



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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November 2023 Edition

Holidays: “Count it all Joy”

November always points toward the holidays. A joyful time for most I guess, but this year, like every year, some will go through the holidays for the first time without a loved-one. I can still remember the first Thanksgiving without my mom, the first Christmas... the holidays would never be the same again. However, over time, new traditions, and new family members; like grandkids, make the holidays special again, but not ever the same. Speaking about the challenges of the holidays brings to my mind a lesson from the book of James I have always struggled with. **James 1:2-3** “*My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers (uncertain, various) temptations, (adverse, trying times); Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*”

I read a story some time back about a little girl who found a cocoon hanging from a limb in the forest. She took it to her room and placed it in a jar, expecting one day to see a butterfly emerge. One day, she saw the butterfly within the cocoon trying get out. It was struggling and trying to push its way out of the tight opening. In an effort to help the poor insect, she very carefully slit open the cocoon. After that, the butterfly was able to easily exit the cocoon. But a strange thing happened. Instead of spreading two beautiful wings, the butterfly had two withered, shriveled, useless, ugly wings hanging by its side. Why? God designed the butterfly and his cocoon so that the tight opening would straighten and strengthen his wings. Without the pressure of the tight opening, the butterfly was robbed of the beauty of his wings, and more importantly, he was robbed of the ability to fly into the heavens. He was condemned to a life of walking around on the ground!

Now, we are not butterflies, but like butterflies, James says we need the pressures and trials of life to develop into all that God has saved us to be. Trails have a purpose in our life and sometimes they are not removed no matter how much prayer is given. The apostle Paul spoke of a “*thorn in the flesh*” in 2 Corinthians 12:7. He prayed for the thorn to be removed but God said no. God gave him the thorn (what a gift!) to keep him from getting proud. We don’t know what the thorn was, but some suggest an eye ailment. Paul was supernaturally blinded when converted (Acts 9:9), and it is possible that some effects of that blindness remained even in later years. Galatians 4:15 and 6:11 (“with what large letters”).

None of us enjoy trials and burdens, but in reality, we all are forced to face them. The difference is in how we face them. I fear that most try to endure them and find a solution on their own. We don’t have to endure the struggles of life alone. The Lord is there to guide and help us. He may not calm the storm, but God has the ability to calm us in the midst of the storm.

In Christ Service,
Bro. Bobby





November Calendar of Events

- 5– Daylight Savings Ends
- 11– Veteran’s Day
- 13– KBC Pastor’s Conference
- 14– KBC Annual Meeting (FBC, Somerset)
- 23-24– Thanksgiving Holidays (Office Closed)



Thank you!

Liberty Point
Cadiz
New Hope
Ponderosa

For your participation in the KY Baptist Christmas Backpack collection. Thank you for sharing the gift of LOVE and the Gospel with a child in need this Christmas. You provided 160 backpacks!

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	1,712.80	
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	995.81	
Canton	818.32	250.00
Cerulean	518.00	
Crossroads	100.00	
Delmont	244.38	
Donaldson Creek	762.12	
East Cadiz	619.41	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	757.70	
Locust Grove	893.00	238.00
Maple Grove	375.00	
New Hope	180.91	
New Jerusalem	427.00	
New Light	50.00	
Oak Grove	477.59	
Ponderosa	407.19	
Rock Front	200.00	
Rocky Ridge	325.00	
South Union	230.00	
Wallonia	0	
Misc. Income	200.00	
Total	10,694.23	488.00
		11,182.23
Interest NOW Acc.	3.24	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Fund		238.00

Subtotals	10,697.47	488.00
Total income		\$11,185.47
Monthly expense		\$11,707.43

Regular Fund	
Beginning Balance	31,296.26
Interest Received	3.24
Gifts	10,695.23
Trans– Contingency Fund	(100.00)
Trans– Van Replacement Fund	
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund	(100.00)
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund	
Expense Checks Written	(10,858.44)
Ending Balance	\$30,936.29
Treasurer: Louise Fuller 10/25/23	

