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# First Baptist Church Builder

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Volume 81 Issue 5

May 26 2023

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## FROM YOUR PASTOR

We had another wonderful day of worship, fellowship and praise at First Baptist this past Sunday. If you were unable to attend, you were certainly missed. Be sure to come this Sunday and bring a friend with you!

Bro. John Redman and I are going to Peru for a mission trip during the week of May 24-May 31. We will be ministering to three separate churches and in their communities, as well as their pastors and families, in an area on the outskirts of Lima, Peru. This mission trip is sponsored and supported by First Baptist Church.

Please pray for God's blessings, our safety, and that God's will is done and His Kingdom in these communities is expanded and encouraged. Bro. Mike Manning, Director of Missions for the Harmony Baptist Association, will be preaching in my absence on May 28. I ask that you support him in your attendance as he preaches the Word of God. Thank you for your prayers in our travels.

World Changers will return to Pine Bluff the week of July 24-29. Please place this week on your calendars, as we will be hosting 70 or so people who will work and minister in Pine Bluff and stay at our church during that week. The city of Pine Bluff is graciously supporting this effort by providing worksites, materials and supplies.

First Baptist now has two pickleball courts set up in the church gym. You and your friends are invited to come and play pickleball during regular office hours, or after hours by coordinating with the church office. We have paddles and balls available in the church office for checkout.

Please continue to pray for your Pastor Search Committee as they diligently and prayerfully seek God's guidance as to who should serve as pastor of First Baptist Church. This committee has a huge responsibility, and they need your prayerful support. As you know, if a pastor has not been called by the church by the end of July, Bro. Mike Manning will assume the role of Interim Pastor, as the Pastor Search Committee continues its work.

In the meantime, it is important that First Baptist members continue to be faithful and supportive of the church during this time of transition. I know you will support and pray for your church. I believe great things are in store for First Baptist Church, and that First Baptist will call a faithful pastor and preacher of the Word of God.

Pastor John MacArthur tells the story of a member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, but had stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a big chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the play of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair. The host watched all this in quiet fascination.

As the one lone ember's flame diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and "dead as a doornail." Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting.

Just before the pastor was ready to leave, he picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

Does that lonely ember of coal represent you? **"Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhort one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:25).**

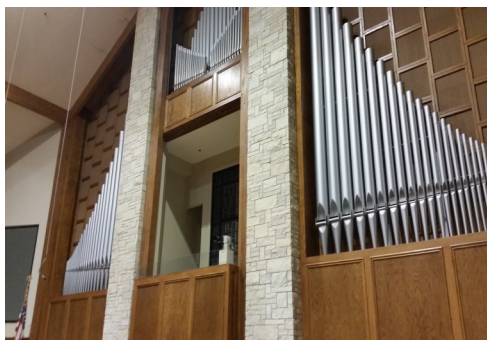
When we attend worship, we are strengthened, and the Lord's church is strengthened, and our community is strengthened. Think how much better Pine Bluff would be if all our churches were well attended. We would certainly have less crime and a more positive and safer environment. But when the Lord's churches are neglected, when we neglect worship, we are personally weakened, and the Lord's church is weakened.

Make worship with your church family a priority. The Bible makes it plain this is the Lord's will for all who profess faith in Jesus Christ.

God bless each of you. Know that you are loved and appreciated. I pray that you will have a great day and remainder of the week, and that I will see you in church this Sunday. Pastor

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

*Dr. Bryan Bolton, Minister of Music and Children*



**QUESTION:** What has keys, pedals, chimes, 2,029 pipes, an entire orchestra of sounds, is played by hand and feet, and is housed in our sanctuary?

**ANSWER:** Our beautiful Casavant Organ!

Through a generous year-end contribution and your faithful giving, we are able to begin the much needed

repairs to the organ! A progress report will be given throughout the project.

Thank you so much for your generous giving to this great cause. This organ will help us as we worship the Lord for literally decades to come! May God be glorified as we sing marvelous praises to Him!

**Another Choir Year is coming to an end** and the Music Ministry is just a few weeks away from a much needed and well deserved summer vacation. Starting June 28, 2023 and going through July 19, 2023, there will be no Sanctuary Choir rehearsals. The Sanctuary Choir will continue to lead in worship each Sunday in July. Regular rehearsals will resume on July 26, 2023. **The Sanctuary Bells** will begin the 2023-2024 choir year sometime in September. More information about the plans for these groups will be given in future *Builder* newsletters.

**Choir's Choice.** The Sanctuary Choir has been given the opportunity to choose their favorite anthems from the 2022-2023 Choir Year. A top 10 list has been compiled and will be presented each Sunday, during the Summer months. The count-down will begin Sunday, July 9, 2023.



**A Big Thank You** to everyone who helped host *The Voices of Appalachia* in some way during their time at First Baptist! We could not have done it without all of you! Special thanks to **Donna Chisom** and her crew of **Cindy Blackstock, Becky Divine, and Elaine Grace** for their hospitality in serving

the choir's dinner. Thank you to the **Sanctuary Choir** for your assistance in assembling goodie bags and writing notes of encouragement to each of the students and their sponsors. An extra special thanks goes to **Dale and Jan Lovell, Kandy Moore, and Candy Weaver** for opening your homes to the students. Finally, thank you **Congregation** for supporting these students by attending the concert and giving the love offering of \$1,220.00 to help further the mission and educational opportunities of Alice Lloyd College.



**"Like" us on Facebook!**

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[www.facebook.com/themusicministry](http://www.facebook.com/themusicministry)

### **Deacon of the Week**

**BUSTER CROOK**

June 4, 2023

**LARRY DANIEL**

June 11, 2023

**TOMMY FOWLER**

June 18, 2023

**JAMES HOUSE**

June 25, 2023

### **First Record**

**April 30, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$9,557.00
TV Receipts .....	\$65.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$75.00
Other .....	\$747.75
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$10,444.75</b>

**May 7, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$10,821.00
TV Receipts .....	\$1,130.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$125.00
Other .....	\$4,505.38
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$16,581.38</b>

**May 14, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$8,957.00
TV Receipts .....	\$55.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$500.00
Other .....	\$1,966.25
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,478.25</b>

**May 21, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$6,760.00
TV Receipts .....	\$355.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$150.00
Other .....	3,246.55
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$10,511.55</b>

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

The Admin. Board will meet  
Sunday, June 11 at 5:00 pm.

Sunday, June 18, 2023  
will be



**SUNDAY**

*Undesignated offering  
will go to  
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

**Evening Service at  
Trinity Village**

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

**New Red Maple  
trees have been  
given to the church  
in memory of Bobbie  
Jo Taylor, mother of  
Debra Simpson, by  
Jim and Debra  
Simpson**



## Thank You

Dear Rev. Thornton,

On behalf of Coleman Elementary faculty and staff, I want to express our thanks to you and First Baptist Church for the delicious meal during our spring Parent Teacher Conference. Everyone enjoyed The Wood Shed and was, as always, very appreciative.

We are so grateful to you and your church for all you do to support Coleman Elementary.

Sincerely, Marcia Wright, Principal

Dear First Baptist,

On behalf of the Men's and Women's Bible Study Fellowship classes "Thank You" for so graciously serving as host church this year. Your willingness to open the doors to us, assist in various ways and be so supportive of BSF has been a blessing to the classes. We are grateful to partner with you to provide men, women and children the opportunity to study God's Word and look forward to continuing that in the years ahead. Thank you again.

In Him, The staff of BSF-PB

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome back to church last Sunday. It was such a warm reception and just what I needed after my hospital stay and rehab. I am going to miss my sweet friends at First Baptist Church but will be attending on Sundays online. A special thank you to Bro. Ken for his wonderful sermons and his kindness to me.

Edwina Riddle

You are invited to  
a Bridal Shower for  
Meredith Stefanik and  
Zach Boyce

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

2:00pm to 4:00pm

in the Fellowship Hall.

(Even you men)

Please drop by to wish them well  
on their upcoming marriage.

The couple is registered at

[https://www.myregistry.com/  
wedding-registry/meredith-  
stefanik-and-zach-boyce-north-  
little-rock-ar/3758802](https://www.myregistry.com/wedding-registry/meredith-stefanik-and-zach-boyce-north-little-rock-ar/3758802)



Zach Boyce



Meredith Stefanik

Invite you to celebrate their marriage  
Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4 o'clock  
Reception to follow

Please RSVP to 636-244-7852 by June 10th



Fill A  
Bottle

to save a life  
known by GOD

Hope of the Delta  
Baby Bottle  
Offering

May 14—June 18,  
2023



## Regular Schedule for Weekly Services

### SUNDAY:

6:00 am	TV Broadcast on KARZ 42 (one week delay)
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
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### WEDNESDAY:

12:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

## Deacons 2023

M. H. Bitely	718-3764
Kenny Bonds	540-7001
Travis Chisom	489-3881
Joe Clement	692-2659
Troy Cole	540-7393
Buster Crook	692-3976
Larry Daniel	540-7534
Tommy Fowler	501-517-0490

James House	692-7921
Billy Kittler	550-8910
Bruce Morgan	370-8318
Joe Nealey	329-8717
Mac Norton	718-2895
Jim Simpson	692-3282
Billy Stone	692-1191
Marc Stratton	329-6906
Vernon Walker	489-2683

# 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.

## Extended News from the Pews, because we have so much to be thankful for this month.

Elizabeth Green, **granddaughter of Horace and Bonnie Green**, has graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, AR.

**Sue and Bob Smith** have 4 college graduates! *Cole Jernigan*—Univ. of Denver, CO., Chemistry. He was awarded a PhD scholarship in Chemistry. *Emily Inzer*—Univ. of OK at Norman, Phi Beta Kappa inductions and Premed biology, Presidential Honors. *Olivia Smith*—UCO, Boulder, Honors BS Environment Science and a triple major. *Alexandria Dollins*, Mary Hardin Baylor, Belton, TX, Business. The High School graduate of the family is *Parker Dollins*. He graduated from Thrall HS in Austin, TX and plans to attend Texas A&M and study Engineering.

## STAFF PHONE NUMBERS

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

## 3 Ways to Give



in person.



by mail.



online.

more information at [www.fbcpinebluff.org](http://www.fbcpinebluff.org)



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