

MARS HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

April 23, 2020

Mini Newsletter



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Scripture Memory Challenge

Luke 24:6-7 (ESV)

He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.



"Listen, Peter, I heard what happened on the lake.
I've got a business venture for you."

OUR PRAYER REQUESTS



<u>MEMBERS OF MHBC & SS</u>	<u>FRIENDS OF MHBC</u>	<u>MISSIONARIES</u>	<u>PLACES & EVENTS</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>MILITARY</u>
Daniel Berry Mary Carolyn Bishop Denver Corley Gene Deitz Bettie Harrison Marty Melvin Beth Oliver Evelyn Perry Rusty Wagoner Bob Wilson Roy Wilson	Jacob Jones Leila Morris Ross Oliver Hank Rhoden Sharon Rhoden Jack Sauer The Family of Anna Lee Gross The Family of Hubert Bishop The Family of Roy Berry The Family of John Best The Family of Gene Akin	Baptist Missionaries Melanie Edwards Harley Grafton Matt Foshee & Family Utah Sam & Melody Harrell Peggy T. Johnson David Platt	War on Terrorism COVID - 19 crisis	Good News Club Lost persons you know Caregivers-esp. Family Members OCIM Our Elected Officials Our Police and Law Enforcement Officers-Chapel Hill	Our Service Men & Women

You can stay connected!

For the past four weeks we have been recording and uploading Wednesday & Sunday service video messages.

All video messages can be found on the Mars Hill Facebook page and on the church's website under the "Video Messages" tab:

<http://marshillbaptistchurch.org/category/video-messages/>

We hope everyone is staying safe and doing well!



**YOU CAN STAY
CONNECTED!**

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WEDNESDAY
& SUNDAY
SERVICE
VIDEO
MESSAGES

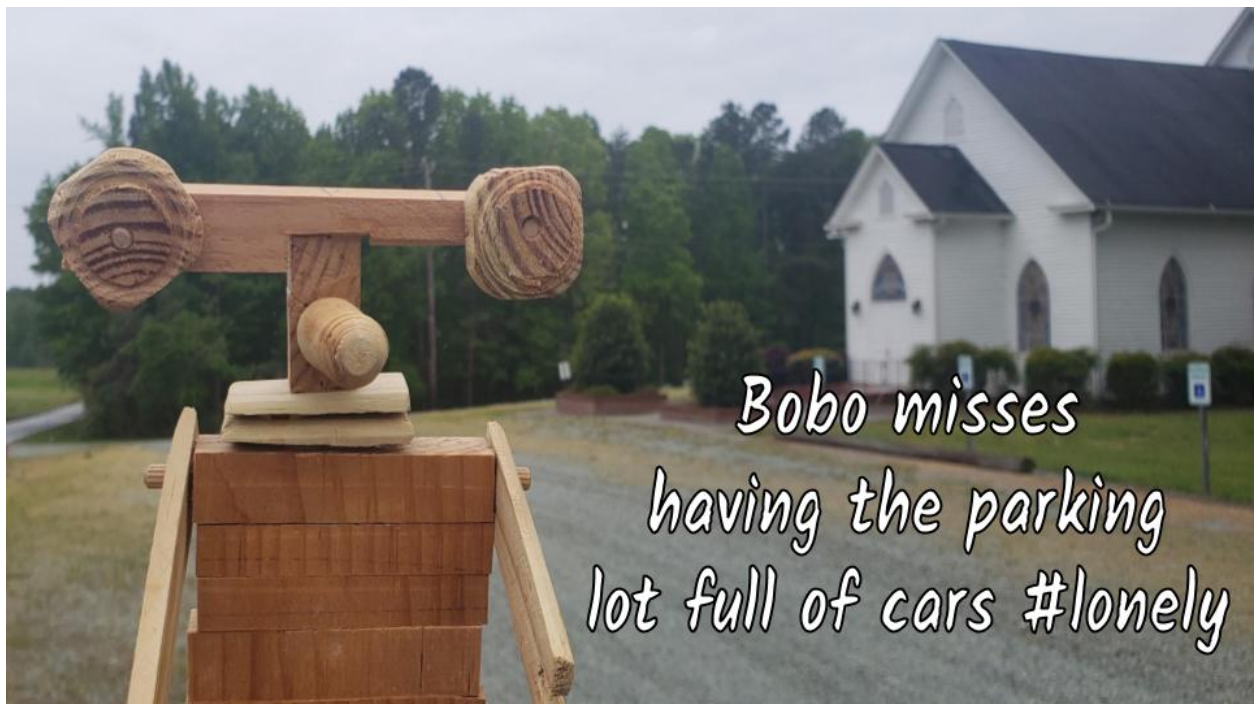
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All video messages can be found on the
church's website under the "Video
Messages" tab!

Mars Hill Baptist Church

A Quick Word About BoBo

For those that have never met or seen Bobo you might be wondering who I am talking about and what a wooden robot is doing pictured in our newsletter. Well, back in 2012 not long after I had called to Mars Hill as pastor I did a series on the ten commandments. For the children's sermon focusing on the second commandment that you should have no idols I made a wooden robot out of some scrap pieces of wood and named him Bobo. He has since made a few appearances in Children's sermons and other things at the church as an illustration to help teach. I thought it might be nice to include him in some pictures in order to bring a little humor and a little bit of levity to our social media and church newsletter. I hope you enjoy the posts including him and you get some laughter through his presence.



Being Honest Instead of Being Fine

(1) Then Job answered and said: (2) "I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. (3) Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? (4) I also could speak as you do, if you were in my place; I could join words together against you and shake my head at you. -- Job 16:1-4 (ESV)

In chapters 16 and 17, Job answers his friends once again after they have accused and abused him in the midst of his trials and suffering. Unsurprisingly, Job doesn't really know what to say to his so-called friends. He has suffered devastating loss, inconsolable grief, and catastrophic health issues and his friends have done nothing but accuse him and blame him. In the midst of all this we can say that Job is trying to be honest before his accusers.

One of the attributes of Job that shines through in the midst of all the turmoil he endures is his honesty. Job never tries to hide or distort the situation he is going through, in fact he is blunt and forward about his pain, suffering, and agony.

Two lessons come shining through in the midst of all that Job is suffering through. First, honesty is vital in persevering through trials. There are many words in the English language that we classify as curse words. We avoid using them as they are foul, disrespectful, and dirty in the sense that it makes those that say it and those that hear it dirty. I think that we need to move one other word on to that list at least part of the time and that is the word "fine."

How often is that word used to cover up the true difficulties of our lives, gloss over the struggles we are going through, and mislead our friends into thinking that we have no troubles or worries. Job is a shining example of someone who was honest about his life and wasn't afraid to share it. Friends we should be able to talk to our friends honestly about our problems and struggles. Bringing problems to light is one of the first steps in overcoming difficulties and trials.

For some it might be confessing a medical problem to a loved one which will lead to treatment and recovery. For another it might be explaining a frustration at work or home which can lead to advice and encouragement. You today might be going through some sort of problem and you just haven't been honest about it. May I encourage you to find that one person you know you can tell and let them know. Being honest about problems we are facing is one of the first steps we must make in order to persevere through the trials that we are in.

And lest you think that being honest like that is a sign of weakness remember there are countless examples in the Bible where two friends or relatives relied on each other in times of need and

that honesty they were able to have between them gave the strength to endure the trials and difficulties of life.

There were David and Johnathan, Moses and Aaron, Ruth and Naomi, and Esther and Mordecai. Not to mention the greatest example of all Jesus Christ. When Christ was burdened, wearied, and going through a difficult part of His life where do find Him? He is on His knees pouring out His heart to His heavenly Father. Honesty is important.

You know a second lesson we can glean from Job is that our words matter when helping friends. The words which Job speaks at the beginning of Job 16 are sarcastic. In fact many of the words that Job speaks fall into that category. One of the reasons is that all three of Job's friends have used words as weapons instead of medicine. Job friends made accusation after accusation against Job and it drove him to where he was a broken man.

In fact Job is so broken by everything that has occurred he begins to think falsely about why he is in this situation. In Job 16:9-11 Job begins talking about God hating him and pouring His wrath out upon him which simply is not true. However Job, as he has endured all the criticism and insults from his friends has been beaten down to a shadow of the man he once was.

Friends, please remember the power of your words. In times of trouble, crisis, and hardship your words can be fiery darts from Satan (Ephesians 6:26) or soothing medicine for the soul.

Dear Lord, we confess that so often we deceive and mislead our friends and family by just saying that we're fine when we are really not. Help us to confide in those that we love and that love us so that we might find the comfort, encouragement, and help we need in times of trouble. Please help us also be the friends you have called us to be, helping others in their troubles and in the pain. Do not allow our words to be weapons but use us to be instruments of healing and hope. For it is in Your Name we pray. Amen.

How to Manage Social Distancing Fatigue

From the Biblical Recorder

By: Willie McLaurin, SBC Executive Committee

April 20, 2020

From the Pastor - this is a great article found in the Biblical Recorder I wanted to share with you. As we have been socially distancing for a while now I know that we can get fatigued and ancedy about when all this will end so I wanted to share some words of encouragement that I hope will help during this time we have to stay at home.

The coronavirus has propelled our world overnight into patterns that are not normal. Many of us had never heard the term “social distancing” until health professionals recommended that this is the solution toward “flattening the curve” of new coronavirus infections.

The initial rush to stock up on toilet tissue, sanitizing wipes and groceries was unprecedented. Aisle 13 at the local store was left with nothing but price labels and signs with purchase limit restrictions. The trusted world of Amazon Prime brought added disappointment as delivery times went from two or three days to four to six weeks.

In most crises, we are accustomed to being inconvenienced for a few days or a few weeks. Now we find our community in an extended season of social distancing.

This reality set in when pastors encouraged their church members to join worship through technology. The first few weeks many churches were scrambling to ensure that online worship and online giving were up and working. The innovation of transitioning to virtual ministry absorbed much of our energy. We were hopeful to gather on campus for Easter worship, only to have our hopes dashed by social distancing extensions. Community as we know it has been put on pause, and for many this has become frustrating.

The real test of social distancing is now upon us. How do we maintain our sanity after Easter? How do we stay motivated and on mission when the world as we once knew it exists no more? Let’s face it, how many more days can you stay in the house serving as resident spouse, professor, chef and cosmetologist? Your daily routine involves moving from one room to the next praying that it’s your turn to make the weekly grocery run.

In a real way many have experienced or will experience what I label “Social Distancing Fatigue.” Social Distancing Fatigue is the cumulative effect of embracing new behaviors for survival that compound over time to a point of exhaustion. Here are three ways to manage social distancing fatigue.

Stay Rooted in the Faith

I would suggest a steady diet of prayer, Bible reading and personal worship. Read through the Psalms or choose a gospel to read through. Commit to adding five minutes to your prayer time each week. I am reminded of the church marquee that read, “Seven days without prayer makes one weak.”

Colossians 2:5-7 says, *“For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

Stay Connected to your Family

“The family that prays together stays together.” That phrase has been around since 1947. I am convinced that one of the ways to stay fresh and to manage social distancing fatigue is to spend time engaging with your family. My family and I have instituted one hour each day for family engagement time, better known as game time. During those 60 minutes, we have resurrected games such as Uno, Monopoly and Connect Four. My family is very competitive, and this competitiveness has been a way to release social distancing stress in a healthy way.

Technology has been a blessing, allowing our family to stay in touch with family members in different locations. The ability to spend a few moments communicating with family and hearing their stories is therapeutic. Be sure to carve out time for family members to express how they are coping amid social distancing.

Encourage family members to journal their thoughts from day to day. Journaling allows people to clarify their thoughts and release their emotions in a healthy way.

There is something special and scriptural about the local church gathering together in fellowship. Psalm 133 declares, *“How good and how pleasant it is when God’s people gather together in unity.”*

Stay Engaged with your Fellowship

I love the energy and excitement from gathering on the local church campus. During social distancing, there is sometimes a feeling of helplessness and fatigue. Take time to pray for fellow believers; write encouraging notes, text or call. You’ll be amazed at how staying engaged will assist you in this season.

Here are two simple nuggets to hold on to during social distancing.

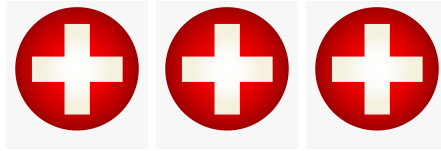
Do Good

Find a way to do something good for someone else during COVID-19. People of faith receive blessings by extending our hearts and hands to encourage others. *“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).*

Don't Give Up

Everyone wants to know: “How long will this season last?” I can’t give you that answer, but I can assure you that you have the power to last. When we practice doing good, we will receive the energy and the grace to see God’s perfect will for our lives through this season. Paul reminds us, *“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6).*

Suggestions for Ministry ideas for the ARMC



For Patients:

Puzzle books or Encouragement cards addressed to any patient- they can be dropped off ARMC near the medical mall and they will give to patients. Call me and I can alert my contact when you will be coming.

Encouragement Cards can also be mailed:

Address to:

**Encouragement to any Patient
1240 Huffman Mill Rd.
Burlington, NC 27215**

For Staff - to help with meals:

Contact **Jordan Wood at 336-538-7941** - ask about how to help.

For help with sewing masks:

Contact **Ann.Meletzke@conehealth.com**

Sincerely,

Garry Gates

A 7-DAY CORONAVIRUS PRAYER GUIDE



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pray for those who are sick, and their families, that the Lord would heal and comfort them.

PRAY FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Pray for those on the frontlines treating those who are sick, that the Lord would protect and strengthen them.



PRAY FOR THE VULNERABLE

Pray for those who are especially vulnerable to disease, that the sickness would pass over them and that they would rely on others for help.

PRAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Pray for those who have lost work, that God would provide through their families and communities.



PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

Pray for national and local government leaders, that they would have wisdom to do what is best for all.

PRAY FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES

Pray for students who are out of school, and their families, that the Lord would give them patience and discipline.



PRAY FOR CHURCHES

Pray for churches and ministry leaders, that they would know how to best show the love of Christ in this time.

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."

JOHN 14:27

LifeWay