

PARENTING LITTLES - by faith

When it was time to leave the hospital with our first born, we must have looked like two deer in headlights. The nurse actually said to us, "Hey, are y'all sure you're ready to go home with him?" We did eventually -and carefully! - exit the parking lot with our new baby boy and so began the uncharted road of parenting.

Flash forward three years plus countless sleepless nights and now two little boys fill our days. In spite of my thankfulness and amazement of these little miracles, parenting has also come with heaps of anxiety and doubt. "Can he really eat a whole grape?" "Is he making friends at daycare?".....am I a bad mom?" The list is ever growing.

Through my battles with anxiety, the Lord is tender - calling me close and reminding me, through my worry, of His absolute control far beyond my understanding. As we read in Hebrews 11: 'faith is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead (v 1).' Alas, though I foolishly strive for perfection and preparation, we won't see the many twists and challenges we will experience as parents- but we can rest in the promise that He is always with us.

"He's got the whole world in His hands" is the boys' favorite bedtime song and they especially love the verse that tells us: "He's got everybody here, In His hands!" It reminds me of the bonds of our church family at Hayes Barton and the anchor the church has been to me as a new mom. Opportunities to fellowship with UMW ladies or participate in our Children's ministries, are just a few examples where fellow parents have listened, prayed with me and Drew, and shared stories of God's faithfulness in their own families.

Whether we are walking the road of parenting, or facing any new chapter or calling on our lives, we need the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ to 'run with patience that race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).'

Peyton Stokely

Stewardship Committee and
LightHouse band member

