Volume 55 Issue 8 | August 2021

independence hill
LEADING PEOPLE TO LOVE JESUS AND EXPERIENCE NEW LIFE
10220 INDEPENDENCE HILL RD. HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078 704.596.2124
WWW.INDEPENDENCEHILL.ORG

DECLARATIONS

A PUBLICATION OF INDEPENDENCE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH - HUNTERSVILLE, NC

Visit our Website

I don't understand everything. I wish I did, but there are just some things I can't wrap my head around. But the Apostle Paul didn't have it all figured out either.

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. – 1 Corinthians 13:12

We have experienced plenty of loss as a church recently. In addition to those currently at the Hill, two of our former staff members lost their wives within days of each other. It doesn't make sense.

Paul's next verse, 1 Corinthians 13:13, gives us something we can see clearly.

Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

- Faith – we can still believe God is good
- Hope – we can still expect God to work things for our good
- Love – we can do good and God will use us for His good.

God has been working in and through Independence Hill for 150 years. Our story is not over. And even though I may have written the story different, we have yet to read the last chapter.

For example:

Ty and Judah Groves were born while Tim was our Worship Pastor. The boys were dedicated here. They moved to Texas. And to think in the same month, they lost their

mom and were baptized.

Their story isn't over. Our story is connected to their story. And all our stories are connected to God's overarching story. We can't see how it all ends, but with faith, hope and love we can walk this out together. Take heart the final chapters will be the best!

Pastor Todd

Sunday, October 3rd during the 10am Worship service. If you would like to sign up to be baptized, use this link https://www.independencehill.org/baptism-c1j3l or contact the church office 704.596.2124 or carol@independencehill.org

---

MOVIE STAR FOR A DAY
One **Sunday, August 15th**, we plan to have a professional VIDEOGRAPHER on campus. A videographer is someone who captures video for the purpose of telling a story. During the month of October, we want to celebrate the stories that make our church unique and valuable. YOU HAVE A STORY WE WANT TO CAPTURE.

So we are only asking 2 things from you:

1) Let's plan to pack the church with a high attendance Sunday on August 15th. We will capture video of our worship service and it would be great to have a full house.

2) We plan to enlist many of you to be on camera telling your stories and just being you. This is when our videographer will simply capture lots of video. You can do this as an individual and in groups. This will take place during Sunday School and throughout the afternoon of August 15th. Some of our staff will be filling up time slots with your name. We will also be there with you and coach you as you have your time on camera. We will prompt you with conversation starting questions. Once we've captured all the stories, our videographer will edit it into short clips that we will use during Sundays throughout October and beyond.

Thank You
Many thanks from the LKN Community Pregnancy Center for your donations of diapers, wipes and money-filled bottles! Babies, Mom's and Dad's will truly benefit from your generosity!

Summer Collection Opportunities

We have a few opportunities to serve and to meet needs this summer. Choose one or several:

David Cox Road Elementary
To provide incentives and rewards for excellent behavior, the school would love to have special prizes for the students who earn the right to receive a reward. Please consider donations of decorative pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, special markers, etc. Samples are provided in the picture below. Items are due at the end of August.

Christmas in July
It isn't too early to stuff boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes are available in the connect center that you may take OR you may provide individual items in the missions collection barrel. A sample box is pictured below. Items/boxes should be turned in by the end of August.

Caterpillar Ministries
We will be providing back packs and school supplies to the Caterpillar students in early August. If you would like to 'adopt a student' for $20, the missions team will shop for a backpack for you. If you wish to provide school supplies such as notebook paper, pencils and erasers, please place them in the collections barrel. All Caterpillar Ministries donations are due on August 1st.

Thank you for praying for and loving on our ministry partners!
The Missions Team

This month we are in need of canned soup for the Food Pantry

Interested in joining the Worship Choir at IHBC?

Join us Wednesday August 11th at 5:30pm in the Chapel for an initial choir interest/back-together again music meeting to discuss the Worship Choir. God is moving and working within here and we are glad you have chosen to be part of it! The Worship Choir is looking for new members and previous members and invites you to come to this informational meeting. These have certainly been challenging times this past year and we hope to gather together to continue to bring the Glory of God and sense of power of praise music to the church.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
We are grateful for the opportunity we get, each week, to gather as a church. When we see each other, we get to encourage one another on towards love and good deeds. We get to open God's Word together with the expectation that God is still at work transforming us from the inside out. We get to sing songs of praise and worship. We sing familiar songs, and we sign new songs.

We plan to continue offering the one worship service time on Sundays at least through the end of this year. Together, we get to have some big holy moments, and we get to have some ordinary holy moments.

Plus we have room to grow.

COVID-19 (Delta Variant)

The reality is, we will continue to learn to adapt to living with the risks of various Covid strains. **Because of the resurgence of Covid cases, in our state, you will most likely see our staff wearing masks in group settings again. We are hopefully modeling for all of us the kind of sacrifice and effort it sometimes takes to be "loving" and "neighborly".** No one likes, or looks forward to, wearing a mask. We invite you to consider your own health risks, as well as the health risks of others, as you determine whether to wear a mask when you come to church.

SIGN UP FOR OUR CHURCHWIDE LUNCH

To kick off our 150th Birthday Celebration, we are hosting a lunch on Sunday, October 3rd. The lunch will take place immediately after the 10:00am Worship Service. Ideally, we are planning to have the lunch outside (weather permitting). To help us be fully prepared, would you take a moment and sign yourself (and your tribe) up HERE

https://independencehillchurch.wufoo.com/forms/sign-up-for-churchwide-october-3rd-lunch/

(Ephesians 3:20-21)
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

I love thinking about Paul in chains, maybe in prison, but in his mind, in his spirit, he's not in prison at all. He's gloriously free, and he writes, **"God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask."**

Then under the inspiration of the Spirit, he writes one more word. **"God can do**

immeasurably more than all we ask or IMAGINE."

A writer named Cheryl Forbes once said ***people who live imaginative lives are what-if? people.***

They respond to ideas and events with a what-if? attitude.
They behave in what-if? ways.

What if? is a big idea, as big as God, for it is the practice of God.

That's our God.
Our God thinks, *"What if I make a universe? What if I make people in my own image? What if, when they sin, I don't give up on them?*

I was thinking it might help all of us to ask some of those what-if? questions.

"What if God had not led a group of people to launch a church right here 150 years ago?"

I think of all the people who have put their faith in Jesus Christ here over the years.

I think about all the marriages that got their start right here.

I think about so many troubled marriages that got saved right here.

I think about so many funerals where someone lost somebody they loved, but a church family right here came around to comfort them.

I think about people right here who discovered they had a spiritual gift and they devoted it to God.
I think about people here who saw a need in the world, and they changed their job.
They changed what they did with their financial resources.
They changed their lives in response.

I think about people who were at the end of their rope.
They had a substance addiction or a sexual addiction or they were going through a divorce.
They were headed for hell, and they found a healing community here.

I think of people whose eternal destinies have been changed, and I'm so glad there's a church there.

I'm so glad it's not another car dealership, a bank, a mattress store or even a Krispy Kreme doughnut franchise. (Although it would be cool if it could be both a church and a Krispy Kreme doughnut franchise.)

I'm glad 150 years ago there were some people who had the courage and the faithfulness to say YES to God's great what if?

Now there's a church here, and I get to be a part of it.
You get to be a part of it.

It's a good practice to step outside our church buildings and remember that God wants what's going on inside our buildings to bless what's going on outside our

buildings.

God cares about everybody and everything going on inside the car dealerships, banks and the mattress and the doughnut shops just as much as he does everybody and everything going on inside the church building.

It's good to come outside and ask, *"What if I, what if we, were to see and value every person, the way God does?"*

It makes me think when I come outside, *"What if we saw our church the way God sees our church? What if we didn't see the building so much as the people? What if we didn't just see the people when we're gathering in the building but when we're deployed by God outside the building?"*

It made me think***, "Am I living, are you living, a what-if? life as a what-if? person?"***

Are you waking up every day saying, *"God, what if you want to use me to be with me all day today like you've never been with me before? What if you have something for me to do that's full of life and joy and that's going to touch somebody else for eternity?"*

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."

So **we have to imagine.**

All through the Bible God uses ordinary people who will ask **"what-if?"**

Faith is, among other things, an act of the imagination.

The Bible says, ***"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."***

That means God is still looking for what-if? people because...

When I come outside our church buildings, I remember God is doing something so much bigger than my little life, so much bigger than just our church.

So let's imagine **"WHAT IF?..."**

Click on the picture above to access the Together In Truth reading schedule.

COLLIDE

Sundays 9:00-9:45am in the Youth Building

Wednesday, August 4 - No Youth (VBS)
Wednesday, August 11th - Hike & Picnic 10:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday, August 18th - 6:30-8:00pm
Wednesday, August 25th - 6:30-8:00pm

Sunday School is offered from preschool-5th grade

Nursery provided for children 2 and under during the 10:00am service

We are looking for people who want to work in the nursery once a month! If you like babies and would be interested in this volunteer role please contact Holly!

Independence Hill
WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

We have some openings for the fall school year in the 2's and the 4's classrooms.
Contact Rebekah if you would like to register.

We are also looking for a teacher for the fall 3-4 days/week.
Please see Rebekah for more information.

August 2 - No Men's Frat (VBS)
August 9 - Bible Study at church at 7:00pm
August 16 - Bible Study at church at 7:00pm
August 23 - Bible Study at church at 7:00pm
August 30 - Wing night at East Coast Wings NL at 6:00pm

Prayer List

Sympathy
Christian love & sympathy are extended to Tim, Ty and Judah Groves and family on the loss of Angela.

Christian love & sympathy are extended to Jay Diggs and family on the loss of Joyce.

Christian love & sympathy are extended to friends and family on the loss of Bill Minall.

Church Family
Cancer patients - Ann Eudy, Chris Cook, Silas Davis, Betty Fox, Dinah Hollifield, Dora Johnson, Mary Locklear

Expecting – Laura Fortner Kendall, Heather Nguyen, Ashley Dixon Talbert

Health concerns –Karen Bonner, Jill Cloud, Harold & Linda Covington, Donna Coyner, Lois Cundiff, Junie Davis, Buddy & Linette Davis, Maxine Davis, Rick & Susie Davis, Claudia Edmiston, Jeff Eudy, Mike Hambly, Betty Hubbard, Betty Jones, Carter Marlin, Helena & Roger Maynard, Cora McGee, Jean Norton, Audrey Peterson, Donna Seaford, C.N. Taylor, Carolyn Teague, Betty Tedder, Jean Webb, Jackie Williams

Recovering – Libby Gant, Linda Wray

Nicaragua; Caterpillar Ministries; David Cox Road Elementary; Jonahville AME Zion; people in the midst of conflicts worldwide; Christians under persecution; our schools and teachers; first responders, doctors & nurses; our churches; IHWP; victims of natural disasters, violence & illness; families under financial/mental/emotional duress; the recently unemployed; students & recent graduates; those affected by Covid

Our Country *Pray for the safety of our armed forces, for the families of those lost in combat and for all elected officials.*

FINANCIALS:

June	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues	$35,525	$51,776
Expenses	$39,971	$51,776
	($4,445)	$ -
Year-to-Date		
Revenues	$392,879	$465,986
Expense	$364,392	$465,986
	$28,487	$ -

With guidance from the Personnel Team and approval from the Trustees, IHBC applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Small Business Association in 2020. We were approved for forgiveness in June.

DESIGNATED FUND GIVING

$	7,083	Capital Expense Fund
$	173	Sunshine SS Class Fund
$	5	Nancy Jane Davis SS Class Fund
$	150	Cemetery Fund
$	500	International Missions/Lottie Moon
$	80	St. Peter's Soup Kitchen
$	25	Prayer Shawl Ministry
$	100	Weekday Preschool Fund
$	185	Nicaragua Missions
$	100	Food Pantry
$	275	Missions Fund

Donations were made to the **Cemetery Fund** in memory of **Mary Bruce Austin** by:
Lane & Donna Seaford and Scott & Vernelle Davis

Donations were made to the **Youth Ministry Fund** in memory of **Lynell McCrary** by:
Atrium Health (Ashley Velez), Donna Thornburg, Ward & Heidi Anderson, Scott, Inger & Garrett Laws and Paul & Marcia Berg

Donations were made to the **General Fund** in memory of **Joyce Diggs** by:
Jeanne Rudloff, the JLL Team, Jim "Peanut" & Duanette, Barry & Joy Young, Rebecca Jarrett, Jean Cranshaw, Chuck & Lynn Lehnning, John & Mary Jo Price, Charles & Joan Lippard, John & Mary Jo Price and Cari Stackpole

A donation was made to the **Sunshine SS Class Fund** in memory of **Joyce Diggs** by Joey Fortner.

June

Average Sunday School Attendance	93
Average 10:00 am Worship Attendance	100

August Birthdays

8/01 – Carol Wilburn
8/02 – Trey Pressley
8/03 – Lois Ellen Tuttle
8/05 – Mark Johnson, Sandy Leary
8/06 – Junie Davis, Pam Robinson
8/07 – Mike Sivick
8/11 – Jade Darby
8/14 – Richard Gant, Hallajah Hawaz
8/15 – C.N. Taylor
8/16 – Bella Ochoa, Cindy Young
8/17 – Moriah Hawaz, Anne McGraw, Jenny Tolson
8/19 – Craig Zalewa
8/20 – Mac Young
8/21 – Jordan Beck
8/23 – Butch Bonner
8/25 – Phil Haddox
8/27 – Sarah Fortner
8/30 – Todd Marlin
8/31 – Linda Covington

August Anniversaries

8/02 – Jeff & Paula DeHart, Ted & Tina Fortner
8/03 – Scott & Inger Laws
8/06 – Todd & Tonya Marlin
8/07 – Dick & Claudia Thayer
8/16 – Gary & Jackie Williams
8/19 – John & Sandy Leary
8/21 – Ronnie & Phyllis Stallings
8/23 – Mike & Stacy Sivick
8/28 – Battey & Betty Lee
8/30 – Ellis & June Murray

August 2021

Independence Hill Baptist Church

Updated 7/28/2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	**2**	**3** 6:30pm Prayer Shawl until 8:30pm (Terri's house)	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7** 11:00am Livestream of Angela Groves' Celebration of Life 3:00pm Collide Youth to Lake Until 7:00pm
8	**9** 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**10** 10:00am Prayer Shawl until noon	**11** 10:00am Collide Student Ministry Hike & Picnic until 1:00pm 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 Promotion Sunday 4:00pm Deacon Meeting 5:00pm Team Huddle	**16** 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**17** 6:30pm Prayer Shawl until 8:30pm	**18** 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm	**19** 7:00pm IHBC Prayer Night	**20**	**21**
22	**23** 7:00pm Men's Fraternity until 8:30pm	**24** 10:00am Prayer Shawl until Noon	**25** 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal 6:30pm Collide Student Ministry until 8:00pm	**26**	**27**	**28**
29	**30** 6:00pm Men's Frat. Wing Night	**31** 10:00am Prayer Shawl until Noon				

Mystery Island VBS, 6:00-8:00pm, ages 3 years – 5th grade

SUNDAYS

10:00am Worship (Worship Center)
Check the IHBC Group Facebook page for the latest information on news and events. Worship may be viewed on IHBC's Youtube Channel.

CLASSES

Sunshine 9:00am Sundays in the Chapel
Nancy Jane Davis 1:30pm Wednesdays in Room 504
C.P. Kelley 9:00am Sundays in Chris' office
Sonseekers 11:00am Sundays in Room 504
Builders & Believers 9:00am Sundays in Room 504
Good News 9:00am Sundays in Old Choir Room
Impact 8:45am Sundays ZOOM/In Person in Prayer Room
Collide 9:00am Sundays in Youth Building
Children 9:00am Sundays in Children's Wing
Real Talk Midweek 10:00am Wednesdays in Old Choir Room