

PRAYER REQUESTS

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 1 John 3:22

As always, we pray for our country, our pastor and his family, our members, and our lost loved ones. In addition, we pray for God's blessed hand to touch these precious souls:

Baylee & Timothy	Mike Bess	Ashley Sexson	Shane Hester
Heather and Philip	Shelby Wells	Brandon Sexson	Jean Hester
David Blalock	Eretta Weathers	Dalton Stewart	Eunice Mason
Addie Griffin	Martha Carson	Rusty Stewart	

These brothers and sisters in Christ are homebound and need our prayers.

Billie Tessenar	Glyda Godfrey	Howard Hall
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We must remember to pray for these precious loved ones who are in care homes. They would also love to receive cards and letters.

Mrs. Mary Green
423 Kirby Street
Charlotte, NC 28214

Homer Welch
Peak Resources
2780 X-Ray Drive
Gastonia, NC 28054

Millie Fisher
103 Burns Mitchell Dr.
Belmont, NC 28012

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ground.

For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 1 Peter 1:15-16

Why, then, do we pretend that our church buildings are holy ground? Instead of trying to make a church building a house of God, let **us** be the house of God!

Announcements

- The **Master's Men** will meet again on **Saturday, March 10 at 10:00 am**. All men are invited and urged to attend for Bible study and fellowship.
- It's important that I have everyone's **birthday and anniversary dates**; I don't want to offend **ANYONE** by forgetting these important dates. See **Bill Gordon** to be sure.
- **Family Ministries** can use **Campbell's soup label UPC codes** and "**Box Tops for Education**" found on many items we use in our homes. **Mrs. Gordon** is collecting and preparing them for delivery. Anyone who wants to help collect these are welcome, and it will be greatly appreciated.
- Our **Prayer Room** is open at each evening service, beginning **15 minutes prior** to the start of the worship service.

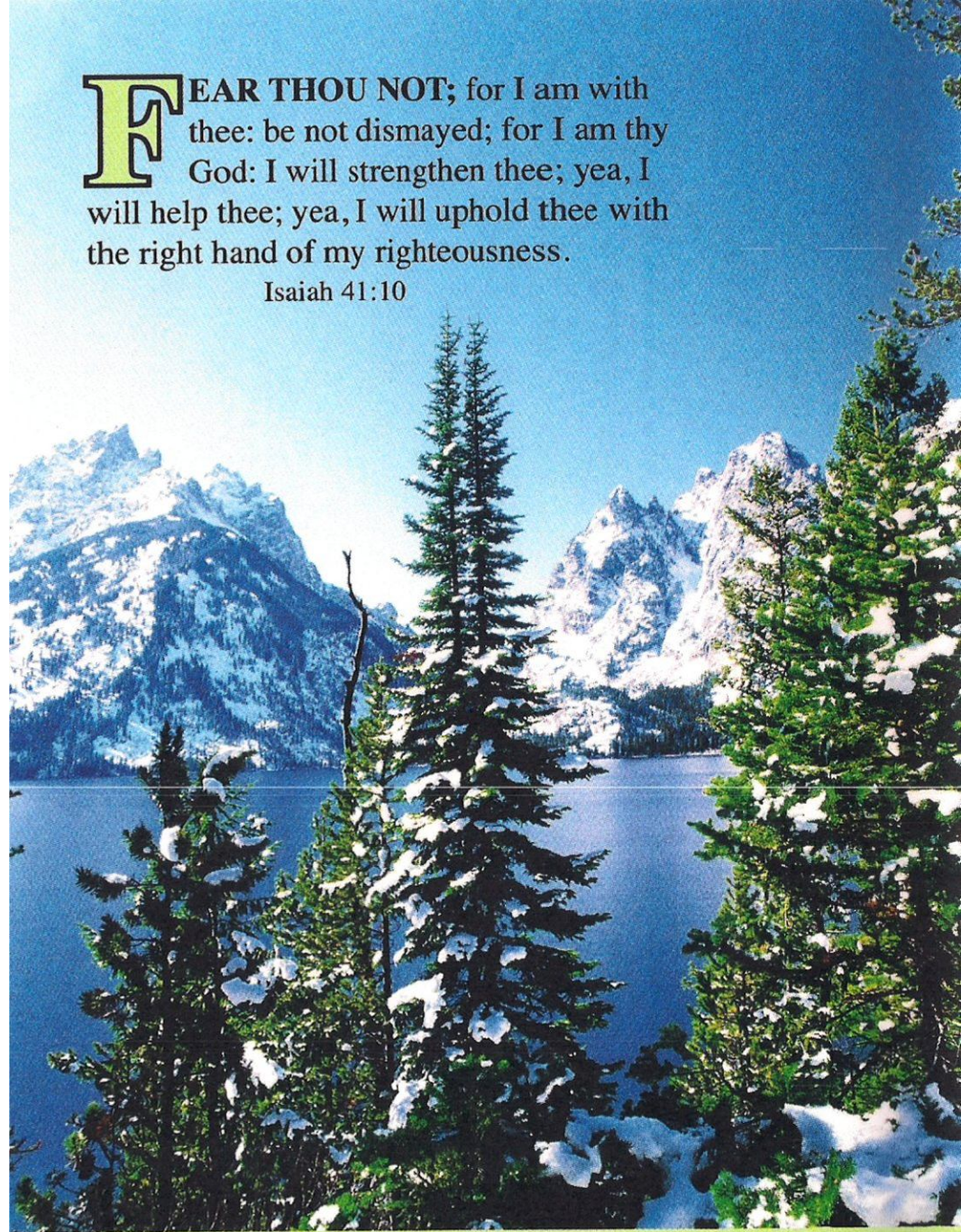
Mailing address: **P.O. Box 976, Belmont, NC 28012**

Church web site: **<http://www.eastbelmontfwb.org>**

Pastor Stewart's e-mail address: **pastor@eastbelmontfwb.org**

FEAR THOU NOT; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:10



East Belmont Freewill Baptist Church
909 Edgemont Avenue, Belmont, NC 28012
Phone 704-825-5346

The Church Is Not The Building

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. [Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

In the Bible the word church is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning a calling out. It never refers to a building or meeting place, but always to people, the ones called out of the world's society by God calling them into His service. The Church of the Bible is not a cold, stone building, but a group of warm and loving people specially chosen by God.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. [Acts 2:47](#)

The church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is not the church building, it is the sanctified people of God, the Christians. Why then do we place importance upon the church building? I recently read a discussion between several members of a church group after a sermon on this subject. They said that the church building is the house of God, a holy place, and comparable to the temple in Jerusalem!

In the Scriptures church can refer to the group of believers in a particular location, such as a city or region, or to the entire body of believers God has called.

So a building with no worshipers cannot really be a church in the biblical sense. The New Testament Church is a group of people called out of this world's society by God, even if they meet in a rented hall or on a grassy hillside. For example, the apostle Paul greeted the church—the congregation of people—that met in the house of Priscilla and Aquila in Rome. *Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.* [Romans 16:3-5](#)

What are the roots, the history, of the Church? What sets apart people whom God calls His own? How does God use the Church to achieve His purposes? What does the Church do for us, and what should its members do for the Church? How can we be part of what God is doing through His Church?

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [Matthew 16:18](#)

He was saying the Church—His chosen people—would not die out. It would be alive—a warm and caring body of believers striving to serve God, do His work and support each other. Today, with so many conflicting doctrines and practices, how can we recognize the Church Jesus built?

We Christians are the house of God.

*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.* [1 Peter 2:5](#)

*For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, **ye are God's building**. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he*

We have a VHS and DVD library

If you would like a DVD of the service, talk to Marty

Sunday, February 19, 2012

Number 8

Schedule of services

Sunday School	10:00 am
Sunday Morning	11:00 am
Children's Church	11:15 am
Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm

Prayer room 15 minutes prior to evening services

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Morning	50
Sunday School	40
Children's Church	3
Nursery	0
Sunday Evening	37
Wednesday Evening	37

This week's offering: \$1343.29

buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [1 Corinthians 3:9-11](#)

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [John 14:16-17](#)

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. [1 John 4:11-13](#)

He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. [John 6:56](#)
Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. [1 Corinthians 12:27](#)

We Christians are the body of Jesus Christ, the assembly of His sanctified people, His church. His Spirit lives inside of us, as it should. The very definition of life is that the body has a spirit—otherwise it is dead.

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. [Colossians 1:18-20](#)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. [Galatians 3:27](#)

We are the temple, the place of worship, the house of the Lord. No church building is described in the Bible, and no church building is designated the house of God.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; [Hebrews 9:11](#)

We are God's holy building, His temple, and His Spirit lives in us. We are holy

This week we celebrate these **Birthdays**

Feb. 24-Elijah Stewart and Jerry Wood
