

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Let Us Share First
With You.

Together

Vol. 26 No. 5
May 2011

A Publication of First Baptist Church,
Memphis, TN

Raised to Walk in New Life

Rev. Dr. David Breckenridge, Pastor



Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia! Let the bells ring, let the hymns be sung, let the people rejoice! This is the season of resurrection,

when we celebrate that life is greater than death, that hope is greater than despair, that grace is greater than judgment, forgiveness is greater than guilt, reconciliation is greater than alienation, justice is greater than evil, community is greater than loneliness, that love is greater....that love is greater!

We are Easter people after all, those formed and fashioned in the miraculous love and hope of an empty tomb. This is our natural habitat, the place where the stone and all that confines us has been rolled away. We choose instead to walk in the beauty and the cool of the garden. And despite all the voices that woo us back inside, we refuse to go back. We have been buried with him in baptism unto death and raised to walk in newness of life.

Oh, we do Lent. We do Lent

because we need to remember, to remember who we were, who we sometimes still lapse into being, to remember what God has done for us, to remember that which God has delivered us from, to remember what it cost God to offer us this new life. It is necessary work. You have to remember where you have come from to appreciate where you are. "Remember you were aliens down in Egypt's land. Remember it was the Lord your God who brought you up out of Egypt. Teach and remind your children this," Moses tells the children of Israel before they enter the promised land. To truly embrace and live in the promised land, the "Easter land," if you will, they too

We can be Easter people; live in the land of life, live in a constant spirit of gratitude and appreciation for what we have been given.

needed to remember. They must remember, and so must we. So we do Lent.

But we do it in order that we can truly be Easter people, so that we can live in the land of life, so that we live in a constant spirit of gratitude and appreciation for that which we have been given, so that we won't take it for granted, so that we won't waste a minute in those patterns of the past that do nothing but bind us and other we

now live in those patterns that lead to life for us and all.

So being Easter people, walking in newness of life, denotes change. It is marked by transformation. It means that we are now someone different. We walk differently, talk differently, act differently, think differently than before. Not because we're supposed to. Not because we have to. Not because it makes sense—because to many it doesn't. "You have heard it said, an eye for an eye...." No. We choose to walk in newness of life because we can't do otherwise, because we have been transformed from the inside out, because our hearts

have been changed by the grace and hope and love and peace of God. And so we choose to be people of such grace and hope and love and peace. Not perfectly. No. But we do not give up on that

way, even when it's hard, because it will not give up on us.

So where are you living? Where are we living? Back in the tomb, bound by bandages and stones, be they of our own making or others? Or are we walking and talking in "newness of life," with Jesus and one another in the garden? Rise up, dear friends! Rise up, Easter people! Rise up First Baptist Church! Christ is Risen! And we should be risen, too. Alleluia! Amen!

2 2011 Graduates, Letters, May Events

FBC congratulates the following 2011 Graduates

Prakas Sunuwar	Lauren Ricks	Nickolas Ford Zasowski
Central High School Graduation	Masters of Architecture	BS in Sports Management; mi- nor in Business
Date: May 14	Virginia Tech University	University of Tennessee
College: Mid- America	Graduation	Grandparents:
Baptist Theological Seminary	Date: May 14	Dr. and Mrs. David Cunningham
	Parents: Frank & Barbara Ricks	

FREE CONCERT

Two Community Bands Play at FBC Saturday, May 7, 7 p.m.

The River City Concert Band and the Jackson, Mississippi Community Band will each play one half of the program at a free concert in our Sanctuary on Saturday, May 7. They are doing exchange concerts, and the band from our city will also travel to Jackson. This concert is being given at

In Concert



no cost, and no tickets are necessary. They wanted to do this as a gift to us, in appreciation for our partnership with them. It would be great for us to use this as an outreach event to invite neighbors and prospects to our church. Please do that, and come enjoy a happy evening of music in a wide variety of styles. Remember—it's FREE!

OUR SINGING FAITH

Graded Choir Spring Concert Wednesday, May 11, 6 p.m. Caudill Chapel

Hear our children share their gifts and musical talents as the Kinder-choir (ages 4-5) and Young Musicians (Grades 1-6) lead us in worship and celebration. Following our Wednesday Family Supper, we will move to Caudill Chapel for singing and the playing of instruments. Be there to support and encourage our wonderful boys and girls as another year of graded choirs comes to an end.

Letters

Dear First Baptist Family,
On behalf of MIFA, thank you so much for your generous participation in MIFAST again this year. This meaningful program is growing, with participation by diverse faith communities in the Mid-South. We can fast in many ways, but every conscious act of doing without something allows us to walk briefly in the shoes of those whose lives are a struggle for basic necessities. This reminds us too that we are all God's children, and that God cares for the needy and the prosperous with the same loving grace.

With warm gratitude,

Linda Marks
MIFA Inter-Faith Coordinator

FBC's Summer Finances

As we near summer and you look forward to different activities, breaks from school, vacations and more, we ask that you PLEASE not take a break from your pledge commitment to First Baptist. FBC counts on your pledges to pay bills, plan VBS, take youth and children to missions camps, hold family events on the grounds and in our newly renovated FLC and more. All of these activities are scheduled for summer. Help us carry them out with your financial giving.

Do you bank online? You can set up your gifts to be sent automatically whether you are in town or not. Need help with that? Call **Lisa Butts** in the Finance Office at 454-1131.



Prayer Partners
Prayer Room

Partners: SS Leadership

For the month of:

May: Women of Prayer

**Prayer Room Partners:
During morning worship**

May 1	Teresa Bullock
8	Katrina Flowers
15	Helen Ruth Bourgoyne
22	Melinda Grable
29	Austin Jeter

Baptist Women Group Meeting

Baptist Women will meet Tuesday, May 3 at 10:30 a.m. for their group meeting for May.

Coffee and refreshments will be served at 11 a.m. followed by a program about the Mid-South Baptist Association's Opportunity Camp for Memphis refugee children. The speaker will be **Beth Cox**, Opportunity Camp Administrator.

The mission project for May will be donations for children to attend camp. The cost per child is \$175.00.

Please plan to attend and learn more about this special Baptist mission project.



Baptist Women
Group Meeting

Memorials

Given in Memory of:

Given by:

Doris Layne.....	Alan & Margaret Fava
Wes Linder	Mr. Thomas Middleton
Hubert Jarvis	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Burgess
Bob Bracey.....	Dr. Frances Walker

Honoraria

Given in Honor of:

Given by:

Netta Sue McKnight	Ms. Jean Breedlove
Rev. Ray Hatton	Dr. Frances Walker

FBDS's May Events

First Baptist Day School will celebrate their year end finale on May 27. Our theme this year is "Bugs." Our 2s, 3s, and 4s will each sing about different types of bugs. Following the program is a ceremony honoring our Pre-K class, who are off to kindergarten in the fall!

Face painting, popcorn, balloons, petting zoo, train rides and a moon bounce are also on hand to add to the festivities! Families will enjoy a picnic with their child on the front lawn. We will have such a wonderful time celebrating our end of the year finale.

All our thanks go out to all the parents, staff members and children who participated in this event. We look forward to a fun and exciting summer for "Creative Play on the Parkway" starting June 6!!

Women's Retreat



MJMRC Library Corner

Children's Books

- *Mud Tacos* by Mario Lopez
- *Little Teddy Left Behind* by Anne Mangan
- *One More Acorn* by Don Freeman
- *Theatre Shoes* by Noel Streatfield
- *Llama Llama Misses Momma* by Anna Dewdney

Adult's Books

- *Leaving* by Karen Kingsbury
- *In the Company of Others* by Jan Karon
- *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* by Max Anders
- *Heaven is For Real* by Todd Burpo
- *Living Like Jesus* by Ronald J. Sider

4 Uganda Team Report

On Mission in Uganda

March 12-23

Team Summary Report*



Mission accomplished through prayers, thoughts, and support of so many like you. We hope that God's love and compassion for the Ugandans of Restoration Gateway are reflected in this report. Each member of this 23 member team ministered and was ministered to. We have been profoundly touched and changed forever. We sincerely thank each and every one of you and hope to share our personal experiences, stories and pictures with you in the days to come.

We are grateful that:

- 2000 lbs of supplies in 39 checked bags not counting the team's personal luggage were distributed.
- 10 ministries were completed impacting (1375) Ugandans at Restoration Gateway (RG) including:
 - 450 medical cases including one legally blind minister that took a taxi and rode on the back of a scooter 300 miles to get care totally based on faith.
 - 200 dental cases were treated
 - 480 eye glasses fitted
 - 60 orphans (now children of their new RG family) participated in the team's day camp and sports camp that included the construction and dedication of a "30 ft. -high flying eagle team building challenge course."
 - 15 RG teachers and leaders attended the "Innovative Educational Curriculum Workshop."
 - 20 RG home mothers and assistants attended the "Women's Bible Study Workshop."
 - One southern vegetable garden planted (3-acres)
 - 150 Attended daily worship (8 team members helped lead and all team members participated)
 - 100 (approx.) Professions of Faith



* See Saturday, April 9's *Commercial Appeal* article in the Faith and Values section and all photos can be viewed, downloaded or ordered by going to www.walgreens.com/photos and click on "my photos" enter Acc. Name: arkwings2@gmail.com and Password: "mccall2034" click on "go to my photos." You can also get full details about Restoration Gateway at www.restorationgateway.com.

Offering Bearers for May

May 1: **JP Tyner and Patrick Bruno**

May 8: **Justin Jabbour and Ellis Rich**

May 15: **Margot Weslee Cronk and Jessica Weaver**

May 22: **Keith Hopkins and Carson Wright**

May 29: **Callaway and Emmaline Rogers**

Youth Auction May 22

Youth auction slips are available at various locations in the church. The auction will once again help fund youth trips and other programs. Begin to think



how you can support our youth by means of auctioning off lessons, food, materials, etc.

Family Movie Night Showing "Toy Story 3" May 27 at 7:45 p.m.

Begin inviting your neighbors and friends to the watching of this wonderful film on our church lawn. We will use our gigantic, inflatable screen for this showing as well as our big speakers in order to give it a theater-quality effect. Popcorn and lemonade will be available.



Vacation Bible School June 27-July 1

It's "Pandamonium" 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 a signup sheet in the coming days. You can also register online **now** 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! VBS will run June 27 through July 1 from 9 a.m.-noon.



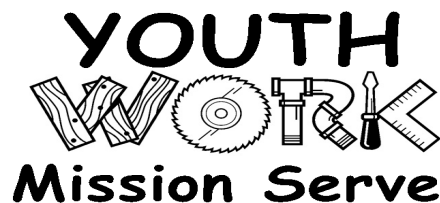
Mission Serve is coming to Memphis!

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 our 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!

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.

