

From Our Pastor

HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH November 1, 2020

What are we facing culturally in the next few months? How is the election going to affect the course of history? Is there a possibility that we could lose freedoms based upon who is elected? Is the United States Constitution in danger of being changed? Is it possible that this great nation in which we have enjoyed many freedoms for many, many years is on the verge of deterioration? Are we facing a possible financial collapse? There are so many unanswered questions and there is so much hinging on this election next week. One of the concerns that I have as a pastor is that the church will “check out” once again when it comes to taking action and bearing responsibility in the midst of turbulent times.

I believe according to Romans 13 that God ordained the institution of government and that we have a God-given responsibility to take our citizenship seriously. There are extremists on both sides of the aisle, and I get that. The key is to have a balance when it comes to our response in being a Christian citizen. The definition of citizenship is a privileged status that includes responsibilities, rights, and protections conferred on us by duly appointed authorities, civil and DIVINE.

In this hour of great need, first and foremost, as a Christian citizen, we must persevere in prayer. Times of crisis have always been a healthy reminder of our need to pray for God’s supernatural intervention. The kind of prayers that we need to pray are the ones that the Lord has used before to turn nations back to Himself. The thing that we need to keep in the forefront of our thinking is that “God Is Able” to turn our nation around. Like Nehemiah in chapter 1, when he heard that Jerusalem was broken down, he began to “fast and pray before the God of heaven.” Also, Daniel in chapter 6, when he heard of the decree demanding people to pray to the king only, knelt before God and prayed at various times during the day. E.M. Bounds wrote, “What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, not more organization, or more novel methods, but men mighty in prayer!” Many times, our first resort is to “take to the streets” but our first move should be to take to our prayer concerns to the closet and that must be the priority.

Secondly, we need to act. I read the other day, *to do nothing in the face of injustice is to condone it*. Failure to act out of your own selfishness is an action itself, and I would suggest that it is not in keeping with the call to Christian citizenship. I am to share the burden for finding solutions to the problems that we face in our nation. In I Corinthians 9:19, Paul states, “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.” As part of my civil duty, I am to seek out ways that I can make a difference for the common good of my family and my neighbors concerning their future.

Thirdly, is to believe. There is nothing too hard for God! He has provided us with a clear formula for restoration, but we must follow His instructions explicitly. II Chronicles 7:14 states, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” God is merciful, compassionate, and forgiving. He is just and righteous and when we call out to Him with our whole heart and a humble heart, He will respond to us. A broken and contrite heart of true repentance will touch the heart of God. God prefers to restore, rather than to destroy so let’s trust Him to be merciful to us.

This is one of the most challenging times in human history, but it is one of the most exciting times for Christians in the history of America. Could we be on the verge of one of the greatest movings of God that we have ever seen? We must do the right thing, the right way. It is a privilege and an honor to stand for Biblical principles and to stand for the cause of Jesus Christ. Will you make the change and do what is needed to see God turn our nation around?

My name is Pastor Terry C. St. John and I approve this message!

Bro. Terry

2	Andy Reynolds
4	Stephanie Weiss
6	Gary Matherly
7	Paula Reynolds
	Mary Bella Easley
8	Julia Nuckols
10	Keith Marlowe
	Tracy R. Newby
11	Elizabeth Reynolds
13	Matt Doss
	Barbara Robertson
14	Jim Doss
19	Nathaniel Aaron
	Joshua Payne
20	Chuck Easley
21	Marcus Anderson
	Makailla Davis
22	John Moore
	Steve Reynolds
23	Holly Muñoz
24	Terry Moore
29	Cassandra Gatewo
30	David Hayden
	Becky Roberts

Mary Lee Jones

Dorothy Fowlkes



Prayer List

We hope that you'll join us for these sessions. If you have any questions about these Zoom meetings, please see Heather Lankford or Hal Lloyd.

2020 Lottie Moon Offering: Update

As a church, you have set a pledge goal of \$13,822.00, for the 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. As of September 30, 2020, the church has collected **\$10,979.82***.

*Figure includes \$1,000 donation made in 2019 designated for 2020 Lottie Moon.



The Mission of the Manger

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. — Matthew 28:19-20



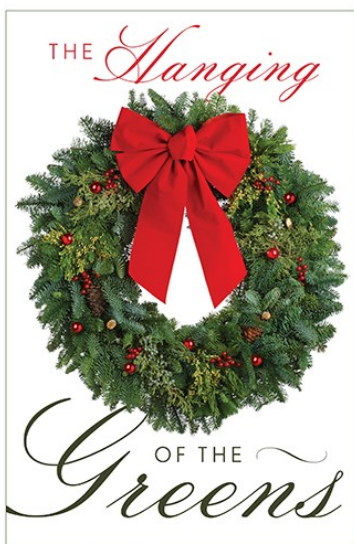
2020 Lottie Moon Goal

\$13,822.00

We've got some exciting news about Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes here at Hollywood! For the first time ever we're participating in an on-line Shoebox Drive! The process is easy. Go online through our Shoebox Goal Page (link found below and on our Facebook page). You still get to pick the age and gender of the child receiving your gift, and the items that they receive. Then the folks at Samaritan's Purse will pack up a shoebox for you and ship it to a child who needs to hear the gospel. The cost for each box is \$25 (this does include the \$9 shipping fee).

<https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/64052650-9966-4073-a850-3013dc0d9039>

If you have questions about the online shoebox collection or other shoebox questions, please contact a member of the Missions committee.



What do you do when Thanksgiving is over? Join us on November 29 for the Hanging of the Greens! This event transforms our sanctuary and prepares us for the Christmas season. The magic starts at 6 p.m. and the joy lasts all season long! Can't join us in person? Watch the livestream on our Facebook page!

From Our Music Minister

One major component of worship is *thanksgiving*. God tells us throughout His Word that we are to be thankful to Him for all that He has done for us. It is easy to lose sight of the blessings that we have been given by God, blessings that we receive each and every day. Psalm 100 is a powerful message of thanksgiving to our Lord and Creator:

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

God is not just the Lord of Israel, the Lord of Christ-followers, the Lord of the redeemed...He is Lord of all the earth. All of creation sings His praise in worship. Psalm 19:1 reminds us that "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork" (ESV). He has commanded all of the earth to praise Him, and He is worthy of that praise and more!

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

We often consider ourselves as coming into "the presence of the Lord" when we enter into corporate worship. The reality is that, as God is omnipresent, or everywhere all at once, we are never out of His presence. We may not be focused on Him, but He is with us wherever we may go. We need to focus on drawing our attention to His presence on a regular basis. Our service to Him, which is everything that we do on this earth (1 Corinthians 10:31), is to be done in gladness. We are to lift our voices in praise to Him throughout the day.

Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

It is humbling to know that the Sovereign, Divine Creator of the Universe knit us together and calls us His own. Like a gentle shepherd, He watches over us, protecting us from dangers we do not even know are there. We belong to Him, and no one can take us from Him. He has made us His people by offering us the free gift of grace, bought and paid for by the blood of His only Son, Jesus, who died a sinner's death in our place. He has redeemed, or bought, us out of slavery and we are His. What a reason to give thanks!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

We are to be thankful as we come through His gates and into His courts for worship. We should have an attitude of gratitude as we approach His throne with a sacrifice of praise. There is a pattern of prayer based on the acronym ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. When we express adoration, we bless the name of God. We remember His attributes, often distinguished by specific names, that make Him worthy of our praise. When we give thanks, we remember all of the many ways He has blessed us from day to day.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

And why should we give thanks to the Lord? Because He is good. There is no evil in Him. Because His love is solid, strong, and eternal. He will never cease to love us. Because He keeps His word for all eternity. He will never leave us, forsake us, or go back on His word to us.

As we set aside time this month for giving thanks, let us not forget to thank the one who created us and blessed us with everything we have, including the opportunity to receive eternal life. I challenge you to set aside time every day to worship God with a spirit of thanksgiving. Enter His presence intentionally and lift up your voice to make a joyful noise. For, He is without a doubt worthy of our thanks.

In Christ Alone,

Hal



Poinsettias Now Available!

Include in your holiday plans poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and to brighten the Christmas of someone you love. You may purchase poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one or friend for \$14.00 per plant.

The names of those presenting the flowers along with those whom the flowers honor will be listed in the church newsletter and the poinsettias may be picked up after the worship service December 20.

If you would like to participate, please complete the form below and return it to Renee Moore; with a check made out to Hollywood Baptist Church, by November 22.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

I wish to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) at \$14.00 each.

Please choose from:

Red _____ White _____

I would like to purchase poinsettia(s) in memory of:

I would like to purchase poinsettia(s) in honor of:

HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

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