

College Hill Presbyterian Church Newsletter



February 2018

“... And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.” – Acts 9:31b

“So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied” (Acts 9:31).

The Fear of the Lord

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter, our vision at College Hill Presbyterian Church is to be a church that multiplies as it walks in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. What I will be doing in this newsletter (and the next two) is fleshing out a bit more what that looks like: this month, we will consider what it means to walk in the fear of the Lord; next month, what it means to walk in the comfort of the Holy Spirit; and in April, how the church should multiply.

The fear of the Lord is the hardest of those three to get our heads and hearts around. We love the idea walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit; and we understand that the Church is supposed to multiply given Jesus’ Great Commission to make disciples. But how do we rightly fear the Lord? We tend to think of fear as something that should be eschewed (“No Fear” t-shirts were big when I was a kid.); and we tend only to fear harmful people or things (bullies, tyrants, abusers, death, disease, dysfunction, etc.). So being told that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7); or that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding” (Psalm 111:10); or that the steadfast love of the LORD is “toward those who fear him” and “from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him” (Psalm 103:11, 17) can create some cognitive dissonance for us. If God is love, and most often describes himself as “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love”, why should I fear Him? And how do I fear the Lord without conceiving of Him as someone who intends to do me harm?

First, there is no denying that God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love toward you. “As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him” (Psalm 103:13). That said, there is also no denying that God is holy and wholly other than us. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. There is no way to behold such a God without him striking fear into you.

As a kid, I had a recurring dream that I was scuba diving out in the middle of the ocean. There was nothing to be seen in any direction but water. And out of the blue abyss would come this massive submarine. It was not coming at me, nor was it near enough to hurt me, yet I could not behold something so massive, so powerful, in such close proximity to me, without my chest tightening in fear. Just knowing that something that big and that powerful was *there* was enough to strike fear into me. I think fearing the Lord is something like that.

It is also beautifully depicted in the way the children in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia relate to Aslan the Lion. The children know that He means them no harm, that he in fact loves them to the point of death, yet they retain a healthy fear of him because, well, *he's a lion*. In one scene Lucy and Susan wrestle with him: *"Round and round the hilltop he led them. Now hopelessly out of their reach, now letting them almost catch his tail, now diving between them, now tossing them in their air, with his huge and beautifully velvety paws and catching them again. And now stopping unexpectedly so that all three of them rolled over together in a happy, laughing heap of fur and arms and legs. It was such a romp as no one has ever had except in Narnia. And whether it was more like playing with a thunderstorm, or playing with a kitten, Lucy could never make up her mind."* More like a kitten? Or more like a thunderstorm? I think the Bible's answer would be, "Yes."

Similarly, we fear the Lord because we see him more and more as He is: the God to whom the nations are like a drop in a bucket and before whom the mountains melt like wax, a God bigger and more powerful than we can conceive. His infinite and eternal being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are not mitigated by his grace and favor toward us in Christ. In fact, one function of his forgiveness is to engender in us an appropriate fear of him that we did not previously feel (see Psalm 130:4).

Practically speaking, fearing the Lord means that we seek to obey him as we would a strong, loving Father. Ed Welch has described it as "a reverent submission that leads to obedience." We do not doubt his love. We do not suspect that he has ill intentions toward us. Rather, knowing that he has lavished his grace on us, we seek to live lives that are holy and blameless before him as his beloved kids (see Ephesians 1).

That is how we want to fear the Lord as a church, both individually and corporately. We want to worship him with reverence and awe, because he is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29); and in Christ we want to come before him with boldness, knowing that we have access with confidence through our faith in him (Ephesians 3:12). We want to live lives between Sundays that are pious without being paranoid. We want to be people whose lives are marked by obedience to their Father, and who humbly repent and run back to him when they fail, more confident in his love toward us than the strength of our allegiance to him. We want to walk in the fear of the Lord without fearing that his hand is raised toward us in wrath since his wrath was satisfied by the sacrifice of his Son. We want to obey him, not to get him to love us, but because he has loved us in Christ.

And all of the above will only be possible through the comforting work of the Holy Spirit to whom we will turn our attention next month – and who will abide with you every moment between now and then.

Announcements, Reminders & Session Minutes



Wednesday Night Training Table:

Please join us at 5:30 PM for dinner and to revisit the previous Sunday's sermon text. Hope to see you there!

Read the Bible in 2018:

Don't forget to check your weekly bulletin for your Bible reading for 2018!

Hearing Impaired

For those with hearing impairment, compact hearing devices are available for use in our sanctuary during the morning worship service. Please see any one of our ushers for assistance.

Youth News & Activities

Sunday Evenings: High School (9th-12th grade) will meet at CHPC from 4-6:30

Wednesday Night: Students in 6th – 8th grade will meet

Thur. Feb. 1st - RYM Registration

Sun. Feb. 4th - Super Bowl Party @ 7:00pm

Sat. Feb. 24th - Black Panther Movie night -time TBA

Valentine's Dinner

The ladies of College Hill are cordially invited to a Valentine's Dinner in their honor, hosted by the men of College Hill. Please join us on Sunday evening February 11th at 6 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Empty Bowls:

The Oxford Conference Center will hold the annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser from 11:00 -- 1:00 Tuesday February 8, 2018. You will get a ceramic bowl, soup, bread and a bottle of water for \$20.

Please stop by and help stop hunger.

If you have anything to add to the newsletter, please send it to colghill@bellsouth.net by the 25th of the month.

Stated Session Meeting of
College Hill Presbyterian Church
January 9, 2018

Present: Justin McGuire, Pastor and Moderator; Elders: Jon Caudill, Wayne Prather, Ryan Miller, and Bill MacKenzie (Clerk of Session).

Absent: Ted Freeny, Doug Paul

Deacons Present: Bart Sutherland, Randy Corban, Scott Kilpatrick, Jie Tang, Jared Barkley, Casey Rogers, Chester Curtis

Devotional

Justin led the Elders and Deacons in a devotion from Joshua 7 & 8.

Shepherding reports and prayer:

Cares and concerns of the congregation and the world were shared and prayer was lifted up on behalf of those mentioned.

Shepherding/Membership

Justin led the men through reports of prayers and concerns from their respective shepherding lists.

Additionally, the following people were assigned to these respective shepherding groups:

Linda Bryant to Ted's and Randy's shepherding group.

Kent and Jane Stodghill to Ryan's and Scott's group.

Jimmy Lou Frierson to Bill's and Jie's group

Betty Hoar to Jon's and Bart's group.

Beverly Hill to Ted's and Randy's group.

Samir and Marie Husni to Ryan's and Scott's group

Bill Longest to Bill's and Jie's group

Dana and Claudia McKibben, and Chloe Cole to Jon's and Bart's group

Johnny and Jean Still to Doug's, Jared's, and Michael's group

Deaconate Report:

Financial Report:

December income: \$103,144

December expenses: \$46,888

One of the unbudgeted expenses was the purchase of a new ice machine (\$4000).

Jared Barkley made a presentation on church signage ideas.

Sign for along the road with our name, denomination, our stained glass "logo," address, phone, and website.

Signs for directing visitors to the church from College Hill/Old Sardis Road.

Signs directing people to office, Sunday School classes, Sanctuary, etc.

Jared will develop two different designs for the main road sign to be presented at a Wednesday night meal along with costs so that we can proceed with a selection.

How to have regular greeters meet people in the parking lot before Sunday School and before the worship service was discussed. The first idea was to have the ushers do it for their month but it was decided to also extend an invitation to members to participate with the ushers in being greeters.

The Deacons were thanked for their service and dismissed to conduct their own business.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes for the December meeting were approved as corrected on a motion by Ryan, seconded by Wayne.

Christian Education:

It was agreed that Justin would present the "State of the Church" address on January 24th in lieu of the 17th in order to give Casey Rogers the opportunity to share his testimony with the church on the 17th.

The annual Valentines dinner will be February 11th. Ryan and Jon will prepare the musical portion of the entertainment.

We have a lot of children coming for Wednesday nights. Jon recommended that we have built-in breaks during the year for the volunteers who have been doing the children's program. Specifically, he recommended that perhaps January, June, and July be months during which we have a different program that gives the workers a break and may be structured in such a way as to keep the families together during the time after supper.

Motion to Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Youth Calendar for February 2018



Description of Events

1. Every Sunday morning, we will meet to begin the discussion of the Sermon text for that Sunday morning. We are doing this to aid in our prayerful and thoughtful approach to the Lord and His word.
2. Every Sunday Night: High schoolers, 9th - 12th grade will meet from 4:00-6:30 to eat dinner and study 2 Corinthians.
3. Every Wednesday night, students in 6th - 8th grade will meet to study through 2 Corinthians.
4. February 1st - RYM REGISTRATION - this is the day I will reserve spots for RYM this summer. If you let me know before 7pm on the 1st, your spot will be guaranteed. If you or any of your friends want to sign up after this date, I will be glad to sign you up if there are spots available.
5. February 4th: Super Bowl Party - we will meet at the Paul's to cheer on the Patriots & Eagles as they battle for the Vince Lombardi Trophy. We will have food, soda to aid in this cheering. Address: 1202 Wood Duck Cove in Oxford.
6. February 24th: Black Panther Movie Night - we will meet at Malco Theaters to enjoy another of Marvel's productions. Time will be announced as the show times have not been released. Bring money for your tickets and snacks.



Every Sunday Morning Intro. To Sermon Text CHPC 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM	Thursday February 1 st RYM Registration CHPC 7pm
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Every Sunday Night Dinner & 2 Corinthians CHPC 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Sunday February 4 th The Paul's CHPC 7pm - End of Super Bowl
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Every Wednesday Night Dinner and 2 Corinthians CHPC 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	Saturday February 24 th Black Panther Movie Night One of the Malcos Time TBA
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