



Love in Action

The Newsletter of Maggie Valley United Methodist Church

Volume 14, Issue 11

November, 2021

From Pastor Cole

There's a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens... Ecclesiastes 3:1

I imagine you've heard that verse before. And you've probably heard the next seven verses that tell us what the author had in mind when they said there is a time for everything. There is a time for a time for crying and laughing, for tearing up and breaking down, even for death and new life.

I've been thinking about this passage a lot lately as I consider where we are as a church. What season are we in now and there is a time for *this??*

There is SO much good going on right now. In a recent church service I listed the following things we've been involved in, just in the last couple of months:

Food Pantry (EVERY Mon. & Wed.); Shepherd's Table (>100meals/week); Barn Sales (>\$1300/sale); Disaster Relief (4 meals of 150, ~\$3K, clothing, 1:1 aid, groceries); Open Door (1st and 5th Wednesday >60 meals); Opening Our Space (AA, Girl Scouts, HOA, Weddings, Com. Events); Disciple; Bible Study; 2 Sunday school classes, Kindred Spirit Prayer Group; UMW & Men's Groups; Wesley Foundation Meal; Trunk or Treat; Blessing of the Animals; Weddings; Celebrations of Life; 11 new members (3 more to come!)

Even though there has been a lot of good, there has been pain as well. We are in a season of transition as a church and that is hard. Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time for everything — for the good, bad and all that comes in between.

So, what are we to do in this season of transition? Even if we believe that God is still at work in this tough and beautiful season, how are we to be? Who are we to be?

It's an obvious suggestion from a pastor in November, but I would encourage us to be people who are diligent and determined in gratitude. I am trying to be more intentional with giving thanks, and I'm coming to find that spending time in gratitude each day is as essential as the air I breathe. It sustains me. It puts a spring in my step. It calls me to see the world as how Christ seemed to see it: full of possibility and hope.

Things may not be as we want right now. That can be hard. I am praying with you and for you in this season and always. But try practicing gratitude — again for most of us. Watch how your heart will open as you do. Notice how there is more space for kindness. Welcome the new hope and love you will find. Being grateful will change your life, so watch out!

From Pastor Cole (continued)

You might be reading this and wonder, what does it REALLY mean to "practice gratitude?" For me, it's as simple as beginning each day with a pen and a piece of paper. I write the following line, "God, I am grateful for:" and after that, I just starting listing everything I can muster any amount of gratitude for. I thank God for the big stuff like my family and this church. I even thank God for the little stuff like good coffee and a nice chair. It doesn't matter what you are grateful for or how you give thanks. Try it and know that God will meet you there.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Cole

Welcome to Belinda Marr!

This month we welcome Belinda Marr to the Maggie Valley UMC family! I could not be more excited to welcome Belinda. She is kind, smart, hard-working and will be an amazing addition to what God is doing in and through us here at MVUMC.

Belinda will work part-time as the Administrative Assistant. She will be available in the office from 9am-2pm, Monday-Thursday each week. She will pick up where Renee left off with answering phones, replying to emails, managing the calendar, printing and preparing newsletters/bulletins and more. This job is critically important to the work of the church (I should know, I've been doing a poor job of it for the last month!). Please be in prayer for Belinda as she makes this transition.

Below is a little more info that Belinda shared about herself, but the best way to get to know her is to come by or give her a call.

I served as the childcare director at Long's Chapel UMC from January 2020 until November 2021. I retired from the Haywood County School System in December 2019 after 32 years of service. I have my Master's in Elementary Education and Administration from Montreat College. I am looking forward to being part of the staff at Maggie Valley UMC and getting to know everyone! Please come by and visit me soon!



On a personal note, I am married and have two daughters Mekayla and Tracy. My husband, Steve, is an accountant at Western Carolina University. Some of my favorite things to do are hiking and spending time with our dogs, Chloe, Izzy, and Daisy. I have recently started doing some crafting and making wreaths.

Prayer Concerns

Our Kindred Spirits Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at noon at MVUMC. Come to the sanctuary to join this group with your mask and please keep these in your prayers:

Donald Adkins	Lovia Barefoot	Audrey Baxter	Jane & John Berrevoets	Erma & Jim Bond
Jonathan Burr	Hannah Cabe	David Clement	Jerri Collins	Joe & Mari Conneen
JoAnn Cowles	Joanie Devine	Diana Duclos	Kirk Duclos	The Duncan Family
Christopher & Kajsa England	Cory England	Belinda Ferguson	Clarissa Fisher	Carol Gardner
Bonnie & Larry Germaine	The Giles Family	Vicki Gregg	Gracie Heger	Michael Hinebaugh
Carolyn Hobson	Connie Jones	Charles & Jane Kirby	Wayne LaPosta	
Clarell & Stephen Litchford's granddaughters	John Planchock	Cheryl & Destiny Little	David McKay	Devoice Medford
Sandra Morris	Randy Rogers	Kelly Reed	MB Reeves	Charlie & Mildred Rich
Roseann Riggs	Shelly Young	Sammy Sutton	Brian Toole	Unspoken Requests
Ted Watts	Teresa Crocker	Eileen Bogo	Hazel Bradshaw	Louise Brown
Stokey Caldwell	Dr. Anne Garrett	Donya Cummings	Connie Dennis	Anita Desmond
Willard Dockery	Zelda Hanson	Jay Gibson	Brenda Griswold	Peyton Gully
Bud Hanselman	Jimmy	Grace Heger	Michael Hill	Ethel Hudson
Holt Isom	Paul Mehaffey	Roscoe Lominick	Peggy Martin	Jack McElveen
Butch McGaha	Jim Murtaugh	Brenda Messer	Tom Miller	Barbara Mills
Ruby Moore	Norann Planchock	Karen Neely	Lois Oehme	Fred & Georgia Painter
Cathy Peterson	Beth Robinson	Pete Planchock	Pola	Rhonda Riley
Jetta Roark	Ron Sellers	Rudy	John Saxton	Molly Schick
Candie Sellers	Jane Spell	Don & Wanda Shoemaker	Elizabeth Smallwood	Sarah Smart
Annie Smith	Greg Tiffany	Carolyn Strickland	Rev. Wayne Sutton	Tammy
Kent Taylor	Lauren Walsh	Sam Tiger	Martha Bradshaw Trull	Mike Upright
Donna Waldman	Blue Ridge Health	Janene Young	Administrative Board	All Travelers
Bishop Paul Leeland	Clean Slate Coalition	Our Children & Youth	Children separated & detained at the border	Disaster Victims
Our Choir	Kelley Food Pantry	Community Garden	Covid-19 Pandemic	
District Superintendent Linda Kelley	Homeless People	Grace Circle	Haywood Pathways Center	
Haywood Street Congregation	The Open Door	In God's Creation Hiking Group	Manna Foodbank & Publix	Men's Group
Missionaries	People needing Medical Help	People Affected by Acts of Violence, Addiction & Mental Illness	Schofields Ministries – MOM Program	
People looking for Work	Sisters in Christ	Refugees	Our Staff	
Shepherd's Table		Sonshine Recovery Ministries	United Methodist Church	World Events & Peace
"Subject 2 Change" Christian Trio		Sunday School		

Haywood County School Teachers and Students, College Students, Sunday School Teachers & Subs, Children's Church Workers and also including Eli Bennett, Bill Chamberlin, Shelly Coker, Eddie Ferguson, Clarissa Fisher, Beverly Ketner, Cameron Lail, Kristin Litchford, David Mackey, Jenny McPhaul, Wanda Messer, Jack Montgomery, Zachary Moore, Annie Palmer, Barb, Danny & Megan Planchock, Lynn & Mark Rains, Shafin & Taylor Ross.

PRAYER REQUEST

WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



Emergency & Medical Workers, Missionaries & their families including Elizabeth Carmichael, Joe Conneen, Jeff Mackey & the MV Police Dept., Massey Family, Linda Palmer, Lynn & Mark Rains, Susan Snyder and Summer Conneen.

Our Country, Government, Service men, women & their families including Melissa Boris, Jesse Brestle, Amanda Bryson, Joshua Cruse, Andrew Davis, Melissa & Seth Gardiner, Christopher & Michael Garrand, Kathryn Boris Glance, Clayton Hardy, Samuel Hunter, Ian Hutton, Makenzie & Zachary Moore, Michael Morris, Kane Pinkston, Joe Stroupe, Luke Turner, Camille Tyler, Michael Woodard, 211th Military Police Company, Prisoners of War, Veterans, Those Injured & MIA.

Those in Nursing Homes including Sally Ketner → The Brian Center; Lou Baker, Shirley Mann → Haywood Lodge; Becky Bender, Hattie Sue Bonham, Jane Cable, Lady Hughes, Margaret Smith, Betty Sutton, Sarah Sutton → Maggie Valley Nursing & Rehab; Gail Pace → Silver Bluff; Sue Shepherd → Smoky Mtn Nursing Home; Elaine Bronson, Linda Davis, Charles Reed, Maggie Valley Nursing Home, McCracken's Nursing Home and Silver Bluff Nursing Home.

Those who are Homebound including Kathryn Brannen, Joseph Cullen, Wanda Deutsch, Willard Dockery, Helen & Joe Duke, Jim Ferguson, Nancy Lott Gerald, Zelda Hanson, Bea Hawkins, Juanne Herrold, Mary Beth Johnson, Paul Mehaffey, Regina Mehaffey, Hilda Palmer, The Pickens Family, Doug Ramsey, Ken Roach, Linda Rondecial, Maureen Shaw, Irene Sutton, Charlie & Rena Upright, Terri Waddell, David & Donna Wagner and Aaron White.

November

2021

December

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
				8	9	10
				15	16	17
				22	23	24
				29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					8	9
					15	16
					22	23
					29	30
					31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Sunday School (9am) All Saints Worship (8:30 & 10:30)	1 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	2 Open Door (9:30am) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:00pm)	3 Girl Scouts (6pm) UMW Grace Circle (2pm) — Fellowship Hall	4 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	5 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	6 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
7 Sunday School (9am) Holy Communion & Worship (8:30 & 10:30)	8 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	9 One Board Meeting (6pm) — Fellowship Hall & Zoom	10 Food Pantry (10-12) Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Disciple Bible Study (6:00pm)	11 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall	12 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	13 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
14 Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (8:30 & 10:30)	15 Food Pantry (10-12) Giving out Thanksgiving Meal Boxes Shepherd's Table (3:30)	16 Grief Group (1pm) — Grace Classroom	17 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Giving out Thanksgiving Meal Boxes Bible Study (6:00pm)	18 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Men's Group (5:30) — Daisy Room	19 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall Set Up Nativity Scene (1pm)	20 Giving out Thanksgiving Meal Boxes (10am-12pm) AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
21 Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (8:30/10:30) Decorate Church (11:30)	22 Food Pantry (10-12) Giving out Thanksgiving Meal Boxes Shepherd's Table (3:30)	23 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	24 CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED	25 HAPPY THANKSGIVING - Church Offices Closed	26 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	27 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
28 Sunday School (9am) — Grace Room Worship (8:30 & 10:30)	29 Food Pantry (10-12) Shepherd's Table (3:30)	30 Grief Group (1pm) — Grace Classroom	31 Kindred Spirits Prayer Group (12-1) Food Pantry (10-12) Disciple Bible Study (6:00pm)	1 Bible Study (9am) — Fellowship Hall Girl Scouts (6pm)	2 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall	3 Sunday School Class AA — (7pm) Fellowship Hall
				4	5	6

Birthdays & Anniversaries

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 2 | Chris Montgomery | 17 | Bryanna Mackey |
| 2 | Lewis Hanson | 17 | John Miller |
| 2 | Henry Sutton | 19 | Pat Burton |
| 4 | Nathan Roth | 19 | Makenzie Moore |
| 4 | Beth Childs | 19 | Matthew Sutton |
| 4 | Lorraine Cook | 20 | Sandra Knight |
| 4 | Donna McElroy | 20 | Joan Kennedy Kocsis |
| 6 | Erma Bond | 21 | Dan Dry |
| 6 | Bill Chamberlin | 21 | Lena Duncan |
| 7 | Kathryn Brannen | 21 | Kaylee Highsmith |
| 7 | Bruce Kossman | 22 | Susan Dry |
| 7 | DeVere Williams | 22 | Brandon Meadows |
| 8 | Lili Meadows | 23 | Pam McMillan |
| 9 | Belinda Ferguson | 23 | Beth Brown |
| 11 | Carolyn Pilgrim | 25 | Shelly Coker |
| 11 | Jack Montgomery | 25 | Shirley Kelley |
| 12 | Will Caldwell | 25 | Janet Lilley |
| 12 | Marjorie Carter | 26 | Kathryn Boris Glance |
| 12 | Kayla Queen Green | 28 | Julius Rountree |
| 12 | Meredith Koebley Snider | 28 | Barbara Baity |
| 12 | Kayla Queen Green | 28 | Nancy Frank |
| 13 | Sue Campbell | 29 | Elita Stamp |
| 13 | Roy Sapough | 30 | June Johnson |
| 16 | Lynn Walsh | | |

HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY!

- 6 Bonnie & Lew Hanson
- 14 Shelda & Scott Muirhead (1982)
- 19 Carol & Chip Eifler
- 19 Erna & Sten Lundgren
- 21 Cynthia & DeVere Williams (1979)



Service & Missions, Announcements Update

Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour. Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7th.

Our Church Food Pantry operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until noon. We are asking that everyone in the congregation **bring TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTE this month.** Personal hygiene items are appreciated also. Thank you for helping! **We will be closed on Wednesday, November 25th.**

Pastor Cole's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We invite everyone to come! **We will NOT meet on November 25th due to Thanksgiving Holidays.**

Thursday, November 11th is Veterans Day. Don't forget to say thank you to those who served our country so bravely.

We will have a Charge Conference Meeting on November 18th at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. ALL are welcome to attend.

We have a Girl Scout Daisy & Brownie Troop that meets every other Thursday night in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. If interested, please contact Nicole Taylor at (828) 450-2090.



The Men's Group will meet at the church at 5:30 pm on Thursday, November 18th in the Daisy Classroom

We will be decorating our Sanctuary for Christmas on Sunday, November 21st at 11:30. Nothing gets you in the Christmas spirit as much as listening to Christmas music and decorating our church with friends. It won't take long if everyone could help for about an hour.

We will be putting up the Nativity Scene on Friday, November 19th at 1pm. Meet out front the church – thank you for your help!

Service & Missions, Announcements Update (Continued)

A DECEMBERED GRIEF GROUP
"Living with Loss while Others are Celebrating"
Tuesdays, November 16-December 21, 2021 1:00 pm
Grace Classroom, Maggie Valley UMC
Leaders: Sue Shirley (804-714-6320) and
Rev. Erma Bond (828-421-7639)

Suffering the loss of a loved one at any time of the year is difficult. Grief seems to be more intense during special days and the months of November and December.

Many people want to avoid the Thanksgiving-Christmas season all together, because it will be different this year without your loved one. You don't want to be burden on your family and wonder how to negotiate your way through.

Dealing effectively with the holidays, while experiencing the pain of loss, necessitates some extra care and attention. Together, we'll discuss suggestions that may help you cope with the upcoming weeks.

Come and share in a compassionate, safe space with others who understand what you might be going through.

Please call Sue or Rev. Erma to register or for more information.

The Church Office will be closed November 25th – November 27th due to the Thanksgiving Holidays. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



From Beth Brown, Lay Leader

Clergy & Staff Appreciation & Welcome to our New Church Administrator

We are dedicating the month of November to our staff and clergy as an opportunity to give thanks for the work they do for us and a lot they do behind the scenes. November is a perfect time to remember and give thanks to the people of our congregation that work hard to make our church a beautiful place to worship, fellowship and grow in our faith.

This month here are some suggestions on ways to express your thankfulness:

- A card with a special note of thanks.
- A gift card for gas, groceries, restaurant, car wash, etc.
- A donation in their honor to a local charity.
- Offer to pray for them throughout the year and let them know you are doing it.
- Tell them you appreciate all they do in a phone call or face-to-face meeting.
- Offer to take them to breakfast, lunch or out for coffee.
- Put together a little gift basket.
- Offer to bring them a meal one night.
- Put together a bouquet of flowers and deliver it to their home.
- A VISA or AMEX gift card

Our staff and clergy are the following people:

- Pastor, Cole Altizer
- Pastor, Mike Shirley
- Organist, Janice Rogers
- Choir Director, Jason Jones
- Church Custodians, Ginger Rogers
- Custodian, Chrystal Carver
- Shepherds Table Team Leader, Gene & Shirley Saxton
- Food Pantry, Gail England



Let's welcome Belinda Marr as our new church administrator with best wishes and greetings with a card or gift bag.

From Beth Brown, Lay Leader

Why Christians Fail to Change – Spiritual Ignorance – Part II

We are continuing our series from Chip Ingram's book, "Yes! You Really CAN Change. What to Do When You're Spiritually Stuck." Chip Ingram is a teaching pastor and CEO of Living on the Edge, an international teaching and discipleship ministry.

Last month I provided a little hint as to the secret to changing our Spiritual Ignorance to Spiritual Knowledge. Chip is going to share his insight and experience on how being in Spiritual Ignorance is not where God wants you to be. God's desire for you is to be happy, be at peace and to find hope and security in Him. A little side note, there is much to be learned in this Part II article, so it will be a longer than normal.

"For the first two years of my Christian life, I lived in two worlds. On Thursday nights, I would sing praises to God in the living room of a bricklayer who led our campus ministry. On Friday nights, I would barhop with my basketball teammates all over town. I was miserable, plagued by a never-ending cycle of failure, guilt, depression, repentance, resolutions to never do that again, another try, and back to failure again. I had tasted the reality and freedom of my new life in Christ. Living out that reality was another matter. God brought some great people and some biblical teaching into my life that broke this vicious cycle. Unfortunately, many Christians are still stuck in it.

The pattern of "trying hard, doing good" for a time and then failing can be terribly disheartening. I've heard the same laments again and again from numerous Christians:

"I try to read my Bible every day, but I miss sometimes and get off track."

"I try to conquer by lusts, but they keep coming back."

"I try to pray, but I'm not getting answers and I lose heart."

"I try to be patient, but I keep losing my temper."

The variations are limitless, but the dynamics are always the same. This is willpower Christianity, and no matter how long it succeeds, one failure makes the whole effort feel as if it is "unsuccessful." A 90 percent success rate isn't enough if frequent or even occasional failures seem to put us back at square one.

About a year and a half into my Christian life, I was so frustrated with my failures that I actually tried to quit. I got stuck in that dilemma between "something's wrong with me" and "the gospel isn't working." I didn't realize it was a lack of knowledge about God, His Word, and the sanctification process. I needed to learn how to tap into God's grace and power. I believe millions of believers across our country are living in that kind of defeat because they don't know what God teaches us about how holy transformation works in everyday life.

The process of sanctification requires us to walk by faith, and walking by faith necessarily involves responding to the alerts and prompts of Scripture. When God's Word shines light on a problem in us, it opens a conversation with Him. We ask Him what it looks like to trust Him in a particular situation, relationship or problem and read and listen for His answers. But it is important not to focus only on the issue itself. Focusing on our sin and struggles intensifies them. We need to turn our focus instead to whichever of God's promises apply to the temptation or struggle we're going through. Then we walk with Him by faith through that situation. As we apply these promises as

From Beth Brown, Lay Leader (Continued)

our source of strength to address these issues, we are walking by faith. That's the core of Christian living, and we are changed in the process.

You can't live this life of faith by just reading the Bible a little bit here and there. As I've counseled hundreds of believers over the years – many with significant financial, relational, and moral problems – I generally ask them about their intake of God's Word. The answer is almost always the same: little or no personal devotion or study. Life changes demands that you make every effort to work the truth of God's Word into your heart. That should be one of your life goals as a believer: to master the contents and truths of the Bible. I know it's a bit book. But, if you're like many people, you are well versed in the nightly news, sports stats, the latest movies and music or whatever your special interests happen to be. You probably already know how to be a zealous student of your culture and your times. So why not take some of that energy and attention and apply it to something that matters for eternity?

If Bible reading feels like an item on a to-do list that reminds us how far we're falling short, it becomes a chore that interrupts our downtime. No wonder it's so easy to neglect it. But as we learn to make it a conversation with the God of the universe that deepens and directs us, it can become the highlight of our day. And if we supplement that conversation with some study helps, commentaries, and devotionals, it becomes all the richer. Over time, we begin to notice some significant changes in our perspectives, attitudes and choices.

Immersing yourself in Scripture and choosing to believe what God says about you will radically reorient your thinking. Sadly, too many Christians are trying to overcome their sin by targeting and focusing on their sin. But that's still a preoccupation with sin, isn't it? When you keep kicking yourself for your sins, you reinforce them by giving them so much attention. If you see yourself as a helpless sinner, you'll continue to live that vision out. But God says to consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God (Rom. 6). He says you are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). He replaces your shame with honor, your ashes with beauty, and your mourning with praise (Isa. 61:3). He says He removes your sins as far as the east is from the west (Ps. 103:12) and has canceled out your debts (Col. 2:14). He has given you the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). It can feel really irresponsible not to fixate on your sin – as if you're failing to police yourself – but doing so lines up with what God says and gives Him and you an opportunity to fill your mind with something else. It's the only way to break the cycle.

That's what immersing ourselves in biblical truth can do for us. It doesn't happen overnight, and there are still some practical steps to take. But spiritual ignorance is not bliss. God wants better for you."

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Paster Cole read from Psalm 1, Sunday, September 19th. (Before you think that I have an amazing memory or that I am an astute student of Cole's, I wrote this article in September. When God puts ideas and thoughts on your heart you have to move with it). Psalm 1 came up again in one of my devotions and it's relevance to our reading today is fitting.

"Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with scoffers. But they delight in doing everything the Lord wants; day and night they think about his law. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without

From Beth Brown, Lay Leader (Continued)

fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper. But this is not true of the wicked. They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind. They will be condemned at the time of judgement. Sinners will have no place among the godly. For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction." Psalm 1

From the Our Daily Bread, September 13, 2021.

Karen Pimpo writes, A Living Document

"In memorializing his grandfather's work, Peter Croft wrote, "It is my deepest desire for the person who picks up their Bible, whatever version they use, to not only understand but experience the scriptures as living documents, just as relevant, dangerous and exciting now as they were those thousands of years ago." Peter's grandfather was J.B. Phillips, a youth minister who undertook a new paraphrase of the Bible in English during World War II in order to make it come alive to students at his church.

Like Phillips' students, we face barriers to reading and experiencing Scripture, and not necessarily because of our Bible translation. We may lack time, discipline, or the right tools for understanding. But Psalm 1 tells us that "Blessed is the one...whose delight is in the law of the Lord" (Vv. 1-2). Meditating on Scripture daily allows us to "prosper" in all seasons, no matter what hardship we're facing. (Underscore by Beth Brown)

How do you view your Bible? It's still relevant with insight for living today, still dangerous in its call to believe and follow Jesus, still exciting in the intimate knowledge of God and humanity that it imparts. It's like a stream of water (V.3) that provides the sustenance we need daily. Today, let's lean in --- make time, get the right tools, and ask God to help us experience Scripture as a living document."

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you know us, you know our habits, good or bad. You love us regardless.

Forgive us and help us to want to know you more. To delight in reading and meditating on your Word. Your Words have the power to guide us and help us in whatever season we are in. Thank you. We love you.

Amen

