

Mount Hermon Baptist Church

Newsletter – August 1, 2019



VBS 2019 – Roar!

It's been a great week VBS learning and fun! Tonight, is the last night. -- Big thanks to those who have led sessions, guided groups, coordinated activities, helped set up, provided supplies! **Be on hand this Sunday for the VBS Celebration at 10:30 am**, an energetic sample of the activities and songs enjoyed this week, followed by a picnic for everyone and a great **waterslide** for the kids.



Note: there will not be a Miss Anne's Music & Movement this Saturday, Aug. 3

Very often, people are obsessed with what others think of them. It's like if a flower wants to be a cactus or a palm but it's not. A flower is a flower, and that's enough. That's all you have to do is be a flower. -- Stjepan Hauser

Happy Birthday! August

6 Karen Blankenship	8 Garet Thompson
7 Jordan Dickson	9 Hal Dickson
7 Mary Ann Mann	9 Bryan Francis
8 Kevin Cornett	10 Corey Willoughby
8 Buddy Carter	10 Natalie Blankenship

Congratulations to Richard & Sarah Hollister in the birth of a daughter, Cora Rose, on July 27 and to proud grandparents, Larry & Barbara Hollister!

Sympathies to Alan Rountree & family, in the death of his cousin, Cindy Waymack. Alan is the Ellisons' brother-in-law.

Sympathies to Jenny Jenkins & family in the death of her mother, Lucy Dorr. Jenny is a medical missionary in Haiti we have supported through the Mount Hermon Mission Offering

Sunday, July 28, 2019

9:30 Groups – 30 Worship – 66

Contributions – \$3,520.00

Avg. weekly need – 4,504.00

Average needs to date: \$135,120.00

Contributions to date: 120,589.00

From the Pastor  ***Are You Born Again?***

I'm a born-again Christian, but that's not the coat that I wear. It's just how my heart's been changed. -- Tony Vincent

Jesus challenged Nicodemus to be born again (John 3). The highly-educated Jewish scholar was a bit confused by such talk. He's not the only one who didn't get Jesus' meaning. It's a powerful metaphor for the drastic change that needs to take place in a human life so that it no longer lingers in a state of sin, separation, and destruction. The change, when made, is so radical, it's as if one has been born again.

What a blessing to start over! We have a new mind, a new heart, a new way of understanding reality, a new way of seeing things. – It's not a smug, self-serving claim to superiority. It's a humble recognition that, left on our own, we don't get it right. Trusting

Christ and living His ways empowers us to get it right... in this life, not just in the life to come.

Jesus talked about dying to the world and dying to self (the ever-selfish, defensive ego). It's a necessary step to getting where God wants us to be. -- I am a born-again Christ-follower. That's not a political label. Mixing faith with political movements always seems to soil and degrade the faith part.

Jesus urges *everyone* to have this change of heart. When the heart is right, the head thinks right. When the heart is right, a person doesn't steal... doesn't lie... doesn't shoot, stab, or abuse another person. When the heart is right, a person cares, shares, consoles, listens, empathizes, sympathizes, does good, seeks to be honest and fair. – To adapt Tony Vincent's point: being born-again isn't a slogan I wear on my hat or T-shirt... it's the radical change directing my heart toward God and others.

God's best to you,

Lee