

Youth Student Ministries

By Ann Riggs, Youth Leader

² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

What blessings we have encountered this past month in the Student Youth Ministry Department! We are so excited to resume in-person Sunday and Wednesday night meetings. Even more exciting...we are meeting in our new Family Life Center. We feel so blessed to have such a large, beautiful gym for our team to enjoy games of basketball, volleyball, dodge ball and now pickle ball.

Thankfully, our classroom is super large as well, to hold the 30+ students that are regularly attending. The space is so conducive to learning and the lessons being taught have been so meaningful and relatable. They have covered such topics as God's miracles, sin, God's grace and forgiveness.

Probably the most memorable topic was learning about waffles. One may ask...what do waffles have to do with the Bible? Let me share. "National Waffle Day" takes place on March 25th. To celebrate, Jamie started by delivering a great lesson on Romans 12:2. As she made a waffle in the waffle maker, she discussed how we should conform to God's waffle maker and not that of the world's. She expressed how God wants all of us – the good, the bad, and the ugly! Just as the waffle batter transforms into a fluffy, delicious waffle, God wants to transform us into something beautiful and new. The lesson gave such a great visual to help us remember such an important scripture.

Next, we loaded up 31 students on the bus and traveled to the Waffle House. The crew had the whole end of the restaurant roped off for us and we enjoyed waffles and bacon for dinner. It was such a delight!

If you have a student in the sixth grade or older, we would love to have them join us on Wednesday and Sunday nights. It is a blessing to see these students grow in number, but even more so in their faith!

In His Grip,
Ann Riggs



Highland Park Baptist Church
1327 Grove Lane, Mount Airy, NC 27030

Phone: 336-786-4275

highlandparkfamily@gmail.com

www.highlandparkfamily.com



HIGHLAND PARK
BAPTIST CHURCH

HERALD

While On the Cross
An Easter Poem by Karen Hall

While on the cross waiting for his fate the crowds below Jesus
Still hurled at him much hate
He asked Father will you forgive them for they know not what they do,
The thief hanging beside him ask will you forgive me to?
Today you will be with me in paradise that's what Jesus said,
But first I will pass away my body will be dead.
Then there was the moment Jesus spoke with his brother
Leaving him with the words to take care of their mother.
Six hours had passed Jesus said I am thirsty, they offered him a cup.
Being aware of their plans he chose not to sup.
Jesus, feeling lonely cried out My God, My God why have you left me forsaken?
Suddenly the earth went dark as Jesus' heart was breaking.
It is finished, they heard Jesus say
Father into your hands I commend my spirit, God wanted it this way.

Celebrate Easter

By Dr. Darrell Tate, Senior Pastor

I recently preached a Palm Sunday sermon from John chapter 5 entitled, "The Loneliest Week Ever." In John 5 Jesus challenged his listeners to search the scriptures because the scriptures give testimony that Jesus is God in the flesh. I referenced, in the sermon, a number of the Old Testament passages some written a thousand years earlier that predicted many aspects of the crucifixion. For example, Psalm 22 speaks to the forsakenness of Jesus on the cross, the fact that his heart ruptured, his hands and feet were pierced, and that soldiers gambled for his clothing. Multiple Old Testament passages speak to Jesus death and resurrection.

I illustrated the probability of one thousand year old prophecies actually coming to pass by referencing the work of Mathematics and Astronomy Professor the late Peter Stoner (a Google search of Peter Stoner will lead you to an article entitled "Is Jesus for Real? Mathematical Proof). Stoner made the statement that the chances of just 8 prophecies coming true by sheer chance is 1 in 1017 (100,000,000,000,000,000). That would be equivalent to covering the whole state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep and then expecting a blindfolded man to walk across the state and on the very first try find the ONE coin you marked. And if we were to add only 8 more similar prophecies, for a total of 16, the odds would be 1 x 1028 x 1017 or 1 in 1045 (1,000) Using the same type of illustration as above, if we were to press this many silver dollars into a ball and place the center of this ball

Continued on p. 2

Continued from p. 1

where the center of our Sun is, this silver ball's outer edge would be in approximately the same area as the orbit of Neptune (almost to Pluto.). One man fulfilling all 16 prophecies by sheer chance would be like sending a blindfolded person out to find one specific silver dollar that has been marked and has been mixed up somewhere in this huge ball and actually finding it the first time! (Keep in mind that this is a three-dimensional BALL, not a disk like our Solar System.)

Professor Stoner gives us yet another illustration, but this time, because a silver dollar, and even the atom, would be too large for this one he chose to use just the electron that orbits the nucleus of the atom.

The electron is one of the smallest particles of matter known to man. It is so small that if you lined up 2.5 x 10¹⁵ (2,500,000,000,000,000) single file you would end up with a line that is only 1 inch long. (If we were going to count the electrons in this line one inch long, and counted 250 each minute, and if we counted day and night, it would take us 19,000,000 years to count just the one-inch line of electrons.)

Now back to Stoner's illustration. Using only 48 of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled it was calculated that the chances of one person fulfilling these by sheer chance would be 1 in 10¹⁵⁷. To help us understand how huge this number is he suggested taking 10¹⁵⁷ electrons and pressing them into a solid ball. This ball, made entirely of electrons, would pretty much fill, not just our galaxy, but the entire known universe. (At the time Stoner's book was written the universe was known to be at least 6 billion light years in all directions. Stoner's known universe would need to be filled about 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 times.) Once again we would mark just one electron, blindfold a man and send him out to find that one electron. Peter Stoner then states, "To the extent, then, that we know this blindfolded man cannot pick out the marked electron, we know that the Bible is inspired. This is not merely evidence. It is proof of the Bible's inspiration by God--proof so definite that the universe is not large enough to hold the evidence." Professor Stoner then made the comment that, "Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world."

I believe the bible is the Word of God and I do not need mathematics to convince me of that truth. However, I find it truly amazing how the prophecies of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection were divinely orchestrated events by God the Father to secure eternal life for all who come to him by faith.

In Psalm 30 King David spoke of the glorious resurrection in verse three "O Lord thou hast brought up my soul from the grave, thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit." With great accuracy the Old Testament predicted the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. During this Easter season celebrate the joy of the risen Savior and share his marvelous love with others.

Have a Wonderful Easter
Pastor Darrell

The Transformation of Easter

By Rev. Jim Richland, Associate Pastor

"The dungeon became to me as if it were a palace." These are the words of Perpetua, a 22 year old Christian who, in A.D. 200 was fed to wild animals in Carthage, North Africa. She was ripped away from the baby she was still nursing and thrown into an amphitheater as onlookers cheered at her execution. Many of the onlookers left the event in awe at how she faced her death with what appeared to be joy as she looked to heaven.

Over the two thousand plus years of Church history men and women have laid down their lives for the Lord and Savior. It's not because they were uncommonly brave or fearless; it was because they remembered what had been done for them. This month we celebrate the King of kings and Lord of lords; who willingly endured the most horrific of deaths for us. Every lash of the whip; every exposed nerve that burned through his sinless broken body was received by Him, so that we would be spared.

It is during this brutal scene that something beautiful happens. Scripture records that the veil inside the Jewish temple is torn from top to bottom. The thick curtain that was meant to keep people out of the presence of God is inexplicably ripped down the middle. This curtain is, for all practical purposes, the "wall" that signifies our separation from God. But because of Christ, it has been taken away.

This is one of the great and beautiful mysteries of the crucifixion. This is what empowered martyrs throughout the ages to bravely face their own deaths. Through Christ we see that God takes even the most gruesome and bleak moments of our lives and, when surrendered to Him, transforms them into something breathtaking. So this month, remember what Christ has done for you and allow it to empower you to be a transforming force in the world around you.

I Will Meet You There

By Steve Fussell, Deacon Chairman

This past year has been unusual to say the least. Last March, we were forced to close the church doors for a while due to Covid-19. We have since resumed worship services and continue to expand our church activities. I believe many of us have come to realize what a blessing and privilege it is to be able to worship freely and meet together with fellow Christians. Hebrews 10:25 says "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" NLT.

Some will say "I enjoy watching a church service on my television while still in my pajamas", but what is missing there? Meeting together is so important when it comes to encouraging each other, sharing with each other, praying for each other, loving each other, and simply being with like-minded believers. There is nothing quite like worshiping our God together. As we return to a sense of normalcy in the coming months, let's not take for granted the gift of "church" that God has given His children. With a thankful heart, I sure look forward to gathering with all of you!

HPBC Bell Memorial

The Highland Park Family Time Capsules sales will be used to fund the building of the Highland Park Bell Memorial. The cost of each capsule is \$75.00. There are 200 individual time capsules available for sale. All excess money will be donated to the Highland Park Building Fund. A future dedication ceremony will be planned such that all time capsules will be entered and sealed into the two main time capsules.



Donations to the Bell Memorial may be made without the purchase of a time capsule. Make checks payable to Highland Park Baptist Church with a notation of "Bell Memorial."
\$2,950.00 received to-date, goal is \$15,000.

The Bell Memorial is an Eagle Scout Project being performed by Eagle Scout candidate NOLAN HAYNES, Troop 595, Dogwood District, Old Hickory Council.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Eric Riggs
- 2 Klara Cox
- 3 Jacob Bowers
Courtney Gilley
Alisha Shupe
- 4 Scott Wieberg
- 5 Larry Brannock
William Hall
Sonnie Hardy
Jonathan Love
Landry Marion
- 7 Patricia Combs
- 8 Robert Allen
Kelly McCraw
Tammy Pell
- 9 Ashley Bowers
Jathan Cox
Jordan Dehart
Leon Whitaker
- 10 Rita Tucker
- 12 Gabriel Eason
Blair Seaver
Marion Seaver
- 13 Teresa Branch
Jon Carpenter
Philgene Montgomery
- 15 Logan Simpson
- 16 Sammy Epperson
Bob Josey
- 17 Ron Beamer
Joey Bumgardner
- 18 Cathy Hamby
Keely Hodges
- 19 Louis Giuffre
- 20 Kaebry Broyles
- 21 Cylan Cooper
Joy Parsons
Eric Willey
- 22 Dr. John Crane
Mildred Gillespie
- 24 Cody Atkins
April Sumner
- 25 Drew Goins
Suzanne Vernon
- 27 Jennifer Wall
Molly Willey
- 29 Charlotte Collins
Hannah Hall Puckett
Marcy Marion
Chris O'Neal
Phil Parsons
- 30 Buffy Fussell