



 OWENTON FIRST BAPTIST

"To be found faithful as God's People."

The First Family

APRIL 2024

FROM YOUR PASTOR

God is so Good!

The psalmist wrote, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13) This month I have the joy of celebrating my fifteenth anniversary as your pastor. As I reflect on these years, I could not help but think of Psalm 27:13. This verse just encompasses the feelings that I have at this moment in ministry. I am so amazed at the goodness of the Lord over these years and how gracious He has been to me, my family, and our church. When I moved here on April 20, 2009, without my family until the end of May, I had a daughter in her second year of college in Tennessee, a son getting ready to graduate from high school, a son in eighth grade, and a son in fourth grade. Now Libby and I have a son in law, two daughters in laws, and two grandsons and we are enjoying our empty nest.

It is good to be serving in the "land of the living." I think we can attribute this to a renewed focus on prayer, the consistent preaching and teaching of the Word of God in various venues, sharing the Gospel and reaching out to those that we desire to be a part of our family, and ministering to one another within the body of Christ. I pray our ministries to the babies, children, students, young professionals, young couples, families with children, middle agers, empty-nesters, and golden-agers will be strong.

Thank-you for praying for me as your pastor. It has guided me in sermon preparation, counseling, planning, outreach, and many other areas of responsibility. Your prayers have allowed me to sharpen my skills in ministry through the Doctor of Ministry program at Luther Rice Seminary. They have allowed me to represent our church as a Trustee at Clear Creek Baptist College and opened a door to serve as a Trustee at Gateway Baptist Theological Seminary, one of our six Southern Baptist Seminaries, which will be voted on at the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis in June. Truly, the Lord is good!

Blessings,

Bro. Brad

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS — PASTOR

CHUCK HARRIS — WORSHIP & MEDIA PASTOR

ROSS FORD — YOUTH PASTOR

KILEY BLAIR — DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUSAN STOWE — MINISTRY ASSISTANT

The Spring Quarterly Association WMU Meeting will be held at First Baptist Church on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m.

The speaker is from
The Violence Prevention Center for Women.

Please let Debbie Lewellyn know if you can bring baked goods or pastries.

SENIOR SUNDAY
MAY 5, 2024

PLEASE SEND ROSS 5-7 PICTURES
OF EACH HIGH SCHOOL AND
COLLEGE GRADUATE BY APRIL 28



PANAMA MISSION TEAM UPDATE

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 6:30 P.M.

MUSIC AND MEDIA MINISTRY

RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY....PLEASE?

As I sit down to write this article it is raining outside and it reminds me of the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Now, I love the rain. I love the sound it makes when it hits the roof and the smell of a fresh rainfall. But, rain also makes things dreary. It makes some people, including me, feel a little gloomy and sad. The great theologian Eeyore from *The Hundred Acre Wood* says, "The nicest thing about the rain is that it always stops. Eventually." There's something about rain that brings you down. Have you ever felt like this? Do you feel yourself getting down or sad when it starts raining?

When I feel myself falling into the rainy-times blues, I like to sing...go figure, right? However, I'm not just singing any random song that pops into my head. Lately, it's been one of the songs from our Easter Cantata, *This Is God*. I find myself singing praises to God and taking that moment to worship Him, thanking Him for the life that the rain brings and praising Him for the beauty that He has created. This is just one part of my everyday, private worship that I lift up to our Heavenly Father.

You see, we are called to worship our God. "But, don't we already worship God on Sunday?" Yes, we do but we are called to worship the Lord EVERYDAY, not just 10-15 minutes on a Sunday morning. While corporate worship is wonderful and commanded by God, our Private Worship throughout the week gets us ready for Sunday. Just like it's hard to get where you're going on an empty tank of gas; it's hard to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth when you're coming into worship with an empty spiritual gas tank!! Worship is an everyday thing. Did you know that there are more examples in the Bible of people worshipping privately than together as a body of believers. Private worship is the foundation and preparation for corporate worship. Our God deserves it everyday!

As this month ends, I want to say thank you to our Worship Choir and our Narrators, Dallas & Melody Stafford! They worked so hard on *This Is God*, and it sounded beautiful. Just like many of you, I enjoyed this cantata very much and was truly blessed by the Lord on Palm Sunday. This group has been a blessing to me. They come in ready to work, have fun doing it, and truly love worshipping the Lord through song. As a director, I couldn't ask for anything more and couldn't be more proud of them!

I want to encourage you to take a week during this month and worship Christ every day in that week. It can be just a couple of minutes while your walking to your desk or during the hour commute to your job; while you're walking the hallways to class or eating lunch. Just take a moment and lift up praises to the one to whom all praise is due, our Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bro. Chuck

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hello Church Family,

I am constantly overwhelmed with gratitude for how much our church loves our kids. The Easter Eggstravaganza was so well supported and prayers were answered as so many were able to hear about the real reason we celebrate Easter.

The kids will be busy serving over the next few weeks and months. On April 24th they will be sharing with the Women on Mission what they have been learning in Mission Friends and will be receiving supplies which will be used in May to create gifts for the residents of the manor. Stay tuned for how you can be a part of this project. Next up will be Vacation Bible School. If you were not able to be at the first meeting it is certainly not too late to get involved. Feel free to take a look at the sign-up packet at the welcome desk and put your name down for any way you might be interested in serving. You can sign up for more than one area and then we can discuss where you are needed most. VBS dates are June 17-21st!

Please pray for the kids of our church and our community. Pray for me and the many volunteers as we try to plant seeds of faith. Pray that those seeds will fall on fertile soil that will not only change the lives of these kids, but also their families. Pray for those that will be going to camp that God will even now begin preparing their hearts for such an amazing time at Crossings. Pray also for the Crossings staff as they spend their entire summer serving as missionaries at Cedarmore, Jonathon Creek and across our state and beyond!

I love spring and the new life it brings to the outdoors! I'm excited to see what new life God brings to our church in the months ahead!

Peace and joy,
Kiley

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello church family!

We had a great turn out of 12 students and 3 chaperones for our annual trip to the Winter Jam concert. Several members of the church family reached out to offer extra money for the students that went on the trip with us and that was a huge blessing to the group so I am very appreciative of that!

At the end of March, we finished up our small group studies. We had a large group of students here every Sunday for that. This is such a special time for our students to share their feelings and their faith with each other and we are looking forward to these small groups starting back up in the fall.

As always, we will meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in the youth room. We start out with a Bible study lesson and then head to the gym for games (usually a competitive game of volleyball). If you know of a student in middle or high school that does not attend youth group, please let them know! We would love to have them! Thank you for sharing your students with me!

Also, please be in prayer for our high school seniors as they are coming up on their last few weeks of school. It has been a blessing to have them in the youth group and I am excited to see where they go in the future!

Blessings,
Ross





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Mission Friends	4	5	6
7 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 6:30 p.m. Evening Service 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting	8	9	10 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 5:30 p.m. Trustees 6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service/Business Meeting 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Mission Friends 7:00 p.m. Choir	11	12	13
14 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Evening Service /Panama Report	15	16	17 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Mission Friends 7:00 p.m. Choir	18	19	20
21 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	22	23 Meeting the Needs 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	24 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:00 p.m. Family Night 6:45 p.m. Mission Gatherings 7:00 p.m. Choir	25	26	27
28 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	29	30	DATES TO REMEMBER Senior Recognition Sunday-May 5, 11:00 a.m. Parent Baby Dedication-May 12, 11:00 a.m. VBS– June 17-21			



4/1
 Patty Greene
 Matt Miller
4/3
 Gene Rose
 Molly Grace Watkins
4/4
 Rex Dean Stafford
4/12
 Ricky Bourne
 Collin Gamble
 Colton Hays
 Jeff Peak
4/14
 Beckham O'Toole
 Jenna Points
4/15
 Rhonda Johns
4/16
 Tripp Allnutt
4/20
 Logan Shelton
4/21
 John Paul Hanson

4/22
 Betty Carter
 Finley Harvey
 Susan Sutherland
4/24
 Michael Cassidy
 Ashton Marcum
4/25
 Ellie Blair
4/27
 Jeff Caudill
 Lana Jones
 Darrin Osborne
4/28
 Melanie Hanson
 Matt Stafford
 Mike Stafford
 Felechia Wainscott
4/29
 Sarah Peak
 Mary Helen Smith
4/30
 Emma Blair
 Jim Craigmyle
 Caden Hedger

APRIL VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

4/7: Andi and Jared Fitzgerald
 4/14: Mike and Sarah Cobb
 4/21: Rebecca and Ella Mills
 4/28: Krissy Locker

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

TBA

Memorials

Tom Marshall-Donna McDonald

Scott Allnutt-Donna McDonald

Nancy Burchett-Donna McDonald, Sidney and Mitzi Ford, Tim and Sherry Craigmyle, Todd and Lesa Marston

Richard Clark-Pauline Shelton

Return Service Requested

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