

NOVEMBER, 2024
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The MESSENGER

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From Your Pastor

It's been many years since I sat in a Civics class. I was in the 9th grade, and the class was for one semester. It was an easy class academically, but I remember appreciating the genius of our founding fathers and gaining an even more profound gratitude for those who serve our country. My admiration for those who serve in the military rose exponentially. I also remember looking at our public officials differently. I gained a new respect for our law enforcement. I also began looking at our elected officials differently. I learned they were to use their time in office to serve the people. There was a man in my home church, Johnny Johnson. He was a state legislator. It was an awkward but meaningful moment when I told him how much I appreciated his service to Mississippi. He became emotional in his response. I'll never forget that moment on the sidewalk outside the sanctuary. He made some kind of reference to his hope that more young people understood his role as a servant. You see, Mr. Johnson had lost a son in a car wreck just a few years earlier. I think our encounter must have triggered some memory I was not privy to, and that moment humanized a man I greatly admired. Every police officer, firefighter, city official, county, and state official are all people. They have families. They have lives.

We certainly do live in the greatest country on the planet. Of course, there have been so many changes in the 49 years since I sat in that classroom. Generally speaking, patriotism is not appreciated in the same way. At that point in my life, I was a clumsy and lanky boy barely past the stage of the squeaky

noises of adolescent voice change. My civics class provided a voice change for my heart as well. I realized the great privilege of growing up in the world's greatest country. I also remembered that to whom much is given, much is also required. Those "inalienable rights" required responsibility too. Being a good citizen was not just because I was an American but because I was a follower of the one who "endowed" me with those rights. Being a good citizen was part of my transforming life in Christ. That was the point in my life that my motivations changed. Obeying laws was not about the fear of being caught breaking the law but about doing the right thing when no one was watching. Running a red light at midnight, when I could see no other car within a mile no longer was debatable.

One of our greatest privileges as American citizens is the right to vote. One of the greatest responsibilities we have as citizens is to vote. You cannot excuse yourself because you do not like anyone on the ballot. We make decisions every day even though we are unsure of the outcome. Pray and then act out of good faith. Vote because you are a good citizen that loves your country. Vote because others have died to protect your right to do so. Vote because you want to be part of the solutions to the problems in our country. Do you know how we arrived at a place where abortion is a debate, American exceptionalism is frowned upon, and God has been dismissed from the public square? I believe it is because Christians were silent when the worldview of our country was shifted. The problem with elections in our generation is that the winners take all, the losers go home, and the game ends. No! The game is just beginning. It falls to us to be

involved. Vote! These officials are ELECTED. They represent YOU. So, make them do so. If they are supporting legislation that you do not support, hold them accountable. Make those phone calls. The late Alan Nunnelee, who represented MS in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2011 – 2015, once told me that every phone call his office received, they translated that to mean 1,000 people back home who held the caller's view. One phone call can carry a lot of weight.

Do not make this election only about who wins and who loses. Make it about participating in the process as a responsible Christian who is grateful to be an American!

Your Pastor and friend,

Bro. Dale

MEN'S BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 3
7:30 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Greg Sykes,
Area Director of FCA
All men and boys are invited.

*Poinsettia Sunday,
December 8*

Poinsettias go on sale November 4.
If you wish to reserve one or more poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone, you may come to the church office and fill out a form for each one. The cost of each poinsettia this year is \$12.00. (Please have a check or correct change.)

GINGER'S NOTES

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise: give thanks to Him and Praise His name." Psalm 100:4

The **WORSHIP CHOIR** will rehearse November 6, 13, 20 from 6:00 – 7:15. We will have a **BONUS** Christmas rehearsal Sunday night, November 17 from 6-6:30. We will also have a **BONUS** rehearsal Sunday night, December 1 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary.

YOUTH CHOIR will meet November 10 and 17 at 5:00 in the choir room. We will have SNAC in the Youth Room at 6:00 on November 10. All students in grades 7-12 are encouraged to come and participate. We are working on our Christmas music which will be presented December 15.

We will also be singing at the following events:
Saturday, NOV. 2 @ 1:00

@ Benefit for ALLEN FLYNT @ The Ranch, 45 Rockin M Drive, West Point. Sunday, NOV. 3 @ 6:00

@Benefit for SANDERS FAMILY @ The Refuge, 9939 Hwy 45 N. Alt, West Point.

HAND BELLS

Adult hand bells will meet at 5:45 on November 5, 12, and 19. We will play in Morning Worship on November 3 and 24.

Youth hand bells will meet on Sundays at 4:30 when we have Youth Choir at 5:00.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

December 1 @ 10:15
Worship Choir sings Carols of Christmas

December 8 @ 10:15
Worship Choir presents Christmas Music

December 11 @ 6:00
A Night of Christmas Music in the Fellowship Hall

December 15 @ 10:15
Youth Choir & Friends present Christmas Music

Welcome New Member!!



By Letter:
Kaitlyn Raines

also pictured:
Charles Raines

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Steve, Kay, and Sheri Stanley in the death of their brother in law and uncle, Bob Shirley, October 13, and to Edith and Lynn Carlisle in the death of their brother and uncle, Buddy Vance, October 20.



I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9:1

I just got home from Trunk or Treat. It was simple and sweet, and I can say that because so many different people played a part - bringing candy, decorating trunks, helping set up, cook, take down, and clean up. God gave us a beautiful afternoon and evening. Every ministry in this church played a part, and I'm so grateful to be part of a church that is so supportive of different ministries. It takes all of them!

Looking ahead to the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I will have a couple of resources to keep you in the habit of at-home discipleship during this busy season. These will be simple and, I hope, fun for your family to do together. I pray it encourages an attitude of gratitude for your whole family as we go through November. Then as we enter into Christmas you can take time to reflect on our Greatest Gift and our reason for such thankfulness. This particular advent focus will leave you with a unique keepsake you can set out each year!

We do have a Christmas event planned that will be simple and include the whole church! It's going to be Wednesday night, December 11. We will have a Christmas meal that night for supper and remain in the Fellowship Hall. The kids choirs will sing, along with other music and singing from youth, and who knows what might be added before then. It will be special to gather together in the midst of the Christmas season to sing, celebrate, and just sit with each other.

Bible Drill (4:00) and ID Kids (5:00) will meet November 3, 10, 17 and 24 and will not meet in December.



OCC BOXES SHOULD BE RETURNED NOVEMBER 17 TO THE SANCTUARY.



Preschool:

November 3 - Katie Oswalt/Casey Berry
November 10 - Heather Bumgarner/ Abby Robinson
November 17 - Michelle Williamson/Ann Holt
November 24 - Joedee Robinson

1st and Second Grade:

November 3 - does not meet
November 10 - Jade/Joedee Robinson
November 17 - Jade/Caroline Warrington
November 24 - Jade/Kaitlyn Raines

LUNCH BREAK BIBLE STUDY

Attention Ladies!
You are invited to a Bible study led by Susan Moore called "It's Christmas." We will meet on Mondays in November (4, 11, 18) from 11:30-1:00. Bring your lunch and if you need to leave early or come late, that will work.
Invite others to join us!

Our tentative Lottie Moon goal for this year is \$35,900. Please begin now praying about what God would have you give.

First Students

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:24

We have almost made it through 2024, and it's hard to believe that it's already November. We still have a few more big activities to look forward to for our youth before the end of the year. We have pushed back the **Holy Ghost Weenie Roast** to November 2nd, and we will meet at the Miller's camp house at 6:00. We will take a van from the church for anyone that would like to ride from the church, and we should wrap up around 8:00. For anyone bringing drinks for this, please bring them to the church office Thursday or Friday before.

We are also looking forward to another **trip to Atlanta to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center**. We will have around 25 students and

adults participating this year. Please be in prayer for all our students and chaperones as they travel and pray that the Lord would use them as they serve. Also, continue to be in prayer for the children that will receive these boxes, and that the gospel would be shared and heard all over the world as a result of this ministry.

As we continue into November, our **Wednesday night small groups** will continue as well. We are nearing the end of our "Jesus Studies" curriculum as we close out the year. Please continue to be in prayer for our students and small group leaders as they engage with each other and God's word each week. As we enter into this month of Thanksgiving, I can confidently say that I am so thankful for our church family and the support that they provide to each of our ministries within the church. I hope you are just as thankful to be a part of FBC West Point!

In Christ,
Joseph Blount



Covered Dish Luncheon
Thursday, November 14 at 11:30
Meat and rolls will be provided.

Program: Alan Leonard,
Ag Science Instructor
West Point Career and Technology Center

PRAY FOR ME CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all those who continue to pray daily for our students. We have heard several reports of how this effort has been a blessing to both adults and students.

If you haven't done so lately, maybe send a note of encouragement to your youth.

Any groups (deacons, women's ministry, men's ministry, missions, small groups, committees, choirs, ensembles, children, youth, and adults) who are planning events or meetings in December must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by November 19. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)

November

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MORNING WORSHIP - 10:15 a.m.	3 Daylight Saving Time Ends Men's Breakfast 7:30			5:00 pm - Supper 5:30 pm - Children's Choirs 6:00 p.m. -		1	2 Youth Choir sing at benefit - 1:00 pm Youth Holy Ghost Weenie Roast - 6:00 pm
	Children's Bible Drills - 4:00 pm Identity Kids and STAND - 5:00 pm Youth Choir sing at benefit - 6:00 pm	4 Ladies' Lunch Break Bible Study - 11:30	5 Adult Hand Bells - 5:45	6 Children's Missions, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal, Ladies' Small Group, and Prayer Meeting	7	8	9
SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 a.m.	10 Children's Bible Drills - 4:00 pm Youth Hand Bells - 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir/SNAC, Identity Kids, and STAND - 5:00 pm	11 Ladies' Lunch Break Bible Study - 11:30	12 Adult Hand Bells - 5:45	13	14 Forever Young Luncheon 11:30	15	16
	17 Bring shoeboxes to Morning Worship	18 Ladies' Lunch Break Bible Study - 11:30	19 Joy Seitz WMU 10:00 am	20	21	22	23
	Children's Bible Drills - 4:00 pm Youth Hand Bells - 4:30 p.m. Youth Choir, Identity Kids, and STAND - 5:00 pm		26	27 No activities	28 Church office closed Thanksgiving	29 Church office closed	30
	24 Children's Bible Drills - 4:00 pm Identity Kids and STAND - 5:00 pm	25					Youth Trip to OCC Packing Center in Atlanta



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

November 6

Vegetable Beef Soup
Grilled Cheese/PB&J
Chocolate Pies/Cookies

November 20

Turkey/Dressing
Sweet Potato Casserole
Green Beans
Roll
Pecan Pie/Cheesecake

November 13

Hamburgers
Fries
Chocolate Chip Cookies

November 27

no activities

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	9/29	10/6	10/13	10/20
Sunday School	204	177	174	206
Morning Worship	296	257	263	317

BUDGET NEEDS

Average Weekly Budget Receipts for September

\$14,380.15

Weekly Budget Needs

\$21,945.92

NOVEMBER 3

Nursery
Terri Pierce
Sarah Pierce
Kimberly Allen
Ushers
Victor Suggs
Roger Burton
Heath Brand
Jerry Ishee
Barry Bryan
Dave Ketchum
David Ketchum

NOVEMBER 10

Nursery
Perry Price
Brad Price
Regina Towery
Ushers
John Freeman
John Ingram
Jamey Ballard
Chris Chambless
Sherman Berry
Ben Lawley

NOVEMBER 17

Nursery
Nikki Stafford
Aiden Stafford
Farrah Honea
Ushers
William Allen
Will Ketchum
Brad Cox
Kent Watson
Steve Tribble
Jonas Robinson

NOVEMBER 24

Nursery
John Freeman
Sherry Freeman
Kelli Mowry
Ushers
Calvin Boyd
Jon Oswald
Jason Reed
Steve White
Scott Ross
Gregg Kaiser

TITHES & OFFERINGS

September Online Giving

\$10,542.82

September Online ECM Deposits

\$12,748.83

September 29, 2024

Undesignated	\$15,411.55
Reimbursements	\$1,134.00
Child Care	\$2,826.00
Total Operating	\$19,371.55
Designated	\$1,056.00
Total Deposit	\$20,427.55

October 6, 2024

Undesignated	\$20,904.55
Reimbursements	\$230.00
Child Care	\$6,488.00
Total Operating	\$27,622.55
Designated	\$487.00
Total Deposit	\$28,109.55

October 13, 2024

Undesignated	\$14,227.00
Reimbursements	\$241.00
Child Care	\$13,873.54
Total Operating	\$28,341.54
Designated	\$1,877.00
Total Deposit	\$30,218.54

October 20, 2024

Undesignated	\$7,996.00
Child Care	\$2,928.00
Total Operating	\$10,924.00
Designated	\$433.00
Total Deposit	\$11,357.00

Thank you for helping us exceed our church goal for the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering!

“GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, CALL UPON HIS NAME, MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES, PROCLAIM THAT HIS NAME IS EXALTED. “SING PRAISES TO THE LORD, FOR HE HAS DONE GLORIOUSLY; LET THIS BE MADE KNOWN IN ALL THE EARTH.

Isaiah 12:4-5

First Baptist Church

Rev. Dale Funderburg
Pastor

Ginger Fowler
Minister of Music

Joseph Blount
Minister of Students

Joedee Robinson
Minister of Children
and Family Ministry

Sarah Burton
ECM Director

Caroline Warrington
Children's Ministry Intern

Samuel Hollis
Music Ministry Intern