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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anthony Nelson

Michael Watson Sr.

2020 Giving Back to God

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Budget Received	Heart for the House Received
Nov 22	91	50	\$4,295.53	\$653.00
Nov 29	81	50	\$6,356.14	\$367.13
Dec 6	139	55	\$10,430.45	\$1,282.37
Dec 13	91	55	\$5,743.00	\$723.39

YTD 2020 Received (Budget): \$401,455.91
 2020 Budgeted to date \$540,116.50
 YTD 2020 Received (Heart for the House): \$35,345.74



January 2021

Volume 64, Issue 12

A NEW YEAR

The year that we have left behind is one that we would all like to forget for many reasons. There have been trials and tribulations for all, and for some, those have been extreme. A year such as that can cause a great deal of trepidation for the year to come. A sense of foreboding can overtake the heart and mind and rob one of the hope and joy we have as a result of our salvation. That same foreboding can rob us of our hope and joy in a new day and a new year.

So how can we combat this loss of hope and joy? How can we begin a new year without allowing the past year to overshadow the new? Well, two passages immediately come to my mind and provide me with hope and joy in the midst of trying times. The first is Lamentations 3:22-24 which reads, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'" The second is Colossians 3:1-2 which reads, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

These two passages remind us of where and in whom we should seek our hope and joy. The first reminds us that God's love and mercy is steadfast and eternal, that His mercy is available every day and that our hope is in Him. The second reminds us that we should set our minds on and seek, or focus on, Christ and His kingdom to come. Both passages remind us that God is sufficient even in the seemingly impossible days.

Therefore, let us begin this new year with the hope and joy of our salvation in Christ Jesus! Let us begin this new year in the recognition that God's mercy is sufficient no matter the circumstances! Let us begin this new year with our eyes fixed firmly on the Kingdom to come! Let us allow the hope we have in Christ Jesus to reign in our hearts and minds and give wings to our commitment as ambassadors for Christ! May our hope and joy be contagious to each other, our community and beyond! May Christ be exalted, souls saved, and lives changed forever!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
 Pastor Bryan

Happy New Year!

2021 is finally here!

A fresh year brings a fresh start in so many ways. Perhaps you've made your annual resolutions. And with a proven vaccine, we near the end of this pandemic. PTL! And what does God have in store for West Hampton Baptist Church for this new year? For sure, things will happen that we have not even thought of. But **whatever** comes, we can trust Him through it!

This is a great time to take a spiritual inventory of that person in the mirror. More than just a resolution, will you make a commitment to walk with Jesus closer than ever before? Start everyday in His Word. Think of Him throughout the day. Be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The Song Continues

Though our methods of doing Music Ministry and Worship have changed, **HE** will never change! His "song" of John 3:16 is still being "sung" around our community and the world. So...what will you do with Jesus this year? Is He packed away with your Christmas décor until next December or is He free to direct your life through 2021 and beyond? Listen. He is knocking at your door.

In Him,
 Craig Hughes



Reflections on Truth, Our Call to Be Good Stewards, and Our Search for a Senior Pastor

Dear Church Family,

Don't we serve an amazing God? Certainly we could not have imagined, twelve months ago, what this past year would hold. But, oh the God who has held each of us in His hands this past year! We could not have imagined the fear and death that would ravage our world. But, oh the God who calms all fear and conquered death and the grave! Never could we have imagined the overwhelming change to our daily lives. But, oh the God who never changes!

Friends, if you could somehow bottle up, catalogue or encapsulate this past year into some digestible description, with all its difficulty and loss, the sheer magnitude of that hopelessness is nothing. Truly, church, it is nothing. Because absolutely nothing compares to the Glory of our Lord! Our God is so much bigger than anything we can imagine, even our darkest days fade away in comparison to who He is!

Think about that for just a moment. Just try to feel, for one moment, all that this pandemic has meant to you for nearly 12 months. I imagine that might be a heavy weight for some. It includes illness, loneliness, loss, long recovery, isolation, confusion, fear, frustration, maybe even anger. But don't linger there too long. Instead, clear your mind and make some room for the vastness of your Lord. He won't fit – He can't. His power is bigger than our minds can comprehend. His care for every detail of our existence is larger than we can imagine. His ability to know, intimately, our every concern is limitless. This year did not come as a surprise to Him. It was not more ugly than He could handle. And it does not consume His thoughts or detract from His goodness. God wins. Every time.

It is impossible to find any verifiable statistics about how a world-wide pandemic has affected churches in the past. It is especially hard to find any statistics about how churches searching for a new pastor have fared in the midst of a pandemic. We are living in a bit of an unprecedented time, you might agree. But I did find some pretty amazing data about one church in particular: ours.

For a church 75+ years set in its ways, we've experienced a willingness to change the way things have always been done in a way that might knock your socks off.

In a world climate that could easily have stopped a church dead in its tracks, we've experienced a dedication of financial and immeasurable volunteer resources to create an online presence that brings in hundreds of online worshipers each week.

Instead of sitting back and waiting for people to comfortably return for in person worship, our leadership had the foresight and our members had the dedication to work on major improvements to make the grounds more welcoming.

Rather than admitting defeat for our largest annual ministry, Fall Fest and Brunswick Stew, our members worked together to devise a safe plan to successfully turn this ministry into one that was almost 100% outwardly focused to our community.

As our membership craved deeper digging into Bible study and discipleship, we broke from convention and created an online friendly Sunday School experience that has seen active and meaningful participation and spiritual growth.

Happy New Year! from the WMU

Please continue to be in prayer with the start of this New Year for all of our Missionaries as the world continues to be ever changing due to the coronavirus. Many of our mission groups here at West Hampton are continuing to focus on their missions while working with the current guidelines set before us. We did enjoy the Mission Study in December and are looking forward to having our planned Mexican luncheon in the future. Please be in prayer for our WMU in the coming year and pray for our ability to return to doing our work for the Lord.

Serving Him,

Nicki Jarrard

WMU Director

WMU COUNCIL: Breakfast & Meeting
January 2 @ 9:00am @ Eula Park's

WOMEN ON MISSION MEETINGS FOR JANUARY:

Quilting	Tuesday	Jan. 12	@ Church	9:00 am
Scrapbook	Saturday	Jan. 16	@ Church	9:00 am
Sisters by Heart	Monday	Jan. 18	@ Church (FH)	6:00 pm
Quilting	Saturday	Jan. 23	@ Church	9:00 am

LOOKING AHEAD...

- February 7 Souper Bowl of Caring Food Collection
- February 14 Church-wide Mission Lunch @ 12:00pm



DATE CHANGE:

The Women's Spring Retreat in Surry, Virginia has been postponed, and is it is now scheduled for October 22-24 of 2021.

Church-wide Mission Involvement:

Items for "A Nights Welcome" breakfast bags

- * Individual packaged Cereal or Fruit bars
- * Pop tarts
- * fruit cups
- * Boxed raisins
- * individual packaged nuts
- * Juice boxes or pouches





JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Deaf Church Potluck lunch 12 noon Church Council 2:00pm	4	5	6	7	1 New Years Day! Church Office Closed	2 WMU Council Meeting @ Eula Parks 9:00 am
10	11	12 Staff Anniversary Debbie Ford 17 yrs. Quilting Ministry 9am	13 Finance Committee Mtg. 6:00pm	14	15 Scrapbook Ministry 2:00pm	16 Scrapbook Ministry 9:00am
17 WHBC Members Business Meeting 11:30am	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	19 "A Nights Welcome" Dinner	20 "A Nights Welcome" Breakfast	21	22	23 Quilting Ministry 9am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

(Continued)

Because prayer isn't just something we talk about doing, but something that West Hampton makes a priority, we have not forgone the opportunity to come together and collectively make our requests known to God, interceding on behalf of those who need His provision.

As an alternative to large group ministry activity, something our church has long been known for, leadership innovatively created opportunities for all willing members to minister to the homeless in their own personal spheres of influence.

Some might imagine that when a church has to shut its doors for more than a month, and re-open to only a small fraction of its previous attendance, that giving would suffer. Quite the opposite was seen as our faithful stewards maintained giving comparable to the gifts received in the prior year.

And, when so often, successful worship is measured only by attendance metrics, our online and in-person worship services have provided an invaluable means of connection with one another as we offer praise to an audience of ONE – our Immeasurable God!

Statistically speaking, a church without a permanent senior pastor at the head for more than a year, should not be thriving. But this is not our church. It is God's. And He has great plans for West Hampton Baptist Church. He graciously sent Bryan Breland for "such a time as this" and we have experienced his unwavering commitment to serve alongside us, pandemic and all, for as long as our church requires an interim pastor.

My dear church family, sometimes updates need only be reminders of the truth we already know. God is good. His is all things for all times and He is always near. Please be encouraged that those serving on your Pastor Search Committee are diligently doing the job you called us to do and that it is your incredible faithfulness that allows us to do the job in a manner than brings glory to God. We remain grateful for your patience and your prayers.

Sincerely,

Carrie Rae Wiser
 Chairperson, Pastor Search Committee

Sign up for 2021 Sunday Flowers

If you would like to donate Sunday flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, or to recognize a time of celebration, reserve the date on the 2021 signup sheet in the brick hallway on the bulletin board.
 Or you may call the church office.

DEACONS MEETING
SATURDAY, JAN. 9
@ 8:30AM,
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

CHURCH MEMBERS
BUSINESS
MEETING
SUNDAY, JAN. 17
@ 11:30AM
SANCTUARY