

I have been working with students either part-time or full time for over 25 years now. The first group of high school seniors that I had are in their 40s now. (Which is a fact so unbelievable to me that I just opened up the calculator app to do the math.) Over the years I have been involved in many Senior Sundays, went to many graduations. I have watched seniors move from crazy sixth graders to actual people over and over again. I have learned to lean on their leadership and have felt the hole when they leave each time.

You see, being a youth pastor is a continual goodbye. It is a training of students to go out into the world and use what you have taught them to change the world. That is why I do what I do. That is my goal, to teach kids and then send them out into the world let God use them in mighty ways. This continual goodbye comes with the territory. As a youth pastor I get to see God do amazing things in the lives of teenagers, but I also have to say goodbye to some of them every year. It's just part of the deal.

I am generally good with this bargain. It is what I signed up for after all. But this year...well, this year is different.

This year it will be Nathan up on the stage standing behind the microphone telling you he is going to either University of Illinois or Auburn (he still hasn't decided). I'm not really sure how I feel about that yet. Part of me is excited for him and for this next part of his life. I am proud of the young man that he has become and I know that I have done all that I can to help him be ready for what comes next. I know that God has plans for him, and those plans aren't under my roof.

At the same time, I find myself wondering what the days will be like when he isn't around. I wonder what church will look like when he isn't leading in worship. I wonder what youth group will look like without his presence.

I know this is the way of things. I know that when he was born 18 years ago this was part of the plan. This is what I signed up for. He doesn't get to stay forever. That's just the deal, but I find myself wishing for more time. Like, can we take a covid year of eligibility and just stay around a little more.

I guess I am writing all of this to say I don't really know what I will feel like when Nathan stands on that stage. I am proud beyond measure, and excited for where God will lead him, but for 25 years I have watched seniors walk across that stage and I know the emptiness that comes when they are gone, so if you see tears behind my proud dad smile you will at least know where they are coming from.

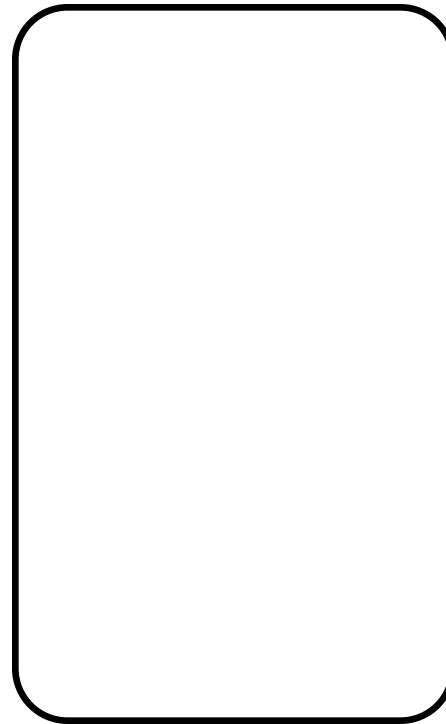
Jesus told his followers in Acts 1:8 that they would be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. That means that the Christian life is always going to be one of saying goodbye. That's what we signed up for. That's the deal. As always I am excited about what God is going to do in the lives of these seniors. I am excited for where they are going next.

This time it just hurts a little more.

Shane



Friendship would like to recognize our high school graduates on May 19 in our 10:45 worship time. If you are graduating from high school this year and would like to be included in this celebration, please contact the church office or call Pastor Shane at 270.217.5687 by May 5.



Phone: 270.534.1900
www.friendshiponthenet.org
www.facebook.com/friendshiponthenet
 Dr. Jason Browning, Pastor
 Rev. Shane Yancey,
 Minister to Students & Children
 Rev. Chad Davidson,
 Minister of Music & Worship

Budget Receipts

Required to Date: \$ 177,728
 Received to Date: \$ 170,993


Nursery Volunteers

- May 5
 8:15 a.m. — Christa Copeland
 10:45 a.m. — (BB) Andrew & Lacy Halligan
 (T) Cathy & Lauren Barks
- May 12
 8:15 a.m. —
 10:45 a.m. — (BB) Robbie Spees & Kelly Dixon
 (T) Kara Allard & Vickie Turley
- May 19
 8:15 a.m. — Billie Stuber
 10:45 a.m. — (BB)
 (T) Sheri Wright & Patty Bickerstaff
- May 26
 8:15 a.m. — Bridget Browning
 10:45 a.m. — (BB) Nathan & Kathryn Thomas
 (T) Phyllis Rambo & Andrea Brewer
- (BB) - Bed Babies
 (T) - Toddlers

Weekly Activities

SUNDAY
 Sunday School - 9:30 am
 Worship - 8:15 am & 10:45 am
 Evening Worship - 6:00 pm
 Children's Bible Study - 6:00 pm
 Youth Bible Study - 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
 Prayer Service - 6:30 pm
 Youth Bible Study - 6:30 pm
 Kids Choir - 6:30 pm



Help us spread the Good News to children around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child year-round. Item for MAY is: **SMALL CARS/SMALL DOLLS**

Box provided in KidZone for OCC items



COOKIE BRIGADE

May 5
 Sherry Queen
May 19
 Pat Klempke

The LINK

Friendship Baptist Church

146 S. Friendship Rd.
 Paducah KY 42003

Volume 24

MAY 2024

Number 5



Strength & Honour
 are her clothing;

and she shall rejoice in time to come.
 She openeth her mouth with

wisdom,
 and in her tongue is the law of
 kindness.

Proverbs 31:25-26



“On that day, when evening came, He said to them, ‘Let us go over to the other side.’ Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Hush, be still.’ And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. And He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ They became very much afraid and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’”
(Mark 4:35-41)

Mark provides the details of Jesus calming the angry waves. Can you imagine what the disciples were experiencing? Frantic. Terrified. Overcome with anxiety. The disciples were in the midst of a storm with no escape. Where was Jesus while the storm was raging? Jesus was in the back of the boat asleep.

As the disciples are scrambling to do all they can to keep the boat from sinking, their fear gives way to frustration. The disciples eventually wake Jesus to say, “Don’t You care that we are going to drown?” And just as calmly as He was sleeping, with great authority, Jesus demands the winds and waves to be still. Immediately, the seas were calm and the disciples’ experienced peace.

Sometimes we get so consumed with the storm of life, that we miss God’s peace that is within our reach. When we are in the midst of a struggle or filled with worry, we can easily become overwhelmed. In fact, we can get so distracted by the “what if’s” and the “could be’s” that we spiral into thinking of the worst possible scenario. When we allow minds to remain focused on what might be, our world can quickly become dark and hopeless.

But our faithful God can be found even in the dark and hopeless moments. God can be found in the season of anxiety. He can be found when we are angry or frustrated with the circumstances of life. God can be found when we are not sure what to do next because our buckets are overflowing. He can be found when we feel our boat is about to sink. In these moments, an authoritative “Hush, be still” from Jesus can calm the raging storm.

Mark described how Jesus rebuked the wind and waves creating a perfect calm for the disciples. We understand that Jesus doesn’t always calm the storm in our lives nor does He always change our circumstances. But one thing we can be sure of is that Jesus has the power to change our hearts. When we turn our hearts toward Him, He provides us with a fresh perspective and His perfect peace.

God is good! All the time!


Jason



Wednesday, May 1 at 5:00 p.m. The menu is: FISH FRY! Fish, Fries, Hushpuppies, White Beans, Slaw, & Dessert. Sign up in the worship center or call the church office by noon on Tuesday, April 30. Adults: \$6; Children under 10: \$3.



- 1 5:00 p.m. — Family Night Supper
- 4 9:00 a.m. — Church Work Day
- 5 6:00 p.m. — Night of Praise & Worship
- 7 11:00 a.m. — JOY Club
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 4
- 12 Mother’s Day
- 9:00 a.m. — Church-wide Mother’s Day Breakfast
- 14 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 5
- 15 5:30 p.m. — Finance Team
- 6:30 p.m. — Business Mtg.
- 19 10:45 a.m. — High School Graduate Recognition
- 21 10:30 a.m. — Women on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 1
- 27 Memorial Day
- 28 6:00 p.m. — Operation Andrew, Team 2



VBS 2024
July 14-18
6:00-8:30 pm
4 years - 12th grade
 Register online at:
www.friendshiponthenet.org
 Or
 Pick up a registration form in the KidZone and return to the church office



Join us for breakfast in honor of Mother’s Day, May 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the KidZone. Deacons will provide breakfast.



The JOY Club will go to Southern Fried & Sweet Tea in Calvert City on Tuesday, May 7. Meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. to ride the bus.



Join Dr. Dennis Swanberg on May 24, 7:00 p.m. at Trace Creek Baptist Church for a night filled with joy, warmth and infectious humor. For tickets, visit: www.sunrise.org/thewan/. All proceeds from this event will benefit Sunrise Children’s Services.

You are invited to the celebration of marriage of
Abigail Hawkins & Brent Schwarz
 Saturday, June 1, 5:00 p.m. at Friendship
 Reception will follow at the Myer River Room at The Carson Center
 Please RSVP for the reception to Melissa Hawkins @ 270.217.3780 by May 12



“The impact this song has had, by influencing and changing lives for God, will only be fully evaluated in eternity.”

George Beverly Shea (1909 – 2013) was known for his booming baritone voice. He ministered alongside Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, often singing right before Graham stepped to the podium. One of his best-known songs was, “I’d Rather Have Jesus.”

Mr. Shea was born in Winchester, Ontario, Canada. He had the advantage of good musical training early in life. In his early years, he had his share of lucrative offers from this world. He was offered a substantial salary and wide recognition for this secular singing position. Shea prayed long and hard while making this difficult decision, but he thoughtfully turned them down to become a singing servant for our Savior. Beginning with Billy Graham in 1944, George Beverly Shea carried the Gospel in song to every state in the Union and to every continent of our world. “I first met Bev Shea while in Chicago when he was on Moody Radio,” declared Mr. Graham. “As a young man starting my ministry, I asked Bev if he would join me. He said yes and for over 60 years we had the privilege of ministering together.”

This is how George Beverly Shea tells the story himself:

“The poem was written by a lady named Rhea Miller. Mother thought it to be a very wonderful poem and wanted me to read it. She then asked me to try my hand at writing a melody for the verses.” He was immediately impressed with the words and so “deeply moved” that he began to compose music for the lines. “I began to play as a melody came to me. It seemed to fit the lyrics and so I began to sing, for the first time, I’d Rather Have Jesus.”

That same day, he sang the song in his father’s church service. As the people in the church listened to George’s deep voice sing out “I’d Rather Have Jesus, than silver or gold,” little did they know that the song was destined to become one of the most well-known of all recent Christian hymns. Bev Shea commented, “Over the years, I’ve not sung any song more than I’d Rather Have Jesus, but I never grow weary of Mrs. Miller’s heartfelt words.”

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold. I'd rather be His than have riches untold.
 I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land.
 I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hands.*

*Than to be a king of a vast domain, And be held in sin's dread sway.
 I'd rather have Jesus than anything, This world affords today.*

<https://enjoyingthejourney.org/hymn-history-id-rather-have-jesus/>

Under the Master’s Baton,
 Bro. Chad



Bro. Jason & the Friendship Family extend Christian love and sympathy to Chris & Kaelin Mallory in the death of his mother, Joan Mallory.



Saturday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m. Projects include pressure washing modular units and sidewalks; trimming bushes; and cleaning exterior windows and doors. Tools needed include pressure washer, garden hoses, trimmers, rakes, ladder, rags, and glass cleaner. Please sign the list in the worship center if you are able to help.