

# CATAWBA FOCUS

Monthly Newsletter of Catawba Valley Baptist Church



## THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION

### ADVANCING THE MISSION IN SPITE OF CHALLENGES

We do not live in fear, but we do seek to live wisely. In our mission to love one another and the community, we have moved our services ONLINE until further notice. However, in these days, the Christian does not retreat from the mission - but actively advances the mission with different methods.

### CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

#### Christ's Victory, Guarantees Our Victory!

Our Easter celebration began an entire twelve days before Resurrection Sunday with daily devotionals, that we've called the "Road to Redemption." These devotionals take you through the Passion Narrative, as Jesus makes His way to the cross, and ultimately the empty tomb! It is His resurrection from the grave which secures our victory of eternal life. Each daily devotional video is accompanied with Scripture readings, a reflective question, and a song. The "Road to Redemption" devotional series can be found on our website.

#### EASTER SUNDAY

Access our website Easter Sunday morning to worship with our church family through our *Sunday Morning Worship Guide*, which will feature a special EASTER CELEBRATION CONCERT. A number of musicians from our congregation will be providing special music and readings focusing our thoughts upon the glorious resurrection of our Savior! Begin now preparing your heart for worship, as we follow Jesus on the "Road to Redemption."

**VISIT US ONLINE: [catawbavalleybc.org](http://catawbavalleybc.org)**

# BEHIND THE SCENES

## Modified ministry, mission unchanged

It's no secret that the coronavirus pandemic has drastically affected the world as we know it since it began to spread in late 2019. New restrictions put in place by both our state and national governments in order to "flatten the curve" have caused dramatic changes in how we interact with others, how we work, how we shop, and how we do ministry as the body of Jesus Christ.

At Catawba Valley Baptist Church, we do not seek to live in fear, but to live and minister wisely in light of the changing circumstances in our world. Within a few hours of the state's restrictions on gathering sizes for social distancing, our staff began brainstorming how to adapt our ministries to follow the guidelines set forth by our government, without compromising the mission behind everything we do: *to glorify God by obeying His mission and making Him known here and around the world.*

The first aspect of ministry to be addressed was our Wednesday night services. On Wednesday March 18, 2020 Pastor Aaron and Pastor Stephen launched "At the Table," a live stream Bible study through Facebook Live. This format allows us to engage with our Pastors and our fellow members during the time we would be attending the usual midweek service. The current series, "The Church in Crisis: A study in the book of James," is designed to guide our church body through living boldly with hope amidst the crisis our world is facing because of coronavirus.



**Pastor Stephen leads a Zoom call with some of our students**

Pastor Stephen and Justina Anderson worked diligently to ensure the large number of students and children who faithfully attend Awana and youth group were not neglected amid the changes. They now film lessons and challenges for both the students and children that are released weekly so our young people are continuing to be fed spiritually and built up in the Lord. Pastor Stephen also reaches out to CVCB's students through a platform called Zoom, allowing the students and leaders to speak face to face and virtually "meet" with their small groups.

The final aspect of ministry to be addressed was our Sunday services. We sought to engage our congregation through a variety of mediums through our Sunday Morning Worship Guides, which are released weekly every Sunday. These guides are built to walk our members through various aspects of worship such as prayer, meditation, singing, giving, and listening to the proclamation of God's word. Though we are scattered across many geographical locations, the worship guides allow us the opportunity to learn and worship together as one body. And on Sunday nights, Pastor Aaron hosts "Fireside Chats," another Facebook livestream ministry, to give us a thought to meditate on and apply to our lives throughout the week.

Though our methods may have changed amidst the COVID-19 crisis, our mission has not. Now is the time for the church to be a beacon of hope in a world that is trapped by fear. We pray that these resources and our virtual ministries continue to equip, empower, and embolden you to grow in the Lord, and give an answer for the hope you have to others in the midst of crisis.



**Pastor Aaron hosts a Fireside Chat on Facebook Live**

# Connecting the Dots

## The Hayden family's journey to Catawba Valley

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.  
Psalm 37:23*

**"All his course of life is graciously ordained, and in loving kindness all is fixed, settled, and maintained. No reckless fate, no fickle chance rules us. Our every step is the subject of divine decree." - Charles Spurgeon**



What an amazing truth! God has established my every step before I was even a thought! Not that He forces my steps, but He has laid out a perfect path for my life. He also knows the many wrong turns that I'll make and offers grace by rerouting me back to His plan.

So, how did we end up at CVBC? God led - we followed. In the summer of 2016, we purchased our first home in Craig County. The move meant finding a new church home. Desperate to attend a church in our small town, we visited several churches in the area for more than a year before hearing about Catawba Valley Baptist. A long-time friend that attends CVBC shared a post about the upcoming Trunk or Treat. We decided it'd be a fun outing for our girls to dress up and gave us an opportunity to meet neighbors. Soon after, we visited for Sunday service. We were greeted with such warmth and kindness... immediately feeling a sweet spirit take over the room. On the ride home, I asked Jimmy what he thought of the service and he responded "I think that might be our church". With each interaction and lots of prayer, the Lord made it clear that CVBC was exactly where He wanted us to be planted - to heal and to grow. God led - we followed.

We have been members for a little over two years now. In that short amount of time, God has tremendously blessed our family. Both our daughters are involved in Awana - which led to Jena accepting the Lord as her Savior and getting baptized last year. Little Nora also seems to be following in her big sister's footsteps. I have confidence that we will rejoice in her salvation soon! In our desire to get more involved with the church, Jimmy and I volunteered to help with the youth. That's when we both discovered that we have a natural connection with teenagers and truly enjoy our time with them. As we pursued Him, the Lord sought out my mother (an unbeliever at the time) who has been attending service with us. She also accepted the Lord as her Savior last summer. Praise God! Being a part of Catawba Valley Baptist has been a saving grace for my family, drastically changing our lives. God led - we followed. To my church family, thank you for being a light in the darkness. - *Irma Hayden*



# Mission Link Update

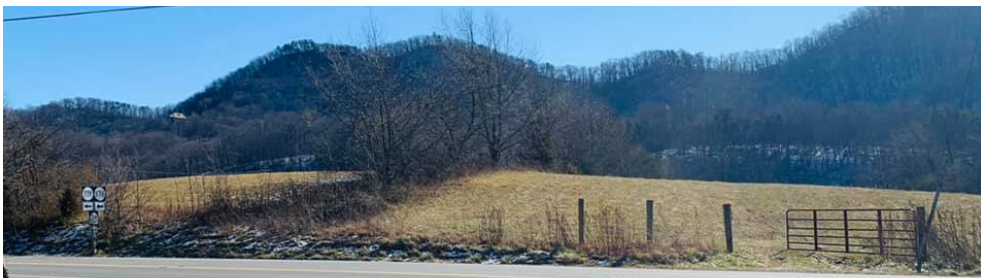
## Advancing God's Mission "around the world"



As we continue to move towards our vision of creating a more pivotal partnership with Mission Link International later this year, it's important to keep before us our "why." Christ commissioned His followers to make disciples of *all nations*. It's with Christ's mandate in view that we believe Catawba Valley forming a deeper partnership with MLI would provide a strategic outlet for the church to more actively and personally participate in the great commission.

Our established relationship with MLI over the last number of years has paved the way for this exciting endeavor. Our desire is to see global discipleship strengthened and sustainable multiplication take place. Please continue to pray as more information about this exciting endeavor will be provided in the days ahead. Additionally, please be in prayer for the MLI Uganda Staff, as they are dealing with the drastic effects of COVID-19. Both of our summer mission trips with MLI have needed to be postponed due to this circumstance. Let's stand together with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world through faithful prayer.

## NEW HOME | SAME MISSION



We continue to praise the Lord for His direction and provision in making possible our new property on RT. 311. As long as circumstances with coronavirus do not impact the original timeline - we plan to close on the property this month! Let's continue to rejoice in all that God has done!

The project is not over, it's only just beginning! Would you join us by praying and believing God to supply the remaining balance. \$50,000 of the \$200,000 total amount has already been provided - praise God! A special "building fund" has been established for the purchase of the property and future development. Special gifts may be designated toward the new property at any time!

## SPECIAL DATES

**Until further notice,  
all regularly scheduled  
services, ministries, and  
activities have been  
canceled through  
the end of April.**

**A complete list of current  
online services and  
ministries may be found  
on our website at  
[catawbavalleybc.org](http://catawbavalleybc.org)**

**June 1-5  
CAMP EAGLE (JUNIORS)**

**July 12-16  
MYSTERY ISLAND VBS**

**July 28-August 1  
TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP**

**September 16-20  
MISSIONS CONFERENCE**

**October 8-10  
COUPLES RETREAT**

**October 28  
TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

**KNOW GOD DEEPLY FOLLOW GOD BOLDLY**

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**WE GLORIFY GOD BY OBEYING HIS MISSION AND MAKING HIM KNOWN HERE AND AROUND THE WORLD**