



First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share Yazoo City

JANUARY 2020 • VOLUME 5 • EDITION 1

The end of a year causes us to pause to reflect. The reflection can be good as we see how God worked in and through us and the church, and the reflection can also be humbling and disappointing as we are reminded of times we did not live up to God's expectations for us.

We started 2019 with an emphasis on "Focus" and entered into our Challenge to Grow campaign. We celebrated as over \$1,000,000 was pledged and we recently completed the first step in this process! God blessed a great VBS and camp season, and we baptized more people this calendar year than any other time in at least the past decade! At one point this fall, we had four consecutive weeks of baptisms! Over 60 children continue to receive food for the weekend through the Backpack Ministry, and many of them just received Christmas gifts from you. You continue to be a trendsetter among Mississippi Baptists in missions giving and local missions involvement.

If we are honest with ourselves individually and as a church, there were times this year that we did not take advantage of an opportunity, times that we spoke too soon, times that our motives were not pure, and many other times that we fell short. Pausing to reflect will bring some conviction, where we can wallow in our self-pity or we can acknowledge the wrong and experience a fresh touch of God's grace. The choice is up to each of us, which will lead to how the church responds together.

A time of transition also causes us to pause to reflect. I have attempted to write this article for several days and have so much that I would like to say. There will be time to exchange pleasantries, but know that it has been my honor to serve as your pastor. For me, "I Love Yazoo" was more than a slogan on a shirt and a particular Sunday event; it was who I was and what I did. Some of my greatest moments of fulfillment in 18 years of pastoral ministry occurred on the church van in Shady Lane and a Backyard Bible Club in Yazoo Estates. I will

never forget the many hours my family spent on the softball fields at the complex, often with current church members or those who would eventually become church members. I got to celebrate the arrival of babies, mourn the death of saints, rejoice in the re-birth of new Christians, see spiritual growth in many, and just enjoy living life together. Then there were the Staff Infection and Walmart videos that many would like to forget but continue to live on through the internet!

I now get to encourage Arkansas Baptist churches to minister to their communities, using what I learned during my time here, and I get to encourage pastors to not give up when they feel like they are not making a difference. While I leave, the responsibility of this church to minister to its community does not change, so you must continue to focus on the task at hand. I want to share with you the same things I shared in the newsletter last January to urge you to focus properly.

F- Forward. The past cannot be changed. Rather than spending time this new year on something negative from the past, you must look ahead to the new thing that God wants to do in your life and your church.

O- Opportunities. Every obstacle you face is an opportunity to experience God at work. So is every relationship. And every victory. The opportunities are all around you.

C- Christ. Christ must remain the center of everything you do. Over the next couple of months, I pray that statement becomes more than a sentence on a page. May it be true of your lives.

U- Unity. You must work together with others so that you can have a greater Kingdom impact.

S- Souls. This is the reason you are here! Focus on what Jesus focused on.

In Him,
Bro. Clint



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

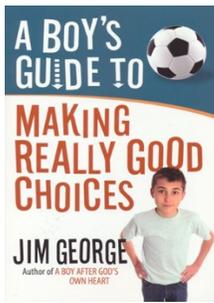
Bro. John Yates

Proverbs 22:6; "Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it."

It's year 2020! That's hard to believe as I speak it and my ears hear. What will it be like? Who's being born...who's leaving this world for the next...lots of questions and often many changes. The commitment FBC has to reach and teach each child does not change. Now parents, I implore you to do your part by getting your children to the church as every opportunity presents itself. You will see in the following article, those opportunities as well a new ones.

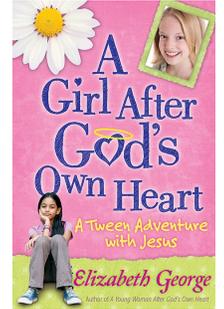


The Spring Semester kicks off on Sunday, January 12th! We've made some adjustments and look forward to teaching and listening to children place God's Word in their hearts. We would love to have you sign up to help...whether in snacks, listening or teaching. Come join us and be a part of a group dedicated to "training up children" in the ways of the Lord.
Sunday, January 12th at 5 pm.



So excited for this new year as our 5th and 6th graders will be beginning a new book study. By now you are familiar with our 5th and 6th grade girls (Polka Dot Girls) that have met each Wednesday evening and led by Missy Helton, assisted by Kelly Ward. This year, they will begin a new book, "A Girl After God's Own Heart. Mom and dad, I don't have to tell you how difficult things are for your "little girl". This study will help them navigate some difficult waters. Please put an emphasis on their attendance each Wednesday, beginning at 6 pm and wrapping up at 7 pm.

For the first time, the 5th and 6th grade boys will have their own book study. Led by Bill McGraw, "A Boy's Guide to Making Really Good Choices", looks closely at obedience, Bible Study, prayer, and on and on. Our boys are ready and asking for this study and I ask that you join me in praying for Bill as he leads these boys to be godly young men.



Wednesday night, Jan 8, Kindergarten through 4th grade will begin a new series, The Game Show. Tune in and put your thinking cap on! It's time for Big Questions, The Game Show that lets kids be the contestants! Get ready for a variety of games to help us learn the answers to some of the biggest questions of the Old Testament.

CHALLENGE to GROW

Given to Date: \$273,169.53



JOIN US FOR A LUNCHEON SUNDAY, JANUARY 5TH HONORING BRO. CLINT RITCHIE & HIS FAMILY FOR THEIR TIME SERVING HERE AT FBC YAZOO.



The Leadership Team is in the process of planning for the Pastor Search Committee and would like your input! Nominations from the church will be taken until January 5, 2020. Boxes for your nominations will be in the front foyer of the sanctuary as well as the entrance of the education building.

When you make your nomination, please remember the qualifications: The Pastor Search Committee will consist of seven members, men and women, who will represent First Baptist Church Yazoo. They should exhibit spiritual maturity, leadership qualities, and a commitment to serving First Baptist Church. The committee should represent all age groups.

If you have questions, please contact one of the members of the Leadership Team:

- Gerry McGraw—Chairman—662.571.3422
- Lori McGraw—662.571.7942
- Jimmy Phillips—662.571.6064
- Richard Pickens—662.571.5921
- Missy Helton—662.571.0464
- Pam McLeod—662.571.2807
- John Donaldson—662.571.1901
- Phil Dixon—601.954.9168

january 2020

Sunday Services
 9:45 am—Sunday School
 11:00 am—Worship Service
 5:00—Beginning Jan 12

Wednesday Services—beginning Jan 8
 6:00 pm—Prayer Meeting, Children's & Student's Bible Study and Ladies Bible Study
 6:45 pm—Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the week: 5—Steve Coody, 12—Phil Dixon, 19—John Donaldson, 26—Benton Hayman			1 	2	3	4 
5 Lunch honoring Bro. Clint & family	6	7	8 Wednesday night activities resume!	9	10	11
12 AWANA Kickoff!	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

WATCH US LIVE ONLINE!
 Sunday morning services are available **LIVE** online. You can watch the service by going to www.fbcyazoo.org and clicking on the "Live Stream" on our home page.



First Baptist Church Yazoo City

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED to PO Box 780 Yazoo City MS 39194

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
FRIDAY - CLOSED

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