

# CONNEXION

Volume 16 Issue 5

May 2021



MISSION  
"MAKING DISCIPLES OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
FOR THE  
TRANSFORMATION OF  
THE WORLD"

VISION  
"A BRIGHT BEACON OF  
GOD'S LOVE TO IRVING  
AND BEYOND"

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## Standing Strong in the Lord

*"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power."* -- Ephesians 6:10

Vacation Bible School is happening on June 7-11! That the children's department is able to do a VBS this year is a huge sign that we are slowly emerging from this oppressive pandemic. The VBS theme seems very appropriate considering the times: "Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." The children will be having a lot of fun while they learn to trust in God's strength and God's power for their lives.

My mom and I traveled to California this week to spend time with my aunt and her family. I am writing this surrounded by family members who love the Lord. They trust in God, even through difficult times. My aunt lost her husband a few years ago, her eldest daughter (my cousin) lost her husband to a brain tumor a couple of years ago and now suffers from a health issue, and my mom lost her husband (my dad) this year. They have also had various trials through this pandemic. Instead of turning away from God, they all turned towards God. My aunt said it best; after the death of my uncle she asked, "O Lord, what do you have planned for me now?"

As we emerge from this pandemic, what question are we asking? We can either be self-focused ("What am I going to do now?") or God-focused ("God, what do you have planned for me now?"). Notice the difference in focus. One looks to self, our weaknesses, our struggles. One looks to God, His strength, His power.

Read Ephesians 6:10-17 today. We live in a difficult world. We live in an evil world. Yet God is stronger. God empowers us. We may not feel it, but through God, we can be armored up like a great warrior. Be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God! As the song reminds us: "Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong! Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so."

The Bible Challenge readings for this month include many stories of Bible characters who learned to be strong in the Lord. Some trusted in God immediately. Some learned the hard way to trust in God. Some suffered because they stopped trusting in God. As you read them, find ways to be strong in the Lord more and more in your own life.

Blessings!

*Doug*

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Dear members of FUMC -- We (Don and Helen) would like to thank you for your prayers and cards. To us, you are the Angels God uses to make people feel better. Your prayers and concerns gave us both hope and joy. There is no way that I can convey what it meant to both of us. From this and other times in my life that people have prayed for me I KNOW GOD LISTENS AND ACTS. AGAIN THANK YOU

GOD BLESS  
DON AND HELEN RICE

## ONLINE GIVING



<http://www.fumcirving.org>

### 2021 Bible Reading Challenge!

This year we will be reading through key parts of the Bible from the Old Testament through the New Testament. The major themes of Scripture will be encountered as you read God's inspired word. The Sunday message will almost always be taken from the week's readings.

Week (Theme)	Reading
May 31-June 6 (Armor of God)	Ephesians 1-6
June 7-13 (Biblical Stories of Vacation Bible School)	Daniel 3, 1 Samuel 17, Luke 2, Matthew 14, Acts 16
June 14-20 (Wilderness Stories)	Numbers 17, 20, 22-24
June 21-27 (Faithfulness Rewarded)	Joshua 14, 23-24 Judges 1-2
June 28-July 4 (Deborah)	Judges 3-5 Psalm 20 Proverbs 1-2
July 5-11 (Gideon)	Judges 6-8 Proverbs 3-4
July 12-18 (Samson)	Judges 13-16 Proverbs 7-8

### MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

MAY 2021

#### In Honor of Kyle Powell

to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund, honoring service to the youth from Bill & Marni Monty  
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from June Taylor  
to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from Connie Baker

#### In Memory of:

**Edelize Filler** to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from June Taylor  
**Herb Cooper** to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from June Taylor  
**Herb Cooper** to General Budget from John & Julie Schilling  
**MaryLou Niethamer** to Myrtle Beard Scholarship Fund from June Taylor  
**Dora Lee Bryan** to Music Ministry from Mary Good  
**John Charles Vaughn** to Music Ministry from Mary & Paul Good

## Refuge Youth

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated our graduating seniors with a banquet. It was a great time with food, fellowship, and getting to know each of the seniors a little better. A very big thank you to the other parents and youth who helped allow this to go off without a hitch. It could not have been done without you.

During our banquet, we were able to celebrate the recipients of the Myrtle Beard Scholarship. This scholarship has been around since 1987 and has provided many graduating seniors that are members of our church with some money to help in their college journey. This year the recipients were Bryson Chambless and Claire Schilling. We rely on donations from the church to make sure we have enough to continue this tradition. Please prayerfully consider donating to this great cause.

We have finished out the school year. As I write this, it is graduation day. I am so proud of all of our graduates, and I am so excited to watch them become amazing men and women.

The youth are looking forward to a fun summer that finally includes camp at Bridgeport! Please keep them in your prayers as we start out the summer!

Jessica Jones  
Youth Director



Bryson Chambless & Claire Schilling 2021 Myrtle Beard Recipients



Bryson Chambless, Claire Schilling, Luke Bolton, Reid Phillips



Dear Family,

What a difference a year can make. I am so glad to be having Sunday School in person and on Zoom. I wish I had my camera out when we met on Sunday to discuss plans for VBS. It is certainly a diverse group that is willing to help teach our children in person and virtually. Spreading God's love through His Word is immensely powerful. So that we can keep the Covid virus stay away as much as possible, several ladies and gentlemen got together to assemble craft kits and individual supply kits. **The Lord is blessing our prayers and sending children our way.** It will be an opportunity for JOY as we are all together. (with our mask up).

Following VBS we will start a new ministry on Wednesday mornings 9:30-12, for Elementary aged children. We will be teaching the Bible through stories, crafts, recreation and Missions. We are calling it Wednesday's Wonders. The plans are coming together but volunteers are welcome. Even if you are only available one week, that might be the week I need you the most. Pray about spending some time with the church family and community. Give the office a call and let me know if you want to help. My extension is 212.

Blessings,

*Juanell Montoya*

*"Where God leads, He provides."* Isaiah 58:11

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## MUSIC NOTES

Dear FUMC of Irving family,

I want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the FUMC of Irving Family for your support for our concert on Sunday evening, May 2, 2021. The concert was successful, which is beyond what we were hoping for. The generosity you have shown goes far beyond one of financial means but is also one of kindness and love to us. We would have never seen our visions and dreams come to life and be such a success without your support.

We are leaving on June 7, Monday, and I will be back on July 22, and Yeonok and the kids are staying a little longer. Please keep praying for our family to have a meaningful time of ministry and good family time as well. We thank you very much, and we are SO proud to be a part of the FUMC Irving family.

Sincerely

David, Yeonok, Kara, and Hannah



## Parent's Day Out



PDO has had a very busy and happy May. We had our End-of-Year Program and Graduation Celebration with our Open House on Thursday, May 20. It was amazing - the kids, the staff, the parents, Mr. Jimmy Bellew, George Adamson and his beautiful wife, Pastor Doug, Ms. Julie, Ms. Jessica. We thank them all for everything they each did to contribute to our program. It takes a village for sure.

Our summer program begins Tuesday, June 1. We are beginning to get calls for both summer and Fall registration again. Please remember PDO in your prayers as we work to get back to our student ratios we had before the pandemic. On that note - we are also in need of several items to get through at least the summer for now. We need bottled washable tempera paint in all colors, construction paper in single color packets of all colors, and glue sticks. If you want - we can also use your \$\$ donation to obtain the items we are in need of. Any amount of help is most appreciated.

Please spread the word about PDO. Follow us on FACEBOOK to see lots of fun pictures. Blessings asked for all.

Sandi Parker  
PDO DIRECTOR