

# AWAKEN

NW TENNESSEE

First Baptist Church Challenger

Volume 17, Number 36 September 9, 2019

*From the Pastor ...* My biggest concern about FBC is our Sunday Morning attendance. Sunday and Wednesday evening services are growing dramatically and for that I am grateful and excited. However, we are falling far short on Sunday mornings and, frankly, I can't understand why. We have outstanding Sunday School classes and teachers. In fact, I'm attending Jim Glasgow's class and absolutely love it. I haven't attended SS in 38 years, so it's a great blessing. In addition to an outstanding Sunday School program, we carefully plan the morning service to insure that God is glorified and His people are edified. The fellowship is tremendous. The music is terrific. I may not hit a "home run" each week with my sermons, but please know that I prepare them with a two-fold purpose: Number One, to give you a word from God that will sustain and challenge you in the week to come. Number two, to help prepare you for the Pastor God has selected to lead our great church. I want him to come in to a church that is unified, optimistic, healthy and willing to work. In spite of our best efforts, I am very displeased with the number of empty pews on Sunday morning. Surely, out of a church with 1000 members, one-third of them can get out of bed and come on to worship with God's people. By the time our new pastor arrives, I want us to be averaging 250 in Sunday School and 300 in worship.

Here's your homework for the week. Take your most recent FBC pictorial directory and pick out two or three people whom you've not seen in a while. Give them a call or drop them a note expressing your hope and prayer that they will come back home and join what God is doing in our church. We're on the verge of something great but it's going to require "all hands on deck". Of course, outreach is essential, but we also need to do a lot of inreach, i.e. reaching out to our inactive members. Don't lay a guilt trip on them. Don't say anything that might be construed as negativity toward the church. Don't dwell on the past but be positive about our future and the opportunities that God has given us. Statistics indicate that the biggest reason why inactives remain as such is that they don't feel missed. They don't hear from people whom they once considered friends.

A very close relative died ten years ago last month. She died at home and was not discovered for several days. Obviously she wasn't at Sunday School. When we arrived at the house, I noticed that there were several messages on her answering machine. Out of curiosity, I punched the button to listen to them and what I heard absolutely floored me. There were nine messages from ladies in her SS class telling her that she was missed and inquiring if there was anything they could do for her. That touched us deeply. My dream for FBC is that we would do the same thing. When someone is out, pick up the phone and encourage them. If you see an empty pew and miss the folks who normally occupy it, let them know that they are missed.

Statistics indicate that only 2% attend church because of the Pastor's reputation. 90% indicate that they attend church based upon a personal invitation from a friend. I have made the commitment that I'm going to invite one person a day to our church until our new pastor comes. Statistics also indicate that one of seven invitees will attend and eventually become part of the fellowship. Think about it. If we invite 280 people, we can probably increase our attendance by 40. Surely, in a church our size, we could easily do that.

God has great plans for our future, but He's not going to wave a magic wand and miraculously fill our pews. It's going to require us to work in partnership with Him. We must pray as if it all depended on Him and work as though it all depended on us! I'm willing. Are you?

I love you more than tongue can tell!

Greg

#### SUNDAY'S PULPIT PREVIEWS:

**AM:** "Eyes on the Prize" Hebrews 12:1-2      **PM:** "Building a Storm Proof Life" Luke 6:46-49

**The First Baptist Church Choir  
and Music Council**

**invite you to a dinner**

**celebrating**

*Jason and Amber*

**Sunday, October 6, 2019**

**6 o'clock PM**

**Family Life Center**

*Please sign the reservation list at the Welcome Center or  
in your Sunday School classroom to reserve your meal.  
There will be no take-outs.*

**CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER**

**WITH THE**

**TN BAPTIST BOYS RANCH!**

**WED. SEPTEMBER 18TH**

**6:00PM**

*A list of items needed at the boys ranch  
can be found in the lobby.*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th**

8:00 Church Council Meeting  
9:00 Library Open  
9:30 Sunday School\*  
5:00 Children's Choir  
10:45 Morning Worship\*  
6:00 Evening Worship\*

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th**

9:00 Ladies Exercise  
7:00 Pickleball

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th**

10:00 Ladies Prayer Group  
5:00 Family Night Meal  
6:00 Youth Worship  
6:00 GA's, RA's, Mission Friends  
6:00 Christmas in September with TN Baptist Boys Ranch\*

*(A list of needs for the ranch can be found in the lobby/foyer.)*

7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th**

9:00 Ladies Exercise  
7:00 Pickleball

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**

Prepare for the Lord's Day  
\*Nursery Open

**Deacons of the Week Sept. 15th**

Brent Mobbs, Billy Reese

**Deacons of the Week Sept. 22nd**

David Flood, Art Ross

**Children's Church Sept. 15th**

Andrew and Laura Nipp

**Children's Church Sept. 22nd**

Susan Fowler, Phoeba Ross

**Nursery Schedule Sept. 15th**

Mary Ann Douglas, Lisa Callicott,  
Robyn Burden, Leandra Moore

**Nursery Schedule Sept. 18th**

Robyn Burden, Leandra Moore

**Nursery Schedule Sept. 22nd**

Robyn Burden, Gena Burden,  
Andrew and Laura Nipp

**Nursery Schedule Sept. 25th**

Robyn Burden, Gena Burden

**Ushers September 15th**

Kenny Capps, Tim Nipp, Bobby Morton,  
Andrew Bowlin, Bill Flood, Brent Mobbs,  
Dr. Rob Jordan, Buddy Cochran

**Family Night Meal September 18th**

Beef steak w/gravy, Salad,  
Mashed Potatoes, Turnip Greens,  
Bread, Dessert

**September Coffee: Seekers Class**

**Shut-Ins**

Verna Turner  
1510 Catron Road

**Budget in Memory**

Betty Carpenter by Oak Hill Properties  
Kaye Bondurant by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Carpenter

**Shiloh in Memory**

Betty Carpenter, Bussie Moore  
By Barbara Dickerson

**Golden State Offering in Honor**

Mary Ann Douglas by Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Collins  
**39'ers in Honor**

All Grandparents by Mr. & Mrs. Neal Rice

**HOPE Missions in Memory**

Betty Carpenter, Ray Douglas  
By Mr. & Mrs. Norman Williams  
Rucker Wheelis by Peggy Crigger

**Music in Memory**

Kaye Bondurant by Roy & Susan Keith

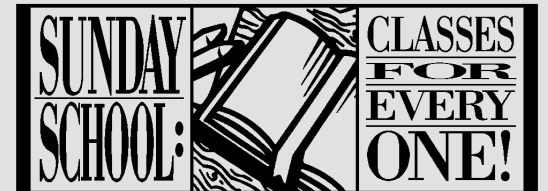
**A Time for Peace**

"We must never allow September 11th to become a time for protest and division. Instead, this day must remain a time for promoting peace and mutual respect." Archbishop Timothy Dolan



Join us for Children's Church on Sunday morning at 10:45am.  
On Wednesday evening, families can gather for our Family Night Meal at 5:00pm.  
Children's GA's, RA's and Mission Friends classes being at 6:00pm.

**Sunday School September 8th 154**



**First Baptist Transportation Line**

If you need transportation for Sunday School or our Sunday morning worship service:

please call the First Baptist Transportation Line before 8:30am each Sunday at 884-0820, with the following information

- 1. Name, Address, and your Phone Number
- 2. Your plan to attend Sunday School or Worship Service  
Sunday School pick-up starts at 8:50am.  
Worship Service pick-up starts at 10:30am.

**Bro. Greg Bowers**  
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