

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2023

## A Word From the Pastor

We have tasted of God's kindness in extraordinary ways in recent months. People are drawn to the Gospel and the church, giving their life to Christ and joining with us. *Holiday Hill Early Learning Center* opens on church property August 1<sup>st</sup> and not only is there high interest from our community, but a local private school donated a large amount of quality furniture and curriculum which they no longer need. Remodeling of our Fellowship Hall continues to progress and excitement around it is building. God is showing His faithfulness in these endeavors as He provides energy and opportunities as well as financial support from various places, including a recent gift from our area City Councilman, Kevin Carrico. What is amazing is that I could continue to add to what God is doing and what we are experiencing.

Why is this happening? Why are things occurring that we do not always witness nor are apart of? Though I cannot answer that completely, I know this – it is because God is up to something and we are being allowed to be part of it. God reminded the prophet Zechariah how this works: *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord of armies."* (Zechariah 4:6, NASB2020) The things of God and the will of God are accomplished by Him and Him alone. Yes, we have responsibilities as followers of Christ, but it is God who moves, not us.

As we are watching God @ work, how do we follow Him? How do we join Him and participate? We pray for Him to continue to work, for the wisdom to see what He desires of us, and the obedience to prevent quenching His Spirit. We invite others to come and join with us and to see God @ work. We show up, serve, worship, give financially, and encourage one another. We stay informed about how we are moving forward under God's leadership and give Him praise, glory, and recognition for all He is doing. As we do those things, I trust we will see God continue to move and have the honor to be part of it.

Though we are in the beginning of March, do not hesitate to begin preparing yourself for Easter and our celebration of Easter: Palm Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Good Friday Service, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.; Easter, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Begin praying now for the following: God to prepare your heart to worship and honor Him over the Easter season; those who will attend over Easter, some for their first time with us; for our leaders as we prepare services that will lift up God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and clearly explain the Gospel; who God would have you invite. May we lean into Easter season in a way that will glorify God and open opportunities for the Gospel.

In Christ, Pastor Albert

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship Team Rehearsal 9:00 am

> Community Groups 9:45 am

Morning Worship 11:00 am

Embers Ministry 5:00 pm

Wednesday Services All Ministries Begin at 6:30 pm

Adult Bible Study

Embers Bible Study

Youth Bible Study 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Children's Ministry Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Preschool Ministry Birth through Pre-K

904-721-0721 www.holidayhillbc.org 730 Mandalay Road Jacksonville, FL 32216 office@holidayhillbc.org

Dr. Albert Byrd, Pastor albertbyrd@holidavhillbc.org

Rev. Joshua Slocum, Student Pasto joshslocum@holidayhillbc.org

Beth Martelli, Worship Leader bethmartelli@holidayhillbc.org

Stephen Thoburn, Media Coordinator Stephen Thoburn@outlook.com



March is upon us, and I'm getting one year older. As I've mentioned before, a fun activity to do for one's birthday is to discover with whom you share a birthday. Esther shares her birthday with political commentator Glenn Beck, actress Chloe Grace Moretz, and Disney CEO Bob Iger (appropriate). I share a birthday with Pittsburgh Steeler head coach Mike Tomlin, Poison front man Bret Michaels, and US President Andrew Jackson. Who are your birthday buddies?

A Big Thank You. As I type this, we are just a few days away from our annual dessert auction; however, I will go ahead and thank you for all your support. Please don't make this paragraph awkward. Hopefully you were there. Hopefully you made a dessert. Hopefully you spent money so Julian doesn't have to push a van to Charlotte, NC. Thank you to you all.

Junior/Senior Retreat. The once-every-two-year event is upon us. Pray for our soon-to-be graduates as we head out this month for a time of life management sessions. Budgets, time management, roommates, relationships, rent, insurance, and loans – the things they don't teach you in high school we cover in this half-week event.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I hope you have a wonderful March. Happy birthday! (Regardless of what day it may be actually be).

In Him,

Josh Slocum



WILL FUND PROJECTS LIKE:

Pay off the mortgage (\$135k remains of the initial \$435K loan) Paint the church exterior Complete renovation of the fellowship hall Repave the parking lot Renovate Building D bathrooms Replace aging A/C units

