

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Let Us Share First
With You.

Together

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On Leaving Nets



I was reading texts for Epiphany and came up on that wonderful text in Mark 1 where Jesus walks by, says to the disciples, "Follow me," and the disciples leave their nets and follow. Just like that, they follow. No big presentation. No description of company benefits...they leave their nets and follow.

Leaving nets is not something that we do very often in our house, especially when they are fishing nets. All the males in our household like to fish. As many of you know, my son Seth, is obsessed with it. So...homework, shoes, coats, pencils, balls...Lots of things get left, forgotten, lost in my house... but not nets. Nets are valued, nets are prized for that which they can catch. The same was true in Jesus day, only more so. For us, the fish may mean dinner, but 90% of the time, they just mean the pride of the catch, maybe an opportunity for a photo. To those folk in Jesus' day, it was more than that, it was a livelihood, a career. Not lucrative, but stable. If you had a boat and had nets, you could catch fish,

and the fish were sure to sell. No tremendous amount of skill needed. But you had to have a boat and nets. Nets were valuable, and so when the Gospel of Mark says that those first disciples dropped their nets and followed Jesus, it is no small insignificant detail. It meant that they were leaving their livelihood, their stability, their future as they had known it up until that very moment...to follow Jesus. Why did they do that?

Some have suggested that Jesus' significance was just so obvious to them that his command overwhelmed any common sense to the contrary, and they just mindlessly followed. Only, that idea doesn't fit the rest of Mark. In Mark, Jesus' identity as the Messiah is one that develops gradually. It is never fully understood until Jesus is on the cross. And chief among those that "don't get it" in Mark are the disciples. So to say that they were just mindlessly obeying the divine that was before them doesn't quite work.

But it had to be something wonderful that caused them to "drop their nets." They had to sense that there was something more valuable in following Jesus than could be found fishing. What was it? Well, I'm not sure we will ever know the full story, but Rob Bell has suggested at least a plausible option. You see in Jesus' day, Rabbis picked

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge, Pastor

their disciples from amongst the cream of the crop of young rabbinical students who had already survived several cuts. All Jewish boys began together learning and memorizing the Torah. At a certain age they were tested. And those who passed moved on to study the Prophets. A bit later on these were tested again, and those who passed moved on. And so forth and so forth. But if you failed, you were sent back home to learn a family trade, like fishing. So those first disciples were not the cream of the crop. They were rabbinical school drop outs. And yet Jesus comes to them and says, "Follow Me." It was an incredible opportunity, but what's more it was a radical, prophetic act of grace, one that stated right from the start that Jesus' Kingdom was going to be one that welcomed and valued one and all. And that, states Bell, is what was so appealing, so compelling, so worth leaving your nets for. And it still is. Now God's call for you and me may not be to "leave our nets." Indeed it may be to go back to our nets. But whatever it is, it is an opportunity to be a part of the Kingdom of God, and whatever it costs us... it is more than worth it. May God give us the vision to see where he is leading, and the courage to "leave our nets," if need be, and follow.

2 Lenten Events, Finance Update-2012 Budget Approved

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

“Our Lenten Journey Starts with Ashes” Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22



Our annual forty-day pilgrimage through Lent begins with a service which reminds us of penitence and mortality. It will be held in Caudill Chapel at 6 p.m. You will have the opportunity to remain for the traditional imposition of ashes, a truly meaningful way to begin your Lenten journey.

“On Our Journey Make Us One” Calvary Lenten Preaching Series

Our community enjoys a wonderful opportunity each year to worship together and hear some of the country’s finest preachers during Lent at Calvary Episcopal Church, weekdays at noon, February 23-March 30. **Rev. Ray Hatton** serves on the planning committee for this series.

This year’s series will see the return of favorites such as **Rabbi Micah Greenstein** and **Phyllis Tickle**, while featuring new speakers such as **Dr. A. J. Levine**, New Testament Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School; **Fr. Nicholas Vieron**, Pastor Emeritus of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church; and **Friends of the Groom Theater Company**, based in Terrace Park, OH. A full schedule will be posted on the church bulletin board, and weekly speakers will be listed in our order of worship. Details are also available on the Calvary website: www.calvarymemphis.org/lps

One of the added attractions of the series is the delicious lunch menu served daily in Calvary’s Waffle Shop, a well-deserved Memphis institution.



“Our Lenten Journey Ends with Easter” Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, April 1—Worship will include a festive palm procession.

Maundy Thursday, April 5—Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at 5:00, and the Lord’s Supper will be served at a special Tenebrae service in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Good Friday, April 6—Noonday Service of the Cross, Caudill Chapel.

Holy Saturday, April 7—An Easter Egg Hunt for children (preschool through Grade 4) and decorating of the Flower Cross on the front lawn.

Easter Sunday, April 8—A Morning Worship Service to celebrate the Resurrection, 11 a.m. Invite your family and friends.

2012 Church Budget Approved

First Baptist Church adopted the 2012 Church Budget at the Annual Church Conference on January 25, 2012. This came after a discussion session following church on January 8, when the membership heard presentations and recommendations from the Broadcast Media & Technology Committee and the Finance Committee. There was also a special called Church Conference on January 18, where the major change to our television budget was approved.

The 2012 Church Budget attempts to be fiscally sound with our finances and only spend what we have available in the way of revenues. One significant change from previous years is that we will not renew our contract to pay for televised broadcasts of our weekly worship service. Instead, we will focus our resources on new technologies and ways we can communicate the consistent message of First Baptist Church in this fast-paced and changing world of the 21st century.

Please be in prayer for our church finances and your participation. Regular financial gifts from church members are the lifeblood of our 2012 Church Budget. Help us to be able to fund and carry out all the programs, ministries and mission activities that are included in our 2012 Church Budget. If you would like a copy of the 2012 Church Budget or your own personal giving record, please contact **Lisa Butts** in the Finance Office.



2012 BUDGET

February Events, Basketball Schedule 3

HOW MUCH DO I **LOVE** MY CHURCH? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS . . .

1. I love to ATTEND and worship every Sunday.
2. I love to BE INVOLVED in Bible Study every Sunday.
3. I love to CALL and invite friends to church with me.
4. I love to DONATE my time and money to help my church.
5. I love to ENCOURAGE my Pastor and Ministers.

FBDS T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER



FBDS SHIRTS
ON SALE
NOW!

During the month of February we will be selling T-shirts as a fundraiser for the Day School. We are offering the parents and children a selection of White and Grey shirts with a First Baptist Day School design on the front. Parents have a choice between a short sleeve or long sleeve in either color. Short sleeve shirts are \$10.00 and Long sleeves are \$15.00. All the proceeds will go to much needed items for the classrooms. Please come see our display in the preschool lobby throughout the month.

LLL Valentine Party

LLL will host it's annual Valentine Party, **Friday, February 10** at 11 a.m. and have a very special program planned. Visitors are welcome to attend. If you would like to come, please RSVP to **Jean Breedlove** at 683-4732 by **Wednesday, February 8**.



Children's Basketball Games Schedule

7th-8th Grade Boys

Feb. 4 FBC Boys vs. CUMC-Edwards noon at CUMC-Beaty

Feb. 11 FBC Boys vs. Evergreen 3 p.m. at Evergreen

Feb. 18 FBC Boys vs. CUMC-Roop 11 a.m. at FBC

Feb. 25 FBC Boys vs. Idlewild 4 p.m. at Idlewild

5th-6th Grade Girls

Feb. 4 FBC Girls vs. Advent 10 a.m. at Advent

Feb. 11 FBC Girls vs. Christ the King 2 p.m. at Evergreen

Feb. 18 FBC Girls vs. Advent-Rangel 10 a.m. at FBC

Feb. 25 FBC Girls vs. Lindenwood 11 a.m. at Lidenwood

Come out and support our children's teams!

Connect4 Corner

Come "connect" with us... Young and Median Adults, connecting through Bible study, fellowship and ministry, in Connect 4!

• Sundays at 9:30 a.m., 301 N. Grab a cup of Starbucks coffee (The Common Grounds on Third floor N) and join us as we begin a new study on **World Religions**, February 12

• Super Bowl Party, February 5, at **Brian and Jennifer Kellett's** new home on Goodwyn.

Birth Announcement

David and Stacey Rodenhiser of Atlanta, GA welcomed a baby girl, *Lauren Grace Rodenhiser*, December 16, 2011. Congratulations to David, Stacey and grandmother, **Eloise Rodenhiser**.



FLC in Need of a New Refrigerator

As part of our ongoing renovations/repairs to our **Family Life Center**, we are asking people if they would like to donate a new or "gently used" standard size refrigerator. If you know of someone or can help us with this project please contact **Dennis Fruitt** in our church office. Thank you for your continued help with updating the FLC!

4 Memorials & Honorarias, Kissing Booth

Memorials

<u>Given in Memory of:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Dewey Middleton.....	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lehr Ms. Joan Senhausen Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk Mrs. Carolyn Bynum
Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Valentine.....	Chalmers & Steve Valentine
Gene Dinstuhl.....	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lehr Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Eula Cheatham.....	W. M. Arnold Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Dot Manning.....	LLL Club Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Bill & Doris Rosson.....	Ms. Sandra Leftwich
Maribelle Jones.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
James Joyner.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Doris Layne.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Martha Hawkes.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Nancy Griffin.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Robert Lucian Bruno.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Lurlene Carothers.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Wes Linder.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Bob Bracey.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Louise Turner.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk

Hubert Jarvis.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Teresa Gover.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Myrtle Spearman.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Edgar Martin.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Nancy Gammill.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Margaret Dambrino.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Rachel Everett.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
LaVerne Moore.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Grace Nelson.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Dan Pendley.....	Mr. & Dr. Jim Cronk
Dr. Robert Chandler.....	John & Susan Muether
Odell Baker.....	Ms. Madge Baker
Juanita Jacobs.....	Don & Dot Leachman

Honorarias

<u>Given in Honor of:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
LLL.....	Mr. Dwight Spearman
Ministerial & Support Staff...	Dr. & Mrs. David Cunningham
Helen Ruth Bourgoyne.....	Joey & Paula McPeak
Gloria Hodges.....	Ms. Martha Virginia Kitchens
Glenn & Jeanine Everton.....	Karen & Reed Rhorer
Sally Smith & Lois Sandusky.....	Love SS Class



Prayer Room Partners: SS Leadership

For the month of:
February: Love Class

Prayer Room Partners: During morning worship

Feb. 5	Teresa Bullock
12	Katrina Flowers
19	Helen Ruth Bourgoyne
26	Melinda Grable

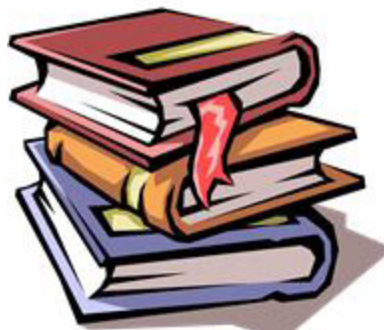
Sparks "Kissing" Booth Feb. 12

The Sparks will help spread the "sweetness" of Valentine's Day with their annual "Kissing" booth and raise money for a good cause. The Sparks will present the "Kissing" Booth **Sunday, February 12** following morning worship in the Welcome Center.



MJMRC Library Corner

The Library Staff would like to thank all those who have so graciously donated books, DVDs, and money for the purchase of new books during 2011. We are truly blessed with thoughtful and caring members. Thank you again for your generosity.



Carol Henderson
Librarian

WHAT MY CHURCH MEANS TO ME

Editor's note from Ray Hatton:

Recently, Dr. Breckenridge told us about two questions that a prospective minister asked our search committee: What brought you to First Baptist Church? Why have you stayed? Those are great questions for all of us to ponder!

Several months ago, one of the longest-tenured members of our congregation, Margaret (Maggie) Jordan gave me a handwritten collection of her memories of her years in our church. I thought that they were so wonderful, they needed to be shared. I will be publishing them in two installments in our newsletter. I hope that others of you will write some of your memories and feelings about our wonderful church. I would like to collect these in a special scrapbook, *Our Stories: First Baptist Church of Memphis*. I hope that as you read Maggie's stories, you will be inspired to begin writing your own, and turn them in to me for our new "family album."

Thoughts about First Baptist from Margaret Jordan:

When we were reminded that April 1839 was the birthday of the First Baptist Church of Memphis, I wandered down memory lane.

Some of you will remember the celebration of our Sesquicentennial in 1989. It was beautifully planned, and a noteworthy event. Remember, we called our church "A Landmark and a

Lighthouse." Now I'm wondering if any of you remember our Centennial in 1939. I know Janie Pople and I do... although she was Mary Jane Maxwell and I was Margaret Terry and we were worshiping at Linden and Lauderdale. Of course, there was a Pageant, and we were in the cast as were our parents.

Janie began her journey at First Baptist in the Cradle Roll. My parents did not join this church until I was about eight years old. These memories are of an unbelievably long time ago, yet it amazes me that choices and events, made then, spill over into who and what we are today.

My earliest remembrance of church in the early 1930s was Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting. Supper was served, of course, followed by Teachers Meeting, which our parents attended. Weather permitting, the children played outside. I clearly remember two spunky boys climbing over the concrete ledges and high steps. If we felt brave, we sneaked up the street to peer through fence and shrubbery for a look at the dark, mysterious house hidden there. We know it now as the Hunt-Phelan home. Those two boys grew up to be Dr. John McCall and Dr. Ralph Bethea.

Revivals were customary then and Janie and I were both led to "join the church" at the same time, beginning a long life journey as a First Baptist Church member.

Those 1930s were frightening years for most of our congregation.

Those were Depression days, a sad and hurtful time. In the 1940s, several church families lost sons or husbands in World War II. In those years, the old church building gave us the message of God's sustaining love and hope.

Then, romance entered our journey. Warren and I were married in the old Sanctuary with Janie as a bridesmaid. She abandoned her own planned church wedding to travel to South Carolina to marry Art Pople before he left with the Air Force to serve in the China-Burma war zone. The pastor, Dr. Caudill, wrote letters each week to the church's service men. Warren looked forward to reading that mail while on a destroyer in the Pacific. How grateful we were that both men returned and we ventured into home building.

Construction of the new church in 1950-51 was exciting for the whole congregation. Many love gifts for furnishings were given. You'll see, even now, plaques on pictures, pews, rooms, and more. We wanted to be a part of this new place of worship. We are still grateful for Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Sanders, who gave the pipe organ and the Sanctuary piano. Their son, Bob, was our choir director at that time.

(To be concluded in next month's Together)

6 Worship Leaders Needed

Worship Leaders Needed

We enjoy having members of the church from all age groups lead in our worship services. It adds great life to our services and is a wonderful way to showcase our membership to members and guests alike. We would like to add your name to the roster of people who would be willing to help with worship. Please turn in one of the special forms, and indicate your preference for reading scripture, leading a responsive reading, or offering a prayer (any or all of these). You may also complete a form online at the church website.

Emily Callahan and **Ray Hatton** will coordinate the roster, and when you are given a date to serve, you will receive a packet containing your assignment, the order of worship, and guidelines for being most effective as you lead in public worship.

We believe that this plan will involve more people, as well as helping us all get to know each other better. Turn in your form as soon as possible! Thank you!

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Check all that you are willing to do:

SCRIPTURE READING _____ RESPONSIVE READING _____ PRAYER _____

(Turn in to Ray Hatton or the Church Office)