

Laurel church of Christ Youth and Children's Ministry

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I hope everyone has had a great week and is enjoying this Labor Day Weekend! Tomorrow, we will be serving at the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore. We will meet at the RMH at 4 PM and serve dinner at 6 PM. Following dinner, we will play some games and spend some time with the kids and family down in the recreational area for about an hour. If you plan on attending, please let me know as it would be helpful to know how many people

we will have assisting us on tomorrow. Then, this Friday evening we will have our first Coffee House Devo at the Corner Bakery in Columbia. We will meet at 7 PM and finish at about 8 PM. On Saturday, we will have our monthly movie/game night at our place in Columbia. We will start at 5 PM and finish by around 9 PM. Finally, next Sunday (9/10) we will have a school-age ministry meeting during Bible class hour to discuss the future of the school-age ministry program. If you have a child that is in the age group of 1st-6th grade, we highly encourage you to attend this meeting! Then later that afternoon following 2nd services, we will have our Bible-Bowl Kick-off from 2pm till about 5pm at the Church Building. Please join us in this excellent opportunity for fun and fellowship! We also sent out surveys for both of our student ministries for you to fill out. We realize that these were somewhat lengthy in nature, but if all possible we would love for you to give us your feedback so that we may continue to improve the effectiveness of these ministries. If you could have this completed by this upcoming this afternoon or the latest by Wednesday, we would greatly appreciate it as it will allow us to use this information for our parents meeting this coming up Sunday. If you have any questions or concerns about these events next week, please let either myself, John Birus, or Del Meadows know!

God Bless,
Tim

Class Today

Join us in the Fellowship Room as we begin to discuss the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. We will talk about how, although Israel and Judah were taken captive, God worked through a remnant of faithful followers in order to bring his children back into the promised land.

Class on Wednesday

Join us in the Teen Room as we explore further how Peter encouraged the believers throughout the Roman Empire to remain faithful to the gospel of Christ amidst persecution.

Class Next Week

Join us in the Fellowship Room as we begin to discuss the book of Esther. We will talk about how God worked through this amazing story to once again accomplish his purposes amongst His people.



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rightnow MEDIA

Check out this week's recommendation on RNM! If you have not yet signed up for this terrific service, please email me so that I can send you an invite!



Dig Deeper

Read Ezra-Nehemiah



1. In the Ezra and Nehemiah, it is apparent that God was "pulling some strings with King Cyrus of Persia so that he could ultimately set the exiles free. Give an example of a time in your life when you know that God was moving in other people's life so that he could accomplish something in your own life.

2. When the people of Israel began working on the foundation of the temple (Ezra 4) they met resistance. What kind of conflict and opposition did the people face? When we seek to follow God's will with a passionate heart, what resistance might we face?

3. Eventually the people got sidetracked from rebuilding God's temple. It was sixteen years before he finally got them back on track (Haggai 1) What slowed down their work and what got them up and moving again? What are some of the consequences we face when we do our own thing and forget to follow God's plan for our lives?"

4. What did God promise the people if they would move forward with his work (Haggai 2) How does this bring you hope and inspiration to walk in obedience to God's leading?

5. The governor of the region wanted the people to stop building the temple and accused them of having no permission to build it. After communication with the king of Babylon, everything changed — and, remember, there were no phones or email (Ezra 5 – 6) How did God turn everything upside down and provide for the temple? How do you see God accomplishing His will with Israel once again?

6. God called the people to action through his prophets such as Haggai, who told them to get up to the hills, gather wood, and begin building ... pretty practical stuff! What is one next step you need to take to "gather wood" and start building into God's plan for your life? How can others pray for you and encourage you as you take this step?"

A Survivor's Message for Harvey Victims

Angela Marsalis says she can't even watch the news because it makes her cry.

But Marsalis, who escaped Hurricane Katrina in 2005 by fleeing to the balcony of the Carrollton Avenue Church of Christ in New Orleans, has a message for the thousands of Harvey victims: "God has not left you alone."

"My heart is hurting so bad for the people who are affected by Hurricane Harvey," Marsalis wrote in a post on her Facebook page, which she gave The Christian Chronicle permission to share.

"To those who are rescued or still trapped, never stop trusting God, for He he has not left you alone," she added. "I repeat, 'God' has not left you alone. All eyes are on you Texas. God's people are here in prayer, thought and good deeds are coming."

After Katrina, Angela Marsalis and her husband, Charles Marsalis, planted the Hollygrove Church of Christ, in a high-crime neighborhood in New Orleans.

The Chronicle published its first in-depth story on the Marsalises' experience in 2006.

Last year, Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman interviewed the husband and wife for the National Geographic Channel series "The Story of God."

The Marsalises told Freeman how they relied on their faith as floodwaters kept rising during Katrina. They described singing on a bridge filled with desperate survivors — some selling drugs and carrying guns.

"I mean, I felt that the devil was at work," Charles Marsalis said. "I told my wife, 'Nuh-uh, it's time for us to get busy.' And so we just started singing, and then the next thing we know, in the darkness, you can hear people saying, 'Sing this song! Sing that song!' And I can't remember, how long did we sing?"

"All night!" Angela Marsalis replied, as Freeman joined the couple in laughing at the memory. "We just knew that God would get us out of there."

"Not even Katrina could shake that faith of God," Charles Marsalis added. "No way."

Upcoming Youth Events

What	When	Where	Cost	Registration
Ronald McDonald House	Monday 9/4/17 4:00-9:30 PM	RMH 635 W. Lexington St. Baltimore MD 21201	Free	Elexio
Coffee House Devo	Friday 9/8/17 7:00-8:00 PM	Corner Bakery 10000 Town Center Avenue Columbia, MD 21044	~\$5 each	N/A
Movie Night	Saturday 9/9/17 5:00-9:00 PM	The Conrad's 10320 Hickory Ridge Rd. Apt. 818, Columbia MD 21044	\$3 each	Elexio
Sunday Fun Day	Sunday 9/17/17 12:30-6:00 PM	The Church	\$3 each	Elexio
Ice Cream Social	Friday 9/22/17 7:00-8:00 PM	Medows Frozen Custard 5470 Freetown Rd. #205, Columbia, MD	~\$5 each	N/A
Bike Riding in Columbia	Saturday 9/23/17 10:00 AM-1:00 PM	Meet at the Conrad's	~ \$10 each (to rent a bike. Feel free to bring your own, though)	N/A

Verse of the Week

1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

Psalm 32:1-6

What	When	Where	Cost	Registration
Parent's Meeting	Sunday 9/10/17 9:30 AM	2nd half of the Fellowship Hall Church Building	N/A	N/A
Bible Bowl Kick-off/Youth Rally	Sunday 9/10/17 2:00-5:00 PM	Church Building	Free for members of Laurel coC (small cost for members of other congregations)	N/A

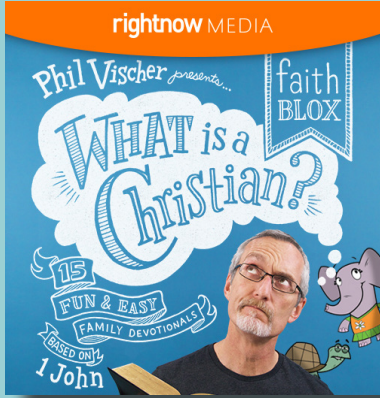
School-Age Ministry Announcements

Karis Crone and several others have been working diligently to prepare for this year's Bible Bowl Kickoff/Youth Rally. She says, "Are you excited for Bible Bowl? I know I am! The Bible Bowl Kickoff/Youth Rally is Sunday after this, September 10. We are planning activities, crafts, skits, and worship all focused on getting the kids (2nd-6th grade) excited about learning from the second half of Matthew. This section of the Bible covers so much, from parables, to warnings, to Jesus' death, no matter how old you are, you can learn so much! So get excited with me and help our kids be passionate and devoted students of the Bible that they may grow daily in our Lord! PLEASE let me know if you or any friends you have invited will be attending to that we plan enough food for all!"

Also, there will be a parent's meeting during class hour on the same Sunday morning (September 10). Please come and be a part of this exciting time during which we will discuss the future of the School-Age Ministry and hear your questions, concerns, and ideas.

In summary:

- Bible Bowl Kickoff is on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 12:30 to 5:30 PM. Please register on Elexio if you plan on participating.
- A Parent's Meeting will be held on Sunday Sept. 10 from 9:30 to 10:15 to discuss the future of the School-Age ministry.



Check out this week's recommendation on Kid's RNM! This study from the creator of Veggie Tales is a fun and interesting way to start talking with your kids about what it means to be a Christian.

If you have not yet signed up for this terrific service, please email me so that I can send you an invite!

