

Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church

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September 2026



Dear Church Family,

This has truly been a summer to remember! God has done great and mighty things in and through us. Among the highlights was the celebration of our 250th year as a church. I've often said that our colorful history as a church wouldn't mean nearly so much if we were just sputtering along today. The other summer highlights show that that certainly isn't the case. We had an amazing Vacation Bible School with several youth and children coming to faith in Christ. On August 16, we had our annual river baptism where we baptized 24 people. While I love seeing little ones coming to Christ, if we are only baptizing our own, we are not really accomplishing the great commission. Out of the 24 that were baptized, 16 were adults, and half of those were men!

The following Sunday, our church recognized my 25 years of service as pastor of this congregation. Much like the 250th celebration, it would have been a little ho-hum if it weren't for the fact that our church is currently moving boldly forward in a spirit of unity to accomplish all that God has in mind for us! Thanks to each of you for making it such a wonderful occasion.

These are very exciting times for our church family. As long as the Lord grants me the ability to lead well, and you'll have me, I will do my best in the Lord to continue, and build upon, the amazing momentum that we are experiencing.

To God be the glory,

Pastor Jeff

Fall/Winter Music Opportunities

Our fall student choir season starts on September 16th at 5:45, one week after AWANA begins!

Our 3 student choirs range from age 4 through 12th grade. Little Lambs is for age 4-1st grade, Masterpiece Kids is for 2nd-5th grade, and the Set Apart student worship team is for 6th-12th grade.

Grab a registration folder for your child from the choir display in the hallway and bring back your registration form in the folder on the first day of choir rehearsals. Rehearsal/presentation schedules are in the registration folders and also at WinnsBC.net on the music ministry page. Please see Caleb Brauer with any questions.

Our students will join the adults in December to present the musical "Come, Let Us Adore." Adults, if you are interested in participating, please sign up in the foyer. See Donna Tomlinson or Shaina Todd if you have any questions.

September News

A great big THANK YOU to all those who said, “yes to VBS this year.” We had a wonderful team of volunteers which was evident each and every night. God blessed us with many opportunities to share His love and truth with the children and youth that attended.



AWANA registration is open!

Make plans to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Starting September 9th

Games, Theme Nights, Friends, and Jesus!

Awana is for children 3 years old (before September 30th and potty trained) through 6th grade.

Partnering to Share the Salvation “Password”

Barbara Bowen, Missions Committee Chair



Pastor Via sharing the gospel with a young man at a train station in Argentina (courtesy photo).

UPCOMING MISSION TRIPS

ARGENTINA, October 1-8, 2026

Serve alongside local pastors through church ministry, evangelistic events, and discipleship opportunities.

MYANMAR, November 2-12, 2026

Encourage local believers, strengthen church leaders, and participate in Gospel ministry through trusted ministry partnerships.

These trips enable us to encourage fellow believers, serve alongside local ministries, and participate in the Great Commission firsthand.

We hope to explore more opportunities in the months and year ahead, including a possible Winn’s mission trip to India in late 2027. Please prayerfully consider whether God may be leading you to join a small team sent to connect with Pastor Mindi’s local congregations, share messages of encouragement, and support their ministry activities.

No special experience is required – just a servant’s heart, a willingness to go, and a desire to share the love of Christ. Many are still out there searching for the “password” to eternal life, and you can be ready to share the One who is the way to salvation: Jesus Christ.

One of the best things about being part of the body of Christ is the opportunity to share in the joy of new believers as they join the family of God.

Last month, we gathered for the river baptisms of 24 people who publicly symbolized the beginning of their new lives as followers of Jesus. This month, we’ll celebrate the salvation of many more people we may never meet.

On September 27, our friend Rick Via will share his annual update on the evangelism work being done through World Reach Partnerships. It’s a message you won’t want to miss as you hear how this Virginia-based organization is leveraging your gifts to advance the Kingdom of God around the globe.

Pastor Via has spent much of the year on the road, taking the Gospel to Cuba, Uganda, Brazil, Trinidad, Burma, and Pakistan. The World Reach team then builds on that foundation by partnering with local pastors, churches, and ministry leaders who faithfully serve their communities year after year.

On a recent trip to Uganda, one group member asked a young man if he would go to heaven when he died. His response was that he wasn’t going to heaven because he didn’t “know the password.” Thankfully, the team had the opportunity to share the Gospel with him, and he placed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that very day.

What a powerful reminder that salvation isn’t reserved for a select few with a secret code. God has entrusted us with this good news, and we have the privilege of sharing it with others. While Winn’s is truly blessed to have a mission partner like World Reach Partnerships serving as the hands and feet of Jesus, we can also take a more active role in carrying this message to unreached peoples.

If you’d like to see what God is doing through local churches outside the U.S., consider participating in a short-term mission trip with World Reach or another trusted partner such as Samaritan’s Purse.

Good morning, Church Family!

A lot has happened since we last spoke. We had our river baptism on August 16th, and we had the privilege of baptizing 24 people! 8 Men, 8 Women, and 8 Youth/Children. That's a good mix. Thankfully, the water was deep enough, and we had a great day. It did rain on us briefly, but it passed quickly. I was especially excited that several of our young adults got baptized that day.

Our Young Adult community group is really growing too! We have been meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Sunday nights, and we've been having between 25 – 30 and people are coming from other churches and bringing friends. We are really getting some exciting momentum! Please pray for us as we seek to train up this demographic for Jesus.

We are finally out of the drought that has been going on in our area over the past few months and it's just in time for Fall. The leaves have much richer colors when they have proper hydration. I always love to see the lower humidity that Fall brings as well. One of the best things about Fall is the resumption of Youth Group and AWANA. **Youth Group restarts on September 9th.** One thing that shifted with Covid was most people started to homeschool their students. While that is a good thing in almost all ways, it leaves us with less exposure to invite peers from school to come to church with us. **I'd love for us to be more intentional about inviting friends to Youth and church. Be thinking who you can invite** and let me know if you have any suggestions to make Youth more welcoming to visitors.

Also, if your student participates in a sport let me know, I'd like to watch games/meets and support them!

I'll leave you with this: we need to plan for the future, but that includes preparing to laying up treasure in Heaven by sending support and Bibles to our persecuted brothers overseas. Check this ministry out:

<https://lovepackages.org/how-to-donate-old-bibles/>

This ministry sends used Bibles and partial Bibles to those that do not have one. Such a humbling thing to realize. How many do we have sitting around and there are those who would give their left arm for one of their own. May God richly bless you as you faithfully follow Him!

**Grace & Peace,
Pastor Doug**

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morning, Church
family: