



The Messenger

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

Gatekeeper or Gate greeter

Gates are mentioned often in the Bible, and the gatekeepers were very important and prestigious men.

The Ancient cities had thick walls around them to discourage invaders and heavy gates that controlled who entered or exited the city. The gatekeeper had to be trustworthy and ready to prevent anyone who might try to cause trouble. In Psalm 141:3 the Lord Himself is described as being the “guard of our mouths.”

David and Samuel appointed 212 porters to keep the gates of the Temple of the Lord. Ezra records that 139 gatekeepers made the return trip to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. And Nehemiah, after the wall around Jerusalem was rebuilt, appointed gatekeepers. Before the city could be considered back in business, it had to have guards for the gates.

Many today feel called to be gatekeepers, of sorts, in the church, maintaining traditions, keeping order, limiting change, and keeping outsiders away. I will admit that there is some value in that position even today. I understand where the gatekeepers are coming from.

I believe, however, that Christ has called us to a different position. It is our privilege to be gate greeters. We are to welcome people into a relationship with Christ, to include them in our Family, to invite them to share in the joy of worship. To encourage new people and introduce them to Jesus.

Jesus came not only to show us how to live by God's rules, but the purpose behind the rules. (Matthew 5:17) In Jesus we learn that God's love for us is so unfathomable that we can't even begin to know how deep it goes. And that God's love is for all people; Jews, Gentiles, male, female, slave, or free. Once we receive His love and understand His love, we are to show His love to everyone, to share it with all the world. We are to welcome and to invite everyone to enter that relationship.

We are the greeters, a priesthood, a chosen race, a holy nation, and God's own people “in order that we may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

We are to be gate greeters, on a mission with Jesus to reach those who are outside, and bring them inside His Holy City. As Jesus said in His sermon in Nazareth, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19) Jesus did not come to guard the gate against those who were unworthy to enter, but to throw open the gate so that whoever wants to might come into the presence of God. That is why I was allowed to enter Gods' Holy Temple and why you were allowed to enter. Now that we know Him, we should see ourselves as greeters, not as guards. Greeters who welcome all those who hear the invitation to come to Jesus. All those who are weary and heavy laden who come to Him and find rest.

Terry Fortner

Celebration and Praise Service

August 30 is the fifth Sunday of the month, time for our "Celebration and Praise" service, when you are invited to share a song, poem, scripture, testimony, praise, request, etc. with the congregation. If you have something to share, please let Bro. Gary know. The service begins at 6:00pm. Wear masks and observe distancing. We will not have our normal Finger Food Fellowship this time due to Covid.

Statewide Prayer Gathering 2020

One location for this year's Prayer Gathering on Monday, August 31, and Tuesday, September 1, will be the City Center at LR Immanuel Baptist Church. This is an in-person event with a livestream alternative, which requires registration to access. There will be Prayer Gatherings in four additional locations. For more information and to register please go to absc.org.

Sunday, September 6, we will observe the Lord's Supper in the morning service.

Week of Prayer for Arkansas Missions

"I am Dixie Jackson." In Arkansas, Dixie Jackson is every Baptist who passionately prays, gives, and serves, making missions work possible across our state and beyond. The Week of Prayer for Arkansas Missions and the Dixie Jackson Offering is September 6-13. Please pray for Arkansas Missions, and give to the Dixie Jackson Offering as the Lord leads you. Use the prayer guides included in the September 6 bulletin. Arkansas state goal is \$1.8 million. ZHBC's goal is \$5,000.

All times and locations are subject to change.

September Activities

1	9:30am	Searchers Class Bible Study, Mickie Vann's home
	10:00am	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
2	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall The <i>Switch</i> , Basement
6	9:30am	Deacon Meeting
	9:45am	Co-Ed 4 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
		Sunday Worship/Lord's Supper, 11am Sanctuary; No Evening Service Labor Day/Office Closed/Schools Closed
7		
8	9:30am	Searchers Class Bible Study, Mickie Vann's home
	10:00am	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
9	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall The <i>Switch</i> , Basement
13	9:45am	Co-Ed 4 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
		Sunday Worship, 11am, and 6pm Bible Study
	6:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
15	9:30am	Searchers Class Bible Study, Mickie Vann's home
	10:00am	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
16	6:30pm	Business Meeting, Fellowship Hall The <i>Switch</i> , Basement
20	9:45am	Co-Ed 4 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
		Sunday Worship, 11am, and 6pm Bible Study
22	9:30am	Searchers Class Bible Study, Mickie Vann's home
	10:00am	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
23	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall The <i>Switch</i> , Basement
27	9:45am	Co-Ed 4 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
		Sunday Worship, 11am, and 6pm Bible Study
29	9:30am	Searchers Class Bible Study, Mickie Vann's home
	10:00am	Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
30	6:30pm	Wednesday Night Bible Study, Fellowship Hall The <i>Switch</i> , Basement

Sunday School Teachers and Officers Meet

Steve Holmes will meet with the Sunday School Teachers and Officers for the 2020-2021 Church year 5pm Sunday, September 13. This is a very important meeting about the possibility of resuming classes on Sunday mornings. Please call Steve at 501-231-9246 if you have questions.

New Sunday Evening Bible Study

Bro. Terry will begin a new Sunday evening Bible Study on September 13. It is the first volume in Lifeway's new *Explore the Bible: Characters* series and is entitled *The Patriarchs*, which examines in 6-sessions the best known characters in Genesis who were great men of faith.

Graves Memorial BC Mission Event

Graves Memorial BC is sponsoring a Mission Event for Saturday, September 19, in the Crystal Hill, Oak Grove, Morgan, and Marche communities. They are seeking volunteers and donations to reach these areas with the love of Jesus. Call the office for more information.

Fall Festival Planning Meeting

The Kitchen Committee and the Recreation Committee will meet at 5:00pm Sunday, September 20, to begin planning for the possibility of a Fall community outreach this year. The Covid pandemic will require new ideas to allow physically distancing, if that is still mandated for groups, and still be able to interact with people. If you would like to help with the planning, please join these committees at this meeting, which is open to anyone who wants to help.

NPBA Annual Meeting tentatively set for Central BC 6:00pm Thursday, October 8.

Contact Us

Zion Hill Baptist Church
11923 Zion Hill Rd
Cabot, AR 72023

Office: 501-988-4989

Fax: 501-988-4020

Email: zionhillbc@gmail.com
Website: www.zionhillcabot.com

Please use the following contact info when the church office is closed on weekends and holidays.

Terry Fortner, Sr. Pastor
terry.fortner@zionhillcabot.com
501-690-3428

Gary Vaile, Music Director
gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com
501-519-2868

Annette Hammons, Secretary
zionhillbc@gmail.com
501-286-0731

Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday am services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons.