



# Messenger

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021

## New Year 2021

We have all just gone through a year like no other for the world, the nation, and Zion Hill Baptist Church. Things started out normally in 2020, and then in March COVID-19 invaded our lives. In an effort to ensure the safety and health of those who attend the church a decision was made to cease meeting until the crisis had passed. The services were online and on Facebook. Then the crisis continued and the Resurrection Celebration became a Drive by. Next Graduation Ceremonies didn't happen. Then Mother's Day, Father's Day, the Church Picnic, were cancelled. VBS was changed, Fall Festival, and now Christmas. Social Distancing and no hugging, no handshakes. Those were replaced with hand sanitizers and mask. Herd immunity, COVID screening, and flattening the curve became part of our vocabulary and our lives. Funerals became private family-only graveside services, or delayed, as the way we respond to grief and loss of our loved ones was changed. Hospital visits and surgery waiting room ministry became a phone call only. Pot lucks and Fellowships couldn't happen. Meetings happened only by way of text messages. Then when we tried to have a return to Bible Study and in person Worship our number of people in the building was only about half what it had been before COVID-19. There was no mission trip, no summer camps, choir practices were not possible, there are no hymnals, and no offering plates being passed, no Lord's Supper trays, traditions, and the way we do things were changed. Do you know how much Baptists love changes?

Also, in March, Bro. Matt Hill, who we all loved, resigned after 9 years with us to pursue God's calling in his life elsewhere. The Personnel Committee went to work and in God's will and in answer to our prayers Richard Barkhimer joined us in October, as CYE – Children, Youth, and Education – Director. I am looking forward to the ministry God has in His will for Richard once the COVID-19 crisis is over.

It is almost overwhelming when you think about how things have changed since January 1, 2020. In spite of all that has changed this past year, I rejoice because the truth of the gospel has not changed. God loves sinners, like me and you. He sent His only Son to take our place and die on a cross to pay our debt. Jesus arose from the grave, and one day, maybe very soon, He will come again.

As we face an uncertain future after a very difficult year, we will continue to trust in Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We will continue to worship God, in whom there is no variableness, no shadow of turning. Let us continue to be faithful to the Rock of our salvation and the foundation that has been laid for us in Christ as we start a new calendar. Thank the Lord for 2021.

*Terry Fortner*

Dear Zion Hill Family,

As we close out 2020, the year of uncertainty as some may call it, I want to send a reminder that none of this was uncertain to God. The one that holds the world in His hands knew every second, every plot twist, every curveball that 2020 threw at us. From the Coronavirus striking the globe, to the leaving of a beloved staff member, to church services being shut down, to drive-through VBS, to the hiring of a new CYE Director, to now. God knew it all. He knew when He sent His son to die on the cross over 2000 years ago that 2020 would be a year that would always be remembered. We all have endured suffering this year, but hold strong because God is still faithful.

I got off to a rough start here at Zion Hill, coming in during this wild time, but I was always reminded about the day I was able to bring God's word to you all. Matthew 6 tells us that if God takes care of the grass and the birds, what do you think he will do for His followers? Seek God and the rest will take care of itself. Find that peace in God. I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow.

2020 has taken me places I never thought I would go, all because I focused on God's plan. I moved 5 times this year. I have made some lifelong friends. I have lost friends. I have found peace with who I am. I found Zion Hill, the place God has called me to be at for the time being. It has been a roller coaster of a year dating back to before 2020, but I am proud of my 2020. I am proud to say, through this mayhem, God is faithful. 1 Peter 5:10 states "The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered for a little while." I have found this to be true in every sense. Look back on 2020 and see where it broke you, and see where God brought you back up from it.

I am looking forward to what the future holds because I know as long as we maintain in God's will we will be just fine. There is no better place to be than in the favor of the Lord! I am excited to bring in the New Year at Zion Hill, and I am excited to see what God has in store for 2021! God bless you all!

-Bro. Richard

### Missions for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Christmas ornaments made by GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends are available in the Breezeway for a donation to the LMCO. Thank you for your support of the LMCO and our Children's mission groups. We have received \$8,354 toward the church's \$10,000 goal.

### Sunday, January 3

- \* Deacons meet at 8am
- \* Lords Supper will be observed during the morning service. Please contact the church office if you want to participate in the Lord's Supper, but can't be present in Sunday's service.

### January Bible Study – Living with Assurance

Bro. Terry will lead the January Bible Study beginning Wednesday, January 6, at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. This year's study is on the Epistles of John, and is entitled *Living with Assurance*. The focus of this study is on how our understanding of Jesus impacts our daily lives in practical ways, including recognizing false teachers and learning to live with assurance of eternal life because of our relationship with Jesus. Books are available on the literature table in the Breezeway.

**Saturday, January 9, at 9am help is needed to take down our beautiful Christmas decorations.**

### Stewardship Sunday School Lesson

Youth and adult Sunday School classes will have a special Stewardship lesson Sunday, January 10. The lesson is from the book *TEN percent: A Call to Biblical Stewardship*, which was written by Ronnie W. Floyd. Dr. Ronnie Floyd is president and CEO of the Executive Committee of the SBC. Prior to his election in 2019 he served 32 years as pastor of Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas. This lesson teaches the Biblical principle of the tithe, honoring God with the first ten percent of all He has given to us. This practice is an act of worship, putting God first in our life, setting our heart right toward God, and, as a result, positioning our life to be blessed by the Lord.

## January Activities

1		Happy New Year!/Office Closed
3	8:00am	Deacon Meeting
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11:00am	<b>Worship/Lord's Supper Observed</b>
	6:00pm	Bible Study—Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Basement
5	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
6	6:30pm	January Bible Study, The Switch, GAs, RAs, Mission Friends
9	9:00am	Help Needed to take down Christmas Decorations
10	9:45am	Sunday School/Stewardship Lesson
	11:00am	Worship
	5:00pm	Church Council Meeting
	6:00pm	Bible Study—Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Basement
12	6:00pm	Preschool/Children Committee Meeting, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
13	6:30pm	January Bible Study, The Switch, GAs, RAs, Mission Friends
17	9:45am	Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Bible Study—Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Basement
	6:30pm	Finance Committee Meeting
19	10:00am	Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
20	6:30pm	Business Meeting
	6:30pm	The Switch, GAs, RAs, Mission Friends
21	6:00pm	NPBA 2021 Kick-Off Dinner, North Hills BC
24	9:45am	Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Bible Study—Adults in Sanctuary, Youth in Basement
26	10:00am	Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
	7:00pm	Co-Ed 3 Class Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
27	6:30pm	January Bible Study, The Switch, GAs, RAs, Mission Friends
28	6:00pm	NPBA 2021 Kick-Off Dinner, Jacksonville SBC
31	9:45am	Sunday School
	11:00am	Worship
	6:00pm	Celebration and Praise Service, No Finger Food Fellowship

### Preschool/Children Committee Meeting

Preschool/Children Committee will meet Tuesday, January 12, at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall to begin planning for Valentine's Day, Easter, Vacation Bible School, and church camp.

### NPBA 2021 Kick-Off Dinners

*Better Together* is the 2021 theme for North Pulaski Baptist Association. There will be two meetings on different dates and at different locations. Thursday, January 21, the meeting is at North Hills BC from 6-8pm. A boxed dinner will be provided. Deadline to register is January 18. Thursday, January 28, the meeting is at Second BC Jacksonville from 6-8pm. Dinner will be served. Deadline to register is January 24. Register by contacting Martha Freeman at [martha@northpulaskibaptist.org](mailto:martha@northpulaskibaptist.org).

### Bayou Meto Elementary Food for Children

Want to feed children? You can help at least 65 children at Bayou Meto Elementary School with food for the weekend. Items needed:

- Individual packets of oatmeal or cereal
- Individual or whole box Mac & Cheese
- Granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Juice boxes
- Vienna sausages or tuna
- Cans of soup, chili, or pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, etc)

Information sheets and collection box are in the Breezeway. Large donations can be taken directly to Bayou Meto Elementary, but you must call first because of Covid. For more information please contact Susie Dodson or Renee Hand. If you can help by taking the weekly donations to the school, please call Susie Dodson, Renee Hand, or the church office.

### NPBA Men's Retreat

A Men's Retreat has been scheduled for February. "Standing Firm in a Shaky World" is the theme, and it will be held at Fairfield Bay. Registration forms are in the Breezeway.

## 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](mailto:zionhillbc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.zionhillcabot.com](http://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](mailto:terry.fortner@zionhillcabot.com)  
501-690-3428

Gary Vaile, Music Director  
[gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com](mailto:gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com)  
501-519-2868

Richard Barkhimer, CYE Director  
[zhbc11923@gmail.com](mailto:zhbc11923@gmail.com)  
870-833-0175

Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday am services can be viewed at [www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons](http://www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons).