

May 23, 2024

MILE MARKERS

With summer starting and Memorial day here, many people are planning family vacations and traveling to visit family. I imagine that many of the Buc-ee's gas stations will be rather busy over the next few months as people travel around. I find it funny that over the past few years Buc-ee's has quickly become a marker for our family trips. They have them perfectly located at the half way point for us going to Gatlinburg, and they have a few placed on our way to Florida as well. So no matter which way we go, Buc-ee's works as a mile marker for my family. But that hasn't always been the case. I can remember as a child, before having GPS in our car we would have to either use a map or print out directions on MapQuest.

I can remember following those directions with me and my brother looking out the window for the next mile marker to know both where we were and when we need to turn. Each marker we passed was just a sign that we were one mile closer to where we needed to be. Even in ancient times, people used markers as a way to make sure they were on the right path. Although the ancient Romans didn't have Buc-ee's to judge their distance or bright green markers with numbers to tell where they were, they did have "milestones". Along the roman roads, they would place these milestones with the name of the current Caesar of the time and the distance to the next town or village. As a matter of fact, some of these milestones are around today and can still be seen. But why is this so important?

Well, because milestones mark a significant point has been reached and point to the next place. When the nation of Israel first crossed the Jordan river, they placed "milestones". **Joshua 4:5-7** says, "And Joshua said to them, "Pass on before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, that this may be a sign among you. When your children ask in time to come, 'What do those stones mean to you?' then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

Those stones marked an important moment in their journey to the land that God had promised them. A moment that was so important that they were even told that they were to teach their children about what had happened that day. Those twelve stones were a mark of a promise that God had fulfilled. A promise that He would allow them access into the Promise land. This was something that even Joseph had talked about and looked forward to. **Hebrews**

11:13 says, " These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth." **Verse 22** goes on to tell us, "By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones." This shows us the confidence that Joseph had in God's promise.

But this gets me to thinking, what milestones do we have in our lives? When we look back on our lives and we see all of the different markers and paths we have been. When we align those with God's word, are we able to see a life that has been lived in faith and a path that had been laid out and established by God? Because if you really think about it, each milestone prepares us for the next. Think back to Israel, when they first left Egypt, they were not prepared to enter the Promised land. Before entering they had to go through 40 years in the wilderness and a life of learning to trust God before they were ready to cross the Jordan river. The same is true when it comes to us maturing in our faith. We must be preparing for our own crossing of the Jordan into our land of rest.

If our life is truly lived in faith to God, then each moment prepares us for the next. And only if we continue to follow the markers that God has established will we truly be able to say as Paul said in **2 Timothy 4:7-8** "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

As memorial day is upon us and summer traveling begins, I would like to encourage you to take a moment and look at a few of the memorial stones in your spiritual life. Reflect on all the work that God has done for you. Look at where you are now compared to where you were then. Are you closer to God more now than ever? Or maybe you have been straying from the path and you need to look back to the rock of our salvation to get back on the right track. But if we are able to follow the path of righteousness, the path established by our Savior, then we can one day meet death as simply a milestone along the path to our eternal home of rest and peace.

Andrew Spivey

" For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Galatians 5:13

COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – 2 Kings 4

Wednesday Read – 2 Kings 5

Questions for last week's reading of;

Review of United & Early Divided Kingdom & Read 2 Kings 3.

Questions:

1. Who was the leader of the Israelites before they had a king?
2. What did Solomon's wives cause him to do?
3. When the kingdom divided, what were the names of the 2 kingdoms; and who ruled each kingdom?
4. What was the problem that the Israelite army and Judah's army faced?
5. How did God use the natural world to trick the Moabites?

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be held **June 2 - 5, 2024**. Please mark your calendars for those dates and invite your family and friends to this year's VBS.

THANK YOU NOTES

I would like to say thank you to everyone that sent cards, came by for visits, and phone calls. I truly appreciate all you do for me. Thanks again,

JoAnn Williamson

Thank you for your support to the Sierra Leone mission. My family and the entire church in Sierra Leone appreciate your huge support to the church here. **Editi Obot** (Editi's message is on the Nashville Rd FB page & he requested to share it with the congregation).

ON THIS MEMORIAL DAY

Remember those who served before.

Remember those who are no more.

Remember those who serve today.

Remember them as we eat and pray.

Remember our protectors-who are not

home today.

Remember them all on Memorial Day.

by Emily Toma

ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

May 26, 2024

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Kevin Siler
Auditorium Lesson.....Andrew Spivey

10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Scripture Reading.....Corey Nelsen
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Fate Evans
Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson
Servers.....C. Suddarth, J. Sever, M.Lyle
D. Thompson, B. Sever, A. Williamson

Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....Garrett Rowlett

5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby
Sermon.....Andrew Spivey
Lord's Supper.....Brent Smith
Closing Prayer.....Matt Ellis

WEDNESDAY

May 29, 2024

7:00 P

Welcome.....Bob Brown
Song Leader.....Jonathan Senn
Opening Prayer.....Tony Butler
Lesson.....Andrew Spivey
Closing Prayer.....David Johnson

Ushers for May.....Robert Buck & Lowell Clark
Communion Care for May.....David Johnson

Door Greeters – West Door.....J/L Cherry
East Door.....Z/A Tooley
Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Linda Cherry

IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935
Church Office.....615-452-3431

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WISHING YOU A PEACEFUL & BLESSED MEMORIAL DAY



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

SICK LIST

Melba Hill is now at NHC in Rm. 2010. Sara Savells had hip replacement surgery. She is home and doing better. Sara Hosman is home now and recovering from surgery. Ann Tyler is now at NHC. David Williams has been moved to Gallatin Rehab Center. Janice Johnson is home now. Faye Hart is now home recovering from back surgery. Pat Watson, former member, health issues. Virginia Long, sister of Gary Stallcup, has a parathyroid illness and is bedridden. Paul Gruber neighbor of Bob & Sherry Sever has been diagnosed with bladder cancer. He is now undergoing a new drug therapy for the next few months. Larry Bailey, son of Tina Bailey a former member, has been diagnosed with liver cancer and had surgery on May 2nd to remove tumors.

SHUT-INS

Jean Deaton; Melba Hill;
 Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615.
 James Spivey.

*We depend on families and friends to help us update
 this list. Please notify us of any changes.*

OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	108
Morning Worship.....	158
Sunday Evening.....	68
Wednesday Evening.....	58
Contribution.....	\$8,031.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$3,043.00

PRAYER LIST

James & Mary Spivey; Ottis Cothron; Sara Hosman; Anita Cato; Shauna Lockett; Tony Perry; Jean Knowles; Zach Tooley; Mary Ann Reinhart; Shelby Ross; Sandi Jones; Lena Baggett; Maxine Cothron; Frances Catron; Charlie Cliburn; Pat Crump; Heather Lemley daughter of Michael & Cathy Lemley. Elaine R0eynolds, friend of Christie Coleman; Alan Greene, nephew of Carl & Pam Newby; Bethany Shoulders, granddaughter of Evelyn Harris; Samantha Hager, friend of June Thompson; Bryan Grissom cousin to Joyce Clark & Robbie Glover; Vycki Puckett, daughter of Jack & Anita Cato; Ty Tyler son of Ann Tyler; Wade Kennedy father of Diana Stephenson; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill; Aza Topik, grandson of Charlie & Wanda Seals.

Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621

Deacons

Carl Newby Jonathan Senn Brent Smith
 Eric Stephenson Adam Williamson

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister
 GARRETT ROWLETT, Youth Minister