

The Messenger



from the Pastor

When the Apostle Paul writes about the church, he often turns to metaphors to capture the essence of an entity so complex that it defies prosaic, propositional definition. His favorite word pictures for the church are a body, a temple, and people. Thinking of the church as a body emphasizes unity-in-diversity. The church as temple highlights her call to be a beacon of truth to the wider world, the one place to which the surrounding culture can look to find what is real. As a people, the church is to be a definable, distinctive, and interdependent group, a family always looking for new brothers and sisters to welcome out of the loneliness of sin into the fellowship of saints. When the church functions according to these metaphors, then her calling to be unified, sanctified, and world-wide (long ago, we used to say “one, holy, catholic”) is fulfilled.

The fourth mark of the church is “apostolic,” which means, loosely, that she is founded on the teachings of Christ to his first disciples who have handed them on to us through His Word. It means that our unity, sanctity, and reach are not ends to themselves; we are not a social club committed to mere self-perpetuation. We exist for the glory of God alone; we exist to make that glory known to everyone in all the earth. To each of the images described above, Paul attaches a descriptive prepositional phrase: the *body of Christ*, the *temple of the Spirit*, and the *people of God*. The Trinity itself, the non-contingent community of Divine Persons in their unified diversity, grounds the existence of the church. The Fatherhood of God makes possible the family of faith, who live distinctly before the world. The Headship of Christ gives connection and direction to all the members of the body who walk as Christ did in the world. The Power of the Spirit holds the bricks of the temple in place; the temple, in turn, is the launch pad for the Power of the Spirit in the world. The Trinity at work in redeeming creation has caused you to be a building stone, a son or daughter, a body part. Do you know who you are? Do you know how you fit? Do you know what you cost?

Bro. Eric



FIRST BAPTIST *Oxford*

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FREE app "First Baptist Oxford MS"



August

Check out featured events at www.gotofirst.org

AUGUST 2

11 a.m. XYZ Program & Luncheon

AUGUST 3

Noon Prayer Meeting

AUGUST 4

5:30 p.m. Grief Share in the old church
office building

AUGUST 7 *Promotion Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service

AUGUST 10

Noon Prayer Meeting

AUGUST 11

5:30 p.m. Grief Share in the old church
office building

AUGUST 14

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
4 p.m. Children's Bible Drill
4:15 p.m. Youth Bible Drill
5 p.m. Children's Choir
5 p.m. Life U Classes begin
6 p.m. Evening Worship

AUGUST 17

Noon Prayer Meeting
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m. AWANA registration in the CLC
6 p.m. Rev.o.lu.tion Youth Worship
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study
6 p.m. Women's Explorers Bible Study
6 p.m. English as a Second Language
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

AUGUST 18

6:30 p.m. Wild Game Dinner *(ticket required)*

AUGUST 21

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
4 p.m. Children's Bible Drill
4:15 p.m. Youth Bible Drill
5 p.m. Children's Choir
5 p.m. Life U Classes
6 p.m. Evening Worship

AUGUST 24

Noon Prayer Meeting
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m. AWANA - first club night
6 p.m. Rev.o.lu.tion Youth Worship
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study
6 p.m. Women's Explorers Bible Study
6 p.m. English as a Second Language
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

AUGUST 28

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes
11 a.m. Worship Service
4 p.m. Children's Bible Drill
4:15 p.m. Youth Bible Drill
5 p.m. Children's Choir
5 p.m. Life U Classes
6 p.m. Evening Worship

AUGUST 31

Noon Prayer Meeting
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:30 p.m. AWANA
6 p.m. Rev.o.lu.tion Youth Worship
6 p.m. Adult Bible Study
6 p.m. Women's Explorers Bible Study
6 p.m. English as a Second Language
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

XYZ Senior Adult Program and Lunch

Tuesday, August 2 at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Hymn singing followed by program by Ms. Francis Smith and her comic skits.

A delicious meal will be provided. Invite a friend and join us.

Our Family

Sunday school attendance

July 3 - 460 July 17 - 524
July 10 - 508 July 24 - 531

Budget July 3-24, 2016

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Budget | \$128,629.20 |
| Building | \$4,270.98 |
| Designated | \$6,776.55 |
| Total | \$139,676.73 |
| Building Fund to date | \$5,796,948.84 |

August Deacons of the Week

- July 31- Aug. 6** Dan Reed, Chris Riley,
Brodie Burns
- Aug. 7-13** Thomas Herrington, Todd
Johnson, Walter Locke
- Aug. 14-20** Rick Mize, Breese Quinn, Jim
Vinson
- Aug. 21-27** Hank Addy, Bobby
Clanton, Derrell Doss
- Aug. 28-
Sept. 3** Jeff Evans, Brad Golmon,
Rick Mize

New Members

Sue Younger, John Phillips

Congratulations

To Joanna & Nathan Porter on the birth of a daughter, **Mariella Catherine Porter**, on June 28. Proud brothers are Ian and Jasper.

To Casey & Marc Edwards on the birth of a daughter, **Neely Owen Edwards**, on June 28. Proud grandparents are Pam & Jim McNeely & great-grandmother, Anna Beth McNeely

Our Sympathy

To Mrs. Cicely Cox & family in the loss of her grandmother, Mrs. Cane.

To Mrs. B.J. Davis & family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Jackie Lord.

To Mrs. Harriet Sudduth & family in the loss of her mother.

To Mrs. Ashley Roberts & family in the loss of her father, Mr. Joe Price.

To Mrs. Tina Smith & family in the loss of her father, Mr. Frank Guillebeau.

More to *LOVE* about First

contributed by Brooke Hutson Gibson

How many Sundays have you missed church in the last 26 years?

For the Welcome Center duo at our church, **Russell Finley** and **Dreher Harris**, they've only missed one or two.

That's right, for over a quarter of a century Russell and Dreher have been in charge of gathering Sunday School records and providing a welcoming presence to people as they enter the Atrium.

They became friends while volunteering together, and they started volunteering just because someone asked them to help. And being helpful is why they enjoy serving each Sunday.

Dreher likes seeing familiar faces each week and especially being able to help first-time guests find their way around. "If a little child is having a bad day, we can help the teacher find Mom," adds Russell, who pointed out that he and Dreher are two of about only a handful of people in the church who know where all the Sunday School classes are.

Thanks Russell and Dreher for serving so faithfully!



Bulletin Board

MISSIONS UPDATE

Oaxaca: The October medical mission trip to Oaxaca has been rescheduled due to a conflict with Jeff Holeman's schedule. The new dates will be Nov. 5-12. If you are interested in going on this trip please let me (Mike Tomes 662-701-0084) or Robert Allen know by Aug. 20 so we can make arrangements for the air fare and get a reasonable price. We are also making plans for another medical trip Feb. 4-11, 2017. Please pray to see if God is leading you to go on one of the trips.

Missions moment from Sarah McCullen

I want people to know how important it is to keep packing shoeboxes!!

This past week, I had the privilege to travel with Operation Christmas Child to the island of Cebu in the Philippines and distribute shoebox gifts. We had 6 distributions and got to witness a Greatest Journey graduation. The trip was overall very successful, but we only handed out 2,000 boxes while there are 35 million children in the Philippines. Thank you all for your prayer support, and please start preparing for 2016's collection week! The need is still so great!!



And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing. — Luke 9:2

First Baptist Men's Ministry presents

WILD GAME DINNER AND SPORTSMEN'S EVENT

Thursday, August 18 • 6:30 p.m.

FBC Fellowship Hall

\$5 per person. Tickets on sale in the atrium
Sundays or purchase in the church office.

This event is for men of our church and the Oxford community. We encourage the men of our church to bring prepared wild game from their freezers. There will be fried catfish for those who prefer not to eat wild game.

Guest Speaker **Brodie Swisher**
www.thrutheseason.com



PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS



Baby Dedication

September 11 during the 11 a.m. service

Sign up with Kristen by August 15. koverall@gotofirst.org or 662-801-4487.

First 4 Kids WORSHIP

FBC Children's Ministry is excited to begin **First 4 Kids Worship Sept. 11** for children in **Kindergarten-2nd grade** during the 11 a.m. worship service. Kids will meet in the sanctuary to participate in the first part of worship with the congregation, then go downstairs to the Old Fellowship Hall for kids' worship and teaching.

To make this is a success, we need parent volunteers to serve on a monthly rotating basis. **Please prayerfully consider serving in this ministry!** First 4 Kids Worship will include music, videos, and age appropriate teaching that will help children learn more about Jesus and His love for them through *Explore the Bible Worship* curriculum. We also need to know how many children are planning to participate to ensure that we have enough volunteers and supplies.

Questions? Contact Dina Addy at diaddy@gotofirst.org or 662-837-0797. Call or email Dina to sign up to serve and pre-register your child no later than August 12.

Library & Media Center

Open Sundays 9:30-11 a.m. and Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.*

NEW ADULT BOOKS: *The Witnesses* by Robert Whitlow
Without Warning by Lynette Eason, *Missing* by Lisa Harris
Sea Rose Lane by Irene Hannon

FAMILY MOVIE: Miracles from Heaven

*beginning August 17

YOUTH NEWS

 @FBCOxfordSM

DNow Aug. 5-6 at Camp Lake Stevens

Revolution Worship begins Aug. 17

COLLEGE NEWS

 @FBCOxfordCM

 FBC Oxford College Ministry