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Jeff Smith
Admin. & Discipleship
Pastor

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV)

Church leaders have often used this passage to argue that Christian believers should make it a point to attend church. And on a basic level, they're right! If a professing Christian isn't trying to gather with other believers from time to time, then they aren't even attempting to put these words into action. In that case, I think we could logically conclude that

something has gone wrong with that person's faith.

But at the same time, these verses go well beyond basic church attendance, where we simply show up, sing songs that affirm what we believe, hear a biblical message that exhorts us to keep believing, and leave encouraged to live according to our belief. None of those things are bad, but what's missing in this all-toocommon view of church is the sense of family that those verses in Hebrews describe.

If we are truly part of God's family, then we will have a life-changing relationship with Jesus. We will hold fast to our faith in him because we know that "he who promised is faithful." But we should also have life-changing relationships with each other. We should "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." This involves much



more than casual conversation. We should be trying to spur each other on to love like Jesus and live like Jesus in every area of our life. (With our sinful natures in the mix, this is a really messy process—but it's still what we're called to do.)

Of course, this includes us gathering in worship on Sundays, singing songs that proclaim the good news of Jesus and hearing a message from the Word of God. But it also includes us personally exhorting each other with the Word and through each other's lives. For example, we can discuss the Sunday sermon with other believers. We can engage in Bible lessons with a

Sunday School class. We can serve together with other church members. We can read the Bible with our family. We can regularly meet with one or two believers to grow in the Word.

What about you? Are you finding ways to do this? Does God want you to take a step to encourage your church family to live for Jesus "all the more"?

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Recent Giving

June 23	June 30	July 7	July 14
Budget \$38,862.05 Annie Armstrong Offering \$81.00 Media Ministry \$427.00 Mission Trip \$755.00	Budget \$23,766.08 Annie Armstrong Offering \$70.00 Lottie Moon Offering \$30.17 EACM \$306.00 Mission Trip \$675.00	Budget \$30,741.38 Annie Armstrong Offering \$107.00 Fred Tucker \$100.00 Memorial Gifts \$25.00	Budget \$53,817.73 Annie Armstrong Offering \$108.00 Media Ministry \$90.00
TOTAL: \$40,125.05	TOTAL: \$24,847.25	TOTAL: \$30,973.38	TOTAL: \$54,015.73
Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget	Weekly Budget
\$34,615.00	\$34,615.00	\$34,615.00	\$34,615.00
Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Budget
\$1,488,462.00	\$1,523,077.00	\$1,557,692.00	\$1,592,308.00
Received to Date	Received to Date	Received to Date	Received to Date
\$1,513,405.00	\$1,537,171.00	\$1,567,913.00	\$1,621,730.00
Difference from Budget	Difference from Budget	Difference from Budget	Difference from Budget
\$24,944.00	\$14,094.00	\$10,220.00	\$29,423.00





August 1	August 6	August 15	August 25
Sandra McCormack	Jenny Barham	Ron Arnold	Bailee Blankenbaker
Wendell Hawes	Julia Bippus		
Rosalie Howard	Diane Wright	August 16	August 26
Bill Earls	Lauren Lovett	Mike Jones	Justin Baird
			Hayden Williams
August 3	August 7	August 18	August 27
Jason Leverett	Tom Forshee	Ken Cooper	Bella Bruce
Joanna Still		'	
	August 8	August 20	August 28
August 4	Dawn Campbell	Kim Boyd	Bill Croley
Adella Pyle	Glen Laffoon		
		August 21	August 29
August 5	August 10	Becky Wiley	Christopher Embry
Ginny Donnell	Andy Dressel		August 30
Helen Heilmann		August 22	Doris Barriger
Jan Wilt	August 11	Ed Wiley	Dustin Bruce
Sean Dreisbach	Andrew Gowans	Melodie Oliver	
			August 31
	August 13	August 23	Allie Clark
	Tami Chesser	Clarrice Campbell	Johnnie Stewart
		Emma Clark	Steve Neher
	August 14	Hudson Neher	

Joyce Wolfe





We are continuing to grow our team and would love to chat with you about serving in the children's ministry!

Opportunities range from babies-5th graders, Sundays and Wednesdays.

If interested, contact Abby at amcpherson@hurstbournebc.org



