

THE BEACON

Harrisburg Christian Church
201 E Sexton St. PO Box 36



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

October, 2026

Greetings HCC,

We have a piece of an old door frame with names and numbers all over it. Do you have one of these in your home? Maybe you have one of the latest styles with a cute yardstick design, perhaps even personalized. Ours has markings from three kids, and now five grandkids. Pencil lines appear next to a name and date to show how everyone has grown through the years. It is fun to look back at the growth.

Remember in elementary school when you would get a grade card? It would show your progress after each quarter of learning. Teachers who had spent their days pouring into you now had the opportunity to score your development. Sometimes the grade would show a high level of comprehension, and sometimes room for improvement. The goal is for the last report card of the year to indicate that you had been promoted to the next grade level!

"See one. Do one. Teach one."

This was a mantra learned in my military career. The intent is to progress quickly through the education and training in your field. To learn and grow, master skills, and teach others. I'm sure this is similar in most any career.

Nobody is an expert on the first day. Everyone is a novice to begin. Through some sort of apprenticeship you develop, and you depend on someone to teach and guide you along the way. Somewhere in the process you gain confidence and expertise.

Pastor John is currently on sabbatical. This is a time of ministry rest and reflection. During this time, he is focusing on learning more about spiritual growth and maturity. As a new believer, you are born again. But how do you grow? As a more mature believer, what can you do to ensure you continue to dig deeper and keep growing?

CONTINUE...

Scripture offers us guidance. 1 Peter 2:2 is a great place to start. Looking at several different versions of this passage gives a wonderful perspective. In all translations you see that believers are to have an eager appetite for spiritual nourishment. We are to continue to GROW as believers:

NIV: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

ESV: "Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation."

NASB: "Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation."

NKJV: "As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby."

Other scriptures reinforce the need to continue to grow:

2 Peter 3:18 tells us "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

Romans 12:2 says "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Ephesians 4:15 reminds us "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

All of our lives, we continue to grow and mature physically. The same should be true spiritually. We have an opportunity to grow closer to Christ as long as we are on this side of heaven.

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Borrowing John Gillman's sabbatical worksheet, "God designed spiritual growth to involve three essential elements: HIS work in us, our personal effort, and the support/gifts of a Christian community. All three are necessary for a mature faith."

And while we don't have a mark on the door frame, a report card, or even a performance review from a supervisor to track our progress, we can each reflect on our own relationship with Jesus. The "baseball diagram" at HCC is a great tool. Second base focuses on Maturity – understanding maturity, discipleship, identifying and using your gifts, serving, prayer, training, actions and attitudes. I encourage you to pause and pray and stay committed to continual spiritual growth. May we all continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus, until we are called home or He returns!

Many blessings to you all!
Cindy



JOIN US ON SUNDAY
MORNINGS AT
9AM OR 10:30AM



UPCOMING EVENTS

You can be apart of it

Find an event and get connected!

Grand Finale

01

The last part of our walk through Revelation is 9/6

Trunk or Treat

02

Join us for the annual Trunk or Treat at the Lion's Club October 31st. More details to come.

Senior Luncheon 10/13

03

11-12pm in the Fellowship Hall

Elders & Deacon Meeting

04

10/27 from 6:30-7:30

Small Groups

05

Youth Small Groups are in full swing. If you have a 3rd-12 grader, ask which house they can attend on Sunday evenings.