
First Baptist Church Builder

Volume 80 Issue 8

August 26 2022

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship and Christian leader following his conversion to Christ in 1973, wrote in his book about the church, entitled, “The Body”, four goals of the church. He listed these four:

1. To exalt God in worship.
2. To edify, taking new Christians and maturing them in the faith.
3. To evangelize, bringing people to a saving knowledge of Christ, with a church attitude that is outward oriented rather than a holy huddle mentality.
4. To extend, reaching out into the community to meet physical, spiritual, relational, and emotional needs.

And these goals are so very true and very much faithful to the teachings of the New Testament. We are to exalt God in worship, edify (build up, teach, encourage), the believers, evangelize the lost, and extend into the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My question to each of us today is, “Are we being faithful members of the body?” Being a faithful, growing, holy, worshipping, evangelizing church member is clearly taught by Jesus and in the New Testament.

If you are a member of First Baptist Church, I call upon you to examine your faithfulness to the Lord and to His Church in the light of the teachings of the Word of God.

Is it okay for a Christian to not attend church? Is the local church irrelevant today?

Let me be clear. Church membership and faithful attendance is essential to one’s walk in Christ. The Bible says much about this matter, more than I can go into here, but here are a few verses that deal with this matter of church membership and attendance.

The writer of Hebrews clearly says that we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves as is the manner of some in Hebrews 10:25, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. .” In the previous verse (V. 24) the writer says, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.”

Now it would be hard to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” if we are sitting at home and watching a TV or internet evangelist. Hebrews 13:7 is an impossible command for the Christian not assembling with the saints to follow since it says to “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.” You cannot imitate what you do not see and you cannot remember or follow or imitate the example of church leaders if you never attend.

Paul writes in Ephesians 4:11-12, “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” It is hard to build up the body of Christ if we are alone at home. If you read the entire New Testament, there is not one single lone-ranger Christian. You will always see the apostles mentioning the church in general. The epistles never, ever address single, solitary Christians about their walk in faith.

Some say they love God but can’t be around other Christians, but we are told to assemble together and love one another (John 13:34-35). Members of the church are God’s children, so you are in essence saying, “God, I love You, but I can’t stand to be around your children.” As a father myself, I’d not be very happy with your telling me, “We love you, but can’t stand to be around your family.”

Jesus said that He will build His church (Matt. 16:18) and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. The Bible says Jesus loved and died for His church. If you believe that church membership, attendance and involvement is optional then you do not understand scripture.

As your pastor, I urge you, if you are not faithfully being a part of the Lord’s church, and you are born-again Christian (unless Providentially hindered), the Lord may chasten you and correct you since He chastens every one of His children who are disobedient to Him (Heb. 12:6).

If you are a Christian, let this serve as a biblical reminder; you should not be forsaking the assembling of yourselves. God desires His people to serve Him through a church. He commands it. I encourage you to not take this matter lightly. Our spiritual obedience and the spiritual heritage of our families and our Christian testimony in the community are at stake. Jesus loves His Church. So should we. See you Sunday. Pastor.

S.T.A.R.S. SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON JESUS!

Dr. Bryan Bolton, Minister of Music and Children

Sing and Rejoice!

A Festival of Hymns and Psalms

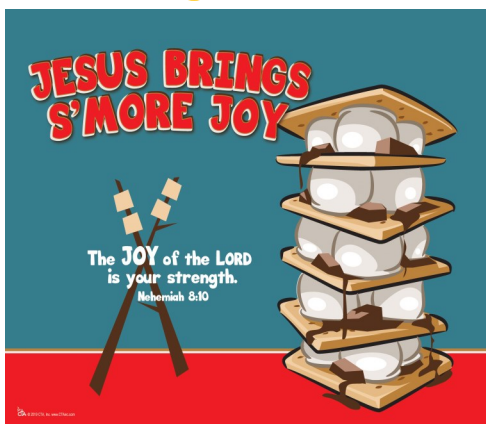
Sunday, September 25, 2022
5:00 pm

First Baptist Church
6501 South Hazel Street
Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71603

Kenneth Thornton, Pastor
Dr. Bryan Bolton, Music & Children

Our annual Hymn Festival will take place on **Sunday, September 25, 2022 at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. The service will be a festival of hymns and psalms. It will include music from the choir and congregational hymns based on the words of the Psalms. All are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors for this special time of singing and reading God's Word.

Looking Ahead. . . .



**We're getting ready for the
Trunk-or-Treat Festival
Sunday, October 30, 2022
5:00 pm to 6:45 pm
in the North Parking Lot**



The Sanctuary Bells are coming back!! Rehearsals for The Sanctuary Bells will begin on **Monday, September 12 at 6:00 pm**. This group provides a unique opportunity to minister to each other as well as the church through instrumental worship. If you would like more information on how you can be a part of this unique ministry, please call me at 534-4741 or email me at bbolton@cablelynx.com.



A Back-to-School Prayer.

Heavenly Father, We pray today for our students and educators. We thank you for your work and power, and for the many blessings you have poured out on them. May they be filled with your light and who will shine brightly in the darkness.

We support our students and educators as they walk into a new school year with confidence, even in the face of uncertainty, we walk with faith that you are with us.

We pray these things in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.



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www.facebook.com/themusicministry

Deacon of the Week

M. H. BITELY

September 4, 2022

KENNY BONDS

September 11, 2022

JOE CLEMENT

September 18, 2022

BUSTER CROOK

September 25, 2022

First Record

July 31, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$10,145.00
TV Receipts	\$270.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$75.00
Other	\$260.00
TOTAL	\$10,750.00

August 7, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$11,122.00
TV Receipts	\$780.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$375.00
Other	\$4,295.54
TOTAL	\$16,572.54

August 14, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$10,115.00
TV Receipts	\$305.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$100.00
Other	\$3,426.00
TOTAL	\$13,946.00

August 21, 2022

Budget Needs	\$11,075.98
Budget Receipts	\$8,381.00
TV Receipts	\$555.00
Capital Needs & Repairs	\$75.00
Other	\$495.00
TOTAL	\$9,506.00

CHURCH CLOSING

The church office will be closed Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

The Deacons' Meeting will be Sunday, September 11 at 4:00 pm.

The Admin. Board will meet Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 pm.

Ladies and Men BSF will begin Monday, September 12. Both classes will be meeting here at FBC at 6:30 pm. Contact Cindy Crowder or Michael Small at 870.550.0327 if you have any questions.



Sunday, September 18, 2022
will be



SUNDAY

*Undesignated offering
will go to
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

Evening Service at Trinity Village

Sunday, September 25, 4:00 pm
Trinity Village Great Hall

SYMPATHY

To Drs. John and Anna
Redman, in the loss of her mother,
Katherine Talley

State goal \$1.9 million
Church goal \$3,000



September 11-18, 2022

WHILE IT IS STILL LIGHT

DIXIE JACKSON
ARKANSAS
MISSIONS
OFFERING
2022



*Trinity Village Style Show and
Luncheon*

September 13, 2022
12:00 pm, Great Hall
Tickets \$20



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 Handbells Rehearsal
6:30 pm	Bible Study Fellowship

TUESDAY

6:00 pm	Griefshare (schedules to be announced)
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WEDNESDAY:

12:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
6:30 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

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

Do you have news, weddings, grandchildren, graduations, retirements announcements for your church family? Please let the office know and we will get it out there in this space.

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.



Our 168th Year

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