



April 1, 2011

Sharing the Fruit of the Spirit
The Grape Vine
Heritage Baptist Newsletter



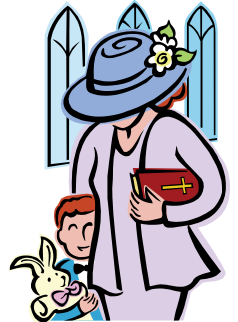
This publication will keep you an informed member of Heritage Baptist.

hbctx.org

Easter

Dates to Remember:

- April 3: Women's Ministry Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- April 3: Men's Ministry Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- April 3: Last day to place orders for "Smoked Chickens"
- April 6: AWANA Theme: Crazy Hair Night 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- April 9: Ladies' Trip to Painted Churches and Wild Flowers
- April 10: Smoked Chickens ready for pickup today
- April 13: Blood Drive 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- April 13: AWANA Theme: Super Dooper Scooper Night 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- April 16: BBQ Social at Pastor Murphy and Sister Mary's home
- April 20: AWANA Theme: Easter Egg-Stravaganza 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- April 27: AWANA Theme: Appreciate Your Leader 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- April 23: Easter Egg Hunt at HBC 10:00 a.m.
- April 23: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- April 24: Easter Sunday



Belize Baptist Ministries Update

Brother Ben and Sister Terese Woodward are praising God for answered prayers! Two of their major needs have been met through donations of a generator and a water purifier. In addition, they have reached 72% of the monthly support needed to advance their work to the field. They will have a booth at the ABA National Meeting to help bring their work to the attention of other ABA churches.

There are still needs to be met! The Woodwards still need a shipping container as well as a vehicle to drive in Belize. In addition, they need to reach 85% of their necessary monthly support before they can advance to the field; just 100 dollars more a month would put them at 82%, so they are praying that the Lord will lead more people to support their ministry. Their target departure date of August 10, 2011 is coming ever closer!

Brother Ben and Sister Terese are thankful to their church family for the prayers and support they have received, and will appreciate our continued prayerful support. Brother Ben says they will have Skype in Belize so they will be able to stay in touch with loved ones here, including their church family. They covet our prayers above everything else, for with God all things are possible.



Pastor's Corner - Bro. Brian Simmons, Associate Pastor HBC



Small groups are still going strong at Heritage Baptist Church, with seven groups meeting weekly. In late March, we will begin a series on spiritual gifts that has been put together by teachers in our church.

This eight-week-long series is called "Gifted to Serve" and highlights the spiritual gifts about which Paul writes in Romans 12:1-8. Verses 6-8 of this passage name these gifts: prophecy (proclaiming truth), ministry (serving), teaching, exhortation, giving, ruling and mercy.

These gifts are evidence of Holy Spirit's activity in your life. They are a self-check to see Holy Spirit working through you. God provides all these gifts in churches and no one gift is more important than another. All these gifts are necessary in order for a church to work the way it should. Some of us are blessed with the gift of ministry, while others are blessed with giving and so on. Some people display many more than one of these gifts.

We should not take pride in these from a human standpoint because Holy Spirit gives these gifts. We need to be available for God to work through us in these different ways.

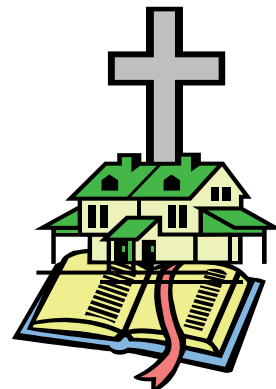
Let me be clear on what I mean by spiritual gifts - we will not be discussing the gifts that were done away with upon completion of the Bible (speaking in tongues and prophecy regarding foretelling future events, for example). God no longer works through these methods, as Paul records in I Corinthians. The gifts we are focusing on are just works that are evident in the lives of Holy Spirit-filled people.

As in the past, this will be a DVD-led study. The teachers are men from church who are either on staff or teach Bible Study classes. Each teacher will cover one spiritual gift. The first lesson will be an introduction to the series, and then the next seven weeks will be focused on the individual gifts.

We have added two new teachers to the rotation - Bro. Brad Bonnette and Bro. Jay Porter - both of whom teach Sunday morning Bible study classes. The other five teachers are: senior pastor Dr. Charles Murphy, music minister Bro. Dennis Bell, myself - associate pastor of ministries Bro. Brian Simmons, youth minister Bro. Jared Murphy and Heritage Baptist Institute president Bro. Carl Fitzgerald.

If you have never been in a home group or have not been to yours in a while, I encourage you to join one (we have seven - stretching from Pearland to Katy!) for this study and see what you've been missing. Home groups are a wonderful time of fellowship and digging into God's Word.

Please send me an e-mail at bri3105@yahoo.com and I will give you more information about these groups and when and where they meet.



Spring Cleaning for the Heart & Soul

"Create in me a clean heart, O God;" Psalm 51:10

As spring approaches we get the urge to make everything in our houses clean and in order. Sometimes we need to do the same thing with our spiritual houses. Remember as Christians, Who is living in our spiritual houses. Sometimes we need to turn our spiritual homes upside down and clean them inside and out in order to present our bodies "a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God." as it says in Romans 12:1. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Evaluate; Everything you do and say and think. Is it pleasing to the Lord? Look up, Colossians 3:17

Get rid of junk; What is getting in the way of serving Christ to your greatest potential? Check Phil 4:8

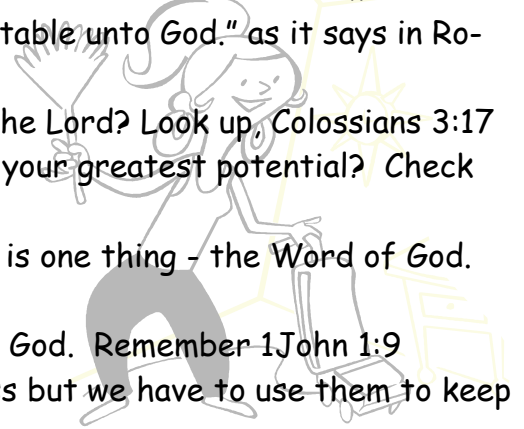
Gather cleaning tools; All you need to clean your spiritual house is one thing - the Word of God. Heb 4:12

Gather cleaners; The only cleaner we need is the forgiveness of God. Remember 1John 1:9

Get to work; God gives us His Word and His precious forgiveness but we have to use them to keep our lives clean. Utilize Psalm 119:11

Keep it clean; Determine not to let it get dirty again by daily feasting on God's Word and being sensitive to the work of Holy Spirit in our lives. Gal 5:16

Women's Ministry 2011



Prayer ministry



Our Church is a Home for Prayer

You are definitely familiar with our church motto: "Heritage Baptist Church is a place to call home." I would like to bring to light another hidden motto of our church, which is, "Heritage Baptist Church is a home for prayers." This church faithfully practices the call by the apostle Paul to pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17).

Prayer requests are faithfully accepted through diverse sources. This starts with our prayer-focused Pastor, who always begins service with a prayer. The prayer processes continue with prayer by the Deacon of the week. It is then followed with another prayer by the usher, before taking the offering. Here comes the sermon time, and the Pastor commences with another prayer before he begins. He then closes it with one at the end. It must be remembered that every class also begins and ends with prayer (including intercessory prayers).

As the sermon commences, the church-wide prayer team conducts prayer on new and old prayer requests from the congregation. This trend continues during evening classes and services, as well as programs during the week such as AWANA, adult Bible studies, and home groups.

Be assured that your prayer requests are never unnoticed. They will surely receive attention in one or several of these avenues. It will be appreciated if you could let us know through any of the prayer avenues when you receive answers to any of your prayers. This will enable us to give honor to Whom it is due, The Almighty God. With your approval, this will also allow us to expunge them from the list and create room for others.

Finally, the church-wide prayer team gladly invites interested members to join our team. The avenue for this is by contacting any of the following parties: your deacon, Sister Vivian Hays, Sister Mary Diggins, Brother Richard Deramo, or Brother Hezekiah Orisafunmi. We will be glad to have you as a member of the prayer team. Again, thank you for praying.



Bro. Hezekiah Orisafunmi
Church-wide Prayer Team

AWANA Themes for April

April 6--Crazy Hair Night: Wear your craziest hair style to club tonight.



April 13--Super Dooper Scooper Night: This has NOTHING to do with cleaning up after the dog and EVERYTHING to do with ice cream! Clubbers will be served ice cream during their game time tonight.



April 20--Easter Eggstravaganza: Easter eggs will be rolling around everywhere tonight!



April 27--Appreciate Your Leader Night: Clubbers, this is the night when you can show your leaders how much you appreciate them for everything they do in AWANA.

