

REV. DAVID LAMBERT, LEAD PASTOR

In a recent E-newsletter, I introduced you to the first three best practices in church revitalization: **Prioritize Prayer**, **Assess the Church's Internal Condition**, and **Discover the Church's External Context**. Our revitalization team has enlisted a corresponding team of 20 church members to serve as their prayer partners. We've made a prayer sheet available to the congregation. I hope you'll *join us in praying* for this team and their work to help guide our church into God's preferred future for us.

This past Sunday I shared with the team the internal and external report I compiled on our church and community. It is no surprise that we live in a community facing many challenges—financial, educational, social, racial, shifting populations, housing, etc. But the greatest challenge our community faces is spiritual—the two largest religious groups in our community are *Evangelical Christian* (that includes us) at 8,800 people and **"No Religious Preference"** at 8,200. We must pray for God to burden us to reach the masses at our doorstep who don't know Jesus and are destined for eternity without Him!

I will share more of these results with the church at a later date, but as far as our internal health is concerned, again I don't think you would be too surprised to learn that our church mirrors much of the country in *declines* in church membership, baptism rates, and attendance. I was glad to see that, factoring inflation, though worship attendance has steadily declined over the last 30 years, undesignated *giving is slightly up!* It's also important to note that if you look only at 2017 and 2018 so far, we are on an upward trajectory in nearly every area...let's pray and work to continue this positive direction for our church!!!

To that end, I'm excited about a new sermon series that I will begin this month: *The Art of Being Unordinary*. We often want to go unnoticed, stay hidden, and fly under the radar. Why? Because it's easy. We don't want to stand up for what is right or speak our minds. We are afraid of what others might think. We may have a reputation to uphold. We don't want to offend anyone. But our purpose on this earth is not to play it safe and just be another face in the crowd. God created us so that we may go against the grain of society. He tells us not to conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Being ordinary, going unnoticed, won't change the world.

My prayer is that these messages will open our eyes and challenge us to break out of the mold. If God has created us for extraordinary things, we must first learn the art of being just a bit unordinary. Maybe that means being more vocal about our faith, praying for someone right when they share a need, loving our neighbors in simple, tangible ways, or giving a few extra dollars in the offering plate. The point is to break out of the mold of what our culture says is "normal," and let Jesus lead us to grab hold of and advance the Kingdom of God in extraordinary ways!

On a separate note, we have had a change in our list of newly elected deacons. Mr. Bob Dolski feels this is not the right time for him to serve as a deacon. The next person on the list, according to votes received, is Mr. Mark Watkins. He will join Mr. Sammy Doolittle and Mr. Blake Allen in our deacon ordination service on November 4. Continue to pray for and encourage our deacons, including those who will begin their term of service this January.

We're on the verge of exciting worship and ministry opportunities: Trunk or Treat, Operation Christmas Child, hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service, Advent, and Drive Through Nativity. Pray for these events. Plan on being a part of them. They are simple ways to do good for God's glory, to abide in Christ, and to allow Him to bear His fruit through you!

David

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For a copy of the Sunday sermons, call Kathy Hendrix in the church office, at 706-595-4252. You can also listen to us on WTHO (101.7 FM) at 11:00 AM for a live Sunday Morning Worship Service, read our Wordpress Blogs, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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CORNERSTONE PRESCHOOL

YARD SALE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20. 7:30 AM-12:00 PM .
WARRENTON HWY PARKING LOT

LORD'S SUPPER

Sunday, October 21
10:45 AM Sanctuary
During Morning Worship

A benevolent offering will be received.

Trunk OR TREAT

CARS, CANDY, & COMMUNITY

Saturday, October 27
4:00-6:00 PM

Call the Church Office to sign up to provide a trunk, candy, or to donate food!

Details inside

REV. BEN TARVER

Upward basketball registration is currently underway for the 2018-19 season. The league is open for girls and boys 1st grade through 8th grade. Upward is a fantastic opportunity for any child, with or without prior basketball experience. The goal of Upward sports is "promoting the discovery of Jesus through sports." Now is the time to register with the early bird price of \$55, but the cost will go up after October 26. The cost includes jersey, starter kit and end of season gift! Evaluations will be later in the first week of November. Practices and games start in January 2019. You may register in the church office or online at <http://registration.upward.org/UPW67079>.

See You at the Pole started in 1990 with a group of ten friends gathering at the school flagpole to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school and nation to God. Millions of students around the globe meet at school flagpoles on the fourth Wednesday of September every year. This year I was at Thomson High School to team up with FCA leaders. I brought donuts, delivered a short devotion then the over 115 students broke up into groups to pray together. See You at the Pole is an amazing annual opportunity of public witness for our Christian students on their school campus!

Several of our *Faith @ Home* resources are being updated and will be available to pick up at the resource center in the atrium. The *Faith @ Home* center has resources that give biblical insights, advice and resource recommendations for a variety of life stages and special circumstances. Whether you are a single adult, grandparent or young parent with kids there is a life stage pamphlet for you! Special circumstance pamphlets include things like disciplining young children, finances, addiction issues, empty nest, grief, prodigal child and more. This month there will also be special resources for military families, especially for families with loved ones about to deploy. These resources are completely free for members or non-members of First Baptist so please help us give these out according to the needs in your family, but also to others you may know who would be blessed to receive them. All *Faith @ Home* resources can be easily downloaded online at our website. Go to fbcthomson.org and click on the *Faith @ Home* banner on the home page.

Ben

	We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	Sunday Evening	We Gave
<i>Last Month</i>	September 2	207	206	n/a	\$19,628.00
	September 9	294	248	98	\$22,059.14
	September 16	278	230	88	\$13,234.00
	September 23	254	203	101	\$15,003.00
<i>End-of-August Final</i>	BUDGET		NON-BUDGET		
	Required	\$585,951.58	Cap. Improvements	YTD \$13,846.00	
	Received	\$552,919.15	Ferguson Property	MTD \$835.00	
	Disbursed	\$554,351.47	Go & Tell Mission Fund	YTD \$26,460.82	

Mark your calendar



Sunday, October 14
5:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Apple Picking Trip

Annual Senior Adult Apple Picking Trip to Clayton, GA



Monday, October 22
Depart @ 7:00 AM
Return 5:00 PM

Backpack Packing



You're Invited to a
Packing Party
November 3
9:30 AM
Craft Room

O.C.C.



November 11
FBC Collection Sunday, Sanctuary

November 12-19
CSRA Collection Week, Atrium

\$5.50 adults - \$3.00 under age 12
Please make your reservations by Noon on Mondays

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Wednesdays, 5:15 PM
Fellowship Hall

October 3
Italian Baked Chicken & Veggies
October 10
Sub Sandwiches, Salad, Chips, Ice Cream
October 17
Lasagna, Veggies & Tiramisu
October 24
Chili & Baked Potatoes
October 31
Casserole Night

Young at Heart



Tuesday
October 9
11:00 AM
Fellowship Hall

Program:
Beth Williams
Healthy Eating/Living & Alzheimer's

Deadline to RSVP Friday, October 5 @ Noon.

Sign up now!



Early
Registration
Is Underway!

Open to kids grades 1-8.

Cost: \$55 thru October 26
\$70 after October 26
Optional Shorts \$15
Deadline to Register: November 8

October

MONTHLY MINISTRY
DONATION

Candy
Individually-wrapped candy or gum

This will be used for Trunk or Treat!

Please bring your items and place them in the blue box in the atrium.

Dr. Matt Ward

Trunk or Treat! Trunk or Treat is the Saturday before Halloween (October 27) from 4:00-6:00 in our park. Last year we had enough cars that we didn't need to do a cake walk. This year, I want even more cars! Let's ring our park completely! And let's get even more creative in our gospel presentations in the decorations. To put some teeth behind how serious I am about that, I'm including a gift card award for:

- The Most Creative Gospel Presentation
- "Who Can Out-Gary the Garys?" Award
- We're Just Glad You're Here Award

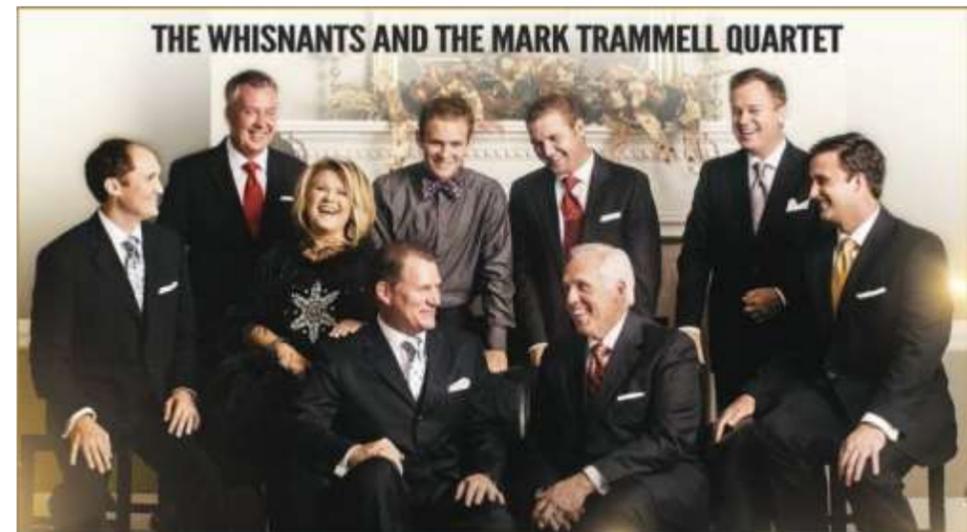
Start signing up on our connect cards, and I'll be in touch with all of the details for the day. And please don't forget to start bringing in candy for us to give away!

A Call to the Choir. Christmas music is upon us, and we want your help. I have a CD to help you learn the music, and it's pretty fun music. Would you please join the choir for Christmas? We will start rehearsing Christmas music at the beginning of every choir rehearsal in October and November (about 7:10-7:30). Please help us share the joy of Christmas in song with our congregation this year!

Special Christmas Concert. Look, I know that not everybody in our church thinks they enjoy Southern Gospel music, but let me dangle this idea in front of you—a free joint concert from two beloved groups singing your Christmas favorites. *Everybody* who came to our last big concert really, really enjoyed it. This is a great way to kick off the Christmas season. We want you to come and bring your friends. The gospel will be shared clearly in this concert! No reserved seating, so you just have to come a little early . . .

Saturday, November 24, 6:00 PM
In our Sanctuary

We will take a love offering to help cover expenses.



Matt