



# Church Life

Welcome  
Home!

**May 2021**

Volume 64, Issue 5

## ***Better Days Ahead***

The reality of those three words are not likely lost on anyone who has come to know Christ and is known by Him. We readily recognize that Heaven will be our eternal home and that our best life is indeed ahead of us. But how do those three words impact our daily lives as individual followers of Christ and as a church? Do we truly believe those words for our earthly present and future, or are we hopelessly focused on the “good ole days” in our individual and collective past?

In recent weeks and months, we have been reminded of the reality that our God is not only a creative God, but also a recreative God. The Apostle Paul records for us that, “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17).” The Apostle John records for us, “And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new’ (Rev. 21:5).” The resurrection story of Christ, which we recently celebrated, also illustrates God’s work of recreation. The Angels said to the women, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen (Luke 24:5-6).”

These passages, as well as many others, remind us that God is not through with His creation, but is at work to make all things new. The global church is part of His creation which is undergoing a recreation in our present age. The recreative work of Christ in His church might be better understood as a revival of ancient methodologies as opposed to a creation of new ones. The ancient methodologies of which I speak are those of the first century church. Those methodologies are more akin to those we see utilized by church plants in our present day.

“Church plants”, then and now, operated in a very flexible and fluid fashion in order to respond quickly and effectively to the rapidly changing needs of their community. In fact, WHBC was founded and operated in its early life in the very same fashion. Most every church was founded in this manner. However, most of those churches, at some point, left the “church plant” methodology behind and settled for a methodology of maintenance. For generations the church “flourished” with growing numbers, but often has not flourished in community impact.

Is it possible that Christ has allowed the recent global crisis as part of His recreative work in His church? Few would argue that the “church” in 2021 is vastly different than it was in previous years. The church in 2021 has been forced to operate in a much leaner fashion, and I would submit, a much more flexible and fluid fashion. I would argue that the modern church in America has been forced to operate in much the same way as the ancient church did, at least for this current period of time. It is clear that the modern church has been forced to reevaluate its ministry priorities, and then to develop a response as a result.

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That response has been, and will continue to be, informed by our perspective. Is it our perspective that our best days are behind us, or do we believe that there are “Better Days Ahead”? If we believe in the creative and recreative nature of our God and His promises in Scripture, then we must believe that our best days in this world lie ahead of us! If we believe that our best days are ahead of us, then we must also believe that our God is presently taking our ordinary and making it extraordinary! We must believe that His future for us is far brighter than our view of our past!

Let us embrace the recreative nature and work of Christ in us and through us! Let us embrace the promised reality that our best days are ahead of us, and as a result, go all in and all out to fulfill His mission for the church! Let us be found faithful in spending our lives for His kingdom, His glory, and His honor! Amen!

Pastor Bryan

Join us for a theatrical production here at...

West Hampton Baptist Church

on

**Mother's Day**

**Sunday**

**May 9, 2021**

**10:30am worship**



### **Ruth is Coming!**

This Mother's Day, May 9, there will be a special treat for Mom. Bring her to church to see Piercing Word's presentation of **Ruth**.

Ruth focuses on how God uses the faithfulness of Ruth and Boaz to reverse the curses of Genesis 3 and continue the line of David, which God ultimately uses to bring about the birth of Jesus.

This presentation is very relevant to many things that we are experiencing today and will definitely be an encouragement to all who attend.

Piercing Word is no stranger to WHBC as they have blessed our hearts twice before. The mission of Piercing Word is to ignite passion for the Word of God in the heart of the church.

### **Fresh Encounter**

We've all learned that these pandemic days are quite fluid. However, if Covid numbers continue to improve, we have planned for two more Wednesday nights as we continue our discussion about the future of WHBC.

Join us on May 12 and 26 in the Fellowship Hall as we continue to seek the path God has before us. The meetings will be 6:00 – 7:00 pm and, since we will be casually gathered at the tables, you are welcome to bring your supper as there will not be a meal served.

Joyfully in Him,

Craig Hughes



Greetings from the WMU

The ladies of the church are continuing our work of missions. We have some good news in that we exceeded our Annie Armstrong Goal by collecting \$2,440.38. Thank you so much for everyone's support for our North American Missions.

We are continuing to look forward to our community beginning to open up more as we overcome the struggles of the pandemic. One of the events for our future is continuing to support the Standing Rock Ministry. Sarah and Will continue to be involved and working with WMUV in supporting the efforts of helping the people as much as possible. Our WMU is being supportive by purchasing gender neutral color fleece fabric through out the month of May. The Standing Rock community will use this fleece to make blankets, which is a significant part of their culture. The Goal for WHBC is to collect enough fleece to make 100 blankets.

Many of the WMU groups are beginning to meet and continue their goal of missions in our world. Thank you for your prayers and support. Please also remember to offer prayers of praise for all God has done for us during these unusual times.

The Shoebox ministry will begin in three more months (August), so begin purchasing your items to fill a shoebox.

Thanks be to God,  
Nicki Jarrard

#### WMU CALENDAR:

- May 6 National Day of Prayer
- May 9 Mother's Day
- May 31 Memorial Day

#### **Standing Rock Family Activity Kit: (please purchase)**



- 2 pieces, **1 ½ yards each.** of "gender neutral" **Color fleece** that complement each other (The Native American family will make the "no sew" fleece throw).
  - **Sidewalk chalk** (3 to 4 sticks) \$1 to \$2
- Bring to church by Sunday, May 30**

#### **WOMEN ON MISSION — MEETINGS FOR MAY:**

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group Leader</u>
M&M's	Monday	May 3	@ Church FH	6:00pm	Brenda Flowers
Basic Herb.	Thursday	May 6	@ Church FH	5:00pm	Sarah Wall
Quilting	Tuesday	May 11	@ Church	9:00 am	Lisa Allred
Scrapbook	Friday	May 14	@ Church	5:00 pm	Carla Franklin
Scrapbook	Saturday	May 15	@ Church	9:00 am	Carla Franklin
Sisters by Heart	Monday	May 17	@ Church	6:00 pm	Eula Parks
Quilting	Saturday	May 22	@ Church	9:00 am	Lisa Allred

#### **Church-wide Mission Involvement:**

Standing Rock Family Activity Kit:

**(See above)**

**Bring to the WMU Cart in the Atrium, by the Café, before May 30.**



# May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Basic Herbalism 5-9pm	7	8
9 Happy Mother's Day  Production of  10:30am	10	11 <i>Quilting Ministry</i> 9:00am  Church Council Meeting 6 pm	12 <i>Finance Committee Mgt.</i> 5:30pm  FRESH ENCOUNTERS Meeting. 6PM	13	14 <b>Scrapbook Ministry</b> 2:00pm	15  Armed Forces Day CHURCH WIDE YARD WORK DAY 9AM—12 NOON <b>Scrapbook Ministry</b> 9:00am
16 11:30am WHBC Members Business meeting.  Deacons Meeting 4pm	17	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Quilting Ministry</i> 9:00am
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 		FRESH ENCOUNTERS Mtg. 6PM		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	

# Church Yard Workday

Saturday, May 15

9:00am -12 noon

Come help in working on pulling weeds in the flower beds, sweeping, edging, and trimming the grounds to beautify our church grounds.

Bring leaf blowers, edgers / trimmers or other tools to share.

## SUNDAY, MAY 16

CHURCH MEMBERS  
BUSINESS

MEETING @ 11:30AM

(FOLLOWING THE SERVICE)



DEACONS MEETING  
@ 4PM, ROOM D227

*Memorial Day*  
REMEMBER AND HONOR

The church office  
will be closed on  
Monday, May 31,  
in observance of  
Memorial Day

### “CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST” Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry is coming!



I've only just begun to buy items for my shoe boxes that will go around the world making smiles for Children and letting them know "Jesus loves them". It's so easy for us to do, and will mean so much to all those Children.

Begin picking up items from the Dollar Store, Walmart and other stores as you go out to shop.

You will be able to pick up your FREE shoeboxes the first week in August, returning them by the Sunday, the 29th. REMEMBER to include a check or cash to cover the shipping. God bless you as you are helping His Children.

Please contact me if you have any questions,  
Myrtle Wilson

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 You can also access this Newsletter on our website.



## 2021 GIVING BACK TO GOD

Date	Worship	Sunday School	Budget Received	Heart for the House Received
March 21	131	63	\$10,203.00	\$533.37
March 28	85	51	\$5,979.23	\$1,787.37
April 4	145	56	\$12,970.18	\$1,453.37
April 11	103	66	\$3,643.90	\$259.46

YTD 2021 Received (Budget): \$108,757.51  
 2021 Budgeted to date \$151,119.60  
 YTD 2021 Received (Heart for the House): \$11,368.28