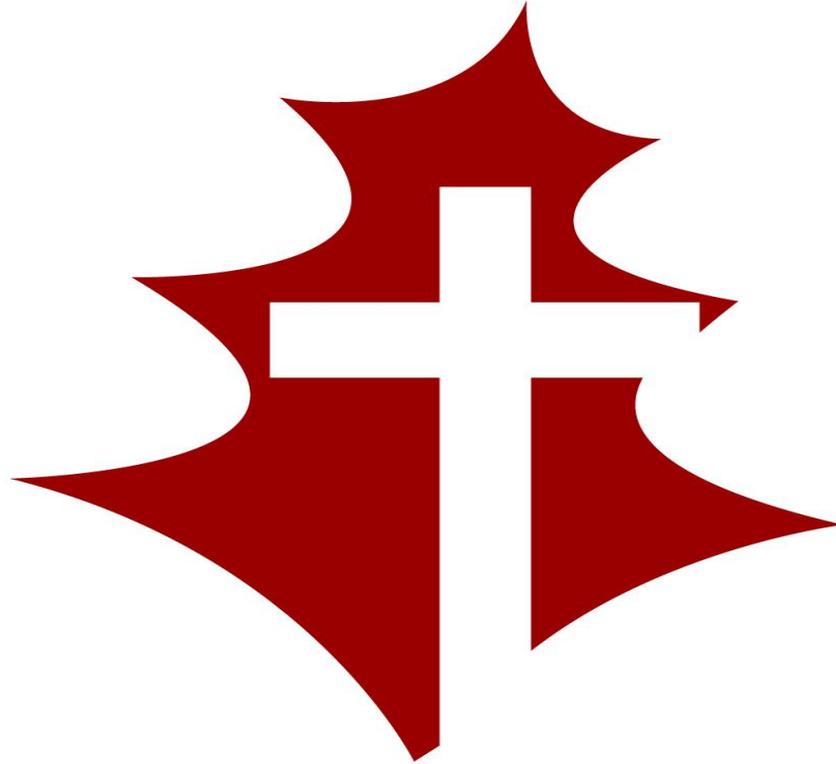


AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER



Holly Springs
Baptist Church

Franklin, NC | HollySpringsBaptist.org

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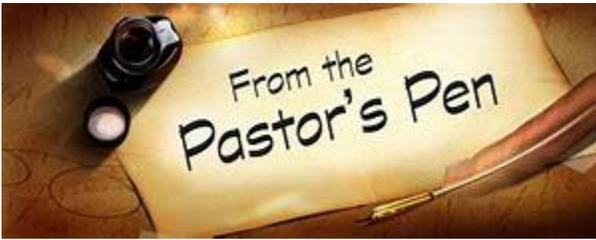
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All of us have struggled to come to terms with the magnitude of the crises this year has brought to our lives. Words just fail us in attempting to describe what we are experiencing. It is overwhelming. It is frightening. It is unnerving. It is surreal. In a few short months we have seen a pandemic sweep our world. We have experienced an unprecedented shut down of our nation, schools unable to re-open, stresses on families as never before seen. We have felt the pain of an economy teetering on the edge of depression. We have watched society unravel with civil unrest, rioting, and protests. We are treated to the surreal sight of everyone wearing masks...all the time. And still to come...what is sure to be the most contentious election in our nation's history. It really does feel as if we have become trapped in an unending nightmare...one that we can't seem to wake from.

As a church, we have and are facing some difficult days. The decisions we have been forced to make have not been easy for any of us. The early optimism that hoped for a return to "normal" by Easter was very short lived! So, we have been challenged with figuring out what our path forward will be. I know that for some of us...we just want to get things re-opened...up and running...back to our normal routines. For others, the threat of this virus has engendered deep caution and trepidation. I understand these feelings! I experience both extremes regularly! And here is what we must keep coming back to...though the foundations may shake and shift...though the storms may rage around us...though the chaos may threaten to consume us... We have a Kingdom that will never be shaken! Hebrews 12:28 We have a Savior who is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Hebrews 13:8

Our challenge in these trying times is to build our lives and our churches on this foundation, this Savior, this Kingdom that can not be shaken! And we desperately need a solid foundation, an unshakable Kingdom with a King who is the Sovereign Ruler and Lord of it all! Thank you for your patience and

graciousness as we have tried to navigate through these waters. Thank you for your prayers and your encouraging words. As we move forward there are only a few things that I know for certain. First, whatever plans we make today are subject to change tomorrow! That has been proven to us over and over these past few months! Second, we will continue to try and find ways to provide worship and opportunities to gather safely and under the guidelines of the moment. Third, as soon as we are able to legally and safely begin to get back to our more normal routines...we will do that!

As of this writing....we will continue to meet for worship each Sunday morning. And we plan on adding an outdoor drive in service once a month for those who don't feel comfortable gathering inside. The first of these is planned for Sunday August 9 at 10:00am. We are working on some plans for possibly offering help for parents with elementary age children who are affected by this new school schedule. The idea is to develop a day camp type program for the Fall semester. We are in the early stages of planning this and need potential workers to help make it a reality. If you have interest in helping with this, please call us at the church office!

We still plan to re-open Children's Church and Nursery on Sunday August 16. As for Sunday School classes and Wednesday night activities...we have put those on hold until at least Labor Day weekend. So much is still uncertain...but this I know...

God is still Sovereign!

And He often uses major crises to get our attention!!

May we listen.

May we return.

May we humble ourselves before Him.

Seek His face.

Turn from our sins....and pray!

He promises to hear and to heal.

Sharon and I love y'all! Keep praying!

Blessings,

Pastor Donnie



Ignite Students and Families,

On Wednesday Nights, August 5th - Sept. 9th, we will be going through the following series:
Aug. 5th-12th - Break It Down (5th-6th) and Explained (7th-12th)

Complicated. Long. Conflicting. Outdated. Contradictory. When it comes to the Bible, you've probably heard all that and more from students. That's because, for so many of them, the Bible just seems to cause more confusion than clarity. High school is a great time for students to ask questions, express doubts, and wrestle with what they believe in order to develop a personal faith. And maybe nothing brings up more of these types of faith questions than the Bible. What is it? How does it work? And why does everybody say it's helpful when it doesn't always feel that way? That's why, we'll take a closer look at the documents that make up the Bible, why we trust them, how we use them and why we believe they can be trusted. In other words, we're breaking it down and talking about the Bible...explained.

Aug. 19th - Sept. 9th - FAM (5th-6th) and Family Matters (7th-12th)

Is there anything more complicated than family? Whether you are dealing with changes, fights, fractures, or more, navigating family matters is no easy feat. And for many students, the temptation is to give up. To check out. To say, "I'll be out of here someday." But we know family doesn't stop affecting us when we leave the house. For the rest of our lives, family matters. And maybe that's why Scripture has so much to say about it! In these series, we'll talk about life with every family from picture perfect to totally fractured. And as we do, students will discover no matter what your family looks like...family matters.

We don't know what the future holds, but it is

my prayer that by August 19th, Wednesday Nights will return and we will meet face to face again. If we do, we'll see you at 6:00 PM. If not and online service continues, we'll see you at 7:00 PM on the Ignite Youth Facebook Page! WE will begin doing some activities as a youth group. Opportunities to get together and see each other, even from a distance. Join us Sunday, August 9th at 6:00 pm for Pool Noodle Tag.

P2

Important Dates - AUG / SEPT

2 - No Youth Activity

5 - "Break It Down" Part 3 (5th-6th) and "Explained" Part 3 (7th-12th)

9 - Pool Noodle Tag in the HSBC Field (6:00 pm)

12 - "Break It Down" Part 4 (5th-6th) and "Explained" Part 4 (7th-12th)

16 - Back to School Hang Out (5:30-7:30)

19 - "FAM" Part 1 (5th-6th) and "Family Matters" Part 1 (7th-12th)

23 - TBD

26 - "FAM" Part 2 (5th-6th) and "Family Matters" Part 2 (7th-12th)

30 - TBD

2 - "FAM" Part 3 (5th-6th) and "Family Matters" Part 3 (7th-12th)

6 - TBD

9 - "FAM" Part 4 (5th-6th) and "Family Matters" Part 4 (7th-12th)



The Work of Teaching Your Kids to Value Everyone

By Lauren Terrell

“I will never be friends with Will*! He has a funny looking hand, and I will never play with him!” my 4-year-old passionately declared the moment she climbed in the backseat of our car after her first day of pre-k.

I froze, eyes wide, mouth open. My eyes flicked to the rear-view mirror where I could see my little girl, scowling, arms crossed over her new navy dress with the words **“BE KIND”** spelled out in sequins. Where had I gone wrong? How had I missed the signs that I was raising a monster?? What were the magic words I had to say to reverse this immediately?

“Babe . . . that makes me feel . . .” I started, completely unsure how to finish that sentence. I settled on **“. . . really sad.”** Her scowl grew deeper. She was doubling down. **“Sad for you, that you might miss out on a really good friend.”**

“But I will never be his . . .”

“. . . Yes, I hear you. But I’m also sad for him. You know how nervous you felt about starting a new school this morning?” (Small nod) **“Remember how scared you felt about making new friends? Can you imagine how it would feel to start a new school and wonder if anyone would be able to see past how you look and just be your friend?”**

(A scowl and a huff) Okay. New strategy.

“What if Jude had a funny looking hand?” She had a fairly new baby brother she was obsessed with. Just a few weeks before she’d told me if anyone was ever mean to him, she would punch them in the face (maybe that was one of the signs I’d missed). **“What if he looked different from everyone else and people decided not to be his friend because they didn’t like how he looked? How would you feel?”**

“I knooooooww-uh!” Eye roll.

I knew I was pushing my lecture time limit but how could I—in good conscience—send this sweetly packaged monster back to pre-k the next day?!

“Okay, one last thing. Will’s mama loves him as much as I love you. She helped him pick out a first day of school outfit just like we did. She wants him to have a good year filled with great

friends and I want you to be kind to everyone—not because they look like you or act like you or like the same things you like.

“I want you to be kind to everyone because everyone is important.”

“I knoooooww-uh! STOP TALKING!”

Confirmed: I was raising a monster.

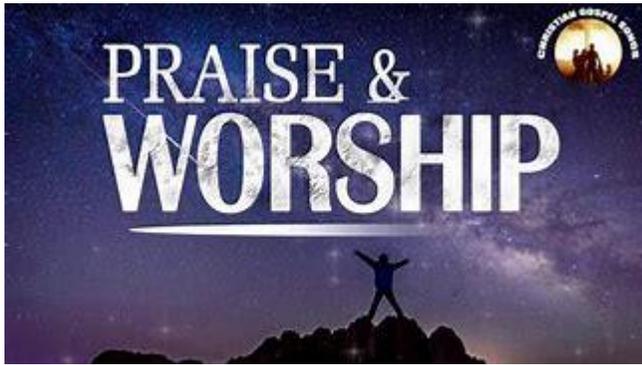
That afternoon, as she watched *Daniel Tiger* (singing, “In some ways we are different, but in so many ways, we are the same” in the background), I ordered no less than 10 Everyone Has Equal Value-themed picture books to subtly slide into our bedtime story rotation. I added shows and movies to our queue that had heroes who looked different or faced down bullies. I researched places we could go as a family to make sure she was regularly exposed to all kinds of people. And I signed up for a Meals on Wheels route for us to do as a family on our one free morning.

I wish I could say she went back to school the next week and invited Will over for a play date. But I learned that I can’t teach love in one day. There were no magic words I could say to fill her with empathy and eradicate all fear/hatred towards others.

The truth is, my work on this subject will never be done. Not after reading all the books, watching all the movies, and delivering all the meals. Not even after she got in the backseat one day in May and announced, “I have big news! Will is actually my friend!”

Being intentional about the books we read, the people we interact with, the way my husband and I speak to and about others - this is work I should have been doing all along, work I must continue doing the rest of my life.

Because, guess what? I wasn’t raising a monster after all. We all have prejudices, fears, and biases. We all see and react to differences in others. And we all have to be willing to do the work needed to make sure the next generation is one defined by their ability to see the intrinsic value in every person they meet.



I will be honest with you. Yesterday I allowed myself to get bogged down in fear and anxiety over the unknown. I struggled with it all day, arrived home about 6:00 pm feeling like a 200 pound boulder was on my chest, didn't really eat dinner, and just crawled in bed before it was even dark. I spent a fitful night dwelling on my anger, feelings of helplessness, and doubts. I felt completely overwhelmed and on the verge of sobs and woke up in the same state. This morning I did not really want to get out of bed because I knew that I was going to have to start dealing with it all. But I did get up, and I opened my Bible for my morning devotions even though my attitude was not right. I tell you this because sometimes at church we see the face of people and think that they have it all together, and we are rarely honest about the ugliness of our lives because people will judge us or think less of us.

However, as I got up and did my devotion, I felt the Holy Spirit bringing to my mind the story of Paul and Silas in prison. I couldn't really escape the thought, so I opened my Bible to Acts 16. I know you know the story, but the gist of it is Paul and Silas were imprisoned, beaten, and left in chains, and instead of sinking into despair because of how they were being treated unfairly, they sang. They praised. They worshipped. Then God caused an earthquake that released them from their chains.

So let's unpack that for a minute. They were human; I am sure they were scared, angry, feeling hopeless and wrongfully mistreated. I think sometimes we picture Paul as always being full of faith and forget that he probably had his moments of despair. But I know he had normal emotions because the whole reason he was in jail was for getting annoyed at the constant mocking, which caused him to cast out the divining spirit within the girl who was following them around. So here they are in jail, with those same emotions that we all experience when we face trials and storms; yet,

they sang. When they didn't feel like it, they worshipped. When they had no idea what the future held for them and knew it could be death, they praised God. Well, if that wasn't God smacking me upside the head, I don't know what it was!

But that isn't all that I get from that amazing story. You see, if they had just prayed within themselves instead of publicly, God might have still released them; it would have still been a miracle, and it would still have been a great lesson for us all to learn from. However, they sang and praised out loud, and because of their public worship, the jailer and all of his family came to know Jesus. I was struck by this thought: it wasn't just about them having faith and trust, it was about their desire to publicly give praise and glory to God so that others can know Him.

Here I am — here we are— in the midst of turmoil and uncertainty, and most of us won't talk about the positives, the power of God, the faithfulness of Jesus. We want to talk about how lost we feel, how unfair things are, how we disagree with whatever is taking place. When was the last time you sang? You out-and-out worshipped? Has anyone seen you publicly giving praise to the One who brings peace in the midst of the storm? Has anyone wanted to know why you could have such joy and peace when the world is falling apart? I don't know about you, but I was convicted because yesterday I could have been a testimony and witness to several people who I know are lost, and I blew it by following the attitude of the world instead of publicly glorifying God.

My prayer is that we will be like David said in Psalms 34:1, "I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth" and Psalms 98:4, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" We need to sing when we are feeling overwhelmed; we need to praise when all around us the earth is groaning; we should make a joyful noise so we can be a testimony to a lost and dying world. When we come to church, we should unashamedly shout to the Lord and raise a hallelujah, and when we are speaking with people we should be giving God glory and honor and praise for His faithfulness to us, for as John Wesley said, "Our task is to give the world a right impression of God." Who knows what miracles would happen in our lives if we truly praised Him in this storm!

Blessings and Encouragement,

Kathi



**Greetings from your Church Treasurer –
Nancy Seagle**

Certainly, we have been facing some scary and disturbing times over the past few months – personally as well as professionally and our church has been no exception. Prior to the Pandemic we were making great strides in paying off our church debt and our programs and ministries were thriving. Your generous commitment to giving was evident and we were worshipping with each other several times a week as well as reaching out to those outside our walls.

Then in a blink of the eye everything changed. You know the story!

We were genuinely concerned how or even IF we would continue to worship as a body, keep our staff on board and pay the bills.

One way we approached this was Bob Hubbs, Chairman of our Debt Retirement Committee asked for those that could, to redirect your Just One Thing (JOT) giving to the General Fund since we applied for and received a loan deferral of three months. Many of you did and that made a big difference. Many have been able to stay committed to giving by mailing your tithes the church and/or giving online and for that we say a huge *Thank You*. You are truly amazing.

Since we were already one payment ahead of schedule on our loan, so we were able to go four full months without making a payment which allowed us to retain \$28,564 during that period. No interest or penalties were added to our account during this time. Our payments are scheduled to resume August 1st at \$7,141 per month and that payment will come from our General Fund. Current debt balance is \$341,640.

Another thing we did was apply for and receive Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) monies of \$32,000 which allowed us to continue paying our Administrative Costs (Salaries) and electric bills and by using that money for only those purposes will likely be granted forgiveness of repayment.

With all that said, here are some figures that you may find interesting. Please keep in mind the following information does not include any designated giving. Funds received 1/1/2020–7/12/2020: \$236,366 – This does not include PPP funds. Expenses 1/1/2020 – 7/12/2020: \$191,659.

If anyone has any questions or needs more information about anything financially related please don't hesitate to contact me by calling 828-371-1738 or email nancyseagle@yahoo.com. I will respond as soon as possible.

Thanks again for your commitment to Holly Springs Baptist Church and may God continue to bless us all.



08.21 Tex & Carol Corbin

08.25 John & Marcia Randall



08.02 Joy Mason
Karl Williams

08.03 Aimee Roberts

08.05 Rick Briggs

08.06 Pam Volpert

08.07 Ashleigh Brannon
Marjorie Maloof

08.08 Russell Wood

08.12 Shannon Anders

08.14 Nancy Seagle

08.15 Kaycee & Kaylee Corbin

08.18 Cheryl Daken

08.19 Kelly Rogers

08.20 Frances Sheffield

08.24 Amy Cabe

08.25 Bill Miller

08.26 Marcia Randall

08.28 Brooke Reitmeier

08.29 Amber Brooks
Claralynn Chastain

08.30 Josie Corbin
Alden Howard
Kandy Solesbee

08.31 Jim Shook
Maridell Wooley

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

GOD loves YOU "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." -John 3:16

You are a sinner. "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." -Romans 3:23

The Holy Spirit convicts YOU of sin. "And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin.....because they believe not on me." -John 16:8-9

Your response is to repent of sin. "For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." -Matthew 9:13

Trust in Christ as Savior. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:9, 10, 13

Grow in Christ by following through with baptism and uniting with a church. You will find new Christian friends and grow in your new life in Christ.

