

Millfield News

March 2026

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*Millfield is a welcoming, loving and accepting church,
working to meet the physical
and spiritual needs of our church family,
our community, our state, our country,
and the world in the name of Jesus Christ.*

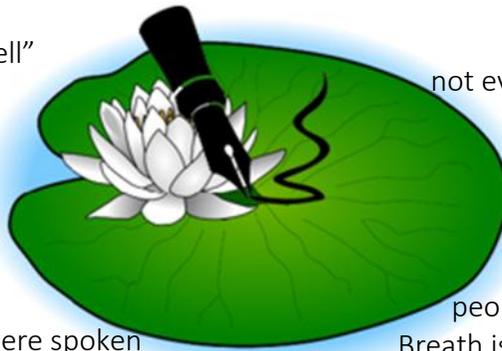
Notes from the Lilly Pad

"Parting Words by Patricia Swindell"

February 21, 2026, our Church family lost a very special lady and she was readily received with open arms by her heavenly Father. We had a celebration of her life on February 28th here at Millfield. Many beautiful words were spoken on Pat's behalf and we all were able to admire her creative hand by all of the amazing artwork displayed. There is an unfillable void within our church walls with her absence.

Pat had a servant's heart and a gentle, humble spirit that offered grace to all. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten. During her celebration of life, I had the privilege to read some beautiful words written by Pat. She was not just an extremely talented artist, but she was someone who could articulate words in a way that was as smooth as silk. I have had many requests for a copy of the Pats parting words, so I am honored to publish them in this month's newsletter.

Parting words by Pat: Not everyone is granted as many years as I have. Lord, I am truly grateful for every single day You have given me. The quietest fear is this: What if I have fewer mornings left than I think. I do not say it out loud very often. I might not even say it to myself. But it can sit in the back of my mind when the house gets still. When another birthday comes. When I hear about someone younger who is suddenly gone. When my body feels a little more tired than it used to. And I realize, with a soft ache,



not everyone is granted as many years as I have been given.

And yet, right there at that place, gratitude can begin to bloom.

Because I know something many people forget. Days are not owed to us. Breath is not guaranteed. Time is a gift. And every single day I have lived has been held in the hand of God. Sometimes I look back and I can hardly believe how the Lord carried me.

He carried me through seasons when I did not think I would make it. Through heartache I never planned for, through changes I did not choose. Through nights when tears felt like the only prayer I could offer. Through mornings when I got up anyway, made the coffee, did what had to be done and kept loving the people God placed in my care.

And now, as the years add up, I can see it more clearly. The Lord was not only in the big moments. He was in the ordinary ones, too. He was in the small kindness that came at the right time. In the phone



(Continued on page 2)

call that lifted my spirit. In the strength I did not know I had. In the peace that settled over me when nothing around me made sense. In the way He kept my heart soft, even after life tried to harden it.

Sometimes gratitude is easy when the day is bright. But deeper gratitude is born when I remember the days that were not. The days I walked through grief. The days I carried worry for my family. The days I sat with questions I could not answer. The days my soul felt heavy. The days I asked God for comfort, and all I could do was whisper His name. And still, He stayed near. That is what changes everything.

Because when I look at my life, I am not only counting years. I am counting mercies. I am counting the way God protected me, guided me, forgave me, and loved me when I was weak. I am counting the healing He brought, little by little. I am counting the strength He placed in my heart when my own ran out.

And yes, there is gentle sadness that comes with time. I miss people, I miss certain seasons. I miss the way things used to be. Some of the memories feel sweet. Some memories still sting. But even there, the Lord meets me. He does not rush my grief. He does not shame my tears. He sits with me. He holds what hurts. He reminds me that my life has meaning right now, today. Not only in what I can do, but in who I am.

I am still His beloved child. And I am still here for a reason. Sometimes the enemy tries to whisper, I am too old. I am behind. I do not matter like I used to. God's voice is kinder than that. God says, you are still mine. God says, your prayers still move Heaven. God says, your love still blesses your family. God says, your faith still shines. And when I wake up in the morning, the very fact that I opened my eyes is a quiet miracle.

So when I say, "Not everyone is granted as many years as I have. Lord, I am truly grateful for every single day You have given me," you are speaking a holy truth. I am noticing the gift. I am honoring the giver. And I am choosing to live my days with a soft heart. Today does not have to be perfect to be precious. Today can be simple. A warm cup in my hands. A verse that steadies me. A short prayer whispered while I fold laundry.

A moment outside where the light touches the leaves and I remember God is still creating beauty. I can ask for peace. I can ask for strength. I can ask Him to help me love well, forgive fully, and walk gently. I can ask Him to use my many years, not only as a number, but as a testimony. Because every day I have been given is a day the Lord can fill with grace. And when I do not know how many days are ahead, I can rest in this. God is good. God is near. God will be faithful to the end. Let gratitude be my quiet offering today. Not because life has been easy. But because the Lord has been with me.

Lord, thank you for every year You have given me and for every day I have been allowed to wake up and see Your light. Thank you for the breath in my lungs, the beating of my heart, and the love You have placed around me. Forgive me for the times I rushed past the gift of today. Help me notice Your goodness in the ordinary moments. When my mind feels full of worry, give me peace. When my heart feels tender with memories, hold me with comfort. Bless my family, draw them close to you, and let my prayers cover them with hope. Teach me to live the days You give me with faith, gratitude, and trust in Your faithful hand. I Love You, Lord.

AMEN



Many thanks to all who donated pajamas to the Genieve Shelter for women and their children fleeing domestic violence. There were 16 pairs for women and 49 for children—a great show of support for this very important community resource.

We also appreciate everyone who donated items to the college goody bags. That's a gift from their church family that the students can use now but remember always.

In March, the WMU will be collecting toiletry items for foster children in Southampton County.

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, April 4, 10 a.m., in the fellowship hall. New members are welcome and needed!

Finally, we want to remember our dear member, Pat Swindell, who is now with the Lord. She served long and faithfully, not calling attention to herself, but meeting whatever need arose. She believed in the mission of reaching others in Jesus' name and we want to keep that mission going.

Upcoming Events



- Youth Meeting:** Sunday, **March 8** at 4:00 pm
- Food Bank Truck Delivery:** Monday, **February 9** at 10:00 am at Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Deacons Meeting:** Monday, **March 9** at 6:30 pm
- Women's Bible Study:** Tuesday, **March 10** at 6:30 pm
- Men's Gathering:** Thursday, **March 12** at 6:30 pm
- Men's Breakfast:** Sunday, **March 15** at 8:00 am
- Special Guests:** Amy Shreve and Gary Wixtrom during worship Sunday, **March 15**
- Outreach Meeting:** Sunday, **March 15** immediately following worship
- Bagging Groceries:** Tuesday, **March 17** at 6:30 pm at Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Bags of Hope Distribution:** Wednesday, **March 18** at 8:30 am at Ebenezer Baptist Church; distribution begins at 10:00 am
- Communion:** Sunday, **March 22** during worship
- Youth Meeting:** Sunday, **March 22** at 4:00 pm
- Women's Bible Study:** Tuesday, **March 24** at 6:30 pm
- Men's Gathering:** Thursday, **March 26** at 6:30 pm
- Easter Celebration:** Sunday, **March 29** at 12:30 pm
- VBS Planning Meeting:** Monday, **March 30** at 6:30 pm
- Men's Breakfast:** Sunday, **March 15** at 8:00 am
- Tenebrae:** Thursday, **April 2** at 7:00 pm
- Deacons Meeting (Tentative):** Monday, **April 6** at 6:30 pm
- Women's Bible Study:** Tuesday, **April 7** at 6:30 pm
- Youth Meeting:** Sunday, **April 12** at 4:00 pm
- Food Bank Truck Delivery:** Monday, **April 13** at 10:00 am at Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Bagging Groceries:** Tuesday, **April 14** at 6:30 pm at Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Bags of Hope Distribution:** Wednesday, **April 15** at 8:30 am at Ebenezer Baptist Church; distribution begins at 10:00 am



Bland Ministry Center

FOOD PANTRY • CLOTHES CLOSET • DENTAL CLINIC • HOME REPAIR

Bland Ministry Center has had a huge impact on the people in Bland County, Virginia and surrounding areas for the past 44 years. BMC has a small staff, so much of their work is accomplished through volunteers including church teams who come to assist with housing rehab and repair and the other services the center provides. Millfield has sent four teams over the last 15 or so years.

We'll be hearing more about the work of BMC on April 19 when Dee Dee Hoosier, Executive Director, will speak during the worship service. Below is an overview of the ministries the center provides.

Food Assistance

- Distributes food to families through food pantries
- Has a home food delivery program for housebound clients.
- Coordinates and shares food donations with agencies in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky

Clothing Support

- Provides clothing through the Clothes Closet
- Distributes clothing, housewares, and hygiene items

Dental Care

- Operates a dental clinic in Bland and one in Wytheville and provides school-based dental clinics.

Home Repair

- Welcomes mission teams who complete various projects, including accessibility construction and roofing

Community Outreach

- Hosts "Back to School Blessing" benefitting local children with backpacks, school supplies, food, and love

Holiday Support

- Distributes Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal Boxes, along with filled shoeboxes (similar to Samaritan's Purse shoeboxes)

Volunteer Impact

- Each year has approximately 12,000 volunteer hours from local residents, mission teams, community groups, and Wythe Bland Foundation scholarship student volunteers



Children and Youth will be learning about the Beatitudes from February through April, which can be found in Matthew chapter 5. **Additionally, they will have the opportunity to earn a prize if they can recite all of the Beatitudes to Miss Colleen by April 26!**

- March 1 Missions Sunday
- March 8 Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- March 15 Special guests; there will be no children's/youth church; nursery will be open
- March 22 Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful
- March 29 Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers

In April, we will begin studying the Fruits of the Spirit.

March	
	2 Kings
1	Reflection
2	Chapter 3
3	Chapter 4
4	Chapter 5
5	Chapter 6
6	Chapter 7
7	Chapter 8
8	Reflection
9	Chapter 9
10	Chapter 10
11	Chapter 11-12
12	Chapter 13
13	Chapter 14
14	Chapter 15
15	Reflection
16	Chapter 16
17	Chapter 17
18	Chapter 18
19	Chapter 19
20	Chapter 20
21	Chapter 21-22
22	Reflection
23	Chapter 23
24	Chapter 24
25	Chapter 25
	1 Chronicles
26	Chapter 1-2
27	Chapter 3
28	Chapter 4
29	Reflection
30	Chapter 5
31	Chapter 6

Bible
Reading
Plan



April	
	1 Chronicles
1	Chapter 7
2	Chapter 8
3	Chapter 9
4	Chapter 10
5	Reflection
6	Chapter 11
7	Chapter 12
8	Chapter 13-14
9	Chapter 15
10	Chapter 16
11	Chapter 17
12	Reflection
13	Chapter 18-19
14	Chapter 20-21
15	Chapter 22
16	Chapter 23
17	Chapter 24
18	Chapter 25
19	Reflection
20	Chapter 26
21	Chapter 27
22	Chapter 28
23	Chapter 29
	2 Chronicles
24	Chapter 1-2
25	Chapter 3-4
26	Reflection
27	Chapter 5
28	Chapter 6
29	Chapter 7-8
30	Chapter 9



EASTER CELEBRATION!



**Sunday, March
29th 2026**

**12:30 p.m.
31389 Millfield Rd.
Wakefield, VA 23888**

Lunch & Egg Hunt

**We invite each family to bring a cold dish to share.
(salad, pasta, sandwiches, sliders, fruit, veggies, or dessert)**

For more information: Millfieldlife.org

February '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

April '26

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	2	3	4 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 9:30 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm Youth Meeting	9 10:00 am Food Bank Truck Delivery 6:30 pm Deacons Meeting	10 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 pm Men's Gathering	13	14
15 8:00 am Men's bfast 9:30 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Guest speakers Gary Wixtrom & Amy Shreve 12:00 pm Outreach Meeting	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30 pm Bagging Groceries	18 8:30 am Bags of Hope Distribution 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 Vernal equinox (GMT)	21
22 4:00 pm Youth Mtg 9:30 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 11:00 am Communion	23	24 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30 pm Men's Gathering	27	28
29 9:30 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Easter Celeb.	30 6:00 pm VBS Planning Mtg	31	1 April Fool's Day	2 Passover	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter	6	4 Dustin Cutright Frances Hardy 7 Charles Bailey 8 Carol Jean Felts Bobby Stephenson	10 Josephine Tucker Martha Holdsworth 12 Kara Gale 13 Roger Bailey Emerson Creef	13 Sharon Whitehead 16 Emily Matous 19 Justin Bailey Paula Bailey Diana Tate	20 Oida Dodson Nancy Stephenson 23 Tom Swindell 26 Matthew Jarvis 28 Steve Cabell	28 Whitney Haywood Brenda Lowe 29 Elyn Hassell 31 Daniel Felts

