



"A Little Faith"

Jesus Cures a Boy with a Demon

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, ¹⁵ and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has epilepsy and suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." ¹⁷ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured from that moment. ¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁰ He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you (Matthew 17:14-20)."

When facing difficult circumstances, a common word of encouragement many will give is, "You just got to have a little faith." When I was growing up, I used to hear that phrase quite a bit. Whether I was dealing with a conflict at school, nervous about an upcoming test, or struggling to make a decision, many in whom I confided would respond with a similar adage about "having a little faith."

While I appreciated these words and the way they encouraged me to be guided by faith, I would often wonder, how do you measure faith? How do you know whether you have a lot of faith or a little? If "a little more faith" is what you need, how do you add more faith to what you already have? The quantity of faith from one person to the next was always confusing to me. In the biblical story of the boy with a demon, Jesus seems to muddy the water even more. After voicing his frustration with the disciples for their "little faith," he also declares the power of a little faith—"faith the size of a mustard seed." When the disciples unsuccessfully tried to exorcise a demon from a young boy, the boy's father brought his son to Jesus. Before rebuking the demon and casting him out of the boy, Jesus rebuked his disciples. He called them a "faithless" and "perverse" generation. When they asked Jesus why they were unable to cure the boy, he responded, "Because of your little faith." Initially, the amount of faith seems to be the problem. However, Jesus expounds on this statement with a familiar image: *"For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."*

If the quantity of the disciples' faith was the problem, why did Jesus say that faith even as small as a mustard seed could move mountains? Rather than instructing them to have more faith, Jesus pointed to the power of even the smallest amount of faith. Which one is it? Do we need more faith, or can a little faith accomplish the impossible? In his book *Practical Christianity*, Eugene Peterson explains: "I think it is wise to completely eliminate talk about how much faith we have, or how we need more faith. All too often when we say these things we aren't talking about faith at all but a feeling we have. When we define faith as a feeling—of belief, or of piety—what we're actually measuring is not faith but an emotion. Faith is not a feeling. It is simply an act of assent, of openness, and often doesn't feel like much at all. Faith has to do with what God is doing, not with what we are feeling."

I wonder if Jesus' rebuke had less to do with his disciples' amount of faith, and more with their understanding of faith. Rather than giving them the power to cure a demon-possessed boy, faith was meant to direct their attention to God, and trust whatever God chose to do in response to the boy's illness. The disciples understood faith as the substance that would give them the power to achieve the miraculous; Jesus utilized faith as a conduit that allowed God to do the miraculous through him. Jesus did not rebuke the amount of faith within his disciples; he rebuked the focus of their faith. Rather than emphasizing God's power and trusting when and where God chose to use it, the disciples focused on themselves and what they could achieve through the power of their faith.

What if *faith the size of a mustard seed moving mountains* has nothing to do with the power of faith, but rather the power of God we encounter through faith. When the power of faith becomes about an amount of faith, then faith becomes the goal. As the disciples discovered, faith is not the goal; faith is a means to an end. The goal is Jesus. He is our source of strength and power. He is the only who has the power to move mountains. He is the only one who has the power to command the winds and the waves to obey him

(Matthew 8:23-27). He is the only one who has the power to lay down his life and pick it back up again (John 10:18). The purpose of faith is not to give us power, but to be a conduit through which we experience, encounter, and channel the source of all power, which is Jesus.

This week, may we stop focusing on what we can do through faith, and be open and attentive to what God is doing in us through our faith. We will never have the power to move mountains. That was not Jesus' point. Faith is putting our trust in the only one who can "say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move." Rather than calling on God in faith to do what we want, may we simply be open to what God wants to do through us by our faith. If we will, nothing will be impossible, for according to Jesus, "with mortals it is impossible, but with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26)."

— Travis

Children's Sunday



This Sunday, May 15th

This Sunday we look forward to our children serving and leading in every aspect of worship! We will witness the presentation of second grade Bibles. In addition, the Young Musicians Choir will share in both services, and the Cherub & Sonshine Choirs will perform in the 11:00 AM service. Travis' sermon is "Interrupting Distractions," and the scripture is John 21:1-6.

Youth Choir Student/Parent Meeting

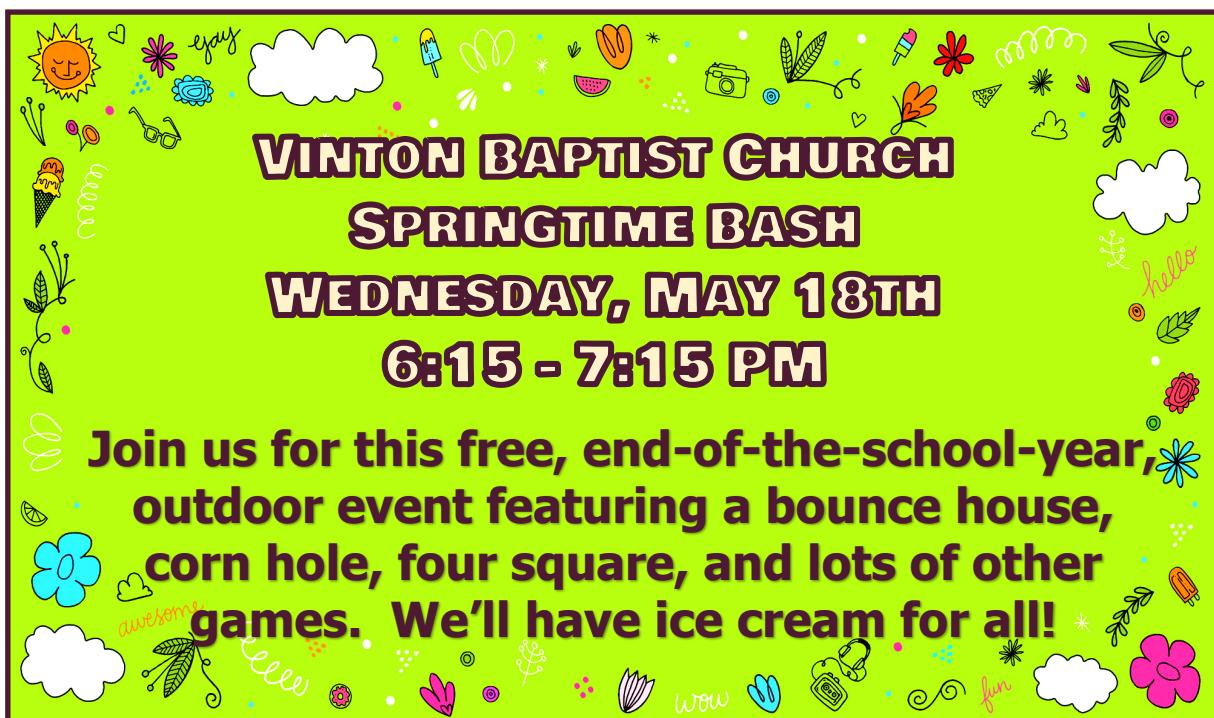
There will be a Youth Choir and parent meeting this Sunday, May 15th at 5:00 PM. All participants going on the Youth Choir trip June 4th - 9th are encouraged to attend, as some forms will need to be filled out, trip details disclosed, and special packing items discussed.



Wednesday Night Activities

Tonight's Adult Bible Study will conclude our "Voices from the early Church" series, and we will be in 1 Timothy 6:3-19. Children's Choirs, Youth Group, and weekly adult choir rehearsals will also wrap up tonight.

Please note that our last scheduled Wednesday Night Dinner for this school year is next Wednesday, May 18th. Menu: end-of-season "Chef's Choice" smorgasbord dinner with bread and dessert. We will celebrate next Wednesday with our Springtime Bash (see below)!



Thrive Student Ministry

The Youth will be going to Blue Cow to celebrate the end of the season today. We will gather at the stairs by the office at 6:15pm. We will be back in the church parking lot by 7:15pm!

This Sunday, May 15th will be our final Extreme for the school year.

Following is our summer schedule:



SUMMER schedule

2022



CREW ON THE GO!
JUNE 15TH

GREENWAY CLEAN-
UP MISSION NIGHT
5:30PM- GREENWAY
CLEAN-UP FOLLOWED BY
TACOS AND BASKETBALL
@ CHURCH

JUNE 22ND
SALEM RED SOX
GAME- FAITH NIGHT
5:30PM- MEET @ CHURCH

JULY 6TH
RESCUE MISSION
4:30PM- MEET AT
CHURCH TO PREP
LUNCHES AND KITS FOR
THE RESCUE MISSION

JULY 27TH

KING'S DOMINION
8:00AM- MEET @
CHURCH
10:00PM- RETURN
COST= \$40

AUGUST 3RD
SENIOR SEND-
OFF NIGHT
6:30PM- ICE CREAM
SUndaes AND SEND
OFF FOR OUR
SENIORS!

AUGUST 5TH
BACK TO SCHOOL
LOCK-IN
7:00PM-7:00AM

SUNDAY NIGHT SUMMER
BIBLE STUDIES- 6:00PM

WHITNEY AND TRAVIS RUSSELL
4301 DENBEIGH CIR., VINTON
MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT: JUNE 12TH
COMBINED NIGHT: JULY 3RD
HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT: JULY 24TH

ALEXIS AND MAT PARRISH
541 STACIE DR., VINTON
HIGH SCHOOL NIGHT: JUNE 12TH
COMBINED NIGHT: JULY 10TH
MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT: JULY 24TH

PARENTS! SCAN HERE TO SIGN-UP TO
HELP CHAPERONE!
WHITNEY: 919-612-2973

TRIPS!
CHOIR TOUR
JUNE 4-9

MISSION TRIP TO CHARLESTON
JUNE 26-JULY 1

WORSHIP ARTS CAMP
JULY 11-15

VBS- MONUMENTAL
JULY 18-21

TRIP PRESENTATIONS IN
WORSHIP- JULY 10TH
EXTREME RETURNS SUNDAY,
AUGUST 14TH



Worship Arts Camp: July 11th - 15th

Worship Arts Camp will be held at Eagle Eyrie and is open to students who have completed 4th—9th grades. The cost is \$200 for the week, including meals. Campers can select classes that pique their interest. Registration forms are available in the church office and are due no later than June 12th.



Graduate Recognition Sunday: May 22nd



- If you or someone in your family is graduating from high school or college this year, please email kim@vintonbaptistchurch.org or call the church office at 540-343-7685 to let us know the following: name of graduate, school, any special honors, type of degree, if/where they will attend college or military service, and whether they will be able to attend worship May 22nd (and which service.) Even if your graduate cannot attend May 22nd, we would still like their information so that we can recognize them in The Witness. If your graduate will attend worship May 22nd, they should meet Whitney in the church library at 8:15 AM or 10:30 AM, where they will be asked to complete a short Graduate Recognition Form. All graduates should wear their cap and gown.
- Please note that Bibles for our high school seniors are now available in the Welcome Center so that you may mark your favorite verse, include words of encouragement, and direct our graduates in their path. Please take time to do so within the next week.
- Vinton Baptist will host the WBHS Baccalaureate at 6:00 PM on May 22nd.



Fifth Sunday



On May 29th, we will follow our fifth Sunday schedule, with Sunday School at 9:15 AM, one combined morning worship service at 10:30 AM, and a church-wide luncheon following worship. Our luncheon will feature hamburgers and hot dogs, sides, desserts, coffee, and tea. Plan now to join us!



Virtual Service Only June 5th

The Carilion Clinic Ironman 70.3 triathlon is scheduled to race in our area Sunday, June 5th. Washington Avenue, as well as numerous side streets, will be blocked off beginning Sunday morning, and thousands of spectators are expected throughout Vinton and surrounding areas. Therefore, there will be no in-person services (or any other VBC events) June 5th. Instead, a pre-recorded virtual service will be broadcast at 10:30 AM. It will be accessible through our website (www.vintonbaptistchurch.org) or through our Facebook group page at that time, or you can watch it at a later date or time.



JOY Seniors: Upcoming Events

The **May JOY Seniors Luncheon** on May 24th will feature lunch by Bellacino's (your choice of 8" personal pizza, salad, cookie, and water - \$10/person) and program by musician Bryan Ratliff. Sign up and pay by May 22nd.

Catch a round trip ride on the **Cass Scenic Railroad** to Walker Station on Thursday, June 9th. Experience breathtaking views at the overlook at Bald Knob, WV's third highest point. This JOY Seniors sponsored Abbott trip includes breakfast and boxed lunch for \$85. Sign up and pay at the JOY Seniors table by Wednesday, June 1st.

The June JOY Seniors Luncheon will be Friday, June 17th here at VBC so that we can support **LET'S GIVE LUNCH** for Meals on Wheels. Each boxed lunch costs \$20, which covers both your lunch and 3 lunches for seniors in need. Lunches include your choice of sandwich, potato salad, fresh strawberries, brownie, and water. Entertainment will be provided by John Tillery, who will be playing various instruments. All orders must be placed and money received by June 2nd. Sign up at the JOY Seniors table.

Plan ahead for our **September 20-22 trip to Lancaster, PA!** We will enjoy the Sight & Sound production of *David*, a chalk talk program, visit to the Amish Village (to include a tour of the Amish countryside), admission to Landis Valley Farm & Museum, dinner in an Amish home, and a visit to Hershey Chocolate World. Sign-up NOW! You can pay for the entire trip in one lump sum or begin making payments. This trip also includes 2 nights' lodging, 2 continental breakfasts, 1 dinner, and round trip Abbott bus transportation. Sign up at the JOY Seniors table.

**Vacation Bible School
is coming July 18th - 21st for
3-year-olds through 5th grade (completed)!
Registration (for students and volunteers)
is coming very soon!**



**Barbara Karnes
Springtree Health & Rehab. #502
3433 Springtree Drive NE
Roanoke VA 24012**

Church Finances		5/8/2022
Budget Offering		\$ 11,200.00
Building Fund		\$ 50.00
Lovelace Scholarship		\$ 100.00
Other		\$ 694.00
TOTAL		\$ 12,044.00
Online Giving		
General Budget		\$ 2,980.00
TOTAL		\$ 2,980.00
Grand Total of ALL giving		\$15,024.00
Associational Missions Offering (Annie Mae Broyles)		
Goal: \$2,200.00		Given to Date: \$ 290.00
Current Building Fund Balance:		\$58,660.77

Memorials & Honorariums

*To the Music Ministry in honor of Jean McGuire,
by Jack & Velma Kendrick*

Thank you to the Mary Martha Class for their donations to the Food Pantry, Youth Camp in Charleston, SC, and Kids' Passport Camp.

Thank you to the Dorcas Class for their donations to Bible School, the Youth Choir Mission Trip, and Boys & Girls Club Snacks.

BUDGET STATUS as of April 30, 2022 (Total 2021-2022 Budget \$996,949)		
Financial Activity	YTD Totals	Percentage of Budget
General Offering Receipts	\$ 519,497	52.11%
Receipts Required to Meet Budget	\$ 581,554	58.33%
Income Over (Under) Budget Requirements	\$ (62,057)	
Actual Expenditures	\$ 515,914	51.75%
Income Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 3,583	

The Finance Committee appreciates your continued giving and Support of Vinton Baptist Church



May 8, 2022

8:45 AM

In person: 213

Online: 189

Sunday School: 242

11:00 AM

In person: 196

Online: 128



Boys & Girls Club



This summer, the Boys & Girls Club could use our help providing breakfast and snacks for students attending the summer program. Financial contributions can be made toward the purchase of these items; simply notate your donation for "Boys & Girls Club Snacks." If you prefer to purchase individual sized, peanut-free snacks, please drop them in the bin at the Missions Tables.

The Apple Barn is closing, and all remaining Cat's Meow figures of Vinton Baptist Church are available for sale in the church office. Each figure is \$20, and proceeds will go toward breakfast foods for Boys & Girls Club. These are the only VBC Cat's Meows left!!



Charity Run/Walk Events

Keystone 5K Walk Day - Join us Wednesday, June 8th at 9:00 AM at the Goode Park Greenway lot to walk the Keystone 5K. Sign up here beforehand to contribute to Keystone: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/VA/Roanoke/KeystoneCommunityCenter5K#event-571226>.

Four on the Fourth - On Monday, July 4th, start your morning off with a race or walk to support the Boys & Girls Club. This race is one of the club's biggest fundraisers, and it begins and ends this year at the Vinton War Memorial. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/VA/Vinton/Fouronthe4th#event-593020> and enter "Vinton Baptist Church" under team name.



Ward Haven Open House/Cookout

You are invited to the Ward Haven Open House/Cookout scheduled for Saturday, June 11th, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM. There will be an inflatable, popcorn, snow cones, a band, and lunch at noon. There will also be an opportunity to tour Ward Haven. The RVBA invites you to participate in a Q&A and express your input to the Properties Study Committee of RVBA regarding the disposition of Ward Haven. RSVP to 540-366-7631.



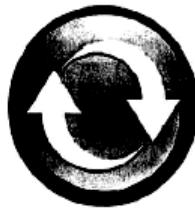
Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to John & Charlotte Crist in the death of his mother, Betty Hartless of Buena Vista, who passed away Monday, May 9th.



Annie Mae Broyles Associational Mission Offering

The WMU invites you to contribute to the Annie Mae Broyles Associational Mission Offering this year (your envelope is marked Associational Missions) and pray for the beneficiaries of this ministry. Our Vinton Baptist goal is \$2,200. The Roanoke Valley goal is \$20,000. These funds are used for missions specifically in the Roanoke Valley. See below:



“ReFRESH YOUR PASSION 2021”
ROANOKE VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
PRAYER EMPHASIS AND
ANNIE MAE BROYLES OFFERING FOR
ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS

Day One: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Ward Haven that men, women, youth, and children will be strengthened in their faith as they attend retreats and camps at the facility. Pray for Giles Gilley as he seeks to maintain the buildings and grounds.

Day Two: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Friendship House Roanoke as they minister to children and families in South West Roanoke. Through after school programs, food distribution, summer programs and housing for refugees they seek to love people and share the Gospel of Jesus.

Day Three: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Children’s Missions Camp held during the summer at Ward Haven. Be in prayer for the leaders as they seek ways to involve more children in the camp and for opportunities to visit with churches to share about camp.

Day Four: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Valley Impact to be held on September 26th. This is an opportunity for the churches of RVBA on one day to engage our communities through ministry, missions, and evangelism projects.

Day Five: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning The Least of These Roanoke as they support Roanoke’s homeless community physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Pray for the ministry of Mercy Grace supply truck going into the camps and the washing machines and showers in downtown warehouse for the homeless.

Day Six: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Christian Soldiers Food Ministry so they may be able to have the resources to serve those who visit the ministry each week. Pray that the ministry will be able to find another facility where they can have enough room to have Bible study and food storage. Pray for the leadership and volunteers.

Day Seven: PRAY TODAY for 2021 ReFRESH concerning Keystone Community Center that ministers in Southeast Roanoke. Pray for director Pat Carter as she leads this ministry to reach out to children and their families through children’s programs, camps, and backyard gardens.

Annie Mae Broyles Offering

Friendship House	\$5,000.00
Keystone	\$5,000.00
Children’s Camp	\$2,000.00
Least of These	\$1,500.00
Christian Soldiers Food Pantry	\$4,000.00
Ward Haven	\$2,500.00
	\$20,000.00

ANNIE MAE BROYLES

The first Baptist Mission Center of the Roanoke Valley Baptist Association was opened in 1939 and began operation on Salem Avenue and Miss *Annie Mae Broyles* was its first Missionary Director.



VBS Donations

This Sunday you will find donation requests for VBS items, as well as “Adopt-a-Prop” projects, in the Welcome Center area. Please take a moment to peruse the items requested and see if you can help. Vacation Bible School is a huge annual undertaking, and we appreciate so much all those who take the opportunity to support this effort in every way. God bless you!



New Books in the Library

- ⇒ *One Perfect Word* by Debbie Macomber
- ⇒ "The Crittendon Files," Books 2 & 3 by Creston Mapes



Notes from Staff

If you receive an email that claims to be from a staff member, but simply doesn't sound right, please be aware that scammers are out in full force. Please double-check the email address from which the email was sent. All staff have emails that start with their first name and end with "@vintonbaptistchurch.org" (like kim@vintonbaptistchurch.org). If the email does not come from a staff address, it's simply someone pretending to be a staff member. If the email asks for money, gift cards, or anything unusual, please treat it with suspicion. Please do not click on any links or reply to the email without checking with the staff member first to see if it is legitimate. If you have questions, please let us know.

Due to Kim's vacation schedule, as well as the virtual nature of our June 5th service, all notices for the May 25th and June 1st editions of The Witness, as well as the May 29th and June 5th bulletins, are due to Kim by noon Monday, May 23rd. Thank you!