

FIRST THOUGHTS

I hope you have been listening to 88.7 FM THE CROSS as you were honored as church of the week! I have loved hearing the testimonies of how God has used you for His Kingdom. Not only from church members but from others who have felt the presence of God and the kindness of His people. I am thankful for you and praise God for the privilege of being called Pastor of First Baptist Church of Rayville.

I want to encourage you to attend the **Richland Baptist Association Evangelistic Fish Fry** on Saturday Evening (February 27) at 5:30. Let's make our association more than it has ever been. That will only happen if members of FBC join hands with members of other churches. Let us join forces and make a difference in our parish in Jesus name.

This Sunday (February 28) will be a great day as we will have a couple of ministry opportunities for you. First, on Sunday morning there will be a couple of tables set up and on those tables you will find cards with the names of every trooper in Troop F. I want to encourage you and your family to **"Adopt a Trooper"**. What I mean is, I would like for you to pick up a card with a Trooper's name on it and commit to pray for that Trooper, daily and weekly; consistently. I would also suggest you drop a card by Troop F, at the front desk for that Trooper simply informing the Trooper of your appreciation for their work and that you will be praying for that Trooper. This is an easy and yet meaningful way we can support Troop F as they serve and protect our community. Though many disrespect and hurl insults at our Law Enforcement, let us lift them up and encourage them.

Second, I think everyone is aware of the situation our community of Farmers find themselves in this year. It appears to be a year in which they will struggle to break even. And as always, farmers are uniquely dependent upon God in regards to rain, growth of crops and harvest. We have many farmers in our church and many more in our community. Let us come together Sunday night (February 28) to lift them up with encouragement and cry out to God on behalf of the farmer. We will pray specifically for farmers at the end of the service. So invite any farmers you know to come join us and allow us to pray for them.

March will be a wonderful month as we look toward Easter and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! The choir is working hard on an Easter performance that will take place on Palm Sunday night. We are planning a **Good Friday Service** so we can come together and reflect on the great sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. And, no doubt, Easter Sunday, beginning with Sunrise Service will be a great Day. Don't miss any of it.

Dr. EW

2016 ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING
Week of Prayer for North American Missions
March 6th - March 13th
Our Church Goal: \$12,000

iWord

In Exodus 16, the Israelites began to grumble immediately after they are rescued from the hand of Pharaoh. They were hungry and wanted to eat (sounds like a good Southern Baptist before a meal). They thought that God had somehow forgot them and would let them die of hunger. God, being the gracious and merciful God that He is, told Moses that He would send bread from heaven (manna). The instruction that God gave the people was that every morning they would gather manna but only for that day, except the day before the Sabbath. If they stored up more or tried to use yesterday's bread for today, it would have worms in it and stink. In Exodus 16:20, it says that some didn't listen to Moses and tried it anyway. *You can eat yesterdays bread today.*

Fast forward to John 6, Jesus has just feed the five thousand and the crowd is hungry again. They are hungry and looking to Jesus the bread maker! As they began to dialogue with Jesus, He points them back to the manna in Exodus and tells them that His Father is the one who sent it from heaven. Jesus then says that the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven to give life to the world. Then Jesus tells them, **"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh (John 6:48-51)."** The picture in Exodus is a foreshadowing of the true bread from heaven that would truly satisfy: Jesus!

Since Jesus is the fulfillment of the scene in Exodus, here is a question I want to ask: Are we trying to eat yesterday's bread today? Let me explain, the manna was meant to sustain for the day but the people were to continually come back. They couldn't run on yesterday's bread. I think this give a great picture for our spiritual life. Jesus is our manna. We have received Him but are to enjoy Him and be in fellowship with Him daily. I am to continually go back to Jesus every single day. However, many times we run on yesterday's, Sunday's or maybe last years revival's bread! That is not how we are meant to run. Many times why we tire out or give into temptation: we are running on yesterday's bread. My prayer for my life and yours is that we would not run of yesterday's bread, but TODAY we would enjoy and be in relationship with the bread for Heaven: Jesus. As Jesus said, "It is those who come and believe in Me that will never hunger or thirst again."

In His Service,
James

P.S. Disciple Now starts Friday, March 4! Please be in prayer for us and our students! Pray that the Holy Spirit moves like He never has before!

IGNITE NEWS

GO MAKE DISCIPLES!

Matthew 28:19-20 says:

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Jesus commands us in this verse to **"go make disciples."** So many questions run through our minds as we read these verses. The first question I have is, who is Jesus speaking to? Is He speaking to preachers, missionaries, and deacons? The answer is yes and no. He is commanding you, me, and all followers of Christ to **"go make disciples."** We must be obedient to the call and GO. Acts 1:8 says *"you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."* Jesus has promised to be with us and to empower us. We do not have to go alone, but we do have to go.

At first glance, this seems overwhelming. Where do we start? Where do we go? Who do we tell? What do we tell them? I believe a good starting place is in our very own homes, with our families. Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16 that *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness."* I believe we should be studying God's word, teaching it to our children, and using it to correct and train our children.

We have some very good schools and are very fortunate to be able to speak openly about our faith in this parish. However, **do not believe satan's lie** that your children are getting enough bible at school and church. We are called to lead our families, to teach them God's ways, and to live out our faith in front of them. Satan will always try to make us too busy and too tired to invest in the spiritual lives of our families.

Remember; ⁸*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* (Eph 2:8-10).

Let's GO MAKE DISCIPLES, for the glory of God!

In Christ,
Tim

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.



FIRST NOTES

Spirit and Truth Led Worship

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

John 4:23

God is not looking for half-hearted and uninformed worship from His children. It is no surprise that there are a variety of ideas and opinions as to what makes something worshipful today, most of which is not based upon scripture. Contrary to popular opinion it is not the style or tempo of the music, the earnestness of our praying, or the craftiness of the preaching that makes a service worshipful. Jesus spells out very clearly to the woman at the well that the 2 essential uncompromising ingredients of worship is spirit and truth. Worship that is absent of God's spirit and void of God's truth is not worship at all. Generally speaking, worship void of the Spirit is dry, and worship void of truth is nothing more than emotionalism. We need both for biblical worship to happen. Worship as God desires occurs when you and I come face to face with the reality that we are utterly dependent on God's spirit and the truth of His word to change our lives and conform us into the image of Christ. We need both the Holy Spirit and the Truth of scripture to shape our hearts and minds so that we can worship God as He truly is holy, loving, powerful, gracious, merciful, and the list goes on. Biblical worship engages both our hearts and our minds. It is both an emotional and intellectual experience as we surrender our minds and our wills to the authority and pleasure of God. As your minister of music and one of your worship pastors, I would encourage you as you approach worship this week, ask God to help you experience Him by allowing His Spirit to move in you. Secondly, I urge you to consider the truth of who God is and who we are based on His word. Lastly, give yourself permission and the freedom to respond to God how He leads you based on His spirit moving in you and the truth of His word. I believe that if you take that approach you will experience God in a fresh way each and every week.

Let Us Make His Praise Glorious,
Raymond

Jesus Loves and Lives: An Easter Worship Musical At FBC Rayville March 20th at 6:00pm

Unlike other musicals from the past, which were preset, I have composed a collection of songs and narrations from a variety of sources, aiming to provide a unique and powerful worship experience for the entire church this Easter. The focus of the musical will be on the sacrificial love that Christ demonstrated on the cross, and the triumphal victory of His resurrection that gives us life to serve and worship.

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

Thursday, Mar. 10th
 8:30pm Celebrate Recovery Leadership Mtg
Saturday, Mar. 12th
 8:00am-10:00am Second Helpings
Sunday, Mar 13th
 2:00pm Colonial Manor
 4:30pm Deacons' Meeting
Sunday, Mar. 20th
 7:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
 6:00pm Easter Musical
Friday, Mar. 25th
 Church Office Closed
 6:30pm Good Friday Worship Service & Lord's Supper
Sunday, Mar. 27th **Easter Sunday**
 7:00am Easter Sunrise Service
 8:30am & 10:45am Lord's Supper
Monday, Mar. 28th
 7:00am Youth-FUGE Prayer Breakfast
 6:00pm Saints Alive



Issue #3
 The next issue of the First Ray
 will be published March 29, 2016.

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
 Friday, March 25th, 6:30pm - FBC Rayville

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
 Sunday, March 27th, 7:00am
 At the FBC Rayville Gazebo



Taking Orders Now!!
ANNUAL BUNNY CAKE SALE
 Cost: \$20 per cake

Proceeds benefit the Rhymes Memorial Library.
 Please call 728-4127 to place your order.
 Pickup Cakes - March 24th & 25th

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

James Doughty
Associate Pastor
Minister to Youth

Raymond Perrin, Jr.
Minister of Music

Tim Allen
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

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

By Faith & Baptism



Emme Hoychick

WOMENS CONFERENCE
 March 19th—10:00am-1:00pm
 Friendship Baptist Church
 4820 Hwy 132, Baskin, LA

Speaker: Jonann Byargeon
Music: Laura McManus
Entertainment by the
Piggybottom Sisters

There is no charge & lunch will be
 provided as well as door prizes.
 Everyone is invited.

2016 North Louisiana
Disaster Relief Training
Temple Baptist Church
1515 S. Service Rd West, Ruston, LA
 Friday & Saturday - Mar. 18th & 19th
 8:00am to 4:00 pm - Cost: \$28

To register or for more information on
 training sessions call (318)251-0065.

First Ray

UPWARD CELEBRATION!!
A Family Focused Outreach
presented by
Megaforce Ministries

Richland Arts Center
 Sunday, March 6th, 6:00pm
 Free Admission

"Out of the Box" Evangelism...
 Fun for the whole family!

DISCIPLE NOW - March 4th - 6th
Theme: UNASHAMED
Cost per student: \$55

Student check in begins Friday,
March 4th at 6:30pm in the gym.

If your student would still like to sign
 up they can do so by contacting James
 Doughty.



We extend Christian love and
 sympathy to the family on the
 passing of their loved one, Mrs.
 Dorothy Watkins,

&

To Mrs. Louise Trahan and family
 on the passing of her sister, Mrs.
 Billie Johnson Hagemeyer.



Monday, Mar. 28th
6:00pm
WMU Banquet Hall

Comedy Entertainment & the meal is
 potluck. Bring a friend.

FUGE - Youth Prayer Breakfast - Monday, March 28th, 7:00am in the gym

- 2 Nora Brooks
- Sarah Thomason
- 3 Karen Darling
- 4 Mandy Brakefield
- Kaiden Krishna
- Donnie Lee

- 5 Ian Hollis
- Camron Hollis
- 6 Ashley Hollis
- 7 Brad Greer
- 8 Jenna Payne
- Kaitlyn Boles
- Clayton Morris

- 12 Tesa McManus
- Matthew Senn
- 13 Angela Hales
- Patsy Knight
- Jyssica Sepulvado
- Art Alderman
- Lilwin Norman
- Rayland Trisler
- 14 Larkin Mitchell
- Connie Eppinette



MARCH
BIRTHDAYS

- 14 Garrett Jenkins
- 16 Isaac Lane
- Heather Stephenson
- Jaimie Mosley
- Tom Raborn
- 17 Geraldine Harris
- Fred Perritt
- 19 Darla Thames
- Laura Spicer
- 20 Bonnie Cooper
- 21 Lacy McManus
- Malcolm Wasson
- Avery Wooden
- Mason Wooden
- 22 Merry Ellen Perrin
- Jeff Bolton
- Tim Allen

- 24 Mary Ella Burgess
- 25 Justin Pettit
- Elizabeth Durbin
- 26 Gary Cater
- Dennis Odom
- Jared Perrin
- 27 Peyton Raborn
- Emmett Brown
- Chris Maxwell
- Brett Herrington
- 29 Eva Horne
- Susan Pipes
- Helen Diamond
- Johnnie Sorey
- 30 Kinley Williamson
- Jessica Patrick
- 31 Kirstyn Doughty
- Alex Durbin
- Stuart Tutt
- Jessica Neyland
- Debbie Rogers
- Jason Livingston