

FIRST THOUGHTS

I am thankful to be called “Pastor” of First Baptist Church. I have never been a part of a church that I love more or appreciated more. I believe FBC to be the healthiest church I have ever been a part of. Even so, there is a temptation for us and any church we must constantly beware of; that is, turning inward. Every church is tempted to focus inward rather than outward. If we are to honor the Lord by sharing the Gospel and being used to lead others to Christ we must resist focusing inward. We must continually look for ways to engage the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That happens in a few ways. First, and probably the easiest way to keep our focus outward is to invite others to worship with us. Most do not mind an invitation to church and most will respond positively. If they do not come the first time, do not be discouraged and do not give up. Keep inviting. Certainly, we continue to engage the community through personal evangelism. I pray you and I will be sensitive to the Spirit of God and we will share the Gospel as often as we have opportunity. We also can continually reach out by special emphases as a body.

Over the next twelve months, I want us to be intentional about outreach, therefore I have developed a plan schedule of outreach initiatives. FBC will conduct one outreach initiative a month and I believe God will use us to reach others for His Kingdom.

Pray about what God would have you be involved in and let’s be used like never before for His Kingdom!

Outreach Plans for 2017-2018

August – Bless the Teachers/Coaches/Admins of Schools

September – Feed the Football Teams RA/Rayville

October – Movie Night

November – First Responders Night (Police/Fire/
LSP/Sheriff)

December – Free Gift Wrapping

January – Revival Harvest Meetings – Bucky Kennedy

February – Big Family Night

March – Invite Your One Day

April – Easter Event

May – Graduate/Family Meals

June – VBS

July – Fourth of July/ Freedom in Christ Event

Studies to begin: ReEngage Marriage Enhancement
Parenting by Paul Tripp

More details to come. I love you all.

Dr. EW

IGNITE NEWS

Teaching Children in ALL we do.

A few weeks ago Bro. Eddie preached on Deuteronomy 6:4-9. This is a very important passage of scripture for me, not only as a children’s minister, but as a parent. God has blessed us with one of His prized possessions, children. Children are a gift from God but they are not ours to do with as we please. Why does God give us children? To enjoy? So we will have someone to take care of us when we get old? Is it to keep our family name alive? All these are valid but the MAIN reason God gives us children is so that we could teach them all about God so they can spread the gospel and help make HIS NAME GREAT.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 says: **“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

I believe there is nothing better we can do for our children than to teach them about the Lord. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, **Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them.**

It is my desire to: #1 Teach my children about the Lord so they will grow up to be followers of Jesus. #2 Partner with you to help you lead your children to do the same. There are many resources available to help us (Parents) do exactly that. Please feel free to call me any time and I will do my best to get you what you need to fulfill the call in this passage.

Don’t forget...

CentriKid is JULY 31-August 4! Please be in prayer for our children while they are at camp. It will be a supper busy fun week packed with bible study and worship. Pray that lives will be changed and Children will come to the Lord.

In Christ,
Tim

REFUGE

In the book of Philippians, Paul paints a picture of how the Christian is to live a life placing others before self. In Chapter two, verses 3-5 he says, “3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” This can be one of the toughest aspects of the Christian life. We all want what is best for ourselves. The world tells us many lies such as, “don’t worry about others, do what makes you happy.” Instead the Bible tells us count others as better than ourselves.

We need to follow the example of Christ, “6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” Christ left heaven to come and serve us so that we may spend eternity with him.

Who are you serving so that they may know Christ?

Randy

Up coming event:

August 24th *Amazing Race*

Worship Sunday 9:00

Sunday School 10:00

Refuge Wednesday nights at 6:15

Online Giving Is Now Available!

Go to our church website at 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.

FIRST NOTES 🎵

Stay Hot for the Lord!

“I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!” **Revelation 3:15-16**

Heat is very noticeable! Living in the South, especially Louisiana, we are not strangers to hot weather this time of year. Summer time in Louisiana can be brutal. It is certainly uncomfortable and down-right dangerous to face this kind of heat without taking the proper precautions. We all noticeably feel the heat every time we step outside. Just the other day I went for a jog outdoors as part of my recent efforts to get fit, thinking it would be okay since I had been running indoors recently. Needless to say that I quickly and keenly became aware that it is much harder to run outside in the heat. However, in this passage, John gives a harsh reminder as to the importance of being hot for the Lord. Unfortunately, the church of Laodicea had become stagnant and complacent. Like so many today, they trusted in their wealth and sought comfort rather than being hot and active for the Lord. What’s astounding is that they believed they were fine when indeed they were far from it. And because they were neither hot nor cold, they had become so vile to the Lord that He vowed to expel them as spit from His mouth. Oh, may that never be said of us. May God forgive us of our complacency and vain pursuits. Instead, let us be hot for the Lord! And may we have a burning desire to please the Lord and win the lost. May the fire of the Lord be evident in our lives.

Choir News!!!

Hope you all have enjoyed your Summer break and are refreshed and ready to jump into the Fall schedule! Sanctuary Choir Practice will resume August 16th at 6:30pm. We’ll have some exciting new anthems as well as familiar favorites. As always, rehearsals are great time of worship and fellowship. I Hope to see you all as we start things back up. I can’t wait!

Make His Praise Glorious,
Raymond

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"
 5:30pm Men's Bible Study
 6:00pm "The Pursuit of Holiness"
 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-Noon Care & Share

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

12th Second Helpings
 13th Deacons' Meeting
 16th Children's Back to School Bash
 20th Men's Prayer Breakfast
 23rd Youth's Back to School Bash

SEPTEMBER

10th - 16th Georgia Barnette Offering



Issue #7 - The next issue will be August 31, 2017

**SUMMER SUNDAY
 WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

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
 www.fbcrayville.org

First Ray

Men's Bible Study

Joseph, A Man of Integrity & Forgiveness

Led by David Doughty & Charles Johnston
 Wednesdays, 5:30pm, cost of book \$10

The Pursuit of Holiness Bible Study

Led by Dr. Wren,
 Wednesdays at 6:00pm, cost of book \$12

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

February 16 - 25, 2018

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

**HERE
 I AM SEND
 ME.**
ISAIAH 6:8

North American Missions

Goal: \$70 Million

OUR GOAL: \$20,000

**ANNIE
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July Birthday left off last month!

Zadee Love July 1st

August Birthdays

Brooke Raborn	2	Jacob Livingston	11	Camille Newsom	23
Anna Livingston	2	Michelle Bell	11	Mildred Burroughs	23
June McCartney	2	Toni Greer	11	Sophie Heath	23
Dontrel Wilson	3	Carolyn Mercer	12	Liz Allen	24
Beth Milby	3	Stacy Wren	12	Anna Cooper	24
Kirste Payne	4	Dollie Clayton	12	Edward Greer	24
Nathaniel Barham	5	Jason Morris	12	Beth Livingston	25
Raylee Boles	5	Samantha Davis	13	Holly Johnson	26
John Roy	5	Stephanie Walters	14	Carolyn Dupont	26
Jan Doughty	5	Larry Richardson	14	Melba Sullivan	27
Emily Morris	7	Chastidy Brakefield	15	Marjorie Bigham	29
Mary Bennett	7	Randy Bell	15	Tom Heath	29
Josie Hoychick	7	RubyAnn Montgomery	16	Dewey Senn	29
Joseph Bell	8	Susan Clark	18	Kara Trisler	29
Angela Gill	8	Amy Hunter	20	Randy Zeigler	30
Hope Vollmar	9	Jeremy Vollmar	20	Gordan Allen	31
LaQueeta Brown	10	Samuel Hoychick	21	Meghanne Monnin	31
Kandi Huber	10	Jude Johnston	21	Bevie Tuckett	31
Claire Williams	10	Cindy Odom	22	Mike Barras	31