

*ALTAVISTA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*



***THE LINK***

*September 1, 2019*

OUR VISION, OUR HEARTS, AND OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN



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FROM OUR PASTOR....

These days, it is so hard to find the time to pray. So much of our lives are taken up by other activities. Our children's schedules are taken up by school, sports, activities, and work. None of these things are bad. They're just time-consuming. Adults face similar issues of work, raising children, or caring for an elderly parent. Retirees even find themselves doing more things in retirement than when working full-time. None of these things are bad, they just take up so much of our time that we forget to pray. I do it all the time! I sometimes find myself lying in bed on the verge of sleep, then the Lord wakes me to remind me that I forgot to pray.

The Holy Ghost gives us the means to make every-day activities prayerful. One of the biggest ways is by giving thanks to God for the things He's given us. Everything—from the very air we breathe, to the jobs we have, to the schools we're in—everything is a gift from God. We are especially blessed right here and right now. Sometimes we don't always see it because there might be something obstructing our view. Maybe it's stress or anxiety that gets in the way of seeing our blessings. Maybe it's anger or distress. The

beautiful thing is, the Holy Spirit allows us to turn those feelings into prayers, too. We can prayerfully and healthily pray to God in lamentation. We can cry and scream and moan at God, because the Spirit gives us the agency to do so. Laments, thanksgiving, and praise are the three main genres of Psalms. They are also the types of prayers our everyday life can foster with the aid of God's Spirit.

This also means we should take care to watch what we say and do. If every action we take and word we speak is meant as a prayer to God, then there can't be room for destructive behavior. James tells us that out of the same mouth come blessing and cursing, but this ought not to be so. Part of living Spiritually is acting spirit-filled and spirit-led. When we go to church on Sunday morning we should leave changed and moved. We should take care not to speak ill about someone or slander anyone. Gossip that is demeaning or destructive cannot roll off the same tongue that praises and thanks the Lord for creating us all in God's image. We have to be careful when we get angry not to allow ourselves to slip into the ways of the flesh. Everything we do and say should be done and said to the glory of God. We do this not because it is the rule or at the threat of hell. We live prayerfully because the Spirit of God is in us. Without the indwelling of Spirit of God, the things we say and do bring nothing but pain and destruction. Life in the Spirit, however, is one where we are empowered and encouraged to make our actions acts of prayer.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Ed



**RENEW**  
CONFERENCE 2019

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THE  
*Father's Affection*

Featuring **Wm. Paul Young**  
Author of *The Shack*

**Saturday » November 2 » 9am – 2pm**  
108 Melinda Drive, Lynchburg

Tickets are **\$18**  
Enjoy a **light breakfast** and **lunch**  
Register online at **EventBrite**  
Sponsored by **Altavista Presbyterian Church**

Session topics include

- *Wholeness*
- ▲ *The Trinity*
- *Reconciliation*

# Sermons This Month

PASTOR ED IS PREACHING AN  
EXPOSITORY SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK  
OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS

## Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> • Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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JEREMIAH 2:4-8

MARK 2

*EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK*

## Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> • Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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JEREMIAH 18:1-11

MARK 2

*EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK*

## Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> • Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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JEREMIAH 4:22-28

MARK 2

*EXPOSITIRY SERIES ON MARK*

## Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> • Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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GUEST SPEAKER, REV. ROBERT TOLAR

## Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> • Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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NUMBERS 21:4-9

MARK 2

*EXPOSITORY SERIES ON MARK*

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# HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

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## Bible Study — September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>

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Bible Study meets every **Tuesday morning** in the Adult Sunday School room at 10:00 AM. All are welcome to join as Rev. Soto leads us through various studies and discussions of Scripture, theology, and church history.

Pastor Ed will guide a video series on the Attributes of God. This series is published by Ligonier Ministries and is taught by Dr. Steven Lawson of OnePassion Ministries.

- 9/3 The Holiness of God
- 9/10 The Omnipresence of God
- 9/17 The Omniscience of God
- 9/24 The Omnipotence of God

## Prayer Fellowship — September 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

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Prayer Fellowship meets on the **Second, Fourth, and Fifth Wednesdays** in the Pastor's Study at 9:30 AM. All are welcome to join us in prayers for our church, community, nation, and the world. If you have any prayer requests for the Fellowship, please contact the main office.

## Youth Group — September 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>

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Youth Group meets on the **Second and Third Sundays** in the Youth Room at 5:00 PM. All youth between Sixth and Twelfth grades are welcome. The Youth will be treated to a meal and will fellowship throughout the evening.

Pastor Ed will lead the high schoolers through a series of discussions on the basic Reformed theology and spiritual practices. Barbie Andrews will lead the middle schoolers through a series on the Bible.

The September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a Sub Sale after worship and a cookie bake for Kairos Prison Ministry.

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**Altavista Presbyterian Church  
Session highlights  
August 25, 2019 meeting**

Approved three fundraisers for the Youth Group: (1) A sub sandwich lunch following Worship on September 29, 2019, (2) a pancake dinner on the evening of Shrove Tuesday, February 25, 2020 & (3) a car wash/Chick Fil'a sale in April, 2019 (specific date TBD).

Decided to hire Georgie Roark to provide coverage in the Nursery beginning September 15, 2019 at the rate of \$25 per Sunday Worship & other gatherings.

Decided to spend \$500 from ACT for Mission funds for a deposit to Praying Pelican Missions to hold the week of June 19-25, 2021 for our next Puerto Rico Mission trip.

Decided to spend \$1,000 from ACT for Mission funds & to collect a special offering on October 6, 2019 to supplement this gift to Iglesia Cristiano Cristor Redentor to purchase Christmas gifts for children.

Decided to collect the Children's Thanksgiving offering on November 24, 2019 & match it from ACT for Mission funds.

Decided to collect the Christmas Joy offering on December 22, 2019 & match it from ACT for Mission funds.

Reviewed the July, 2019 Treasurer's Report.

Approved minutes of the July 21, 2019 Stated Session meeting as presented.

Following discussion, decided to call a Congregational meeting for September 8, 2019 to propose to the Congregation to change the Bylaws of the Congregation to reduce the minimum number of members on the Nominating Committee from five to three.

Decided to allow Altavista On Track to use our fir tree near the library as the Town of Altavista Christmas tree.

Authorized Pastor Ed to form a Stewardship Task Force.

Joys & concerns of the congregation were identified. Moderator Ed prayed for those listed & to close the meeting.

	<b>July-2019</b>	<b>YTD</b>
<b>Pledges</b>	9,890	64,166.65
<b>Non-Pledges</b>	2,708	10,097
<b>Plate Offering</b>	252	901.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	11,952.34	85,953.58



## Worship Services Online!

Have you missed a worship service and thought, “Darn, I don’t feel as if my spirit has been fed. I wish there was a way for me to experience Sunday’s service.” Or maybe you’re the type of person who can’t get enough of church and you want to experience Sunday over and over again. Well, the both of you are in luck!

Every week we post the video of our Sunday worship service to the world wide web. Everything is there, not just the sermon. The prayers, the music, the tears and the laughter are accessible to you 24/7. To watch the videos, simply navigate your web browser to <https://www.altapres.org/worship-services> and watch all the past services you want! You can even download a copy of the bulletin and Pastor Ed’s sermons. This is a wonderful, but sometimes overlooked ministry of the church. The web is a vibrant and growing mission field, just as important as any physical place on earth! So don’t forget to share that link with your friends and family, so they, too, can experience God’s Word!

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### SEPTEMBER

	<b>Birthdays</b>	<b>Anniversaries</b>
1		Al & Jeannie Smith
4	Keegan deBernard, John Roark	Dennis & Linda Janiak
15	Karen Blaesing	
22	Carolyn Lees	Jeffrey & Samantha Janiak
25	John Larkin	



As you pray this month, please pray for all those in the path of Hurricane Dorian and any future hurricanes this season.



## MONTH of SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 AM Worship Communion Children's Church	<b>2</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH  Labor Day Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room  12 Noon -Men's Lunch – Taste of Italy  5 PM Ministry Within Mtg.	<b>4</b> 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 AM Worship Children's Church  Called Congregation Mtg. after Worship  Collect special offering for POP'S Water Filter Challenge  5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	<b>9</b> 10 AM AAMA Mtg.  6 PM Ministry Beyond Mtg.  7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>10</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room  5:30 PM C.E Mtg.	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship  10:30 AM Women's F. Mtg.  11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 AM Bring A Friend Sunday Worship/Children's Church  Koinonia Luncheon after Church	<b>16</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH	<b>17</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room  12 Noon -Men's Lunch – El Cazador	<b>18</b> 11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch  9:30 AM APC Serves Lunch @ Daily Bread  1 PM DAWN Board Mtg.  5:30 PM Property Mtg.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10 AM –Worship Children's Church  Session Meeting after Worship  5 PM Youth Group Mtg.	<b>23</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH  October Link Deadline	<b>24</b> 10 AM Bible Study in Adult SS Room	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Prayer Fellowship  11-12:30 PM -Second Helping Lunch	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 AM Worship Children's Church  Youth Group Sub Sandwich Sale after Worship	<b>30</b> 7 PM Boy Scouts Mtg. in FH					



KEVIN CARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

when I rise, give me  
*Jesus*

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