

Dear Heritage Bible Church Family,

On January 21, you all elected me to become the second Senior Pastor in the 47-year history of Heritage Bible Church, taking effect on Easter Sunday (April 1st). I am extremely grateful and honored that you all would place that level of faith in me.

How do you fill the shoes of Pastor Henry

Hazard who has been not only the only Senior Pastor Heritage Bible Church has known, but such a fixture in this community as a godly man who is well loved and respected? There is far too much he has done for this church and community to be listed in this letter. Needless to say, as we will honor Pastor Hazard and Cynthia on April 8th as a man and woman worthy of honor, and we will continue to honor them as we move forward as a church.



I personally appreciate his wisdom and prayers to initiate a succession plan so that as he moves toward retirement, Heritage Bible Church will continue strong. It has enabled us, the Rice family, to get to know you all and vice versa so that, by the grace of God, this transition may be smooth. The love we have felt from our new church family these past two and a half years has been wonderful and almost overwhelming. You welcomed us with generosity in the “pound-in”. You helped us celebrate birthdays, and the birth of Caleb. You prayed and walked with us as the infantile spasmodic seizures stopped Caleb’s development in Spring 2017, and thanks to your prayers his seizures have not returned, but his development has!


I believe God’s desire for the church is to fulfill the Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission: Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples. (Matt. 22:37-39; 28:18-20). As we seek God first, bathe ourselves in His love, and reckon Him as Lord of our lives, only then will we be able to truly and purely love one another, and build one another up. Then from this overflow of God’s love and grace in our hearts and lives, God desires for us to reach the lost in Bay County and around the world with our personal God-given abilities and spiritual gifts; “making disciples of all nations.”

As we as a body strive to Love God, Love Others, and Make Disciples, our upcoming sermons will focus on the seven “We Strive” statements that we as a church committed to in November. Then, starting in June we will study the Book of Acts to look at how God started, equipped, and built His church. From this I believe the Holy Spirit will reveal His will for what God desires Heritage Bible Church to be, for His glory.

I am excited by the calling and challenge that the Lord has in front of me and Heritage Bible Church. I ask two things from you. Your grace and your prayers. I will make mistakes, and by God’s grace I will grow because of them and we all will become stronger in the Lord. I believe that God desires to do “far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” at Heritage Bible Church. So please pray for God’s power, His wisdom, words, courage, and grace for me, my family, and our church. We can do nothing of worth without Him.

- Brian Rice

# April Events

 <p><b>Kingdom Kids</b> will meet on April 8th &amp; 22nd</p>	<p><b>Dinner for the Hazards</b> Sunday, April 8th at 5 p.m. Sign up at the church on the sheet on the foyer table, by calling the church office at 850-785-9897, or by emailing secretary@heritagebiblechurch.net</p>	
<p><b>Easter Sunrise Service</b> will be Sunday, April 1st at 7 a.m. at Venture Out</p>	<p><b>Ladies Social</b> April 21st 11:30-2:30 The ladies will be traveling to Destin for lunch fellowship and a trip to the Lifeway Christian store there. Please contact Rachel Rice for additional information.</p>	
 <p><b>Young at Heart</b> will be on Friday, April 13th at 11:30 a.m. at Heritage Bible Church.</p>	<p><b>Men's Meeting &amp; Great Commission Women</b> will be April 17th at 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Men's Meeting &amp; Great Commission Women</b> will be April 17th at 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Budget Committee Meeting</b> Sunday, April 15th immediately following the morning service to revise the 2018 budget</p>		<p><b>Quarterly Board Meeting</b> will be Sunday, April 22nd immediately following the morning service</p>

## Facts & Figures

### Finances for March

#### *For Mar 1 to Mar 31*

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 20,475.00
GOF Tithes and Offerings Received (4 Sundays):	\$ 19,001.16
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,725.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes and Offerings (4 Sundays):	\$ 4,750.29

#### *For Year to Date 2018 (based on 3 months and 12 Sundays):*

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 61,425.00
GOF (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 56,700.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings Received:	\$ 57,030.92
GOF Year to Date Budgeted Disbursements:	\$(64,842.07)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ (7,811.15)
GOF Balance as of Mar 31 (213% of monthly budget):	\$ 43,584.02
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (12 Sundays):	\$ 4,752.58
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ 5,403.51
Missions YTD Income: Receipts (\$2,463) & 24% of Tithes & Offerings (\$13,687.42):	\$ 16,150.42
Missions YTD Disbursements:	\$ (16,084.45)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 7,224.30
Building Fund YTD Receipts:	\$ 174.57
Building Fund Disbursements:	\$ 0.00
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 5,634.25
Bridge Fund Balance:	\$ 1,210.00