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# WOLFFORK NEWS

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APRIL 2024

## Creation-wide Praise Chorus

“All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” These words — just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi — seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow.

Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only “young men and women alike, old and young together” (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: “We human beings ... should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest.”

When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann



## Introducing the Deacon Family Ministry Plan

For many years, Southern Baptists have focused attention on the role of deacons in relation to families. Under this process, deacons help church members develop and maintain a healthy relationship with the church so that they can grow in their faith and commitment.

### What is the Deacon Family Ministry Plan?

Your deacons have felt for some time that there is a need for a closer tie between them and the members of Wolffork Baptist Church. We realize the church will mean more to our people if the deacons keep closer contact with individual families. To meet this need, the deacons are joining with the Pastor to help meet our church's ministry needs. To that end, our deacons have selected families to serve in a more personal way. *Your deacon will contact you shortly.*

Our deacons gladly and quite seriously take this opportunity to serve the church families. They are as close as a phone call when needed. If you are ill, please call them; they are interested in you. If your family experiences a tragedy, please let your deacon know. When your family experiences joy,

*(Continued on page 3)*





## Weekly Activities at Wolffork Baptist Church

### Sunday:

9:30 AM—Continental Breakfast

9:45 AM—Sunday School—Bible  
study for all ages

11:00 AM—Morning Worship

6:00 PM—Prayer Meeting and  
Bible Study

### Wednesday:

5:30 PM—Food Pantry Opens

6:00 PM—Wonderful Wednesday

**Bill Barker, Pastor**

**Church number: 706-746-2728**

**Email: [Pastor@Wolffork.org](mailto:Pastor@Wolffork.org)**

**Facebook Page:**

**[www.facebook.com/Wolffork](https://www.facebook.com/Wolffork)**

**Webpage:**

**[www.Wolffork.org](http://www.Wolffork.org)**

**For current updates**

**of the church calendar:**

**[www.Wolffork.org/events](http://www.Wolffork.org/events)**

## Word for the Day

Listen daily to “Word for the Day,”  
the Daily Devotions from Wolffork  
Baptist Church at [Wolffork.com/](http://Wolffork.com/)  
[Video-devotion](http://Video-devotion) or [Facebook.com/](http://Facebook.com/Wolffork)  
[Wolffork](http://Wolffork).

Listen to the Sunday Sermon at  
[Wolffork.org/sermon](http://Wolffork.org/sermon).



## 365 Bible Reading Through the Bible in 3 Years

### April 2024 Readings

- 1. 1 John 1
- 2. 1 John 2
- 3. 1 John 3
- 4. 1 John 4
- 5. 1 John 5
- 6. 2 John
- 7. 3 John
- 8. 2 Kings 1
- 9. 2 Kings 2
- 10. 2 Kings 3
- 11. 2 Kings 4
- 12. 2 Kings 5
- 13. 2 Kings 6
- 14. 2 Kings 7
- 15. 2 Kings 8
- 16. 2 Kings 9
- 17. 2 Kings 10
- 18. 2 Kings 11
- 19. 2 Kings 12
- 20. 2 Kings 13
- 21. 2 Kings 14
- 22. 2 Kings 15
- 23. 2 Kings 16
- 24. 2 Kings 17
- 25. 2 Kings 18
- 26. 2 Kings 19
- 27. 2 Kings 20
- 28. 2 Kings 21
- 29. 2 Kings 22
- 30. 2 Kings 23



### BIRTHDAYS

Maggie Bedingfield—4

Daphne Lisenby—6

Derrick Westbrook—17

Elizabeth Luker—18

Mike McCracken 25

Charlyne Dailey—30

### ANNIVERSARY

Dale and Babs White—4

Tony and Tammy Whitmire—12

**If your birthday or anniversary is not**

### When It Rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower’s intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: “Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” The rains will come. Whether you’re experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

- Janna Firestone

# To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

(Continued from page 1)

your deacon will be happy to rejoice with you. If you have questions about the church, never hesitate to call your deacon.

## Is it Biblical?

The primary purpose of the Deacon Family Ministry Plan is to develop a relationship between deacons and church families through which deacons can help families reach their God-given potential. This purpose involves proclaiming the gospel to families, caring for them, and leading them to experience Christian fellowship.

The Bible does not list the specific duties of deacons. However, the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:8- 13 can guide deacons' ministry.

The phrase “not pursuing dishonest gain” (v.8) supports that the early deacons were involved in benevolent ministries. By the second century, the church took two offerings, one of food and one of money, to be distributed among orphans and widows. The quality was necessary for those dispensing food and money.

The inclusion of pastoral ministries as a part of the deacon’s role is supported by many Biblical references. The phrase “worthy of respect, sincere” (v.8) suggests that deacons should not spread half-truths or deceive people receiving ministry. To perform pastoral ministries, a person must be stable. Therefore, the phrases “must be faithful to his wife” and “must manage his children and his household well” (v.12) set forth family stability and a concept of sacredness toward the marriage bond as deacon qualifications.

Instruction and witnessing were duties of the early deacons. Notice the references to “worthy of respect, sincere” (v.8) and “must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith” (v.9).

Displaying and nurturing a spirit of *koinonia* (fellowship) appears to have been another duty of the early deacons. The suggestion that they “must first be tested” (v.10) and the statement that “those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus” (v.13) supports this concept. To heal a breach of fellowship was a primary reason for selecting the seven men in Acts 6:1-6.

In the best Christian tradition, the deacon has always been one of God’s means of meeting human needs. The deacon's servant role also complies with Jesus’s concern for ministry. Jesus magnified the servant role of Christians by saying, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). The Deacon

Family Ministry Plan is designed to carry out this Biblical admonition.

*Adapted from booklet, “The Deacon Family Ministry Plan Really Works” © 1981, Lifeway Press.*

## Pastor and Deacons Contact Information

Pastor: Bill Barker (404-538-2895)

Chairman of the Deacons: Don Page (706-982-2233)

Joe Buchanan (706-982-3278)

Stan Couey (478-290-1010)

Ron Lawson (404-432-3010)

Micah McCracken (706-340-6070)

Jason Whitmire (706-970-7429)

Tony Whitmire (706-982-2399)

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.  
- 1 Corinthians 12:23-26 (CSB)

# Puzzle!

Fill in the horizontal rows using the clues. Then, using the number codes, complete the squares below to read three Beatitudes from Luke 6:20-21, NIV.

Grassy area behind a house

Blooms that have petals

Spring precipitation

Puffy and white in the sky

Soil

Lawn

Must be weeded and tended

Tiptoe through these

Baby sheep

We need food and this

God made this from nothing

A sign of God's promise

These, in April, bring May flowers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19				
20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29				
30	31	32	33	34			
35	36	37	38	39	40		
41	42	43	44	45	46		
47	48	49	50	51			
52	53	54	55	56			
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68	69	70	71	
72	73	74	75	76	77	78	

## Resurrection faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

“I realized I only half-believed I was going to die,” he tells The Christian Post. “In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally.”

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter’s main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it’s a wake-up call for Jesus’ followers to act. “The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world,” Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. “But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust.”

	1	10	13	15	25	39	38		2	7	13		5	22	23		12	73	11
17	31	39		45	22	63	7		9	70	56		5	22	23	58	46		
	27	15		61	73	13		4	18	19	30	26	22	49		22	9		
30	63	26		1	47	55	72	78	39	26		60	77	59		5	74	23	
	12	73	70		73	23	40	35	13	56		64	70	75		9	11	65	
5	63	23		75	18	10	47		1	76		72	48	61	27	34	9	44	13
26		1	43	55	72	78	76	24		2	7	13		5	22	23		75	73
22		12	59	39	45		64	63	52		9	22	58		5	70	42		
52	44	10	47		10	2	23	35	73										

Answers: backyard, flowers, rain, clouds, dirt, grass, garden, tulips, lambs, water, creation, rainbow, showers; “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”