



Heflin Baptist Church Messenger

*Heflin Baptist Church exists to:
Share God's Word, Show God's Love,*

December 21, 2023



Dear HBC Family,

It's hard to believe that this is the last newsletter article for 2023!

The days have passed swiftly, yet this has been a great year for our

Faith Family. We have witnessed the goodness of God in so many ways over the past twelve months and I believe the best is yet to come. This year we have moved forward with a great commitment to being and making disciples. Your willingness to participate in D-Life will be a major factor in the future growth and health of our church family. A commitment to making disciples moves the church from an institution to a body of believers who are mobilized to impact the world for Jesus Christ. Recently, I was looking at a book that I read in seminary by Dr. Bill Hull. Dr. Hull is regarded as a leading voice in the work of disciple making who has been used of the Lord to help many believers in their journey with the Lord. In his book, "The Disciple Making Church", he writes concerning the need to move from the institutional mindset of most churches to a body of believers who are mobilized to accomplish the work of The Great Commission.

"Though a cold, resistant organization may look like a church, sound like a church and think it is a church, it is not one. People may not even like such an imitation product, yet the fight tooth and nail to keep what they hate. Somewhere in the depths of this organization a real church may exist, but you need archaeological tools to find it. When people find their niche in a church and stay there, they enter the comfort zone. Nothing challenges their fears, confronts their weaknesses, or asks them to expand their strengths Though comfort zone Christians may dream about change, they awake to major realities that prove too tough to battle. They resist the push to expand or be creative to answering calls to fine-tune their institutional machinery. People become too comfortable with their leaders, roles and mediocrity.

Keeping vision before the people breaks the back of institutionalism. Challenge them to face their fears and work on their weaknesses – and more important, to find and develop their strengths. Encourage them to move into their strong points and keep the organization in motion." Bill Hull

As we close 2023 and move toward 2024, I pray that you all enjoy a wonderful Christmas and look to the future with a heart to move beyond our comfort zones to make a lasting impact on those around us for the glory of God! I pray that we all will refuse to be cold and indifferent imitations of lukewarm Christians. I pray that we will go to the world with the gospel message and trust in the Lord to produce within each of us a heart fully devoted to Him.

I Love You ALL and there's nothing you can do about it!

Pastor Brent

Proverbs 30:5

*The church office is open Monday—Thursday, 8AM—3PM
& Friday, 8AM—Noon.*



Please join us for Sunday School at 9:00 AM and for Sunday Morning Worship beginning at 10:00. The Worship Service is streamed live online each week. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM for Worship and Bible Study in the fellowship hall. The Children's Ministry and Frontline Student Ministry also meet every Wednesday.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering donations will be taken throughout the month of December. Gifts help fund ministries like medical outreach, evangelism and discipleship training.



DEVOTIONALS ON SALE NOW!

You may pick up a copy of the new devotional today! The cost is just \$15 and all proceeds go to HEARTS Cancer Relief Services.

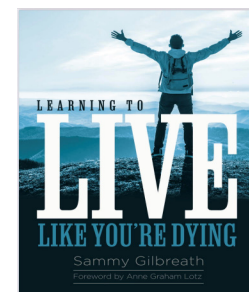
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Please join us at 10:00 for our Morning Worship hour on December 24. There will be no Sunday School classes. Come back that evening at 5:00 for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

Please note: The church office will be closed December 21-26 for Christmas. We will reopen December 27 & 28. We will be closed December 29 and January 1 for New Years.

SPECIAL GUEST: SAMMY GILBREATH

Sammy Gilbreath will be at HBC during the Morning Worship Hour on Sunday, January 14. He is the author of **Learning to Live Like You're Dying!**, a book about Gilbreath's medical death sentence and how it has impacted the way he chooses to live.



D-Life groups meet throughout the week, and we'd love for you to join us!

Women's D-Life Group Meetings:

- * Robin Morrison's group meets at her home Sunday evenings at 6:00.
- * Madison Owen's group meets at her home Tuesday evenings at 7:00.
- * Sheila Guthrie's group meets in the Ruth S.S. classroom Wednesday evenings at 4:30.
- * Cammie Benefield's group meets in the conference room Thursday mornings at 9:30.

Men's D-Life Group Meetings:

- * Keith Raisanen's group meets at Jack's Tuesday mornings at 7:30.
- * Bobby Bailey's group meets in the Pairs & Spares S.S. classroom Wednesday evenings at 4:30.
- * Brent Thompson's group meets at Jack's Thursday mornings at 7:00.
- * Larry Riddle's group meets in the fellowship hall Thursday mornings at 9:30.



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Marty Burson, Music Director/ Joanna Brown, Ministry Assistant/

Terri Burson, Pianist