



Coffeeville First Baptist Church
By **Craig Baker, Pastor**

Our Vacation Bible School started this past Sunday evening. The focus is on illumination and how Jesus is the light shining into the darkness of our lives and our world. To really understand light, we must also understand darkness. If you were to ask people what they are afraid of, one of the most common answers would be the dark. Like a lot of kids, I had a healthy fear of the dark. When I was around 12 years old my grandfather took me squirrel hunting one evening. He put me in a spot in a deep hardwood hollow then walked out of sight over the ridge. At that age, I was mostly good being in the woods at dark, especially if I was with somebody else, but just as it started getting so dark you could barely make out the silhouettes of the treetops something let loose with the awfulest noise that echoed through the hollow. I froze. You know how you do when you hear something in the dark and do not know what it is. You freeze thinking if you are really still whatever it is may not know you are there. That is exactly what I did, until it let loose a second time. At that, I went running through the woods toward where my grandfather was calling for him. I had not gone very far or called out for him more than a couple times when he shouted back, "What's wrong with you?" When I realized he was a lot closer than I thought he was, I was good. He came to me and had a good laugh

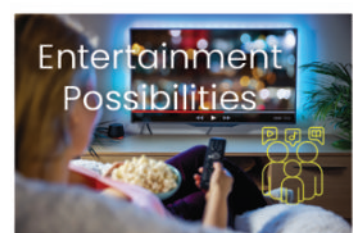
and told me it was just a little screech owl. Well, I had never heard such a thing before, so what was just a little screech owl to him was the cry of death itself to me. You may be thinking that it could not have been that scary. Well, if you have never heard a screech owl or not sure if you have, search YouTube for a video of what they sound like then imagine 12 year old you sitting alone in the woods at dark hearing that sound echo through the trees for the first time. Fear of the dark, called nyctophobia, affects about 715 million adults and 945 million children worldwide. For so many people to be afraid of the dark, it is interesting that darkness does not actually exist. It is not really anything. Science tells us that darkness is simply the low concentration or total absence of light. Because we fear the dark, we often seek the light. As we enter a room, most of us turn on the light. When we drive at night, we turn on our headlights. When we are outside at night, we use a flashlight. You get the idea. We naturally seek physical light. We need it. Our bodies and minds crave it and must have it. Unfortunately, there is another form of darkness that many people choose to stay in, to not seek a way out of, or at the very least have become very comfortable with, and that is spiritual darkness. The Bible tells us that we are born in spiritual darkness, so unlike physical darkness, spiritual darkness is natural to us. It blinds us

our spiritual state, hides our sins, and makes the sins of others acceptable to us. I hear people say all the time how much worse the world is today than it used to be. I do not know that the world is really any worse so much as we have gotten used to the darkness. People no longer try to hide their sins. Things that were once shameful have become acceptable, celebrated, and sought after. Spiritual darkness blinds us to the world around us and the sin within us. It covers our hearts and minds making us unsure of which way to go, who to follow, or what is right and wrong, so we stumble spiritually from one sin to the next. In most cases we are dragging other people along through the darkness with us. Jesus referred to this as the "blind leading the blind." Just as we have physical light that overcomes the darkness around us, the Bible tells us that there is a spiritual light that overcomes the darkness within us. In our VBS theme verse, John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." There are some places in the gospels where we read Jesus' sayings, and they seem random, like a thought came to Him out of nowhere that really had nothing to do with what was going on at the time. Just before Jesus said He is the light of the world, the beginning verses of John 8 tell us Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees who brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. They were testing Jesus to try to catch Him publicly saying something that was against the Old Testament Law, so they could discredit Him. The encounter had nothing to do with light, but immediately after this encounter was over, we are told Jesus again addressed the crowd saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of (Cont'd on page 8)

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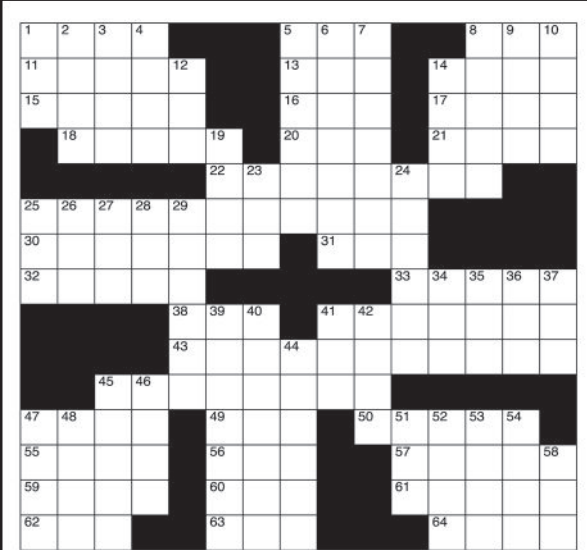
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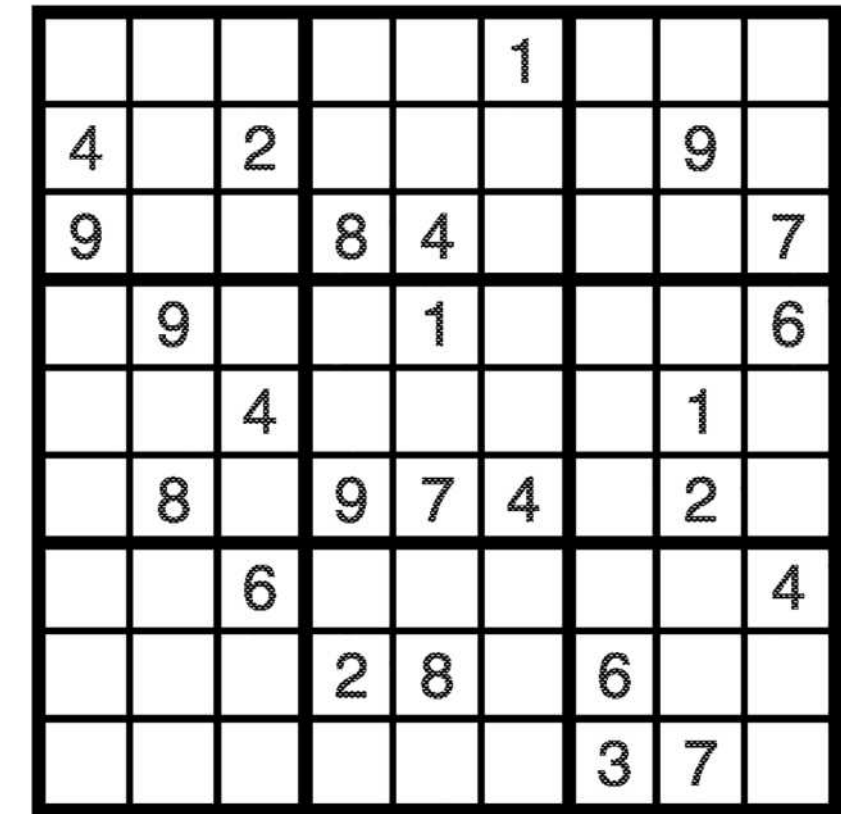


- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Egyptian bull-god
 5. A young canine
 8. Cologne
 11. Fictional British P.I.
 13. Midway between northeast and east
 14. A place to shop
 15. Minneapolis suburb
 16. Single lens reflex
 17. NY Mets great Tommie
 18. Informal loan clubs
 20. Habitual twitching
 21. Holm oak
 22. Willing to consent or submit
 25. In an early way
 30. Made possible
 31. Language in Ghana
 32. Relating to one's birth
 33. Deep-bodied fishes
 38. Defunct European currency
 41. Small American songbird
 43. One from L.A.
 45. After tenth
 47. Hillside
 49. Red deer
 50. Partner to "ooohed"
 55. Indian musical pattern
 56. Israeli city __ Aviv
 57. Golden peas plant
 59. Breezed through
 60. Midway between east and southeast
 61. Frameworks
 62. Danish krone
 63. Fall back
 64. Influential Korean leader

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Bridge building degree
 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
 3. Large, stocky lizard
 4. Turkish leader title
 5. Nag
 6. Blank
 7. Closely woven cotton fabric
 8. A nice shot in golf
 9. Away from wind
 10. Evergreen shrub genus
 12. Large African antelope
 14. Something you receive
 19. Satisfy
 23. Wet dirt
 24. No longer here
 25. Writing utensil
 26. Ribonucleic acid
 27. Consume food
 28. Licensed for Wall Street
 29. Alternative forms of a gene
 34. Buddy
 35. We all do it
 36. Chicken
 37. No seats available
 39. Yearned to possess
 40. Ineffectual
 41. Explosive
 42. Turkish title
 44. Worn near the foot
 45. Impatient
 46. Set an example for others
 47. Actor Pitt
 48. Instrument of torture
 51. Swiss river
 52. Grayish white
 53. A way to print
 54. Storied college hoops program
 58. Midway between south and southeast

See
Answers On
Page 15

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: intermediate



DEEP BLUE SEA WORD SEARCH

W W H A C T B E N T H I C S L C Y E E E
R M M M P B O C U R R E N T I E Y I W U
Y I D R G P I C Y R A U T S E K O P D I
G R K I I D W U K M T M C P G L G T A R
E N I L T S A O C P O L W S L A R O C N P
F U C F L S P D S H O R E L I N E K N R
A G E T O L K P G Y L S I C U L T D N P
Y E R C E O B L T A D M W H A L E S O M
R M N K R Y L A S R K N F O H T Y C A H
N I H P L O D N U C K W S E K C I R Y I
C S L E A D C K N H Y F W H O N I D U T
L H K R I E O T A I T T T T E A N R O L L
I A F O M L K O M P S Y I E E O H A K G
B R M O S C K N I E W S C N T L G Y I F
K K R L A S N F E L I O Y H I O N G L R
M H P F K C I S O A C B E C O L U T R L
D S T A G L S E O G D R P N K W A D I A
W B A E P Y E A K O M R E T I D E S R O
O N E S B H W D A K A C B A N E M O N E D
O O B A D K O K L A S D D P E L A G I C

WORDS

- ABYSS
- ANEMONE
- ARCHIPELAGO
- BENTHIC
- COASTLINE
- CORAL
- CURRENT
- DOLPHIN
- ESTUARY
- HYDROTHERMAL
- KELP
- LAGOON
- MARINE
- OCEANIC
- PELAGIC
- PLANKTON
- REEF
- SALINITY
- SEAFLOOR
- SHARK
- SHORELINE
- TIDE
- TSUNAMI
- WHALE

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.