

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

March 2021

Your Influence for Jesus

1 Peter 2:9, But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

I have been already thinking about our Easter celebration and the church universal's remembrance of Jesus' victory over death. On April 4th, Christians from many tongues, from every community of America, across many denominations, devout Believers and those less so, those that gather weekly for worship and those that attend biannually, will gather together on Resurrection Sunday. The day will present us an opportunity unlike most others, not only to shower love upon guests gathered in our sanctuary, but also that we may go further, that we might proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. The sovereign timing of Easter as related to COVID weariness makes me ponder God's mysterious ways.

Researchers are confidently documenting increasing Gospel receptivity as COVID lingers. There is a principle that is put forth during trials, "The more disruptive a life event is to a person's psychological equilibrium, the more it will cause him or her to be spiritually receptive." Through the testimonies of many, we can surely affirm the disruptive reality of COVID; nothing is as it was thirteen short months ago. The Corona virus has impacted everyone. Yet, time is short; before long, we will return towards normal and restabilize in our equilibriums.

All of us who call Audubon home are influencers. Each and every one of us have family and friends and coworkers and neighbors and coffee shop baristas and others God has placed in front of us. We see them often. We talk on the

phone and share social media too. They pour our coffee and walk by us in the neighborhood. We fret over some because they are precious to us. God has made each of them in His image.

Because of them, I long to see the story of His holy nation growing through us. I long to see more of them brought into the light, finding a love more wondrous than understood, freed from the bondage of sins that ensnare, and finding peace while sitting among us in the pews. We each have a part to play in proclaiming His excellencies.

Numerous studies have been conducted spanning decades – studies that document people finding eternal life and church homes, churches where they can be loved and grown as disciples. Consider the results of one survey in capturing statistics concerning those visiting churches. Of those visiting,

- 2% visited because of an advertisement or mailer.
- 6% visited due to a pastoral invitation.
- 6% visited as the result of a church evangelism campaign, a program.
- 86% visited because they were invited by family or friends.

Pastors receive more than a few suggestions on the top 3. A more effective question before us all is: "Who will I, who will you, invite to church?" We understand from latest statistics that only 17% of churchgoers will ever invite another to church. 17%. Ever. Such statistics should shake our sense of equilibrium for the sake of those we love.

Opportunities necessarily change during certain eras and historic moments; we will not have an Easter cantata this year, but we will have a very special service, nonetheless. We are a people of His own possession that hold sway

and influence over many and can beautifully proclaim His excellencies. He has entrusted us with much, including His very Gospel that longs for our telling and sharing with those we love.

I will be preaching in March and a good portion of April, including the Passion Week services. I ask for your prayers as we consider those services. I ask for your prayers concerning who you might invite to visit our church. I ask for your prayers that we will make much of the opportunities before us in sharing His beautiful story of grace. And I will be praying for you too.

May God be glorified in His people. Grace, grace, all grace,



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

02	Terras Tolliver
07	Mary Birch Miller
12	Dr. Edgar Hatfield
19	Beverly Dew
29	Julie Smothers

DID YOU KNOW

- ✓ Did you know that we are livestreaming Sunday worship on the internet? For those unable to join in-person, you may participate in our service with video & audio by going to the church's Facebook page: facebook.com/audubonbaptistchurch

Thank you to Dan Miracle, Adam Hyde, Stephen Evatt, Tyler Akin, and Sam Akin for their IT and AV expertise and diligence in researching, designing, procuring, installing, and "making it all work". Well done men!

- ✓ Did you know that our Facebook page is being refreshed and utilized for increasing awareness of our church and Kingdom building?
- ✓ Did you know that our Facebook page has added over 125 followers to the page over the past several weeks? Some followers are former members of Audubon that have moved out of state, others are friends and family, some are wholly unknown to us. How incredible. Please use your influence and help us get the word out.

- ✓ Did you know that our website contains weekly event information, recordings of past sermons, and electronic copies of the church newsletter? Check it out here: achurchinthepark.org

- ✓ Did you know that Pastor Dan will be taking a sabbatical during March and April? We pray God's blessing upon him and Menda Sue as they rest and reflect upon their service to us and His Kingdom. We are so very grateful to them and for them.

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Hatfield
6609 Falls Creek RD
Louisville, KY 40241

- ✓ Did you know that the church sent flowers in memory of Mr. Roscoe RI Kerr Jr? We are thankful for our church and the impact it has had upon families through the years – and their impact upon us! We received the following from Tina:

To our Audubon Baptist Church family, Thank you for remembering daddy with the beautiful flowers. He loved getting the cards and Audubon news. He enjoyed his last 7 years at Westport. I will be comforted by the good memories that were made during our times. Thank you for your prayers, Tina

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.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your continued support of Audubon. You will receive more reporting of our financial position throughout 2021 as we navigate the realities brought upon us by COVID. Thank you for your faithfulness to His work. I am so very grateful for your generosity and worship of the One True King.