

Pastor's Note



These are good days. God is very kind. We have several baptisms in the pipeline. We are seeing many visitors. Faith, hope and love are growing.

In Philippians 3:13-14 (NASB), Paul writes, "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies

ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Those two verses contain great encouragement for us to "keep on keeping on" as the Holy Spirit bears fruit among us.

1. Always Aspire

Paul says "I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet." He wrote that approximately 30 years after his conversion, three successful missionary journeys and planting dozens of churches. Yet he did not rest on his laurels. There are no thoughts of slowing down in middle age or retiring to play shuffleboard! His aspiration, the great desire of his life, was to continue the call to serve. That teaches us to **keep fervent**.

But we must also keep focused. In verse 13 he said "but one thing I do." Many believers are conquered and divided. Busyness is the curse of our day. Yet if you and I are honest, much of what we are involved in is not necessary recreation. It's following after all that the world follows. It's doing all the world does. However, a life that swims upstream from the downward pull, including our schedule, is a life that will honor Christ.

2. Always Appropriate

Paul once made the purpose of his life to kill believers. So it was necessary to continually **forget past sins**. He said "forgetting what lies behind." He appropriated God's grace on a daily basis. Can you imagine him dwelling on his past sins? He would never have become the great apostle of the faith.

It's also necessary to forsake past successes. He said, "reaching forward to what lies ahead." There is never a time for a believer to be at ease in Zion. There is always work to do, victories to win and souls to be reached.

3. Always Anticipate

It's easy to get pulled down by the chaos of our day. Yet Paul said, "I press on toward the goal." This determines the **direction of our life**. The analogy is that of running a race. Just as a runner feels an adrenaline rush, we are similarly motivated when our singular goal is Christ.

Soon the day will come when we will receive the desire of our life.

Paul spoke of the "prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." In Paul's day, a victorious athlete was taken to an award stand. He received the "prize of the upward call", i.e. being summoned to the emperor's box. He was then given a medal. Our prize is far more than a medal. It is a summons from this earthly body into the everlasting Presence of our Lord and Savior. This is the joy which we all anticipate. And it reminds me that whatever God requires of us today is worthy of our best efforts! Maranatha!

Bro. Mike

Connect

New to West Haven?

- Thanks for coming! I hope to meet you today! – Pastor Mike
- There is a cry room located in the southwest corner inside the worship center. It is equipped with recliners, a changing table, a few necessities, and a TV that broadcasts the service.
- The nursery is located at the north end of the lower level. You can leave your infants or preschoolers in a warm, caring and well-supervised environment. After drop-off you will be contacted via text message if needed.
- Children's Church for children K-2nd grade is located on the north side of the lower level in Room 103.

Membership

- Church membership is valued at West Haven. It is a formal commitment to a local church for divinely given purposes: receiving and giving instruction in God's Word (1 Tim 4:13; 2 Tim 4:2), serving and edifying one another (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Co. 12:4-31; 1 Pet 4:10-11), participating in the ordinances, and proclaiming the gospel (Matt 28:18-20). It requires a system of leadership, direction, teaching, discipline, an agreed theology and a set of values directing how the church will carry out life together.
- The biblical basis of membership is seen in examples such as the early church (Acts 2:41, 47; 5:14; 16:5), the establishment of church government (1 & 2 Tim, Titus), the context of epistles, and the exhortation to church discipline (1 Cor 5, Titus 3:10-11). You can explore membership by contacting Pastor Mike at mike@westhavenbaptist.org or Pastor Ryon at ryon@westhavenbaptist.org. We'll meet with you on an individual basis, answer your questions and explain more about West Haven. The way to join is by being baptized by immersion upon your profession of faith, by transferring your membership from another Southern Baptist Church (Acts 18:27, Rom 16:1) or by a statement of faith having been baptized by immersion in a church like belief.

New Members

Nathan, Jennifer, Lillian, & Isabelle LaFave by Statement



Senior Fellowship

On Monday, **February 13 at 11:30 a.m.** the Senior Citizens will be going to Gambino's for their Pizza Bar. Please let Rose Swain by Feb. 5 if you plan to attend. Don't forget to invite a friend.

Connect

Subscribing to Text Service

One way we keep in touch with members is through texting. To hear about cancellations and other church activities, sign up through the free text messaging system by logging online at www.westhavenbaptist.org. Once on the website, click on "Resources" then "Texting Service" then double-click on the blue lettering "West Haven Baptist Church". Fill out the form with your name, address, and phone number as priority. Agree to the terms & conditions. Hit "Subscribe". You should receive a confirmation message. Remember to reply "Yes" to the request via your phone, so you can receive text message updates. If you have questions, you can call the church office at (913) 369-9422.

Our Staff

Mike Bronson, Senior Pastor mike@westhavenbaptist.org
 Ryon Sander, Associate Pastor ryon@westhavenbaptist.org
 Kirk Baggett, Min. of Maintenance kirk@westhavenbaptist.org
 Christina Lindholm, Admin. Assistant christina@westhavenbaptist.org
 Bill Weatherford, Student Ministry Director
 Nathan LaFave, Student Ministry Associate Director
 Gordon & Terri Brest and Bill & Donna Mages, AWANA Leaders
Office Phone (913) 369-9422

Giving Statements

Giving statements have been mailed and emailed to those that requested them by email. If you have questions, please contact Jamie Bates by email: jamie@batestaxservice.com. Thank you.

Budget Information

Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,714.81 Month to Date Budget Requirement: \$43,574.05
 General Fund Receipts: \$10,688.07 Month to Date Giving: \$41,117.70

This Week

Sunday, Feb. 5

8:30-9:00 a.m. Donut Fellowship
4 p.m. Prayer Meeting (Train Station)

Wednesday, Feb. 8

6:15 p.m. AWANA
6:30 p.m. Student Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Monday, Feb. 6

7:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting (Mike's office)

Thursday, Feb. 9

9:30 a.m. W.O.W. group meets

Tuesday, Feb. 7

6 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Get our most current calendar at www.westhavenbaptist.org.

Church Survey

Ryon and I want to continually improve all that we do. Excellence brings honor to our Lord (1 Cor 13:31). Therefore, we have created a survey. We simply request that you be over 18 and either be a member of West Haven or seriously considering membership. There are 17 questions. They were developed mostly by my son David and a capable friend. I amended some wording and Ryon added a couple of questions.

The questions are our attempt to obtain healthy feedback yet from a non-consumeristic framework.

To take the survey:

1. Go to westhavenbaptist.org>Resources. You'll notice an icon in the middle of the page that says "Church Survey." Click on it. The survey will open in a separate window.
2. Please only complete one per person.
3. Please complete it from a biblical standpoint (as opposed to a consumeristic standpoint.)
4. Seek to give constructive feedback (i.e. "I don't like the preaching" vs. "more application would help me understand how to apply the text to my life.")

The survey will be available for the next 4-6 weeks. The responses are anonymous. Thank you for your time!
– Pastor Mike

Creative Arts Team Forming

A Creative Arts Team is forming under the leadership of Nathan LaFave. If you have technological skills, we could use your help! There are a number of things we can do to enhance worship and ministry of West Haven. For example, we would like to see if it's worth developing "YouVersion Events." We could use help with graphic design, website updating, computer troubleshooting and more. If you would like to help and have any of these skills, please contact Nathan at nathan@westhavenbaptist.org or Pastor Mike at mike@westhavenbaptist.org. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 12

7 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast

Monday, Feb. 13

11:30 a.m. Senior Citizen Fellowship Luncheon-(Gambino's)

Tuesday, Feb. 14

6 a.m. Prayer Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 15

No Wednesday Activities

Friday, Feb. 17

5 p.m. T and T AWANA Girl's PJ Party

6:30 p.m. Community-wide Prayer Meeting (on Front Street)

Monday, Feb. 20

President's Day—No School

Facebook



Like our pages on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/westhavenbaptistchurch

www.facebook.com/pages/westhavenstudentministries

www.facebook.com/westhavenawana

Blessed Are You or Woe To You?

Luke 6:20-26

Feb. 5, 2017

Pastor Mike Bronson

1. THE _____ TO THE KINGDOM

2. _____ IN THE KINGDOM

3. _____ FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST

4. THE WOEFUL _____ OF THE _____

WEST  HAVEN

BAPTIST CHURCH

WWW.WESTHAVENBAPTIST.ORG

February 5, 2017

