

# Winns' Messenger

Published for Members and Friends of Winn's Baptist Church

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Dear Church Family,

It's been well said that when it comes to sharing our faith, that in many cases, "people need to know how much you care before they care how much you know." I mentioned this concept in my article last month, referring to ministries that provide practical help as "earning the right to be heard." As I often point out, not only will people be more apt to listen because you are helping them, but it becomes show and tell. They are seeing the love you are telling them about in action!

These opportunities unfold in many shapes and sizes. It can be a person or a family ministering to others in the name of the Lord apart from the ministries of the church. Even in these cases, the church family is available to back you up if you need it. Sometimes, a ministry team or Sunday school class will work together to come alongside those in need. Last month, I spoke of two such ministries that we are undertaking as a church. One is a ministry to single mothers of young children. That is still in its formative stages. The other is much further along. We've actually been working on it for over a decade. It is a ministry to and for those in need during a local or regional crisis, such as a major storm or a "grid down" scenario. We call this our "City on a Hill" outreach effort. The name comes from Mt. 5:14-16; *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* The name of the ministry is even more appropriate when you consider the fact that our shower facilities that we can make available are up in our pavilion, which is literally on a hill !

Our name is already being recognized in the community as a place that opens our hearts and doors to those in such situations. We have been listed in the past as a warming station during unusually cold temperatures, and as a source for water when a winter storm shut down the Richmond water facilities. We received hand-written thank you cards from students at Chickahominy Middle school for our obvious care for the community, as well as an email from a young man who plans to visit our church for the same reason.

We are working toward setting up an organizational meeting to pull together the groups and individuals needed to make us viable in the event of more serious and widespread need. Keep your ears open for such an announcement. We will need just about every skill and spiritual gift you can imagine!

God is definitely at work in our church family!

Glad to be a part of it,

Pastor Jeff

## **AWANA Grand Prix Winners...**

### **SPEED**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Place Payton Smithwick**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ashton Arnold**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Drew Wajciechowski**



### **12 & Under Design**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Emma Fox**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Molly Meador**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Kaylee Smithwick**



### **13 & Up Design**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Grandpa Smithwick  
(Ronnie's Dad)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Austin Clark**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Sadie Brauer**





A big **“THANK YOU”** to  
Chris, Stacy and Drew Wajciechowski for all  
their help in making the Awana Grand Prix  
happen!



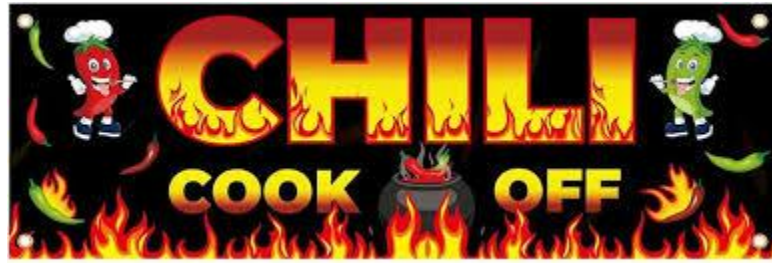
Good morning, Church family,

We have 32 confirmed for youth camp this summer at Regent University. We are returning there this year because we had such a great time there last year. We pushed back the week that we are attending by one week to make it easier on families with graduates. The price to go to camp has been sizeable for a while \$439/person and we want to ensure that no one is left out due to finances, so we came up with a plan!

In early February we started a new **Youth Camp Coffee ministry** in the main kitchen next to the Fellowship Hall. We wanted to offer a place to get great tasting coffee drinks and support our youth and their families at the same time. With there being 30 minutes in between service and Sunday School – it is the perfect opportunity to fellowship and enjoy our various coffee drinks. We are open prior to the church service as well as between service and Sunday schools. We are operating on a minimum cash donation basis currently, which means we have a minimum donation required per item. **Currently a cup of coffee is just \$1 and fancy coffee drinks are \$3**. We wanted this to be affordable across the board for everyone and anyone who wants to chip in more to help the youth go to camp is welcome to do so! We don't want you to feel harassed and obligated to give, so we are providing an affordable service that most people enjoy at your convenience. Just to be clear – **this is a self-sustaining effort which means ZERO dollars of church budgeted money will be used to support this**. So far, we have been operating for 3 weeks, and this looks like it will help to lessen the financial strain on families who send their students to camp. Thank you for your support!

Like I said, we are currently only accepting cash but would like to possibility accept PayPal and Venmo in the future. We are trying to come up with the best way to do that through the church instead of individuals.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Doug



## Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Place Clint Alley

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Rick and Josh Hair

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Brian Mosier

Most Exotic Wes Smith

Presentation Guy McGee



## Missions Spotlight: Teaming Up to Support a Ministry for All Ages

Barbara Bowen, Missions Committee Chair



Like many activities at Winn's, 40 Days for Life is a true family affair. Jenna Brauer's children are a very visible part of the team standing on the sidewalks of Planned Parenthood each week to demonstrate their strong commitment to the sanctity of life.

Son Corey was actually a driving force in setting her on this path. After seeing the 2019 movie "Unplanned," the then 12-year-old asked his parents some tough questions about why they weren't doing more to protect the unborn.

"It was really eye opening because I knew about abortion, but I hadn't seen how dark and sad it truly is," said Corey. "So, we decided as a church to start going every Friday. I work more now, but I go when I can, and we've seen a lot of babies saved over the years."

Melledy Trask got involved in this sidewalk prayer ministry much later in life but is no less committed to ending this abomination. She wanted to get involved when she first started coming to Winn's but struggled with some of the same doubts many others may face in taking a stand for their faith.

"What held me back was the enemy telling me I didn't know enough about this to be able to do it," explains Trask. "I thought I didn't have anything to offer because I've never been through what they've been through. Who would listen to me?"

All that changed when she heard Jenna make a plea for volunteers three years ago. She said she felt a nudge and a pull in her spirit, so she signed up for her first shift.

"I felt the Lord was putting it in front of me," she said. "Am I going to obey what I feel him telling me to do or am I going to just play it safe with the excuses that I'm too old, I'm not equipped, I'm not qualified to talk to anyone, I don't know what to say?"

"God gave me 2 Timothy 1:7, I have given you 'a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.' So, I thought, well, that takes care of the fear. If I talk to people lovingly from where I am and pray with them, maybe that will make a difference."

The work is challenging, and the enemy is always on the move with Planned Parenthood deliberately changing "kill" and consulting days, but God is ever faithful in strengthening those who come together in prayer. Trask sees it as a journey and a commitment.

"There are so many times when no one takes that brochure and they'd rather run you over than stop, but God always brings somebody to us when everybody's about ready to give up," said Trask.

Corey echoes that sentiment, stating that seeing women change their minds about abortion has really reassured him that we are making a difference out there. Trask also has faith that God will work in the stories that didn't end as happily. One young woman had second thoughts after travelling with her mother from North Carolina to surgically abort her baby, but they couldn't help her get the clamp removed in time to save the child.

"The baby would have been born in January 2024, and I carry that in my heart," said Trask. "I don't know what God's going to do with it. I just pray that somebody is going to come across their paths to lead them to Christ, and that she'll be able to share her story and become part of the 40 Days for Life ministry."

Contact Jenna Brauer at [jenna.brauer@yahoo.com](mailto:jenna.brauer@yahoo.com) to learn more about Winn's weekly sidewalk ministry and the 40 Days for Life campaign, which runs from March 5 to April 13.

# When the Worshipers go to Battle

2 Chronicles 20

What do you do when your enemy is bearing down on you? In 2 Chronicles 20 Jehoshaphat received word that the people of Moab and Ammon and others with them (there are always others with them) were coming against him in battle. Who is your enemy? Few of us these days have a contingent of Moabites and Ammonites arraying themselves for battle against us. (If you do, please let the men's ministry know) Ephesians 6:12 identifies our enemy:

*12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

So often the Old Testament gives us historical, physical examples of our current spiritual realities. Jehoshaphat's initial physical response is the same as we are prone to experience. He was *afraid*. Who wouldn't be? Do any of you experience feelings of anxiety and foreboding?

So, he proclaimed a time of prayer and fasting in the land and gathered the people together. In the midst of the assembly, he appealed to God for victory over the enemy. The Spirit of the Lord came upon some of the men and spoke to Jehoshaphat saying, "Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. Tomorrow go down against them.'"

Thank you Lord for answering our prayers. Again, Jehoshaphat's response was appropriate:

*18 Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. 19 And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.*

Note that they arose to worship with a loud voice. You don't have to be shy when the Lion of Judah is on your side. We see them putting faith into action. After all, faith without works is dead. They believed God and acted accordingly.

*20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, AS THEY WENT BEFORE THE ARMY, and say,*

***"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for his steadfast love endures forever."***

*22 And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed.*

Thank you Lord, for fighting the enemy for us. You only send the worshipers out first if you believe the battle is not yours, but God's. God delivered a great victory that day and He can do the same for you.

When the enemy is arrayed against you, follow Jehoshaphat's example. Pray, fast, and then worship your way to the battlefield. God will give you the victory and to the victor go the spoils. (Keep reading 2 Chronicles 20) We know that God has already crushed the head of the serpent as prophesied in Genesis 3:15. The war is already won, though there are still battles while we live on this earth. If you are in Christ, and Christ is in you, you can face whatever tomorrow brings.

I'll leave you with this hope from the hymn Because He Lives:

... **And then one day, I'll cross the river,**  
I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then, as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!  
... **Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,**  
Because He lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

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**For the month of March, we will be collecting.**  
**Washcloths can be dropped off in the box at the "Welcome Center."**