



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The Messenger

October 2026

Something To Think About



“LEAVING THE LIGHT ON”

For years, Tom Bodett told us that Motel 6 would “leave a light on for you.” Most Halloween trick-or-treaters know that you don’t go up to a house and ask for candy unless the owners of the house have left a light on. When our son Justin worked for a catering company and would return home from a job early in the morning, we always made sure that there was a light on for him when he got home.

Leaving a light on is a well-known sign of welcome, but it is also a sign of preparation. If you pull up to a house and don’t see lights on, you assume that the owners of the home are not expecting company and are likely not prepared to receive guests. Leaving a light on is a sign that others are welcome, and that we are ready to receive you.

As a church, we often think about being welcoming to guests. We try to make sure that our building is inviting and accessible, that new people can find their way around easily, and that they find their time with us inspirational and enjoyable. However, sometimes I think we need to remember that being welcoming is not just a matter of what our guests need. It is also a question of whether or not we are prepared to receive them.

Carey Nieuwhof, a pastor and examiner of church and cultural trends, wrote in a recent blog post that studies are indicating that it currently takes 12-15 interactions with a congregation – personal invitation, reading a devotional, receiving a prayer, watching a livestream, attending an event, etc. – before someone feels comfortable visiting a church. In other words, if congregations assume that one visit or one call or one event is going to be enough to convince someone to connect to our church, we are probably going to wonder why nobody comes to all these churches that describe themselves as “welcoming”. The point is not to be pushy or to badger people to come to church. Instead, we have to realize that welcoming is a calling that falls to us all. Hospitality, friendliness, helpfulness, grace,

mercy – these are not the responsibilities of just certain teams or groups in a church. Any of us, all of us, can and probably will be a touchpoint that determines whether someone chooses to make Melrose Baptist Church their community of faith.

In October, we will be turning the lights on for a lot of people. From Homecoming to hosting Family Promise to providing our annual Fall Festival, there are so many ways we are inviting people to connect with us and join us in the calling of sharing the love of Christ with our community through worship, fellowship, discipleship, and missions. Whether or not someone feels drawn or invited is not just a matter of how beautifully decorated the hallways are or how much candy they get. The more important touch points are whether they experience kindness from the person in the parking lot and whether they feel the person at the table with them truly listens to them and whether the pastor or the deacon is willing to pray for and with them in a time of struggle. “Leaving the light on” means we all have to be ready to receive someone, at any point. Let’s get ready!

- Pastor Mark

Homecoming

— WELCOME HOME TO MELROSE BAPTIST CHURCH —

YOUTH GROUP REUNION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2 AT 7 PM
DINNER AT MACADOS AT TANGLEWOOD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 FROM 11 AM-5 PM
MELROSE FELLOWSHIP HALL
LUNCH AT 1 PM
PICTURES AT 3 PM

PLEASE BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT TO SHARE FOR LUNCH ON SATURDAY.

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

STARTING WITH A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM
WE WILL BE WELCOMING REV. LARRY SPROUSE BACK TO THE PULPIT

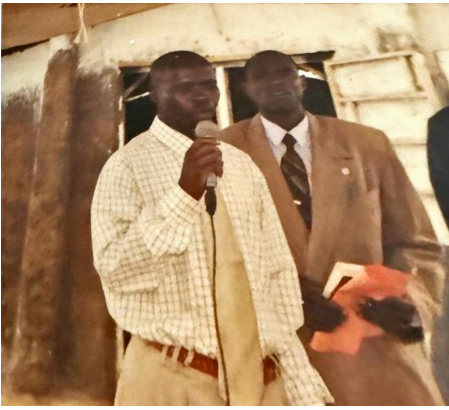
AFTER WORSHIP PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL HOMECOMING LUNCH
IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL. PLEASE BRING A DESSERT OR FRUIT
TO SHARE FOR LUNCH ON SATURDAY.

WE ARE REQUESTING THAT YOU PLEASE RSVP FOR HOMECOMING BY
CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 540-366-6631.



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

A HOMECOMING OF THEIR OWN: THE TESTIMONY OF THE LIFE AND CALLING TO MINISTRY OF REV. MISSIONARY KIGAZI KASINGA TRICE



My name is Rev. Missionary KIGAZI KASINGA Trice. I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Africa. Today, I would like to share with you my physical and spiritual life journey.

I was born into a family of nine (9) children, and I am the second-born in our family. My father was a businessman and also a pastor of a church called Bahai. That church originated in India. Both of my parents, my father and my mother, have passed away and are no longer with us in this world. When my father died, the Bahai church he was pastoring had no one to replace him as pastor, and the entire church eventually scattered. After the church was left without a pastor, I found myself becoming a member and believer in a Pentecostal church, which today is known as CEPAC /C.E.P.A.C. Instead of simply remaining a member of the Pentecostal church, I believed in Jesus Christ, received Him as the Lord and Savior of my life, and was baptized by immersion in water.

Back in Africa, I was a businessman. I sold goods in a store and exchanged both foreign and local currencies. Then, in 2005, war broke out in the country, and we fled to Uganda, where we came to live in a refugee camp. We had to begin a new life.

MY PASTORAL MINISTRY

When I arrived in Uganda and settled in the refugee camp, God called me to pastoral ministry. One day, while I was sleeping, I had a dream in which I saw a man sending me to the field. After the dream, I woke up in the morning and went to the field to cultivate the land in order to find food for my family, because there was a great deal of hunger and suffering in the refugee camp. Life was extremely difficult.

Another day, while I was sleeping, I heard a voice speaking to me, saying: "Come to the field." Early the next morning, I took action and went to an elderly man who was a pastor. I asked him about what I had experienced, and he told me: "God is calling you to His work." While I was in the field cultivating the land, I heard the same voice again. I came to understand that it was truly God who was calling me to do His work.

After that, I went and shared this vision with about five (5) families. I told them: "Let us begin the work of God." We prayed for three (3) days without eating or drinking. When we finished praying, we started the church under a large tree. We sat on bricks. We used Nido milk cans and other simple materials, and our drum was a bidon (plastic container). The God who is the Lord of the work helped us.

After about two months, we decided to build a place of worship. We went to the camp leader and told him that we wanted to build a church. He gave us permission. However, we did not have the financial ability to build the church, and we had no money. We asked him to provide us with wood and materials for the roof, and he gave them to us. We, in turn, made our own bricks and built the church. When we completed the construction, we clearly saw the hand of God working through this whole process.

After we built the church, the government of Uganda began following up with us concerning the documents and legal authorization required to build the church. We did not have the means to obtain the necessary government documents. Therefore, we had to look for a church that could cover and support us so that we could operate under its name. We chose a Ugandan church called Holy Spirit Fire Church. We served under their leadership for approximately seventeen (17) years. After those seventeen (17) years, God opened a door for me and my family to travel to the United States of America. God told me not to abandon His work in Africa. Therefore, I continue to do the work of God as a missionary. I do not receive a salary or any financial compensation from the church.

COMING TO AMERICA AND MELROSE BAPTIST CHURCH

My family and I coming to Melrose Baptist Church was truly a miracle from God. Rev. Pastor Connie and I met at a Walmart store here in Roanoke. She asked me some questions, and I answered her. She then invited me to visit their church one Sunday. We went, and they welcomed us very warmly and showed us tremendous love. When we saw how wonderful the church was, we decided to participate there as believers.

After staying for several months, we asked them to give us an opportunity to conduct our Swahili worship service, because English was difficult for us. The pastors and leaders of the church agreed and gave us a place where we could worship. We are able to conduct our services peacefully and safely.

THE VISION OF HOLY VOICE OF JESUS CHRIST CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

When I arrived in America and was welcomed by Melrose Baptist Church, I received a vision to establish and develop the work of God in the refugee camp in Uganda and to move forward from the church I had previously left in Africa, Uganda. Because of the calling and vision that God gave me, I was able to establish the foundation of a church called Holy Voice of Jesus Christ Church International in the refugee camp in Uganda. The church is still very young. It needs missionaries who can go there to teach, train leaders, and conduct various seminars in the refugee camp in Uganda.

THANKSGIVING

My wife, our children, and I have hearts full of gratitude to God for bringing us to America and connecting us with all the servants of God in this church. We especially thank:

- Rev. Mark Mofield
- Rev. Greg Hetherington
- Rev. Dr. Connie Cruse

And also the many other servants of God and all the Christians.

Truly, this church has shown us a kind of love that I have never experienced before in my life. May God bless the entire church and the pastors for the loving hearts that you have. In general, our church, Holy Voice of Jesus Christ Church International, located in Uganda, Africa, sends its warm greetings to you all in the glorious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Without forgetting anyone, the entire congregation also expresses its deepest gratitude to you for the excellent care, love, guidance, and spiritual nurturing that you have given us. May God continue to bless you all and strengthen you in His service.

This is the testimony of the servant of God:

Rev. Missionary KIGAZI KASINGA Trice
Visionary and Founder of
Holy Voice of Jesus Christ Church International
Uganda, Africa.

MELROSE BAPTIST CHURCH

FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 25 • 4-6 PM

**TRICK OR TREATING • FREE HOT DOGS
CRAFTS • BINGO • GAMES**

**LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT A SUNDAY SCHOOL
DECORATING COMPETITION!**



MELROSE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Ministry Updates

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING

In partnership with Family Promise, we will be hosting families at the church October 11-17. During that week, families will have dinner at the church and will be staying in several of our classrooms. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve families in our community that are facing homelessness and give them a safe and welcoming environment to stay with their children.

We are in need of volunteers to help us with the following:

- Setting up rooms from 4-6 PM on Sunday October 11 7:30 and at 9 AM on Sunday October 18
- Providing meals for around 15 from 6-8 PM
- Overnight hosts from 8 PM - 7 AM

If you would like to volunteer for one or more of these opportunities, please sign up [HERE](#).

At this time, Family Promise has 2 families with a total of 9 people in their program. Those numbers can change at any time. Please be in prayer that God will use us and Family Promise to help these families find not only temporary shelter but permanent homes!

STARTING SOON: SYMPATHY NOTICES

We are starting to compile your responses from our recent communications survey and one of the suggestions that was given was for the church to start sending out notifications when a church family member passes away. The church staff has decided that starting this month, notice will be sent out via e-mail and posted on the Melrose Family Facebook group when a church family member passes away and service plans have been finalized.

Featured Ministry Update



UPDATE ON TINY HOME BUILD

The “tiny home” that we are building in partnership with Bonsack Baptist Church and Impact Missions is taking shape! We are so appreciative of everyone who has come out so far to help. There is still a lot to be done, and we can use all of the help we can get! We are scheduling another work day for Saturday, October 10 at 9 AM. Everyone who can come help is invited to bring work gloves and safety goggles. If you would like to help out that day, please let Pastor Mark know ASAP. There are other work days that take place throughout the week, so also let Mark know if you are interested in working at other times and he can let you know what days work will be going on. Mark’s email is mofield@melrosebaptist.org and his phone number is 540-366-6631, ext. 2.

Upcoming Events



DARTBALL FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH

Dartball Fellowship has resumed for monthly play and will meet on October 5 & 12 at 6:30 PM. All levels of play are welcome and you are welcome to bring a snack to share with the group.

BGAV LEGAL ISSUES & THE CHURCH SEMINAR

The Baptist General Association of Virginia is hosting a "Legal Issues & the Church" seminar on Tuesday, October 13 from 12-1:30 PM. This seminar has been offered in several locations across the state, and many churches have found the information helpful. Lunch is being provided free of charge by the BGAV as part of the seminar. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the church office at 540-366-6631 by October 8. If you have any questions, please reach out to Skip Wallace, BGAV Field Strategist for the Central-Valley region, at (804) 461-1110 or skip.wallace@bgav.org.



COMING SOON: LIVING ABUNDANTLY AFTER FIFTY

- **When:** Tuesday, October 20 at 10 AM
- **Where:** Gathering will take place in Fellowship Hall and lunch is a potluck so please bring a dish to share!
- **Who:** All those over 50 who are looking for a welcoming

time of conversation, serving our community, and sharing a meal together!

- **What:** A musical performance from The Virginian's and a collection of needed items for GW Carver Elementary School.



CREATIVES NIGHT: GLASS PAINTING

Creatives Night will be meeting on Friday, October 23 at 5:30 PM. The creative activity for the night will be decorating Halloween or fall themed glass blocks! You will choose a vinyl decal for your blocks and how to decorate them. We will be providing lights to turn the blocks into a decor piece! One glass block will be provided per person but if you wish to bring an additional block with you, please feel free to do so! Blocks can be purchased from Michaels.

If you are planning to come, we are requesting that you RSVP on the church website [HERE](#) or by letting Blair know via email or text you plan to come. Letting us know you are coming allows us to properly plan materials.

MEMORIALS

- In memory of Bill Preston to the Backpack Ministry by: Pares & Spares Sunday School Class
- In Honor of Cathy & Tony Craver by: Laney & Deb Mofield
- In Memory of Bill Preston to Youth Missions by: E. E. Sizemore
- In Memory of Bill Preston by: Brenda May, Lois & Buddy Bailey
- In Memory of Jean Poff to the LAAF program by: Grace Sunday School Class
- To Bereavement meals by: Grace Sunday School Class

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

We welcome all to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings at 5:15 PM. The cost is \$9.00 per person or \$20 for a family up to 4 people. Reservations are required and can be made by calling the church office at 540-366-6631, on the Melrose Baptist Church mobile app, or the church website **HERE**.

September Menu

- 10/7: roast pork, baked apples, green beans, hot fudge cake with ice cream
- 10/14: chicken parmesan casserole, broccoli, Texas white almond sheet cake
- 10/21: ranch beans, lettuce and tomato salad, cornbread, pineapple orange fluff
- 10/28: grilled chicken, squash saute, scalloped potatoes, pumpkin caramel poke cake

FINANCE REPORT

August 2026

Monthly Income: \$59,591.45

Monthly Expenses: \$63,533.35

Year to Date

Total Income: \$463,228.10

Total Expenses: \$509,330.33

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

Ushers

10/4: Rhonda Kessler, Missy Wickham

10/11: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth

10/18: Robin Bennett, Linley Hackworth

10/25: Jack Engel, Bill Caudill

Courtesy Team

10/4: Tracie Conley, Allen Journell

10/11: Larry Wirt, Gerald Willis

10/18: Larry Hicks, Chip Stephenson

10/25: Barry Wickham, Larry Wirt

Safety Team

10/4: Gary Dixon, Barry Wickham

10/11: Jeff Ernest, Jeb Wallace

10/18: Larry Hicks, Larry Wirt

10/25: Allen Journell, Steve Kennedy

Youth Dinners

10/4: No children or youth

10/11: Connie Crowder, Karen Mullins

10/18: Amy Crawford, Jan Heath

10/25: No children or youth- Fall Festival

Hospitality

10/4: Team 1

10/11: Team 2

10/18: Team 3

10/25: Team 4

October Church Calendar

October 1-4

THURSDAY- 10/1

6 PM Softball Field in Use

SATURDAY- 10/3

11 AM Youth Group Reunion

SUNDAY- 10/4

10 AM Homecoming Service
4 PM Children's Committee

October 5-11

MONDAY- 10/5

10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness
1:30 PM RVBA Board of Directors
6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

TUESDAY- 10/6

10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:15 PM Shalom Handbells
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 10/7

10 AM Staff Planning Meeting
10 AM Beth Calloway
2:30 PM Stitch & a Prayer
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth on Mission
6 PM Finance Committee
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Bible Study
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 10/8

10:30 AM Alma Hunt
6 PM Softball Field in Use

SATURDAY- 10/10

All Day- Parking Lot in Use
10 AM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 10/11

Family Promise Arrives
8:30 AM Prayer Breakfast
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Youth- Fields of Faith

October 12-18

MONDAY- 10/12

Family Promise Hosting
10 AM Bible Study
11:15 AM Faithful Fitness
6:30 PM Dartball Fellowship

TUESDAY- 10/13

Family Promise Hosting
10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
12 PM BGAV Legal Seminar
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:15 PM Handbell Ensemble
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 10/14

Family Promise Hosting
5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Finance Meeting
6 PM Youth on Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Bible Study
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 10/15

Family Promise Hosting
6 PM Softball Field in Use

FRIDAY- 10/16

Family Promise Hosting

SATURDAY- 10/17

Family Promise Departs
10 AM Softball Field in Use
10 AM WMU Leadership Meeting

SUNDAY- 10/18

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Seeds of Youth

October Church Calendar

October 19-25

MONDAY- 10/19

10 AM Bible Study
11:30 AM Faithful Fitness

TUESDAY- 10/20

10 AM LAAF
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:15 PM Handbell Ensemble

WEDNESDAY- 10/21

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth in Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Business Meeting
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 10/22

6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:45 PM Marketplace in Use

FRIDAY- 10/23

5:30 PM Creatives Night:
Glass Blocks

SATURDAY- 10/24

9 AM-4 PM Fellowship Hall in Use
10 AM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 10/25

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
4-6 PM Fall Festival

Oct. 26- Nov. 1

MONDAY- 10/26

10 AM Bible Study
11:30 AM Faithful Fitness
6:45 PM Deacons Meeting

TUESDAY- 10/27

10:30 AM Sonshine Choir
1:30 PM Staff Meeting
6 PM Softball Field in Use
6:15 PM Handbell Ensemble
6:30 PM Men's Bible Study

WEDNESDAY- 10/28

5:15 PM Wednesday Night Dinner
6 PM Youth in Mission
6:15 PM Bible Black Belts
6:15 PM Bible Study
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY- 10/29

6 PM Softball Field in Use

SUNDAY- 11/1

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Ibada
10:45 AM Sunday Morning Worship
12 PM Fork Fellowship
5 PM Children in Action
5 PM Seeds of Youth
7 PM Youth Council