

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church
12320 Winns Church Road, Glen Allen, VA 23059
Phone: (804) 798.5512 • Fax: (804) 752.2401 •
Web: www.winnsbc.org



February 2022

Dear Church family,

I've been thinking a lot lately about friends. Family is great when you have great family. I've been blessed with some wonderful family, and hope that you have been as well. Sadly, most of us are probably also related to people who don't exactly bless us as we go through life. I'm sure it is these situations that gave rise to the saying, "You can choose your friends, but you can't pick who you're kin to".

And yes, thankfully, we do get to choose our friends. Whether they are in addition to great family relationships, or all that one has when natural relationships are sour, friends are a huge source of blessing in our lives! Friends have been important to me all my life. I intuitively knew what the Bible tells us, that to have friends, one must show themselves friendly. I have always sought to be a good friend. I don't know how well I do at it, but for the effort, God has blessed me with some of the best friends a man could ever have!

We must first endeavor to be good friends; and as God blesses us with friends, we can walk arm-in-arm through life with them. Some friends are but for a season, until distance or circumstances put us on different paths. Some people that are friendly towards us, and us to them, we can't truly be friends in the fullest sense, because there just isn't enough time. But friends, at all the various levels, are among God's greatest gifts!

Thankfully, we all have access to the best friend ever. The song says, "What a friend we have in Jesus!". Jesus said in John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than to lay down one's life for his friends". (And He did!) He goes on to say in verse 14, "You are my friends if you do whatever I command you" Then we excerpt from verse 15 "...I have called you friends..."

Wow, as we continually count our blessings as we go through life, let us keep friends on the short list, especially our greatest Friend!

Showing myself friendly,
Pastor Jeff



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- January – Bar Soap
- February – Sunglasses
- March – Washcloths
- April – Toothbrushes
- May – Plastic Cups or Bowls
(no plates please)
- June – Small Cars/Toys/Balls
- July – Small Dolls/Toys/Balls
- August – Crayons/Pencils/Notepads
- September – Small Stuffed Animal
- October – Fill-A-Can
- November – Shoebox Party!**

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MUSIC MINISTRY

The following article was published in the Baptist Press – January 3, 2022. I hope this helps enlighten those that miss having a choir as much as I do! Covid has certainly done its share of “changes” in the church....I don't think we could have stopped them no matter how hard we tried. We are definitely in different times BUT we're going to keep working until Jesus comes, no matter the changes before us!!

Church music landscape rearranged as big publishers close

NASHVILLE (BP) – When it announced last month it was shutting down, Brentwood Benson became the latest in a line of major church music publishers closing their doors. Last year saw the bankruptcy of Lorenz Corp., which had purchased choral giant Word Music in 2017. Then a few months ago, Lifeway released its last box of new choral offerings for churches.

While several companies still offer hard copies of sheet music, the landscape looks very different than it did even a few years ago. And if the church music publishing industry had seen a step or two of decline in the 21st century, the COVID-19 pandemic took it down an octave.

“I think COVID probably was that final nail in the coffin for a lot of our publishers because suddenly there weren't choirs meeting, there was no need for new music, the composers were sitting on the side with nothing to do,” said Kenny Lamm, worship ministries strategist for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Longtime worship leader Kirk Kirkland, who also has worked as an arranger and recording vocalist for both Lifeway and Brentwood Benson, said the closures are a blow for small churches that don't have fulltime music staff or a lot of time for rehearsal. Brentwood Benson's Ready to Sing series has been a longtime staple for small-church choirs.

“[It was] one of the best church music resources on the market, and their sales proved it,” said Kirkland, worship leader at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville. “For that to go away, I know is going to impact the church. ... Where are they going to get what they need? There are other publishers that exist, but those places those churches have traditionally gone to get what they need are disappearing quickly.”

Daniel Semsen is one of a handful of smaller, independent publishers attempting to fill the void. He and his wife Christy had been creating new products for Word Music when they got word last year that Word's parent company was filing for bankruptcy and their contract was over. Semsen, worship leader at Village Church in Burbank, Calif., knew that churches would still need the products these companies offer, so he started [Semsen Music](#), a digital only publishing house, where churches can download and print their own copies.

“We care about the choir; about the way the church choir gives an opportunity for people to belong somewhere – for people to join into worship. That's our passion and our heart,” Semsen said.

“We want to step into this space where these giant publishers were so we can provide resources for people like us.

“We love the choir so much. We don't want it to go away. We need new music. We don't want to just get it from Praisecharts or use old music. We want well-crafted music that fits a certain purpose. Performance type music. Not just four-part harmony of a worship song. [Pieces] like Word and Lifeway and Brentwood Benson have been offering for decades.”

Director of [Lifeway Worship](#) Brian Brown said the changes are inevitable.

“Brentwood Benson largely served small- and medium-size churches, and many of them went into COVID with choirs, and they’re emerging from COVID without choirs,” Brown said.

He cited a Duke University study showing that by 2012, fewer than half of all churches had a choir at all – a number that has only shrunk since then.

“[Lifeway is] doing far, far less in the choral space, because church practice has changed,” Brown said. “We have to focus our resources to serve the most churches with the limited resources we have.”

Not that Lifeway has completely stopped providing for choirs, though.

People are using choirs as large praise teams, Brown said. So, Lifeway has begun adding bass lines to vocal charts for worship songs to make them usable by four-part groups. And Lifeway will continue to publish pieces specifically for choir, but it will be in digital format only – no physical product. Churches will have to download and print the sheet music themselves or issue each singer a tablet – something Brown said is a small but growing trend.

Acquiring music digitally was already common but accelerated during the pandemic. It’s now the norm, Brown said, adding: “Churches that have resisted have had to embrace it.”

Regardless of trends, all the people Baptist Press spoke to for this story said a choir can be an effective part of a service, drawing a congregation into worship.

“I think about the people that walk into the church and they see five beautiful young people leading worship,” Samsen said. “I think there’s maybe a disconnect there. As opposed to walking into a church and seeing 40 or 100 people up there of all different ages and backgrounds. All different kinds of cultures worshipping together. You see a 15-year-old worshipping with a 75-year-old. ... People that look completely different from one another worshipping together. I think it’s powerful. ... People tend to join in to sing with the big mass of people that is already singing on stage. The choir is an important part of worship because it says to everybody, ‘come and sing with us.’”

Kirkland, who uses the term “large-group worship team” rather than “choir,” said featuring all sorts of people is integral to the worship at Judson.

“Who is on the platform should reflect the congregation,” Kirkland said. “Everybody in a seat should be able to see someone who looks like them up on the platform.”

Lamm agrees that there is something unique and irreplaceable that a choir can add. He organized a mass choir for one of the sessions of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s annual meeting last fall and said the service was “one of the best nights of worship that I’ve experienced,” adding that it set the tone for the rest of the meeting.

“Somebody said when they walked in, they could feel the presence of the Spirit of God,” he said. “I worked with [the choir] on worshipping with their whole being and not just the neck up. It was an amazing transformation. It bled into the congregation even more to light that fire of worship.”



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Room #108-109
FREE

Good Morning Church,

It seems like we have missed a lot of church recently due to snow and covid going around, but hopefully going forward we won't have to miss any more. I really miss seeing all of you at church. I do know now that it is possible to contract covid more than one time, but if you do, it should be much less impactful the 2nd time around. So much less that you may not even know that you got it again. One good thing that I've noticed is usually if you have gotten it before and you get it again mildly it doesn't seem to be very contagious at all. It is my hope that the Omicron variant, which is more contagious, but less severe will provide a sort of herd immunity in the near future. We cannot put our lives on hold and live in fear of the "what if's", because Jesus wouldn't want us to too, but more than that covid is here to stay to some degree like the seasonal flu. Just be sure to stay home if you are sick in any way and practice good hygiene and we will all be fine.

I am excited also that we have a new Governor, Lt. Gov., and Attorney General here in Virginia! Maybe we can protect the lives of the unborn more effectively now as well as preserve more of our constitutional rights. One thing that really impressed me is the fact all 3 are Believers! How cool is that?! Be in prayer for them to do the Lord's will and to lead us in righteousness, and for their protection.

We had a big snow a few weeks ago that was really neat. Students ended up getting 3 weeks break for Christmas, which I am sure that they loved! That was a very wet and heavy snow which made it beautiful, but many people lost electricity as result and some of them for 8 days! With that outage and the historic 53-mile backup on I-95 that lasted 24+ hours, it got me thinking – Pastor Jeff and I are both very preparation minded and have been speaking about the need to be prepared personally for whatever comes your way. So, let me ask – what would you have done if you were stuck in your car for that long? Would you have had enough food, water, and a way to keep warm without the car running? Do you keep enough gas in your tank at all times? You should never allow you tank to go below 50%. What about the power outages – what would you have done to provide yourself with water to drink, and ability to flush, especially if you are on well water? Do you have a way to heat your home without electricity? What about for 8 days? How would you keep your pipes from freezing? There's a lot of things to think about. Be sure to have a plan and TEST IT! To see if it works or is adequate for your needs.

The county contacted us and asked if they could use our building as "Warming station" (not a shelter). But it was for overnight so that seems like a shelter to me, but I guess there is a specific definition of what is provided at a shelter, such as food. No one ended up taking us up on our offer to come, but it was a good testimony to the community and the emergency response teams. That being said, we really need to see what we can do in the future to be a light for Jesus during times like that, as well as always. We have to get out there and be the hands and feet of Jesus. I saw another church offered soup and sandwiches for dine-in, car side pick-up, or delivery – what a cool idea! We would need a team to help pull something like that off, but they had the right idea. Another church recently, offered to cut firewood to their congregants. We need to see what kinds of things that we can do like that as well.

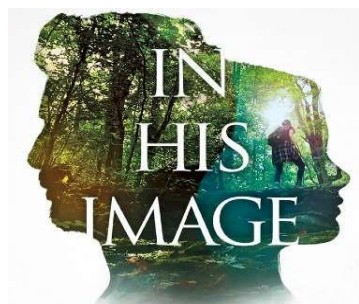
We also need to know when there are needs, such as elderly people in the church that need a hand with anything. I think people assume that someone else will make us aware of any needs, but that rarely happens until the need went unfulfilled or is no longer needed. We as a church will do all that is in our power to help, so please let us know. One of the best ways to reach someone in a timely fashion is to email me at: Darnold@winnsbc.org. I check my email regularly and I will do all I can to get the

need met. Please let me know if you need anything, also let me know even if you think someone else already has. We don't want anyone falling through the cracks.

Pastor Mindi & Pretty made it just in time! Our last snow, which was very small followed by a lot of rain here, was a snowstorm in NC! I picked up Pastor Mindi and Pretty on Saturday the 15th and their flight was delayed by an hour, but I checked my phone right after they landed to see 1000+ flights from the last airport that they flew out of were cancelled! That was close and it was so good of the Lord to deliver them to us safely and relatively on time, when so many people were stranded. This was the very first time Pretty has ever seen snow. She was sooo excited, like a little girl! It was awesome to see that. They really are appreciative to all those that minister to them and support their ministry. They are truly faithful servants, and it is an honor to serve them. The timing of their return to India is up in the air due to their country's closed borders. Luckily, they will be staying with their son Chris and his family in TX, so it will not be a hardship. Hopefully, they will get to still be here for their granddaughter's 2nd birthday in April.

Please pray for my Mom, Cathy, she had a couple of strokes after a back surgery, as well as a blood clot in her left leg and is back home now and in a lot of pain. She went through hospital rehab which helped a lot, but she still has limited mobility, and her leg is very painful from the clot, which will take about 3 months to dissolve. She will have at home therapy periodically. It is my hope that she will regain all her mobility. Thankfully, her speech was unaffected! Praise God!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Doug



The start of 2022 brought a few challenges to our church family and canceling the January lunch was disappointing. But that doesn't mean we miss the movie planned for last month. We will be showing the American Family Association's film, *In His Image: Delighting in God's Plan for Gender and Sexuality*. We hope you can join us for sub sandwiches and a movie on Tuesday, February 8 at 11:30.

Your Sisters in Christ,
Vivian Denton & Lori Hurd