

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Tony

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Genesis 12:2-3 *"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you...."* The Lord promised Abraham that all nations of the earth would be blessed through him.

Each of us wants to receive blessings. We want our family to be blessed, our friends, our church. Most of our "prayer time" is spent in asking God to bless our family, to bless our home, our jobs, our circumstance in one way, or another. Our prayer focus is asking for blessings, so why aren't we receiving all the blessings we so desire?



"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deut 30:19

When God blesses something, he gives life to it. A blessed fruit tree bears fruit, lots of fruit. Not only does that tree have fruit but it also reproduces itself many times over through the fruit it bears. A blessed ground brings forth a plentiful harvest, a blessed nation grows in population and prosperity.

When God curses something, it dies. Life is removed from it. There is no fruit, no harvest. Nations and peoples become scattered, dispersed, or annihilated. So why are some things blessed and others cursed?

Israel was told, *"If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give your today, The LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."* (Deuteronomy 28:1).

Why, then, do we as the people of God expect and look for blessings when we live lives that result in cursing? God says, *"forsake not the assembling of ourselves together"* but believers find dozens of reasons not to worship with his body. God says to honor him with our first-fruits, in our time, our money, our lives. *"Seek first the kingdom of God."* *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart."* But time and time again everything else comes before our worship, our service, and our honor to God. God says, *"pray without ceasing"*. *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."* But we live with doubt, insecurity, fear, and have no trust in Almighty God to change our lives and the lives of those for whom we pray. Can we expect blessings when we live as though we want to be cursed?

God is still God! He is control! He is the Author, Creator, and Sustainer of our faith. He has not changed. He is eternal. He is our Deliverer, our Stronghold, our Defender. Do not loose heart. Give God every opportunity to bless your life by being faithful to him, and faithful to his church.

Ephesians 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Inside this issue:

Student Ministries	2
Preschool/MDO	2
Women's Banquet	2
Upcoming Events	3
Outreach Month	4
RCC Kids	5
May Calendar	6

Student Ministries



May

3rd SALT Meeting at 4:00 pm, Outlet at 5:00 pm

10th No Activities

17th Leave for Oak Mountain at 4:30 pm

24th Wiffle Ball at Pastor Josh's House at 5:00 pm

31st Service Project at local Nursing Home

Preschool/ MDO

May 1st Kids' Rally / Parents' Night Out (\$10 for preschoolers, \$5 for school-aged children)

May 5th K4 Mother's Tea

May 6th K4 Graduation at 6:30 p.m. Meal at 5:30 p.m. FAMILIES OF GRADUATES DO NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THE MEAL

May 22nd Last Day of MDO/PS. Daycare will continue

May 25th Entire Center Closed for Memorial Day



New Arrival



Sophie Reese Banger

Born: April 9th 6 pounds 12 ounces
18 1/2 inches long

Parents: Justin and Maggie Banger

Grandparents: John and Gayle
Banger

Maxie and Janice Walls

Happy Birthday

Effie Smith turns 100 on May 15th.

We will honor Effie during the Mother's Day service on May 10th and her family will honor her at a party here at the church on May 16th at 1:00 p.m.

All are invited to drop by for the party.



Women's Banquet

The Women's Mother's Day Banquet will be May 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. Tickets are \$10 per person and childcare is available for \$5 per child or \$10 per family. The children will receive dinner. The men have the pleasure of serving the women again this year and the women have the pleasure of hearing Tammy Bryant sing and speak. The theme is Masquerade.



Tammy Bryant is an ordinary working Mom of 2 children and has been married for 25 years. She was

involved in a music ministry for 15 years and grew up singing at many churches all over the state as a child. Even as a young child she was very vocal about her walk with the Lord and continues to work with women to increase growth in the Lord by learning the word of God in a very practical way. She is entertaining but more importantly she is a servant to the Lord.

You can purchase tickets for the banquet from Caprice Lawrence, Joan Kilgore, or Linda Scollard.



Kids' Rally / Parents' Night Out

May 1st 6-9 pm

Theme: Kids in Space

Must sign-up to attend



Celebration of Worship with musical group InnerFire on May 3rd.

Music for the entire family.



College-for-a-day on May 24th

Speaker: President Greg Hall from Warner University

Baccalaureate Service May 17th

Honoring from Hoover:
Harold Cooley & Laura Scollard

From Pelham:
Sarah Hunter, Taylor McDowell,
Drew Oldham, Matt Pledger,
Connor Portwood



College Graduates: Justin Banger (Montevallo),
Mantana (Ying) Brown (UAB)



A Day of Prayer, Praise, and Worship on May 31st

Come to be prayed over for God's anointing, healing,
and blessing

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse...Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty.



March Tithe income:	\$26,310
March Preschool Income:	\$24,260
March Church Expenses:	\$23,752
March Preschool Expenses:	\$19,445
Net income:	\$7,373



Women's Banquet May 9th

*Worship Honoring Mothers
May 10th*

Coming in



- 1st-6th—Teen I Camp (15-18 year olds)
- 7th—SALT Meeting, Outlet
- 8th-13th—Teen II Camp (12-14 year olds)
- 15th-19th—Junior Camp (9-11 year olds)
- 3rd, 10th—Financial Peace University
- 16th—BOE meeting
- 17th—Choir Practice
- 18th—Gideons' Meeting
- 20th—GNO at PepperPlace 7am-noon
- 21st—Father's Day, Baby Dedication
- 22nd-25th—Middler Camp (6-8 year olds)
- 24th—Worship Under The Stars at Northside
COG, Pastor Tony preaching
- 26th-30th—North American Convention
- 28th—Teen Challenge, Choir Practice

RIVERCHASE COMMUNITY CHURCH

MAY OUTREACH MONTH PRAY

<p>Sunday April 26th</p>	<p>Chandler Community Outreach A COOKOUT for this community in Pelham (less than 5 miles from RCC) where Pastor Josh lives.</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donate hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips, drinks, desserts, or loan tables • Bring and set up a portable canopy for shade cover • Bring (and play!) outdoor games like bean bag toss, badminton, or other fun games • BE THERE to interact with the community residents
<p>Sunday May 3rd</p>	<p>Celebration of Worship with InnerFire This musical group from Tennessee is coming to worship with our families. Their music is centered around reaching all ages.</p> <p>Celebrate Hoover Day One-day event at Veterans Park for all Hoover Area Businesses (bands, booths, food, etc.)</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an InnerFire family for 1 night in your home • Hand out 3 (free) tickets to the event, and bring at least 2 visitors with you • Come with an attitude of praise and worship • Be prepared to give a love offering for the group • Volunteer at RCC's booth to promote our church • Donate money for purchase of items to hand out at the event (items share about our church and events)
<p>Sunday May 10th</p>	<p>Mother's Day We will have a special recognition for all mothers and honor Effie Smith, who will turn 100 years old.</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 5 mothers a Mother's Day card inviting them to church • Invite 5 friends to come to church with you • Invite your family and their families to come worship with you on Mother's Day
<p>Sunday May 17th</p>	<p>Graduation Sunday Cap & Gown Baccalaureate Service and reception for our 7 high school and 2 college graduates</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite friends, family, and neighbors • Hand out invitations to 5 people • Call 3 friends and invite them to come celebrate graduation Sunday
<p>Sunday May 24th</p>	<p>College-for-a-day Guest speaker from Warner University will highlight our Church of God Colleges and their benefits</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <p>ALUMNI—Come support your COG alma mater, and bring someone to church with you. Bring pictures and memorabilia of your college days. Help with a reception for all of the alumni after the morning worship</p> <p>CHURCH FAMILY—Come and experience college-for-a-day. Give someone a personal invitation to come. Give a special invitation to families with high school students (call them, send them a card, send a personal note)</p>
<p>Sunday May 31st</p>	<p>Pentecost This will be a special day of worship, praise, and prayer.</p>	<p>What can you do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring someone to church who is in need of prayer to be anointed and prayed for • Encourage everyone on your prayer list to come in person to be prayed for that day • If someone you pray for can't be here on this day, you come to be prayed for in their place • Be part of a very powerful and uplifting time of prayer



RCC Kid Chat

Upcoming Opportunities

- April 24-25 4th-6th Grade Lock-in
- May 1– Kids Rally/PNO 6-9pm
- May 3rd Celebrate Hoover Outreach
- May 15– Beach Party for Kids 6-8pm
- May 27–Church picnic Veterans Park
- June 15-19– Junior camp (9-11yrs)
- June 22-25– Middle camp (6-8yrs)
- July 13-17 VBS in the evenings

Wednesday Night Kids

We are doing a new God Rocks series. It is called Build Each Other Up. We will use bible lessons, games, snacks, crafts and songs to learn more about each other and ourselves. Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 upstairs in Joe's Pit Stop.

April 22 Week 1	May 27 Church picnic
April 29 Week 2	June 3 Week 5
May 6 Preschool graduation	June 10 Week 6
May 13 Week 3	June 17 Week 7
May 20 Week 4	June 24 worship with Northside



'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the **least** of brothers of mine, you did for me. Matt 25:45














Be an everyday hero:
 RCC Kids will continue collecting for two service projects. They will be raising money to buy animals for Heifer International and to give the gift of a smile through Smile Train. Kids, you can be a hero by earning money to give and by helping to collect money in Sunday School classes and in church. We will collect quarters for Heifer International on Sunday, May 17th and money for Smile Train on Sunday, June 14th. Let's do our best to reach our goals and share our blessings with those in need.
Adults, start saving your change.

Children's Ministry Needs:

- One more nursery worker
- Someone to build a dock for the stage at VBS
- Someone to gather supplies and cut out props for Children's church
- Four more teachers for the walkers class
- someone to pick-up supplies from Chula Vista

VBS is right around the corner. Our theme will be Crocodile Dock. It is a bayou theme. Here are some items to collect for VBS.

- Artificial greenery / trees
- Inflatable alligators or crocodiles
- Dragonfly string lights
- Spanish moss
- fishing net
- fishing supplies for props
- battery powered tea lights
- Ropelights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  JOY Class in Gulf Shores 6:00 PM Kids' Rally / Parents' Night Out	2 JOY Class in Gulf Shores 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
3  JOY Class in Gulf Shores 9:30 AM Celebration of Worship with InnerFire 4:00 PM SALT Meeting 5:00 PM FPU 5:00 PM Outlet	4 6:30 PM Prayer Group	5 K4 Preschool Mother's Tea 10:00 AM TGW Bible Study	6 5:30 PM Wed. Meal 6:30 PM Preschool Graduation	7	8	9  6:00 PM Women's Banquet
10  Mother's Day 5:00 PM FPU No Youth Activities	11 6:30 PM Prayer Group	12 10:00 AM TGW Bible Study 6:30 PM MOPS	13 5:45 PM Wed. Meal 6:30 PM Wed. Activities 7:30 PM Choir Practice	14	15  6:00 PM Kids' Beach Party K-3rd graders	16 1:00 PM Effie Smith's Birthday Celebration
17  Baccalaureate 9:30 AM Baccalaureate Service and Reception 4:30 PM Youth Leave for Oak Mtn. State Park	18 6:30 PM Prayer Group	19 10:00 AM TGW Bible Study 6:30 PM Board of Elders Meeting	20 Newsletter Deadline 5:45 PM Wed. Meal 6:30 PM Wed. Night Activities	21 6:30 PM Gideon's Meeting	22 Last Day PS/MDO	23
24  Bible College Meal at Jessie's Place 9:30 AM College Day 5:00 PM Youth Wiffle Ball at Pastor Josh's	25  Memorial Day Offices & Daycare Closed 6:30 PM Prayer Group	26 10:00 AM TGW Bible Study 6:30 PM MOPS	27  5:30 PM Church Picnic Veterans' Park	28	29	30
31  Pentecost Sunday Youth Service Project 9:30 AM Pentecost Day of Prayer 12:00 PM Choir Practice						



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Summer Camp Registrations

- Teen 1 Camp: \$185 before May 18th
- Teen 2 Camp: \$185 before May 25th
- Junior Camp: \$165 before June 1st
- Middler Camp: \$135 before June 8th
- Grad Camp: \$50 before June 20th

Get forms from Pastors or the church office