

Encourager

Walker Baptist Church

February/March 2021

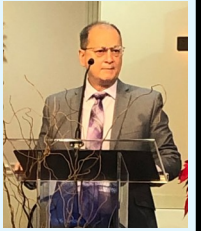


www.walkerbc.org

Activities described in the Encourager and on the calendar are subject to change. The online calendar is kept up to date when changes occur. You can access the updated version on the website.

“Let us not give up meeting together. . . but let us encourage one another--- and all the more as you see the day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:25

Greetings, Walker Church family!



I'm continually amazed by God's goodness. In spite of a worldwide pandemic, racial unrest, political upheaval, and financial uncertainty, we are blessed beyond measure! From a worldly perspective there seems to be little to celebrate. I must admit, there have been moments in recent months when I have wondered about the effectiveness of the local church, especially a small church like ours. Are we making a difference? In a world where close contact is discouraged, and even outlawed, how are we supposed to reach out to a hurting world and offer hope? How are we supposed to wrap our arms around a stranger and share the love of God?

God always provides a way, doesn't He? And He's doing it again! God has opened doors and provided an opportunity for our church to be involved in a home build for Habitat for Humanity. This is exciting news! This spring Habitat will be constructing a home in the Fairview community and has invited our church to get involved. Because of COVID restrictions, we will not be able to participate in any internal construction, but we can do landscaping, siding, exterior painting, etc.

There are several ways you can get involved. Build box gardens at home to deliver to the site. Build birdhouses at home. (A great idea if you want to get your children involved.) You can also volunteer for build site clean-up after the home's framing is up.

If you don't have handyman skills, you can still get involved. You can host a drive to collect construction supplies (work gloves, paintbrushes, bottled water, etc.). A full list of supplies will be provided later. You can collect needed items for the new homeowners (linens, utensils, canned goods, welcome mat, etc.).

Men, we need you to get involved. Ladies, we need you to get involved. Kids, you can help, too! There are ways ALL of us can be a part of this exciting ministry opportunity! Please volunteer! Let us know as soon as possible that you're interested in helping, and we'll make sure that this new home owning family will feel and see God's love in action.

We'll be sharing more detailed information about the Habitat build as it becomes available. In the meantime, please pray about how you can help and decide NOW to join us!

Looking forward to God's continued blessings!

Chuck

“Even a Whisper...”

¹¹The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” -- 1Kings19:11-13 (NIV)

The final question in the passage above, as it turns out, could be answered that Elijah was running in fear from frightening circumstances which he felt would spell the end of his life (Jezebel’s wrath at having all of the false prophets destroyed). As it turns out, he was also suffering from depression that was the aftermath of a huge victory brought about for God’s people—the onset of rain and the ending of a famine. But even this heightened his sense of loneliness as the only apparent remaining prophet of the Lord. He was also physically exhausted. So fear, loneliness, depression and exhaustion are not a winning combination for any servant of God.

God took Elijah aside for a little while and provided him nourishment and allowed him to rest. Then Elijah went to Mt. Horeb, the mountain of God, to see what else God might say in that special place. God told him that He was about to pass by and to watch. So Elijah stood sheltered while a destructive wind literally shattered the rocks of the mountain. Then he endured an earthquake. After the earthquake was a fire. But to this point Elijah did not sense the Lord, even with all of that power. It was what happened next that caused Elijah to wrap his cloak around his face and go out of his hiding place to find God. It was the sound of a whisper...the voice of God.

As it turns out, God was not finished with Elijah as His prophet just yet. He needed to get his attention to make sure that he understood. But once He did, God spoke in a still, small voice that carried more power than all of the violence that had preceded it. He told Elijah that he was not alone in worshiping God only – that there were 7,000 who had not bowed to idols. He gave Elijah very specific instructions about how to carry out his mission as a prophet from that point on, erasing much of the uncertainty and precariousness of Elijah’s situation. God reminded him Who was in control and Who would decide the final outcome of their story as a nation at that point. Elijah, refreshed and encouraged, said “Yes” to God and carried on.

The circumstances around us at times can feel like a tornado, an earthquake, or a devastating fire – or all three. In every case we feel that we have no control over what is happening. Even when we have come directly from great spiritual victories, whether personal, in our family, or with God’s people – the enemy can point to what’s going on in the world and say, “It’s no use – It’s still hopeless” Frankly... I’ve been tempted at times to believe him.

We live in a world today that is largely guided and to some degree controlled by both mass media and personal media. Once an idea gains traction, it is very hard to stop it – be it right or completely wrong. We can feel like Elijah – that everyone is against us and there is no hope.

Instead, let’s take the time to be still, to know that God is God, and to listen for the powerful whisper of His voice – not through media, but through His Word. Allow the Holy Spirit to quiet your mind and sooth your heart and remind you Who is in control of all things. Take time to convince yourself of these twin truths: that nothing escapes God’s notice and that nothing is too hard for Him. Remember Jeremiah 32:17? ... *Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you...*

We will do well to remember this when things look out of control from our side of the tapestry. We will do well to remember this when circumstances conspire to lead us into depression or have us living in fear about what is next. We will do well to remember that God’s voice is heard, not in the noise and confusion of world events, but in the treasured quiet time we give to Him when we open His Word and allow the Spirit to speak to our weary hearts. And if everything is great in your world, you will do well to remember why that is possible and continue to allow God to guide you one step at a time, one day at a time, as you carry out His purposes for your life and find your greatest fulfillment in doing so.

Walking with You,

Andy



GOD LOVES YOU



DEACON OF THE WEEK

Feb. 7	Bill Reitmeyer	615-943-3705	March 7	Chris Wheeler	615-512-5522
Feb. 14	Bobby Hargrove	615-519-1537	March 14	Ed Madden	615-973-3105
Feb. 21	Doug Leonard	615-886-0101	March 21	Charlie Irwin	615-566-1455
Feb. 28	Wally Whidby	615-456-6770	March 28	Tom Massey	615-430-9766



NEWS FROM THE FISH TANK

Thank you to those who have donated items for the backpack ministry for the homeless, which the youth are sponsoring during the winter months. We will be continuing the ministry through the end of March when Room in the Inn ends. Please continue to bring items that the men have requested. You may also donate funds designated for the Backpack Ministry. Items most needed are listed below:

AA & AAA Batteries - Gift Cards (Target, Walmart and Kroger) - Antacids and Pain Relievers - Gloves, Hand Warmers - Backpacks - Hats (New, Adult Sizes) - Hooded Sweatshirts (Adult Small-4X) - Bottled Water - Men's Socks (New) - Boxers/Boxer Briefs (New, Adult Sizes) - Playing Cards - Chapstick - Lotion - Puzzle Books - Cough Drops - Reading Glasses - Sunscreen - Foot Powder (Travel Size) - Thermal Underwear (New Adult Sizes) - Fresh Fruits, Toiletries - T-Shirts (Adult Sizes) - Tuna - Spam - Canned Foods - Snacks - Other Non-Perishable Food Items, Small Blankets.

The Youth continue to meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. This is a good time to encourage a teen who might be uncomfortable attending in person to join us online. Contact me for instructions on accessing the classes.

Thank you for your continued love and support to the youth ministry at Walker Baptist!

Wally

**OUR
GOAL**

\$2800



MARCH 7

through

APRIL 4

ANNE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

This year's theme, The Mission Moves Forward, is a great reminder that no matter what is going on in our country or the world, the driving force behind every church plant, every ministry and every missionary you support through AEO remains the same: make known the love and sacrifice of Christ for every person everywhere.



Why should singing be important to God's people? What does singing accomplish for the church today?

Singing songs in the local church establishes a unique culture that the whole congregation can relate to. The words in the songs we sing unite us and give us a common background. Having this common background can help us, as the church, encourage each other in difficult times and it can help us confront and correct sin. One song that we sing often at Walker Baptist is 10,000 Reasons. In the first verse of this song, Matt Redman writes "whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening comes." This reminds us to worship God, even in the hardest of circumstances.

However, the church should not be musically isolated. Though we are separate from the world, we should seek to find beauty and truth and goodness in the culture we reside in. Though there are evil and sinful aspects of our culture there can be incredible beauty found in popular culture today, that we might not find elsewhere.

Second, and very closely related, the songs we sing teach us about truths which are very important for life and help us know how to live as Christians. When we question our salvation or question if God will truly save us from death by raising us, we can remember the words of Great is Thy Faithfulness, which say, "Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not. As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness;" or maybe we think of the second verse of Before the Throne of God Above, "Because a sinless savior died, my sinful soul is counted free." Having songs that teach these truths helps us to remember them in a way that sermons often cannot.

My late grandfather was a Pastor, and his favorite hymn was Be Thou My Vision. This hymn has always stuck with me, because he lived a life that truly exemplified this hymn. Since my conversion a year after his death, I have often pondered its words and been encouraged by them. Often when I am tempted to make idols out of God's gifts (such as music or comfort or friendships), I am reminded of these words: "Be **Thou** my vision, O Lord of my heart. Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art." Often when I am worried about the future, I pray that God would be "my soul's shelter...my high tower."

Third, singing helps us express things that are more difficult or less beautiful when expressed without poetry. When we sing about God's greatness and his immeasurable worth, it has a beauty that would not be present if those same words were simply spoken. We give God glory by praising his attributes through song. When we sing Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the beauty of hearing everyone sing it is so much greater than if someone spoke words with similar meaning.

Singing is more than just music and it is more than just poetry. And for God's people, it is an incredible blessing to sing to God and to each other, and to make music for God's glory.

Jonathan

Guide to Giving

We appreciate the Walker Family's faithfulness in the area of giving, especially during difficult times. Mailing a check is one way to remain a consistent steward, and giving online is another very convenient way. Below are step-by-step instructions for giving online to Walker securely using your bank card or your bank account.

- (1) Navigate to the Walker Baptist Church website - www.walkerbc.org
- (2) Select "ONLINE GIVING" from the headings (on a computer) or from the options on the drop-down menu (on mobile devices).

(3) Once you have navigated to the Online Giving page, scroll down and choose the red button that says, "CLICK HERE TO GIVE." You will be directed to a page hosted by REALM, our church management software. Follow the instructions to give using your card or bank account. The system will recognize your email address if we have it on file and give credit on your church contribution record automatically. If you have used the system before and it asks you for a password, you may choose to "Continue as Guest." If you would like to establish and use a REALM account, ask Andy to send you a system "invitation" to do so. That way, you may access your giving record anytime and store payment information to make future giving simpler. You can even set up recurring gifts on a schedule you choose.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONARIES March 7-14

One thing you will never hear a missionary say is, "Pray for me less". Prayer is an essential element to ministry effectiveness. As the Holy Spirit empowers missionaries, they need your prayers. You can support your missionaries by praying for their relationships with God, their families and their ministries. The annual prayer calendar for NAM can be downloaded at https://www.namb.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Prayer-Calendar_2021.pdf

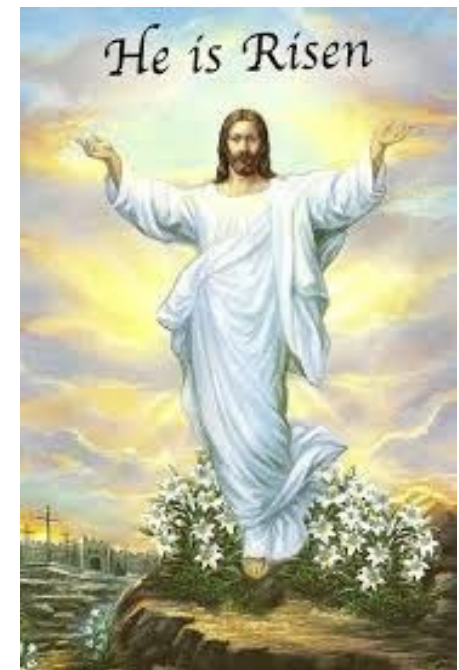


Dear Church Family -- Each and every year, whether in good times or trying times, you come through at Christmas and provide a special gift and blessing for your staff and volunteers. It's not something you have to do, because we are honestly blessed just to have the opportunity to serve you. That may be a trite and well-worn phrase, but think about it -- throughout a very difficult year, we were able to continue in ministry at Walker with no staff changes because you have been so faithful in your giving. What a blessing! And now your loving gift has made Christmas even more special. This is not taken for granted -- it is very much appreciated! May God bless each of you richly this year.

-- Chuck, Andy, Jonathan, Theresa, Wally, Emily, Sandy, & Eric



SUNDAY SCHEDULE		STAFF	
Youth Sunday School on Zoom	9:00 AM	Chuck McElhannon	Pastor
Babies Class available	9:00 AM	Andy Wolverton	Associate Pastor
Adult & Children Sunday School	9:00 AM	Wally Whidby	Youth Minister
Walker Worship	10:15 AM	Jonathan Wells	Worship Leader
Las Americas Worship	1:30 PM	Theresa Rogers	Accompanist
WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE		CONTACT INFORMATION	
She-Shed on Facebook Live	6:30 PM	Church Telephone	615-794-7000
Youth on Zoom	6:00 PM	Church Email	ask@walkerbc.org
Choir	6:00 PM	Chuck	chuck@walkerbc.org
Find us on Facebook at		Andy	andy@walkerbc.org
https://www.facebook.com/wbcfranklin/		Wally	wally@walkerbc.org
Other social media links:		Jonathan	jonathan@walkerbc.org
https://twitter.com/wbcfranklin		W.E.E. Care Telephone	615-794-1202
https://www.instagram.com/wbcfranklin/		W.E.E. Care Email	weecare@walkerbc.org
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJVlu3AI5oqidRnJMY03Ssw		Las Americas	682-240-7533



PLAN & PRAY FOR HOLY WEEK MARCH 28—APRIL 4

Sunday Schedule

Adult, Children, Baby Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Youth meet on Zoom
 Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on Facebook at Walker Baptist Church

February 2021

WEDNESDAYS

Youth on Zoom 6:00 PM
 She-Shed on Facebook 6:30 PM
 Choir 6:00 PM
 Supper, Adult Bible Study and Children in Action are on hold. They will return when deemed safe.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Linda Garnette Howard Yancy  CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	4	5 Emily Sanders 	6
7	8 Wanda Withers 	9 Dolly Hardison 	10 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	11	12 Chuck McElhannon 	13
14 	15	16	17 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	18	19 Sammy Johnson 	20
21	22	23	24 Jane Sawyer Bobby Hargrove  CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	25	26	27
28			 YOUTH (FISH TANK) WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM on Zoom		<i>Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. on Facebook Live at She-Shed Walker Ladies.</i>	

Sunday Schedule

Adult, Children, Baby Sunday School 9:00 AM
 Youth meet on Zoom
 Worship 10:15 AM
 In person and on Facebook at Walker Baptist Church

March 2021

WEDNESDAYS

Youth on Zoom 6:00 PM
 She-Shed on Facebook 6:30 PM
 Choir 6:00 PM
 Supper, Adult Bible Study and Children in Action are on hold. They will return when deemed safe.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Reese Potts 	3 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	4	5	6 Jimmy Heithcock 
7	8 Ed Madden 	9	10 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00	11 Bruce Potts 	12	13 Hannah Catherine Lackey 
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS						
14	15	16	17 Tom Massey 	18 Charlie Irwin 	19	20
			CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00			
21	22 Cindy Darnell 	23 Jacob Chunn 	24 Alexandria Austin 	25	26	27 Charles Bateson Troy Guttormson 
			CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00			
28 	29	30 Ellouise Jefferson Whitney Hosford 	31 CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 PM 	YOUTH (FISH TANK) WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM on Zoom		 <i>Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. on Facebook Live at She-Shed Walker Ladies.</i>