



# *Graduation Sunday* honoring our seniors

## Times and Dates

April 17 - DUE: pics and video

May 15 - Graduation Sunday

## Schedule of Graduation

### Saturday

4pm – 10pm – Atrium open for people to decorate tables.

### Sunday

5:00-5:30 Abbreviated Service  
(short lesson, Seniors walk down the aisle and get their Bible)

5:30-6:00 - Video Slideshow and Blessing ceremony

6:15-7:45 – Devo in the Fellowship Center - for all the teens in the youth group and the Families of the Graduates.

## What You Need to Know

Teens I know this year has flown by for you because it has flown by for me too, but we need to start looking into the Graduation Sunday that we have coming up. We want to honor you on your big accomplishment! Graduation Sunday for the teens is scheduled to be held May 15 at the 5pm service. If you are interested or not interested in being a part of this let me know ASAP. Here are the things that I need from you by April 17:

- 1) 12 pictures of your teen from when they were a baby up till now (digital copies would be great but I can take hard copies also). Put your name on the pics so they don't get mixed up with someone else's if you want them back. Also, if you could number them from youngest to oldest that would be great also. I will use these pics for the slideshow I'm making.
- 2) At the Senior Service each teen is going to have their own half of a table to be decorated with their memorabilia (trophies, awards, school jacket, instrument they played in band, the 12 pics you gave me, etc) so get those things together and be ready to help decorate your table Saturday afternoon. We will put the tables out in the atrium so everyone who does not come to service that night will still be able to sign

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# GRADUATION





Bibles and see the decorations. Here a few pictures of the tables from a previous year:

- 3) Bring any relatives, friends, or family you can to the Senior Sunday to make the event more memorable for your teen.
- 4) I also need to know some basic information about you for the service. Fill out the attached sheet and give it back to me. This information will be used in a brochure we are making for the service. If you don't fill this out then your section will be left blank and at the time of service you will probably be frustrated you did not fill it out.
- 5) Sometime each Senior needs to get with me and I need to record you for a 30 sec – 2 min video of you thanking people for helping you get to where you are and being there for you and making you the person you are today.
- 6) Parents I need you to get with me about doing a Blessing for your teen. More information on the following page.

#### Comments about pictures and Video

The pictures that the teens are supposed to get me will be used for the slideshow that we are doing. We will show a slideshow of all the teens and it will run through the pics you gave me showing them growing up then after the pics of the teen then we will show the video they make. The video should be from 30 sec - 2 min long and it will be the teen thanking people for helping them get where they are today. This might include thanking parents for doing different things (teens can be specific here if they want) they can thank grandmas and grandpas and the church or youth group or friends. This can be very special and I will make a DVD of this whole thing to give all the parents. This is a great memory to look back on years down the road.

About the tables - we will open up the Atrium at 4pm on Saturday, May 14 for the teens and any helpers they have (parents/siblings) to set up their side of the table.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS LET ME KNOW.**



# *Parent Blessing*

Cabot church of Christ recognizes that graduation marks a significant transition in the lives of our students and the closing of their time in the youth ministry. All graduates leave high school, some leave home, some leave the church altogether. As they transition into the next season of life, we want the final word they hear from this church and the home to be a word of tribute, quite possibly a life-altering, life-transforming word. Would you help us in this?

Barak is the Hebrew word for “blessing” or “praise.” In the Old Testament we see God offer his blessing to certain individuals. God’s blessing was such a powerful word that it literally transformed a person’s future, and Old Testament characters understood this: Jacob wrestled for and stole his blessing. Abraham wouldn’t leave town until he had it. And we want to offer it to our graduating seniors. That is, we want to bless and honor them as they bring closure to one season of life and enter into another.

The blessing is a time to look back: This is a time to inspire and encourage your teen by telling them what you see in them and the obstacles they have overcome and how they have persevered and achieved thus far in life. This blessing is a time to look forward: This is a time to recognize their God given gifts and to express how you would like them to be used by God in service to His kingdom. This is a time to paint a picture of the type of future life you want them to have (most importantly focused on God).

A very important part of our Senior Graduation Sunday will be the presentation of this blessing. Please write a blessing that will honor your child. You will get with me at some point and we will need to record your blessing. We will play your blessing during the slideshow of the pictures you picked out. An example is provided on the next page.

This night may be the most meaningful night of their high school experience! We hope you can help us.





## *Parent Blessing - Example*

\_\_\_\_\_ you continue a race that is longer and more strenuous than any you have run. But you can run with confidence for both your study and your life testify to the preparation God has coached you in. You are quick to seek counsel, industrious in study, open to the pain and struggles of others without losing perspective of God's desire, and thorough in your disciplined life. Your fellow peers and your Small Group Leaders have noted your eagerness to learn and your doggedness to serve others.

\_\_\_\_\_, may the God of all blessings grant to you the following blessings for the sake of his glory and kingdom:

- A confidence based upon God's hope and promise.
- An endurance forged by your disciplined devotion in seeking the will of God.
- A race run as faithfully as Paul with as much grace as Paul received for the 'thorns' that life inflicts
- A crown of victory that honors our Lord and serves his people
- A heart overflowing with the love of God while constantly sharing the grace of God.
- A success measured by souls (including your own) surrendered completely to God.

May the Lord bless you and keep you always in His presence and ever in his service.

## Information Sheet for Senior Brochure

Name as you would like it to appear in the Brochure and as you would like me to read it when you come forward to get your Bible:

Plans after Graduation (college, major, military, job):

Any special awards you have received, activities you were in:

A short message (60 words max) to your parents, God, and/or the youth:

Favorite Bible verse and why:

A green banner with a subtle pattern of leaves and circles. The word "GRADUATION" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the banner.

# GRADUATION