HEARTBEAT est. 1975



"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow"

Parenting can be some of the most rewarding times of your life. It can also be some of the most challenging. A few days ago in our house, it seemed as if the children were taking turns crying, screaming, and/or throwing tantrums. It was mayhem! For some unknown reason (the Lord!) in this moment, I was struck by the fleeting nature of life.

James 4:13-14 reminds us of this truth, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."

There's a well-known proverb concerning parenting that says, "the days are long, but the years are short." In the mist of our mayhem, I was struck with how one day the house will be quiet. Lord willing, the children will grow older and move out and have lives and families of their own. Hannah Faith won't be making a card for mom and dad, Elizabeth won't snuggle up to me with a blanket, Jack won't play monster trucks with me, and Bailey won't grab my finger to come play in her room.

Time is short. We have 18-20 fleeting years to train and teach our children the faith. Let us not neglect this great In His Service, responsibility. Let's take advantage of every day we have to pass on our faith to

Peyton Kelly





the next generation.



May 24: Lock-in [Church]

June 11: Top Golf [Birmingham]

July 15: Summer Camp [Newport, TN]

I'm constantly reminded of the joy that I have to serve within the life of this church, and I'm grateful for all the many ways in which our church family loves, supports, and encourages the student ministry.

Your constant faithfulness is an encouragement to me and all of the wonderful volunteers that serve in the life of our ministry. May God richly bless you as we enter into the summer!

In Christ, Blake





Those 60 and older are invited to a

Continental Breakfast

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Please drop by the Clayton Shaw Fellowship Hall between 8:00 and 8:40.

No Sunday Evening Activities during the month of May.

Camellia Family,

God's Word repeatedly reminds us that faithfulness to God does not necessarily equate to an easy life.

I have said these things to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you (1 Peter 4:12).

In this life, we WILL face difficulty. But I take joy in the truths that we have been memorizing as a church throughout 2024.

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore (Psalm 16:11).

Circumstances do not dictate our joy and pleasure in life. Certainly, circumstances can make joy and pleasure immensely more difficult. But the fullness of joy is not found in earthly blessings or easy and positive circumstances.

The fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore are found in Christ. And this is true for when we are in seasons of prosperity and also for seasons of adversity.

There is joy in this life. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says that we are not to grieve as those who have no hope. Only in Jesus can grief and hope be partners. And it is here we find joy that carries us through the grief.

But our joy also is found in looking to the next life. One of my favorite verses has always been Malachi 4:2: But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. One day, we will be healed and rescued from the pain, grief, sorrow, and trials of this life. And when that day comes, we will leave this life and enter heaven like calves being released from the stall.

Camellia, may God bless you, give you strength, and give you endurance to keep looking to our good and Faithful master until we reach that day.

-Bro. James



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Assoc. Pastor of Music & Administration

Rev. Peyton Kelly

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Hilary Taylor

Student Ministries Director

Blake Turner

Camellia School Administrator

Jessica Senn

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