**The Beacon**

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*Mission Statement: “To glorify God and to be the Body of Christ in this Community”*

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**Know the Story** - The Bible is God’s Story and our story. It’s a story of truth, life, and hope. In order to experience its riches, we must know it. So join us as we read through the whole Story in 2016.

**Live the Story** - Knowing the story is not the end game. We need the truth, life, and hope of Scripture to shape our lives. So as we read, we seek to apply it to our story.

**Share the Story** - A story of such beauty can’t be kept hidden. So as we know and live this story, we seek to share it as well.

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Many of you enjoyed your community group in the past months. It’s time to sign up to be a part of another group that will help you deepen your relationship with other church members and guests.

If you would like to join a Community Group, please fill out a Community Group card located in the Sanctuary and Social Hall.

The groups will be put together and you will be contacted by your Community Group leader.

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**Atlanta Mission Trip - January 16-18**

Cost $100 per person (Housing, Food, and Transportation)  
Talk to Ron Jones or April Curry for more information.  
Deadline January 10, 2016

The Atlanta metro area is collected into pockets of unique communities, each one with its own distinct characteristics and needs. It is a living juxtaposition of mega-churches, shopping centers, high rises and wealth set alongside gang violence, drugs, human trafficking and poverty, all within mere blocks of one another. The challenge to reach such a diversified population for Christ is great.

Though it sits in the wrongly perceived biblically saturated South, the city itself is no longer considered to be the hub of the Bible Belt. By one estimate, only 8 percent of the million people living inside the city’s Interstate 285 perimeter have any inclination toward church. With a population of more than 5 million in the metro area, only 27 percent are considered evangelical believers, leaving millions who still need to know Christ.
Dear Church Family,

As we move into 2016, I want to challenge us to be people of the Word, people in community, and people on mission. One of the ways we can be people of the Word this year is by participating in The Story 2016. The Story is a one year Bible reading plan. Included in this newsletter is the daily reading plan for the year. There will also be a monthly reading plan that will be distributed in the bulletin on Sunday morning. I want to challenge you to be more familiar with God’s story this year.

There are two main ways that we can be people in community. The first way is by joining a Sunday School class and attending as often as possible. Sunday School is the primary way our church makes disciples. It is a wonderful time of prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. The second way is to join a community group. A community group is a group of people that meets together at least once a month with the purpose of getting to know one another. All through the month of January you will have the opportunity to sign up to be in a community group.

There are three main ways we can be a people on mission. We must devote ourselves to prayer, asking God to help us reach our community for Christ. Second, we must give cheerfully and sacrificially to the mission of the church both locally and globally. Third, we must be willing to go across the street, across the state, across the country, and across the world. There will be several opportunities for you to participate in missions this year. One opportunity that is coming up in a few weeks is our mission trip to Atlanta. We will be serving a church plant in downtown called Tapestry Church. We will also be going back to New York City this summer to serve The Gallery Church by doing backyard Bible studies. In addition to these trips, we will have several opportunities here in Augusta to reach out to our community. I strongly encourage each of you to participate in missions by praying, giving, and going.

The new year will contain both challenges and opportunities. In order to make the most of this year, we must move forward with faith in Christ, love for one another, and unity of mission.

In Christ,

Pastor Ron Jones

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**Prayer List**

**Members with Health Concerns**

Langdon Atkins  Truellen Baker
Edwin & Connie Blanchard  Elizabeth Doggette
Frances Ellis  Charles & Nita Gibson
Mary Lamar  Davis Lewis  Frank Martin
Tom Ramage  Margaret Rice  Jackie Robinson
Dottie Sandifer

Information as of 12/28/2015

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I realized earlier today just how much of our lives we have shared with all of you here at The Hill Baptist Church. Our eleventh grandchild was born here in Augusta on December 23, 2015. As I looked back it began to dawn on me that nine of our eleven grands were born during our time here. I guess that’s why you all feel like family to me in a way. Thank you for the blessing our time at The Hill has been for Nanette and me. We will never be the same. Thank you for the beautiful reception, for the many remembrances, for the many gifts and cards, for the beautiful plaque and mostly, thank you for your love and friendship. You will always be family to us. We love you and know we will miss you all in the days ahead. May God bless and keep you as you continue your journey in Him, sharing His love with each other and all those whose paths you cross. Until we meet again.

In Christ,

Bob Walker
It is always such a sad time for me knowing Christmas has come and gone once again. However, I enjoy looking forward to the new year, being reminded that January is a time for new beginnings. Recently, I asked a few of the kids what their goals were for 2016. Most of them set goals of self-improvement, such as making better grades or learning to play a new instrument. A few of them set goals that were a little easier to meet, such as eating more candy and donuts. After discussing our own personal resolutions, we decided to make a group commitment focused on pleasing Christ. This year, The Hill Kids want to focus on loving others. To the kids, this looks like inviting friends to their church activities, being extra kind to peers at school who may not have a friend, or getting along with their siblings. As adults, we can apply similar acts of love in our own lives. We can invite our friends to church, reach out to those in need, and love on the unlovable. God loves us unconditionally and calls us to do the same in our communities. As we enter the new year, let us resolve to love others as Christ loves us.

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait on him.’”

Lamentations 3:22-24

Coming Events:

Airstrike- Extreme Air Sports! Saturday, January 23rd all 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us for a morning of extreme air sports! Kids must be signed up before January 16 in order to purchase tickets ahead of time. The cost of the trip is $12 for one “flight” hour. We will meet at the church at 10 am Saturday morning and return at 12 pm. This is a trip for preteens (3rd-5th grade) only.

Parent’s Night Out- Kids of all ages are invited to a Valentine’s Parent’s Night Out on Friday, February 12 from 5:30-8:30. This is a chance for parents to take a night off while your kids enjoy a night of crafts, dinner, and a movie. The cost for dinner is $3 per child.

Connie Lee Blanchard

"The Hill Kids celebrating the birth of Christ"
Minister on Call
Rev. Ron Jones
706-945-7619

If you cannot reach the minister on call, please call the deacons of the week.

Deacons on Call
January 3
Roy Jones
January 10
Ed Stalnaker
January 17
Steve Mullins
January 24
Tommy Lee
January 31
Harold Baker

The Staff of The Hill Baptist Church
Pastor: Rev. Ron Jones
Director of Children’s Ministry: Abbey Sandifer
Ministry Assistant: Joann Huff
Organist: R. J. Thomas
Pianist: Jan Sutton
Associate Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Gunter

Memorial & Honorarium Gifts
Margaret Thompson
Gloria Patrick
Jim & Nell Youngblood
Margaret Rice
Jackie Robinson
CDJ Mission Group
James Mills
Leon Bush
Wade and Margaret Thompson
Get Well Wishes
Carolyn Williams
Faith Seekers Class
Carter Hudson
James Mills

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

Congratulations to Jonathan and Tiffany Walker on the birth of Adeline Noelle on December 23.
7 lbs. 3 ozs. 19 1/2 inches long.

Proud Grandparents:
Bob and Nanette Walker