



## CALENDAR

### Wednesday, May 25

- 5:30 pm Family Night Supper
- 6:30 pm Bible Study & Prayer, Youth on Mission, Kids of the Kingdom
- 7:30 pm Adult Choir Practice

### Thursday, May 26

- 10:00 am Cancer Pad Project

### Saturday, May 28

- 11:00 am Kids of the Kingdom Bowling

### Sunday, May 29

- 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
- 9:15 am Bible Study
- 10:30 am Worship Service, Children's Church, Kidmo (Grades 1-5)
- 12:30 am CAP Lunch @ Stevie B's
- 5:30 pm Finger Food Fellowship
- 6:30 pm "One Voice" in Concert

### Monday, May 30

- 6:30 pm NO GROW  
**Memorial Day—Office Closed**

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor

Phil Bryant

### Director of Music Ministries

Diana Wilson

### Director of Youth Ministries

John Steese

### Church Office

Amber Seabolt, Secretary

**Phone:** (478) 953-4328

**Fax:** (478) 953-9637

### Website:

[www.sandyvalley.org](http://www.sandyvalley.org)

### E-mail:

[mail@sandyvalley.org](mailto:mail@sandyvalley.org)

Sandy Valley Baptist Church  
1124 S. Houston Lake Rd.  
Warner Robins, GA 31088  
Vol. 12 No. 21 May 24, 2011  
Return Service Requested

## PASTOR'S PAGE



Lillie Baltrip is a good bus driver. In fact, according to the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* of June 17, 1988, the Houston school district nominated her for a safe-driving award. Her colleagues even trusted her to drive a busload of them to an awards ceremony for safe drivers. Unfortunately, on the way to the ceremony, Lillie turned a corner too sharply and flipped the bus over, sending herself and sixteen others to the hospital for minor emergency treatment.

Did Lillie, accident free for the whole year, get her award anyway? No. Award committees rarely operate on the principle of grace. How fortunate we are that even when we don't maintain a spotless life-record, our final reward depends on God's grace, not on our performance!

I want you to think with me for a few moments about what I call saving grace and sustaining grace. Saving grace is best seen in Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." Sustaining grace is best seen in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made

perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

We always talk of God's saving grace. Without it, we would receive our due reward for sin, death and hell. But we fail sometimes to remember it is God's sustaining grace that keeps us each and every day of our lives. Without His sustaining grace, we would flounder through life with no guidance from God. Would that not be a disastrous thing?

Like Lillie Baltrip, we may do good for a while, but inevitably we will turn a corner too sharply and flip the bus of our life. Then we will call upon God (1 John 1:9), and He will repeat to us what He said to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Never forget, besides being saved by His grace, we are also sustained by His grace every moment of every day! As Paul would say: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Yours In Christ,

*Bro. Phil*

**Mark 10:45**