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# First Baptist Church Builder

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Volume 81 Issue 6

June 30 2023

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## FROM YOUR PASTOR

Throughout the United States this Tuesday, July 4, most everyone will be celebrating the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence -- a document through which leaders of the colonies in the New World broke free from the autocratic rule of the King of England.

The declaration begins, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Do not take this sentence lightly, and do not let others encourage you to forget it.

Revisionist historians are working hard to remove any trace of Christian and Biblical ideals from the foundations of America. But our Fourth of July celebration finds its basis in this foundational document which appeals to the authority of a Divine Creator, One Whom most our founding fathers fully believed to have been the author and main subject of the Holy Bible, and who was the guarantor of certain "inalienable rights". So, the Fourth of July -- more than just a celebration of independence, ought also to be a day which recognizes God's participation in our nation's birth.

I have read and heard all kinds of advice about how America ought to be transformed. Most Americans believe elections and the orderly, lawful democratic process is how political change should happen. But there are now those who seek to change our nation through chaos, destruction and anarchy.

God's covenant offer to a nation is being ignored right now. The words found in 2 Chronicles 7:14 could be claimed and applied to any nation, but particularly one whose foundational documents and institutions have drawn their inspiration substantially from Biblical monotheism. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

If we truly want to see healing brought to our nation, then this conditional covenant is for us and the restoration of our land will require our part in the covenant: humility, prayer and repentance, so that God can forgive our sin and heal our land!

True restoration and healing for an individual, a church and a nation only comes through true repentance and God's grace! With so much work to be done -- may restoration begin with us!

I hope you have a safe July 4th! Thank the Lord for our nation! "Our national motto is 'In God we Trust,' reminding us that faith in our Creator is the most important American value of all." (Senator Marco Rubio)

**World Changers is coming to Pine Bluff 24-28 July, and First Baptist will have a huge role in their presence and ministry in our community.** We will be hosting around 60-70 that week, providing a place for them to stay in our facilities, as well as shower units. They will have their own cooks to provide their own breakfast and dinner meals in our kitchen and fellowship hall. Several area churches will be helping us this week, especially in providing lunches for these folks as they serve in our community.

We anticipate feeding two worksites that week. We are also anticipating local businesses to donate lunches, and then we will need to ask our Sunday School classes to prepare at least one lunch for workers that week. I will speak to our Sunday School classes directly about the lunch needs for this week.

1) World Changers will arrive on Monday, 24 June. I anticipate most to arrive around 1-4 p. m.. We need members to be on hand to greet our guests.

2) We need at least 2 men and 2 ladies Monday through Friday evenings from 5 – 9 p. m. to be on hand to assist with needs of our guests.

3) We will have homemade ice cream on one evening around 7 p. m., so please bring your ice cream freezers. We will tentatively plan to do this on Tuesday evening.

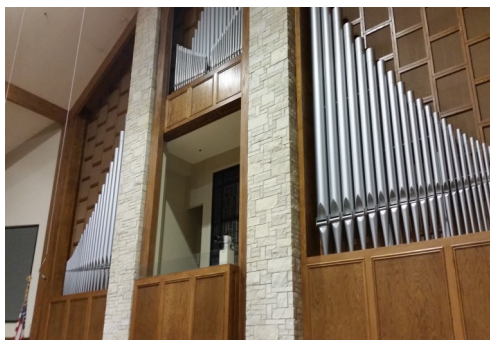
4) We will have cold watermelons on Thursday evening for our guests.

5) World Changers will have a worship service in our fellowship hall on Wednesday evening, time to be announced. Our church is encouraged to attend this service. Thank you for your help with World Changers

**Don't forget our church business luncheon on Sunday, July 30.** God bless you and yours, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday! Bro. K

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

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



**The Organ Repairs Have Begun.** The organ repairs began on Wednesday, June 28, and are being caringly done by R. A. Colby Organs of Johnson City, Tennessee. The work crew will take down each division chamber independently and seal off the winding system to the section they are working on so that everything else will be usable for Sunday morning worship.

Janine has proven to be an innovative person, so I am sure she will work miracles during this process.

It will take the crew a few months to do the renovation work, and they anticipate having the organ back and fully playing sometime in October. They will then tune the pipes and have the full organ playable for the Advent season. In January 2024, they will come back and pull the console (the unit of keyboards that Janine plays from) and take it to their home office in Tennessee. There, they will work on the electrical components and the additional organ sounds so that the entire organ is back and upgraded before Easter 2024!

Please be in prayer for Nick Ollis, the foreman of the Colby Organ department and our project leader, and his crew as they travel back and forth to Pine Bluff, climb the ladders, and do their work safely.

**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.



**Coming This Fall! Extended Teaching Care for Babies & Preschoolers, ages 3-5**

Have you been looking for a way to get more involved in our FirstKids Ministry? We are currently praying for and seeking teachers and helpers to work in the Extended Teaching Care (ETC) during morning worship this Fall. Be part of a growing team! If you are interested in serving, give me a call at 534-4741.



**Coming This Fall! The Relaunch of the Student Ministry's Parent Partner Discipleship Program.**

We want to partner with our parents in creating a weekly plan for discipleship with the students in their homes. Each week, an email from me with step-by-step instructions for connecting with your students will go out, along with a plan to engage through prayer and intentional conversation.



**"Like" us on Facebook!**

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

### Deacon of the Week

**TROY COLE**

July 2, 2023

**BRUCE MORGAN**

July 9, 2023

**JOE NEALEY**

July 16, 2023

**MAC NORTON**

July 23, 2023

**JIM SIMPSON**

July 30, 2023

### **First Record**

**June 4, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$16,501.00
TV Receipts .....	\$610.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$100.00
Other .....	\$1,771.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$18,982.00</b>

**June 11, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$9,750.00
TV Receipts .....	\$510.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$50.00
Other .....	\$1,467.20
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,777.20</b>

**June 18, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$8,065.00
TV Receipts .....	\$705.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$150.00
Other .....	\$2,981.06
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$11,901.06</b>

**June 25, 2023**

Budget Needs .....	\$11,508.31
Budget Receipts .....	\$14,184.00
TV Receipts .....	\$55.00
Capital Needs & Repairs .....	\$75.00
Other .....	\$553.57
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$10,511.55</b>

## CHURCH CLOSING

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day

The Deacons' Meeting will be Sunday, July 9 at 4:00 pm.

The Admin. Board will meet Sunday, July 16 at 5:00 pm.

Sunday, July 16, 2023  
will be



**SUNDAY**

*Undesignated offering  
will go to  
Neighbor to Neighbor.*

## **SYMPATHY**

To Jim and Debra Simpson,  
in the loss of his mother, Bobby Simpson, who passed away in Pine Bluff, AR.

To Tracey and Win Trafford,  
in the loss of her father, Bob Vance.

To David and Sheila Nichols,  
in the loss of his sister, Donna Crutchfield.

## **Thank You**

To First Baptist Church of Pine Bluff,  
Thank you for partnering with BCM this semester in the grace of God through gospel ministry on our campus! Because of your incredible generosity in serving meals to our students, and supporting our leaders to serve as missionaries overseas, God's Kingdom is advancing through college students! We love you here at BCM, and we can't be more grateful for you!

Grace and Peace,  
Matthew Hall, BCM director

Dear Pastor Ken,  
We want to thank you and all those involved in hosting the bridal shower for Meredith and Zack. Your congregation is overflowing with hospitality, generosity, and love. Everything was beautiful and delicious. Please extend our gratitude and appreciation to the congregation—for the bridal shower and for welcoming Meredith and Zack into the First Baptist Church family.

May God abundantly bless you all!

Sincerely,  
Voe and Margaret Stefanik  
Daphne and Mark Boyce



You are invited to  
a Baby Shower for  
Blasius and Edelqueen  
July 9, 2023  
Immediately after Church  
Room #202

It's a girl!  
Stop in and wish them well

They are registered at Walmart



## **QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING WITH POTLUCK!**

**FBC QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE JULY 23,  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MORNING SERVICE. HOT DOGS AND  
HAMBURGERS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH. PLEASE BRING  
YOUR FAVORITE SIDES AND DESSERTS!**



Tuesday, June 20, 6PM  
Session is 13 weeks

## 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 (Will resume in September)
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### TUESDAY:

6:00 pm	Griefshare, Rm. #202
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### WEDNESDAY:

12:00 pm	Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Will resume July 26)

## 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

*Edwina Riddle* has moved to TX. *Dr. and Mrs. Horace Green* have moved to Little Rock, AR. *Sissie Atkinson* has moved to Arkadelphia. If you would like their address to send them a card, please contact the office.

## 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](http://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 169th Year

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