



First  
Presbyterian  
Church  
of Waynesboro, Virginia

# The Columns *Online*

February 1, 2023 | Waynesboro, Virginia | *a newsletter supplement*

## **North Carolina church loses more than \$793,000 to cybercriminal**

*Sets up GoFundMe to try to replace some of the stolen money.*

*by Anne Stych | Religion Unplugged*

ELKIN NC — Elkin Valley Baptist Church lost \$793,000 in funds when cyber thieves compromised a staff member's computer and intercepted an email from Landmark Construction, the builder working on the project, which contained an invoice. The scammers cloned the email and used it to provide false payment information that resulted in the church wiring nearly \$794,000 into an unknown bank account.



Foundation of the new Elkin Valley Baptist worship center.

Senior Pastor Johnny Blevins said the church discovered it had been cheated more than a week later, when the builder, Landmark Construction, inquired about payment.

“At that point, we thought we had paid Landmark, and of course, Landmark was waiting on a check,” Blevins told WXII-TV. “We said, ‘we have paid,’ and through investigation found out it was a fraudulent account.”

*continued*

## North Carolina church loses more than \$793,000, continued

With construction underway and half of the raised funds gone, the church said it has had to take out a costly loan to continue the project.

“It’s been a disappointing thing, but we are people of faith,” Blevins said. “So, we will keep moving forward and try to find a way to go forward.”

The FBI is investigating the crime, and Elkin Valley Baptist also has hired a cyber analyst to look into the case. The church said it is now unlikely that it will be able to complete its new sanctuary by May as planned but hopes to resume construction in February. The church saved for 10 years to raise the funds for the new worship center, which will replace a sanctuary built in 1884.

*Six years ago, we outgrew our sanctuary and now meet in our gymnasium, requiring multiple Sunday services to accommodate all those who wish to worship, the church said on its GoFundMe site. For two months each year, we squeeze into the old sanctuary to make room in the gym for the 120+ boys and girls who participate in our Veritas basketball outreach program. It’s an amazing opportunity to minister the love of Christ through competition and sportsmanship. This is one of the many reasons why we need a permanent worship center.*

*Proverbs 24:10 teaches us, ‘If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength!’” the site says. “So, while the loss is great and the task large, through the grace of God and the kindness of so many — we will overcome and emerge stronger.*

For more information about their GoFundMe, click here:



# Music Notes for January 8

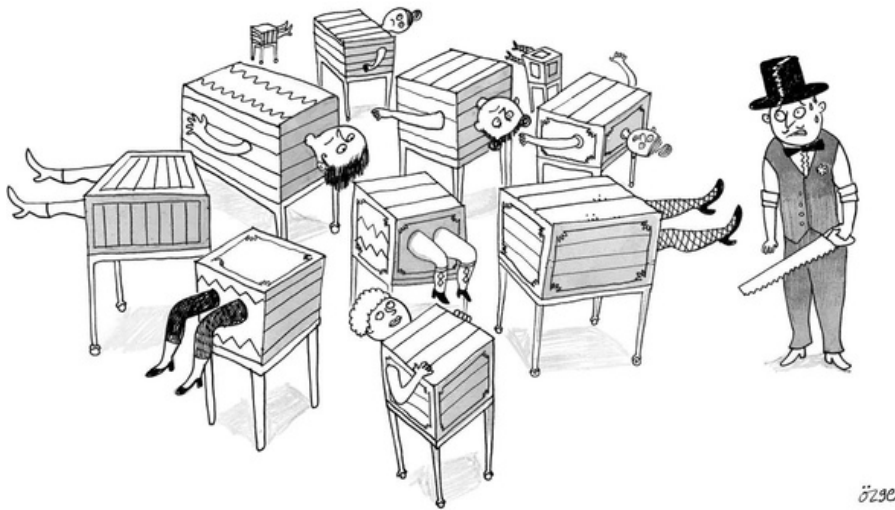
This week, the anthem will be a 20th century setting of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-12). This musical arrangement of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was first heard in the Russian Orthodox church back in the 10th century, part of the Orthodox Divine Liturgy. In 1983, Richard Proulx (1937-2010) created the setting that will be heard on Sunday. It is one of more than 300 pieces composed or arranged by Proulx.



Proulx.

Although most of his compositions are sacred, particularly choral, music, he wrote quite a few secular pieces, including two operas and a theme song for Union Pacific Railroad in 1971.

## LESSON FOR PASTORS #642.



Why do I always over commit?

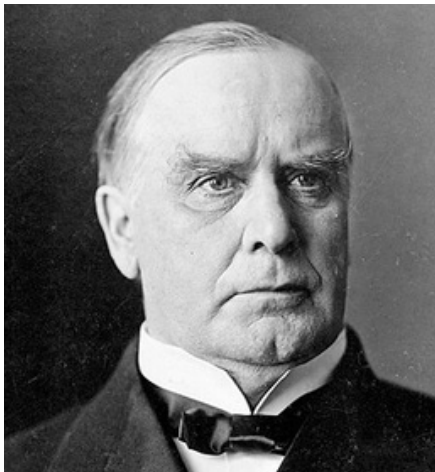
## OUR WORSHIP CHANNELS

*click on the logos*





# This Week in History.



William McKinley is born in Niles, OH. The last president to have served in the American Civil War, he served in congress and as Governor of Ohio before being elected President in 1896. Re-elected in 1900, he was shot and mortally wounded by an anarchist September 6, 1901.

**January 29, 1843**



Four African American students sit at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC. When they are refused service, but remain sitting there, all day, sparking protests across the south.

**February 1, 1960**



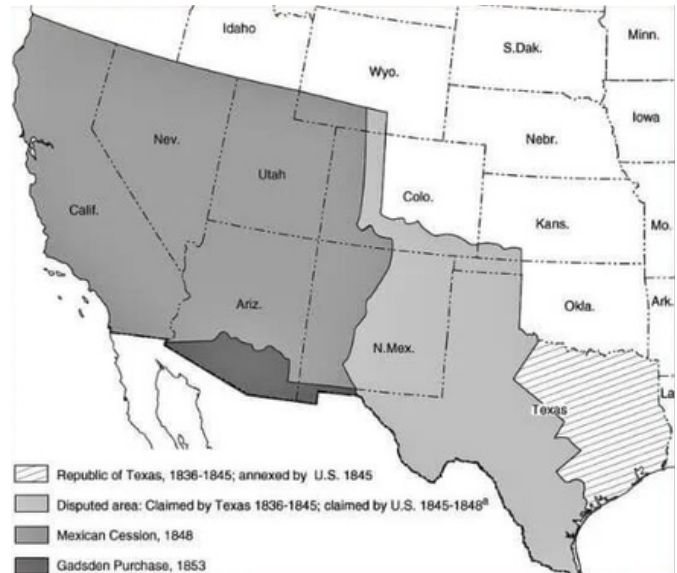
The *USAT Dorchester* is struck by a German torpedo. As it begins to sink, four army chaplains learn there are not enough life jackets for all. Fr. John P. Washington, a catholic priest; Rabbi Alexander D. Goode; Rev. George L. Fox, a Methodist; and Rev. Clarke V. Poling of the American Reformed Church give away their life jackets and pray together as the ship sinks.

**February 3, 1943**



Thirteen Roman Catholics are killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march in (London)Derry, Northern Ireland - an event now known as *Bloody Sunday*.

**January 30, 1972**



The war between the U.S. and Mexico ends with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The U.S. agrees to pay for \$15 million to acquired the parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

**February 2, 1848**



Apache Chief Cochise is arrested by the U.S. Army for raiding an Arizona ranch, but he escapes. He declares war on the invaders, beginning 25 years of Apache Wars.

**February 4, 1861**