

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DR. JIM COOLEY

The month of May will be filled with so many opportunities. I hope that you can be a part of everything the Lord is doing at First Baptist Church.



ALABAMA BAPTIST SENIOR ADULT EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

It will be our privilege to host this annual event on Monday, May 1. Among the speakers will be outstanding preachers like Junior Hill and Mike Shaw. Musical worship will include a concert by Squire Parsons. Admission is free and everyone is welcomed. This event is sponsored by the Evangelism Department of our State Board of Missions.

AUNT BEE'S POTLUCK ON SUNDAY MAY 7...

...will conclude our Andy in April Celebration. We have had a great month of spiritual growth in the town of Mayberry. Special thanks to Brian Spraberry, Larry Byrd, and John David Owen for being celebrity teachers this year. Bring your favorite dish and join us for supper in the fellowship hall at 5:00pm. After supper, we will be blessed by a special concert from our Children's Choir. I encourage all of our members and their families to make sure you are here for Potluck Supper.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG

By the time all of the offerings were counted on Easter Sunday, we had reached and exceeded our Annie Armstrong goal of \$20,000. Total gifts given were \$22,408. We thank God for the faithfulness of our First Baptist Family.

MOTHER'S DAY

We look forward to honoring the Mothers of our church on May 14. I am so grateful for the spiritual influence of Godly Moms. You invest so much in your families. It will be our privilege to recognize you and pray for you during our morning service. Remember, we will not have evening activities at church so that your family can express their love all day long.

On Mother's Day, I will begin a sermon series that will continue through Father's Day called "Let Me Tell You about My Church: At My Church, We Grow Godly Families."

MENU

May 3
Pork Chops, Black-eyed Peas, Collards, Buttermilk Biscuits, Salad Bar, Dessert

May 10
Grilled Chicken, Fired Okra, Mac & Cheese, Homemade Yeast Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert

May 17
Pulled Pork, Homemade Bun, Baked Beans, Slaw, Salad Bar, Dessert

May 24
Chicken Tetrazini, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Grandma Style Roll, Dessert

May 31
Taco Bar

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday
8:45am Library Open
9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Morning Worship Service
4:00pm Handbell Choir - 164

4:45pm Library Open
5:00pm The Gathering - 168
5:00pm Children's Bible Drill - G02

Wednesday
10:30am Library Open
11:00am Prayer Service & Lunch - FH
5:00pm Family Supper - FH

5:30pm Library Open
6:00pm Prayer Service - FH
6:00pm Choir Rehearsal - 168
6:00pm Children's Activities - G02
6:00pm Youth Ministry - 271

Our STAFF

Dr. Jim Cooley
Pastor

Dr. Rich Hutchens
Associate Pastor

Dr. Joe Hopkins
Minister of Music

Rev. Nathan Lyon
Youth Minister & Music Ministry Associate

Cynthia Watts
Director of Children's Ministries

Cyndy James
Pastoral Administrative Assistant

Nancy Chesser
Financial Assistant

Jenna Taylor
Ministry Assistant

Melvin Robertson
Custodian

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A WORD FROM OUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR DR. RICH HUTCHENS

Yogi Berra once said about low attendance at the Yankees games, "If people don't want to come, you can't stop 'em!" Well, we all know what he meant. It's really not possible and certainly not healthy to coerce, guilt, or trick people into attending any event for which they see no need. Our repeated invitations, of course, are motivated by a sincere desire to share something wonderful, exciting and personally fulfilling with our friends and family. In our case, it's worship and Bible study at First Baptist Church! This year as we focus on telling others about our church, it is instructive to note what recent research has revealed about those who have quit coming. The Barna study unearthed 5 reasons behind the decline in church attendance, one of which is this: Lack of Community. The study points out that despite a growing epidemic of loneliness, only 10% report going to church to find community.

Yet, when we talk to those who have recently joined First Baptist we find that one of the first things mentioned is the warm fellowship and sense of belonging, often from the very first day! We are a church that excels at reaching out and making folks feel welcome. One of the ways that we have extended this welcome beyond Sunday greetings in worship and our fellowship times is the CARE NIGHT. We had a great response last year and so will be repeating the event on May 21 in place of the evening worship. As is our custom, we'll gather at the church at 5:00pm and plan to conclude at 6:00pm. In that hour our plan is to reach out to over 150 of our folks through cards and letters, phone calls and emails, prayers and visits. Prior to that evening we'll have sign-ups around the church and will put together 'care teams', each with a particular focus. Some of our Sunday School classes will be asked to recruit special teams to focus on their class, reaching out to both absentees and those who simply need a word of encouragement. So what do you have to do? Simply sign up and show up! We'll do all the rest in preparation for this great night of caring for one another.

YOUTH MINISTRY REV. NATHAN LYON

Cincinnati here we come! At the end of this month, our church will be on mission in Ohio, serving and singing during Choir Tour!! Please be in continued prayer for this. Pray for safety as we travel and serve, pray for us to follow the Lord's leading in situations, pray for people to follow Christ; and pray for our youth and leaders to grow and have a deeper relationship with God.

NOTES ON MINISTRY DR. JOE HOPKINS

Special thanks to all of you who contributed so much to our Easter season. The services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter Sunday were powerful! To our children, youth, college students, and adults – Thank you! To our staff, choir members, orchestra, sound/tech team, and soloists – Thank you!

In the midst of all of this, there was a team of wonderful volunteers who made certain our sanctuary and other spaces were ready for services and the Baptist Association concert. Thank you for working around the clock to protect, repair, and prepare our place of worship. You are wonderful, and while we are sorry for the damage from the storm, we are excited about moving forward with some updates to the facility.

Please notice that the choir loft has had a wonderful lift. New flooring, hand rails, and construction have made this area better able to accommodate our singers, and it looks fabulous! Again, thank you.

We are grateful for the countless ways you support music and worship at FBC. It is a joy to be a part of this family, and we look forward to our time together in worship.

Blessings,
Joe

WMU

Round Table Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 9:30am - Fellowship Hall

Debbie Campbell, Director of Circulation/Public Relations with *The Alabama Baptist*, and previous member of FBC will review the book, *Looking for Lovely: Collecting the Moments that Matter*. No matter who we are and what path God has us on, we all need to look for loveliness, fight to the finish and find beauty in our every day!

Bible Study

Tuesday, May 23, 10:30am - Room G02

Lunch to Follow

Bebe Costner will lead our study, "Off with the Masks." The age old song says it well, "Let others see Jesus in you." Join us to learn to press in for a richer view of caring, showing love, and building deeper relationships. Peter's broken spirit was restored by Jesus; the way is available to us who desire to follow Him.

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

May 1	Senior Adult Evangelism Conference	Sanctuary	9:30am
May 7	Aunt Bee's Potluck	Fellowship Hall	5:00pm
May 14	Mother's Day - No Evening Activities	Room 152	6:00pm
May 15	Finance Committee Meeting	Room G02	9:30am
May 17	WMU Round Table Meeting	Pie Lab	9:00am
May 18	Third Thursday Excursion	Fellowship Hall	11:00am
May 20	George Gray's 80th Birthday Party	Room 175	4:00pm
May 21	Deacons Meeting	Room 175	5:00pm
May 21	Deacons Leadership Study	Room 152	5:00pm
May 21	Care Night	Room G02	10:30am
May 23	WMU Bible Study		
May 28	Youth Choir Tour Begins		
May 29	Memorial Day - Office Closed		

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CYNTHIA WATTS

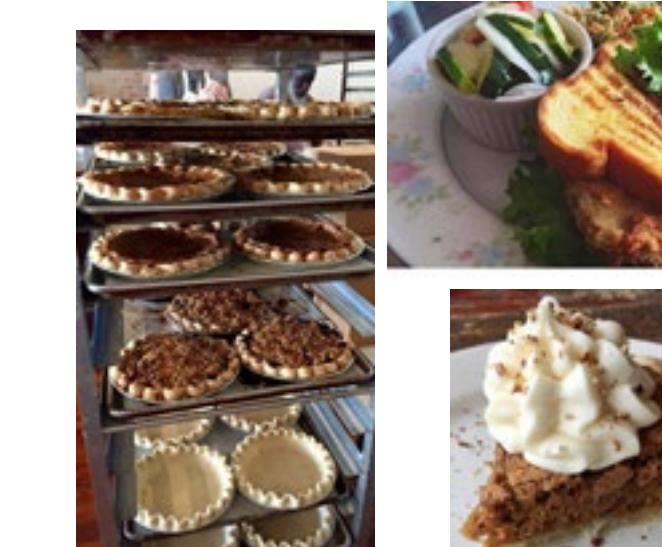
"Thank you" is not enough to express how grateful I am for your warmest welcome and your immeasurable support! The Staff and Church Family have been so kind and helpful. I have not needed to ask for anything, because you have proactively supplied every need. I love you dearly.

So many thanks to Gloria Whitlock, Robin Rose, Joyce Roberts and all the Preschool and Children's workers who have been so faithful working with our precious children. What an admirable job you do and have done! Deep thanks also to the Flint and Craddock families who moved my office supplies and furnishings to the church. I honestly could not have done it without you.

The Preschool/Children's area is DEFINITELY growing! We depend on the parents of our children to volunteer for Worship Care. However, all members are invited to volunteer to help. Robin Rose does a great job coordinating the rotating schedule. Contact Robin at rrose1032@gmail.com to join this elite group.

Palm Sunday was pure joy as 30 children plus their teachers came down the aisle waving palm branches. Over 80 parents and children attended the lunch. Thank you for all the adults, youth, and children who helped with hiding eggs and supervision.

June 21-23 is our Vacation Bible School, with the theme "Created by God: Built for a Purpose." We could use more adults to help in this evening event. Our program to show all we learned will be Sunday night, June 25. I look forward to my time with you.



Connections Ministry (60+) Third Thursday Excursion

Thursday, May 18, 9:00am-2:00pm

The FBC Seniors will be taking a trip to Greensboro, AL to visit Pie Lab! Pie Lab is known for its delicious lunch and wide variety of homemade pies! We will leave the church at 9:00am and return to the church by 2:00pm. The cost is \$10 plus the cost of lunch. We will be taking a 15-passenger bus with a center aisle. Sign up in the front office if you would like to attend.