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On Our Prayer List

Addison and Alyse Yarbrough are expected to be discharged from NICU in mid September.

Cary Skipworth requests prayers for his mother, Christine Skipworth. She is seriously ill.

Ingrid Ruffin has deployed to Qatar.

Continue to remember : Bryan and Mark Brown's stepfather, Laura Newton's grandmother, Tara Cassetty's father, Cheri Pikett father.

40 Days of Prayer

September 13 - October 25

Devote yourselves to prayer. Colossians 4:2

Small Groups Fellowship Prayer Time
Evening Worship on Sunday, October 25th at 6 :00 PM

Everyone is encouraged to participate in one of the small groups. Please sign up in the lobby or contact Jason Noble to find a group near you.

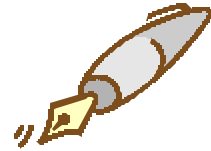
Retreats

The Men's Retreat is planned for September 18 – 19 at Carolina Bible Camp. Please pre-register by calling the office 292-7649. No charge to attend.

The Ladies Retreat is planned for October 15-18 at Ocean Isle. Cost is \$80 or \$90 depending on arrival date. Contact Nancy Blackwood to sign up. 292-7322

Grades 7 – 12 are invited to a Youth Retreat in Myrtle Beach on September 25-27. The deadline to sign up is September 15. Cost is \$85. Contact Bryan Brown at 292-7649.

A Note From the Elders



Hello Church Family,

I am very excited about the 40 Days of Prayer church wide focus beginning later this month. Last December during a Sunday Morning Bible Class, we watched a video and had a discussion on Intercessory Prayer. Powerful stuff- do we really believe God listens and answers our prayers? Are we praying for the right things? How do we know our prayers are answered? What is the purpose of prayer? These are just a few of the questions that were asked after the class. It seems that we do not understand or practice prayer like the first century church. That is one of the reasons why I am excited about of church-wide focus on prayer. There are many avenues for you to Worship, Study and Serve during this period.

The Sunday Morning Worship time will focus on prayer as shown by the early Church in the first 9 chapters of the Book of Acts. Sunday night is the return of Small Group studies. We will be using a DVD and book titled "When God's People Pray". If you have not already signed up for a small group, call Debbie at the office to join one. We would like every member to be part of a small group for this study. There is a Ladies Beach Retreat and a Men's Retreat- both focused on prayer. I encourage you to attend one of these if you are able. There are still some needs for small group leaders and host homes for Small Group studies. Both retreats need volunteers to help with serving. I hope all of you will find time to Worship, Study and Serve during this time.

The elders are praying that this prayer focus will be a time of renewal and revival for each of you and our church. God can do amazing things, if we get out of the way and let Him!

In His Love,
Kevin

Leadership Training for Christ News

This year's theme is "The Rock" based on 2 Samuel 22:31-36.

Satellite classes start on Wednesday, September 2nd in Room 1.

The Fundraiser for the LTC scholarships will be a carwash on Saturday, October 3rd.

Six volunteers are needed to coach drama teams. There will be two coaches per team. Please contact Eric Cassetty to help. Call 298-4595

Co-Ministry Leaders for LTC are Josh and Trish Gilbert and Adrian and Michele Harris.



Living Sanctuaries

Our Heavenly Father desires our life to be filled with praise and worship. When we gather together with other believers for worship services, we generally begin with songs of praise. We praise God for His love and faithfulness, and for the gift of His Son. We worship Him for His awesome majesty as we prepare our hearts to receive His Word. These are wonderful times, but they are only a small part of God's true desire for our life.

Paul instructed the Ephesians how to live lives "worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1-6:18). In this ethical context he writes, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:19-20). In the "church of Christ" tradition we have always used this passage to reinforce our argument against musical instruments in worship services. However, when Paul wrote these instructions to the Ephesians he never said, "give thanks only during your worship service," or, "make music in your heart only when you gather together with other believers." He clearly instructed then to "always" give thanks "for everything." The "music" of praise and worship to God should always be present in our hearts.

Without a shift in the way we view our life, this can be a real challenge - a shift from the way we've been "trained" by the world. We must heed the advice of the wise man who taught that we were to always trust in the Lord with all our heart and not to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). Though the world teaches us to "take charge of our own destiny," we are called to release control to our Lord and patiently wait on Him and trust. For it's only through faith and trust that we can praise in all situations, even through our confusion and pain.

One of my favorite songs contains the words: "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary; pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You." The word sanctuary means: A place set aside as sacred and holy, especially a place of worship. The meaning of this song then becomes, Lord prepare my life to be a sacred and holy place of worship!

There can be no greater ambition for the child of God. With a proper understanding of eternity and the saving grace of Jesus, our lives only have real purpose as we live each day to bring Him glory and honor - as we live each moment in praise and worship, no matter what circumstances our day may bring. The way we walk through our trials as well as how we accomplish our daily tasks, ministry activities, or times of prayer and study should all be done through a heart devoted to worship.

Let's allow the "music" of our heart to sing out with praise and worship - not just for a few set hours each week, but every day with every word, thought and deed. Let's patiently trust in all areas of our life and ask our Father to teach us to live as "living sanctuaries."

Keep the Faith!!

Please Join Us

Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP NEWS

Children's Worship will resume on Sunday, September 13th and will be for 3 year olds through Pre K only.

During adult worship time, nursery care will be provided for children birth through 18 months.

Also during the worship time, childcare for toddlers will be provided for children who are 18 months up to 3 years old in Children's Worship room B.

Our Ministries

Assembly Management
Audio – Video
Benevolence
Deaf
Education
Fellowship
Finance
G.E.M.S. (Women's Ministry)
Hospitality
Interior Design Coordination
Interfaith Hospitality Network
LASC
Leadership Training for Christ
Maintenance (Building, Grounds)
Marriage and Family
Missions
Man to Men (Men's Ministry)
Music
Nursery/Children's Worship
Rainbow of Christians
Small Groups
Spanish Ministry
Super Seniors
Worship
Youth

Opportunities to Serve

MEALS NEEDED – for the Eric and Kaylea Yarbrough when their twins are discharged from the NICU. If you can help, please let Susan Girdner know at 656-0610.

The LASC ministry (Ladies Assisting, Sharing & Caring), which helps provide meals for our church family when there is a need such as death, illness, surgery and birth, is seeking additional volunteers. If you would like to serve in this ministry and occasionally be called upon to provide part of a meal please contact Sandy Henderson at 337-3882 or shenderson56@triad.rr.com.

Canned and boxed foods needed for our food pantry. Please leave items downstairs beside the benevolence room door.

Support Potters House Soup Kitchen by donating money in your Bible Classes to purchase the food or by serving on one of our two Potter's House Teams. Contact Nathan Hardiman or Larry Plott or Alex Parks for information.

AGAPE of NC – Makes it a family project and start now to save your spare change for the annual statewide collection day in December. AGAPE provides Christian adoption, foster care and counseling services.



Worship Study Serve