
First Baptist Church Builder

Volume 80 Issue 2

February 25 2022

FROM YOUR PASTOR

I trust you are having a great week, and I look forward to seeing you this Sunday. Thank you for all that you are doing for the Lord.

Our deepest sympathies to Julie McDonald and Cory and Meredith in the homegoing of a faithful servant of the Lord and our dear brother, Tuck. God bless this dear family. Please keep them in your prayers.,

Spring will be here soon, and it appears Covid is waning. So, this is a great time for us to put a renewed emphasis on personal church attendance and fellowship and spiritual growth.

I call the people of God "Back to Church" in the month of March. We have been in the pandemic doldrums for two years now. Families have suffered. Communities have suffered. Students have suffered. Churches have suffered.

And church and Sunday School attendance has suffered. The disruption in church attendance patterns nationwide is astounding. The COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing policy responses resulted in significant and rapid changes in church attendance patterns.

Among churches surveyed by the National COVID-19 Church Attendance Project (NCCAP), in-person attendance has suffered dramatically. At the peak of COVID in January of 2021, in-person attendance had fallen by 60 percent compared to January of the preceding year. This means that for every 10 people attending in-person the prior year, only four were attending in-person in January of 2021.

Many churches such as ours adapted to this by livestreaming our services. And FBC also has the advantage of being on Fox 16 on Sundays at 9 a. m. But I believe you will agree that virtual church is not the same.

There has never been a greater time in our nation and even in our own local community for strong churches with vibrant fellowships. When churches cease to be vibrant and well-attended, communities suffer. Crime and social unrest soar. Institutions such as government and education begin to fail. We are witnessing this in our own community.

It is time for the church, for OUR church, First Baptist Church, to rise up, shake off our lethargy, and get serious about the things of God again. I love the song, "Rise Up, O Church of God!" And we must...

We must set aside our fears... We must set aside our excuses... We must obey the Lord's command to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together... We must re-engage with the Great Commission in sharing Jesus Christ with everyone that we know. We must renew our commitments to God.

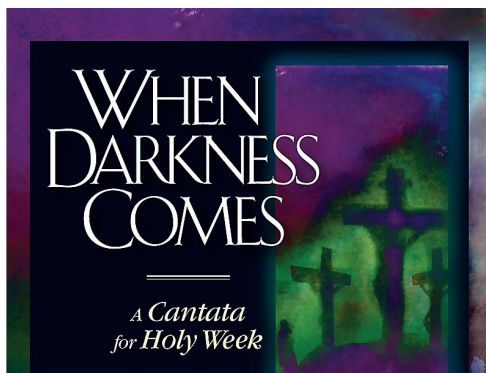
I am calling the month of March "Back to Church" month. I am calling God's people to a renewed commitment and back to Church.

- * Our plans are to begin in-class Sunday School, at 9:45, the first Sunday of March.
- * I am beginning a series of messages on the miracles found in the Gospel of John this Sunday, February 27, entitled, "So That You May Believe."
- * We will begin showing "The Chosen" video series again Sunday evenings beginning March 13 at 5 p. m., with a church fellowship with finger foods and desserts. We will show the videos on selected Sunday nights through the month of May. Great opportunity to invite your friends and family.
- * March 13, Daylight Savings Time begins. Move your clocks forward one hour.
- * March 17, the church will provide a meal for the teachers and staff of Coleman Elementary school from Lybrands. We will need some help with this.
- * Sunday, April 3, Chosen People Ministries will be with us at 5 p. m. to present "Christ in the Passover".
- * Palm Sunday is April 10.
- * Easter is April 17.
- * WorldChangers will be back with us June 20-25.

It is a great time to go back to church! God bless you and yours, and I look forward to seeing you back in church this Sunday! Invite someone to come with you. Pastor

Here by Design

Dr. Bryan Bolton, Minister of Music and Children



Save the Date!
"When Darkness Comes"
Good Friday, April 15, 2022
at 6:00 pm

The Sanctuary Choir and guest instrumentalists will present "When Darkness Comes" for our annual Good Friday Worship.

We will be led through the journey of darkness and reflect deeply on the

sufferings and death of Christ for us and our salvation, and then commemorate the death of Christ at the Lord's Table.

Bring your heart in a spirit of reflection, meditation, repentance and gratitude as we gather in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. for this moving time of worship. Then leave in silence on that night – to return on Easter Sunday to the glad hallelujahs of the glorious resurrection!

Pray for Me Campaign

I can not help but smile when I think of all the prayers and connections that have linked our community to God and each other over the past several months! I have loved hearing the stories of how families, students, and Prayer Champions have deepened their faith through this process. I do not have adequate space to share all of these testimonials of how this year of prayer has affected our family of faith.

Prayer Champions, thank you for your investment in the next generation!

"...pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:17–18).



"The Core:
A Deep Discipleship"
For students, grades 7 thru 12

Students, we will begin "The Core: A Deep Discipleship" program on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 9:45 am.

Parents, keep watch for the monthly 'Parent Connection' email coming soon to your inbox!



"Like" us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/firstpinebluff

www.facebook.com/themusicministry

Deacon of the Week

LAWRENCE KENNEY

March 6, 2022

LYNN KING

March 13, 2022

BILLY KITTLER

March 20, 2022

BRUCE MORGAN

March 27, 2022

First Record

January 30, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$8,665.00
TV Receipts	\$65.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$50.00
Other	\$771.00
TOTAL	\$9,551.00

February 6, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$11,190.00
TV Receipts	\$555.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$50.00
Other	\$341.00
TOTAL	\$12,136.00

February 13, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$9,445.00
TV Receipts	\$450.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$130.00
Other	\$987.57
TOTAL	\$11,006.57

February 20, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$9,333.20
TV Receipts	\$110.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$50.00
Other	\$445.00
TOTAL	\$9,938.20

SYMPATHY

To Rebecca and Scotty Bissing, in the loss of her mother, Elveta Hobson, who passed away in Pine Bluff, AR.

To Cuba and Earl Keaton, in the loss of her mother, Nell Herrington, who passed away in LA.

To Brother Ken and Ann Thornton, in the loss of his brother-in-law, Albert Sanderson, who passed away in MS.

To Rana McClain, in the loss of her aunt, Nancy Canerday

To Lewin Dunlap, in the loss of his brother, Joe Dunlap

To Julie McDonald, Cory and Sammie McDonald, Meredith, Griffin and Stan Little, in the loss of Tuck.

The Deacons' Meeting will be Sunday, March 13 at 4:00 pm.

The Admin. Board will meet Sunday, March 20 at 4:00 pm.

**Evening Service at
Trinity Village**

Sunday, March 27, 4:00 pm
Trinity Village Great Hall

Sunday, March 20, 2021
will be



SUNDAY

*Undesignated offering
will go to
Neighbor to Neighbor.*



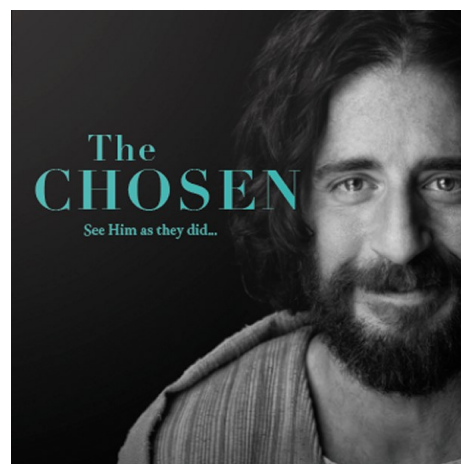
New Video Series

on Sunday Nights
with **The CHOSEN**

5:00 PM // Fellowship Hall

We will resume the video series on Sunday, March 13.

Bring a snack food to share.



Regular Schedule for Weekly Services

SUNDAY:

9:00 am TV Broadcast on FOX 16
(one week delay)
9:00 am Prayer room open
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

MONDAY:

6:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
6:20 pm Youth Basketball

TUESDAY:

12:00 pm Adult Prayer Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Ministry
5:45 pm Student Ministry
6:45 pm Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal

Deacons 2022

Blasius Awonsang 318-278-4208
M. H. Bitely 718-3764
Kenny Bonds 540-7001
Joe Clement 692-2659
Buster Crook 692-3976
Dan Crowder 501-944-1236
Tommy Fowler 501-517-0490
Tommy Grace 866-0916
James House 692-7921

Lawrence Kenney 413-2599
Lynn King 540-7400
Billy Kittler 550-8910
Bruce Morgan 370-8318
Mac Norton 718-2895
Rodney Rodgers 543-9936
Bill Ross 329-9763
Billy Stone 692-1191
Marc Stratton 329-6906

News from the Pews

Grandbabies, graduations, weddings, retirements? We all want to know and this is the place for them! Contact the office if you have any news you would like to share with the church.

STAFF PHONE NUMBERS

Ken Thornton
1-501-425-7097
Bryan Bolton
489-8970



Our website is live and online giving is available again. Listed below are the steps you should follow.

1. Click the GIVE button on our church website: www.fbcpinebluff.org
2. Click the Give Now button.
3. Enter the amount you want to give.
4. Give to the fund pre-selected for you or choose a different fund from the drop-down menu.
5. Select a frequency.
6. Enter your email address.
7. Click CONTINUE.
8. Select your account type:
Credit/Debit Card
ACH/Checking Account

Enter your payment information to complete the transaction. You'll receive email confirmation of your gift.

If you choose ACH, be prepared to give the routing number of your bank and the account number.



BUILDER

PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY BY THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS 71603-7823
(UPS 774-580) 6501 S Hazel Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603-7823

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
First Baptist Church Builder, 6501 S. Hazel St., Pine Bluff, AR 71603-7823
Office: 870-534-4741 FAX: 870-534-4743 E-mail address: fbcpinebluffar@gmail.com

Our 168th Year

Periodicals Postage Paid at
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601