

FIRST THOUGHTS

One month from today we will gather and celebrate the greatest day this world has ever known. It was not the day the United States declared its independence and it was not the day the Civil War or the Vietnam War ended. The greatest day had nothing to do with politics or the cessation of wars. No, it was not the day Ole Miss was declared National Champions in football or the day LSU hired Gerry DeNardo. Though we are a sports crazed society, the greatest day in history had nothing to do with sports. No, one month from today (March 1, 2018) we will gather on April Fools Day.

Though we gather on April Fools Day, it is not April Fools Day we will celebrate. We will celebrate the day a few ladies went to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. We will celebrate when two of the disciples of Jesus went to the tomb and looked in and found the burial clothes laid aside in the tomb, but Jesus nowhere to be seen. We gather and celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, which happens to fall on April Fools day.

I heard a story about Madalyn Murray O'Hair speaking at a college. After she had spewed forth all the blasphemous words she had prepared, in hopes of crushing everyone's faith in Jesus. She said, "Now if anyone of you still believes you can speak." The room was deathly quiet. But then one young lady stood up and began to sing. *Stand up, stand up for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross. Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss . . .* By the time the first verse was finished the entire room had stood and joined the young lady singing Stand Up for Jesus.

O'Hair was outraged and cried out, "You're all fools!" The students continued to sing and O'Hair stormed off the stage. In 2 Corinthians 5:13 Paul said, "If we are beside ourselves, it is for God." If April Fools Day is our day; if we are fools, we are fools for God as we celebrate the greatest day the world has ever known, the day Jesus was raised from the dead.

Dr. EW

IGNITE NEWS

Basic Training and Father/Son Float Trip

Basic Training is March 9-11! I can't believe it's time for our second annual Basic Training. Last year we had an awesome weekend with our 2nd - 6th graders at the encampment and this year is shaping up to be even better. Our theme verse this year is 2 Corinthians 5:17, ***Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!***

We will explore what God's Word says about us, our world, creation, God, Jesus, and salvation. We will see that salvation totally changes, not only where we will spend eternity but also how we live our lives here on earth. We will take a look at how we are changed when we accept Christ and how somethings may change quickly and somethings may change slowly. We will look at how Satan tempts us to resist change and how he will attempt to prevent us from becoming like Jesus. However, Jesus has the power to make us exactly who He wants us to be!

If your child has not signed up, please call me or the church office as soon as possible so we can make room for them!

Our 3rd Annual Father Son Float trip is scheduled for June 14-16! This is one of my favorite events of the year. It is a weekend away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and a chance to connect with our sons and with God. The cost for the trip will be \$75 per person. Boys in the 6th grade and under are required to have an adult guardian with them. To sign up, have any questions, or need additional information, Call Me, Randy, or the church office.

Tim

ONLINE GIVING

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.

REFUGE

This past week I had the wonderful opportunity to visit the Holy Land, Israel. It was an amazing trip to walk the streets Jesus walked, to see the sites where Jesus preached, to see the Garden where Jesus prayed, and to see the empty tomb. A trip to the Holy Land seeing sites mentioned in the scriptures adds greater understanding and depth as one studies God's Word. It has opened up a new life to reading the Scriptures. My favorite part of the whole trip was the final day as we took the Lord's Supper at the garden tomb. The thought of a body of believers from around the world, as you could hear praises to a living Savior in a multitude of languages, blessed my heart. That day was just a small bit of what heaven will be like.

This coming weekend March 2-4 the Youth will be participating in Disciple Now. It will be a great time of fun, fellowship, and worship. I ask that you all be in fervent prayer for this weekend as it has the possibility to be a defining moment for so many of our students. Gregg Gober will lead Worship and Khiry Cooper will be our speaker. This weekend will be impactful. Thank you for your prayers and thank you to all the volunteers who make it possible.

*In Christ,
Randy Zeigler*

Saints Alive!

March 26th, 6:00pm
WMU Building
Potluck
Entertainment by Mike & Beverly Jackson

THANK YOU

With deepest gratitude we thank First Baptist Church of Rayville for hosting both the visitation and the funeral services for Phyllis. We thank those who provided the family meal served before the service. Also, we express our heartfelt thanks for all the sympathy, prayers, visitation, calls and food brought to our home.

The family of Phyllis Jones

FIRST NOTES 🎵

Go the Extra Mile!

And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Matthew 5:41

This past season of Upward Basketball gave me a renewed sense of what it means to go the extra mile to show the love of Christ to kids and their families. God reminded me of something I often forget, and that is when I am serving others I am the most like Jesus. The competitive side of me wants to win by coaching my players to play better basketball. But as the season progressed and came to a close my heart for them as God saw them became clearer to me. It would have been easy to just spend my allotted time with them and be done, but God showed me there was more to be done. My team was made up of motley group of kids to put it mildly, but God blessed our time together. We grew together as friends as well as our knowledge of God and His word. And I've also discovered over time that simple acts of love and kindness mean a lot to those who are not used to it.

As a worship leader and church member, I love what I do and enjoy being a part of our fellowship, but I must shamefully confess that I am usually more comfortable planning ministry and leading inside the church walls than doing ministry in strange places with different people. After all, people are messy and come with all sorts of baggage. However, in those moments of tough ministry, God never ceases to amaze me in how He shows up and shows out. Our great Savior and example, Jesus, was and is always willing to get His hands dirty. He is not afraid of sinners, but a friend to them. God is continually reaching out to those in need, and He is calling us be His instruments of love and grace. Therefore, none of us should be to proud or busy to serve in some capacity.

How is God leading you to go the extra mile? For me, it was coaching a basketball team, being willing to enter into the world of my players, and bring them into mine. For you, it will probably be something different. We must simply choose to serve. Undeniably, there is myriad opportunities here in Rayville for us to minister in Jesus name if we would seek Him and open our eyes. Don't wait for someone else to tell you. Jesus said, "the harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few." Brothers and Sisters the stakes are too high for us to wait idly by. Get plugged in go the extra mile!

Easter Musical March 25th at 6:00pm, Palm Sunday Night.

Dear FBC Church family our Sanctuary has been diligently working on our Easter musical these past few months. This musical is full of new and familiar anthems of praise. It is sure to be wonderful celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! Join us for a fantastic evening of worship and invite others to come- Sunday, March 25th at 6:00pm!

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 Men's Bible Study
- 6:00pm "Prevailing Prayer"
- 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

MARCH

- 2 - 4th Youth D'Now
- 9 - 11th Basic Training 2nd - 6th grade
- 11th 2:00pm Colonial Manor
- 25th 6:00pm Easter Musical
- 26th 6:00pm Saints Alive

APRIL

- 1st Easter Sunday



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

Go to 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.

First Baptist Church
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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
Office@fbcrayville.org

SECOND HELPINGS

*March 10th
Family Life Center*

- 8:00am Begin set-up & cooking
- 9:00am Serve up food trays
- 10:00am Begin delivery routes

COLONIAL MANOR

Sunday, March 11th, 2:00pm

Deacons' Meeting

Sunday, March 11th, 5:00pm

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 18th, 8:00am
In the Family Life Center

EASTER MUSICAL

6:00PM
Sunday, March 25th

Wednesday Night Suppers

5:00pm - 6:00pm
\$3.00

Please note the kitchen closes at 6:00pm. *No meal will be served after 6:00pm.*

First Ray

ON MISSION

**HERE &
NOW**

March 2018

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
EASTER
OFFERING**

RICHLAND CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A Parish Wide Ministry

Thursdays, FBC Rayville Gym

Dealing with HURTS, HABITS, HANG-UPS? Do you know someone else who is? Join us on Thursday nights as we grow in the knowledge of God's mercy and grace in our lives.

**5:30pm Fellowship Dinner
6:30pm Large Group Meeting
7:30pm Open Share Groups**

March Birthdays			
Nora Brooks	2	Tim Allen	22
Sarah Thomason	2	Mary Ella Burgess	24
Dave Jackson	2	Justin Pettit	25
Karen Duvall-Darling	3	Sam Estis	25
Mandy Brakefield	4	Dennis Odom	26
Kaiden Krishna	4	Jared Perrin	26
Donnie Lee	4	Rayland Trisler	13
Ian Hollis	5	H. C. Eppinette	14
Camron Hollis	5	Heather Stephenson	16
Ashley Hollis	6	Geraldine Harris	17
Kaitlyn Boles	8	Fred Perritt	17
Clayton Morris	8	Darla Thames	19
Tesa McManus	12	Bonnie Cooper	20
Matthew Senn	12	Malcolm Wasson	21
Angela Hales	13	Avery Wooden	21
Patsy Knight	13	Mason Wooden	21
		Jared Perrin	26
		Peyton Raborn	27
		Emmett Brown, Jr.	27
		Christopher Maxwell	27
		Eva Horne	29
		Helen Diamond	29
		Johnnie Sorey	29
		Stuart Tutt	31
		Jessica Neyland	31
		Debbie Rogers	31
		Jason Livingston	31