

# The Messenger



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October , 2020

Dear Church Family,

Happy fall, y'all! I am so happy to see the end of those horrible 100+ degree days. I love all things fall – the nip in the air, changing leaves, and the sight of pumpkins and gourds making their seasonal debut.

As the seasons change, I think of God's mighty reminder in Acts 1: 7, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." I don't know about you, but patience has never been one of my strong suits. I'm getting better at it as I grow in faith – and in years – but I still struggle to surrender my plans and intentions to God's greater will.

In many ways for all of us, this entire year has been an exercise in patience. When we began to see changing schedules and closings, mandatory mask-wearing, and facing the reality of life outside the church building, many of us struggled to remain calm in the midst of so much uncertainty. We wanted Covid to be over ASAP. We set the end of March.... then May.... then September as the absolute end of our changed and disrupted schedules. We are impatient to "go back to normal" and don't want to think about this Covid-19 disruption continuing.

However, we now move into a fall season still marked by uncertainty as to how life will continue to unfold the rest of the year. Like many of you, I suspect that "normal" will need to be redefined in the days, weeks, and months to come. Sometimes, I do not want to have to think about redefining church and how we might be called to move and live differently in God's world. It is so hard to make decisions without all the facts and to surrender to the truth that things beyond our control dictate our lives in so many ways.

And yet, this is such an extraordinary chance to demonstrate our strong and resilient faith! It is not for us to know the seasons that God designs. Some of us impatiently wait for fall to arrive and some impatiently wait for summer to reappear – it's so hard for us humans to be satisfied, isn't it? J Regardless of whether we love the arriving season or not, the seasons change right on God's schedule. I do not know why Covid-19 came into our lives. I do not think God sent it as punishment or to illustrate anger or judgment. I do believe that He is using this season to help us learn important things – patience, grace, wisdom. To remember how to pause and listen in silence to His still, quiet voice. To offer grace when things don't go our way. To wait in joy and trust instead of temper and frustration. To delight in the simple pleasures of God's beautiful creation.

This month and always, children of God, let's surrender ourselves to God's plan. Let's trust that things are unfolding as they must. Let's celebrate each other and delight in the presence of friends and family. Let's have a pumpkin spice latte, breathe in the crisp morning air, and allow God's plan to unfold in His time and at His pace. There is so much grace and beauty in the waiting.

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Holly

## From The Administrative Board

We want to thank everyone for their patience during this trying time. We all want things to get back to normal, all while keeping our friends and families as safe as possible. As the testing and treatments improve, and the infection rate drops, we are beginning to reopen with caution. The council will meet in early October to look at the next steps and what are the risks we, as a church, are willing to take. It's a very difficult decision. We started Sunday School and evening classes back, and that seems to be going well. Good job Church! Now we can prayerfully consider reopening to more activities. We will communicate all decisions made via OneCall and/or email.

Another item that needs consideration is selecting the church leadership for the various committees. That will be happening soon. Please pray that God will guide that committee to the right person for the job, and that the person asked prayerfully considers accepting the position.

One more request. As we reopen, look around and notice who is missing, and reach out to them to let them know we miss them, and encourage them to come back. I know some are not comfortable coming to any group gatherings, so encourage them to join us on line, and let us know of any needs they have. This is especially important for the shut-ins. Be a blessing to them.

If you have questions, suggestions, or requests, please contact myself or Pastor Holly.

Thanks again!  
In HIS service,  
Sam Moody



We welcome our newest members

**J.O. & Nancy Bedsole** recently joined the church.

**Mark & Deborah Waddell and Maddie** are in the process of transferring membership.

Below are our figures through **September 21st**

General Fund Income	\$ 154,553.23
General Fund Expense	\$ 152,791.81
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 1,245.00

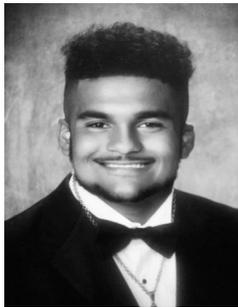


There was a time when business was slow people would say, "Well the fair is in town, or back to school is the reason". Now it must be Covid-19 is the reason offerings have slowed and expenses have exceeded income. Really?? There is so much coming at us now to change our priorities in life and direct our attention away from God's work and our duty to be the hands and feet of Christ. Love one another and examine your offerings to the church. All things considered your church is in good financial condition and we must keep it that way. In October, the finance committee will start the budget process for next year. Account managers you will receive current financial data for your service area. Review these transactions as you prepare your 2021 budget request and let Kris know if you have any questions.

Tom Thompson  
Finance Chair



## High School Graduates



Collin Downs, Allison Johnson, Grace Moser, Reese Payne, Dee Rivers, Lauren Warner Taylor



## College Graduates

Adam Berryhill

Morgan Phillips Putman



# YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Drive Through  
Trunk n Treat

October 31st

## Needed Volunteers!!

We need *candy, candy, candy!*

I need donations of large bags of individually wrapped candy for the Trunk-n-Treat. If you wish to make a monetary donation for the purchase of candy, then please put Youth Dept in the memo line of your check or on an envelope.

I need individuals or groups to bring candy, decorate your vehicle trunk or a table and hand the candy out to the children as they pass by in their cars. I also need volunteers to help with the preparations and packing of the Dinner to Go bags (bags will include a wrapped hotdog, bag of chips, prepackaged dessert, condiments and a bottle of water). This will be an outside event with a rain date of November 7th. We will take all the necessary precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Please let DeShawn know of if you can help.

# October, 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
				1 6:30 Trustees	2 6:30 Celebrate Recovery	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	5 4:30 GED	6 4:30 GED	7 6:00 Classes for all ages	8	9 6:30 Celebrate Recovery	10 Fish & Loaves
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	12 4:30 GED	13 4:30 GED 6:30 Daycare Mtg	14 6:00 Classes for all ages	15	16 Fish & Loaves 6:30 Celebrate Recovery	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	19 6:30 Cub Scouts	20 4:30 GED	21 6:00 Classes for all ages	22	23 6:30 Celebrate Recovery	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Worship	26 4:30 GED	27 4:30 GED	28 6:00 Classes for all ages	29	30 6:30 Celebrate Recovery	31 Drive-Through Trunk-N-Treat

# *In Memory of*

## *Robert Baggett*

Jimmie Ann Hinton

## *Margaret Clemmons*

Jimmie Ann Hinton  
Aaron & Pat Johnson

## *Petty Ezell*

Sarah Ratliff

## *Gordon McPeters*

Joan Ezell  
Aaron & Pat Johnson  
Norma Norton  
Harold & Virginia Phillips

## *David Montgomery*

Covenant Class  
Norma Norton  
Sarah Ratliff

## *Faye Page*

Sheral Belew  
Kevin & Susan McGraw  
Norma Norton  
Judy Woolley

## *Steve Simms*

Jimmie Ann Hinton  
Sarah Ratliff

## *Bobby Smith*

Doris Bates  
Tom & Sandy Davis  
Ronnie & Gayle Littrell  
George & Judy Mason  
Norma Norton

## *Nadine Waddell*

Tina Corley  
Tom & Sandy Davis  
Joan Ezell  
Aaron & Pat Johnson  
Kevin & Susan McGraw  
Norma Norton  
James Smith  
Linda Waddell  
Jerry & Sherry Weathers

## *Archie White*

Sarah Ratliff

Return Service Requested  
May God Bless:

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