

Mount Hermon Baptist Church

Enewsletter – April 23, 2020

<http://www.mt-hermon.org/>



Interim Pastor Called

The Transition Team is happy to report that **Dr. Bill Tuck** has accepted a call to serve as our Interim Pastor beginning June 1. -- Bill has served Baptist congregations as Pastor and Interim Pastor in Virginia, Louisiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, and has served as an adjunct professor at Virginia Intermont College, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, VA. He was also Professor of Preaching at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and received the Parish Pastor of the Year award by the Academy of Parish Clergy in 1997. Bill is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *Christmas Is for the Young... Whatever Their Age*, *The Lord's Prayer Today* and *Our Baptist Tradition*, and has written more than 200 articles published in books and magazines.

Bill and his wife Emily live in Midlothian; they have two children and three grandchildren. He enjoys traveling, antiquing, going to estate sales, and spending time with his grandchildren. We are fortunate to have an interim pastor who has such extensive experience as a pastor, author, and teacher. – **Pat Bentley, Wayne Boothe, Karen Blankenship, Tom Burnett, Lee Thompson**



The Mount Hermon Memorial Association

usually holds its annual meeting this week, but since this year is not usual, the meeting will be scheduled at a later date. Be assured that the MHMA officers and team continue the upkeep of cemetery grounds and the service required when burial needs arise.

Easter has come and gone, and we know Jesus was resurrected, but what happened next? In this reading of **John 20:19-31**, some of our Mount Hermon Youth and Children share the story of Jesus' appearance to his disciples.

Enjoy this short video clip we put together while social distancing from home here:

https://youtu.be/4j_ZSuuYRuI

Prayers appreciated for...

Peggy Ryan, Felice Hall's grandmother, in declining health in Alabama
Fess Conyers, Joan Hudson's son-in-law, came home from the hospital yesterday; doing very well

Sympathies to **Ed O'Neill & family** in the death of his brother, Nick O'Neill

Contributed last week: \$2,525.00

Average weekly need: 4,245.00

Happy Birthday!

April

26 Dustin Pratt

27 Steven Robben

27 Jim Woody

27 Jonathan Burks

28 Camille Hansen

29 Jim Bernard

29 Joe Hall

29 Sage Goode

30 Stacy Burks

30 Knox Thompson

May

1 Phillip Brinkley

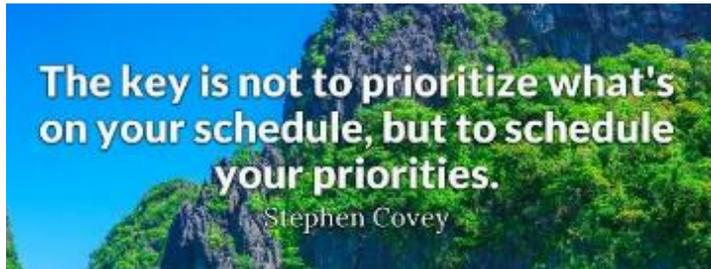
1 Rusty Brinkley

1 Kali Godsey

1 Mitchell Heath

2 Grace Hollister

From the Pastor... The Great Priority



For the longest time, I have begun my workday by updating my *Do List*. There is often a full-page of tasks to accomplish. Once the list is printed, my next job is to decide which tasks are immediate and most important. The rest have to wait until those get accomplished. -- I never get everything checked off that list, but at least I can see what I have done that day and feel good about it.

It's always tempting to begin with the easy tasks or the ones we enjoy doing. That can derail the effectiveness of our work, for sure. You probably agree with the saying: "First things first." But how do you decide what is first? What is truly important and what is not? And haven't you seen the negative consequences of putting off the truly important?

Jesus claimed that the Kingdom of God is to be our priority. As he talked about the basics of life such as food and clothing, he claimed that those important things were superseded by the need to have God be in control of what we do and say. He included a promise about the essentials of life when he said, "**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well.**" – Matthew 6:33.

Is Jesus' *first thing* your first thing? If not, why not? At the end of life, God is the only thing that matters. So why shouldn't God matter most right now? – This priority should guide everything we do and say... *Does this concern fit into God's plan, or just mine?* We are really good at choosing lesser gods, and messed up lives are evidence of those choices.

Perhaps you have had much more down-time during this disruption of our schedules. And perhaps it has caused you to wonder... *What is really important?* If that is one side effect of our restricted activities, then it just might be a very helpful insight.

God's best to you,

Lee