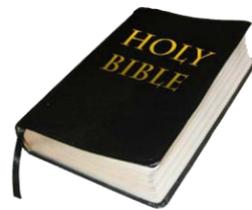


Experiencing the Bible

Some years ago a study entitled Experience God became a church phenomenon. The oddity was that this should not have been news to the church! The success of Experiencing God reveals in part that people who were deeply involved with church life felt that they were not experiencing God in their life. There is something of a similar phenomenon when it come to the Bible. As a culture we are biblically illiterate and even people who participate in Bible believing churches often feel that they are not experiencing the story of the Bible.

This fall we will begin offering opportunities for individuals and groups to begin a journey of Experiencing the Bible. During the Fall we will be focusing on the large sweep of the biblical story itself from creation to new creation. You will be able to have a very good grasp of the God story as revealed in the Bible and its theological flow through the Bible. Beginning in 2018 we will focus on how to read the Bible in its various literary genres so that you will have greater confidence and competency to engage and experience the story of the Bible. If you or your group wishes to participate in Experience the Bible, please let Brian know this month. The journey begins after Labor Day.



Dear Ivy Family,

For nearly a year we have been exploring the notion of what it means to be a church family living in the movement of Jesus. For many years churches have typically and traditionally focused on the church itself rather than the mission of God through the church in the community. As we move forward, we will seek to focus on fleshing out what the mission of God looks like at Ivy and in the community in which we live.

Churches that are organized around sustaining the church itself often use a nominating process for getting people to serve in particular roles or "job" in the church. In this model, the structure of the church dictates and governs the church life. We seek to fill every position and often resort to pleading and begging for people to fill the empty spaces in our structure rather than organizing around the mission.

Throughout the month of August we will explore a different model. It is quite simple and will bring a sense of greater freedom and deeper joy. This model is built around these fundamental truths. First, every follower of Jesus is *called* to "be" like Jesus. We often get so entangled with church activities that we fail to realize that our first calling is to be like Jesus by being with Jesus. Second, every follower of Jesus is *gifted* to serve the mission of Jesus in some way. This is not about serving the church but serving *through* the church.

This is a biblical model that recognizes that the church is an organic body or expression of Jesus in the world. The church is not the structures within which we meet or the programs that we offer. Structures and programs are simply servants to the mission itself. Churches have one of two choices. They can try to fit into the structures that they already have or they can create structures that support the mission of God through the church.

What does this look like in practical terms? You are free to pursue God's calling in your life, This is where your passion and joy can come to full fruition. You will not be compelled or made to feel guilty to fill a vacant spot. Rather, you will be encouraged, equipped, and unleashed! You will be encouraged by your church family who loves and prays for you. We will seek to find the training and tools that are necessary for you to grow and develop in your calling. You are then unleashed to fulfill your calling and engage in ministry.

This means that every person who serves the mission through Ivy is essential personnel. We will not do any ministry that we do not have leadership for. We will seek to embrace every ministry for which there are leaders. Everybody gets into the game. Rather than the general rule of thumb that 20% of the people do 80% of the work, we will function as a family in which we all share together in the mission of God through our church family.

Blessings,
Brian



This is a special presentation sponsored by the social team. 15 Women of the Bible— Portrayed by 15 Ivy Women. Who will you represent?

Ladies, please see Margaret Wilson to claim the woman you want to portray. This includes dressing the part! Choices are first come, first serve. See Michelle Munger in the Church Office for help with very comfortable costuming—even options for jewelry!

The Hall -Davis-VanLear Group is sponsoring a craft show on October 14, 2017. Spaces will be available for \$20. we invite anyone with handmade items to participate. Proceeds will benefit the S.O.U.L. Project, which provides assistance to children in need. Watch for more details.



Each time we have a month with five Sundays we will use the fifth Sunday as a time to have open congregational worship. Our next opportunity is Sunday, July 30.

If you would like to give a testimony, preach a sermon, sing a song, or share in any other way, please notify Brian. We will look forward to a wonderful service of celebration!

"SUMMER IN THE CITY"

We are Partnering with Langley Baptist

August 5th

10:00am—2:00pm

This is a partnership event with local businesses, civic organizations, and the community. It's a hands-on local mission opportunity to bless our community. We will help our community experience the Kingdom of God in a tangible way. More information is coming as it gets closer.

August Missions Involvement

This month we are supporting
IVY School Supplies



We are collecting school supplies of all sorts that will be given to our children just in time for school. Collection boxes are in the foyer. Thank you for supporting our young people in this way.

Giving Options!

Our online giving system is back and so much better than ever! Visit our website to give online. You can even give via TEXT or by scanning the QR code in Sunday's bulletin.

Text **IVYATCC** to **73256** to give to the Unified Budget using your text messaging. *Standard text messaging rates may apply.* If you have questions call the Office at 838-3107.



MINISTRY RESOURCES UNIFIED BUDGET

July 2017 (as of July 24)

Given this Month.....	\$27,880.74
Total Needed this Month to Meet Budget.....	\$34,852.17

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays
9:00 am - Brunch
9:30 am - Small Group Bible Studies
10:45 am - Morning Worship Service

Tuesdays
8:00 am - Intercessory Prayer

Thursdays
6:00 pm - Basketball in the Activity Center



AUGUST CALENDAR

Watch your bulletin insert for more
Homes of Hospitality Opportunities

August 5 - "Community Explosion" with Langley Baptist
August 23 - "Going Green" with Concert!
August 26 - Home of Hospitality @ the Wilson's

MARK YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

September 4 - Labor Day Holiday. Church Office closed
September 10 - Sunday School Promotion Day
September 13 - Wednesday Night Supper begins
September 16 - Women of the Bible Presentation
September 27 - Church Business Meeting

Please check your Sunday bulletin and the weekly "Ivy Vine" message for calendar updates!

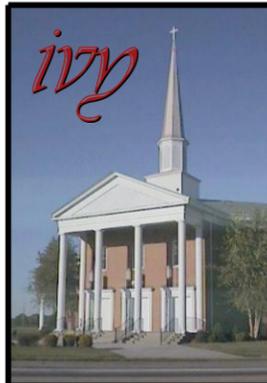
Your Church Office is open Monday—Thursday
9:00am—3:30pm 757-838-3107
www.ivymemorial.org

Periodical, Postage Paid
Hampton, VA 23670
Permit No 414-040

LIFE LINE is published monthly by IVY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH.
Application to mail at periodical postage rate is paid at Hampton, VA 23670. Postmaster send change of address to 2200 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, VA 23666.

Ivy Memorial Baptist Church
2200 Coliseum Drive
Hampton, Virginia 23666

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Life Line

Ivy Memorial Baptist Church
Your family ... in Coliseum Central



Volume 45, No. 8

August 2017

We are **Going Green**
Wednesday August 23



With
Scarlet Fade
In Concert

On Wednesday, August 23, we are hosting Scarlet Fade in concert at 7pm. They are currently touring the East Coast and have recently charted a #1 international Christian rock song. This is also the night of our Going Green cookout on the lawn. We have invited youth groups from all over the Peninsula. We are going to serve a lot of hotdogs, side dishes, desserts, and drinks starting at 5:30pm

Scarlet Fade is a family group of five individuals. They will be in town for several days. We are seeking to provide lodging for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evening of that week. If anyone has an extra home or will be on vacation during that week and would consider making your home available for Scarlet Fade, please let the Church Office know as soon as possible.