

## Hello from The Hedge

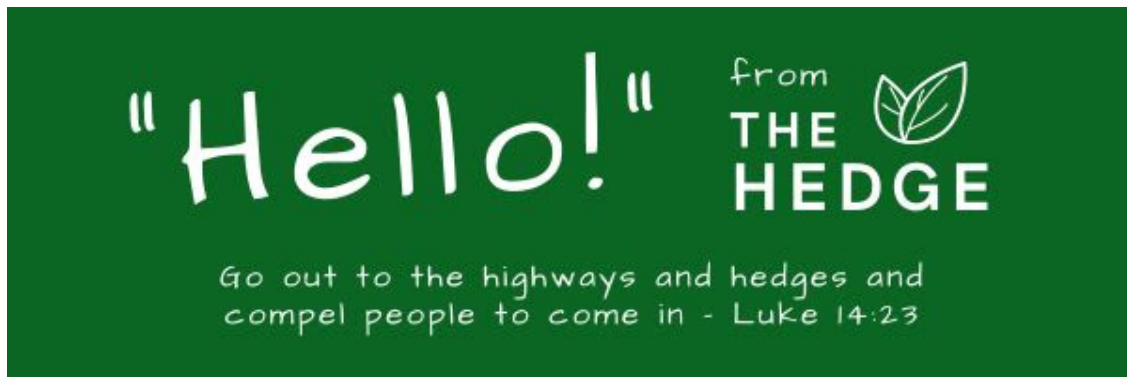
1 message

**The Hedge** <thehedge.uark@170912553.mailchimpapp.com>

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Reply-To: thehedge.uark@gmail.com

To: joel.young@summersbaptistchurch.org





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## Busy First Few Weeks

The busiest time of the year in campus ministry is the first six weeks of the fall semester. This is our best opportunity to make as many new connections as we possibly can. And we have tried to do just that! We have tabled at multiple events on campus. We hosted a line dance, complete with a line dance instructor because, let's face it, Baptists can't dance. Just last weekend we hosted what we hope will be our first annual Crapshoot Trap Shoot, where we provided a free trap shoot and lunch to any student who wanted to come out and shoot with us. Our goal with all of this has been to meet as many new students as possible because those new connections are exactly what we need to develop relationships for evangelism and discipleship. It has been a busy few weeks, but we are thankful that God has used that to bring the new connections we need!

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# What I See

## Stuart Estes, ministry team leader

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One of the things God stirred me to start praying about over the past two years was that He would give us a connection into a specific fraternity on campus. That fraternity was Alpha Gamma Rho, which was started as a brotherhood for young men studying agriculture.

As I've shared before, we feel like God has positioned us well to serve agriculture students at the University of Arkansas. What I had noticed was that other campus ministries were working with other fraternities across campus, but none were trying to work with AGR. So, it seemed like a logical step to take: an "ag-ish" campus ministry trying to share the Gospel and disciple guys from an "ag-ish" fraternity.

Last year in the spring, I noticed that a young man was parking in the lot at The Hedge. He drove this big Dodge dually, and I had no idea who he was. One Tuesday night I saw him pull in, and I ran outside to get his number. As I was getting his number, I learned that his name was Jaxon, he was from my hometown, and that he knew some of my extended family. I was able to go get lunch with him a couple of times that semester and share the Gospel with him on one of those trips.

I left out one little tidbit. He was parking at The Hedge was because he was pledging at a fraternity right up the hill from our building. You guessed it...AGR.

Fast forward to this past summer, I reached out to Jaxon and asked if I might have the contact information for what is commonly referred to in the fraternity world as a "Pledge Chair". These are the guys in the house who have the responsibility for helping new members (pledges) assimilate into the house. Jaxon gave me the number for a young man named Colt, who is the pledge development chair - the guy responsible for helping pledges embody the values of the organization.

I texted Colt and introduced myself. I told him that I wanted to offer free parking to the AGR pledges for this coming fall semester at our property right down the road from their house on campus. He was very appreciative of the offer and was also open to meeting up for lunch once he was back in town from summer

break.

Colt and I had lunch the Friday before classes started. While we were eating the Lord gave me an opportunity to share the Gospel with Colt. He came to Christ right on the spot!

Since then, I have been able to meet with Colt for three one-on-one discipling times. I bought him a Bible; he started reading Mark and finished it in two weeks and started in on Luke. I talked about prayer; he started having prayer time on his way to work in the mornings. I shared about how church was an important part of the Christian life; he started going to one with his buddy from AGR.

I'd like to say that I have a lot to do with this story, but you know that wouldn't be true. This is a series of God-wrought events. He stirred me to prayer. He brought the first AGR connection. He stirred Colt to believe the Gospel. He starts good works and He will bring them to completion. I'm just pleased to be a part of what he's doing and to see what he does from here.

I'd like to encourage you to look around you for the opportunities he may have placed in front of you. If you feel a desire to pray, that's from him. If you have a new connection, that's from him. If you get the opportunity to share the Gospel or disciple another, that's from him. It's all from him, but he gladly invites us to be a part of it.

That's what I see when I look back on the last few months at The Hedge.

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## Prayer Requests

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Turning new connections into evangelism and discipling opportunities  
Wisdom for next steps with building and property  
Upcoming Winter Conference over winter break

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The Hedge

[435 N Garland Ave](#)

105C Arkansas Union Box 2588

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