

Mountain Echoes

Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Gatlinburg
March 1, 2018

FROM OUR PASTOR

With a few days of mild weather behind us and the first day of spring being only a couple of weeks away, I'm already experiencing some symptoms of spring fever. As we wrap up a winter that has brought us some extremely cold temperatures, I find myself more ready than usual for the warmth and beauty of spring in the Smokies.

With spring on my mind I went to the Scriptures to see what the Bible has to say about Spring. The answer: Not much. Oh, I found the word *spring* in there, alright, but most often it was not used in relationship to the season. There is a lot about *springs of water* and about this or that *springing up* or *springing forth*. And of the few references I did find where the word *spring* referred to the season, many were connected to waging war, such as:

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. (2 Samuel 11:1)

Again, not exactly what I had in mind. Ultimately, however, I did find a few passages where, either directly or indirectly, the Bible refers to the spring of the year. For example:

Ask rain from the Lord in the season of the spring rain, from the Lord who makes the storm clouds, who gives showers of rain to you, the vegetation in the field to everyone. (Zechariah 10:1)

Here we find reference not only to the spring of the year, but a reminder of the God who makes the beauty of spring possible. As we enter into spring of 2018, let's all be extra attentive to the beauty of nature, especially that with which are blessed here in Sevier County. And let's be extra careful to acknowledge and express our thanks to the God who makes spring, and all new life, possible.

Robert Browning joined the themes of spring and God as spring's source in his well-known poem, *The Year's At The Spring*. I share it with you in closing.

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his Heaven—
All's right with the world!



Lamy



Special Thanks,

...to everyone who bought & donated roses for our 15th annual Roses for Missions. A special thank you to Cupid Petals for providing the beautiful roses which decorated our sanctuary on February 11.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

(\$10,268.46 needed weekly to meet budget)

February 4, 2018

General Fund	\$6461.00
Missions Committee	\$1270.00
Word of Life	\$25.00
Tools	\$10.00
Youth Building Rebuild	\$400.00
Children's Fund (CentriKid)	\$510.00
Youth Building Rebuild	\$7903.00

February 11, 2018

General Fund	\$6877.25
Benevolence	\$200.00
Missions Committee	\$100.00
Youth Fund Raising	\$300.00
Youth Trips	\$50.00
Children's (CentriKid)	\$200.00
Offering Envelopes	\$8.00
Mountain Hops Clinic	\$20.00
Youth Building Rebuild	\$100.00

Memorials

Teresa McKinnon	\$50.00
Ed Whaley	\$50.00

February 18, , 2018

General Fund	\$5917.63
Missions Committee	\$70.00
SCFM	\$20.00
Youth Fund Raising	\$275.00
Youth Trips	\$50.00
Offering Envelopes	\$22.00
SMARM	\$100.00
Children's (CentriKid)	\$350.00