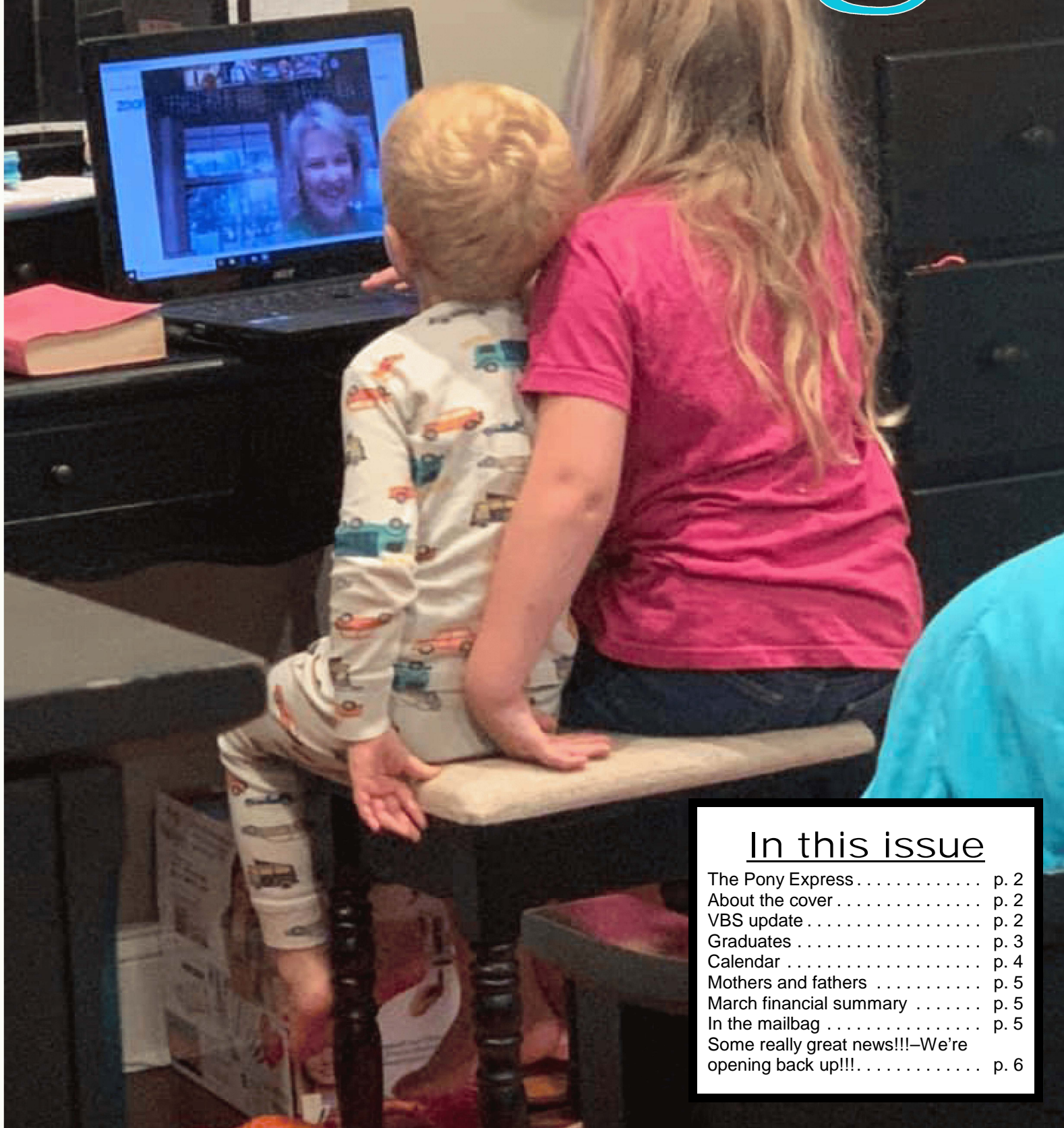


Blessings

May/June 2020

A publication of Byromville Baptist Church



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Pastor's column

The Pony Express



Mike L. Parker

When someone mentions these three words, “The Pony Express, instantly everyone within hearing knows what the phrase is all about. Since 1861 those three words have been romanticized to the point where one still envisions rugged, good looking young men blazing a trail across the continent on fast horses. They did so with the kind of courage that allowed them to dodge arrows,

cross raging rivers, survive blizzards, and go without eating while traversing the wild frontier with pin point accuracy.

The Pony Express reduced the time it took to deliver a written document or package from one coast to the other to just 10 days. Many people used the Pony Express as a communication link and companies were encouraged to be creative so that people could purchase items and have them delivered to their door. I wonder if one of those young pony riders was Jeff Bezos’ great, great grandpa?

Anyway, it does sound like the Pony Express was the Amazon and FedEx of its day. Sadly though that grand adventure only lasted 18 months. It was exceedingly profitable while it lasted, but when the transcontinental telegraph opened for message delivery the Pony Express went bankrupt. We see that speed and convenience was the vision for founding the Pony Express and also its undoing.

Mike, what is your point in this whole story? Simply, that we have the greatest message that has ever existed. The story of God’s love through the sacrificial giving of His own son for our sins. Just as letters of inspiration were sent by the Pony Express to those needing an encouraging word, so to should we send words of encouragement by every modern means possible. Buy an inspiring book on Amazon and send it to someone who could use a spiritual,

mental, and emotional pick-me-up. Use Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, or other social media tools to communicate your faith in Jesus Christ. Presently, we even have a pretty good message every Sunday on the church Facebook page. Send it out to any and all that the Holy Spirit may lay on your heart. May we embrace such opportunities with the same urgency and courage demonstrated by those early riders.

Yes, the Pony Express was good while it lasted, but we have far greater tools at our disposal for communicating the greatest message of all time. May we be about our Father’s business just as Jesus was, and in the words of an old rancher, “make hay while the sun is shining”. With something to think about, this is Pastor Mike. Make it a great life or not, the choice is yours.

About the cover

Pictured on this month’s cover is Rhonda Youngblood teaching her Sunday School class (Younger Children) via Zoom and one of her students Bailey Grace Averill (and little brother John Monta).

No VBS 2020

After much deliberation with our church VBS leaders and teachers, VBS Director Jill Brannen has announced the heartbreaking decision to cancel VBS in June due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Have you
heard the
great news?
See page 6
for details.



Kindergarten graduates, Logan Kent (below left) and Kaitlin Willingham (below right), graduated from Fullington Academy.



Gage Roney (left) graduated from Crisp County High School with honors and plans to attend the University of Georgia and major in computer science.

Mandy Smith (right) graduated from Fullington Academy with honors and plans to attend Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College majoring in agriculture science.



Our two college graduates both graduated in December 2019.

Massey Evans (right) graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College with a degree in diversified agriculture with crop and soil science concentration. He is employed with Southeastern AgriServices.



Tori Lamberth (left) graduated from Central Georgia Technical College as a LPN. She plans to return to college to obtain a bachelors degree in nursing and work in a children's hospital.

ANNE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

It's all about the **gospel**

GOAL: \$2,000
Received to date: \$1,500
You can still give to the AAEO.

North American Mission Board

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.
1 Chronicles 16:11

Please keep praying for our pastor search committee as they continue searching for our next pastor!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 24 11:00am Worship in Saliba Hall		26	27	28	29	30
 31 11:00am Worship	June 1	2	3	4		6
7 <i>Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church</i> 11:00am Worship	8	9 <i>Election Day</i>	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Flag Day</i> 11:00am Worship	15	16	17		19	
21 <i>Father's Day</i> 11:00am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Citizenship & Religious Liberty Sunday</i> 11:00am Worship	29	30	July 1	2	3	

Birthdays—Please pray for these on their birthday

5-20	Mary Greer	6-2	Quint Smith	6-20	Ray Thompson	6-30	Jeff Powell
	Sonya Thompson	6-3	Tonya Bodrey		Matthew Youngblood	7-1	Kyle Jones
5-21	Jean Latimer	6-4	Joshua Chappell	6-21	Alison Fountain	7-3	Angela Jimes
	Amanda Trimback	6-9	Patricia Kent		Samantha McCullum	7-4	Dean Woodruff
	Carrie Woodruff	6-10	Samantha Bowen		Ann Stephenson	7-6	William Preston
5-22	Vicki Lamberth		Sabrina Bowen		Summer Thompson		Kelly West
	Austin Langford	6-12	Rose Phillips		Kylee West		Kyle West
5-24	Sherylan Payne		Amanda Woodruff	6-24	Cindy Horne	7-7	Suzy Grantham
	Kay Green	6-13	Rick Stephenson	6-24	Carolyn Joles	7-9	Gennette Edwards
5-25	Conner Gaultney	6-14	Paul Langston		Kaitlin Willingham	7-10	Judy Brinson
5-27	Hailey Gaultney	6-15	Jimmy Lockerman	6-25	Mark Peavy		Andy Thompson
5-28	Sarah Averill Brannen	6-17	Jessica Tabor	6-27	Kloe West	7-13	Tracey Gregory
5-28	Brenna Kirksey		Bobby White	6-28	Kincee Hancock	7-16	Sally Averill
6-1	Cole Thompson	6-18	Clay Vaughan		Jennifer Thomas		Ron Everidge
6-2	Amy Collier	6-19	Scott Langford	6-29	Earline Horne		Sean Payne

Honoring BBC's mothers and fathers

Since we were unable to do our usual way of honoring our mothers on Mother's Day at church, we are recognizing the oldest and youngest mothers in this month's newsletter. And since things probably won't be completely back to normal for Father's Day on June 21, we will do the same for our fathers.

Pictured below are our oldest mother and oldest father in BBC.



Gladys Johnson



Monta Averill

Pictured below are our youngest mother and youngest father who just happened to be married to each other! Their four beautiful children are also in the picture.



Jared and Lea Averill with children (left to right) Landree, Jacob, Laityn, and Kincee.

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

March Financial Summary

March receipts

General offerings.....	\$5,220.00
Other	165.35
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.....	1,100.00
Special.....	1,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	6,485.35

March disbursements

General expenses	8,832.99
Memorials to Children's Homes.....	200.00
Houston Baptist Association.....	281.39
Cooperative Program	803.97
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	10,118.35

Year To Date Summary

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	21,476.66	28,812.00	-7,335.34
Disbursements	25,313.13	28,812.00	-3,498.87



Dear Byromville Baptist Church,

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered by the family of Dianne M. Thompson.



BBC's opening up phase one begins May 24

After prayerful consideration and consultation with many church members, the deacons have decided to resume the 11:00am worship service on May 24. Thank you to everyone for your comments and suggestions. We considered all of them. If you do not feel comfortable coming to church yet, everyone will understand. Contact one of the deacons if you have questions. Please abide by the following guidelines which are for your safety as well as everyone else's:

- ◆ Do not attend if you feel sick and/or have any of these symptoms: sneezing, coughing, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat, runny nose, gastrointestinal symptoms, loss of taste and/or smell.
- ◆ Wearing a mask is strongly recommended according to the CDC guidelines, which many people at BBC strongly support. Masks will be available at the door for those who don't have one. A mask can be a bandana, scarf, or fabric of any kind that will cover the nose and mouth.
- ◆ The service will take place in Saliba Hall for now. Only enter and exit through the east door which is the door under the carport.
- ◆ Do not gather and linger under the carport but rather come on into Saliba Hall and take your seat. Do not go to other parts of the church building.
- ◆ Use hand sanitizer upon entering Saliba Hall. It will be available at the door.
- ◆ Maintain social distancing by sitting in the chairs which have been placed at least six feet apart. Households (not extended families) may sit together. Do not shake hands, hug, or touch anyone. Do not touch anything you don't have to. And remember, **STAY SIX FEET APART**.
- ◆ If you have to cough or sneeze, remember to direct it into the inside of your elbow.
- ◆ Please minimize use of restrooms and use only those next to Saliba Hall.
- ◆ There will be no nursery, children's church, or wiggler in the word for now.
- ◆ No handouts (worship bulletins, prayer lists, etc.) or hymnals will be available.
- ◆ Offering plates will not be passed, however, there will be some type of plate/box to place your offering in.

Blessings is published monthly by Byromville Baptist Church. Send news items and/or comments to Editor Brenda Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

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