

## FIRST THOUGHTS

The Lord is Good. Let that truth sink in a minute. We often say those words and I believe we mean those words. He *is* good. There is no one and nothing better than God. He is full of grace and mercy. He is loving and generous. He is our all in all. Jesus is the answer for the world today. Do you believe that?

If we believe Jesus is the answer for the world, we must live as if we believe Jesus is the answer. The truth is, most days, many of us do not live as if Jesus is the answer for the world. Why do I say that? I say that because most Southern Baptist do not tell others about Christ and many, if not most, do not support, financially (or any other way, really), endeavors to tell others about Christ. So, if we are unwilling to tell anyone else about Jesus and if we do not fund or support endeavors to tell others about Jesus, can we really say we believe Jesus is the answer?

Well, I have good news. You can be different. You can share Jesus with the world. Somehow, the church has believed the lie of the devil that no one wants to hear about Jesus and none of your friends, loved ones, or neighbors want you to invite them to church. That is a lie from Hell. I am convinced that this world will find all they are truly searching for in Jesus. Statistics bear out that the vast majority of lost people in our culture welcome a conversation about Jesus and most will come to church if you invite them. So open up with those around you about the hope you have in Jesus. Invite your friend or your child's coach or a neighbor to worship with us where they can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Second, you have a wonderful opportunity to invest in missions for North America. I shared last Sunday, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions has come up short across the SBC for this year. Even here at FBC Rayville we did not meet our goal. But there is still time. Let's pray and ask God what he would have us give. I am challenging 200 people to give \$100 to the Annie Armstrong Offering. Let's do our part! This is a very attainable goal that we can meet and God will use it to make a difference for His Kingdom in North America!

I love you and thank God for you,

Dr. EW

## IGNITE NEWS

### Thank you, Bike Parade, and Summer fun!

I would like to say THANK YOU to everyone that helped with VBS. We averaged over 150 kids each day for the week with a high attendance of 165! We had the best teachers and volunteers that successfully shared the gospel of Jesus Christ and showed God's love to children all week. We also had the best rotation leaders and the breakfast each day! I am so grateful for each of you!

### Our 2nd Annual Bike Parade is this Sunday night after the Patriotic Celebration!

Children can ride their bicycles, tricycles, scooters, or wagons. If you or your child would like to participate, please bring their bikes, scooters, etc. to the Family Life Center Sunday afternoon at 4:30 to decorate. We will provide some simple red, white, and blue decorations for each child. You may bring any special patriotic decorations that you would like. Please do not bring any motorized vehicles. We would also like to invite any veterans to walk, or ride, in the parade with us. If you know a veteran that would like to join us, please invite them to the celebration honoring them and then to join the parade with us. Once the musical is over, our children will take a short ride around a couple of blocks and then join the adults for a meal in the family life center.

### Summer Fun days!

We are planning several summer fun days for our children this summer beginning with a trip to Altitude trampoline park on July 11th! We will leave the church at 10:15 and return around 1:15. Cost for this trip will be \$15 (add \$2.50 for jumping socks if your child does not have some already). We are also planning a water day, and possibly a trip to the zoo! Look for more details soon!!

Don't forget.....we will have a **CentriKid Parent meeting JULY 9th at 5:00** in the discipleship room! Please bring your completed forms and a copy of the front and back of your Health Insurance card.

In Christ,  
Tim

## REFUGE

### Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

As the Body of Christ, the Church, needs to stand strong in our faith together. We are a family in Christ. Like families the church often has disagreements but we need to forgive one another and put our differences aside. We must work together for the common goal, which is to stand firm in the Gospel and shine the light of Christ where ever we go. When we come together to worship Christ we build each other up and hold one another accountable to walk in Christ and share His good news with the world. In Matthew 12:25 Jesus said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand." As the Body of Christ let us stand together as family, encouraging one another, for the glory of God.

Glory be to God,  
Randy Zeigler

Also, please be in prayer for our students as we attend Fuge Camp at Union University in Jackson, TN. We will be gone from July 5th and will return the 9th. Also be in prayer for our students that they will shine the light of Christ in everything they do.

### AUXILIARY FUNDRAISER FOR VETERANS

A BBQ Rib Plate Fundraiser to be held on Saturday, July 15 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Rayville Methodist Church Family Life Center. All profits will be used to purchase a folding enclosure for the NELA Veteran Cemetery pavilion.

Cost of the plate is \$12 and includes ribs, baked beans, potato salad, bread and dessert. Drinks served for eat in only. Tickets can be purchased at the following banks: in Rayville at Citizens Progressive, Cross Keys, or Richland State; in Delhi at Guaranty; in Mangham at Richland State and in Winnsboro at Winnsboro State. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist the members of the American Legion Auxiliary on Friday, 7/14 or Saturday, 7/15, please call 334-3454.

## FIRST NOTES 🎵

*O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever. Psalm 131:3*

Where is your hope?... If we were to really open our eyes and look at the world around us, we would see a world full of hurting and lost people. Even in America where prosperity flourishes, we fail to recognize the source of our hope and blessing. We have become a prideful country that ignores and rejects God's truth. I was reminded on my mission trip to Honduras this past week that even in the poorest of countries Christians are still welcomed and even encouraged to share their faith, not so in America and many other countries. So how did we get this far and what is the answer? Sadly, the situation we are in is of our own making. Far too long have Christians sat on the sidelines and done nothing to turn this thing around. We've succumb to the idols of prosperity and acceptance. But the good news is, Jesus Christ is still the answer. He is Savior to all and the Lord of heaven and earth. And God's plan for turning this thing around is for you and me to pray, repent from our selfish ways and get back to sharing our faith with others. Instead of cowering behind the walls of the church and our homes, we need to meet the needs of others and actively engage people with the gospel and good news of Jesus Christ. Then we must disciple converts to grow in righteousness and follow after Jesus whole heartedly. That is the hope for America and our world. So let's get to it!

Remember our Celebration of God and country this month! You don't want to miss the musical our Sanctuary Choir will be presenting titled, ***In God We Trust***. That's Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. There will be great music, food, and fellowship for the entire family. So mark your calendars and make special plans to attend.

Raymond

### Online Giving Is Now Available!

Go to our church website at [www.fbcrayville.org](http://www.fbcrayville.org) and click on the GIVE button. After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly from your checking account or by using your debit or credit card.



**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

- SUNDAY**  
 9:00am Worship Service  
 10:00am Sunday School  
 6:00pm Evening Worship  
 6:00pm Joy Explosion
- MONDAY**  
 1:30pm Helping Hands Ministry
- TUESDAY**  
 8:00am-12Noon Care & Share
- WEDNESDAY**  
 4:00pm "Through the Bible" Study  
 5:20pm Praise Team  
 5:30pm "Book of James"  
 6:00pm IGNITE-Children's Activities  
 6:15pm REFUGE-Student Worship  
 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir
- THURSDAY**  
 6:00am Men's Prayer  
 9:30am Ladies' Prayer Group  
 5:30pm Richland Celebrate Recovery
- FRIDAY**  
 8:00am-12Noon Care & Share

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- JULY**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:00pm "In God We Trust"  
 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> CentriFuge Camp  
 8<sup>th</sup> Second Helpings  
 9<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm Colonial Manor  
 4:30pm Deacons' Meeting  
 5:00pm CentriKid Parent Meeting  
 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 31<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> CentriKid Camp



Issue #5 - The next issue will be July 31, 2017

**SUMMER SUNDAY  
 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

- 9:00AM Worship Service  
 10:00AM Sunday School  
 6:00PM Evening Worship

First Baptist Church  
 PO Box 810  
 Rayville, LA 71269-0810  
 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Auto  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 P A I D  
 Permit No. 89  
 Rayville, LA  
 72169

**FBC STAFF**

- Dr. Eddie Wren  
*Pastor*
- Raymond Perrin, Jr.  
*Minister of Music*
- Tim Allen  
*Minister to Children*
- Randy Zeigler  
*Minister to Youth*
- Beth Livingston  
*Ministry Assistant*
- Annie Rucker  
 Bill Martin  
*Custodian*
- Office phone 318-728-3231

# First Ray

**Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm**  
**"In God We Trust" Musical**

**followed by the**  
**Children's 2nd Annual Bike Parade**  
**& All American Fellowship**

**10 DAY BIBLICAL & HISTORICAL PILGRIMAGE  
 TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE - ISRAEL**

**February 16 - 25, 2018**  
 (We need 3 more to sign up)

Join me for the most amazing trip you will ever experience! There is no place on Earth like the Holy Land. You will see with your own eyes many of the places you have read about in the Bible. You will visit places where miracles were performed, walk streets Jesus and the disciples walked, and visit cities such as Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem. You will have the opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River and float in the Dead Sea. You will be able to look into the empty tomb and declare, "He is not here, but He has risen!" No trip has impacted my life like a trip to the Holy Land. Join me, February 16-25, 2018 for an incredible journey through the land of the Bible. I look forward to our time together walking where Jesus walked.

For more information call the church office at 728-3231.

Dr. Eddie Wren

**North American Missions**

Goal: \$70 Million

**OUR GOAL: \$20,000**

**ANNIE  
 ARMSTRONG  
 EASTER OFFERING®**



Please be in prayer for our North American Missions and what the Lord would have you to contribute. The SBC Executive Committee published data, June 2, indicating the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is down \$13.1 million. Help us with this mission to equip every missionary and reach every lost person in the United States and Canada.

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Trudy	Barham	1	Balfour	Pipes	20
Drake	Raborn	1	Dolly	Bridges	22
Dylan	Raborn	1	Eli	Bell	23
Alex	Hayes	2	Matthew	Brakefield	23
Lori	Morris	3	Ashley	Morris	23
Lee	Abraham	4	Suzy	Cherene	23
Nikki	Thomason	5	Dana	Townsend	24
Judy	Letlow	5	Sarah	Bolton	24
Ellie	Hollis	5	Michael	Anderson	24
Chris	Mitchell	6	Billie	Boughton	25
Lee	Morris	6	Sara	Ware	27
Turner	Bridges	7	Debra	Cooper	27
Olivia	Trisler	7	Chris	Morris	27
Natalie	Rieger	8	Hope	McLemore	27
Jewellene	Robinson	9	Kylie	Leija	29
Drew	Garrett	10	James	Berry	29
Johnny B.	Hoychick	11	Addison	Morris	31
Timothy	Hoychick	11	David	Cooper, III	31
Evyn	O'Quain	11	Bill	Newsom	31