

May 1, 2009

sharing the Fruit of the Spirit

The Grape Vine

Heritage Baptist Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Grape Vine.

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

Upcoming Events

- May 2: Church-wide picnic at Kitty Hollow Park Pavilion - 10:00A.M.
- May 2: Belize Mission Team workday for gift wrapping aprons
- May 3: Church-wide Women's Ministry Meeting 4:00 P.M.
- May 3: Belize Mission Team Meeting 4:00 P.M. in Library
- May 7: National Day of Prayer
- May 8: MOPS Meeting 9:30-noon
- May 15: HBI Commencement Service 7:30 P.M.
- May 17: Belize Third Sunday Breakfast 9:00-9:30 P.M.
- May 22: MOPS Meeting 9:30-noon
- May 24: Completion of Small Groups' Study "I Thess."

ANNONCEMENTS



National Day of Prayer

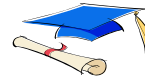
Heb. 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." KJV

This will be a very exciting National Day of Prayer! Brother Murphy will be leading in prayer at two public events. At 10:00 A.M., he will be at City Hall in Missouri City, then at noon, he will be at Town Square in Sugar Land. Please attend either or both of these events; we need to come out and support our pastor, our church, and our nation.

In addition, Heritage Baptist Church will be open from 7:30 A.M. until 6:30 P.M. on this day for anyone who wants to come and pray in the sanctuary. There will be food available in the morning and at lunchtime. If your schedule does not allow you to come to

the church or to attend one of the public events, then please take some time during the day to pray for our nation, our leaders, and our troops.

Graduation Reception



There will be a graduation reception for graduating seniors at the end of May, date and time to be announced. Parents, if you have a graduating senior and would like to be involved in this reception, please contact Mary Bell.

HBI News



Students and faculty send greetings from the world of academia. Our spring semester is drawing to a close. May 5, 2009 will be our last class for the spring semester. As many look forward to a summer break, other HBI students desire to continue their studies through the summer months. As a result, we will continue classroom study, both here and at the Beaumont campus.

Our HBI family invites you to attend the commencement exercises for the 2008/2009 school year. Bro. Glenn Griffith, pastor of Nevill's Chapel Baptist Church, will be our guest speaker. A love offering will be received for Heritage Baptist Institute. A meal will be served at 6:45 P.M. followed by the commencement exercises. If you plan to attend, please RSVP with Sis. Lavena Deramo before May 10, 2009. Please, continue to pray for this great ministry.

Dr. Carl Fitzgerald, HBI President

AWANA



Awana is drawing to a close! We will have our Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend. Even if you are not involved in AWANA, please come and support our wonderful clubbers in their efforts to hide God's Word in their hearts. Then, on May 27, we have our "funniest" night of the AWANA year: AWANA Fair! At AWANA Fair, clubbers can buy tickets with the AWANA shares they have earned, then spend those tickets to play games, slurp snow cones, and generally have fun. Remember clubbers, if by some chance (or mischance) you did not finish your book this year, you can pass sections during the summer and be ready to kick off the new AWANA year in September with a brand-new handbook!

CHRISTIAN ED



A word from Christian Education about our awesome classes. We have classes for all age groups from the Nursery to the Living Longer and Loving It. For the adult's we have College and Career with our very own Bro. Brian Simmons. Then, there's the Tid Bits with deep thoughts of Bro. Jay Porter; Back to Basics Bible Study with the dynamic trio - Bro. Brad Bonnette, Bro. Jeff Coppinger and Bro. Richard Deramo; The Ladies have the all inspiring Sister Veronica George; The LLL class with Bro. David Wood working with our wisest family members; and the From the Beginning class with Bro. Murphy (a small group) in his study.

The long awaited Couples class has finally arrived with Catarino "JR" and Susan Silva and with John and Carrie Hacker teaching combo. This class will surely bring fellowship and growth in God's Word to a new level.

HBC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry is for all women at Heritage Baptist Church. Our goal is to provide fellowship among our Christian sisters, opportunities for service and times to grow in the Word of God. Meetings are held monthly on the first Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. The current slate of officers is:

- Leader --- Connie Rutledge
- Assistant Leader --- Kathy Krebs
- Treasurer --- Cheryl Osborne
- Communications/Secretary --- Jackie Lorino
- Service --- Linda Rodgers
- Special Events --- Carrie Hacker.



I encourage each of you, the young and the not so young, to get involved with our HBC Women's Ministry.

On April 16 and 17, we had our women's retreat. The topic of the retreat was "Under Construction." Thirteen ladies attended and a wonderful time was had by all. Our next activity is a Ladies Night Out on May 14, 2009. This will be dinner at a local restaurant. Watch the bulletin for details. Our next meeting is May 3, 2009. I hope to see you there.

Music Notes



Music ministry is built on worship. The Church's reason to sing comes from what God has so magnificently done for us - given us real life. The music ministry is made up of people - all the people who feel that God has blessed them and they owe Him praise.

All who play instruments, sing, sing along, tap their toes, smile at the joy of the music, or even sing to themselves later in the week are part of this church's music ministry; and so are those who manage sound equipment, make recordings, and those who deliver them to shut-ins. When you add it up we have scores of people involved in our music ministry - praise God!

I am happy to announce to all you "musicians" that we are going to have a special evening every month set aside to hear your version of praise music. The "Second Sunday Night Singing" will be your chance to share your personal favorites by singing them, playing them, recruiting someone to present them, or simply making a request that we sing them together. Whatever your age or ability you will have the chance to share your praise and help us all to worship. Mark your calendar for May 10 at 7:00 p.m. for our first "Second Sunday Night Singing".

SMALL GROUPS



Church small groups are gaining steam across the country as America has seen a revival in Christians getting together in a church members' home for a time of Bible study and fellowship.

Heritage Baptist Church kicked off its home group program last October, and the people involved have loved every minute of it. Church members look forward to their home group meeting every week. It's a chance to cultivate relationships within our church while growing in our walk with God.

We are currently going through a video-led study on the first half of I Thessalonians. It is called "A Spiritual Road Map in a Mixed up World." It is a six-week study on what we need to do to live the Christian life. Join us as ministers from our church teach through this book of the Bible.

Home groups will not have a church-wide curriculum during the summer, due to the busy schedule, but many groups will still be meeting when they can for a time of fellowship and prayer.

In the fall, our small groups will begin a six-week study called "Chosen." It is a new video-led study and our church will be one of the first to go through it. We will look at how we are chosen to know God, to worship, to serve and to know His Word. The video lessons are taught by six American Baptist Association pastors, including our own Dr. Charles Murphy.

After we are done with "Chosen," home groups will begin Volume 2 of the study in I Thessalonians.

If you haven't had a chance to join a home group, we urge you to do so. We all have busy schedules, but setting aside a night for a home Bible study is well worth the time and effort.

We have 10 home groups meeting on several different days throughout the week and in many different locations in the area, so just let Brian Simmons, HBC's Associate Pastor of Ministries, know if you are interested in joining one and he will get you involved.



Got News?

If you have a news item or an announcement that you want to have appear in a future issue of our brand-new church newsletter, please contact Lavena Deramo. Items must be submitted by the fifteenth of the month to appear in the newsletter sent out on the first of the following month. For example, an item must be submitted by May 15 for publication on June 1. You can contact Lavena in person at church, or by phone at 281-499-5780.

Pastor's Corner



"Faith" Heb 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." KJV

We live in a day and age when steadfast faith is necessary in order for us to maintain our spiritual equilibrium in a world that is bathed in sin. Whether we realize it or not, our faith will tarnish, unless we use it. If our faith is kept tucked away in a closet and only brought out on special occasions, we will never be able to keep it bright and workable for God.

I want to encourage you to daily bathe your heart and soul in much Scripture and prayer so your faith, that divine virtue God gave you, will become strengthened in an extraordinary manner by Holy Spirit, and when the times of testing come, you will be strong in your faith.

Dr. Charles Murphy, Senior Pastor



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