

FIRST THOUGHTS

I commend you for your efforts in reaching out to our community! Though we did not reach 500 in Sunday School on Easter Sunday, we did have a good number and many people present who I have not seen before or are not regular. Let's continue to invite the community to join us as we worship the One True God. As you continue to ask, some will be saved. As you continue to invite, some will stick and become members and regular attenders. You continue to invite and many will get involved in ministry and then they will invite and the ones they invite will be saved, become members and ministers! Do not grow weary, do not be disappointed, but let us press the issue as we draw nearer and nearer to the Day of the Lord.

I hope you plan on joining us this Friday, April 1, at Tinseltown in West Monroe for the showing of the movie, God is NOT Dead, 2. This will be a fun time as First Baptist Rayville has the entire theater rented out for this showing. Please, if you have not signed up, please call the church office, reserve tickets for you and your family and join us on Friday night.

Speaking of which, during the next month we will look at Parables concerning the End Times. Jesus used parables on many occasions to enlighten His followers concerning what to expect. But more, Jesus used the parables to encourage His followers to be prepared for the coming Day of the Lord. May we open our hearts and minds to be refreshed as we consider the Lord's teaching concerning the glorious return of the Lord Jesus.

Please pray for me. I will be traveling to Israel on April 25/26 for a tour of the Holy Land. The Holy Land is not a place that I have always desired to see, but in recent years I have had a longing to go there and see the land where Jesus lived. I will be traveling with folks from Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo, MS. Pray for our safety and pray God would encourage, refresh, renew and challenge our hearts as we focus our attention Him. Pray for Stacy and my children as I am gone as well.

I thank God for you every one.

Dr. EW

P.S. **I still believe we will see 500 in Sunday School.**

2016 ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

Our Church Goal: \$12,000
 Received To Date: \$ 2,485

iWord

We had an awesome Disciple Now! As I reflect back on the weekend, I am thankful that the Lord moved and worked in the life of our students. I saw Him drawing many students to a deeper walk with Him and to live a life unashamed for Him! I pray that our students would live out what the Lord showed them through the power of the Holy Spirit. However, over the past four years I have seen a trend. Many students get fired up for Christ but then after a couple of weeks or months, the "Disciple Now" high wears off and many students go back to the life that they were living. I DO believe our students desire to live for Christ but the demands and pulls of our culture sometimes seem too much. Kirstyn and I have talked a lot about this and we want to try and do things that change this trend! We want to see our students live a consistent walk for Christ! So I have three things that I think can help your students keep living out their faith:

Get Pugged into Sunday School: Every Sunday after or before church (depending on the service you attend) we have four Sunday School classes for your students! We have a junior high girl and boy group and two high school groups. This is a vital time for students to connect and be disciplined by our awesome Teachers!

Keep Coming to Refuge: Every Wednesday night @ 6:15pm we have our weekly student worship. This is a time for students to hang out, worship and be challenged by God's word.

Start Coming to Growth Groups: Every Sunday afternoon @ 5:00pm we have Growth Groups for students that are wanting to grow deeper in their faith. This is a great time to help disciple your students.

Kirstyn and I love your students so much and we desire to see them live for Christ! I hope they get plugged into these things and continue to grow deeper in Christ! We also are planning some fun events coming up so be looking for those in the announcement and bulletin!

James Doughty

Online Giving is now available!

Go to FBC Rayville's 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.

IGNITE NEWS

VBS 2016, Canoe Trips, and special treats!!!!

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner!

This year we have scheduled VBS for June 6-10. Our theme will be "VBS TreeHouse" and will be an action-packed adventure through the Bible! The scriptures and Bible stories will teach us about the promises of God starting with our theme verse: Joshua 23:14 says, *The Lord Your God has kept all of the good promises he gave you. Every one of them has come true. Not one has failed to come true. And you know that with all your heart and soul.* We'll continue the adventure through skits, craftivities, games, and fun snacks that reinforce the themes for each day. Our 5th and 6th grade students will get to build and operate a Lemonade Stand to raise money for missions.

We will **NEED LOTS** of help to make this a successful event. If you can help, please let me know so I can get you down.

NEW THIS YEAR.....We have planned a special service on Sunday night that will include our children performing a drama and musical about what they learned during VBS. We will also have a time of fellowship in the Family Life Center following this special service that will allow us to build relationships with visiting families.

Beginning THIS SUNDAY NIGHT during Joy Explosion, we will start practicing the drama and musical. Make plans to have your children here on Sunday nights as we rehearse. This will be a fun time as we prepare for an awesome week of VBS!

We are also planning a **father / son float trip to the Buffalo River May 12-14.** We will spend two days and two nights on the river enjoying God's creation and each other. Cost for this trip will be under \$100 per person. Please let me know if you would like to go on this trip by April 6th so I can reserve the canoes.

One last thing.....Start looking for an e-mail that will include a question about the previous week's Sunday School lesson. Any Child that can find me Sunday morning and tell me the answer will receive a special treat!

In Christ,
 Tim

YOUTH!
FUGE PRAYER BREAKFAST
Monday, April 24th, 7:00am, FBC Gym



FIRST NOTES

Easter Everyday!

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:11

Though Easter may have been a few days ago, the reality of it lives on inside all who have trusted in Christ and follow after Him. The power of the resurrection lives inside all who believe. Those who are known by Christ have assurance that they are eternally secure in the arms of God. And because of the resurrection we have hope and can live and walk in victory. Death is certain for us all, but only Christians can face that reality without fear. Dear brothers and sisters be bold for Christ and walk in victory for Christ has overcome the grave!

Thank You Choir and Praise Team!

Thank you Choir and Praise Team for all the extra hours you put in to making our Easter services worshipful. What a blessing you are to the Lord our church!

Let Us Make His Praise Glorious!
 Raymond

Dear Church Family,

No words could ever express our appreciation for the love and support you have shown to us after the passing of "Hogue". Thank you so much for the phone calls and prayers sent our way. A special thanks to the Benevolence Committee who worked so hard in spite of the weather. We are deeply grateful.

With love,
 Greg Hogue & Family

Richland Baptist Camp
An Association-Wide Time of Fellowship & Inspiration
 Sunday, April 17th, 4:00pm - Alto, LA

The Richland Baptist Camp committee has planned a special day for people in our association to come and enjoy a time of fellowship and inspiration. The Liberty Boys will be performing and Bro. Mickey Bounds will share a message with us. We will be showing a drawing of a plan for a new building that we hope to construct.

We are asking that you bring finger foods, ice cream, & desserts to the camp fellowship hall by 3:30pm.

Sincerely,
 Bro. Roger Johnson

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY

8:30am Worship Service
 9:45am Sunday School
 10:45am Worship Service
 5:00pm Youth - Growth Group
 6:00pm Evening Worship
 6:00pm Joy Explosion

MONDAY

1:30pm Helping Hands Ministry

TUESDAY

8:00am-12Noon Care & Share
 9:00am "Through the Bible" Study
 6:30pm Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY

9:30am "God Speaks, a Journey Through the Book of Acts" Study
 4:00pm "Through the Bible" Study
 5:00pm Supper
 5:20pm Praise Team
 5:30pm "God Speaks, a Journey Through the Book of Acts" Study
 5:30pm "The Case for Christ" Study begins 3/2/16
 5:30pm Men's Study
 "77FAQs About God and the Bible"
 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

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Care & Share Thrift Store **1st Saturday**
 8:00am-12Noon 1214 Rosa St., Rayville, LA
Second Helpings **2nd Saturday**
 8am-Set-Up/Cook 9am-Prep Food Boxes 10am-Deliver
WMU **1st & 2nd Tuesday**
 10:30am WMU Downstairs
Men's Prayer Breakfast **3rd Sunday**
 7:00am Family Life Center
Wednesday Night Supper **Every Wednesday**
 5:00pm Family Life Center
Saints Alive **Last Monday of Each Month**
 6:00pm WMU Banquet Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 2nd
 8:00am-12 Noon Care & Share Thrift Store
Saturday, April 9th
 8:00am-10:00am Second Helpings
Sunday, April 10th
 4:30pm Deacons' Meeting
 6:00pm "A Handbeller's Heaven"
Thursday, April 14th
 8:30pm Celebrate Recovery Leadership Mtg
Sunday, April 17th
 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
 4:00pm Richland Baptist Camp Assoc. Fellowship
 7:00pm Business Meeting
Monday, April 18th
 6:00pm Saints Alive Annual Fish Fry
 Richland Baptist Encampment
Sunday, April 24th
 8:30am & 10:45am Lord's Supper
Monday, April 25th
 7:00am Youth-FUGE Prayer Breakfast



Issue #4
 The next issue of the First Ray
 will be published April 25, 2016.

**RICHLAND CELEBRATE RECOVERY
 HONDURAS MISSION TRIP
 June 25th - July 2nd**

Members of Celebrate Recovery will be going on a mission trip to Honduras. If you would like to make a contribution to help fund this trip, please make your check payable to FBC Rayville and note "CR Mission Trip" in your memo.

For more information, please contact Myrt Hales at (318)503-4542.

First Baptist Church
 PO Box 810
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Minister of Music
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Minister to Children
 Beth Livingston
 Kathy Rushing
Ministry Assistants
 Michael Anderson
 Annie Rucker
Custodians

For more information about our church please call or visit our website at www.FBCRayville.org
Office 318-728-3231

SAINTS ALIVE ANNUAL



Monday, April 18th, 6:00pm
Richland Baptist Encampment
Alto, LA

Entertainment by "3 for Him".
 The meal is being provided.

Be sure to invite a friend to join you. Plan on a great time of fun and fellowship.

Call the church office at 728-3231 if you would like to ride the church bus to the encampment. The bus will leave the church around 5:30pm.

**SECOND HELPINGS
 Community Outreach
 Meal Ministry**
 Family Life Center
 Saturday, April 9th

8:00am Prep/Cook
9:00am Prep Food Boxes
10:00am Begin Deliveries

First Ray



A HANDBELLER'S HEAVEN!
 Sunday, Apr. 10th, 6:00pm
 FBC Rayville

Don't miss out on this unique worship experience on Sunday, April 10th in our evening service. Our hand bell choir will be performing some beautiful, inspirational selections on heaven. Please come and invite others to come with you. It will be here "Soon and Very Soon." If you want "Just a Closer Walk," and "Peace Like a River," then there's no better place to be. "What a day of rejoicing it will be!"



We extend Christian love and sympathy to Greg Hogue and Family on the passing of his father, Mr. James Hogue,
 To the Family of Mrs. Melda Silk on her passing,
 &
 To the Family of Mrs. Ethel Hazlewood on her passing.

DEACONS' MEETING
 Sunday, April 10th, 4:30pm

BUSINESS MEETING
 Sunday, April 17th, 7:00pm
 Immediately following PM Service.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
 Sunday, April 17th, 7:00am
 In the Family Life Center

- 1 Myrtis Dewitt
- Kevin Carlisle
- Daphne Collins
- 2 Andrea Morris
- Paula Morris
- Emilee Turner
- 3 Jenny Grantham
- Spencer Nobles
- B.J. McKnight
- Cliff Mills
- 4 Gene Dewitt
- Nicholas Heath
- Cole Morris
- Ellen Perrin
- 5 Aniyah Nevels
- Haley McCarty
- Jay Brakefield
- Ken Branch
- Debbie Hemmert
- Chelsea Mitchell
- Bonnie Sapp



- 6 Tripp Bennett
- Natalie Reeves
- Brad Brown
- 7 Kim Trisler
- Isaac Brooks
- Kenneth Raborn
- 8 Cameron Williams
- Jamie Williams
- 9 Kaye Perritt
- Angie Cater
- 11 Kellie Thames
- Cory Hollis
- 12 Benjamin Collins
- Tracy Kitchell
- Dustin Jones
- Glynn Garrett

- 14 Suzette Doughty
- 15 Taylor Branch
- James Goodwin
- Nick Gibson
- Lee Williams
- 17 Braxton Odom
- 18 Wendell Henry
- Rhett Trisler
- Bailey Hogue
- 19 Susan Hoychick
- 22 Clay Belote
- Ryan Clack
- Alex McHenry
- 23 Lisa Collins
- Rafe Abraham
- 24 Barnes Williamson
- 25 Sarah Aycock
- 26 Crystal Stephenson
- 27 Jace Clack
- 29 Larry Pettit
- 30 Ethan Estis