

CONNECTIONS

OUR FAITH CAN
MOVE MOUNTAINS.

Matthews 17:20

August 2020

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our Vision:

To glorify God
through loving
Him and serving
others

Our Mission Statement:

A Faith Family
helping to make
and develop
mature disciples

Nobody likes to be called lazy. For many of us, being called lazy is just about the worst criticism that we can receive. But, I would imagine that there are certain parts of our lives where we are a bit more lazy than others. For instance, some individuals might be a bit lazy when it comes to doing house work. Do we really need to dust the legs of the dining room table or vacuum underneath the sofa? Is it really necessary to weed eat the yard every time we cut the grass? While some would say argue that it's not necessary to vacuum underneath the sofa regularly others would say a failure to do so is simply... lazy. And that's ok. We are certainly each entitled to our own opinion on the matter. But, the reality is, when it comes to spiritual disciplines we are all at times a bit lazy. You may often favor an additional half hour of sleep over quality quiet time with the Lord. Or perhaps, in this pandemic, you have come to enjoy a little more free time on Sundays and Wednesdays. But, this laziness can and will be damaging to our relationship with the Lord and our faith community.

So, I want to encourage you to do all you can to be spiritually disciplined. Maybe you're like so many others, and you need someone to help you remain disciplined. Be intentional to spend time daily in God's word and in prayer. If you are not able to return to worship in person yet make sure you and your family are sitting down to worship with us each Sunday morning from your home. Sing the songs we sing. Pray along with us. Follow along in your Bible as we read scripture. Although, we don't yet know when we will return to regular church gatherings and ministries it's important that we all strive to remain spiritually diligent to maintain good spiritual habits. I believe this will make it much easier for you and your family to become actively engaged in the ministries and services at HBC when it is safe to do so. So, let's choose together, to reject the temptation to be spiritually lazy in these days, and instead intentionally study and worship in this unique season.

Thank you all for your continued prayers for our staff, church, and community. Know that I am praying for you all and that I look forward to the day when we will again be able to all worship together in person.

*Press on!
Carson*

Church News

FINANCIALS

as of July 26, 2020

Actual Expenses YTD \$210,646

Actual Received YTD \$228,883

Deacon of the Month

Gary Wilkes

706-556-9292

Happy Anniversary

- 08-01 Billy & Cate Elliott
- 08-06 Gary & Kathy Holley
- 08-08 Emmitt & Annette Coleman
- 08-11 Steve & Susan Camp

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 08-02 Kayla Clark
- 08-02 Kevin Sweatman
- 08-04 Alice Jones
- 08-07 Russ Lewis
- 08-10 Dale Arnold
- 08-10 Roxie Whitaker
- 08-10 Cate Elliott
- 08-13 Edee Sweatman
- 08-13 James Usry
- 08-15 Taryn Birchfield
- 08-16 Inez Brown
- 08-16 Grier Whitaker
- 08-21 Brian Murphy
- 08-25 Emmitt Coleman
- 08-25 Jimmy Tankersley
- 08-26 Tony Mundy
- 08-27 Mitchell Cozart
- 08-28 Donna Carithers
- 08-28 Duane Starrenburg
- 08-29 Carol Carter

YOUTH:

Last year, I believe back in the fall, I had the opportunity to preach in Carson's absence. On that particular morning, I preached about forbearance and the Biblical definition of the word. It's not a word that is very commonly used in the English language, but it does seem important for all Christian believers to know what it means to forbear and to practice it in everyday life. To forbear simply means to be patient, but to an amplified magnitude. Forbearance includes, but is not limited to: suffering silently, enduring hardships graciously, letting go of minor personal slights, accepting God's provision even when we don't love the cards we are dealt, being quick to forgive, and instructing and disciplining with love, grace, and patience. So much of forbearance is wrapped up in the Fruits of the Spirit that are listed in Galatians Chapter 5.

So much of forbearance is also not a whole lot of fun, to be honest.

And who knew 2020 would provide such a wonderful opportunity to cultivate forbearance? We pray and ask God to help us bear with others and stick with Him through highs and lows... and immediately we are plunged into a worldwide pandemic, bringing with it plenty of chances to endure hardships and lean on God's provision. It is a time/season we all probably wish we were not in, but the Bible makes it clear that each of us are to continue looking steadfastly for God's will for our lives in the middle of difficult circumstances. To look for opportunities for personal spiritual growth and Kingdom growth. To make the most of our days. To look to God for protection and sustenance. To fully trust in Him and rely on Him.

So a question we can ask each morning when we wake up, whether this Coronavirus mess goes on for two more weeks or two more years is... "God, how can you use me today for your purpose, for Your Kingdom, and for Your glory? Give me strength and courage to face the challenges ahead of me."

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

-Evan

Music Ministry:

Have you ever wondered why we repeat phrases so much in Christian music? Choruses sung over and over, bridges that are just one line repeated over a dozen times (I'm look at you, Days of Elijah!), and repetitive use of songs in worship services are all about one thing – committing that truth to your heart and memory.

I've heard it said that it takes the human brain at least 21 repetitions to truly know something. That is a lot! But often we don't truly process what we are hearing until the 22nd time. It literally goes in one ear and out the other.

This past Sunday we sang a song called, "I raise a hallelujah," which used that phrase many, many times. Another line of that song says, "My weapon is a melody." I was also listening to choir music this past week and one song that stuck out to me had just two lines: "This is how I fight my battles," and, "Your praise will ever be on my lips." That was the ENTIRE SONG. Why do so many songs speak of worship as the weapon of choice in a believers' battle, and do so ad nauseam? Psalms 149:6 says: "May the praise of God be in their mouths and be a double-edged sword in their hands." Wait, what?? Who would give singers a sword? Who wants musicians as their soldiers?

Well, in 2 Chronicles 20, God gives Jehoshaphat instructions that if they Israelites will trust Him, they will not have to physically fight in their upcoming battle, He would fight for them. So in an act of obedience and worship, Jehoshaphat placed the musicians and singers in front of the army to sing praise to God in faith that He would do all He said. Using music as their only "weapon", they praised their way to seeing God hand them the victory.

That is how I want to fight MY battles! Not in my own strength or with my own weapons, but with the praise and acknowledgement of a God who can and will do abundantly more than we can ask or imagine, if only we will trust Him! If only we will surrender to Him. What battle are you facing now that you can fight with the weapon of praise?

I raise a hallelujah in the presence of my enemies. I raise a hallelujah - Heaven's here to fight for me! I'm gonna sing in the middle of the storm. I raise a hallelujah, fear you've lost your hold on me!

-Rebekah