

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A CHURCH UNITED TO ENJOY GOD'S GRACE AND EXTEND HIS GLORY



Image Bearer

March 2020

First Baptist Church

3556 N. Portersville Road

Jasper, In. 47546

www.fbjasper.org

Dr. John Duncan, Pastor

pastorjohn61@outlook.com

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Morning Worship

Wednesday Evenings

6:30 p.m. Men's & Women's Bible Studies

Youth & Children's Ministries



From the Pastor's Pen...



March has arrived and Spring is just around the corner. While March brings with it the hope and promise of warmer weather and new life, we still have the lingering signs of the death that Winter brings as well as the distinct chill that continues to waft through our aching bones. Spring is coming; but hasn't arrived just yet.

That's how I feel as I am writing this article. I know that better days are coming and that our God has great promises of new life and transformation ahead for us, but right now I am still feeling the lingering pain of a spiritual Winter that has lasted far too long. It's easy to look at the distant past and blame a series of circumstances and personalities for the lingering doldrums, but the reality is that it's not what occurred in the past that is hindering us, but rather what is taking place now.

The fact that we have only seen three individuals baptized in three plus years is not a result of some problem in the past, nor is the fact that we are not reaching our community the result of the same issue. We are not reaching our community and we are not seeing souls saved because it's not our priority. I believe that our SBC President, J.D. Greear said it well when he addressed the issue of declining baptisms throughout our Convention:

Those of us who own the "Baptist" label ought to see declining baptism numbers as a problem in urgent need of Gospel solutions. We need to ask some difficult, though faith-filled, questions. I think the primary problems are spiritual: First, many of our churches have lost the urgency of the Gospel message. Many churches in the SBC have grown complacent and don't have the same evangelistic drive that they used to. We need to recover that urgency, looking to churches that are growing and asking how we can learn from them (instead of complaining that God is moving there instead of here). Our goal as ministers should be to make it hard to go to hell from our cities. We want to say, as Charles Spurgeon did:

"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions; and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for."

Second, we are no longer known as a people of prayer. Prayerlessness is a sign that either we believe we no longer need God, or that we no longer believe He is ready to move as He promised. Jonathan Edwards, who got to experience the Great Awakening, the largest revival our country has yet seen, knew how central prayer must be in all that we do. As he said, "Prayer doesn't bring the revival; prayer is the revival."

Third, we are not raising up enough leaders to lead in Gospel ministry both inside the church (pastoral ministry) and outside the church (in the community). At its core, that is a deep discipleship issue in the SBC.



Continued

Finally, many churches are too tied to their cultural preferences and ways of doing things to keep up with what the Spirit of God is doing in a new generation. In many cases, we have simply failed to adapt with our culture. Some churches have simply lacked the leadership in doing so; others have entrenched themselves into old forms at the expense of reaching their communities. Some seem to care more about preserving their traditions than converting their grandchildren. And that's tragic, when you think about all that God did in those churches in previous generations. I've heard it said, sadly, that the biggest enemies of what God wants to do next can sometimes be those with a front row seat for what He did last.

The crisis that Greear addresses is a crisis that is real in our own community. How will we respond? May we be stirred by the Holy Spirit with an urgency for the Gospel, may we commit to make prayer a priority and pray for the lost in our community, may we commit to raise up leaders through sound discipleship for a new generation of believers with a heart for the Gospel, and may we be willing to adapt our methods to reach this new generation with the unchanging truth of the Gospel.

My friends, the fields are white unto harvest...pray that the Lord would send us forth to work the fields!

Dr. John Duncan



Greetings from the FBC Leadership Team,

Psalms 51 is an amazing section of scripture about our Amazing God! In it we see David crying out to God after he has been confronted with his sin. **“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.” (v.3)** For this reason David goes to God for mercy and forgiveness. He asked for God’s love and grace. **“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.” (v.1)** Notice that it is according to God’s love and mercy not man’s. Only God can give love and mercy that wipes away all sin. He did it through His son Jesus!

David then asked God to do something else that only God can do. **“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” (v.10)** Ezekiel put it this way: **“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.” Ez 36:26.** When this happens, we can live in joy and happiness because of what He has done. **“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (v.12)** The past is gone!

Even more amazing is the fact that there is nothing we have to do or can do to earn God’s mercy. David writes **“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.” (v.16)** God only asks that we come back to Him with **“a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart...” (v.17)**

Our God loves us and gives us a new heart and spirit no matter what we do or how many times we turn away. He truly is an Amazing God!

As we mentioned at the January Members Meeting, two of our elders, Bruce Reinhart and Bill Whittington, have decided to step down from their active roles as church elders. Please be in prayer with us as we seek God’s will (patiently) in filling these very important positions.

Our team members are: Pastor – Dr. John Duncan; Elders – John Dillon, Tom Gruenloh, Todd Jasper; Deacons – Rod Haskins, Phil Malone, Tim Harris, Eric Herndon, and Phil Hostetler.

Thank you for your prayers for us and our church.

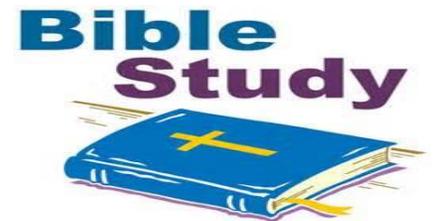
In Him,

FBC Leadership Team

Men's Ministry

Our men will be having their monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 7th at 9:00 am. All men are invited to attend for a great meal, time of sharing, and words of inspiration and encouragement from God's Word. If you can help cook, then please be at the church by 7:45 am.

Our men are also hosting an open Bible study for everyone on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently working through the Gospel of John. Everyone is invited to come and be a part of this Bible Study.



Women's Ministry

Our women will be having a Ladies' Night Out at the church on Friday, March 6th at 6:30 pm. All ladies are invited to attend for a great night together.

The women are also engaged in a new Bible Study by Christine Caine entitled, **20/20**. They meet each Wednesday evening at the church at 6:30 pm. All ladies are invited to join them for a time of fellowship and Christian growth.

Evangelism:

Our Evangelism Team hosted an Evangelism Training featuring Greg Laurie entitled, **Tell Someone!** We met on successive Saturdays, February 22nd and 29th. We had 12 people go through the training and will be looking forward to engaging our community with the Gospel and praying that more and more of our people are stirred to tell someone about the Gospel.



VBS will be held from June 22 - 26 here at First Baptist Church. Volunteers will be needed in several areas. More information will be made available soon.



Borrowed Hearts – Dubois County

The phone rings at 2:00 a.m. a foster parents first thought as they hang up the phone with the case worker might be "do we have everything these 4 children need"? Borrowed Hearts – Dubois County is on a mission to make sure the children and the foster families that care for them have what they need.

The building that is to house Dubois Counties Borrowed Hearts is currently being renovated. Donated items are needed to stock the store which is scheduled to open soon. They will need to be stocked and ready to fill the needs of foster families once the doors are opened. The Dubois County store will serve all surrounding counties.

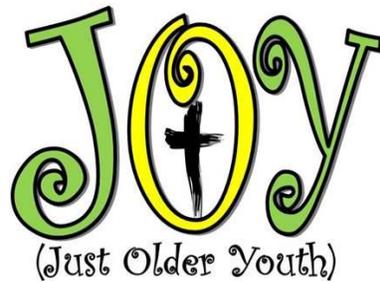
DONATED ITEMS NEEDED TO STOCK THE STORE

- ♥ Gently used or new clothing (infant – teen)
- ♥ Coats, jackets, shoes
- ♥ Backpacks & school supplies
- ♥ Baby gear – bouncy seats, walker stroller etc.
- ♥ Beds: crib, toddler, twin
- ♥ NEW socks & underwear
- ♥ Hygiene items: toothbrush/toothpaste, 3n1 kids wash, diapers, wipes, deodorant, shampoo, feminine hygiene etc.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Jasper - Tri-Cap & Legacy Living Ferdinand – Tri- County YMCA Winslow – Debra Corn Agency

All items except used clothing may be dropped off here at First Baptist Church. When donating large items before taking them to a drop off location please contact Sandy Duncan.



Just Older Youth with Joyful Hearts

The next JOY Group Luncheon will be held on March 19th at 11:30 am. All those 55 and over are invited to join us.



Resurrection Sunday

We will once again have a Sunrise Service on Resurrection Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Dr. John Duncan will be doing another dramatic monologue of one of the characters from the resurrection. This will be held outdoors by the three crosses. If anyone would like to provide special music such as a solo, please let Pastor John or Todd Jasper know.

Our Sunrise Service will be followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall which will then lead to our Sunday Morning Bible Studies and the Worship Time at 10:15 am. Prepare your hearts now to experience the risen Christ! Tell Someone about our risen Lord and bring them with you!



March Birthday's

3 Jeff Harlow
12 Jennifer Derr
14 Elise Herndon
15 Bruce Reinhart
27 Isaac Herndon
28 Ashley Capps
30 Valerie Gagnon

5 Russell Busick
13 Christy Thrasher
15 Charlie Steltenpohl
23 Joyce Rose
27 Frank Dedrick
29 Linda Washburn

*Your First Baptist Church Family
would like to wish each of you a
Happy Birthday!*



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>GIRLS NIGHT OUT Girls Night Out 6:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's Breakfast Men's Breakfast & Faith 9:00 am</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>J.O.Y. Group 11:30 a.m. Welcome to Spring</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Have a Great Weekend</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Adult Bible Studies Youth & Children's Ministries 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Morning Worship 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			<p>Spring Is The Season For Rebirth, Renewal, And Regrowth</p> 	