



- Carrol Jeffers 2nd
- Stephen Swirsky 5th
- Benji Leal 8th
- Paul Hembling 11th
- Karen Potts 12th
- Mike Cheatham 13th
- Robert Edwards 14th
- Katie Sargent 14th
- Mary Lee Camp 15th
- Luke Nimt 24th
- Christina Davies 26th
- Aaron Heinrich 27th
- Patty Vandaveer 27th
- Kate Allen 29th
- Callie Cheatham 29th
- Lottie Kiecke 31st
- Richard Terry 31st

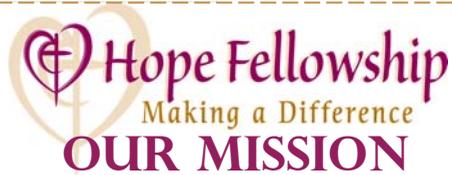
Aaron & Emily Heinrich-10th

And

Wayne & Amy Brune-27th



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



WE EXIST TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BRAZOSPORT AREA AND THE WORLD BY WINNING, BUILDING, AND EQUIPPING DISCIPLES.



STAFF:

- Mark Swirsky, Senior Pastor
- Raymond Knox, Worship Leader
- Jason Rogers, Director of Youth
- Michelle Deavenport, Director of Children
- Bianca Deajon, Secretary

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA!

- Hope Fellowship Lake Jackson
- twitter.com/MarkSwirsky2
- pinterest.com/pinnersofhope

200 Lake Road • Lake Jackson , TX 77566 • www.hopefellowship.com • (979) 297-

SHINE HIS LIGHT

HOPE FELLOWSHIP | MARCH 2016

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- The Forward Look*
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- What's Happening*
- Catalyst Update*
- Volunteer Schedule*
- Birthdays & Anniversaries*



April 8-9, 2016

www.brazosportmancamp.com

as I have
loved you.
LOVE one
another
John 13:34

The Forward Look:

Thoughts from Our Pastor's Heart

PASTOR MARK SWIRSKY



THE FORWARD LOOK
Thoughts.....from our Pastor's heart

Recently the Pope made a comment about Donald Trump's position on building a wall on the southern border of the United States to keep out immigrants and to make Mexico pay for the wall. (No, I'm not going to endorse a Presidential candidate.) I listened carefully to what the Pope said and I think he characterized the political position of building a wall to keep out immigrants as not being a "Christian position." I don't think the Pope actually accused Donald Trump of not being a Christian.

That nuance was not carefully reported by the media (no surprise there) and so a firestorm erupted. It is inappropriate to question anyone's Christianity based on a political position they hold because political positions are not what save us. Faith in Christ alone is what saves us and makes us a Christian. Unless we are able to discern the inner working of someone's heart to confirm whether they have trusted in Christ or not, we are incapable of making a declaration on the salvation of someone if they profess to trust Christ. Of course it is easy if they deny Christ and reject him as their Savior to know their state of salvation. I don't think the Pope actually made a claim about Trump's salvation, but I did only hear an edited portion of his words, so I can't say for sure.

Giving the Pope the benefit of the doubt, it is still highly problematic for a Christian to characterize a political position as Christian or non-Christian. Some political positions are more clearly in line with Scripture than others, but politics necessarily entails means as well as ends and moving from Scripture to the politics of today is difficult for a number of reasons. The New Testament was written to churches and says very little about how governments are supposed to function. It has more to say about how Christian citizens are supposed to function. The OT does provide a model of how Israelite government was supposed to function but that government was a theocracy headed by God and nothing comparable to it exists on this Earth so it is problematic to try to apply directly OT policies of governance to a modern State.

I am not saying that we can't attempt to derive principles of government from the Bible, but I am suggesting that the process is complicated and should be accompanied by a dose of humility that I may be misapplying to a republican form of government, principles that were well-suited only for a theocracy or for church government. I am quite confident that abortion and homosexual behavior are morally wrong and that it is morally right to treat immigrants with compassion and kindness, even those of an illegal nature. However, crafting political solutions to these issues is a tricky business and here is where our certainty is less as we try to come up with the means to incorporate Biblical values without denying other Biblical values. Anyone who attempts to integrate Biblical principles with political solutions should be applauded for making the effort, but we must be cautious of proclaiming anything the "Christian solution."

I believe that it is possible for Christians to come out on both the liberal and conservative sides of politics. We need to be careful in asserting that our derived political solution is "Christian" versus our opponent's "non-Christian" position.

We risk confusing people with what the Gospel is in these discussions because the reality often is nuanced and requires a fair amount of explanation, something which is not conducive to tweeting or a Facebook rant or media broadcasts. Hopefully the Pope learned his lesson and will stay out of making off-the-cuff political statements that can be made into sound bites that may not even reflect his true position. We should also avoid making the same mistake.

-Pastor Mark



Volunteer Schedule

DATE	little sprouts nursery	TREEHOUSE for preschool tots	CLUBHOUSE kids
Mar 6	Coordinator/Greeter: Taylor Lasagna 9:15-10:35: Emily Daniel, Taylor Lasagna 10:35-12:15: Kathie Sexton, Sandra Thibault, Michelle Strickland CR: Anna Bertheau	Jacquin Rogers Lyssa Sargent Caris Theriot	Alma Rodriguez Eric Rodriguez Reece Brown Danielle Markham
Mar 13	Coordinator/Greeter: Diana Kidd 9:15-10:35: Travis Vandaveer, Diana Kidd 10:35-12:15: John & Victoria Holderness, Karen Hemingway CR: Diana Kidd	Nina Daniel Danielle Markham Grace Sargent	Amie Dodge Ravenne Dodge Chase Dodge Mike Hovan
Mar 20	Coordinator/Greeter: Taylor Lasagna 9:15-10:35: Amie & Chase Dodge 10:35-12:15: Mark & Marsha Heironimus, Summer Hughes CR: Marsha Heironimus	Alma Rodriguez Bethany Deavenport Kristin Markham	Nina Daniel Tim Daniel Kaylee Durso Chris Cramer
Mar 27	Coordinator/Greeter: Diana Kidd/ Kim Leal 9:15-10:35: Mary Jo Baumeister, Kim Leal 10:35-12:15: Brian & CJ Heironimus, Rosemary Allen CR: Diana Kidd	Alice Genereau Victoria Van Allen Emma Sargent	Vickie Markham Alyssa Genereau Bradley Markham Dave Reuschle



Winter Jam - March 4th

- Where: Toyota Center
- When: March 4th
- Time: TBD
- Cost: \$10 per ticket
- Who: My goal is to open this up to everyone! Families, friends, foes, etc. We can figure out how to get us all there when the time comes.
Website: <http://2016.jamtour.com/shows/detail/houston-tx/>
- Sign up this Sunday so I know how many vehicles I need to start finding.

Challenge 2016 - July 3-7th

- Challenge is the national conference for EFCA students exiting 7th through completion of 12th grade. It has proven to be a catalytic environment challenging students to live on mission with God every day, everywhere, forever.
- When: July 3-7th
- Where: Louisville, KY
- Cost: \$550 per person. (This may go down depending on the garage sale numbers)
- Sign-ups are open!! Get your applications in now. (Application Attached)
- A deposit of \$100 will hold your spot. Sign-ups close March 13th.
- Payment Schedule:
- \$100 by March 13th
- Additional \$220 by May 22nd
- Remaining \$230 dollars by June 19th
Website: <http://www.challengeconference.org/>

T-Shirts

The shirts have shipped and should be here by this weekend. If you didn't get your order in I ordered a few extra in different sizes but they will be first come first serve.

Sunday School Breakfast

I am still looking for a family to help with breakfast for the May 1st breakfast. Let me know if you are willing and able. If you signed up for one of the other slots you will get a reminder as the time gets closer.

Equipping Families on a 14 Day Walk With Christ

This is an activity that your family can do together as you prepare your hearts and minds for Easter. You can do these things in 14 consecutive days, or, like my family, any 14 days of the month leading up to Resurrection Sunday (March 27th). You can do a simple 5-10 minute devotional and talk time, or participate in the private journaling. Please go to the [Women of Hope Fellowship](#) Pinterest page, on the board [14 Day Walk With Christ](#) for the PDF downloads of the little papers you will use to fill the eggs, the journal pages, handouts, and some detailed devotional guides for each day. I have modified the verses and activities that the original poster suggested, in order to make it more theologically sound for our church family, while keeping the basic structure intact. The printed egg inserts and some print accessories can be found at the children's ministry check-in station. This will take some forethought and preparations, but much less preparation than planning your child's birthday party! My prayer is that the effects will be a lifelong love with Jesus.

Serving with and for you~ Michelle

<u>Day</u>	<u>Egg Tag & Lesson Theme</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Object Lesson</u>
1	Jesus Love Me	Mark 10:13-16	Gather items from around the house that show Jesus' love for us (family picture, toy animals, the bible, fruit, anything you can think of). Game: Place them on the table. Have the kids leave the room or close their eyes, remove objects and see if they can guess what's missing.
2	Love One Another	John 13:34	Have a piece of paper for each family member, with their name at the top. Pass the papers around, and have every person write a loving message on every page for that family member.
3	Christ-Like Love	I Cor. 13:1	Jesus tells us that we should make love an ACTION, not just a word. Decide on an ACT of loving service you can do for someone outside of your home.
4	Faith	Heb. 11:1	Plant a small seed in a cup and watch it grow. Something fast growing will be best. Our faith is like a seed, the seed doesn't look like the plant that will bear fruit when you cover it with dirt. But you water it, believing that it will have a good result.
5	Repentance	Acts 3:19	Supplies: Cup of clear water= us, food coloring= our sin (talk about different things we do that are sin), bleach= Jesus and his death for us (drop that into the cup), Alka-Seltzer= our decision to repent, that activates Jesus forgiveness.
6	Forgiveness	Matt. 6:14-15	Make 2 identical paper planes. Tape a penny in a hidden spot on one of them. Fly both planes. Have the children examine why one is flying and the other is not. Unforgiveness, holding a grudge, is like the penny on the plane, weighing us down.
7	Sheep	John 10:1-18	Explain the word picture of the Sheep and the Shepherd. Follow it up by playing "Don't Eat Sheep" with pieces of candy. (Game board is with the egg handouts, or can be printed off at home from the Day 7 link.
8	Service	Luke 10:25-37	Have everyone in the family write 3-5 names of people who God would consider a neighbor. Put the pieces of paper in a bowl, draw the names out one at a time, and discuss how that person could be served. Choose at least one you can do as a family. (There is a great video on the Mormon Channel of YouTube)
9	Miracles	John 20:30-31	Have a picnic and discuss the miracle of Jesus feeding of 5,000 people (John 6:5-13).
10	Talents	Matt. 25:13-30	Label lots of chocolate coins with a "talent" like: good friend, kind, good listener, obedient, piano, singing, math, example, sports, patient, caring for others, creative, good leader, smart, funny, etc. Hide the coins around the room and have the kids find them. Read the scripture passage and discuss. For question ideas, see the Day 10 link.
11	Bicycle	Romans 5:8	Read the story of the Bicycle Parable. (Little girl tried to save her money for a bike, but her dad had to make up the rest, because no matter how hard she worked, she couldn't save enough pennies to purchase it herself.) If possible, take a family bike ride.
12	Gratitude	Joshua 4:1-7	Paint 12 river rocks, or small stones. As a family write 12 things you are thankful for this year. If you want to use them in your outdoor garden, spray them with polyurethane spray.
13	Atonement	Isaiah 43:25	RED dry erase marker, other colored permanent markers, dry erase board. Write sins in the permanent marker. Try to erase them by coming up with ways we can "act" or "do" better. Now use the red dry erase marker to represent Jesus' blood that completely takes away our sin. With the dry erase, write over the permanent marker, a chemical reaction takes place to allow it to be erased.
14	He Is Risen	Various	Find Resurrection Rolls project, including the verses, on the Pinterest page

