

Keeping You Current

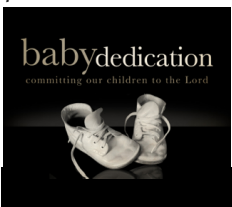
“Keeping You Current” is a monthly publication of Harris Creek Baptist Church. Its purpose is to keep the church family informed of financial, organizational, and informational happenings at the church.

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 17 - February 2012

Baby Dedication

Baby Dedication is a celebration time for families to affirm their commitment to raising their child in a godly home. If you are interested in participating in this time of commitment, contact Emily Gist (egist@harris creek.org) to receive your preparation packet.



Youth S.E.R.V.E.

The first S.E.R.V.E. event of the year is Saturday, February 18, 9:30 am - 12:15 pm. This year everyone will serve together with Waco Community Development. This is a great way for our youth to seek the welfare of the city.

College Meal Night

The College Ministry will have its next College Meal Night on Sunday, February 26. There will be an extended time of worship after the Palladium service at 6:30 pm. Please email Emma Hunter (ehunter@harris creek.org) if you have any questions.



Ash Wednesday

Please join us for a come-and-go Ash Wednesday service February 22, 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Ash Wednesday is a traditional way to begin the Lenten season that concludes on Easter Sunday.

Life Group Fellowship

Life Group Fellowship Night is March 2. Childcare will be provided from 6 - 9 pm. Reservations are required for childcare in advance. Contact your life group leader for more information.



Connections Class

Our next quarterly Connections Class is scheduled for March 4 immediately after church. This is a time for anyone looking to join Harris Creek to learn more about who we are. Email Erica Ellis (ellis@harris creek.org) to sign up.

S E R M O N S E R I E S

Deep Roots

Many people look at the state of marriages in America today and get worried about the staggering divorce rate. While divorce is a big issue in our culture, it seems to be a symptom of a larger problem occurring in the world today. What is more alarming than the divorce rate in America, is the substantial number of people giving up on the idea of marriage altogether. People in our culture today are moving further and further away from the idea of taking a covenant approach to their relationships. The problem for Christians who



“Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially...”

buy into this way of life is that we follow a God who is a covenant God. We see throughout Scripture that there is no limit to God’s love for us. Because God is a covenant God,

He, in turn, calls us to be a covenant people. 1 John 3:16 says, “This is how we’ve come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves.” (from *The Message*) To see a positive change in the divorce rate amongst Christians, we must first get back to the definition of love Scripture gives us and sacrificially serve those people that God has placed in our lives. In other words, it is time we put down deep roots and recapture what it means to take a covenant approach to life.

FROM THE LAND, WHETHER GRAIN FROM THE SOIL OR FRUIT FROM THE TREES, BELONGS TO THE LORD; IT IS HOLY TO THE LORD.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

RECAP OF JANUARY 2012

TITHE OF EVERYTHING FROM THE LAND, WHETHER GRAIN FROM THE SOIL OR FRUIT FROM THE TREES, BELONGS TO THE LORD.

What a great close to the 2011 fiscal year at Harris Creek! For the month of December, we budgeted \$95,000 in total receipts. We ended the month taking in \$124,394 in total contributions. For the entire year, we ended up taking in roughly \$279,000 more than we budgeted for regular contributions. Expenses for the year were

Your tithes and offerings help fund great ministries and outreach opportunities like these!

over budget by approximately \$106,000. Not only did we finish the 2011 year strong, we also started the new year off on the right foot. We budgeted \$76,000 in regular

contributions for the month of January. We ended the month taking in approximately \$86,500. Expenses for the month of January were under budget by roughly \$4,700. We have \$67,000 budgeted in regular contributions for the month of February. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in giving to help advance the Kingdom here in Waco!

Mother's Day Out

Tuesdays and Thursdays are by far the best days of the week. These are the days when 70 children come to Harris Creek to play and learn at Mother's Day Out. What fun we have!

It is half way through our third year and we continue to be blessed. Each year we have grown in our enrollment. We now have seven full classrooms. From spring to fall 2011, we grew 24 percent in enrollment! We also have 14 amazing teachers who make their classrooms a fun learning environment and communicate the love of Jesus in all they do. Happy children make happy families who tell others about Harris Creek MDO. That is fantastic!

These blessings enrich our program, but at the same time create a dilemma of sorts. Our mission purpose states, "Harris Creek Mother's Day Out exists as an outreach to our surrounding community. We provide a front door to unchurched families looking for weekday childcare in order to introduce them to God's love through the structured learning of their children." As our program has grown, God has been good, bringing wonderful families to MDO who have also connected to Harris Creek as their church home. That is our goal. Fourteen percent of the families enrolled are now regularly attending worship on Sunday mornings. That is what it means to be a front door ministry.

The dilemma exists, however, with the task of keeping this ministry outwardly focused. As more families come to Harris Creek through the front door of MDO, the percentage of children that attend Harris Creek grows in our overall enrollment. So how do we continue to serve new families who need to be plugged into a local church? That is what we are facing in our future. We are committed to praying about God's direction for us and ways we can seek those families who need to know that God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. You can help, too. Talk to your friends and neighbors with preschool children who don't attend church regularly and tell them about our program. Also, pray with us, thanking God for all the wonderful ways He has blessed MDO, and asking for wisdom in ways to keep us outwardly focused as we move ahead in our plans for the next year.

S T A F F B I O



Welcome, Erica Ellis!

We want to extend a warm welcome to Erica Ellis and her husband, Karl. The native Arizonan joined our staff this month as Brady's administrative assistant. She earned her degree in communications from the University of Arizona. Erica and Karl married in 2010 and relocated to Waco shortly after. They lead a life group and have been part of the Harris Creek family for over a year now. Her one true love is San Diego, California, but this small town has grown on her and she is excited to put some roots down at Harris Creek! Erica can be reached at eellis@harriscreek.org.

On January 25, the church hosted its annual Imagine Banquet to celebrate the past year and envision the year ahead. More than 400 individuals gathered to share a meal, give thanks for God's provisions, listen to the staff and elders' plans, and to make commitments for active involvement in 2012. Brady challenged us to be like good gardeners, possessing the following traits:

- Awareness – understanding the soil/context to know what is best for us
- Prudence – we don't choose our soil, but must wisely choose between "Yes" and "No" in how we use our limited resources
- Leveraging Challenges – adversities (and even intentional disturbances of the soil) allow for roots to grow deeper and encourages growth
- Pruning – remove the unhealthy and unnecessary while cultivating the effective and strong
- Produce Fruit – we are not living out our mission if we are not producing fruit
- Divine Intervention – every farmer knows they don't actually "grow" the crop

Throughout the course of the calendar year, the staff will follow-up on the commitments (praying consistently, being in a Life Group, financially supporting, serving internally, and serving externally), and we encourage all of you to engage in the work that God has given Harris Creek. Remember, we will be collecting stories, pictures, and any of your own creative contributions throughout 2012 as part of a church-wide project to celebrate all the ways we are able to worship this year.

C H I L I C O O K - O F F

On Wednesday, February 15, from 6 - 7:30 pm, Harris Creek will host the 4th Annual Global Impact Chili Cook-Off. The emphasis of this event is to promote different mission efforts that Harris Creek supports, as well as to develop community among all of our Life Groups.

Participating Life Groups should contact Erica Ellis (eellis@harriscreek.org) by Thursday, February 9, to choose a mission effort to support for that evening and decorate a booth to go along with your mission effort. Attendees will get to taste each life group's chili, as well as vote on their favorites donate to the various causes. There will be a chance to win door prizes, as well as awards for the most money earned for a mission effort, the best chili determined by impartial judges and a "people's choice" favorite chili.

Families are welcome and there will be a mission activity for kids K-6.

HARRIS CREEK CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.harriscreek.org
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For more information, make sure you check out these publications in the church slat walls and on our web site:

- The Parent Link—Children's Ministries
- The Pulse—Youth Ministries
- Creek Connection—Weekly Church-wide Announcements
- The Source—Weekly Prayer Guide of Harris Creek