

God is love and love lives here!



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Sunday, September 29, 2024

The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi

Mary Frances Logue brought a book to me a few weeks ago before our vacation. She only asked that I read it and consider it a gift. When we returned, I went into their Sunday School class, head down, to let her know I had not read anything the entire time I was on vacation. However, I started reading the book the next week and really enjoyed the stories and information from Kathie Lee Gifford's book The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi. Throughout the book, Kathie shares her experiences of going to Israel and walking through the steps of Jesus and his disciples. Along with her is a Rabbi named Jason Sobel who brings Biblical stories to life by sharing history or his own perspectives that we may neglect in Biblical interpretation. I've found the book to be a joy to read and thought I would share key thoughts with you over the next couple of weeks that I hope encourage you in your faith.

Chapter 11: Capernaum

Rabbis and Disciples

Capernaum was a special place for Jesus as it was a sort of headquarters for his ministry. There he would meet disciples, teach in the synagogue, and even rest at times. It was almost a second home. You can picture it if you take a moment to patiently envision Jesus and his Disciples gathered together as he taught. He was their friend but more importantly their Rabbi (Teacher). In chapter 11 Kathie discusses her visit to Capernaum and how the Rabbis in tradition would teach in parables to people willing to listen. It was not uncommon for a local "Teacher" to say "come" to a few people and gather in a time of study. The people would be honored and feel such joy at the opportunity to learn from the most educated in society. It's in places like this that they would learn some of life's greatest lessons.

Rabbi Jason writes "Capernaum is also the location where Jesus taught His disciples the true meaning of forgiveness. Peter asked Jesus: "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven'"

Peter thought he was being very spiritual by being willing to forgive someone up to seven times. So, Jesus' response- commanding him to forgive someone up to 490 times-must have been quite a shock! Everything Jesus did and said was very purposeful. He never wasted a word. So, the number of times He instructs us to forgive must have some deeper significance. But what is it?

As we already discussed, every word in Hebrew has a numerical value, and these values frequently communicate deeper spiritual insights. That is certainly the case here.

The number 490 is the numerical value of the biblical Hebrew word Tamil, which means "complete", "perfect", or "finished". A person who can't forgive will always live an imperfect and incomplete life that lacks a true understanding of the "finished", gracious work of the cross. The number 490 is also the value of the Hebrew phrase "Let your heart be perfect". Forgiving helps make us complete, and it is key to perfecting our hearts before the Lord.

That's a lot of words and more than normal from our reading. However, this is the gospel at it's best! Many times, we are missing the nuances of the scripture trying to see the bigger picture. Yet the bigger picture is often in the nuances of scripture! Jesus wasn't just building relationships with the disciples but trying to teach them the true meaning of forgiveness; without it we are incomplete. If you have any unforgiveness within your heart this week, I pray you let it go as you read this newsletter. Simply let it out as if the Doctor asked you to take in a deep breath and to let go. If you need to ask forgiveness, I pray God gives you the courage to make the call, send a letter, or see someone in person if need be. The ask can be difficult but regardless of the response, the completeness in the ask will make all the difference. I pray most of all, you see the goodness of God in forgiveness however you experience it as if you were just another follower of a Rabbi and His disciples.

Keep The Faith,
Pastor Tommy

Scripture and Sermon:

2 Peter 3:14-18

"Simon to Peter:
Who Peter Became"



New Concerns

Jeff Grube
Susan Howdeshell
April Howdeshell
Mary Baker
Virginia and Shannon Baker
Don Schall
Those in the path of Helene

Continue Prayers for:

Linda Stone
Tom & Amber
Leon & Nancy
Barbara Hilliard
Paul Sanders

Lamar Outz
Paul Smith
Phil & Betty Bailey
Dianne Harrington
Mac McCullough
Kathy Blanchard
Tom Gamble
Betty Bowen
Michael & Jennie Walston
Betty Byrd
Leon Hudson
Mary Prater
Jim & Mary Leary
Virginia Eadie
Bill Reedy
Our Country, Leaders, Military

Finance Report for

09-22-24

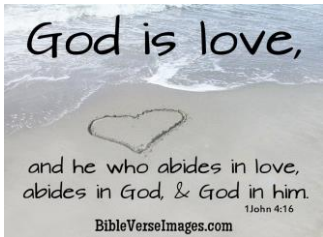
Operating Budget..... \$2,761.60
A/C Replacement..... 4,841.45
Total..... \$7,603.05

Worship Attendance

140

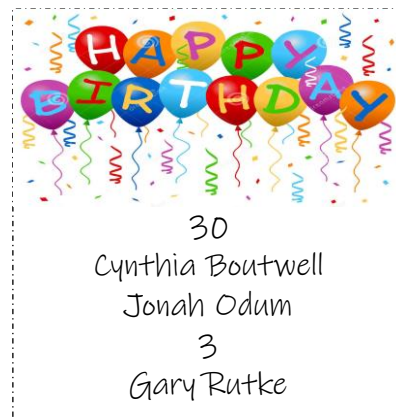
Sunday School

46





- ✓ 09-26-24 Nominations Committee 6p- **cancelled**
- ✓ 09-29-24 5th Sunday Lunch 11:30a- **cancelled**
- ✓ October- Pastor Appreciation Month
- ✓ 10-03-24 Nominations (if needed)
- ✓ 10-14-24 Office Closed- Columbus Day
- ✓ 10-20-24 Worship in the Sanctuary 10:30a – yay!
- ✓ 10-20-24 Fall Festival 3p-5p
- ✓ 10-21-24 Blood Drive 1p-5p
- ✓ 10-21-24 Finance Committee 6p
- ✓ 11-03-24 All Saints Sunday
- ✓ 11-11-24 Finance Meeting 6p
- ✓ 11-11-24 Administrative Council Meeting 6:30p
- ✓ 11-17-24 Charge Conference 5p
- ✓ 11-24-24 Hanging of the Greens 11:30a
- ✓ 11-27/28-24 Office Closed- Thanksgiving
- ✓ 12-07-24 Christmas Festival 4p
- ✓ 12-08-24 Blessing of the Bears 10:30a
- ✓ 12-08-24 Parsonage Open House 5p-7p
- ✓ 12-09-24 Finance Meeting 6p
- ✓ 12-16-24 Blood Drive 1p-5p
- ✓ 12-24-24 Christmas Eve Service 6p
- ✓ 12-25-24 through 01-02-25 Office Closed- Christmas



Bible Reading Plan

Week of September 29th:

Sunday.....	2 Timothy 3
Monday... ..	2 Timothy 4
Tuesday... ..	2 Samuel 11
Wednesday.....	2 Samuel 12
Thursday.....	Psalms 51
Friday.....	1 Kings 1
Saturday.....	Proverbs 3

Attention!

The time for our Facebook Live Stream on Sunday mornings has changed to **10:50a** and will show the message portion of Worship only. Join us at our later time!

Exciting News!

Kathryn “Kat” Rigsby (Terry & Kitty’s daughter) is excited to announce that her first book, *The Proverbs 31 Woman*: A 21 day devotional journal is available as a paperback on Amazon. The pdf and an ebook version will be available soon. You can order directly from Amazon or if you want a signed copy, contact her.

<https://amzn.to/4e9Dxuc>

Community Missions

- The next Food Pantry is September 25, 10a-1p, and **volunteers are still needed**, even with the change of operation. Please see Cheri to help with this ministry. You will be blessed. Our Food Pantry Team rocks!
- The Clothes Closet is open September 25, the Clothes Closet will follow the same schedule as the Food Pantry. We will open on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month for shoppers and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for processing donations. Donations now can be left in the black box trailer in front of the Outreach Center. Our new hours will be 8:45am until 1:15pm.
- Due to air conditioning problems in the church, services will continue to be held in the Fellowship Hall until the system is fixed. As of today, that date is undetermined; therefore, our Yard Sale has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 31st-Saturday, February 1, 2025. We are currently using the Yak Shack for donated items for the sale. We will continue to collect small miscellaneous household goods for the sale. We will not have a Souper Saturday in 2025.
- October 9: 845a-11a- Sabrina Williams, Barbara Bruschke, Cynthia Boutwell
October 9: 11a-115p- Nancy Brechin, Joyce Wyatt, Linda Blanton

Young at Heart

- ♥ Sunday, October 6th we are going to the Warner Robins Little Theater performance of “Clue”. Tickets are \$16. Please call or text Gloria Nelson for 478-550-2362 to reserve a ticket as soon as possible before Friday, September 27th. Tickets will be purchased as reservations come in. Transportation will be provided. We will leave from the church at 1p for the 2p performance. We will go out for dinner afterwards.
- ♥ Bingo will be Friday, September 27th with lunch at 12 noon. Lunch will be a potluck and we will provide the meat. So all that is needed is side dishes and desserts. Bingo will begin at 1p. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join us for food, fun and fellowship!

Family Promise

Our next rotation is November 17, 18, 19. If you are interested in helping out with Family Promise on our next rotation, contact J.O. or Lynn, this is a very blessed ministry of our church... check out their website at <https://www.familypromisehoustonco.org/>

Life Groups

Being a member of a Life Group is a great way to grow in a closer relationship with our Heavenly Father. If you are interested in learning more about Life Groups, or actually joining one, please see Thomas and Joy.

Altar Prayer Warriors

We are looking for more people to join us in praying at the altar. If you would like the opportunity to be part of this group, please see Don and Sharon or Thomas and Joy.

Chariots of Love

Chariots of Love will resume soon. Stay tuned for more details.

Are you Looking for a place to serve? To get involved? We have it!

This Week's Schedule:

Sunday- September 29

Ushers

10:30a J.O. Miller, Tony Rozier
Mel Smeltz, Cheri' Cox, Lynn Mayfield
Keith Mobley, Stevie Bowen
Joy Fleming, Sherrie Shell, Roy Carter
9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Greeters

10:30a Linda Blanton, TBD

Communion Servers

Denice McClarnon, Carolyn Nettles
Paula Williams, Sherrill Pinckney

Prayer Teams

Don & Sharron Schall
Thomas & Joy Fleming

Finance Stewards

LaWanna Porter, Kathy Rutke, Hilda Rozier

Assisting with Children

Sunday- September 29
Nursery- Sarah Blackburn, TBD
Children- Dawn Wilkins
Sunday- October 6
Nursery- TBA
Children- TBA

Monday- September 30

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday- October 1

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Partners in Prayer
10:00a Yoga
11:30a Life Group IV "J Walkers"
6:30p Miss Terry's Circle
6:30p Bass Club

Wednesday- October 2

8:00a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
1:00p Life Group I "Under Construction"
5:15p Handbells
6:30p Choir Practice
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Thursday- October 3

9:15a Movin' n Groovin'
10:00a Yoga
6:00p Nominations Committee
7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Friday- October 4

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Saturday- October 5

7:30p Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday School at 9:15a

Are you looking to get involved in Sunday School? We have a great line up of classes to explore! Maybe you've been attending Sunday School regularly but see a topic you're interested in – it's okay to move around and try different classes – let's learn and grow together!

Sunday School Class

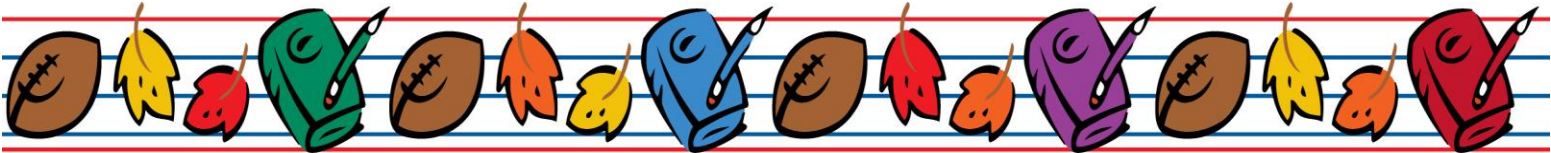
Seekers
Issues & Answers
New Beginnings
Christian Fellowship
Youth

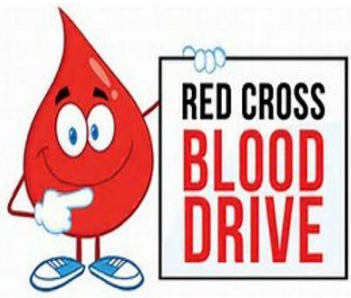
Studies

Gospel
Mark
Be Alert
1 and 2 Peter
Orange Curriculum

Teacher

LaWanna Porter
Joy Fleming
Nancy Hudson
Don Schall
Katie Odum





Blood Drive

October 21, 1p-5p

Fellowship Hall

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give>



October 20

3p-5p

**Games, Food,
Fellowship, Fun!
All free!!!**