



First Baptist Church

Worship, Grow, Serve, & Share Yazoo City

FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME 9 • EDITION 2

Church family,
I have learned when something suddenly comes to mind and keeps on coming to mind – it is usually a good idea to pause and take a look. Many years ago I read a story about a life-saving station. You may have heard this or perhaps not. No one knows for sure who wrote this story. What you read now comes from a book by Charles Swindoll, “Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life.”

“On a dangerous seacoast notorious for shipwrecks, there was a crude little lifesaving station. Actually, the station was merely a hut with only one boat . . . but the few devoted members kept a constant watch over the turbulent sea. With little thought for themselves, they would go out day and night tirelessly searching for those in danger as well as the lost. Many, many lives were saved by this brave band of men who faithfully worked as a team in and out of the lifesaving station. By and by, it became a famous place. Some of those who had been saved as well as others along the seacoast wanted to become associated with this little station. They were willing to give their time and energy and money in support of its objectives. New boats were purchased. New crews were trained. The station that was once obscure and crude and virtually insignificant began to grow. Some of its members were unhappy that the hut was so unattractive and poorly equipped. They felt a more comfortable place should be provided. Emergency cots were replaced with lovely furniture. Rough, hand-made equipment was discarded and sophisticated, classy systems were installed. The hut, of course, had to be torn down to make room for all the additional equipment, furniture, systems, and appointments. By its completion, the life-saving station had become a popular gathering place, and its objectives had begun to shift. It was now used as sort of a clubhouse, an attractive building for public gatherings. Saving lives, feeding the hungry, strengthening the fearful, and calming the disturbed rarely occurred by now.

Fewer members were now interested in braving the sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired professional lifeboat crews to do this work. The original goal of the station wasn't altogether forgotten, however. The lifesaving motifs still prevailed in the club's decorations. In fact, there was a liturgical lifeboat preserved in the Room of Sweet Memories with soft, indirect lighting, which helped hide the layer of dust upon the once-used vessel.

About this time a large ship was wrecked off the coast and the boat crews brought in loads of cold, wet, half-drowned people. They were dirty, some terribly sick and lonely. Others were "different" from the majority of the club members. The beautiful new club suddenly became messy and cluttered. A

special committee saw to it that a shower house was immediately built *outside* and *away from* the club so victims of shipwreck could be cleaned up *before* coming inside.

At the next meeting there were strong words and angry feelings, which resulted in a division among the members. Most of the people wanted to stop the club's lifesaving activities and all involvements with shipwreck victims . . . (“it's too unpleasant, it's a hindrance to our social life, it's opening the door to folks who are not *our kind*”). As you'd expect, some still insisted upon saving lives, that this was their primary objective—that their only reason for existence was ministering to *anyone* needing help regardless of their club's beauty or size or decorations. They were voted down and told if they wanted to save the lives of various kinds of people who were shipwrecked in those waters, they could begin their own lifesaving station down the coast! They did.

As years passed, the new station experienced the same old changes. It evolved into another club . . . and yet another lifesaving station was begun. History continued to repeat itself . . . and if you visit that coast today you'll find a large number of exclusive, impressive clubs along the shoreline owned and operated by slick professionals who have lost all involvement with the saving of lives.

Shipwrecks still occur in those waters, but now most of the victims are not saved. Every day they drown at sea, and so few seem to care . . . so very few.

Do you?”

Can you hear them? Hundreds of souls are crying out in Yazoo City, County, neighborhoods, schools, perhaps even in our own circles of family and friends. They are crying out, “do you care, I have no more hope, is God real, is there any worthy reason to keep on living, etc.” May the message they hear from the people of FBC in 2024 be this – “yes, God cares, and so do we!” We don't just tell them. We show them. Come. Grow in your walk with God. Get equipped to lead others to trust in Jesus. Get trained to lead a new believer to be an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ! Another “Becoming a Disciple Maker” class just began last Sunday, January 28, at 3:30 p.m. It is not too late to join the class and it will be easy to catch up! We would love to have you join us on this amazing journey!

Byron

Man, we had a great time at the TUC Conference in Arkansas on January 27th. I'm so looking forward to how our students will be able to put into action the things they have learned from this conference, as well as, Winter Reset that took place at Parkview on January 12-13th. And now summer will be here before we know it!! We will kick up on fundraisers starting this month with a lunch event that I will cover in our parent meeting. One



WATCH PARTY
youth

SUPER BOWL
February 11, 2024 | Tiki's House | 5:00pm

of the goals we are looking to achieve is for our students to be fully funded by the beginning of summer! There will be multiple fundraising events, so I pray you'll join in our efforts! I'm so grateful for all you all do to support our Students. Would you be praying as to how God would have you to be involved in the student ministry this year?

- Tiki

| The Story of the Worship Pastor | Once upon a time there was a worship pastor whose heart's desire was to see people moved by wonderful instrumental melodies and beautiful flowing lyrics and as a result, these people would open their hearts and souls to the Lord's voice. Nothing but pure submission.

There were those before him who stated their concerns. "You do not want to open yourself up to that", they said. He thanked them for caring then proceeded to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance.

As he settled in he knew that he had a monumental task before him and also knew the average consumer would never understand. He pulled out his legal pad and pencil then began praying, "Lord, what do you have for us this week?" There were those who would ask; "how hard can it be to pick out some songs to sing." He knew different. This task could take a day or three depending on the voice of the Lord and even when completed he would look at the list and pray that what was selected was truly God-pleasing choices.

The day came. Our Sabbath. Sunday was here and excitement and anticipation filled his heart. What he didn't know was the people that had been sitting in the same spot for 35, 45, even 55 years, had been carefully reading over the bulletin and order of worship and immediately forming their own opinions, without bathing those thoughts in prayers. "I don't know a single song!", one exclaimed. Another said; "I don't know how we are supposed to sing that so fast and with the words on the wall and all...ugh."

As the worship pastor read the expressions on each face, his heart broke. "This is not what this is supposed to be about, is it?" Well, not to worry because the choir has been working on this special anthem for several weeks. And working really hard. Their faithfulness in long rehearsals will pay off he feels certain. The anthem filled the auditorium, each part blending with the next in beautiful harmony. "I remember when there were 50 people in that choir loft, don't you?" asked one. Another responded; "I wonder what he's done to have so many that used to sing, sit out on Sundays?" "I really do like the choir anthems they used to sing in the glory days." "Ahhh, yes, the glory days. Truly a wonderful time", someone else chimed in. By now it is time for the second set of worship songs. "Lord, show Yourself through this set. Let Your glory fill this place." "That song had some nice words but presented itself more like a funeral dirge, don't you think?" one said. "Oh, I didn't think so at all, actually. And it was right out of scripture", another said.

As the worship pastor continues, he tries to focus on those who are totally engaged. Some singing with a smile, some wiping a tear, others singing with hands raised in total surrender. Yet...there are those whose faces smirked, begin sitting down.

Oh that everyone in attendance could have a time with the Lord, before ever arriving, and ask Him to speak clearly. Hebrews 12:1-2; "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

"Thank you for worship today," one said as they walked out today. "God clearly spoke to me and I know He was working through you and using you today." **To God be the glory! May it always be.**



January Budget Offering

Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Online Gifts
\$13,305	\$6,545	\$12,993	\$37,353	\$13,863

Gifts were received for the following designated funds:

- Backpacks of Hope in memory Kenny Shurley*
- Backpacks of Hope in memory of Sid Burrough*
- Children's Ministry in memory of Pat Langley*



Our kids ministry to start the year has been great! Our ministry staff and volunteers have been really encouraged by the way our kids continue to learn and grow. Not to mention the never-ending amounts of energy and excitement we see every week! Thank you so much for your continued support and investment in our kids ministry and for your consistency in pouring into your own children!

This past month on Sunday mornings the kids have been going through the beginning of the church, following the book of Acts through "The Gospel Project". We've learned about the Holy Spirit and how God used the Holy Spirit to help the early disciples start the Christian church and how we have the same Holy Spirit today! We can gain his power in our own lives when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. This month we will continue to go through the book of Acts and learn how God grew and used his disciples to start the early church that we know today.



Sunday nights, in K4C (Kids 4 Christ) we've been going through the story of Moses and the Israelites in Exodus. WE have been learning about the faithfulness of God and that He is trustworthy. This month we will continue to learn from the Israelites in Exodus and examine the trustworthy character of God!

Wednesday nights at "Elevate" we have started and continue with the "Upside Down Town" series. We learn how people today like to live their lives upside-down and as Christians we are called to live our lives right-side up, covering topics in January like forgiveness. With the help of our wonderful volunteers we've learned how even when it's hard to forgive others, the Lord calls us to forgive no matter what because Christ forgives us infinite amounts when we sin. This month we are excited to learn about kindness and worry and how we as Christians work on and handle those topics.



Important Notes:

Please prayerfully consider volunteering on Sunday morning with our kids preschool and for our extended session. Also, mark your calendars because VBS this year will be from June 10-14! Be prepared to sign up and help for that week!
-Noah

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY (55+)

BIRTHDAY BASH

There will be food & fun!

FEBRUARY 27TH | NOON

BRING A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT!
TICKETS ARE \$1!

SEE PAULETTE KILPATRICK OR
CONTACT JESSICA TO PURCHASE!

LYSA TERKEURST
#1 New York Times Bestselling Author of *Uninvited*

wednesday night
Ladies Bible Study
with Amy Bradford

**FORGIVING
WHAT YOU
CAN'T
FORGET**

*Beginning
Wednesday,
February 7th!
6pm*

DISCOVER HOW TO MOVE ON, MAKE PEACE
WITH PAINFUL MEMORIES, AND CREATE A LIFE
THAT'S BEAUTIFUL AGAIN

BACKPACKS OF HOPE

**WE NEED REGULAR-SIZED
BOXES OF KID FRIENDLY
CEREL AGAIN! ALMOST SPRING
BREAK TIME!**

**Current need:
single-serve ravioli,
vienna sausages, beef
sticks, & cheese
crackers**

*We'll take up a
special offering
for Gideon's
International
on Sunday,
February 18th.*

February 2024

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

LifeGroups—9:40am
Worship—10:50am
K4C & Adult Bible Study—5pm
Youth—5:30pm

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Men's Prayer Breakfast—6:30am
Supper—5:15pm
Youth, Elevate Kids, & Prayer Meeting—6pm
Choir Rehearsal—6:50

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deacon of the Week: 7—Phil Dixon, 14—Larry Davis, 21—David Eden, 28—Van Foster				1	2	3
4 Deacon's Meeting—3pm	5	6	7 Ladies Bible Study w/ Amy starts 6pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Gideon Sunday!	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Senior Adult Ministry Birthday Bash @ noon	28	29		

WATCH US LIVE ONLINE SUNDAYS AT 10:50!

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. We are also Live on Facebook each week!



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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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