

## FIRST THOUGHTS

July will be a great month in the life of First Baptist Church! Sunday nights will be Shoeless Sunday Nights. Each Sunday night in July, beginning July 10 we will take a fresh look at God. When God was about to move the Israelites from bondage to the promise land, the Bible tells us the angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush, yet the bush was not consumed by the fire. Moses was captivated by the burning bush, so he began to approach the bush. Exodus 3:4 reads, **“When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, ‘Moses, Moses!’ and he said, ‘Here I am.’ Then God said, ‘Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”**

God called Moses to remove his shoes before God revealed more of himself to Moses. The next two months of July we will come shoeless before the Lord, maybe not physically, but definitely shoeless in heart, that He would reveal more of himself to us. I pray that you will be here each week as we get a fresh glimpse of the God we serve. He is the One True God and **He deserves our everything, EVEN OUR SUNDAY NIGHTS!** We are working on special moments to make these Shoeless Sunday Night Worship Events very special. Please make plans to be a part and see what God has to reveal to us as He moves us and shapes us into the people He uses in this area.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and August 28, as a part of Shoeless Sunday Nights, you will meet in home groups. Both nights will be a time of fellowship and reflection as you consider what the Bible teaches about God and how we should respond to those teachings.

Pray for our Student Minister Search Committee: Julie Cooper, Johnny B. Hoychick, Susan Hoychick, Ashley Morris (Chairperson), and Rayland Trisler.

Pray for our Students as they attend Centrifuge July 5-9 and our children as they attend CentriKid August 1-5.

God bless you and Keep you,

Dr. EW

### BEGINNING JULY 10th SUNDAY NIGHTS IN JULY & AUGUST WILL BE DIFFERENT

Sunday Nights will be **Shoeless Sunday Nights** as we take a fresh look at God. There will be unique aspects to our services and one Sunday night each month we will meet in Home groups for discussion and fellowship.

### DR. WREN'S SERMONS ARE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

Go to [fbcrayville.org](http://fbcrayville.org) and click the Sermons link at the top of the page. Church activities and upcoming events are also posted on the website. Share the web address with someone and invite them to church.

### BECOMING A NURSERY VOLUNTEER!!

If you are available to help in the church nursery for an hour or two Sunday mornings between 8:30am and 10:45am, on a rotating basis, please contact Mrs. Wanda Ringle in the nursery or the church office to be added to the volunteer roster.

### Online Giving is now available!

Go to FBC Rayville's 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.

**SECOND HELPINGS**  
**Community Outreach Meal Ministry**  
Saturday, July 9th, Family Life Center  
8:00am Prep/Cook  
9:00am Prep Food Boxes  
10:00am Begin Deliveries

## IGNITE NEWS

Thank You!

I would like to say thank you to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. This year we averaged 181 children! We also had around 30 volunteers involved everyday. These volunteers did an amazing job. We would not be able to reach out to our community without you. Our students and teachers raised over \$2,800 for missions and learned about how God is able to keep ALL of His promises. God is good and He has promised to grow His church.

As we go through this summer let's keep our focus and attention on sharing the love of God with those we come into contact with. Summer gives us opportunities to reach out to folks that we normally don't come into contact with. God has a plan, and He wants to use us to reach those around us. Allow the love of God to flow through you in everything you do and everywhere you are.

We will have a fun day at Dustin and Ashley Morris' house, including water games, on July 26. Be looking for more details soon. We have also scheduled our Back to School Bash for August 10 at 5:30 in the Family Life Center.

In Christ,  
Tim



### BUILDING CAMPAIGN

Amount given:	
...so far this year (2016)	\$100,346
...since beginning of campaign	\$2,340,528
Amount needed to pay off balance of loan on project (05/13/16)	\$658,168



## FIRST NOTES

### “Thirst for the Lord”

Summer is a hot and very busy time of year. There always seems to be more trips, more yard work, and more activities in general to keep us busy throughout the summer. As a culture, we have become obsessed with doing something, which is not always a bad thing, but too often in the midst of our busy lives we forget to give our time and priority to the most important thing – spending time with God.

Not too long ago we had a men and boys canoe trip on the Buffalo River, which was a very rewarding and worthwhile experience. One morning as I was getting settled, I asked God for a fresh word and inspiration for the day. He brought to my mind Psalm 42. The first few verses read, *“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”* **Psalm 42:1-2**

As I read those verses by the cascading stream, I felt His Spirit quickening me and convicting me to long and thirst for Him just as the deer thirsts for water. For many Christians, myself included, spending time with the Lord can be seen as a chore and responsibility, and it is, but it is so much more than that. Spending time with God, through reading His word and intimate prayer, is vital to daily living for the follower of Christ. We must crave and thirst for fellowship with God as if our very lives are depending on it. We must long for and become more aware of His presence and His leading in order to live a life that brings honor and glory to His name. In closing, I urge you my brothers and sisters, let us be thirsty for the Lord.

### Thank You!

Let me say thank you to the Sanctuary Choir, Hostess Committee and all those who contributed to making our celebration of God and Country a success. I deeply appreciate your service to the Lord and His church. The worship service, the kid's parade, and fellowship was a fantastic way to celebrate God's goodness. Let me also urge you to pray for our nation in the days, weeks, and months to come. If America is rise again from our darkened state, it can only come through the power and grace of God.

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

### -Psalm 20:7

*Make His Praise Glorious,  
Raymond*

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAY**

8:30am.....Worship Service  
 9:45am.....Sunday School  
 10:45am.....Worship Service  
 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.....“Listening for God”  
 5:30pm.....“The Case for Christ” Study  
 5:30pm...Men’s Study-”Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives”  
 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

**JULY ACTIVITIES**

5th - 9th Youth CentriFuge Camp  
 10th Second Helpings  
 Shoeless Summer Nights Begin  
 Deacons’ Meeting  
 17th Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
 Business Meeting  
 26th Ignite (children) Water Games

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

August 1st - 5th CentriKid Camp



Issue #7

The next issue of the First Ray will be July 27,2016.

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

Non-Profit Auto  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 Permit No. 89  
 Rayville, LA  
 72169

**FBC STAFF**

Dr. Eddie Wren  
*Pastor*

Raymond Perrin, Jr.  
*Minister of Music*

Tim Allen  
*Minister to Children*

Beth Livingston  
*Ministry Assistant*

Michael Anderson  
 Annie Rucker  
*Custodians*

For more information about our church please call or visit our website.

[www.FBCRayville.org](http://www.FBCRayville.org)

**Office 318-728-3231**

**DEACONS’ MEETING**

Sunday, July 10th, 4:30pm

**MEN’S PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Sunday, July 17th, 7:00am

In the Family Life Center

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Sunday, July 17th, 7:00pm  
 Immediately following PM Service

**IGNITE (Children)**

**Water Games**

**Tuesday, July 26th**

Watch for more information!



We extend Christian love and sympathy to the family of Mr. Butch Copeland on his passing.

# First Ray

**FOOD \* FUN \* ADVENTURE**

Come join us October 10, 2016 through October 12, 2016 for a fun filled trip to Lafayette, La and surrounding area. We will be touring highlights of the area including Tobasco Experience, Vermillionville, Shadows-on-the-Teche, St John’s Cathedral, learn the history of Acadian music at Martin’s Accordions and end the trip with an exciting trip through the swamps. Not to mention the great food to enjoy along the way. Cost of the trip includes all meals with the exception of the café at Tobasco. **A \$50.00 deposit is due by July 15th.**

Cost of the trip is for a single \$387.00  
 Two adults per room \$286.00  
 Three adults per room \$253.00

Please sign up at the office. The final payment will need to be made by September 1, 2016. Looking forward to a great trip. If you have any questions please call Betty Jo at 318-805-8874

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                     |                    |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Trudy Barham       | 10 Drew Garrett     | 19 Jonathan Knight |
| Zadee Love           | 11 Alita Bridges    | Robert Knight      |
| Drake Raborn         | J. B. Hoychick      | William Blaylock   |
| Dylan Raborn         | Tim Hoychick        | 20 Drew Greer      |
| 2 Bradson Robinson   | 12 Brennan Morris   | Jonah Sharbono     |
| Alex Hayes           | Michelle Miklosey   | Hudson Brakefield  |
| 3 Addison McMahan    | Sarah Brun          | Balfour Pipes      |
| Nehemiah Brooks      | Ryker Ward          | 22 Dolly Bridges   |
| Lori Morris          | 13 Shelley Johnston | 23 Eli Bell        |
| 4 Lee Abraham        | Greg Hogue          | Matthew Brakefield |
| 5 Nikki Thomason     | Tim Morris          | Ashley Morris      |
| Judy Letlow          | 14 Virginia Lee     | 24 Dana Townsend   |
| Ellie Hollis         | Jenna Brakefield    | Sarah Bolton       |
| 6 Chris Mitchell     | 15 Stephanie Brooks | Michael Anderson   |
| Lee Morris           | Eddie Davis         | 25 Billie Boughton |
| 7 Turner Bridges     | 16 Jacqueline Mason | 26 Dennis Rose     |
| Luke Morris          | 17 Lucy Allen       | 27 Sara Ware       |
| Finley Clack         | 18 Hannah Greer     | Chris Morris       |
| Olivia Trisler       | Donna Bell          | 29 Kylie Leija     |
| 9 Jewellene Robinson | 19 Kristi LaCroix   | James Berry        |
| Samuel Davis         | John Hoychick       | 31 Addison Morris  |
| Delaney Mitchell     |                     | David Cooper       |
|                      |                     | Bill Newsom        |