

From Our Pastor

May 5, 2024

HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

Our society is experiencing stress like never before. People are literally exhausted from the hustle and bustle of the daily grind. Richard Swenson wrote a book in the 1990's entitled Margin in which he describes "modern society as so overcommitted and overscheduled that we have no space left for rest." He wrote: "Overload is not having time to finish the book you're reading on stress. Overload is fatigue. Overload is red ink. Overload is hurry. Overload is anxiety. Overload is a disease of our day." Where will it end? What will be the end result? How do we manage the overload?

Jesus was speaking to a group of people in Matthew 11 who had been trying to carry an impossible load, namely the Jewish law and other standards imposed upon them by the religious leaders of the day. In the language of the New Testament, the word "labor" carried the idea of working to the point of utter exhaustion. The term "heavy laden" indicated that, at some time in the past, a great load had been dumped on a person and the individual was continuing to bear the load. Together, the terms described a person who was exhausted from trying to carry a burden assumed in the past. Jesus' listeners were exhausted from trying to measure up to the expectations of the law. Sound familiar?

Recently, I finished a book by Dane Ortlund entitled, Gentle and Lowly. In the book, the writer points out that in the 89 chapters of the four gospels that there is only one place where Jesus describes His own heart and that is found in Matthew 11:28-30. Ortlund wrote, "This is the only place in the Bible where the Son of God pulls back the veil and lets us peer way down into the core of who He is. We're not told that he is austere or demanding in heart. We're not told that he is exalted and dignified in heart. Letting Jesus set the terms, he surprisingly claims, that he is gentle and lowly in heart." "Gentle" meaning He is not trigger happy. He is not harsh. He is not reactionary. It means He is the most understanding person in the universe. Someone said, "His posture most naturally is not a pointed finger but outstretched arms." The word "lowly" just simply means "humble". Jesus always has your back and is always there to pick up the load and does for you that you cannot do for yourself.

Our responsibility is to come to Him. You don't have to unburden yourself before you come to Him, your burden is what qualifies you to come to Him. To "come to Him" simply means to make progress toward a relationship with Christ, to yield your will, to drop your agenda, turn from yourself toward God. If you lean in towards God, God will lean in towards you. This blessing is for those that are willing to take that yoke upon themselves and cry out to Him for help.

The yoke is a place of labor but also a place of learning. Here Jesus is inviting us to walk with and to work for Him. The problem many of us face today is that we know so little about our Lord. His desire is that we would have a full knowledge of Him.

We can only learn of Him when we abide with Him. That is one of the important elements of the yoke; it keeps us bound together with Him in a place of closeness where we can be taught. You cannot learn anything if you are not around the teacher. Christ desires us to be yoked together with Him so He can teach us.

It is when we are in the yoke, that we learn from Christ how to be patient in suffering, to walk humbly, to trust Him implicitly, to love intensely, and to rejoice exceedingly. This is where we find that Jesus truly is gentle and humble. It is then and only then that He will give us rest. Remember, His rest is a gift not a transaction. You can't earn it but you can receive it by knowing Him who is gentle and lowly.

Bro. Terry

May 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | 1 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/ Youth Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:15 p.m. Joy on the Ark 5:30 p.m. Bible Study/ Youth Meeting | 6 | 7 | 8 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Regular Business Meeting/ Youth Meeting | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Bible Study/ Youth Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/ Youth Meeting | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 4:00 p.m. Church Council 5:30 p.m. Bible Study/ Youth Meeting | 20 | 21 | 22 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/ Youth Meeting | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 <i>Graduation Sunday</i> 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Bible Study/ Youth Meeting | 27 | 28 | 29 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting/ Youth Meeting | 30 | 31 | |

Nursery for May

- 1 Lydia Nuckols Bowers
- 7 Judy Reynolds
- Karen Riddle
- 8 Kim Jones
- Mandi Dolan
- 9 Debra Reynolds
- 10 Robert Hubbard, Jr.
- 11 Will Roberts
- 14 Norah Payne
- 15 Norma Betterton
- William Tosh
- 16 Hailey Doss
- 17 Nathan Hammock
- 19 Samantha Aaron
- Jessica Marlowe Burgess
- 20 Earl Nuckols
- 22 Lois Ann Batten
- Bill Nuckols
- 25 Leon Burgess
- Michael Gatewood
- 26 Isabelle Lumpkins
- Tim Moore
- Kimberly Matherly Smoot
- 27 Ashley Doss Wallace
- 29 Wendy Byrd
- Matthew Falls
- Ashley Norman
- 30 Reba McDaniel
- 31 Jessie Henderson

Sun May 5, 2024

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Pam Anderson, Emmalee Ayers, Pam Kendrick, & Hannah Shaw

Sun May 12, 2024

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Mary Moss, Renee Moore, Anna Dunn, & Samantha Pressley

Sun May 19, 2024

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Dana Wells, Holly St. John, James & Sylvia Lumpkins

Sun May 26, 2024

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Shelly Lewis, Cassie Gatewood, Donnie & Peggy Moore

Greeters

- May 5 Emma Walden & John Moore
- May 12 Susie Holmes & Jetty Burgess
- May 19 Joan Nuckols & Melody Collins
- May 26 Patsy Conner & Brenda Collins

Deacon of the Week(*)/Usher

- May 5 Chris Falls*, Aiden Mullins, Gary Matherly, Dale McFaddin
- May 12 Tommy Jefferson*, Bobby Mullins, Drake Easley, Randy Gatewood
- May 19 James Allen*, Daniel Moore, William Tosh, Chuck Easley
- May 26 Adam Burgess*, Damon Mullins, Larry Weiss, Roger Walden

Children's Church

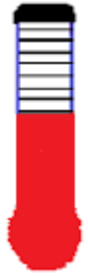
- May 5 Lynita & Christina Falls, Shane Pressley & Drake Easley, Sherry Reynolds & Mary Claytor
- May 12 Wendy Byrd, Megan Rouleau, Mary Hammock
- May 19 Karen Carlsen, Tim & Alyx Miller, Hannah Shaw
- May 26 Wendy Byrd, Isaac & Katie Hammock

Have a name
you'd like to add
to birthday list?
Let Julie know!

2024 Lottie Moon Offering



As a church, you have set a pledge goal of **\$22,930.00**, for the 2024 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. As of April 28, 2024 we have collected **\$11,682.08**.



2024 Lottie
Moon Goal
\$22,930.00

The Mission of the Manger

Happy May, Hollywood! We off to a great start on our shoebox collection in 2024! We are already planning for and looking forward to our packing party in November.



Every box packed at our packing party includes: an age appropriate wow item (toy, ball, etc.), a stuffed animal, clothing items, school supplies, hygiene items, small toys, games, and



accessories. Each year we have a goal of packing between 175-200 boxes at our party, with thousands of items packed. We collect items all year long, with a special focus on a particular item each month.

In January, we asked for donations of winter clothing items (hats, gloves, or scarves, etc.). We haven't quite reached our goal for that yet, but our crafters are busily working, so I'm sure that we'll reach it shortly! In February our focus was accessories! We've already got a fantastic start to our accessories collection this year, thanks to your generous donations! However we like to pack our boxes full, so this is a fantastic area to have extras of. In March we focused on quality hand crafted items, and our crafters did not disappoint. We received bracelets, necklaces, bags, dresses, scrunchies, jump ropes, and more! In April we collected stuffed animals, because every child needs something soft and fun to cuddle. In May we will be focusing on hygiene items. As a reminder, toothpaste is no longer allowed in shoeboxes due to difficulties shipping it to many countries. Please place any donations in the collection box in the foyer near the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please let us know!

January Goal: 86/175 Winter Clothing Items February Goal: 573/175 Accessories

March Goal: 99/175 Quality Handcrafts April Goal: 38/175 Stuffed Animals

May Goal: 175 Toothbrushes 175 Combs

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH: MAY

Local Missions Emphasis:

HERITAGE ACADEMY

Grades Pre-K-8

1461 Dry Fork Road

Dry Fork, VA

Ph. - (434) 432-8380



GRACE-A-LOT

Grace-a-Lot receives new & used clothing for all ages, Only *NEW* underwear and socks, personal care items, kitchenware & *SMALL* kitchen appliances. Cash donations always appreciated.



****Hours: Wednesdays & Saturdays – 10:00-12:00**

Emergency situations, such as fire, volunteers can be contacted for assistance.

Volunteers are welcome to help sort & stock items, help on days they are open, to serve on the board, and/or help w/ fundraising.

Contact Linette Nuckols or Emma Walden w/ any questions.

Dear Youth, Terri and Bobby Mullins and Julie Ragsdale,

On behalf of the Senior Saints I want to say a big thank you for the luncheon you did for us. The food was delicious, service first class and a wonderful time was had by all. We are so lucky to have so many special young people in our church family. We are so proud of each and everyone of you.

Thank you all for the delightful time of fellowship and love. One day our youth will be the leaders in the world, our kids from HBC will be among the best. Thank you all who were involved, we love and appreciate you. Looking forward to our next fellowship.

Love you all,
Bonnie Ragsdale

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your kind remembrance of me on Administrative Professionals Day! The flowers were absolutely beautiful, and the gift card was very generous. I feel very blessed to know all of you, and look forward to serving you in the years to come!

Much love,
Julie



We will be having our Regular Business Meeting Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. A fellowship meal will be served prior to the meeting at 6 p.m. Come join us for a time of food and fellowship, and stay as we discuss the business that keeps our church running!



Congratulations to those who have completed letter packets in the ABC's of Spiritual Growth! Rhonda Pruitt (Letter A), Ginger Shelton (Letter A), and Nona Roach (Letters A, B, C). Keep up the good work! If you haven't started yet, pick up Letter A today, complete on your own time and turn back in.



Graduate Recognition— We will be recognizing graduates on Sunday, May 26. If you or a loved one is graduating and would like to be recognized, please sign up by May 19 on the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact the church office.

MAY 2024 Memorization Challenge

Arming ourselves with God's Word

Psalm 139:5 tells us that God encircles us. He is in front of us, behind us, and beside us with His hand upon us. Nothing can get to us without going through Him. We are never alone.

Psalm 42:8 not only reminds us of His constant presence, but that He speaks His Word over us day and night.

Hebrews 4:12 tells us God's Word is living, life-changing, and dynamic as it works in us.

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, LET'S COMMIT 4 VERSES TO MEMORY...TO HAVE IN OUR ARSENAL, READY TO REDIRECT OUR THOUGHTS IN ANY MOMENT.

You choose the 4 verses...One for each week. Post it on your bathroom mirror, at your coffee pot, in your car, on your desk...wherever you will see it and read it often. Repeat that verse throughout the day for 1 week before you move on to the next one. That's it!

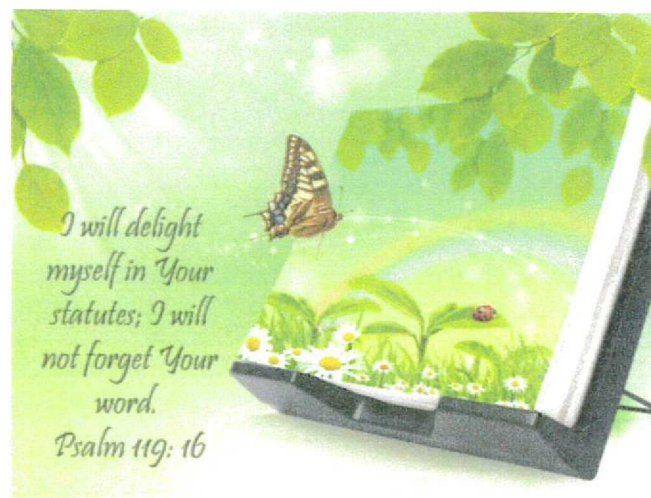
Not sure where to start? Here is a suggestion:

1. A Praise verse to get our focus on how wonderful God is.
2. A God Identity verse to remind you of who God is...His character.
3. A You Identity verse to remind you of who God says you are in Christ.
4. A Personal verse to help you in an area where you struggle or want to grow.

Pray about your verses or even a passage, ask God to show you what you need, write it down and **BE READY TO START MAY 1st**. Trust and believe that scripture is your **BEST** weapon in the battle. Grab a friend and encourage each other. **YOU CAN DO THIS!**

If you have any questions, please see Paige Conner or you can call text her: 434 250 8040.

You are also invited to join in on Facebook at HBC Daughters of Hope.





Hollywood Baptist Church

6405 Callands Rd. Chatham VA 2431

Vacation Bible School 2024

June 23-26, 2024

5:30p—8:00p

Classes for children, youth, and adults!



Pre-register NOW!



HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

6405 Callands Road

Chatham, VA 24531



Upcoming Events

June 16

Father's Day

June 23-26

VBS