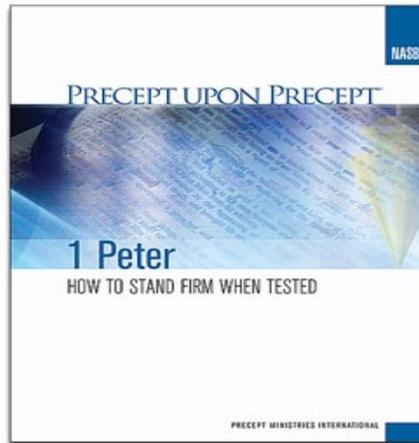
Children & Youth Activities

Monday Evenings 6:00pm

Mission Friends — 3 thru 5 years old

Children In Action — 1st thru 5th Grade

Youth — 6th Grade thru 12th Grade



Precept Bible Study

Tuesdays

12:30pm & 6:30pm

SERVICES OFFERED

**SUNDAY
CONTEMPORARY
SERVICE
8:30A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:50A.M.**

**TRADITIONAL SERVICE
10:55A.M.**

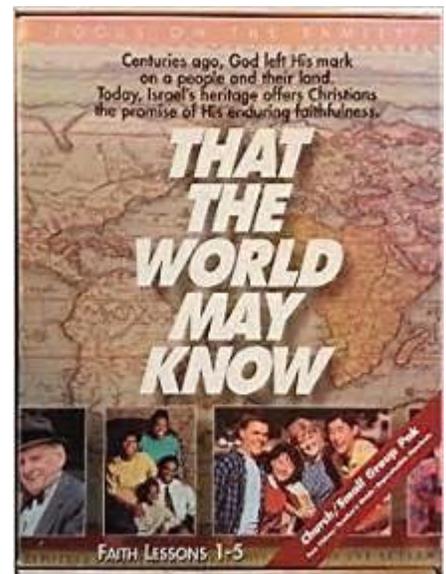
**MONDAY
MISSION FRIENDS
CHILDREN IN ACTION
YOUTH
6:00PM**

**TUESDAY
PRECEPT BIBLE STUDY
12:30PM & 6:30PM**

**WEDNESDAY
BIBLE STUDY
7:00PM**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING
PRAYER AND BIBLE
STUDY 7:00 PM**

**THAT THE WORLD MAY
KNOW VIDEO SERIES**



What is detailed in the book of Acts is not an individualistic approach to spirituality, but a clear devotion to the life and ministry to the visual church (Acts 2:42; 20:28). The Bible everywhere assumes that believers will be vitally connected to the church. The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper powerfully reinforce the Christian's union and communion with Christ and fellow believers. Not only is it God's purpose for us to mature under the shepherding care and faithful ministry of the church, but also to build one another up in love. We need pastoral care and the soul nourishing means of grace. We also need each other. Make no mistake about it – church matters.

Blessings, Charlene & Pastor Ted



Save the Date



VectorStock File ID No. 404723

*Ladies & Girls Luncheon
March 17 10-11:30am
Guest Speaker from SARA.*



Our Newsletter's purpose is to inform everyone of what will happen in our church for that particular month. On occasion there will be news from Goshen or other happenings in our community. All committee chairpersons are asked to submit their information by the 15th of the month. Thank you for helping me to "Get the Word Out".

Blessings,
Cat Harlan

Sunday School

January Totals

January 7 ~ 50

January 14 ~ 61

January 21 ~ 67

January 28 ~ 68

Budget

January Totals

Weekly: \$3703.27

Jan. 7 ~ 2728.50

Jan. 14 ~ 3080.00

Jan. 21 ~ 2944.00

Jan. 28 ~ 3504.50

Building Fund

January Totals

Jan. 7 ~ 2070.00

Jan. 14 ~ 100.00

Jan. 21 ~ 70.00

Jan. 28 ~ 150.00

On March 3rd, the volunteers who have been praying for the Goshen Association and its future will meet at the Ministry Center for a time of fellowship and sharing. I ask that you be in prayer for these people in our churches who have given of their time to seek out a Word from our Lord about the Goshen. We did not give them a complex task, nor one that was easily done. We asked them to enter into a conversation with the Lord and to hear from Him; His hopes and plans for our churches, ministries and people. For their willingness to do this, I am very grateful and hope that you, their church families, will thank them as well.

The leader for our meeting on March 3rd is Steve Allsbrook, who recently retired as the Director of Missions from the Dover Association. He asks that we as the Goshen, and particularly those personally involved with the prayer groups hold him up in prayer as he comes to lead our discussions. He, in turn, is praying for each of those who have committed themselves to this work. Our expectation for all this, is to hear from our God and hearing to better know the directions and paths we are to follow.

At our Fall Meeting in October a report will be shared with the results of the months of prayer. Until that time, please remember the Goshen, our prayer warriors and those involved in seeking for the will of the Lord in your prayer times. We expect great things in God's Name from these efforts.



Important Meetings in March

March 1 — Coordinating Council — 7pm

March 7 — Church Business Meeting — 7pm

Men's Breakfast

**2nd Saturday of the
month.**

March 10 7am

**Come hungry and ready for
fellowship!**



Whoo-Hoo!



**YOU'RE ONLY
AS OLD AS
YOU REMEMBER
YOU ARE**

Ladies Night Out

March 23

6:00pm

Tavern on the Green

Spring Creek

**MECHANICSVILLE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Our Mission: to equip every member of our church to lovingly and effectively reach our community and world for Christ.

Our Vision: To love one another in times of joy, grief, and temptation; sharing everywhere the Christian faith expressed in the Holy Spirit, and making this faith evident in our individual lives through the discipline of the Holy Spirit.



Happy Spring

**Mechanicsville Baptist
Church**

**10200 Louisa Road
Gordonsville, Va. 22942**

**mecbap2@gmail.com
www.mechbaptist.org**

**Office Hours
Tues., Thurs., Fri.
9am—2pm**

