

*The Forecast*  
**Hilton Baptist Church. [www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org](http://www.HiltonBaptistChurch.org)**  
**101 Main Street, Newport News, VA 23601**



In a perfect world, we wish everyone who comes to our church would stay forever. Believe me, I get that. I share that desire too. But the reality is that on this side of heaven people come and go, not just in church, but everywhere.

Think about it: you've switched gyms and supermarkets. You've bought and sold cars and homes. You've even switched jobs. And no, the church is not a commodity, but the law of averages tells you a certain percentage of people inevitably come and go.

Usually, when people leave a church, it's because there's a problem, a disagreement, or a conflict of some kind. But also leave churches when things are going well. As surprising as this sounds, every time you make progress as a church, the church growth experts tell us we will lose people. This comes as a shock to most who serve as caring leaders. And it can be very disheartening, especially if you don't realize some loss even in great seasons is 'normal'.

So why do people leave even when you're making progress at your church? Simple. The people who are at your church today are there because they like it the way it is. Change that (even for the better), and some will leave... (*Believe me, Your Pastor knows this...*)

***Join Us This Sunday As We Continue Our Series On, "Dealing With Your Doubt" – Join the excitement as more people continue to return and new people are joining us for a life-changing and Sunday worship experience!***



## ***Dealing With Our Doubt About Church***

The headline read: “65 Million American Adults Have Left the Church.” According to recent research, of the 210 million adults in the United States, 65 million of them used to attend church regularly but no longer do, and 2.7 million more leave every year.

Many wring their hands and say, ‘Church as we know it is dying.’ Yes, both at home and throughout the nation, people are leaving the church. But, in my opinion, this does not mean at all the church itself is dying.

How could it? Jesus said, “*I will build my church ...*” Do we honestly think He will fail in this?

No, I believe the church of the future looks absolutely nothing like the church most people are familiar with. In fact, for many people already, the church of the present looks nothing like the church of the past.

But that is not the point of this post...

I want to talk briefly about those 65 million adults who no longer attend church. A recent study on these adults discovered that while they no longer attend church, 30 million of them still identify themselves as Christian, and are still actively engaged in various practices and relationships that closely mirror some of the activities and relationships a person might practice in a church building except that they are no longer in a church building. They firmly believe they are followers of Jesus and are still part of the Church, even though they no longer sit in a pew on Sunday morning.

Do you have a problem with that? I don’t. I say, “*May their tribe increase!*”

I want to talk about the 35 million who used to attend church, and who no longer do, and who no longer self-identify as Christians or claim to follow Jesus or worship God in any meaningful way.

For myself, I find that number highly suspect. While it’s true, they don’t attend church. They don’t read their Bibles. They don’t pray. They don’t call themselves “Christian.” They don’t claim to follow Jesus. They use coarse language at times. They live what appears to be completely “secular” lives. But do you want to know what I have found? I have yet to talk to a single person who truly has abandoned God or rejected Jesus.

I am not saying these people don’t exist. I know they do. I just think the number is much smaller than 35 million. I still believe that in churches large and small, if Jesus is preached for who he really is and in the power and miracles of His resurrection, He will draw all people unto himself... and the church will be established and grow in accordance with God’s plan.

*On the grace journey together with you, Pastor Lynwood*

# The Hilton Baptist Church Record

Lynwood Wells, Pastor

April 26, 2022

*Serving our Community with the Love of Jesus!*

## Calendar

### Tuesday, April 26th

1pm– 2pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, April 27th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

### Thursday, April 28th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### Friday, April 29th

5:30pm-6pm Community Dinner

### Saturday, April 30th

Soles for Souls Walk

Sandy Bottom Park 10:30am

### Sunday, May 1st

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

### Tuesday, May 2nd

1pm–2pm Food Distribution

### Wednesday, May 4th

7pm Facebook Bible Study

### Thursday, May 5th

1pm-2pm Food Distribution

### Sunday, May 8th

10am Live Worship at HBC

Virtual Worship Online

10am Sonshine Kids

Happy Mothers Day

Budget \$1602.00

Annie Armstrong \$45.00

Total Deposit \$1647.00

Brian Lee's New Address:

2600 West Olive Ave

5th Floor

Burbank, CA 91505

bhlarcho1@gmail.com

909-203-0409



## **Missions Outreach—Pam Cooke 660-4226**

**WMU May Focus Project** -Our May Focus for WMU is Carenet Peninsula. Care Net Peninsula is a non-profit on a mission to bring practical help and hope in Jesus to women facing pregnancy decisions. They are collecting these items— pacifiers, teething rings and toys, Bottles, Burp cloths, bibs, baby wipes, books small toys, bath tubs and diapers. They prefer those items be new. They also are collecting Baby blankets, Boys outfits and footed PJs (NB– 12m) , these items can gently used. You can also give a monetary donation. All this will be collected through the month of May and taken to Carenet the first of June.

**Food Pantry at HBC**—HBC gives food away on Tuesdays and Thursday. See Sue Monfalcone to volunteer and for more information on how you can help. Bring your non-perishable food to restock the pantry the last Sunday of every month.

**Aluminum Cans** - Recycle your cans at HBC and help Support missions! Bring them to HBC and place them in the gym or the church office. All money collected goes to missions!

**Pray for our Missionaries** -LF (Central Asian People) JC, DH (East Asian People) NK, ES (Northern African and Middle Eastern People) LD (South Asian People) EM ,Julie Nockels (Southeast Asian People) John Hailies, Shad Spannagel (Sub-Shahan African People) Igor Zhukov (CA) David Nava (FL) Roger Stiles (IA) Adam Herald (ME) Jin Kim (MD) Brennan Coughlin (NJ) Amber Sarki (NY) Mark Turner (PA) Donghyeok Kim (WA)

**Serve The City**- There are many ways you can serve. Go to the website [STCpeninsula.com](http://STCpeninsula.com) to see how you can serve. You don't have to build anything, there are so many ways to serve.

**Southeastern, Correctional Ministry “Sole for Souls” Walk** April 30th, Sandy Bottom Park Walk 10:15am Lunch 11:30am. Get donations for this important ministry and come and join the fun. This ministry provides all correctional facilities in the Hampton Roads area with Bible Studies, devotionals, Christian counseling and other materials and programs. Any amount of donation is appreciated!

**April Community Dinner**- Our Community Dinner for April is April 29th and we could use your help! It is a great time when everyone comes together and fellowships with our community as we share the love of Jesus. If you can help, contact Pam Cooke

**A Special Thanks**—Hilton Baptist Church, Coming back from Spring Break can be filled with mixed emotions. But your snacks and heartfelt notes reminded us of our PURPOSE! We truly appreciate you.

Jacky- (Principal of Sedgefield Elementary School)



**Happy Birthday in April**

Lillian Clopton 4/26

Wayne Tawney 4/29

**Happy Birthday in May**

5/1 Madison Jordan

5/2 Bob Caffacus

5/3 Pauline Shofner

5/4 Joyce Greene

5/6 Kizzy Moriah

5/11 Beverly Hudson

5/12 Jonathan Michie

5/14 Pastor Lynwood

5/15 Mary Ann Schell

5/17 Tommie Peake

5/19 Donald Moore

5/20 Joe Wircenske

5/27 Debra Jones

5/30 David Gibson



**Lock up/ Hall Monitor**

5/1 Roger Cooke

5/8 Charles Vassar

**Counter**

5/2 Sue Monfalcone

5/10 Myrna Powell

**Kids Church Helper**

5/1 Kathy Caskie

5/8 Dreama out of town

Pat and Roger Cooke will

Be taking Kid's Church



We have the opportunity to let Warwick Hight School use the classrooms in the church for IB Testing through the month of May. This test is very hard and students have to have no interruptions. They must pass these tests for their diplomas. If you come to the church during the testing time, you may not be able to go on the second floor.

It is such a blessing that we can be a help to the community in this way!

God is so good!



## ***Harvest Principle: Give Generously***

*Then Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up. "There's a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that with this huge crowd?" - John 6:8-9*

Whenever you have a need, acknowledge your faith by planting a seed. In other words, take your focus off your need and look at ways you can provide for the needs of others, planting a seed in their lives.

This isn't easy; it goes against our nature; it's totally illogical. If I'm out of money, I'm probably going to think, 'I can't give away any money?' Or, if I'm out of time, I'm probably going to think, 'Why should I spend more time on something else?' Or, if I don't have any energy in a relationship, I'm probably going to think, 'How can I give more energy away?'

Yet, God says this is exactly what demonstrates faith: when you have a need, you plant a seed.

You can see this principle imbedded in our blood. When you give away blood, you get more blood. You don't end up with less blood; you end up with as much blood or more than you had before.

God often works through this harvest principle, that when you have a need, you give - and what you give away, God replenishes. Faith is like a seed, so it has to be planted - deposited.

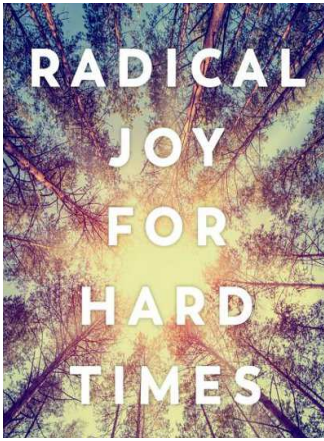
Remember the story of the little boy who had five loaves and two fish? He gives them away, and God uses it to feed 5,000 people. Jesus takes what the boy gives; He breaks it; He blesses it; and He uses it.

That's what God does in our lives. He takes us; He breaks us; He blesses us; and He uses us. He multiplied a little into a lot because it was planted as a seed.

Somewhere in your life there is a need, or hurt, or perhaps an unfulfilled expectation. You may want to blame others, or God, or just comfort yourself with the phrase, "Well, life's just unfair."

But none of those things will solve the problem, heal the hurt or provide a lasting answer. Put God to the test in your giving. In Malachi 3:8, God says, "Prove me now herewith says the Lord of hosts, that I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing beyond containment!"

If you will surrender both yourself and your need to God – in faith – as a seed to be taken and planted – You will be amazed by the harvest of blessing only He can provide!



## ***Radical Joy***

How can we be joyful even in tough times? There are two things we must do.

### ***First, you look past the problem.***

You look past the problem and the pain. You look toward God and his solution. This by the way is how Jesus was able to endure the cross.

How did Jesus put up with the pain, the agony, the suffering and the cruel death of the cross? He looked beyond it.

The Bible says it like this in Hebrews 12:2 *“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus [That means focus. Focus on God not your problem. Fix your eyes on Jesus] the author and perfecter of our faith, [He’s using everything in your life to perfect your faith] who for the joy set before him endured the cross.”*

How did he endure the cross? He looked past it to see the joy of all the people who were going to be saved through it. He looked past the pain and saw the purpose. He looked past the pain and saw God’s plan. He looked past the pain and saw the reward.

That’s how you do it. When you’re going through tough times you go, “Yeah, I don’t like what’s going on right now. It’s terrible. But I know that God is working all things for good in my life.” And that’s a reason for joy.

### ***The second thing you do to experience joy no matter what happens is that you keep on doing the right thing even when you don’t feel like doing it!***

When you do the right thing it brings joy in your life. The Bible says this in Psalm 119:143 *“As pressure and stress bear down on me...”*

Stop right there. Does anybody identify with this verse? *“As pressure and stress bear down on me, I find joy in...”* Watching television... (No!) I find joy in going shopping... (No!) It says *“I find joy in your commands.”* Joy comes from doing the right thing at the right time. And as the old hymn writer said, *“It is a joy unspeakable and full of glory and the half has never yet been told!”*

Years ago, Rick Muchow wrote a song, “Healing Grace.” There’s a line from a book by A W Tozer that says, *“I can see that there are good things that only suffering can bring.”*

That’s true in my life and yours as well. As the refiner’s fire removes the dross from silver and gold, so God loves us enough to allow even suffering to sometimes accomplish His very best in our lives!

## ***Does Prayer Change Things?***

They say that prayer changes things, but does it REALLY change anything? Oh yes! It does!

Does prayer change your present situation or sudden circumstances?  
No, not always, but it does change the way you look at those events.

Does prayer change your financial future?  
No, not always, but it does change who you look to for meeting your daily needs.

Does prayer change shattered hearts or broken bodies?  
No, not always, but it can change your source of strength and comfort.

Does prayer change your wants and desires?  
No, not always, but it will change your wants into what God desires!

Does prayer change how you view the world?  
No, not always, but it will change the eyes you see the world through.

Does prayer change your regrets from the past?  
No, not always, but it will change your hopes for the future!

Does prayer change the people around you?  
No, not always, but it will change you – (the problem isn't always in others!)

Does prayer change your life in ways you can't explain?  
Oh, yes, always! And it will change you from the inside out!

So does prayer REALLY change ANYTHING?  
Yes! It REALLY does change EVERYTHING!



### ***The Last Impression***

"Where is my Sunday paper?" the irate customer calling the newspaper office loudly demanded, wanting to know where her Sunday edition was.

"Ma'am," said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on Sunday."

There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition, as she was heard to mutter, "Well, that's why no one was at church today!"





## ***We Need Each Other In The Church***

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. – Hebrews 10:24-25*

One Sunday morning, a woman went in to wake her husband and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going." "Why not?" she asked. "I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me, and, two, I don't like them."

His wife replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you should go to church. One, you're 45 years old, and, two...you're the pastor!"

Variations of this story have circulated for years. While the joke is funny, the underlying truth is as equally sad.

Many people choose not to be a part of the Church. Their reasons vary. Some had a bad experience in their childhood; some see the Church as hypocritical; while others feel like they already did their time in church as children and now believe they have earned time out, like being paroled for good behavior.

The truth is, as believers, we need each other, and we need the Church.

No one is meant to live life or to worship God in isolation. Instead, we are created to come together in community. You may argue, "Can't you experience God on your own, without going to church?" Because God is continuously revealing himself throughout creation, His Word, and His people each and every day, the answer is yes.

However, we are called to be part of the Body of Christ and without each and every person, the Body is incomplete.

In our Western world culture where individualism is highly valued, the idea of dependence on one another can be seen as a weakness, a flaw in our character. But in the Kingdom of God, the opposite is true.

We are one. And others need you as much as you need others. Unlike a job with a comfortable retirement package to enjoy once you have "done your time," our time as members of the body of Christ is eternal. You and I are part of God's "forever family."

It's not simply a matter of whether you need the church... (and by the way, every true Christ follower does!) More importantly... The Church and Body of Christ need you!



## ***What Does It Really Mean to "Spiritually Go Deeper"?***

I occasionally hear people in church who like to say, "I want to go deeper in my spiritual life".

Maybe its reflective of some of my own personal cynicism (and if so, I pray God will correct me!) but I am prone to believe this can be one of the more shallow and often overrated comment people make in church.

Why do I say this? Because, more often than not, "going deeper" simply means and can be interpreted as "Bible Study" and it reflects a person's desire to be thought of as pious or spiritual.

Yet, rather than throw this statement out, I want to reclaim and redefine it. So what does "go deeper" mean to me? It means three things:

### ***1. Going deeper into my commitment to God's Church.***

I can't be committed to Jesus (the head) without being committed to the church (his body). Thus, I must love God's people with the same fervor and passion that I have for Him. I can't say I love and serve Jesus if I don't also love and serve his Bride.

### ***2. Going deeper into my commitment to the world.***

The world is dying and lost without Jesus. If I am to "go deeper" I must dive deeper into the muck and mire of a broken world in order to reach people. Pontificating about theological mysteries doesn't save people from Hell. Only the Holy Spirit, and people surrendered to sacrificial commitment through passionate, loving evangelism can do that.

### ***3. Going deeper into my commitment to being mastered by the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my schedule and priorities***

I'm a work-in-progress, and the more God works on me, the more progress I realize I need. Continually working to allow Jesus to be Lord of my money, my attitudes, my mind, and my words feels like a never-ending process. Thus, I must go deeper into submission to Jesus every single day – not simply when convenient or to meet other's expectations.

Does Bible study play a part in these three commitments? Absolutely – Yes it does! But all the Bible Study in the world accomplishes little or nothing if it is not accompanied by deeper faith, resulting in deeper works and the fruit of changed lives of others as well as my own.

May we all truly desire and strive to "go deeper" – And when we do, let it be seen in our actions and deeds and not in words alone. And let's make it our goal to help each other accomplish it along the way!

## *Waiting On The Goodness Of God*



The psalmist had just said, *“I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living”*. If it had not been for his faith in God, his heart had fainted. But in the confident assurance in God which faith gives, he urges himself and us to remember one thing above all - to wait upon God.

One of the chief needs in our waiting upon God, one of the deepest secrets of its blessing, is a quiet, confidence that it is not in vain; courage to believe that God will hear and help; we are waiting on a God who never could disappoint His people.

*“Be strong and of good courage.”* These words are often found in connection with some great and difficult effort, in prospect of the combat with the power of strong enemies, and the utter insufficiency of human strength. Is waiting on God a work so difficult, that such words are needed, *“Be strong, and let your heart take courage”*? Yes, indeed.

The deliverance for which we often have to wait is from enemies, in presence of whom we are impotent. The blessings for which we plead are spiritual and all unseen; things impossible with men; supernatural and divine realities. Our heart may well faint and fail.

Our souls are so little in the habit of holding fellowship with God; the God on whom we wait so often appears to hide Himself. We who have to wait are often tempted to fear that our faith is too weak, that our desire is not as in line with God’s will or as earnest as it should be, that our surrender is not complete.

Amid all these causes of fear or doubt, how blessed to hear the voice of God, *“Wait on the Lord! Be strong, and let your heart take courage! YES, WAIT ON THE LORD!”*

The one lesson our text teaches us is this, that when we set ourselves to wait on God we ought beforehand to resolve that it shall be with the most confident expectation of God’s meeting and blessing us. We ought to make up our minds to this, that nothing was ever so sure, as that waiting on God will bring us untold and unexpected blessing.

The whole duty and blessedness of waiting on God has its root in this, that only in waiting will you discover His true nature – that He is such a blessed Being, full, to overflowing, of goodness and power and life and joy, that we, however wretched, cannot for any time come into contact with Him, without that life and power secretly, silently beginning to enter into him and blessing him. God is Love! Learn to be expectant and confident in faith that...  
*“Something Good Is Going To Happen To You!”*

## *A Final Laugh...*

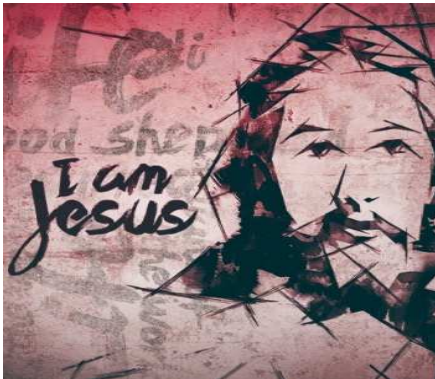
A middle-aged man was waiting for the bus. While he waited, he watched a young boy eat five candy bars, one right after the other. He said to the boy, "Eating all that candy is bad for your health and can rot your teeth."



The boy replied, "Mister, my grandfather lived to be 97 years old!"

The man said, "I'll bet he didn't eat five candy bars in a row."

The boy answered, "No, but he sure knew how to mind his own business!"



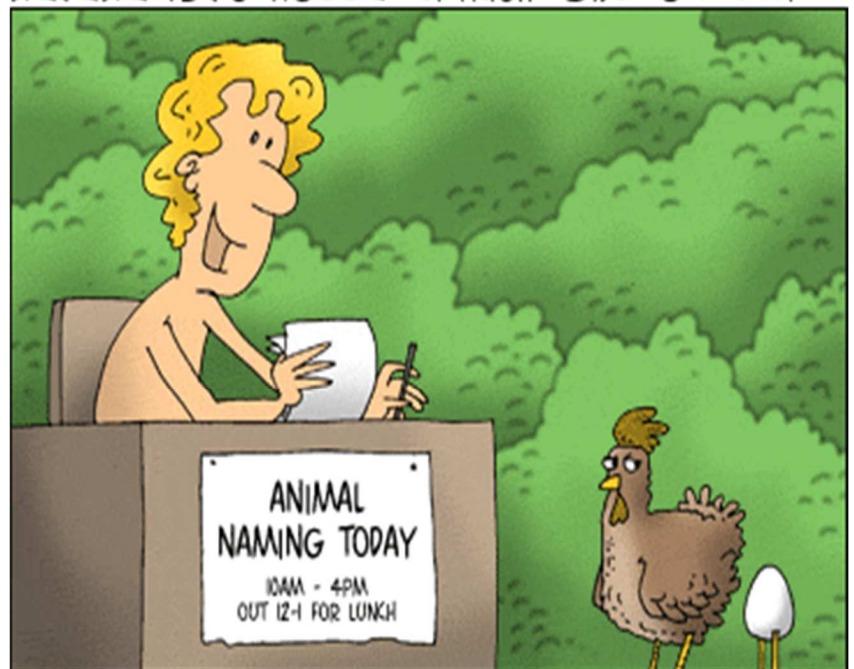
### *I Am Jesus!*

To the dead man, Jesus was life.

To the prostitute, He was a second chance. To the searching, He was the long-awaited answer. Rediscover what it means when He says, "*I Am Jesus!*"

***God is doing some exciting  
new and powerful things  
through the faithful  
people of God at HBC!  
Please remember  
your tithing commitments  
and giving and be part of the  
ongoing miracle!***

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(See Genesis 2:18-25)

03-28-2011

**JUST LET ME KNOW WHO WAS HERE FIRST  
AND I'LL GET THE PAPERWORK STARTED**