

First Family News

April 2020/ May 2020



From the Pastor's Desk

Volume 8, Issue 2
April 2020/ May 2020

These are certainly interesting days we are living in today. None of us would have imagined the things that are happening all around us even five months ago. Schools closed indefinitely, businesses closed, short term rentals shut down, church services suspended and people self-quarantining in their homes are all things that have become part of our new normal. Hopefully this new normal will be for the short term. Unfortunately, as I write this today we do not know how long that short term may be. So, how do we respond to all of this?

I believe the first thing is to continue to rely on our Lord and Savior, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is an all knowing, all powerful, all loving God and He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. The fact that God is all knowing means that He knew this crisis was going to arise and yet he called us to continue to look to the future and move forward. This crisis is not going to last forever, although it may seem like it is. There will be a day when the pandemic will be history, the stock market will rebound, businesses will reopen, schools will be back in session, and we will gather together again for fellowship, study and worship.

On Sunday mornings we have been looking at the children of Israel as they have moved out of Egypt and journeyed toward the Promised Land. They were tested several times and did not do well with the tests. They failed to remember all that God had already done for them and so they didn't trust him to help them with the current test. During this global pandemic each one of us needs to recall all that the Lord has done for us, our families and our church in the past and know that He is still with us and for us today. The writer of Proverbs reminds us "*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.*" (Proverbs 18:10) Let us pass this test in such a way that the unbelieving in our families and

community may see our wonderful Lord and give Him the glory He deserves.

To pass we need to continue to work on our relationship with the Lord. We do this through personal Bible study, prayer and worship. Reading the Bible through or picking a certain book of the Bible to read and reflect on are great ways to stay in the Word. Pray daily and often. As the Lord lays people on your heart stop and pray for them. If you start to feel anxious, stop and pray. We have talked about our personal worship in the past. Each of us needs to find ways that we can worship our God individually. We can do that through listening to Christian music, watching a sunset, or the birds on your feeder, or listening to the rain on our roof. Any activity that reminds you of the Lord can help bring you into His presence. Of course, Scripture reading can help with this as well. I like to read the Psalms. Many of the psalms are appropriate, but I especially like 145 – 150 when thinking about worship.

One more item on our action plan can be to find ways to stay connected with our church family and other in our circles of influence. Call the folks in your Sunday school class, your mission circle or just your close friends. Check on a couple of people older and a couple younger than you are. See if they need anything that you might be able to help with. If you can face time or Skype with folks – if you know how to do that kind of thing. Do the same thing with distant family members – seeing their faces is much better than simply hearing their voices.

Know that God is going to bring us through this and we will be stronger on the other side. Always remember that the Lord loves you and so does your pastor.

Pastor Charlie



Because the Town of Oak Island declared a State of Emergency on March 21, in a declaration the Town stating, *“The Town urges that all travel be limited to essential travel for property owners and residents, business owners and their respective employees and contractors, and municipal employees and contractors.”* in an effort to comply with this declaration we have decided to limit the hours the church office is open. At this time the office will be open Monday and Tuesday, 9:00am – 3:00pm. Pastor Charlie will be in and out of the office throughout the remainder of the week but is also available at any time you may need him. Pastor Charlie’s cell phone number is 910-471-7825. The rest of the staff is also available by their cell phones as well.

Pastor Raleigh 910-448-1607

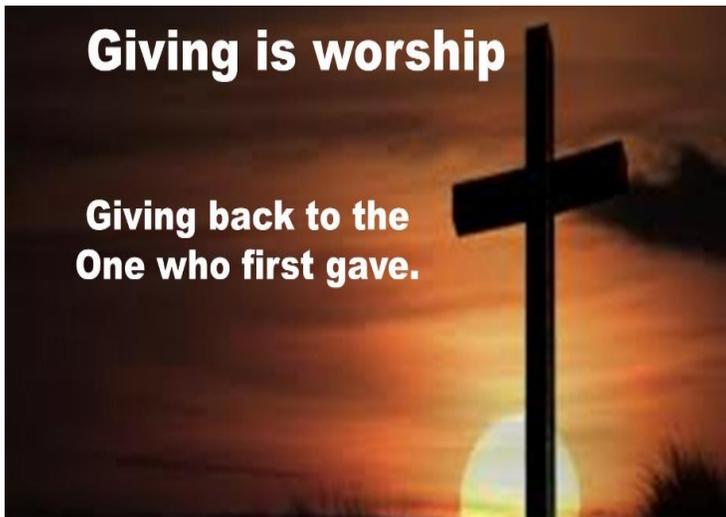
Michelle 336-655-5104

Beth 704-517-7490

Lauren 910-368-5800

We will be sending updates to the church schedule through the One Call phone tree as changes are made. Those updates will come via phone calls, text messages and/or emails.

GIVING TO THE LORD



Pastor Charlie has mentioned during our live streams of Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Sunday morning messages the need for the congregation to continue to give. First of all we are commanded to give. It is an act of obedience. It is also an act of worship as we return a portion of what the Lord has entrusted to us. It is also a way to pass the blessings the Lord gives us onto others.

How can you give when we are not meeting? You can mail your offering to the church. The address is 4608 E. Oak Island Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465. You can also give online through the church's website. If you would like to drop it by the church office, just give Pastor Charlie a call at 910-471-7825 and he will meet you at the office.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

We had planned to begin this special offering for North American missions in mid-March, but we decided to delay it until we better understood what not meeting together was going to look like. We will be mailing out information about the offering shortly. Please be in prayer how the Lord would have you participate in this offering.

It's all
about the
gospel

Happy Birthday

April

01 Marlene Lively
05 Ron Carter; Hailey Crusenberry & Pete Key
08 Mike Goodson
09 Harold Leslie
10 Diane Ellixson
11 Brian Carlson
12 Paul Witmer
13 Ryan Allender
15 Lori White & Phillip Adams
16 Cindy Weaver
18 Maggie Bishop; Gray Frady; Lois Sandy
& Josh Stone
20 Mary Carter; Samantha Barker & Parker Halstead
22 Peyton McCoy & Judy Moon
24 Michele Dye
26 Sue Roberts
27 Nancy Martin

May

02 Raleigh Todd
04 Gail Goodson
05 Sandra McMahan; Betty Taylor
& Danny Tart
09 Benjamin Gibby & Regina
Morrison
12 Russell Sturkie
13 Lisa Johnson & Jacky Stauffer
15 Sherry Watts
17 Eddielyn Bishop
19 Don Poston
24 Jim Browning
25 Fred Steele
26 Woodrow Ellixson
27 Charlie Carter
28 Lynette Nobles
29 Kathy Pearce