

The Beacon



The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Romans 13:12

May 2021

My Mother's Vineyard

The safest place I have ever rested was in my mother's arms. Initially, the nurse gently laid me there that warm August evening. A little package Mom immediately unwrapped with the attendant's departure. As every new mother does, mine examined me for any imperfections. Passing her inspection, we spent time bonding. Little did I realize how blessed I was to enter this family tree.

My mother. Accomplished, poised, sensitive, and profoundly wise. An outstanding instructor to educate her brood. She prepared me for every stage of life I would encounter. Loved me, defended me, corrected me, and challenged me. Not a single lesson wasted, though I couldn't fully appreciate this until exiting childhood. Without her sacrifices, I wouldn't be here. No breath drawn without hers first, for she gave me my very life.

Ezekiel captured the deepest, hidden role of all mothers. He incorporates genetics, but more importantly, the influence a mother has on her children spanning their entire lives. "Thy mother is like a vine in thy blood, planted by the waters..." Ezekiel 19:10a

A vine in our blood. Shared DNA, but also the ability to stretch and wind her tendrils around the inexperienced for support. She literally becomes our ladder. Being planted herself by the waters indicates her nourishment is from an alternate source. The scene becomes spiritual. She draws from the Giver of Life, the True Vine, and imparts this sustenance to us. A spiritual umbilical cord. Her life, in our lives—influencing and causing us to thrive.

God wove His mothering heart deep into the hearts of our mothers. She comforts, listens intently, doesn't grow weary of the daily cares and demands placed upon her. She is designed for this load. She's our doctor, cheerleader, therapist, chef, teacher, life coach, and mentor. She is the one we run to first when injured or hungry; wearing the uniform of the Good Samaritan.

Mothers are often faced with difficult assignments concerning their children. Dark threads must be woven into the fabric to amplify the beauty of bright pastels. God thoughtfully gave us several biblical heroines to guide mothers in the difficult

seasons they would surely encounter.

Jochebed had a son she was unable to raise herself through no fault of her own. Her lastborn babe and apple of her eye threatened an insecure Pharaoh. God, however, needed a deliverer for His people. In her last effort to save his tender life, she released him into the unknown, tearing her life in two. "But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it, and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile." Exodus 2:3

A crying, tasty appetizer for crocodile-infested waters bobbed in an ark along its surface. Hers was no easy choice, with a part of her heart walking around outside of her body for four decades. It is here we see her faith in God sparkle. Releasing Moses into his destiny launched one of the most powerful weapons known to man. "The praying mother." If you are blessed with one, then you already know. These "soldiers" are a force to be reckoned with. They keep praying when others stop. Will fast when others won't. Will stand up when others sit down. How many lives abruptly turned around followed by the remark, "Well, I had a prayin' mama." These strategists are doubled in power if the grandmother's involved.

"For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well." 2 Timothy 1:5

The apostle Paul understood the spiritual heritage of the maternal vine that reaches deeply into subsequent generations. Implanted faith from praying women who understand the secret things of God. These silent warriors activate the "Moses" in us, that we might do greater exploits for God's kingdom, offering prayers with proven results.

Like Ezekiel and Paul, I recognize the contribution my mother and grandmother gifted me. Mom paved my way to be born a second time into the Kingdom of God. Her personal legacy was to plant goodness and mercy into the lives of her children, thus fertilizing the branches of our family tree.

God eternally keeps His promise to my precious mother, by richly blessing my life and posterity. Though no longer here with us, Mom powerfully lives on, through me.

~Susan Watkins

<https://www1.cbn.com/>





**Pastor Dave's
Message
for the
Month**

Let's face it, our world is in turmoil. There is great unrest in our nation. Evil is being glorified and good is being vilified. The cost of everything is going up. Christian persecution is increasing. The Word of God is continually being attacked. I could go on and on, but I won't. I think you get my point.

It seems to be harder to live as a Christian in the world today because of all this turmoil. Some Christians are living in fear. Some are turning away from their faith. Some are worried about what will happen in the future. But let me encourage you. There is no need to live in fear or worry because God is still on the throne and He is sovereign.

Colossians 1:16-17 say "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Paul reminds us that Jesus created it all, and He existed before it was all created. Therefore, He is the eternal God. It is the eternal God, Jesus, who holds it all together. So, when it seems like the world is falling apart, just remember that God is still in control and He holds it all together. Therefore, there is no need to live in fear or worry of the unknow.

For His glory,

Pastor Dave

**Building
Loan Balance**
(as of 04/10/2021)
\$ 420,946



Tuesday, May 4th ~ 6:45p
Join us this month as we start a
New Study: 'Job' by Lisa Harper
We'll meet in the Family Life Center
(Please wear a mask)

Baptist Women News

•Ladies, we are having a "Girl's Night Out" on Friday, May 21st, 6:30p at "The Country Club Steakhouse (Chub Lake)" in Roxboro. If you'd like to go, there is a sign up sheet in the Welcome Center through May 16th.

In Remembrance of Memorial Day
And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations... Exodus 12:14

We often make the trip to our lake cottage in Indiana over the Memorial Day weekend to "open up the place." It's a family tradition that dates back to around 1910. And if things follow their normal course, I'll take Mother, who still lives in my birthplace, Montpelier, Ohio, out to Riverside Cemetery where we'll place flowers on the graves of our loved ones. Homegrown flowers—peonies and irises—were the bouquets of choice when I was growing up, because they usually came into bloom about this time of year.

At my father's grave, Mama will point to the vacant space next to his, and remind me again that that is where she will be laid to rest. She won't say it forebodingly—her Christian faith is too strong for that—but matter-of-factly. I think she wants to prepare me. I'm prepared. Only a few yards to the east are some plots reserved for my family.

Not long ago I stopped in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, and visited a cemetery said to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. There, three young women—Emma Hunter, Sophie Keller and Elizabeth Myers—began the custom of decorating soldiers' graves in 1864, while the Civil War was still being



Monday, May 17th ~ 7:00p
(3rd Monday of each month)

"The Bondage Breaker"

Overcoming: Negative Thoughts, Irrational Feelings, Habitual Sins

"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Proverbs 27:17

Baptist Men News

Our 14th Annual **Golf Tournament** will be May 15th. Mark your calendars and make plans now to join us! Sign up sheet is in the Welcome Center.



New Member

Vann Ellis
(by statement)



Congratulations to...

Casey and Courtney Martin on the birth of their daughter, Caroline Winn Martin, on April 6th. And congratulations to Craig and Janice Watson on the birth of their granddaughter.

fought. They wanted to recognize the contributions of villagers who had paid the ultimate price, and they did it with what was at hand, some homegrown flowers.

The idea of decorating graves caught on, and today, because of the thoughtfulness of Emma, Sophie and Elizabeth, millions of people across the nation this Memorial Day will remember with deep affection those whose lives once touched theirs.

Teach us, Lord, the best way to pay an unpayable debt is to show with our lives that we didn't forget.

<https://www.guideposts.org/>

MAY 2021

BIRTHDAYS & EVENTS

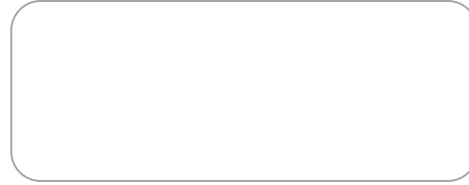
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Family Worship Service 9a & 11a Sunday School 10:15a Deacons Mtg 7p <i>Luke Gillie</i> <i>Molly Huff</i>	3	4 Women's Bible Study 6:45p	5	6 <i>Alyssa O'Briant</i> <i>Seth Pryor</i>	7	8
9  Family Worship Service 9a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10:15a <i>Jean Tilley</i>	10	11 <i>Gage Capel</i> <i>Teresa Ellis</i>	12 Missions Night 7p <i>Kaye Dills</i> <i>Jamie Gillie</i>	13 <i>Whitney O'Briant</i>	14 <i>Ashley Chandler</i>	15 Golf Tournament 8:00a <i>Laura Pryor</i>
16 Family Worship Service 9a & 11a Sunday School 10:15a Business Mtg 5:30p <i>Matthew Dew</i> <i>Shane Oakley</i>	17 Men of Iron 7p	18 <i>Jason Humphries</i>	19	20 <i>Kayleigh McKenzie</i>	21 <i>Gail Bowen</i> <i>Robbie Coates</i>	22 <i>Jedediah Hilton</i> <i>Otha Taylor</i>
23 Family Worship Service 9a & 11a Sunday School 10:15a <i>Kathy Grinstead</i>	24 <i>Garry Compton</i>	25	26 <i>Matthew Fuller</i> <i>Doris Gresham</i> <i>Ray Moore</i> <i>Karsyn Yow</i>	27	28	29
30 Family Worship Service 9a & 11a Sunday Sch. 10:15a <i>Kathy Grinstead</i>	31  <i>Brenda Sharp</i>	Memory Verse “And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:17 (ESV)				



RED MOUNTAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH
P.O. Box 103
ROUEMONT, NC 27572
919-477-3657
www.redmountainbaptist.com



Rev. Dave Pryor - Pastor
Rev. Cameron Lewis - Youth Pastor
Address Correction Requested



Melodies from the Heart

Del Bates

A cherished song can be a whisper from the Lord. Have you ever heard a song that brought you back to a certain moment in time? For me, it's *Ave Maria*. It was one my mom's favorites; it will always remind me of her.

One of my fondest memories is when she was in the hospital after she fell and broke her hip. After multiple surgeries, she ended up on a respirator for about a week. She began to regain her consciousness and was moved out of ICU. My brother Tony and I followed her into her new room.

Once her nurses left the room, Tony started to sing *Ave Maria* to Mom. As his tender, yet powerful voice reached the notes as only he could do, tears trickled down my face as mom acknowledged his presence.

When I went to the bathroom to dry my eyes, I was surprised to see one of the housekeepers standing there. With tears welling up, she mumbled, "Who—who is that singing? His voice, ...it's so beautiful."

I told her that it was my younger brother Tony. As she continued to wipe her eyes, she said, "God knew that I needed to hear him today. I'm not usually on this floor," she informed me, "but my supervisor sent me up here to clean *this* room today."

You see, Beloved, when we exercise the gifts that God places within us, He touches people we may never know. Tony had no idea that he was ministering to one of the gals in the hospital. He just did what was natural to him.

Sometimes we think we are not qualified to do what God has called us to do. But whether it's speaking or singing or teaching, or whatever He has called us to do, either to a crowd of thousands or to an audience of one, He just wants us to respond and He will do the rest.

Let us catch a glimpse of this from 1 Samuel. The Lord was calling the young boy Samuel, "*Then the Lord called Samuel*. And the boy answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening" 1 Samuel 3:10 NIV. But backing up just a few verses, we read that Samuel heard the voice three different times. He thought it was the prophet, Eli who was calling him. When he approached Eli, Eli answered that it was not

him, and he told Samuel to go back and lie down.

I love verse eight when Samuel hears the voice the third time and approached Eli; listen to what happens: "A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me' Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So, Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.' So, Samuel went and lay down in his place." 1 Samuel 3:8-9 NIV

Is He calling you? Has God given a special gift to you and has He been calling you to use it for His glory?

Just as my brother was gifted with a voice to sing, God has placed a special gift inside of you too. So, as the Lord called Samuel, He calls you. He calls me. The question is, how will we respond to His calling?

Think about it. Is there something that He is asking you to do? If so, then let us respond today as young Samuel did, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

<https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/>



"For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all

the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness." Romans 12: 3-8

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Peter 4:10-11

"...But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another." 1 Corinthians 7:7b