

The Messenger

JULY 2017
Vol. 59 No. 7

from Interim Pastor Don Gann

Can you believe that one month of summer is already in the books! June was a busy month at FBC. Vacation Bible School was a great success with 343 children and adults involved. 11 children accepted Christ as Savior during the week and many seeds were planted. Home prayer meetings focused on praying for the Pastor Search Committee, and the Church, got off to a great start. Deacon ordination ended the month of June. I'm grateful for the hard work of so many who engage in touching people through this church.

I hope you picked up a Pastor Search Prayer Guide. The Pastor Search Committee is encouraging all of us to pray twenty days for the future pastor and the process of determining God's direction in his selection. By being invited to join together in prayer, we are challenged with a vital way all of us can participate in the process. Can I encourage you to consider some things about your part in this prayer challenge?

One, we are challenged to believe in the vital nature of prayer in the life of the believer and the church. The Scripture is full of instances where the people of God were called to pray and to make prayer a discipline of life. None more clearly than the example of Jesus who rose early (Mark 1) and prayed before every major decision. The Apostle Paul begins virtually every one of his letters with a prayer. As one person has said about prayer in the New Testament; 'Prayer wasn't a last chance for the early church it was a first choice.' May it be so with us.

Two, we are challenged to actually pray, not just talk about praying. Here's my rule of thumb, for every minute I spend talking to someone about the church or about my views on a prospective pastor, I covenant with God to spend at least that same amount of time talking to Him about the church and my views on a prospective pastor. That doesn't mean we should not talk and discuss with each other, but the opinion of God is superior to everyone else's.

Three, we are challenged to trust that God will hear and answer. God loves this church more than we do. He has a vital interest and will concerning this church and what happens here. He has a plan for this church. We want to be so connected with Him that we don't miss his plan and replace it with our plan and will. Prayer keeps our focus on the One who is the Head of the Church.

A church is not a place but a people. Dr. Steve Gaines challenged First Baptist Church to be known as a place of prayer. Now is the time to adjust our lives so that we may become just that.

I'll see you in worship on Sunday,

Don

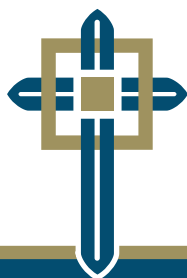
COMING IN AUGUST

AUG. 13 Sunday night kickoff

- Bible Drill, 4-5 p.m.
- Children & Youth Choirs, 5-6 p.m.
- Life U Studies, 5-6 p.m.
- Youth Discipleship, 6-8 p.m.

AUG. 16 Wednesday night kickoff

- Fellowship Meal, 5-6 p.m.
- AWANA Registration, 5:30-7 p.m. in the CLC
- Adult Bible Studies, 6-7 p.m.



FIRST BAPTIST *Oxford*

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800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford MS 38655 ■ 662.234.3515

FREE app "First Baptist Oxford MS"



July

Check out featured events at www.gotofirst.org

JULY 2

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

JULY 4 *Independence Day*

church office closed

JULY 5

Noon Prayer Meeting

JULY 9

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

JULY 11

11 a.m. XYZ Program & Luncheon

JULY 12

Noon Prayer Meeting

JULY 16

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
6 p.m. Home Prayer Meetings

JULY 19

Noon Prayer Meeting

JULY 21-22

Explorer's Summer Conference

JULY 22

7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Work Day

JULY 23

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
5 p.m. Sunday School Teacher Training

JULY 26

Noon Prayer Meeting

JULY 30

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
6 p.m. Home Prayer Meetings

Home Prayer Meetings

We will host 2 home prayer meetings in July to pray for the pastor search process, Pastor Search Committee and our future pastor and his family.

July 16 at 6 p.m.

Beth Fitts, 515 Christman Dr.
Martin & Pam Locke, 700 Oak Hill Dr.
Willa Sanders, 134 Peyton Cir
Bill & Susan Rose, 822 Butler Dr.

July 30 at 6 p.m.

Timothy & Brooke Gibson, 525 Wedgewood Dr.
Susan Dempsey, 505 Savannah Dr.
Joe & Sandi Meurrier, 142 Cross Creek Dr.
Lane & Kristi Wilson, 203 Oxmoor Ln.

XYZ Senior Adult Program and Luncheon

Tuesday, July 11 at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The program will begin with hymn singing, followed by Mrs. Peggy Mayfield Gouras sharing her adventure for "Finding Mabry Mayfield, WWII MIA soldier: a family's quest to find Mabry 70 years later."

Invite a friend and join us. A delicious meal will be provided.



EXPLORER'S BIBLE STUDY 2017 SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 21-22 AT FBC OXFORD

*Join us for great worship music, a dynamic keynote speaker, uplifting sessions,
and spiritual encouragement. Open to ALL men and women!*

\$35 fee. Register online at ebshome.org or call the church office: 662.234.3515

Our Family

Sunday school attendance

June 4 - 431 June 18 - 485
June 11 - 471

Budget June 1-18, 2017

Budget	\$134,812.36
Building	\$9,884.83
Designated	\$35,713.66
Total	\$180,410.85

July Deacons of the Week

- June 25-** Will Dabbs, Andy Field,
July 1 Brian Harvey
- July 2-8** Mark Moore, Mike Quarles,
Dan Reed
- July 9-15** Chris Riley, Brodie Burns,
Ben Hellums
- July 16-22** Thomas Herrington,
Walter Locke, Rick Mize
- July 23-29** Breese Quinn, Jim Vinson,
Jamie Hopson
- July 30-** Kevin Howell, Martin Locke,
August 5 Matt Moore

New Members June 4-18

Jonlyn Reeves, Sara Catherine Joseph,
Caroline Davis, Jackson Lowstuter

Congratulations

To Beth & Paxton Little on the birth of a daughter, Stevie Cascielle Little, on June 3. Big brothers are Harrison & Paxton. Grandparents are Cascielle & Nelson Little.

To Gracie & Andrew Henry on the birth of a son, Daniel Washington Henry, on June 7. Proud grandparents are Patty & Robert Henry.

Our Sympathy

To Paul Hale and family in the loss of his brother, Mark Hale.

To Grace Brooks and family in the loss of her brother, Greg Bratton, of Greenville, MS

To Margaret Riley and family in the loss of her brother, Chester Ishee, of Pensacola, FL

To Tim & Andy Phillips and family in the loss of their mother, Dr. Jeanette Phillips.

Sunday School Teacher Training • Sunday, July 23

5 p.m. Light meal in the Fellowship Hall
5:45-7:45 p.m. Breakout age group training

All Sunday School teachers in all divisions are asked to take part in the annual Sunday School teacher training. Jeff Land, Publishing Team Leader for LifeWay's Bible Studies for Life: Kids, will be leading our preschool training. Jennifer Jeffcoat, Children's Minister at FBC Corinth, will be leading our children's training. Our very own Jeff Holeman will be leading training for the youth division. Nathan Taylor, University and Missions Minister at FBC Starkville, will lead our college division training. Bro. Timothy and Matt Moore will lead adult division training. The goals for this training is that you would be (1) encouraged, (2) engaged, (3) equipped, and (4) energized by learning new techniques, activities, and skills to launch us into a new Sunday School year. We'll also emphasize outreach and missions projects; fostering a welcoming environment and spirit of fellowship among members; and membership care. Adults, we will additionally discuss vision for the Sunday School and provide clarity on objectives and standards. **PLEASE MARK YOU CALENDARS AND COMMIT TO BEING THERE.**

MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Contact Jeff Holeman at 662.234.3515 or wigtake@gmail.com



Family Trip to New Orleans July 24-28. Assist Live Oak Church with Vacation Bible School. \$75 per person plus meals. **REGISTER NOW** at gotofirst.org/missions.

Interest Meeting on July 2 at 10:40 a.m. in the church office

OAXACA MISSIONS PARTNERSHIP

WOMEN'S TRIP TO OAXACA September 23-29 *Trip is full.*

Please pray for Liesa Holeman, Beth Fitts, Pene Russell, Hilarie Bain, Dina Addy, Kristin Busby, and Meredith Meurrier.

MENS TRIP TO OAXACA October 7-13

\$520 (includes food and lodging) plus airfare.

Discipleship with men, light construction, medical opportunities.

MARRIED COUPLES TRIP TO OAXACA

November 25 - December 1

\$520 (includes food and lodging) plus airfare.

Discipleship with couples, light construction project, medical opportunities.

REGISTER NOW at gotofirst.org/missions



KAIROS WEEKEND JULY 27-30
Parchman Prison

For more information, contact Kevin Howell at 662.816.3101

More to *LOVE* about First

by Brooke Hutson Gibson

God is working and moving in the children's ministry at FBC-Ox! Have you noticed? In the last six months, several children have accepted Christ as their Savior and been baptized! There are dozens of volunteers who teach and encourage our children in their faith through all of our programs. **Diane Vinson** is one of the most devoted — she has taught various classes in Sunday School for nearly 35 years, and in VBS for over 50 years at our church. A retired Oxford school teacher, Diane says she continues to serve in our children's ministry because, "I just enjoy children, and it's fun because I taught some of their moms too!"

The last several years, Diane has taught 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School. "Seeing the children learn and come to the knowledge of Jesus, and accept Him as their Savior is the best. This year has been especially exciting!"

The commitment and devotion that Diane has for our children is just one more thing to love about First!



gotofirst.org/more

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

 FirstBaptistOxfordPreschoolMinistry
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 FirstBaptistOxfordChildrensMinistry
Follow us on facebook

**Our VBS offering will be going to the
BENITO JUAREZ CHILDREN'S HOME**
in Oaxaca, Mexico, for school supplies and uniforms.

OFFERING RESULTS: \$3379.93 Total
11 Decisions made for Christ!

Children's Mission Camp is JULY 13-15. *Pray for our children and chaperones, for a fun fellowship and time to draw closer to the Lord.*

FBC Library & Media Center

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

PreK-6th grade

CONTINUES THROUGH JULY 23!

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:

Sundays 9:30-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

FBC Library is downstairs to the right of the old fellowship hall (near the big tree).

YOUTH NEWS

DiscipleNow 2017 August 11-13

Bible Teacher: Gary Permenter Worship Band: I Am They

DiscipleNow is our biggest discipleship/outreach event of the year. We'll join together with Community Church, North Oxford Baptist Church, and Grace Bible Church for a great weekend of small group bible study, large group worship, prayer walks of area schools, and more!

Cost is \$50 per student and includes food, Bible Study materials, transportation, and t-shirt.

HOST HOMES:

7th/8th grade girls - Jeff and Kristin Busby

7th/8th grade guys - **Home needed!**

9th/10th grade girls - **Home needed!**

9th/10th grade guys - **Home needed!**

11th grade girls - **Home needed!**

11th grade guys - Matt and Paula Moore

12th grade girls - **Home needed!**

12th grade guys - Hank and Dina Addy

