

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Let Us Share First
With You.

Together

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State of the Church



On May 10 it was announced that President Obama would be speaking at the Booker T. Washington High School Graduation.

I hope you have been following that story on the local news. I voted on-line repeatedly. I hope you did the same. His presence will mean so much to those students. They will certainly never forget this. And it will mean so much to our city and our area as we recover from the tornadoes and the flood.

That having been noted, is there a much more thankless job than being a commencement speaker? Let's face it, folks are not there to hear a speech. Indeed, most of the folk are not hanging on your every word. They're just hoping that this word will be the last word. That having been said, despite our complaining, some occasions, like graduations, require words. Words convey meaning, understanding, definition, perspective, context...

and without such words, some moments would just ring hollow.

State of the Union speeches are a similar endeavor for presidents. We often times find them boring and long, something that just gets in the way of our regular TV schedule. But they are important. They help give us perspective on what is going on, over and above the day to day political wranglings. They bring to light so many good things that never get noticed by the problem and controversy driven media. They name the challenges we have and how we are seeking to address them. They give us insight into where we are going and what our leaders are envisioning for us. So like commencement addresses, these words are needed and necessary.

I've been encouraged by many to offer such a synopsis to you, a "state of the church" address if you will, to offer a few words of clarification, perspective and vision on who we are as FBC and where God seems to be leading us. We thought about doing this in a Sunday morning service, but since this is more or less inside business (and not necessarily something for TV and radio broadcast), we have

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge, Pastor

decided to offer these words as a part of a joint adult Sunday School on Sunday morning, June 12 in Fellowship Hall. It seemed to the staff to be an appropriate day for such an address, since it is also Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the birthday of the church.

We will have coffee and juice and music and fellowship, and then I will offer a few words. These will be words of report, clarification, vision. They will highlight our successes as well as our ongoing challenges and how we might meet those challenges. They will tell the story of the significance of our ongoing ministry, and a few ideas as to how we can make that ministry even more significant. But, I promise, these words will be few. I will use significantly less words than a president. I will begin speaking at 10 and will end by 10:30. For those working with our children and others, I will have written copies available, too.

I encourage you, however, if at all possible to be present, to hear my thoughts so that we can continue to dialogue about where God is leading FBC in the days ahead.

Grace, David

2 Letters, June & July Events

Dinner On The Grounds to Kick Off Summer Wednesdays Wednesday, June 1

Our Summer Wednesday program begins on June 1 with church supper served on the front lawn. Unfortunately the New Gospel Heralds Quartet had to cancel last minute because of surgery for one of the singers.

Bring your blankets and lawn chairs. Some tables will be provided also for anyone who needs them. We'll enjoy a special dinner at 5:00.

What a special intergenerational time for the entire church family to share together! The meal cost is the same as every week. Please join us, and bring friends! If it rains, we will meet indoors.



Celebrate The Lord's Supper with your church family on Sunday, June 5

You will want to be part of this worship service on Ascension Sunday. As we remember how Jesus ascended to the Father, we also remember why he came to earth in the first place. And so, we will receive the Lord's Supper together that morning. "This do in remembrance of me."

State of the Church June 12

Pastor David Breckenridge will give a "State of the Church" address Sunday June 12 to a combined all adult Sunday School group in Fellowship Hall.

Join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and music. The address will begin at 10 a.m.

Written copies will be made available.

Letters

Dear First Baptist Friends,

Thanks to all of you for your many prayers. It was uplifting to received the letter with the signatures, knowing so many cared.

The visits from Pastor David, Carol Richardson and Kris Azlin was very comforting.

I am home now and doing well. I hope to see you in church soon.

Love,

Jack Benton

Guest Choir on Tour June 29 • 6 p.m.

We are in for a treat after church supper on June 29, as we stay around the tables to hear a touring youth choir from Knollwood Baptist Church in Winston Salem, North Carolina, a church very similar to ours. They will be doing hands-on ministry in Jackson, Mississippi before heading our way. This is a group of very talented young folks who are excited about making a difference! Our only obligation is to give them supper, so please help out by donating \$6 for each singer.

PATRIOTIC CONCERT ON JULY 3

The River City Concert Band

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Be sure this gets on your calendar. This outstanding 60-piece band will play some of your favorite patriotic music, including the traditional salute to all the branches of our Armed Forces, and the perennial favorite, John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*.

The event will end with hot dogs and dessert for everyone in Fellowship Hall. This is a great way to introduce community friends to our church. Wear your red, white and blue for this festive evening!

Tickets are available at the church in advance, or at the door. Because we are expecting a large crowd, and inviting all our community guests to join us afterward for the party, we need your help! Many of you are needed to bring finger-friendly desserts—cookies, cupcakes, and brownies. Let's make First Baptist shine with our very best hospitality and welcome to all.

"What We Do" Wednesday July 6, Fellowship Hall

Our Summer Wednesday Night Special for July will be "What We Do" Night on July 6. It is a great opportunity to get to know each other better and discover things you never knew about your fellow church members. Tables will be set up for special displays of your hobbies, collections, arts and crafts. Please sign up soon to reserve a display space. The evening will include an ice-cold watermelon social. Don't miss it!



Prayer Partners Prayer Room

Partners: SS Leadership

For the month of:

June: Byrn-Gideon

Prayer Room Partners: During morning worship

June 5	Karen Thomas
12	Amy Doville
19	Imogene McFadin
26	John McCall

First Baptist and Levitt Shell

FBC is excited to be sponsoring concerts at Levitt Shell again this year. The Shell is committed to building community through music and education. We are proud to call them neighbors and partners.

They put on 50 free concerts per year, reaching thousands of Memphians. Most recently, we partnered with them for our Easter Sunrise Service. And we look forward to extending our relationship with them.

Please support the Shell by attending their free concerts every Tuesday-Sunday through June 21 at 7:30 p.m.

New Members

Edgar & Nettie Martin:

Joined March 27, 2011

Patrick Bruno Joined April 10, 2011

Monica Barile: Joined April 24, 2011

*First Baptist Church welcomes
its newest members*

Summer Financial Plans

We all make plans for summer activities – family reunions, vacations, children’s camps, trips to the zoo, the pool, or the movie theater. Most of those plans involve some sort of finances – How much will it cost to get there? How much will I spend on food to and from and while I’m there? Where will I stay and how much will that cost? If I’m going out of town, how will I make sure the rent or house note gets paid, the utilities get paid, and the yard gets mowed?

As you make your summer plans this year, please keep your church finances as part of your planning process. The church’s expenses don’t just stop because we’re out of town! In fact, many times the summer months are a “crunch time” for the church’s checkbook, because there are a lot of expenses being paid out for children and youth activities and, with members out of town, the amount of offerings received each Sunday tends to dip.

How can you help?

- (1) Contact **Lisa Butts** in the Finance Office for information on how to start on-line drafting of your bank account for your regular tithe offering. It’s easy!
- (2) Think about post-dating your summer offering checks and give them to Lisa to hold and deposit at the appropriate time.
- (3) Be here every Sunday. (Okay, scratch that last one. Everyone needs some time off to refresh and recharge. But do come for worship and fellowship when you’re in town – and bring your offering envelope!)

First In Service

Hospitality Hub *Entertaining Angels Unaware*

When I was a child my mother instilled in us the virtue of helping others. Matthew 25:35-40 teaches us “just as you did it to one of the the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

According to the last count there are approximately 5500 homeless men, women and children in Memphis, including Midtown, Downtown, and East Memphis. Some are homeless due to the economy—loss of jobs, loss of home and car. And some have mental or physical handicaps. For many years several local churches have served the homeless with food, clothing and shelter.

Hospitality Hub was founded in 2007 at 126 Jefferson, to connect individuals with the resources they need to begin their journey

out of homelessness. They provide counseling, referrals to medical care, mental healthcare, veterans services, legal aid, and employment opportunities. They give bus passes for job interviews. Another vital service provided is help obtaining a birth certificate and an ID. There is a program for persons with alcohol and drug addictions. Clergy is available for counseling.

I volunteer every Friday doing intake interviews and counseling. Hospitality Hub always needs volunteers, as well as monetary donations.

I have been a member of FBC for over 10 years. Because of First Baptist’s commitment to missions I have been supported in my desire to “help the least of these.”

—Sandra Chandler

4 Memorial & Honoraria, Benefit Concert for Haiti

Memorials

<u>Given in Memory of:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Sydney Gover.....	Ms. Dorothy Sheffield
Hubert Jarvis.....	Mr. Austin Jeter Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith Ms. Pat Stevens Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield
Bob Bracey.....	Paula & Joey McPeak Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield
Louise Turner.....	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Smith
Eula Cheatham.....	Mr. & Mrs. Al Henderson Mr. & Mrs. Vinson Cobb Mr. Howard Lee Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Sandusky Ms. Martha Virginia Kitchens Mr. Austin Jeter Ms. Kathleene Sims The Joy Sunday School Class Ms. Jimmye Pidgeon Paula & Joey McPeak Ms. Peggy Joyner Mr. & Mrs. Kelton Morris Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ray Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lehr

Myrtle Spearman.....	Mr. & Mrs. Vinson Cobb Mr. Howard Lee Ms. Pat Stevens Dr. & Mrs. W. C. Sandusky Ms. Genevieve Adams Mr. Austin Jeter Ms. Nancy Burch Ms. Janet Benton LLL Club The Byrn-Gideon Sunday School Class Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield Mr. Dwight Spearman Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ray Ms. Katherine Schwartz
Teresa Gover.....	Ms. Pat Stevens LLL Club Ms. Dorothy Sheffield Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield
Marshall Tillman.....	Ms. Nancy Burch
Mrs. Willie B. Greer.....	Paula & Joey McPeak
Wes Linder.....	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hartsfield

Honoraria

<u>Given in Honor of:</u>	<u>Given by:</u>
Mike & Glenna Ward.....	Ms. Helen Ruth Bourgoyne

Concert for Haiti

Please join us on Sunday, **June 19** at 6 p.m. for a Jazz Concert benefitting earthquake relief in Haiti. University of Memphis Jazz Trumpeter Benjamin Pierre-Louis will be joined by the University of Memphis' jazz quintet.

The set list will include several jazz arrangements of beloved hymns.

Tickets are \$10 in advance. Contact the church office to purchase them.

Baby Shower Collection

First Baptist Church will be hosting a baby shower for our neighborhood on Saturday, July 30. We need your help collecting and new and gently used baby items. You may drop off any of the following at the church office or with **Holly Hatton** and **Julie Richardson**.

Items needed include: crib bedding, clothing, diapers, toys, books, bottles, toiletries, car seats, strollers. A baby registry has been opened at Target under the name Holly Hatton.

FBDS News

We have had such a great spring semester here at First Baptist Day School. We've had fun and exciting events throughout the year including Our Fire Museum trip in February, Easter egg hunt, Week of the Young Child, and now in May our End of the year Finale.

We are so blessed to have such a great group of parents that help support and love our school. As well, we are as grateful to all our teaching staff for their hard work and determination as they teach each child here. We look forward to a great 2011-2012 school year.

Our summer will be full of fun activities for all ages. We have water play day every Friday, letting the children explore all different types of water activities. We also have exciting plans for our pre-school age to get ready for kindergarten. I look forward to a fun filled summer for both the children and the parents!

First Baptist Day School Director,
Holly Grissom

Offering Bearers for June

Jun. 5: **Grace Ward** and
Olivia Hankins

Jun. 12: **Claire Pellegrin** and
Jo Lynn Tyner

Jun. 19: **Noah Sewell** and
Carson Wright

Jun. 26: **Ben** and
Nathan Payson

Youth Auction Thank You

On behalf of the youth, I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's youth auction. We raised close to \$5,000! I see the youth auction as not only a way to raise funds for trips and supplies, but also a means to create community and discover each other's interests. I appreciate everyone who assisted in making the auction take place and, of course, all that arrived and joined in on the fun. I hope that everyone walked away with something special!

Learn a New Craft or Hobby Day

Join us for an artist date in Creative Space in the Church Life Center. There will be space for pottery/ceramics, scrapbooking, jewelry making and other creative endeavors.

Bring your current project or start/learn a new one. Meeting times will be Fridays: June 10 and July 8 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and Saturdays June 11 and July 9 from 10:00 am – noon. Hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1

It's "Pandamania" at the church! Mark your calendar and tell your friends. There will be Bible stories, mission stories, crafts, snacks, recreation, and a daily visit from a familiar-looking "zookeeper." Each morning begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon. VBS is offered for preschool age to 6th grade. Look for registration sheets at the welcome desk. You can also register online at www.fbcmemphis.org.

Volunteers Needed to help with VBS!

We are always in need of your good work with children during Vacation Bible School! If you have the week available then please notify **Tiffany** or **Richard Wright**. However, if you can only give a morning or even a couple of hours, believe it or not, there is a place for you. So come share your week with us or donate just a couple of hours in story time. We need you and the 100+ children would love to see you again! Again, VBS is from June 27 to July 1.



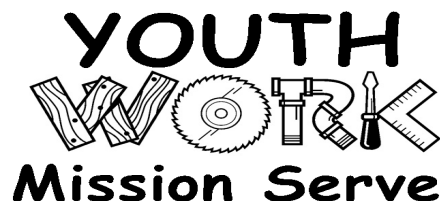
Mission Serve is coming to Memphis!

Mark your calendars for the week of June 18 – 25. Mission Serve is coming to Memphis and they may need our help. They may need runners for lunch delivery or they may need help making meals and refreshments for the work sites. Does the name Mission Serve sound familiar? If so, it is because the youth have been traveling to Louisiana and Michigan over the past few years in support of the amazing efforts of Mission Serve. This year the organization comes our way so we would like to do anything we can to help them as they work hard to make Memphis a better city! If you would like to help, contact Holly Hatton at 428-4068.

Upcoming Dates!

Mission Serve for Youth

We are traveling to Jackson, MI from July 9 to 17. We will work on houses, worship with other youth, and sleep well on classroom floors after a hard day on the job site. It truly is a great time!



Passport Kids! July 23 – 26

This year we will travel to Crossville, TN. It is a wonderful location that includes great cabins, a lake, canoeing, missions education, Bible studies, worship, and crafts. Don't miss this good time together! Open to all completed 3rd through 6th graders.



6 Library Corner & Needlework Group

MJMRC Library Corner

Children's Books

- *Clifford Goes to Hollywood* by Norman Bridwell
- *Angus and the Cat* by Marjorie Flack
- *The Magic School Bus Inside the Human Body* by Joanna Cole
- *Rip Squeak and His Friends* by Susan Filgate
- *Aslan* by C. S. Lewis

Adult's Books

- *What Happend to Worship* by A W. Tozer
- *In the Beginning* by Henri Blacker
- *City on a Hill* by Steven Hindalong
- *Hand Me Another Brick* by Charles Swindoll

Needlework Group

On the last Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon join us for a time of fun and fellowship to get together and do needlework in the Family Life Center. Bring a snack to share, your knitting, crocheting, smocking, embroidery, anything you are working on, or want to learn to do, and let's have fun getting to know each other.