

CONNECTIONS

For we walk by *faith*
and not by sight.

September 2020

2 Corinthians 5:7

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

Over the past three months I've been preaching through the book of Acts. If you've joined us for worship either in person or online, you've probably come to recognize that within the book of Acts, Luke is careful to remind his readers just who is behind the Jesus movement. Beginning in Acts 2 we see the Holy Spirit come at Pentecost and leads Peter to stand up and preach the first of many sermons. During that sermon we see the Spirit convict some three thousand individuals who ultimately are led to repent and be baptized on that day. Then, we see in Acts 4, after being brought before the Sanhedrin for healing a lame man and preaching in the synagogue, Luke tells us that Peter was "filled with the Holy Spirit" (4:8, NIV). Here, the Spirit enabled Peter to proclaim the gospel in the face of his opposition. After their release from the Sanhedrin the community of believers praised God and prayed to God asking that they too may have the power to speak with "great boldness" and "perform signs and wonders" (4:29-30). Luke then tells us that this group of believers was "filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (4:31). Throughout our study in Acts, Luke continues to remind us that in each sermon, each healing, and each step forward that the New Testament church makes, the Spirit is there to strengthen them and to guide them.

As we continue to walk through this season of uncertainty I find myself wondering daily what ministry will look like on the other side of this pandemic. As our staff and deacons have had numerous conversations regarding the next "phase" of reopening, we still can't seem to discern when we will be able to implement that phase. And, I can't help but wonder if we will even have the volunteers needed to resume these ministries as they were previously done. This has led to some frustration and confusion. Still, when I have these conversations and think about how things might be, I continue to be reminded of the truth that is found throughout the book of Acts. With every step that the New Testament church makes, the Spirit is there to guide them. In fact, Jesus assures us of this divine presence in the Great Commission saying: "and surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt. 28:20, NIV). Although this pandemic has forced each of us to do things we've never had to do before, and although we don't know what "church" is going to look like on the other side of this pandemic, still, we must choose to remain faithful to Christ. We must allow the Spirit to lead us through our present circumstances and into a new season that is marked by a reliance that is not on ourselves, but rooted in Jesus Christ.

I look forward to worshiping with you throughout the month!

Press on!
Carson

Church News

FINANCIALS

as of August 23, 2020

Actual Expenses YTD \$ 238,140

Actual Received YTD \$ 255,605

Deacon of the Month

Dale Arnold

706-830-3089

Happy Anniversary

- 09-03 Gerald & Joy McKettrick
- 09-06 Gary & Margaret Wilkes
- 09-07 Tripp & Kelly Lonergan
- 09-07 Emmett & Leslie Perdue
- 09-13 Raymond & Kelly Hawkinberry
- 09-22 Terry & Tara Cooper
- 09-22 Marcus & Carla Lovett
- 09-24 Brian & Sheri Murphy
- 09-25 Russ & Amber Lewis

YOUTH:

Over the past several months, there has been precious little to truly “update” HBC members about in regards to Children’s and Youth programming and services. We continue to carry on as we have for quite some time over the last 5 months’ absence from in-person gatherings... there is one discipleship/Bible study video each week for children (kindergarten – 5th grade) and for students in the youth department (6th-12th grade) that is sent out via social media for parents and kids to access in their homes. Aside from that, it has been necessarily a somewhat quiet season for our children’s and youth ministries.

However, progress can be made even when things seem to be still and quiet. One way we are trying to invest in HBC Family Ministries is through some ongoing renovation in the Youth Building. Since the beginning of July, we have had new windows installed, we have almost completely torn up the existing tile floors, and we have rid the youth building of some outdated features/furniture.

The hope is that, by the time we are ready to re-start with in-person children’s and youth gatherings, the Youth Building will be much more fashionable and, more importantly, functional. Though we are several steps into this process of renovating and revitalizing the building, there are still a few more steps that need to occur in September before we begin to meet for Wednesday night youth group services again. Now that the tile is up, we need to sand it really well, get the floors leveled, seal them, and perhaps paint them. We also have some heavy equipment and furniture that needs to be moved in the building, particularly in the kitchen. All of this work is ongoing, and I am excited about how great the Youth Building will look once we are done with these projects.

I want to offer a special word of thanks to Randall Hill, and to the rest of the Building & Grounds Committee that have invested a lot of time, energy, and sweat to get the ball rolling on these updates. And I would also like to thank Julian Adams, Carter and Charlie Adams, Randall Hill, Ben and Easton Hill, Wayne Allen, and Carson Britt for meeting at the church early on a Saturday morning to help scrape up some floor tiles. I appreciate you gentlemen very much! Thanks too, to Gerald and Joy McKettrick for your hard work in the youth building bathrooms.

-Evan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 09-01 Landen Lewis
- 09-02 Jimmie Lewis
- 09-05 Emmett Perdue
- 09-07 Taylor Camp
- 09-08 Kristie Dozier
- 09-11 Jackson Lonergan
- 09-11 Mary Hines
- 09-13 Michael Hawkinberry
- 09-14 Donna Park
- 09-14 Bruce Newsome
- 09-14 Shannon Starranburg
- 09-19 Joe Jolley
- 09-22 Ken Sweatman
- 09-24 Bob Knight
- 09-24 Rebekah Dickerson
- 09-26 Lashon Bennett
- 09-26 Jordan Whitaker
- 09-27 Danny Henslee
- 09-27 Vickie Flores
- 09-28 Janis Butler
- 09-30 Todd Corley
- 09-30 Tommy Jones
- 09-30 Alisha Hummel

Music Ministry:

“What will happen I know, all the Who girls and boys will wake bright and early, they’ll rush for their toys and then! Oh, then all the noise, oh the noise! There’s

one thing I hate! All the noise NOISE NOISE NOISE!” - Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Have you ever felt that way –surrounded by a constant, unwanted, barrage of noise so intruding you can’t hear yourself think? When you are at home with kids on tablets, the TV going, the washing machine, the dishwasher, the dog barking, your phone dinging with a text message, someone asking what’s for dinner... all that noise can be overwhelming! Or when you are online and see post after post on news and social media sites of negative situations, frustrated people, political debates, and opinions about everything, and you are just bombarded with YouTube videos on who is at fault for any number of topics...and as you ingest all of this information, you find yourself anxious, irritated and unable to rest or relax because all of the mental noise floating around...well, no wonder we are all exhausted right now.

I have a weird confession as a music minister – I actually prefer to drive in the car *without* music playing. I know... I’m pretty strange. And while it is ironic that such a music driven person doesn’t feel the need to have it playing all the time, what it really is, for me, is a desperate grabbing at a chance for blessed, beautiful *silence*. When I get in my car, especially by myself, I am thrilled to take in the silence. To let my mind wander, to pray out loud or in my heart, to sing anything that comes to mind, or to simply enjoy being quiet. I think we underestimate the value of silence these days. This past Sunday we sang a song called “Make Room”. While some argue the theological aspects of the concept of “making room for Jesus”, (think, “He should be our everything, we shouldn’t have to make room for Him!”), the fact remains that our lives are busy, noisy, and often disconnected from our relationship with God because of sinful tendency to only call on Him when we get desperate.

So how can we make more room in our lives? Make room from all the noise poured into our mind by intentionally embracing times of silence? Make room in our finances to make giving a natural part of them? Make room in our schedules to spend time in His word and in prayer? Making room in our lives to do that is not negating His presence, but prioritizing it.

Seek silence. Make room.

-Rebekah