

Audubon Baptist, *a Church in the Park*

SO WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, (502) 635-2100

www.achurchinthepark.org

February 2021

Proverbs 22:4, The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

I awoke this morning to learn that one of my childhood heroes, Mr. Henry Louis Aaron, died peacefully in his sleep during the overnight hours. As a lifelong fan of the Atlanta Braves, I remember watching “Hammerin Hank” dig in against the Los Angeles Dodgers’ Al Downing on April 8, 1974. The crowd of 53,775 people in Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium stood in anticipation during that 4th inning; a National audience subconsciously leaned-in toward their televisions as Downing’s windup commenced.

Ball one. The first pitch to Aaron was down and in the dirt, the kind of pitch a professional throws when sensing he is about to become part of history. Hank had been walked in his first at bat and the crowd sensed more of the same; raucous boos lifted across the sellout crowd. On the next pitch, the left-handed Downing crouched, cocked, and fired a slider. Hank’s eyes must have lit up, a mistake headed his way. “I don’t see pitches down the middle anymore - not even in batting practice.”

The slider hung over the plate a bit too long and Hank dispatched it some 385 feet over the left field wall for number 715, surpassing the legendary Babe Ruth’s homerun record. “I knew it was out of the ballpark,” Downing would later say. “It was a line drive. Hank was not a flyball hitter. The difference with Hank and other line drive hitters: His line drives just seemed to carry and carry and carry.”

Most childhood heroes’ long fade: yet Aaron’s legacy transcends time, if anything, more shined today in our remembrances of him. His was a life lived quietly, giving his best to baseball on and off the field. He said, “I just tried to play the game the way it was supposed to be played.” He served up grace and humility, leading with a

quiet influence over a lifetime of service to humanity. In recent weeks, Aaron received the COVID-19 vaccine, speaking about wanting to reassure people of color, and to do his part to slow the virus’s spread.

On that evening in April, as Hank rounded second base at 9:10PM, two young and overly enthusiastic men sprung from the stands and ran towards Hank, eventually reaching him and celebrating alongside him, pounding him over and over again on the shoulders. Hank continued onward; all the while, Aaron’s bodyguard froze, unsure, pistol pulled from its holster and trained upon the men, watching every footfall. Such was the imminent danger to a humble man doing what he was born to do, what he loved, in the deep south. It was the thin line between adoration and hatred. No. 44 walked both sides.

I am not alone this morning in my memories of Hank Aaron. Our world aches for men, and women, of such stature, walking humbly, quietly going about their work. What we remember of Hank is, of course, lore. But it is also more than that, perhaps far greater influence and honor is given to him – and deservedly so - because of the manner in which he strode after he hung up the cleats. Remaining simple. Quiet. Humble.

Earlier today President Biden issued a statement from the White House, concluding with this: “As a nation, we will still chase the better version of ourselves that he set for us.” Audubon, my prayer is that we would be a people of which it may be said, **He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** The testimony of such lives goes beyond our wisp-like moments. Even for heroes.

One of my favorite quotes from Hank is this: “Well, the pitcher has got only a ball. I’ve got a bat. So, the

percentage of weapons is in my favor, and I let the fellow with the ball do the fretting.”

All of us can chose humility. Let’s allow the others do the fretting. **The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.**

JH

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

02	Lauren Goodlett
09	Ruthie Akin
11	Stella Bright
12	Tina Kerr Kahl
18	Mona Brashear
20	Olivia Padgett
24	Christy Wigger
25	Anola Sinnott
28	Elijah Akin

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of Audubon and the missions that we support. Tithes and offerings may be mailed to the church at the following address:

Audubon Baptist Church
1046 Hess Lane
Louisville, KY 40217

Thank you, Audubon!

PRAYER GATHERING

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Romans 8:26

Pastor Jeff leads a prayer gathering during the hour before Sunday worship. We are Praying the Bible, an approach taken from the book of that very name by Donald Whitney. Come learn with us as we pray together. We begin promptly at 9:30AM and conclude at 10:15AM.

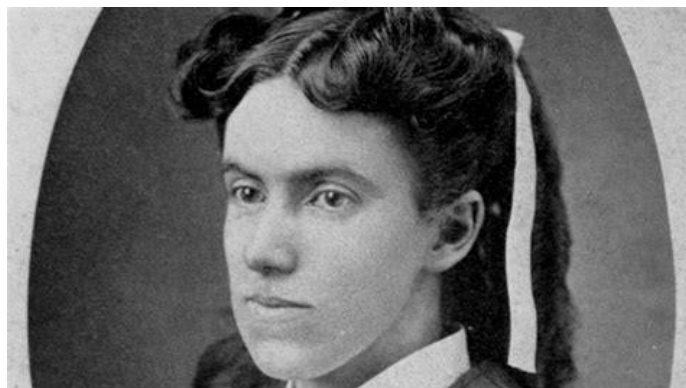
WOMEN’S PRAYER GATHERING

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jeremiah 33:3

The women of Audubon are invited to join with fellow sisters for prayer and encouragement Saturday mornings (first and third Saturdays) at 8:30AM. Note that these prayer gatherings are conference call only. Call AmyJo, Carol, or Ellen for further information.

LOTTIE MOON

Lottie Moon—the namesake of Southern Baptists’ international missions offering—has become a legend. Well over 100 years ago, Lottie labored tirelessly over 40 years so that the people of China could know Jesus. While there, she also began writing letters challenging the American church to send and support more workers in the field. **The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.** The annual “Lottie Moon Offering” is an occasion to honor both Lottie and to reflect upon our place in the wider Kingdom work, making His great name known to the outermost.



It is our practice to invite a missionary to speak to our congregation during the Lottie Moon season. This year we are delighted to host Barrett and Jobeth. They will share about their experiences in the field, communicate the reality of making the Gospel present where it is not, and also receive the encouragement of the congregation of Audubon. It is with great blessing that we will share in their story for two Sundays this month. I want to encourage you to attend.

When: Sunday, February 7th and February 14th, 10:30AM