



Acts 2.37: "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?'"

I love this question – “What should we do?” I oftentimes wonder why this question isn't asked as much in today's church? I think there are a variety of answers – and it mostly comes down to a movement of the Holy Spirit. That movement of the Holy Spirit prompts people to ask these kinds of deep questions that are answered by invitation and initiation. As you read further into Acts you can see that the Holy

Spirit was bringing forth a people that lived a life that made sense in light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. You could say that Jesus was the initiator – who redeems people by his shed blood. Jesus was the pattern – that shows them how to live. Jesus was the victor – who gives them authority to resist evil and be instruments of righteousness.

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of leading a spiritual retreat for our youth. The culmination of the retreat was on Saturday night where our youth were invited to make commitments to Christ. I had a chance to talk with many of our youth on that night and pray for them. I remember one person asked me: “What should I do?” Again, I love this question! I think this question comes from a deep place of longing for God to make things right in our world. I also think that question comes from a movement of the Holy Spirit, where God is stirring us up to seek the Kingdom of God and the Lord's righteousness.

A Letter from your Lay Leader...



I love VBS, the stories and lessons the children learn.

There is something to learn in every phase... Drama, class time, play time, science, craft time, opening assembly and closing assembly and even mealtime. I am a big fan of the music that comes out of VBS. I need to share one that my grandchildren and I really love. It is about David and Goliath. Here is a short version of it:

Hey! Hey Goliath, you look pretty big.
Me on the other hand? I'm just a little kid.
So what? I may not be strong as you.
But there is something 'bout me you don't know,
Here's the truth, see...

You stand before me with your shield and sword but,
I stand before you in the name of the Lord! Yeah!
You stand before me with your shield and sword but,
I stand before you in the power of the Lord! Yeah!
Hey! Hey Goliath if only you knew,
You think you're fighting me but you're really fighting two,
The battle's not mine, it belongs to the Lord!
Greater is the One who's in me than any in the world, so
Hey! Hey Goliath, go ahead and laugh,
I got a couple pebbles hidden in this bag,
When I raise my arm, When I start to swing,
Imma knock you out with just a rock and a sling yeah!
Hey! Hey Goliath...

Now let's set the stage, the Philistines are back again, trying to fight for more land. They're doing a unique kind of battle where each side picks their strongest man, and the side of the winner takes all. It would be like if the NBA playoffs were replaced with a slam dunk contest. Speaking of height, the Philistines have this giant, Goliath. Goliath's *armor alone* probably weighed as much as the average Israelite. Three of David's older brothers are fighting in this war—or to be more precise, *sitting on the hill waiting* in this war, because no one is stepping up to fight Goliath. Meanwhile, David is commuting between two jobs—playing the harp for the king and feeding the family sheep. Then one day his dad is like, “Hey, you don't have a lot going on, right? Can you take some lunch to your brothers who have been sitting on a hill for the past 6 weeks?” Ever the diligent servant, David does. He arrives at the battlefield just in time to hear Goliath mocking Israel, and he asks, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” Word gets back to Saul, but when Saul sees who it is, he's like, “The harpist? Oh man. That's cute, but no.” And David tells him, “I'm not just a harpist. I'm a shepherd at my other job, and I've killed lions and bears with my hands. I can do the same with this guy who is mocking us and our God.” Saul's like, “Well, you're all we've got. Godspeed.” David has an unconventional approach to battle. He rejects armor and just goes with what he knows: a sling and an

incredibly powerful battle cry. Seriously. It's *saturated* with faith in God. ***"You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my and, and I will strike you down and cut off your head."... "That all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD'S and He will give you into our hand." 1 Samuel 17:45-47 ESV***

This is a very familiar story, one that is read over and over. But this story is still true today. This battle cry can be prayed before you start your day. We face Goliaths all day every day. Some are very "in your face" visible and others are like sneaky little snakes and creep in when you least expect them. So, tackle the day by beginning in prayer...

In the name of the LORD of hosts, the God who fights my battles, today's battles are Yours oh LORD and You will be the victor. Thank you, Father, for defeating all the battles the world throws at me today and giving me victory over them. In Jesus Name, Amen

We are victorious in Christ,
Loving you always
Your sister in Christ,
Jessica Blackburn, your lay leader
910-622-1193



EMMAUS GATHERING & POTLUCK

Join us here this Saturday, April 15th at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome!



Are you ready to get away for a wonderful, inspiring, Worship filled weekend to Myrtle Beach? There is group of women heading out to Myrtle Beach for a Women of Joy conference May 5-7. Sorry guys, this is a Women's retreat. We will have an amazing weekend of singing, listening to inspiring speakers, and I believe we have planned for a few hours of shopping as well. Come join us.

If you are interested get with **Jessica Blackburn** for all the details. jmb@rayblackburn.com 910-622-1193



I·M·P·O·R·T·A·N·T

Announcements

WELCOME TABLE:

April 16th: Janice Long & Alma Osborn

Please join us in the Sanctuary for prayer service every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 7:30a.m.

All are invited!



We will be having new membership classes on April 16th, 23rd, and 30th immediately following worship service. Please contact Pastor Philip with any questions.



The men of the church are gathering on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast and fellowship. Please join us as we venture forth in establishing a permanent and sustainable ministry for all men in the church.

For more information contact Dave Davila at davila21@bellsouth.net or Tom Jackson at tsjaction@yahoo.com

The Quilting Mission is now meeting on Monday and Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Please join us...no experience necessary. Any questions, feel free to call Alma at (540) 588-0738



The Thrift Store will be looking for donations of gently used children's clothes for spring & summer.

Reminder: Donations for the thrift store should always come through the Harbor Warehouse. *Thank you for your support!*

Jean Hawley: (910) 330-0760
Beth Walker: (252) 213-2240

Gloria Richardson: (704) 804-4909
Sylvia Bowman: (910) 284-3131

United Women in Faith NEWS & UPDATES



The "Keep Me Dry" diaper program is a mission of the Harbor Thrift Store and supported by United Methodist Women. It is housed at Share the Table where clients can pick up a package of 20 diapers per week to supplement their babies' diaper needs. Studies have shown that 1 out of 3 families experience diaper shortages and our area is no exception. If you are able, please consider donating diapers or a monetary gift. There is a play pen for collection next to the front door as you enter our church. **We are especially in need of size 5 and 6.**

Thank you for your continued support and God's blessings as we care for the smallest ones in our community.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS...



Please join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for Children's Story Time!
Tell a friend, bring a friend!

Jr. Basic is in need of parent volunteers to help with preparing and cleaning up for lunch time. Please let me know if you can help with one of the dates listed below. All food will be provided. Volunteers will be asked to heat up and prepare simple food items (Chicken nuggets, fresh fruit...) and cleanup after.

April 16th: Jr. Basic. Pick up 12:30

A look ahead:

Vacation Bible School June 26th-29th. 5:30 - 8:30pm. Dinner will be served!



***Sun., April 16th~**

Confirmation Sunday (The youth that have been in Confirmation class will join the church at the 9:30am service). It is also Youth Sunday. Please let me know how you would like to serve. We will need Greeters, Ushers, Doorman, Children's helpers, and Readers. We encourage all youth to be there to show support for those being confirmed. Baptisms afterwards at Serenity Point.

Regular Youth group meetings for MS and HS from 5-6:30pm. Note- Confirmands will not meet that evening.

***Sun., April 23rd~**

Monthly Fun Youth outing- specifics, and timing to be announced soon out to parents. Note: Confirmands will not meet that evening as this is a time of discernment for them.

***Sun., April 30th~**

Regular Youth group meetings for MS & HS in the Reef and Library from 5-6:30pm. Last Confirmation Class to meet from 5:30-6:30pm in the Sanctuary with Sponsors.

****Save the Date~**

On Sunday, May 21st at the 9:30am service, we will be recognizing our current Seniors. We will be praying a blessing over them as they begin this new chapter in their lives. There will be refreshments afterwards. This is also Homecoming Sunday! ***If you have a Senior that is graduating High School or College, please let Jewels or the church office know, so that we can include them in this special celebration. (If they are unable to attend in person, please send us their information so that we can include that in the Messenger and the Bulletin). Thank you!

Feel free to contact me should you need further information about anything listed here. We thank you for your faithful support and prayers for our youth and this ministry. Peace be with you.

Blessings,
Jewels Swain, Youth Coordinator
910-232-9844

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

I can trust God even when I don't have full understanding.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

~Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)



Members: Joyce Arnette; Ray Blackburn; Nancy Buckman, *Bescye Burnett*; the family of Harriet Byrd; Doris & Mike Davis; David Decatur; Patty Feige; Janet Hughes; Martha Marlow; Tony Merlino; Larry & Becki Modlin; Sean Mooney, Wendy Mooney and family; Judy Pratt; Paula Smith and family; Dave & Jill Strohpaal

Military: Joe Fraley, Alex Harris, Andy Harrison, Ryan Hermance; Greg Holmes; Sgt. Joey Horne; John Modlin, Branden Mooney, Tyler Ray, David Ritz, Michael Roberson.

Family and Friends: *The family of Mrs. Adelaide Williams Byrd*; Eileen Eifert (John Pratt's sister); Parker Fox; Pastor Tim Gore & family; Fran Graziano & family; Nathaniel Lewis; Wendy Mooney's mother Shirley; Virginia (and Jimmy Platts); Johnny Paliotti and his mother Donna; Connie Paschall; *the family of Edna Earle Lewis Rivenbark*; Barbara & Neil Schilling; Mary Sloan; Stephen Smith; Nancy Sproull; the family of Mathew Treat; Henry Williams; Johnsie Smith's niece Sarah and nephew Mark Wansley

Website Prayer Requests: *Adrian Capps*; Lorraine Chavez; Betty Parrish, Mylinda Paschal & Tetsuo Nakatsu

And all unnamed persons needing God's peace, comfort, and healing. Heavenly Father, I am praying for complete healing and good health. Please take away my worries & grant me inner peace and strength. AMEN

SCRIPTURE CARD- Week of April 17th

Centering Prayer: This is the day that the Lord has made. Psalm 118

M Acts 4.23-31, John 3.1-8

Tu Acts 4.32-37, John 3.7-15

W Acts 5.17-26, John 3.16-21

Th Acts 5.27-33, John 3.31-36

F Acts 5.34-42, John 6.1-15

Sa Acts 6.1-7, John 6.16-21

Su Acts 2.14-33, I Peter 1.17-21, Luke 24.13-35

Key scripture: Luke 24.32: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"



April

3rd: Leo Audet; Meg Barnes; Hiatt Ellis

6th: Sean Mooney

7th: Doris Davis

9th: Amy Phillips; Rachel Shade

10th: Connie Carroll

12th: Nancy Smith

13th: Allison Stowers; David Strohpaul

20th: Janice Long

21st: Kathy Dixon; Janice Morton

22nd: Ben Black

23rd: Patty Feige

27th: Ann Bryan



MAY

2nd: Isaac Henry

4th: Michael Alexander; Kevin Woolard

7th: Gail Ace

8th: Linda Wells

9th: Jessica Matthews; Tamara Jones

11th: Hunt Tayloe

13th: David Cosner

17th: Caroline Shepard; Sandy Sly

18th: Oscar Phillips; Austin Hengst

20th: Doug Medlin; DeAnne Chryst

27th: Emma Chryst

HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT FAITH HARBOR UMC

Sunday, 4/16

Youth & Confirmation Sunday

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 New Member Class
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6
10:30 JR Basic
5:00p.m. MS/HS Youth Group

Monday, 4/17

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
3:00 Bible Study, Rm. 6
6:30p.m. Cub Scouts, Rm. 1-4

Tuesday, 4/18

7:30 Open Prayer
9:00 Quilters, Rm. 6
10:00 Children's Storytime
7:00p.m. Women's AA Group/Reef

Wednesday, 4/19

9:30 Communion
10:30 Staff Meeting
4:00p.m. Finance Meeting
6:30p.m. GS Troop #4242
7:00p.m. Choir practice
7:00p.m. Boy Scouts/Reef

Thursday, 4/20

7:30 Open Prayer
12:00 AA Group, Rm. 6
6:00p.m. GS Troop #2424
6:30p.m. SPRC Meeting

Friday, 4/21

8:30 Women's Breakfast Group

Sunday, 4/23

8:00 Beach Service
9:30 Worship Service
10:30 Adult Bible Study, Rm. 6
10:30 New Member Class
MS/HS Youth Outing