



May 2023

The Messenger

Why Every Mom needs a bouquet of Dead Flowers this Mother's Day



I'll never forget the Mother's Day my firstborn gave me a bouquet of dead daisies. The evening before, I'd watched from the kitchen window as my son roamed the overgrown field in our backyard and proudly picked a handful of golden blooms. He'd sniffed the silky petals with an appreciative nod, then he'd marched inside and asked me for a shoebox, some tape and a roll of aluminum foil. While I'd tucked his little sisters into bed, Lukas had tucked himself behind his bedroom door and warned me to stay out because he was working on a big surprise.

But when Mother's Day arrived with dawn's pink streaks and my boy's giddy shrieks, the surprise was all his. He raced to my bedside with that foil-wrapped box tucked under one arm, and he jumped up and down on the edge of my bed until I flashed him a sleepy smile. As he sang an original rendition of "Happy Mommy's Day to You," I propped myself up on a pillow and let him plop his gift onto my lap. My 6-year-old watched with wiggly excitement as I *oohed* and *ahhed* over the shiny globs of wrapping paper. Little by little, I peeled back those lumpy layers of foil and plucked at the wads of tape until, finally, I lifted a bouquet of brown blooms from that shoebox tomb. My son's wide blue eyes landed on his gift, and a bewildered grimace replaced his proud grin. But before his disappointment could morph into tears, I pulled Lukas close and thanked him for his thoughtfulness.

Then I hopped out of bed and stuffed those dung-colored daisies into my fanciest crystal vase. And with a wink, I placed that Mother's Day surprise right in the middle of the kitchen table as if it were the perfect centerpiece for our day of celebration. In hindsight, I realize it was. I may not have understood it then, but five kids and a dozen years later, I've learned something about motherhood that greeting cards don't acknowledge and brightly colored daisies can't capture.

While motherhood is a beautiful and priceless gift, it is also a surprising summons to die. And maybe that's why on some days this high and holy calling feels laborious and lusterless; monotonous and prosaic. Because motherhood (even spiritual motherhood) is more than a mandate to raise the next generation. It is an unending invitation to lay down our lives.

Motherhood is saying no to the clanking cadence of selfishness and yes to the quiet rhythms of love. It's relinquishing pride and persisting in prayer, surrendering greed and growing in grace. Motherhood is pacing the floor with a crying baby in the dark of night and holding a tearful teen in the depths of disappointment. It's wiping bottoms and noses and floors countless times a day and listening to the same knock-knock joke over and over again. Motherhood is chasing toddlers when we'd rather be chasing our own dreams. And folding superhero underwear when we'd rather be rescued from the monotony of the daily grind. Quite simply, motherhood is a daily decision to paint the ordinary moments of our days with the extraordinary love of Christ. And this kind of love may not resemble a bouquet of golden giggles or blossoms of bright pink hugs. It may look more like a batch of brown blooms tucked in a shoebox. Or like our Savior hanging from a rugged cross. First John 3:16 reminds us that the beauty of true love is always painted with tenacious tints of sacrifice and humble hues of surrender.

Let's be honest: Whether we're moms or wives, daughters or friends, this kind of love doesn't feel easy or natural. But I'm learning that something surprising happens when we fix our eyes on Jesus and follow His example. Little by little, our lives begin to bloom with a beauty that doesn't wilt or wane, falter or fade.

And somehow, as we pour our lives out in love, our faithful Savior uses the gift of daily death to grow us into women radiant with His glory and fully alive in His grace (Psalm 34:5). *Dear Jesus, help me to imitate Your love today. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

Take time this week to thank someone who's loved you with Christ-like love. Where is selfishness taking root in your daily routine? What is one thing you can do to lay down your life for another today? © 2017 by Alicia Bruxvoort. All rights reserved.

Stitching with Love Ministry

meets every 1st Thursday
May 4 at 9am -12pm.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Every 2nd Saturday of each month.
May 13 at 8 am

Sr. Saints Fellowship

meets every 3rd Tuesday
May 16 at 11:00 am



Happy Mother's Day!

There is a very important day on May 14, it is Mother's Day!

On Mother's Day, I have not been able to send flowers or a card to my mother, and I miss her. She has been with Jesus now since 2016. I will always be thankful for the love and care she gave me when she was alive. The woman I think of most now on that special Sunday, is my sweet wife and the mother of our children. Like most men I have not got a clue as to what to get her. How does any man know what to get a woman? I have benefited from some advice I found a few years ago about what a husband should get his wife. It has helped me stay out of trouble, and maybe it will help some of you.

It comes under the category of What not to buy your wife.

1. Don't buy anything that plugs in. Anything that requires electricity is seen as utilitarian.
2. Don't buy clothing that involves sizes. The chances are one in seven thousand that you will get her size right, and your wife will be offended the other 6999 times. "Do I look like a size 16?" she'll say. Too small a

size doesn't cut it either: "I haven't worn a size 8 in 20 years!"

3. Avoid all things useful. The new silver polish advertised to save hundreds of hours is not going to win you any brownie points.

4. Don't buy anything that involves weight loss or self-improvement. She'll perceive a six-month membership to a diet center as a suggestion that she's overweight.

5. Don't buy jewelry. The jewelry your wife wants, you can't afford. And the jewelry you can afford, she doesn't want.

6. And, guys, do not fall into the traditional trap of believing her when she says, "I don't want anything." She really doesn't mean that.

Do remember her and do something for her, on May 14. Remember God's best advice on what your wife, and mother, should receive from you every day is; Praise.

Proverbs 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed, and her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all."

God bless our mother's and bless you for all you do.
Happy Mother's Day **Terry Fortner**

Annual Women's Tea Party

May 7, 2023 2—4 pm



Ladies, you are invited to the annual Women's Tea Party. The Women on Mission and the GA's have joined together to have an afternoon tea party on **May 7 from 2-4pm**. All girls and

ladies are invited to join us. We will have lots of food and door prizes. Our guest speaker will be Andrea Lennon from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. A nursery will be provided for your little ones. Come and join us and enjoy an afternoon tea and some fun fellowship.



Operation Christmas Child

Let's continue to bring items to fill the boxes. Here's the list of items requested so far:

- February—hair brush, comb & toothbrush**
- March—small toys, cars, coloring books & puzzles**
- April—same as March items**
- May—soap and washcloths**

Please place items in the box in the breezeway. Each month, there will be different items we'll be asking for to fill the boxes. It's more than just the box of gifts the children receive. Children learn from trained, local volunteers what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with friends and family. Let's share Jesus with them!

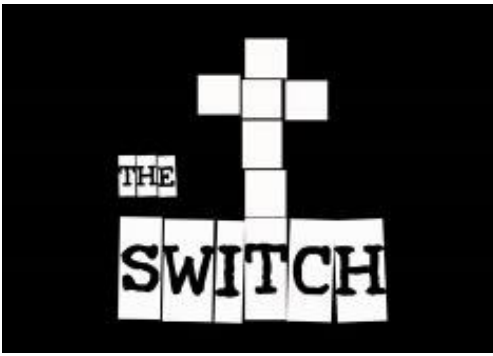


Youth, Children & Other Happenings

Weekly Youth Gatherings

Wednesday Night *Switch* Services
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm

Invite your friends and come join us!



Upcoming Events & Outings

There will be a VBS Planning Meeting on
May 16 at 6:00 pm

Come join and see how you can help make
this the best VBS ever!



July 4th Planning Meeting
May 21 at 5:00 pm

High School Graduations

- CABOT May 19
- PCSSD May 20
- JNP May 20

Camp Formosa Senior Camp June 4-9, 2023

There's still time to sign up!

7th grade up to 2023 high school graduates.

Praise the Lord for this report from Arkansas Baptist on Zion Hill's Mission Giving in 2022.

- Cooperative Program \$38,180.84
- Dixie Jackson (State Missions Offering) \$4,242.00
- Lottie Moon (International Mission Offering) \$8,635.00
- Annie Armstrong (North American Mission Offering) \$4,324.17
- Children's Home \$14,317.82
- World Hunger \$546.00
- Other Missions (Disaster Relief) \$200.00

**Total Missions Giving through the
Arkansas Baptist State Convention \$70,445.83**

Need a Ride—Offer a Ride

Do you need a ride to church, or will you be willing to pick someone up for church?
Please call the church office or call Bro. Terry at 501.690.3428. We can have someone pick you up for Sunday School and Worship on Sunday morning, or Bible Study Sunday night and Wednesday night. If you would be willing to offer a ride to church, call the church office and put your name on the volunteer list.

MOTHERHOOD, Inc.
HUMAN RESOURCES

One vacation day a year?! That's all I get?!

We call it Mother's Day, but technically you still have to work.



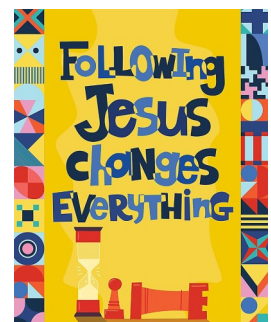
Save the Date!!!

VBS 2023

June 11-15



Be sure and invite your friends and neighbors to join you for the upcoming VBS!



May Activities

Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times	
Sunday	
9:45 am	Sunday School
11:00 am	Morning Worship
11:30 am	Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm	Growth Group (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study (Basement)
Tuesday	
10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday	
5:45pm	Wednesday Night Meal
6:30 pm	Mid-Week Services Bible Study & Prayer Meeting (3rd Wednesday is Business Meeting) GA's, RA's, Mission Friends, Youth <i>Switch</i> Service

May

2	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
3	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
4	9:00 am	Stitching with Love Ministry
7	8:00 am	Deacon's Meeting
7		Sunday Services
7	2:00 pm	WoM Tea Party
9	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
10	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
13	8:00 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
13	5:00 pm	Meagan Welcher & Bryson McCall Wedding Sunday Services & Mother's Day (No Evening Services)
14	12:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
16	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study & Sr. Saints Fellowship
16	6:00 pm	VBS Planning Meeting
17	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services (Bus. Meeting) Sunday Services / Decoration Day Sumner Cemetery
21	5:00 pm	July 4th Planning Meeting
21	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
23	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
24		Sunday Services
28	6:00 pm	Movie Night "I'm Not Ashamed" Free Popcorn & Soda Memorial Day—Office will be Closed
28		
29	10:00 am	Tuesday Bible Study
30	5:45 pm	Wednesday Night Meal & Midweek Services
31		



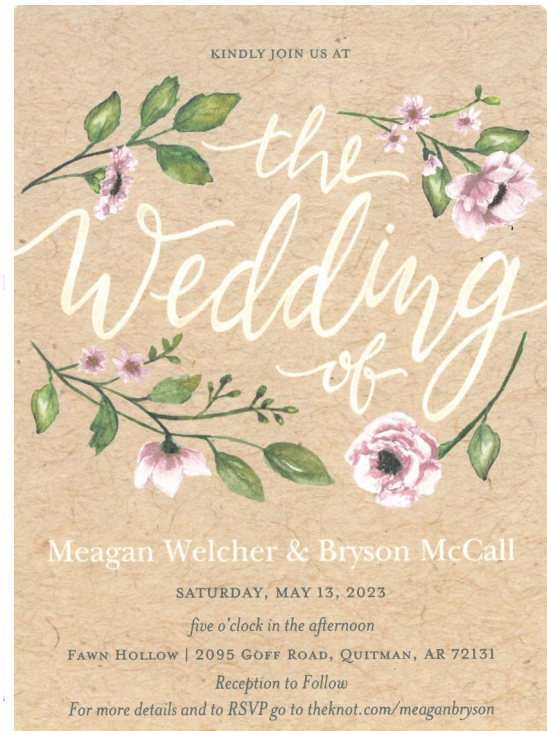
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Phone: 501.988.4989
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Website: www.zionhillcabot.com

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

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



Wednesday Night Meals



5:45—6:15 pm Cost is only \$4.00 per person to help cover food costs. Plan on joining us for this fellowship meal before Bible Study each Wednesday. You'll get fed in body and in spirit!

If you're not currently receiving email prayer requests and information updates and you would like to be added to the list, please let Karla know. You can email me at zionhillbc@gmail.com to be added to the list.