

CATAWBA FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CATAWBA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS

ONE MAN'S TESTIMONY BY ALAN LEE

When asked to compose an article about how God has worked in one's life at 69 years, one wonders where to begin. Born in harder times the one certainty was church, the center of our social life and the guidance from many of the older spiritual folks God placed in my life made a very profound impact. I came to understand and accept Christ as my Savior during a revival meeting in August 1962. Since then, there have been many ups and downs in my spiritual life, with the downs mostly of my own making. Looking back I can see God's hand in guiding my walk and giving protection when I most certainly didn't deserve it on my own accord. Farming for a living there have been many times accidents could have occurred, that only moments before I know the Holy Spirit led me to take a different action.

There was war and draft at the age of 19; however, a series of events happened preventing me from serving. Jobs were always provided when there was need of change. The greatest blessing was the Lord's direction in my spouse, the gift of two wonderful kids and now the joy of old age, our granddaughter. There have been two occasions that I have faced life-threatening illnesses. If ever there is proof of the power of prayer in our church, my being alive today is the prime example how a loving Father bends His ear to hear and answer the prayers of His children. I leave you with this, as an active member of CVBC for most of my life, I am certain our church is at the best place it's ever been, through the unity and love of its people, leadership and devotion of all to our Lord Jesus Christ.



Vacation Bible School is almost here! This year's VBS is July 17th - 20th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Are you registered yet for fun and adventure from the land down under? We will visit places like the Uluru Desert Region, the Great Barrier Reef and the Eucalyptus Forest. By the way, did you know koala bears eat eucalyptus leaves—hey, here's something for you: Why did the koala bear eat so much eucalyptus? He simply couldn't "leaf" it alone! That's the kind of fun we'll have as we explore God's creation in Australia and the wonder and value of life, from pre-born babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

If you haven't registered yet, why not make like a kangaroo and hop right over to www.catawbavalleybc.org and find the link for VBS registration under "Ministries" and "Events." There you can also find information on how to win special treasures and also see opportunities for transportation from Mason's Cove Elementary school to the church.

Listen! Can you hear the outback calling you?



It's not too late to volunteer for VBS this year; use your God-given talents and gifts at VBS to impact a child's heart and yours too! Listen to what last-year's VBS volunteers said about serving at VBS:

- "I was spurred to dig deeper into God's word; little hearts that are really seeking the Lord ask great questions."
 - "These kids helped me to understand my testimony must be simple and straightforward. It's easier now for me to share the gospel with others."
 - "It is so encouraging to see enthusiasm in children as they praised the Lord."
 - "I was reminded of God's provision in all things, there were so many volunteers."
 - "I grew spiritually closer to others and I was reminded how blessed I am to be part of a church like CVBC."
 - "It was such a blessing to experience the goodness of God working through each member individually and as a whole—He is magnificent!"
- Find out how you can serve by contacting Pastor Stephen, there's always a place for another helper!



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Serving alongside Mission Link International (MLI) Richard Caldwell participated in a short-term mission trip to Uganda. Having recently returned he says, "it just gets better every time I go!" The team visited churches around the area to encourage pastors and their congregations with worship in scripture, in song and even dance! Richard also had the opportunity to visit with widows who are sponsored by members of CVBC and deliver items lovingly sewn and donated by others. We are so excited to hear from Richard even more about this recent trip and to hear of the many ways God uses Christians everywhere for His glory.



Hannah Horne recently experienced a short-term mission opportunity with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Hannah says, "It was hard and stressful but I pushed through because God was with me the entire time." Hannah's trip started in Hawaii with training that prepared her for field work. From there it was off to Zambia where she discovered how thirsty the people were for the word of God, she says, "the more we talked about God, the more they wanted to know." The team ministered from morning until evening, so this portion was most challenging. Moving on to Poland to minister to the Ukrainians, the Lord used the team in a different way. Here they were able to meet physical needs of the people; they served food, interacted with the children, and simply talked with people who had been uprooted from their lives. The Lord has moved in Hannah's heart through this trip and she is excited to see where God leads her next! Would you commit to joining her in prayer for His guidance?

Morgan McClure recently announced a new opportunity regarding her path forward into missions, a one-year volunteer position serving at Studio in San Diego, California. She will serve as Administrative Assistant to the directors of the internship program that trains long-term international missionaries. While in California, she will also serve a large refugee community. Keep up-to-date on all Morgan's exciting news with this opportunity at Studio by subscribing to her newsletter and supporting her on this exciting journey. To find out more information, email mo.s.mcclure@gmail.com or send a text to (540) 597-4470 to request her newsletter and support links.





MINISTRY UPDATE FROM THE VAUGHANS

Last month, Pastor Stephen and Emily announced to the congregation that they will be transitioning out of their present role at Catawba into a new ministry at Christ-Life ministries. Six years ago, Pastor Stephen and Emily joined our ministry staff, to serve as a part-time ministry assistant, and his role very soon transitioned from a part-time ministry role to a full- time associate pastor. Little did we realize that those few months would blossom into years of pastoral ministry.

Pastor Stephen's last official day of employment at Catawba Valley will be September 30th, and the Vaughans will begin their new role at Christ Life Ministries the beginning of October. Stephen will be serving as the Director of Operations for Christ Life Ministries, alongside his father, Harold Vaughan. In his new role, Stephen will oversee the planning and execution of their annual prayer advances, as well as assisting with special projects, organizational administration, content creation and traveling to minister in local churches.

From the Vaughans: "Our time at Catawba has involved the most meaningful relationships we have ever experienced. Our roots at Catawba grew us as people and made us more like Christ because of His church ministering to us. This church is truly our home and we can never express our deepest gratitude to each member and friend. We have been loved by you since the beginning and you have ministered to us in ways that are too numerous to recount. While we have complete peace about God's guidance in this new assignment, we are saddened by the transition. Although we will say goodbye to our present role and church membership at Catawba, we do not say goodbye to the relationships we have built in this faith family. We look forward to visiting in the future as a part of our hearts will always remain in Catawba. We also look forward to seeing how the Lord is going to bless and build His church here in the days to come. If you have questions or would like to know more about the path God is leading us on, please feel free to reach out to us as we would love to talk to you. We love each and every friend and member of the Catawba family very deeply and hope you know that we always desire to serve you in whatever way possible. We are excited as the Lord leads us in this new chapter, as we know He never makes mistakes. It's all for His glory."

UPCOMING EVENTS 2022

JULY

- 17-20 | Vacation Bible School
30 | Student Ministry Training

AUGUST

- 4-6 | Student Prayer Advance
31 | Fall Midweek Ministries Resume

SEPTEMBER

- 4 | Homecoming Sunday
21-25 | Missions Conference

**WE GLORIFY GOD BY DEVELOPING DISCIPLES WHO
LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE AND INFLUENCE THE
WORLD WITH THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL.**

www.catawbavalleybc.org

Mailing: PO Box 12 Catawba, Va 24070