

## FIRST THOUGHTS

In recent days we have witnessed catastrophic events in and around Houston, TX. There are really no words to describe the devastation. In the near future we will organize mission efforts to go and help those who are in need; stay tuned for that. In light of all this, let me share with you the words of Kevin Ezell our President of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This is how FBC Rayville can help:

- 1. Serve.** Thousands of volunteers will be needed to serve in Houston shelters, feeding kitchens childcare units and beyond. Whether you're experienced in Disaster Relief or not, you're needed to show Christ's love in action! We are awaiting specific instructions from the government and our partners on when it will be safe to enter the area. Sign up as an individual or group at [namb.net/Harvey](http://namb.net/Harvey).
- 2. Donate.** Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and Send Relief will be providing long-term relief to those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Mobile kitchens are being called to prepare up to 150,000 meals a day. Volunteers will be mudding out houses for months to come, and chainsaw crews will clear fallen trees until every Texan can come home. You can help encourage and support their efforts by [giving here](#) or by texting SENDRELIEF to 41444.
- 3. Pray.** Pray for residents of Texas and its surrounding neighbors. Pray for leaders making response decisions and for the Church to be a light in this dark time. Pray for first responders, aid workers and volunteers who will work tirelessly in the next coming months to make sure everyone is safe.

Thank you for what you will do to make a difference in the lives of those who desperately need it right now.

Serving together,  
Kevin Ezell, President  
North American Mission Board, SBC

I love you church. I am thankful for your generosity and pray God will use you and me to minister and be lights in the days ahead.

Dr. EW

## IGNITE NEWS

### Put on LOVE!

My uncle tells a story about a valuable lesson he learned from his daughter. This story took place during a very busy time in his career. He returned home to eat supper and relax after a stressful day of work. His youngest daughter met him at the door asking to be held. He, being tired and hungry, changed the subject, entered the house, and got ready for supper. Later, she approached again. "Daddy, please hold me." He again distracted her and sat down in his recliner. Once again she gets her daddy's attention and said, "You know daddy, one day I'm going to be to big for you to hold!" At once my uncle reached down, picked her up, and held her tight.

The bible is clear! We are also to discipline our children. **Proverbs 13:24** says "*Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*"

**Proverbs 23:13-14** says "*Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. <sup>14</sup> If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.*"

In Psalm 127:3 we read "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." and in [Colossians 3:21](#) we read "*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*"

[1 Peter 4:8](#) says "*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.*"

Colossians 3:14-17 *And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

My uncle learned a valuable lesson that day and I think we can learn one too. Sometimes we get busy providing for and/or correcting our children that we neglect to meet one of their basic needs. To be held and loved.

Hold your children, discipline your children, and LOVE your children. Teach them to LOVE THE LORD by the way your love them!

In Christ,

Tim

## REFUGE

Philippians 4:2-3

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, I also ask you, true partner, to help these women who have contended for the gospel at my side, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the book of life.

While writing to the Church at Philippi Paul calls out two women who are in some sort of dispute. He urges them to agree in the Lord, and for other brothers and sisters in Christ to help them make amends. As Christians we are to resolve our disputes with each other and agree in the Lord even in our differences. We also need to be mindful of being peacemakers just as Paul calls other believers to do for these two ladies. Paul goes on to say rejoice in the Lord, be gracious to everyone, and do not worry about anything but pray. If we hold to truths, count others as greater than self, and focus on Christ above all the disputes of this life will pale in comparison.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Feed Rayville Football Team September 1

Feed Riverfield Football Team September 22

5th Quarter September 22

Worship Sundays at 9am

Sunday School at 10am

Bible Study Sundays at 6pm

Refuge Wednesdays 6:15pm

### Bible Study Learning to Hear God Acts 22-28

Beginning Wed., Sept. 13th

9:30am & 5:30pm

Susan Hoychick's Sunday school classroom

### 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.

## FIRST NOTES 🎵

*My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration! Psalm 42:4 (NLT)*

Undoubtedly, we all have heard someone make excuses why he or she can't come to church. Of course, most of those excuses are unfounded and unjustifiable. Perhaps, you yourself have thought and even used those same excuses. But before we go further, the purpose of article is not to examine the validity of those excuses or condemn those who would use them, but instead examine the heart of one who longed for the opposite, the author of Psalm 42. In this passage we read about a former worship leader who yearned for corporate worship. Apparently, for some reason we don't know, he had been deprived of corporate worship. Consequently, we see in this passage this man pouring himself out, desperate for the presence of God in the context of corporate worship, hopeful that he would one day again have the opportunity to join in the throng of exuberant worship with his brothers and sisters in Christ. His conviction to be with God's people in worship astounds me, and should challenge us all not to miss an opportunity to gather together in worship. Furthermore, I'm convinced that if others saw that level of intensity and devotion to worship the Lord they would be interested and enticed to see what goes on at the church. Oh God, forgive us for our apathy in worship, and oh that we would be desperate for Your presence!

### Choir News!!!

In case you missed it, Choir rehearsals are back in full swing. So come and join us! We have some exciting new anthems as well as familiar favorites. We will also be working towards our Christmas Musical in December. We practice every Wednesday at 6:30pm, with the exception of September 6<sup>th</sup>. As always, rehearsals are more than just work. It's a great time of worship and fellowship. And Choir members don't forget to take advantage of our online choir app you can use with your smart phone called Planning Center Services. I'd be glad to help you get set up. Thanks again for all you do in leading our church in worship.

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  
 5:00pm Wednesday Night Supper  
 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**

**SEPTEMBER**

6<sup>th</sup> - 4:30-7:30pm LIFESHARE BLOOD DRIVE  
 6<sup>th</sup> - 5:00pm Wed. night suppers begin  
 9<sup>th</sup> - Second Helping  
 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> Georgia Barnette Offering  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Fall Food Roundup for Louisiana Baptist Children's Home  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Saints Alive



Issue #8 - The next issue will be September 30, 2017

**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

**2017 Georgia Barnette  
 State Missions Offering  
 Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**

**The gift of Life  
 LIFESHARE  
 BLOOD DRIVE  
 FBC, Rayville  
 Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>  
 4:30pm - 7:30pm**

**ALTAR FLOWERS  
 2017 - 2018**

Sandy Adams is preparing the calendar for Altar flowers. If you would like to sign up to provide Sunday flowers for the sanctuary, please call Sandy at 728-2238.



Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 6:00PM  
 In the Family Life Center  
 Catered Meal  
 Entertainment: Liberty Boys

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

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 72169

# First Ray

**Fall Food Roundup 2017  
 Louisiana Baptist Children's Home**

**Bring your donations to the Office by Monday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>.**

Items needed are canned fruit, vegetables, chicken, chili w/o beans, cereal, cookies, cake mixes & icing, cornbread, flour, gravy mixes, jelly/jams, mayonnaise, onion soup mix, instant oatmeal, pam cooking spray, cooking oil, crackers, fruit juices, kool-aid, tea, etc. Cleaning supplies needed are furniture polish, kitchen/bathroom cleaners, dishwasher detergent, disinfectant spray, hand soap/sanitizer, laundry detergent (HE-liquid), dryer sheets, facial tissues, paper towels, Clorox bleach & wipes, etc.

**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

September Birthdays					
Wallace	Livingston	1	Carolyn	Grantham	20
Ann	Morris	2	Linda	Rice	20
Beth	Haynes	2	Dekota	Huber	20
Donna	Eldridge	5	Jim	Adams, III	11
Evelyn Jo	Pettit	5	Gail	Greer	11
James	Sullivan	5	Lee	McDonald	11
Erick	Cherene	5	Cole	Mills	11
Corey	Clark	5	Annie Ruth	Frith	12
Vicki	Greer	6	William	Green, III	12
Luke	Barras	6	Logan	Morris	12
Carlton	Clark	6	Ann Marie	Clack	13
Connie	Rogers	6	Don	Feltenberger	15
David	Doughty	8	Kaiden	O'Quain	15
Kay	Temple	9	Mike	McNaughton	16
Julie	Cooper	10	Shonnie	Dickens	17
Alan	Thompson	10	Josie	Bell	19
Lee Allison	Prine	10	LeAnn	Thomason	19
			Candy	Norsworthy	30