

Please mail all correspondence to:P.O. Box 30954, Raleigh, NC 27622Church location: 4408 Lead Mine Rd Raleigh, NC 27612Phone: (919) 781-5345Email: cvbc@crabtreevalleybaptist.orgWebsite: www.crabtreevalleybaptist.orgChurch Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm (closed on Friday)



**Start the year off right!** Make plans to join us for our weekly Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at 6:30 pm with Rev. Timothy Pearce.





Church office information: Guest Pastor • Rev. Timothy Pearce Music Director • Risa Poniros Secretary • Peggy Utley Youth Director • Anna Clark Website updates/maintenance webmaster@crabtreevalleybaptist.org



## **Faith from Doubt**

A hesitation to believe; to be uncertain about; to consider questionable or unlikely; a distrust or suspicion. All of these are definitions of doubt. We all have experienced these feelings about someone or something that has occurred. But in order to have doubt, we certainly must first experience a belief or doubt cannot creep into our thinking. We can only doubt what we already believe! You

might have met someone and became friends and as time passed, you began to doubt what they have said as their actions do not align with their words. With Jesus, his actions and words align perfectly! Or they promised you something and did not deliver on it. Jesus certainly delivered on his promises!

As I related in Sunday's sermon, we sent astronauts to the moon spending billions of dollars and many of us witnessed it live on television. But some still doubted and still do that such an impossible occurrence could really take place. We forget sometimes that with Jesus, all things are possible!

As we learned from scripture in Mathew 28:16-20 this past Sunday, we as Christians, like the disciples before us we all experience doubt. A man whom they followed, loved, and trusted to be the Son of God, chooses to suffer a horrible death, and seemingly leaves them all alone with no leader to carry on the mission he had called them to fulfill. So, here stood Jesus in front of them, resurrected as promised. But some still doubted. They believed but were uncertain of what they were seeing. But don't we do the same thing? We know about Jesus, but do we have a relationship with him and know him? Even then, we can doubt.

As Christian author Dan Schweitzer wrote, "We as Christians are not called to be free of doubt, but to follow Jesus in the face of it." It is called faith. Faith is the key to who we are as Christians. Faith in the resurrection of Jesus is what we base or hope in. Without it, Christianity doesn't exist! We all have doubts sometimes about our faith. But that is okay, as doubt is not the absence of faith, doubt is the questioning of faith! Questions lead to better understanding on our journeys down this path of faith. It strengthens our faith. It does not weaken it. As you become a more mature Christian with ever increasing understanding of who Jesus is and what he asks of us, so too will your faith increase. Others will see it in you and hear it in your words. Then you too are spreading the Good News as Jesus asked us to do.

God's faithfulness to us never ceases. It never comes to an end as we are reminded in Lamentations. Jesus said in John 5:17, "*My Father is always working, and I am also working*." Our work is to remain faithful in hope and remain in trustful waiting. The doubt will subside as we come to know that we have hope! Hope in a gracious Lord that faithfully loves us each and every day, no matter if we doubt. He is lovingly patient with our doubts.





Share the Sonshine is an outreach ministry. We can all be a part of this ministry by praying for these individuals, sending cards or making phone calls.

## Person of the Week for Jan 8-14

Anne Barden – Suite 330 Oak Hill Assist. Living 9767 NC 210 North Angier, NC 27501

**Deacon for this week:** 1/8 Gene Sherwood **Deacon for next week:** 1/15 Barbara Best

Properties for January: Ben Best

## **Prayer Concerns:** HOME

Betsy Shaw Frances Viano Sandi Robinson Walt Switzer Jane Williams Jetta Lewis Marci Phelps – (friend of Jean Glosson) **REHAB & CARE FACILITIES:** Anne Barden – Oak Hill Asst Living in Angier

Catherine Mullins – Sunrise of Cary OTHER:

Sonshine Person of the Week The Price family – Missionaries in Wales



On behalf of Kathy and myself, I wanted to say a heartfelt "thank you" to the dear folks and friends of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church. We are so grateful for your encouragement, love and support over the past 20 months. Your expressions of love on our last Sunday were very generous! Paraphrasing the words of Paul, I will always give thanks to God for you! I pray His blessings in your days ahead.

Thanks again! Johnny, Kathy and family



continued: Faith from Doubt

Let us remain patient and while expressing doubt at times remember that God's faithfulness to us is demonstrated by the sacrifice of his one and only son, Jesus, for all of us! We may doubt at times, but He still values each and every living soul worthy of being redeemed and set free from the power of sin!

We may think that our doubting makes us less of a Christian or that God will be angry with us. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 3:3-4, "*What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all!* So, go out this week into the world with what you know to be true and proclaim it in word and deed. Doubting at times, but believing that yes, it is the truth!



Thank you from your Hospitality Committee to the Bereavement Committee and to our church fellowship for your participation in the Pastor's Retirement Luncheon by providing assistance with preparing and serving the food, and the cleanup afterwards. This event was successful because of your participation and attendance. We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to express our appreciation to Pastor Johnny and his family. The Hospitality Committee