

Hillside Happenings

May & June
2020
Newsletter



Newsletter Contents:

Page 1

- Article

Page 2

- Article (Cont.)
- Staying Connected

Page 3

- Student Ministries
- Summer Ministries

Page 4

- May Calendar

Page 5

- June Calendar

PK's Points

Gut Check

A “gut check” is a phrase that is used when one would be asked to examine their motives. A “gut check” asks, “how important is this?” or “how motivated are you?” or “how bad do you want to accomplish this priority?” And as we long to be released from the stay-at-home order, and plan to get back to regular routines, I would encourage us to do a gut check in regards to certain spiritual disciplines as we are called to “discipline ourselves for the purpose of godliness” (1 Timothy 4:7) and therefore, we must ask ourselves those “gut check” questions.

Responsibilities require discipline, do they not? To be on time, to stay focused on getting your work done, to eat right for the health of your body, to not laugh when your child did something funny, although disobedient. Yes, discipline is hard work and if we had to admit it, we tend to enjoy moments in life where we throw discipline out the window. We enjoy those vacations where you can sleep in and not have any deadlines to meet and eat ice cream for breakfast and let your kids watch more television than normal. But then reality begins to set back in, and the discipline of responsibility hits you in the gut whether you were ready for it or not.

Well, this Stay-at-Home order has been nothing like a vacation, but it has been a time where we have not been able to maintain the discipline of church attendance. As we anticipate the opportunity to get back to “in-person church”, I ask you to do a gut check. A gut check on a couple levels.

Level 1 – Do a gut check regarding your attitude towards authority. Are you willing to listen to the governing authorities despite whether you agree with their decisions? In hearing from many of you, you are ready to have the right to make your own choice as to whether or not you venture out to a store, restaurant, etc., and congregate with more than 10 people. But a gut check asks if you are willing to discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness in the area of submission to governing authorities. For some, this stay-at-home order has lasted long enough. For others, you are thankful that the state is looking out for everyone’s health. And even within our church, there are those on both sides of the matter but the most important position is to side with God’s Word that shares in Romans 13 that we are to submit.

Level 2 – Do a gut check regarding your attitude towards corporate worship. Maybe you have enjoyed not coming to church, “doing” church in your pajama pants, without taking a shower or doing your hair, sitting in a soft chair, drinking coffee out of a mug vs. styrofoam cup. Yes, the enjoyment of being undisciplined for a while,

(Continued on Page 2)

but I want to remind you that the responsibility of reality is coming. Do not get used to “on-line church” for it does not equate with “the assembling of ourselves together”. Hebrews 10:25 calls for that worship assembly for those who desire to be “disciplined for the purpose of godliness”. Let us be looking forward to the time in which we can be back together at church.

At what point does our allegiance to Christ and His Word trump a world government? At what point do we respectfully say, “it’s time to let people make their own decisions?” When do we say, “we ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29) in regards to gathering for corporate worship? These are gut level questions.

We need to remember that our governor did make churches exempt from his shut down order. And therefore, we have chosen to do “on-line church” based on certain recommendations and general statements that suggested it would be best not to meet for a while. We know that when the time comes for us to reconvene meeting in person, that not everyone will agree with our decision. There are those who are anti-Christian who will use this pandemic to say that we ought to not meet, but the reality is, what they really mean is they wish we would never meet at all. There are unbelievers who are indifferent to Christianity and would say that there is no reason for us to begin meeting again so soon because they do not understand Truth. And there are Christians who will think we will meet too soon, perhaps even our own church members, and we will respect their choosing not to be here for a while. If you are in that category, I would encourage you to respect those who are ready to get back together in order to praise the God of our salvation.

Staying Connected

There are many ways to stay connected to the most recent news and announcements at Hillside. If you ever have any questions about these resources, please ask us! We want to make sure that we are communicating to everyone the best way possible.

- **Prayer Chain Texts:** We use Remind to send out text messages for prayer chain updates, letters regarding important service information, etc... If you do not currently receive these texts and would like to, please let Pastor Kevin know.
- **Church Website (www.hillsidebaptistritman.org):** We are continually updating information on our website so please check back often. We are hoping to make some design changes to the website during the month of May, so do not be alarmed if things look a little different.
- **Church Facebook Page (Hillside Baptist Church):** We post links to our services, announcements, and other information on this Facebook page which is available to the public. If you haven’t already, “like” our page to get the most recent information.
- **Church Private Facebook Page (Hillside Information):** This private group is intended to keep our church family up to date on things happening at Hillside. If you are not currently a part of this group, please let Seka know.

Student Ministries

HILLSIDE KIDS

Word of Life
Ages 3 - Grade 5



With the adjustment of doing church online, we have been able to continue working through our teaching series with our students through recorded lessons and live sessions. Until we meet again, all children ages 3 through 5th grade are encouraged to join us on Thursday evening at 7:00 via Zoom.

Teaching Series:

April	Deep Roots: Strengthening Faith for Future Growth
May	Fearless: Courage to Stand

Kids Sunday School
Ages 2 - Grade 5

Thank you to our Sunday School teachers who have adjusted to connecting with their kids via video lessons. Check out new lessons each week on our website under the *Ministries—Childrens* tab, until we meet together again.

Summer Ministries

Although there are many uncertainties about group gatherings in the coming months, we know that God has called us to share the Good News of the gospel with our community.

Pray: Would you be in prayer with us about the ministry events that we do each summer?

- Pray for our church leadership and the ministry leaders as they make tentative decisions and plans/contingency plans for these events. Pray that we can plan a safe environment for these events.
- Pray for wisdom for each individual that may be asked to serve in these ministries. We understand that individuals that have served in the past may not be comfortable serving this year. Be praying and considering if you will be willing to serve.
- Pray for our community and that the ministries offered would be well received by families.

Clothing Ministry - Teen Week - VBS - Summer Bible Club - Church Camp