

MARCH / APRIL 2024



BONSACK BAPTIST CHURCH



Easter Schedule | In His Own Words | Mission Trips and Projects

VOLUME 65 | NO.2

BONSACKBAPTIST.ORG | (540)977-5701

From the Pastor

This past October we launched our United for Impact campaign. This 3-year initiative has two important goals. The first is to pay down the debt related to the construction of our Community Life Center. In 2020, when we officially locked that debt into a 20-year mortgage, we received a very favorable interest rate of 3.25%, but that rate was only good for five years. This means that in August of 2025, the interest rate will reset according to what the market conditions dictate at that time. We don't know what that rate will be, but we do know it will be higher than what we currently have. Our best guess is that it will be around 6%. Our balance at that time will be approximately \$4.3 million, so if we do nothing and simply allow that balance to roll over into a new rate, we will see our monthly payments increase by a significant amount. By paying down our debt, we keep this payment from increasing, and could even potentially see it decrease, which would free up money for current and future ministry.

The second goal is to relocate our youth ministry from the Power House, where our students have been meeting for over 25 years, into a currently unfinished area on the third floor of the CLC. The Power House, which is the former parsonage, has outlived its usefulness as a meeting space for our youth. Furthermore, because it is disconnected from the main facility, it is less secure than we would like it to be. Relocating the ministry would address both these concerns. Our rough estimate at this point is that this project will cost between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

I am excited to report that as of now we have received \$1,469,210 in pledges

toward this campaign. I am even more excited to report that we have already received \$503,557 toward those pledges and an additional \$170,191 in gifts from households that did not make a pledge. This means we already have \$673,758 in hand, even though we are only 6 months into this 3-year effort! I know this is a lot of numbers to absorb, but I hope you are as encouraged as I am by this news. It tells us we are well on our way to meeting these two important ministry goals.

So, given all these numbers, what happens next? First, the church voted at its most recent business meeting to create a construction team to guide the relocation of our youth ministry. This team is charged with, among other things, establishing a budget for the project, selecting an architect and contractor, and overseeing the creation of plans for completing the unfinished area. By the time you read these words, that team will have already had its first organizational meeting. Our goal, which is admittedly ambitious, is to begin the actual construction work by the end of this calendar year.

Regarding the paying down of the debt, we have a bit more time. Our payments will remain at their current level at least through August of 2025, which gives us roughly a year and a half to see what the interest rate environment will be, and to pay down as much as we can. The more debt we can pay off, the better off we will be in the long term. The Stewardship Committee will guide us through this process.

There is one final project update which is not directly related to United for Impact,



but which is still very important. As you probably noticed, construction began on the traffic light back in the fall, but then was halted for several unrelated reasons. Our contractor is currently awaiting final approval from VDOT on a couple of technical matters, with a goal of completing the project by late spring. For the sake of clarity, the funds to pay for this project are NOT coming from United for Impact. The traffic light, along with the recent renovations to the Sanctuary and the completion of the exercise studio in our Rec Center, is being paid for with funds that were set aside in 2021. We already have that money in hand and are simply waiting for the project to be completed.

At the end of the day, all these projects are an expression of our desire to increase and enhance our capacity for ministry. Our mission is not to build buildings or install traffic lights. Our mission is to Share Christ and Build Believers. The facilities we are blessed to have are simply tools to help us fulfill that mission. I am extremely grateful for your sacrifice and generosity to help provide these tools.

Grace and peace,

CHRIS CADENHEAD
Pastor

ccadenhead@bonsackbaptist.org

Community & Stewardship

DECEMBER OFFERING

Regular Offerings \$388,352
United for Impact \$110,001

2023 OFFERING TOTAL

Regular Offerings \$2,789,309
United for Impact \$549,483

NEW MEMBERS:

In 2023, there was a total of 57 new members.
We have had 20 new members since the last newsletter.

Glen & Susan Armstrong	Dakota & Paige Collier
Denise Young	Sophia Armstrong
Roger & Claire Hammond	Ansley McMeans
Wendell & Lisa Hart	Aiden Perdue
John & Lila Register	Noah Perdue
Bob & Nadine Euler	Warren & Sue Strickland
Cindy Hall	

SYMPATHY TO:

Wayne Duffy, sister, Jean Duffy Stancell

The family of Thomas “Tommy” Harrell Wagner

Suni Heflin and Michelle Yost, father, Roy Lee Atkins

Shannon Landes and Jimmy Dickerson, father,
Jerry Edward Dickerson, Sr.

Judy Noell, sister, Connie Evelyn Grubb Slough Crowder
The family of Barbara Frances Elmore Booth

Nancy Wilson, husband, **Josh Wilson**, father, and **Ethan Wilson**,
grandfather, James “Jim” Otis Wilson, Jr.

Claudia Gould, sister, Lorraine Estelle Head Calvachio

Billy Amos, wife, Faye Louise Hartman Amos

Rob Ward, mother, Carolyn Sue Overstreet Ward

Ann Green, brother, Donald Hileman McGee, Jr.

Margaret Anne Allen, husband, and **Ginny Barkett**, father,
Dr. Robert “Bob” Allen, Jr.

Cory Clement and Stacey Fessel, mother, and **Betty Millsaps**,
daughter, LouAnn Millsaps Clement

Lu Wright, son, John Michael “Mike” Wright

Doug Hoosier, wife, and **Adam & Eric Hoosier**, mother,
Bridget Karen Whitman Hoosier

Linda Main, mother, Pearl Katherine Milam Cooper

Jean Thorne, brother, Robert “Bob” Lee Price, Jr.

Ken Smith, father, Claude Nelson “Smity” Smith

For detailed weekly stewardship information, worship order,
announcements, and upcoming events, view our online bulletin at
bonsackbaptist.org/worship-bulletin

Calendar

March

- 2 Consignment Sale
- 3 Overflow
- 3 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- 9 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
- 10 Daylight Savings Time
- 10 Bonsack Kids Pajama Day
- 17 Youth DR Trip Commissioning
- 17 Prayer Gathering
- 18-22 Charleston, SC Trip
- 21 Women’s Spring Craft Night
- 23-30 Youth DR Mission Trip
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 27 No Wed. Night Activities
- 28-30 Holy Week Drama Productions
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

April

- 1 Church Office Closed
- 14 Missions Celebration Dinner
- 16 Adult 60+ Lunch
- 19-21 Jamarama
- 21 Prayer Gathering
- 28 Baptism Sunday

FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:
BonsackBaptist.org/events

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

6:30am - 7:30am | Sunrise Service

9am - 10am | Easter Service (CLC & Sanctuary), Adult Sunday School, Children's Extended Session

10:30am - 11:30am | Easter Service (CLC & Sanctuary), Sunday School - Children, Youth, Adult

If your Sunday School group typically meets **before** worship, we invite you to attend Sunday School at 9am and the Easter service at 10:30am.

If your Sunday School group typically meets **after** worship, we invite you to attend the Easter service at 9am and Sunday School at 10:30am.

BETTER LOVE DATE NIGHT

Better Love doesn't just happen—you have to fight for it! Peter tells us that "your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). And he is looking to devour our marriages. So better love doesn't just happen—we don't just arrive at a strong marriage without trying. We are in a battle. We need to be intentional. We need to work at it. We need to fight for it.

We also know from God's Word that "greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). The battle belongs to the Lord. God is for us and empowers us by His Holy Spirit as we show up to work on our relationship together.

On February 17, over 170 people who are dating, engaged, or married from Bonsack and at least seven other churches, enjoyed dinner and heard Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott speaking live from Seattle. Pastor Chris facilitated their talk and the Q&A that followed, focusing on the Parrotts' Better Love Relationship Assessment. This tool analyzes each individual's personality and love language, specifically

addressing how couples can better empathize with and complement each other.

It was more than a fun, relaxing evening—Better Love Date Night kicked off an entire season of strengthening our relationships. Each couple left with an Action Plan to have four intentional conversations following up on their assessment.

And this was where the youth international mission team came in! They curated a variety of local date nights, restaurant and activity gift cards, and weekend getaways, made available through a silent auction to support the youth mission trip to the Dominican Republic in March. Together they raised over \$5,000!

An event like this is only possible because we have a great team working behind the scenes to make it all happen. Thank you to the office staff, ministers, and volunteer planning team, Tana Adams, Rebecca Alley, Rodney and Elizabeth Pierson, Paul and Terrie Walters, and Hannah Whitenack. Together they helped to organize



decorations, child-care, registration, and food for the event—a gargantuan task!

We can't know this side of eternity all the fruit our efforts bear, but it's so encouraging to hear your stories, whether it's a young dating couple laying a stronger foundation, or a couple who's been married 50+ years telling us their takeaways. To God be the glory!

Kenya Mission Trip

Since 2018, our church has partnered with Sodzo International, an organization in Meru, Kenya. Their mission is to advance the well-being of the world's most vulnerable children. They envision a world where all children possess the opportunity to discover and actualize their God-given potential.

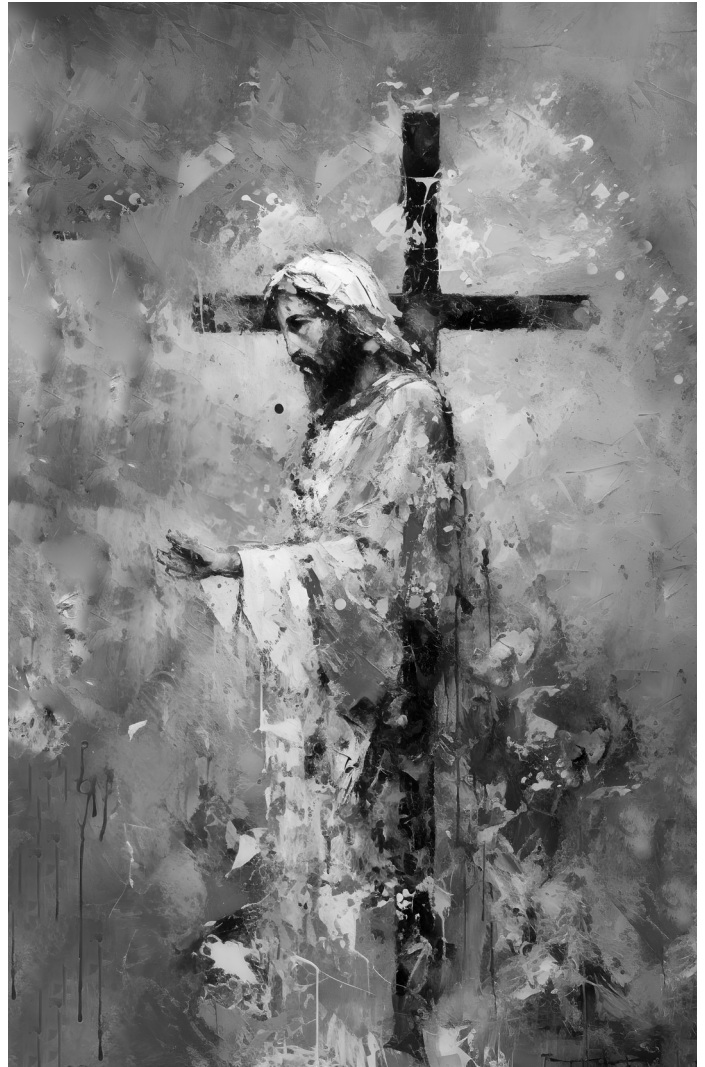
Sodzo is doing incredible work with street children to reintegrate them with their families or give them school and professional opportunities. There are some kids whose families have given up on them and Sodzo is teaching them that God has not given up on them and they have a future.

Join us the week of September 13-22, 2024, as we send a mission team to minister alongside the teachers, social workers, and other leaders. For more information on the trip, contact Ryan Saunders rsaunders@bonsackbaptist.org. The trip application is on the church website and app under the missions page.



Cost: Approximately \$2,500
The first meeting will be in March.

For more information on Sodzo, visit sodzointernational.org.



In His Own Words

This year's Holy Week production, *In His Own Words*, integrates choir, orchestra, and a dramatic cast to tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Centered around some of the most cherished words of Jesus found in scripture, this immersive experience depicts the Easter story in a unique and compelling way. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend to join you and share with them how the gospel story has impacted your own life!

Thursday, March 28 | 6:30pm

Friday, March 29 | 6:30pm

Saturday, March 30 | 5pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Lisa Adams - When I first came to Bonsack last summer, I met with multiple Sunday School leaders to hear from them. What are we doing well? Where are we winning? What can we improve? How can I help?

One common refrain I heard was, “We want to engage more in missions.” Several groups were already doing projects, but for many groups, there weren’t clear next steps for how a Sunday School group and one of our mission partners could work together.

In mid-September, I sat down with Melissa Fisher who serves on the Missions Committee. She shared with me her passion to help us “get out of our bubble,” beyond the four walls of our church building and into the community. I looked at her across the table and said, “We need to get you talking with our Sunday School leaders.”

It took us a few months, but on January 20, sixty Sunday School leaders gathered in the Roanoke Hall for a Sunday School Leader Connection themed “Getting Out of Our Bubble.” Both Melissa and our Minister of Community Life Ryan Saunders shared, challenging our groups to “Adopt a Mission” for the year 2024.

The six missions highlighted (four local and two international) were:

Friendship House—serving refugee families in Southwest Roanoke,
Keystone—serving the needy in Southeast Roanoke

Straight Street—providing a Christian environment for at-risk youth

Care Portal—connecting churches with families in need



Sunday School class, 24/7 Living, serving a meal at Straight Street

Sodzo International—supporting vulnerable children in Kenya

Pathway Dominicana—strengthening local churches in the Dominican Republic

Groups were challenged to adopt at least one mission for the year to serve, give, and pray.

Serve—try to do a service project once a quarter, such as serving a dinner or helping with an after-school program.

Give—donate money or items, do a fund-raising project together, and write cards to the mission leaders.

Pray—sign up for the mission’s newsletter, follow the mission on social media, and pray for them in class every week.

Twenty-two adult Sunday School groups are participating in the 2024 Adopt-a-Mission Initiative! A few older and younger groups are partnering to do service projects together.

When we engage in mission, we show the love of Jesus to a world in desperate need. But it’s not just others who are helped—in being a blessing, we receive

a blessing! A survey conducted here at Bonsack showed that engaging in service is one of the top ways people grow spiritually. Serving together also builds our friendships beyond what we experience in small group discussion.

Our challenge now is to finish well what we have started. Hebrews 12:1 reminds us to “run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” James tells us to be sure we’re not just hearers, but doers of the Word!

Have you been waiting to join an adult Sunday School group? Now is your moment! We recently launched a new group for 30s-40s that we would love for you to join, and there are a number of other groups for every age and stage.

We’re looking forward to a great year of engaging in mission together!

Lisa Adams

Director of Christian Education
ladams@bonsackbaptist.org



Spring Musical: *A Not So Terrible Parable*

May 5th at 3:30pm

Bring your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of mystery, intrigue, and discovery about the heart of God. Presented by Music Time for Kids.

JOB OPENINGS

Food Service Coordinator - We are looking for a part-time Food Service Coordinator to help coordinate Wednesday night meals as well as keep the kitchen organized and clean. Know someone who may be interested?

Visit bonsackbaptist.org/employment

Minister of Children & Their Families

This full-time position will help guide, encourage, and minister to children and their families. The search-team requests your prayers as they continue their search using Chemistry Staffing. Please contact Bill Drennan, Search Chair, with questions or leads.

For more information, visit bonsackbaptist.org/employment

BONSACK KIDS

In February, the GA's hosted their annual Family Game Night. It was a great night of fun and fellowship, which included a mission project where the girls made and delivered soup bowls for the recently widowed in the church.

The RA's also hosted their annual RA Car Race in February. We had 20 boys join us for an evening full of fellowship and friendly competition.

Looking ahead, the RA's will be having a Basketball Shootout on March 13 to raise money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and will be heading to Camp Bethel at the end of May for their end of year camp out.

In April, the GA's will be joining other girls around the state at Eagle Eyrie for Mom and Me Camp.



Abigail Girls at Camp Crossroads



GA's and RA's packed suitcases of items to send to the Mully Children's Family in Kenya. Sara and Richard Brown will take them on their medical mission trip.

Finally, it's time to start planning for this year's VBS. **Mark your calendars for June 10th-14th!** We will be taking a trip to Breaker Rock Beach and learning about God's rock-solid truth in a world of shifting sands. We are looking for volunteers and youth helpers. If you are interested, please contact Michele Quesenberry at mquesenberry@bonsackbaptist.org.

This Month: Kids PJ Day at church, March 10!

WEEKDAY EDUCATION CENTER

We are off to a great start for this new year of 2024! The preschoolers have had fun playing in the snow in their classrooms and playing Olympic Games all through the center. Our theme for the games encouraged them to trust God, do their best, and encourage their teammates.

We invited our parents in for pastries during the love month and celebrated Valentine's in our classrooms. It was a fun time for all!



Our semiannual consignment sale just concluded. It is a tremendous fundraiser benefiting the education center, the consignors, and the community of shoppers. At the sale, we remembered Leanne Fisher who brought the sale to us and was our committee chairperson and fearless

leader since the sales' inception in 2014. She was a cherished co-laborer and friend who is lovingly remembered and greatly missed. We are without her since her passing in November, but the inspiration she brought and the blessing it continues to be will live on in our hearts through this exceptional event.



April will bring in buzzy bees with beekeeper Vasi McCrady and then our Easter celebrations. We'll continue with eggs to chicks and caterpillars to butterflies as spring overtakes us. So much fun!

Of course, the garden has been plowed and is soon to be planted. If you can join us in its up-keep, we'd love to have your help. Contact Mike Felton 540-798-2815

In fact, if you'd like to join the Weekday Ministry in any capacity, reach out to us. Each year brings new paid opportunities for those who have a heart for the Lord and a passion for working in a program that supports our little ones! Positions may be available in activity coordination, PreK, afterschool, or office help.

See Tana Adams, Elizabeth Whitlock, or call the preschool office at 540-977-0485.

MORE THAN JUST COFFEE

The Gathering Grounds Coffee Shop in the CLC serves Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee. Do you know why? It isn't just because they make great tasting coffee. Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee is primarily grown in Rwanda and grew out of an initiative to reconcile a country ravaged by civil war. Since 2007, the company has worked with farmers in Rwanda as co-laborers creating a better future for their families through coffee. They build flourishing communities through holistic solutions, seeking to meet social, economic, and spiritual needs in the most sustainable way possible with each *Do Good Initiative Project* developed and run by local leadership.

Thanks to a foundation of sustainable income and job security through farming coffee, these communities have been able to look beyond their individual needs and work toward strengthening communities' standings in ways that have immediate, ongoing, and tangible impacts.

Each cup of coffee purchased at our coffee shop helps these initiatives and the people of Rwanda. To learn more about Land of a Thousand Hills Coffee and how they are helping in Rwanda visit Landofathousandhills.com/pages/do-good-initiative

To volunteer in the Gathering Grounds Coffee Shop, contact Ryan Saunders, rsaunders@bonsackbaptist.org.



Youth Ministry



Centrifuge Camp:

We finished registration for summer camp and will be taking 48 students with us to Centrifuge at James Madison University in June.

Jamarama:

We have been working with a number of local mission sites, including HopeTree, Roanoke Rescue Mission, Eagle Rock Elementary, and more, ahead of our annual Jamarama Missions Retreat. This year, we also won a grant through the Kairos Initiative of the Baptist General Association of Virginia to expand our work at local mission sites over Jamarama weekend.

Missions:

Our International Mission Team, which is headed to the Dominican Republic over Holy Week, continues to make its final preparations for the trip.

Youth Sunday:

Youth Sunday was the last Sunday of February. Whether you worship in the Sanctuary or the CLC, you witnessed students leading worship. Additionally, students taught Sunday School in every children's Sunday School class and three adult Sunday School classes.

New Youth Space:

As you may have read in Pastor Chris's article, the initial construction team for the new youth space authorized by our Capital Campaign has begun meeting. The work of this team is going forward, and we intend to start construction this calendar year.

Summer Interns:

The summer is coming, and we are still on the hunt for youth ministry summer interns. If you know a college or seminary student who could be good for this role, please email Rob at rcovington@bonsackbaptist.org.

Parents of graduating high school seniors:

Our church's gift to graduating high school seniors is a Grad Bible. These Bibles are put out in the CLC a few weeks before Graduate Recognition Sunday, which gives church members the opportunity to highlight verses for your graduate. Many also choose to write encouraging notes in the margin. To ensure we order the correct amount of Bibles with everyone's preferred name, we ask you to register no later than April 1. The Bible is a free gift to your graduate.



Want More Frequent Updates?

Do you want to know about what is going in the youth ministry? Then sign up for the weekly email by scanning the QR Code below. We send the email every Monday at 4pm, and it is the best way to stay informed with all that is going on in the Youth Ministry.



Rob Covington

Minister of Youth
rcovington@bonsackbaptist.org





Student Choir singing at the Glebe

OVERFLOW

Ann-Marie Ball - Our quarterly Overflow Worship Nights are some of my favorite nights all year. It's such a special night where our congregation can come together as one and focus solely on meeting God and worshipping Him. Each one is a little bit different, with a unique focus and atmosphere.

I am particularly excited about our next Overflow coming up on March 3rd at 6pm. This night was inspired by the book of Acts. Often throughout the book, between the stories of miracles and persecution, we see the steadfast faithfulness of the people of God. They gathered together daily- singing, praying, sharing, healing, and dedicating themselves to the apostles' teaching. And as they were faithfully seeking the Lord, He faithfully revealed his power and presence to them by adding to their number, providing for their needs, and protecting them.

Over history, when the people of God follow the example of the church in Acts, when they faithfully dedicate themselves to gathering together and seeking after the Lord, the Lord moves among them in mighty ways. This is our prayer for our church, and our particular prayer for Overflow on March 3. On that night, we are going to dedicate ourselves to responding to the teaching of our shepherds, praying together, and singing together. We are going to seek after the Lord and ask Him to move among us now, to move among our church, and to move in this valley, nation, and world.

Please consider joining us for this night dedicated to the Lord.

ADULTS 60+

We have a trip to Charleston, SC the week of March 18th. Register soon to make sure you get a spot and enjoy fellowship and some breath-taking sights. In April, we will have a luncheon and discussion about fraud. Register for this event and enjoy a meal of Chicken Parmesan, veggies and dessert while learning about the latest fraud and scams targeting those over 60. In May, we will travel to the Barter Theatre and see a play called Ring of Fire.

SINGING AT FRIENDSHIP MANOR

In February, the Senior Adult Choir sang for a crowd of about 40 people at Friendship Manor. The choir sang some songs on their own, and then helped to lead hymn singing where the audience was invited to sing along. This was very well received and many of the residents said how much they enjoyed getting to sing hymns they love, especially for the folks who aren't able to attend church in-person anymore. This program was the first time the Senior Adult Choir has sung in public in four years. We are happy to be at it again!



The Call to Prayer

Oswald Chambers, a Scottish Baptist evangelist in the 1900s once wrote, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work: Prayer is the greater work.”

Dr. Moore’s January 2024 Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount echoes this truth. One section of his commentary was devoted to Giving, Prayer, and Fasting in which he discussed “the secret to Jesus’ living” and “the keys to his power”. The key to His intimate relationship with the Heavenly Father was prayer. Jesus prayed at every crucial point in his earthly ministry; when he was tempted in the wilderness, when he was denied, betrayed, and from the cross.

Paul wrote in 1st Thessalonians 5:16-19 “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.”

To that end you are invited and encouraged to join us for a weekly prayer gathering each Thursday from 12pm-1pm in CLC room #1 (unless the church office or the CLC is closed). Prayer gatherings are also held the 3rd Sunday of each month, meeting in the Roanoke Hall of the CLC from 3:30pm-5pm. All are welcome.

The National Day of Prayer is coming on Thursday, May 2. Watch for information on how you can participate!

~ Prayer Team



Sanctity of Life Sunday:

Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the Blue Ridge Women's Center, tangibly supporting the sanctity of life and the mothers in our community.



Mothers with Infants Area:

Moms, got a little one? We have designated a private area near the entrance to the CLC Service (just down the hall from the Sanctuary balcony) for mothers to feed their infants during worship. The service will be shown on a tv and there will be couches and a sink available.



Bonsack Baptist Church

4845 Cloverdale Road

Roanoke, VA 24019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MINISTERIAL STAFF:

Lisa Adams, *Director of Christian Education*

Ann-Marie Ball, *CLC Worship Leader*

and Director of Media Ministries

Dr. Chris Cadenhead, *Pastor*

Rev. Rob Covington, *Minister of Youth*

Rev. Grant Frederick, *Minister of Music*

Dr. Robert Moore, III, *Pastor Emeritus*

Michele Quesenberry, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Rev. John Recktenwald, *Executive Pastor*

Rev. Ryan Saunders, *Minister of Community Life*

Rev. Rhon Williams, *Minister of Adults 60+*

Watch online!

Livestream from your computer, tablet, or phone:

Visit the Bonsack Baptist Facebook page, the church website, or visit www.bbroanoke.online.church

You can also download the Bonsack Baptist Church app!

The Sanctuary service livestream plays on Sundays at 9:45am.

The CLC service plays a recording on Sundays at 11:15am.

*Both services can also be accessed later in the week through the
Bonsack Baptist Facebook page or on the church website.*

Thank you for joining us, both online and in-person!

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