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Caraleigh Baptist Church
March Newsletter
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Pastor's Paragraphs

As we begin the month of March, we usually think of March winds. As children, we thought of March as a good month to fly kites. March also continues the Season of Lent. With this in mind, I want us to focus on two words used in the Bible. The Hebrew word "ruach" and the Greek word "pneuma" both have the same meaning, wind or breath. When God created man, He breathed into him the breath of life and he became a living being. When Ezekiel stood on the mountain and looked down into the valley of dry bones, he called upon the wind to bring new life to the bones. The same word "ruach" is used in both places. When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus about being born again, He said that no one knows where the wind comes from or where it goes, and so it is with the Spirit. Life begins with the breath and spirit within us. Abundant life begins with the Holy Spirit taking up residency with us because of faith in Jesus. Lent reminds us that real life begins when Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit because of our repentance and faith in him as Savior and Lord. As you go throughout the month, remember that Jesus has given you the Holy Spirit. You have a new life. The Holy Spirit lives in you. This is possible because Jesus went to the cross to redeem you so that your sins could be forgiven. This is worth remembering every day, not just during Lent, but all of the time.

There are some special dates this month that you need to remember. The Church Council will meet on March 5th at 10:00 and the Deacons will meet at 12:00 after our Bible Study. Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 8th. Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29th. Later that week on April 2nd, we will have a special Maundy Thursday service. Sandra and I are looking forward to walking with you through Lent this month. Remember, be blessed and be a blessing.

Pastor Michael

Missions Report

March is the month for our Annie Armstrong Offering. This offering supports North American missions: supporting more than 3,000 missionaries and their families, enabling hundreds of churches to be planted and thousands of disciples to be made. Contributions to this offering will continue the Southern Baptist Convention's 181-year commitment to North American Missions.

As is our custom, the contributions to the Annie Armstrong Missions Offering will be divided three ways: North American Missions, NC Baptist Hospitals, and the Baptist Retirement Homes. Our goal for this offering is \$900.

Envelopes will be in the pews and will also be included in the church bulletin. The week of prayer for North American Missions is March 1-8, 2025. Please set aside time during that week to pray for our missionaries working throughout North America.

The North American Mission Board serves a diverse and complex region comprised of the United States, Canada, and their territories. This region has a population of 386 million people speaking 378 languages. The estimated lost in this area is 291 million. There are 161 unreached people groups in this area.

Since 2010, Southern Baptists have planted 11,000 churches across the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada. If we continue at the current rate, by 2030 1/3 of the SBC will be made up of churches planted by Southern Baptists since 2010! 24% of all Southern Baptist churches outside the South have been started since 2010 by churches started since 2010!

Learn more about your gifts at work by going online to AnnieArmstrong.com/Your-Gifts-At-Work.

Who is Annie Armstrong?

Annie Walker Armstrong was a lay Southern Baptist leader instrumental in the founding of the Woman's Missionary Union. She was born on July 11, 1850, in Baltimore, Maryland and died there on December 20, 1938, where she is buried in Green Mount Cemetery. Annie Armstrong was unstoppable in her passion for missions. In a time where there was little opportunity for women, her devotion to Christ led her to a life of service and leadership. She organized women to pray, to give, and to meet the needs of those around them. She challenged pastors and churches to action and rallied vital support for missionaries (along with her friend Lottie Moon). Ultimately, Annie was recognized as a national Southern Baptist trailblazer for her visionary leadership that still inspires millions today.

Born the 2nd youngest of 5 children, Miss Annie's mother, a devout Southern Baptist who was active in her church, was a strong role model for her, as her father died when she was still an infant. Her hometown of Baltimore also had a strong influence on her. She had a great interest in the Black population, the immigrants, the sick, and the poor. A turning point in her life came in 1880 when she heard a speech on the destitute conditions and needs of Native Americans in Oklahoma. She and other women organized to gather gifts of money and clothing. This experience crystallized her idea of encouraging women to organize into groups to educate and help the needy.

Annie Armstrong founded and served as the first president of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland (1882) and the Missionary Union. Until 1906 she concurrently held these 2 leadership positions while also supervising the Maryland Missionary Room. She also served as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention of 1888.

With her ability to pull forces together, Miss Annie unified the mission efforts of all the Protestant denominations. She worked tirelessly for unity within the Southern Baptist Community. She addressed a national meeting of the Woman's Auxillary of the National (Black)

Baptist Convention. She taught Bible classes, held mother's meetings, and prayed with the group. She encouraged other women's groups to interact similarly with Black people in their respective communities. As a result of this, 2 Black women were appointed as missionaries.

Annie Armstrong worked as a missionary with Native Americans and rallied support for mountain people and immigrants. Annie Armstrong's mission work encompassed people of all cultures, races, ages, and economic levels. She was a "dreamer in action." When she saw a need, she dreamed about how to meet that need and was gifted in involving others to carry out that dream.

Annie Armstrong's rallying cry was "Go Forward!" One of her quotations still inspires us today: "The future lies all before us...shall it only be a slight advance upon what we usually do? Ought it not to be abound, a leap forward to altitudes of endeavor and success undreamed of before?"

Today, over 2 billion dollars has been raised through the offering that bears her name as it continues to support missionaries and their work across the U.S. and Canada.

GIVE to missions (church offerings and organizations). Give sacrificially of your money, time, and talents!

THANK God for your blessings.

PRAY for someone (and don't forget the missionaries!)

(note: the information on Annie Armstrong came from the internet, Wikipedia, and the Maryland archives. Some of it has been quoted verbatim from these sources.)