

**Receive
His Light
and...
SHINE!**



The **LIGHTKEEPER**

Cobham Park Baptist Church News

MAY 2021

Dear Cobham Park Church Family,

The Bible often describes God as our Father, and Jesus taught us to pray to Him as such. Father imagery reminds us of God's awe-inspiring strength, security, provision, and faithful love. But Scripture also uses motherly word pictures to reveal wonderful aspects of God's character. During this month of Mother's Day, open your Bible and dive into the following truths:

1) Our God Gives Birth (Deuteronomy 32:18; Isaiah 42:14-16; John 3:3-6)

As human beings and children of God, we didn't come from nothing! The Bible reveals that God created us physically and that He carries and gives birth to us spiritually. We aren't accidents. With great patience and determined love, God has given us life!

2) Our God Comforts Us (Deuteronomy 32:11-12; Psalm 131:2-3; Isaiah 66:13)

If you've ever seen a crying child calmed in the security and comfort of her mother's arms, you've seen a picture of God's love for you. He is not distant or uncaring! He tenderly watches over us like a mother who carefully guards her children.

3) Our God Never Forgets Us (Isaiah 49:15)

A child may forget his mother, but a good mother will NEVER forget her baby. Know the God who remembers—and cherishes—more about you than you do!

4) Our God Has Been With Us Every Step of the Way (Hosea 11:1-4)

My mother was up all night with my colic. She taught me to walk, talk, live, and love. As long as she lives, she will be the one person I can count on to be in my corner. God is like that. While human mothers make mistakes, fail, and die, God is forever faithful!

5) Our God Has a Momma-Bear's Wrath (Hosea 13:4-8)

Nobody can put the fear of God into you like a displeased mom! My mother loved me dearly when I was a boy—so much so that her wrath at my wrongs was fierce! It usually only took a glance or a stern word to get me back in line (although my stubbornness often called for more drastic measures). The Lord takes our sin very seriously indeed. We would be wise to call on Jesus and serve Him well before we hear the words, "Don't make me come down there!"

6) Our God Looks to Bring Us Back Home (Matthew 23:37)

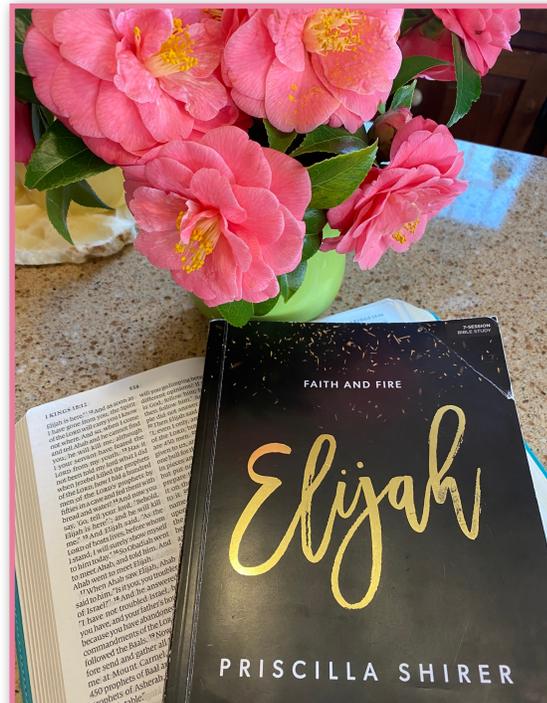
Oh, how a mother longs to see her children safely home again! Our Lord likewise yearns for our good. He grieves over our self-inflicted pains and sins. He was willing to sacrifice Himself in order to save and regather our souls. That's why Jesus came. Thank you Lord!



In Christ's Love,

Keith
Pastor Keith

*We're excited to begin our first
Women's "Virtual" Bible Study*



Elijah: Faith and Fire

by Priscilla Shirer

May 10 - June 17

The response to this has been terrific, with over 20 ladies signing up to participate!

Elijah: Faith and Fire by Priscilla Shirer offers a seven-week detailed study of Elijah and connects his story to today's world in a relevant and unique way. "Through the life and times of the prophet Elijah, discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine and how the fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now."

The virtual study is being held online with the following plan:

Video Sessions delivered to each participant through email with individual study using the companion **Bible Study Book**.

Weekly **Zoom meetings** for the group to discuss the prior week's study at 7:00pm on Thursday evenings with Pat Pugh and Cindy Packett co-hosting the Zoom meetings. Participation in the Zoom meetings is not mandatory, but each Zoom meeting will offer a time for the group to ask questions and reflect on the week's study.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

- Tithes and Offerings continue to meet or exceed our weekly budgeted amount with almost \$100,000.00 given through April 30th. We are mightily blessed with many faithful givers!
- Annie Armstrong offerings from January through April totaled \$865.00.
- In the last month, your gifts have enabled us to upgrade the church audio/visual system (thank you to the Wiseman family for all their hours of hard work installing this!), and the church office computers. In the coming months, we plan a much-needed overhaul of the church's sound system as well.

BELIEVER BURNOUT



May Bible Study: I Kings 19

Many Christians assume that if a person has true faith, he or she will somehow be immune from discouragement, doubt, and depression. As we continue to examine Elijah's life, this kind of thinking is exposed as an unbiblical myth. Even the most godly believers can experience emotional burnout. Why does this happen, and what can we do about it? Where is God in such times? How can we help someone else who is discouraged?

In May, we'll have a new Bible Study reading about Elijah's burnout experience, as well as a page from the Bible's prayer journal (the book of Psalms). On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Pastor Keith sends out a written devotion by email and on Facebook (Please contact the church office if you want to receive these by email). Here's the May devotion schedule:

Tuesday, May 4th: I Kings 19:1-3; Psalm 10

Thursday, May 6th: I Kings 19:4; Psalm 13

Tuesday, May 11th: I Kings 19:5-8; Psalm 3

Thursday, May 13th: I Kings 19:9-10; Psalm 12

Tuesday, May 18th: I Kings 19:11-14; Psalm 46

Thursday, May 20th: I Kings 15-17; Psalm 75

Tuesday, May 25th: I Kings 19:18; Psalm 121

Thursday, May 27th: I Kings 19:19-21; Psalm 16

Daily Quiet-Time Suggestion:

- 1) Pray that God's word would speak to you. Make yourself available to Him.
- 2) Use the appropriate Bible reading from the schedule above in the days leading up to each devotion (I Kings 19:1-3 & Psalm 10 for May 1st-4th, I Kings 19:4 & Psalm 13 on May 5th-6th, etc.).
- 3) What emotions dominate today's reading? With the Lord, reflect on your life. Have you ever felt this way? Do you know someone else who feels this way?
- 4) Where is God in this situation? Take a minute to be aware of His presence with you. Take any concerns you may have to Him.
- 5) How might God be guiding you to encourage someone today?
- 6) Close in prayer however the Lord leads.

BACK IN THE



SANCTUARY!



Children's Church

(After the Sunday Children's Message with Pastor Keith)

"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" —Matthew 19:14 (ESV)

We send a big "thank you" out to all the volunteers and parents who made our Children's Church (ages 2-6) launch possible last month. And thank you to those who made "busy boxes" available for the other kids. We appreciate all your hard work!



**An Invitation to Join Donald and Linda Bowen
for a Trip to the Famous
ARK ENCOUNTER and CREATION MUSEUM
The deadline to sign up is June 4th!**



***Led by Pastor Don Bowen, tour leader to the Holy Land,
Pennsylvania Bible theaters & the Passion Play (Germany).***

**6 Days – 5 Nights ... October 4 - 9, 2021
\$579 Per Person (Double Occupancy)**

Package Includes:

***Tour bus with restroom ... 5 nights lodging ... 8 meals,
admission to the ARK ENCOUNTER, the CREATION
MUSEUM, the NEWPORT AQUARIUM ... & much more***

***For more information, please contact:
Donald or Linda Bowen (804) 761-3063 or (804) 761-8279***



CHURCH REOPENING

Our Deacon Ministry

Mike Slaw (Chairman)

(804) 333-1400

Andrew Packett

(804) 761-6695

Gary Sanders

(804) 761-5267

Bo King

(804) 761-1058

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(804) 314-2611

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(804) 333-4183

Bruce Pflugradt

(804) 462-5531

David Mann

(804) 761-8698

Mark Wiseman

(804) 724-3338

Rusty Brown

(804) 761-1859

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we continue our transition out of the pandemic. We praise God for the unity, blessing, and protection He has graciously given this church! These are our plans for the next few months, unanimously agreed upon by Pastor Keith and the Deacons:

MAY*

We continue with our present precautions.

JUNE*

- 1) We kick off 9:00-9:45am Sunday school, followed by 10:00am worship. Some classes will probably be consolidated or moved based on space needs and teacher availability. Look for details in the next newsletter.
- 2) 7:00pm Wednesday night Bible Studies in the Fellowship Hall.
- 3) Church family funerals will be available indoors.

JULY*

- 1) Other indoor church meetings will be available indoors. Such events to be coordinated through the church office.
- 2) Church family weddings will be available indoors.
- 3) Operation Inasmuch meetings will be available indoors.
- 4) Homecoming: No church homecoming meal or Revival concert for this year.

AUGUST*

- 1) The church facilities will be available for use by outside groups ONLY if there is a church member sponsor who is willing to be responsible to provide onsite support, setup, cleanup, open/close doors, etc. Such events to be coordinated through the church office.

**Precautions still in place: mandatory masks indoors, social distancing, and no indoor meals. The Deacons will review these steps each month and modify them as needed. Thank you for following these precautions out of love!*

Cobham Park Baptist Church

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“Every Member a Minister”

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**“Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.”**

Psalm 85:11-12 (ESV)