



### Back-to-School Ice Cream Social TONIGHT

In the Annex @ 5:30PM

The Audia/Bullard/Clem

Growth Group will host a devotional and ice cream fellowship. Bring your favorite ice cream flavor!



Summer Wednesday VBS

### End-of-VBS Celebration

THIS WEDNESDAY, 8/30 at 6:50pm in the picnic shelter.

Pizza and snacks will be served. Please let Kylie Cochran know if your children will be attending.



Ladies' Bible Class

### All Ladies Invited!

Ladies' Bible Class starts back Thurs., Sept. 7th from 10-11AM in the large Annex classroom. Class will meet every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Thurs.

Course of study: 2&3 John, Titus, and Philemon. See Naomi Bullard for more info.



Yard Sale

If you are interested in participating in a multi-family yard sale in the church parking lot on October 21st, please contact the office or see Angela Worrell.



### Metal Drive

The metal drive fundraiser for Honduras continues! We are especially interested in collecting aluminum cans. A can collection container will be placed outside of the Annex kitchen door. Members with large items for donation may contact Ron Farley.

### M.A.G.I. Project Message from Healing Hands



"When the M.A.G.I. Project began at Healing Hands in 2000, we were sending about 6,000 boxes to needy children each year. Because of the dedication and excitement of individuals like you, we are now sending more than 20,000 boxes and that number continues to increase each year. In every village where these boxes are distributed, there are always several children who still did not receive a gift because we just didn't have enough. It is heart-breaking to look into the eyes of a child and say, "Lo Siento, no mas." (I'm sorry, no more). However, it is a

great source of joy to return to that same village the next year and present that same child with their very first Christmas gift because the response from the U.S. has increased. Will you be a part of sending love in a box to that one special child?" See Harriet Yelton for more info. **Our deadline for Honduras: Thursday, September 28, 2017.**



No matter who you are, where you've been, or what you've done,

welcome TO TODAY'S praise & worship

ASSEMBLY

where imperfect people serve a perfect God

August 27, 2017

dedicated to discipleship - 2017-

### Survive, Renew, & Thrive Again

How does a church turn around when the leaders and membership realize that their congregation is in a state of decline?

The sad truth is that most do not. According to church growth authority Thom S. Rainer, most churches that are headed toward closure are going to choose to die. That's not because they want to die, but because the changes that would be necessary to avoid closing will not be made. Most churches would prefer to die than to change, so they continue to do the same things even in the face of decline. According to research, most declining churches die.

How could we beat the odds and go in a different direction? What are things that we can do? Here are a few.

**Pray.** Church life and growth are established and caused by God. If a person made it happen alone, then it isn't a work of God, and it isn't really a church. If we want our church to thrive, God and his Spirit have got to be at the heart of it. We are in absolutely no control of God, but we can ask for his help. Prayer for our church is at the heart of renewal and revival. Don't wait for official permission or a planned event - you do it! Each of us can make this happen. What would happen if everyone in our church called a friend from church and said, "Would you come over to our house this week and pray with us about our church?"

**Fellowship.** The church is more than a worship club. It is a network of relationships and friendships. Our church needs to have more fun together. We are paying a lot of attention to doctrine, but not as much attention to recreation time together that makes a space for us to love each other well. Our spiritual lives require playful and joyful experience with each other. What would happen if everyone in our church called someone else in our church and said, "Will you come play cards/dominos/Farkel with us tonight? Let's just have fun together."

**Shift Focus.** Churches in decline have one thing in common: an inward focus. Instead of being most concerned about a welcoming, missional environment, declining churches are focused on keeping things "the way I want them." Protecting turf, paying close attention to who wins, or who gets to have things their way - those things aren't a good idea when a church is growing. In a declining church it is the path to closure. Churches only thrive when they draw in new people, and that only happens in an environment that is willing to bend and change. What would happen if everyone in the worship service was thinking, "What can I do to make sure everyone else here feels welcomed and loved?"

More suggestions will come in future articles. None of these are gimmicks or quick fixes. These things don't cause renewal, but they can open our hearts to God's work. The question we face now is this: are we going to be like most churches that are in decline, or do we want to be one of the rare ones that survive, renew and thrive again? - Ethan Brown

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http://www.youtube.com/user/HVLCOC



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**Prison Ministry donations:**  
canned drinks and individually wrapped snack cakes

**PRAYER LIST**

**Our sick and hurting**

Marie Bain	Sean Bain
Jerry Chitwood	Jeremy Cochran
Debbie Davis	Faith Feidner
Suzanne Gore	Esperanza Harrington
Pete & Vel Hunter	April Landrum
Evans Learned	Bill McKelvey
Dakota Moody	Peggy Price
Mike Rhodes	Sam Ruth
David Sayre	Brenda Senn
Henry Snipes	John Tyler
Mike Ulman	Don Yelton

**Family & friends to remember**

Nancy Adkins, Hugh Price's sister  
Ashley Baillairge, Susan F.'s granddaughter  
Larry Brown, Rod's uncle, severe infection  
Brian Conway (former SECH) home in TX  
Steve & Carmen DeMerritt, Kristen B's family  
Larry Farley, Ron's brother  
Charles Gambill, Dianna Teel's father  
Austin Grogan, Ron Farley's uncle, heart surgery  
Barbara Hatchett, Pat Jarvis' cousin  
Gary Henry, Darlene's brother  
Bill Hickerson, Sherri's dad, health issues  
Lee Hickerson, Sherri's brother, job search  
Gary Keevert, Jim's brother, pain has returned  
Janet Link, friend of Darlene & Gerri, cancer  
Steve Martin, Vicki's uncle (Reba's brother)  
Larry Morgan, friend of Morrows, cancer  
Rod Price's mother, recovering from a stroke  
Will Sink, Paula's son, MERSA in hand  
Blake Thomas, Jessica Bain's brother  
Margaret Witten, blood clots and anemia

*Please write requests and updates on the back of your attendance card.*

**Visit our shut-ins**

Reba Haynes  
Mary Francis Lykins  
Helen Swayngim  
Collie & Lena Whitted



**Calendar of Events**

- 8/27 Sunday PM devo & Back-to-School Ice Cream Social hosted by Audia/Bullard/Clem Growth Group.
- 9/2 Hotdog & Hug Ministry, 12:30PM
- 9/7 Ladies Class, 10AM
- 9/8 Movie Night @ 7PM
- 9/9 PBC Golf Tournament @ 1PM
- 9/21 Ladies Class 10AM
- 9/22 Movie Night @ 7PM
- 9/24 EEM Million Dollar Sunday

Please donate your coupons for the troops. The donation box is in the Foyer.



**Back-to-School**

We are thankful for all of the children, teen, and college students that are a part of this congregation! Our love and prayers are with you all as you begin new adventures this school year! May God bless you in all you learn and do!

**Pray for our Mission Efforts**  
**Domestic**

Jerry Senn (Burnsville, NC)  
Southeastern Children's Home (SC)

**Foreign**

Eastern European Missions  
Mission Lazarus (Honduras)  
Nekemte (Ethiopia)  
Samrit Kammanee (Thailand)  
Steve & Dianna Teel (Baxter Institute)



**An attended nursery is available for ages 0-2yrs. Busy Bags are in the lobby for all ages.**

**Today there will be no Children's Worship, so that the children can view the Honduras presentation.**

**TONIGHT**  
**Devo & Ice Cream Social at 5:30PM in the Annex**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**HVL Café will resume on September 13th**

**Please join us for classes each week at 6:50PM!**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

**-SUNDAY-**

9:30 am—Bible Class  
10:30 am—Morning Worship  
5:30 pm— Evening Worship

**-WEDNESDAY-**

6:50 pm— Bible Class

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday, 9AM—3PM**

**Secretaries:** Karen McGee & Kylie Cochran

**MINISTER** Dr. Ethan Brown —1-806-789-3606

**ELDERS**

Duncan Blake—828-242-8326  
Lloyd Cain—891-4459  
Fred Gore—828-606-8752  
Bill McKelvey—891-4787  
Hugh Price—698-3841  
Sam Williams—1-828-748-3263

**Morning Worship**

*Welcome Members and Visitors! Everyone, please fill out Attendance Cards and place them in the collection tray.*

**Song Leader ▪ Fred Gore**

**We Praise Thee, O God—2**

**Praise the Lord—74**

**Medley:**

**Lord, We Come Before Thee Now—797**

**Dear Lord and Father of Mankind—770**

**Create In Me A Clean Heart—71\***

**Prayer ▪ Tom Bullard**

**When My Love to Christ Grows Weak—350**

**Communion Leader ▪ Chuck Borman**

*Serve: Eric Adkinson, Floyd Grindstaff, Garrett Adkinson, Henry Snipes, Hugh Price, Jacob Bullard*

**Holy Spirit Dwell In Me—insert**

**Luke 21:5-7 ▪ Mark LaFever**

**Falling Temples and the Honduras Mission**

**I Bring My Sins to Thee—917**

**Announcements & Prayer ▪ Bill McKelvey**

**Worship Coordinator: Duncan Blake**

**Ushers: Jim Bolin, Jim Keevert**

**Nursery: Katie Williams**

**Sound Room: Mark Audia & Lucas Carpenter**

**Recent Weeks' Statistics**

	August 6	August 13	August 20
Attendance			
Sunday AM	130	128	112
Sunday PM	38	68	67
Contribution	\$5,155	\$4,947	\$3,967
Budget			\$4,967
YTD Budget			\$168,856
YTD Contribution			\$166,089
YTD Weekly Average			\$4,885