

# The Evangel

MARCH 2014

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST JACKSON



FIRST BAPTIST  
JACKSON

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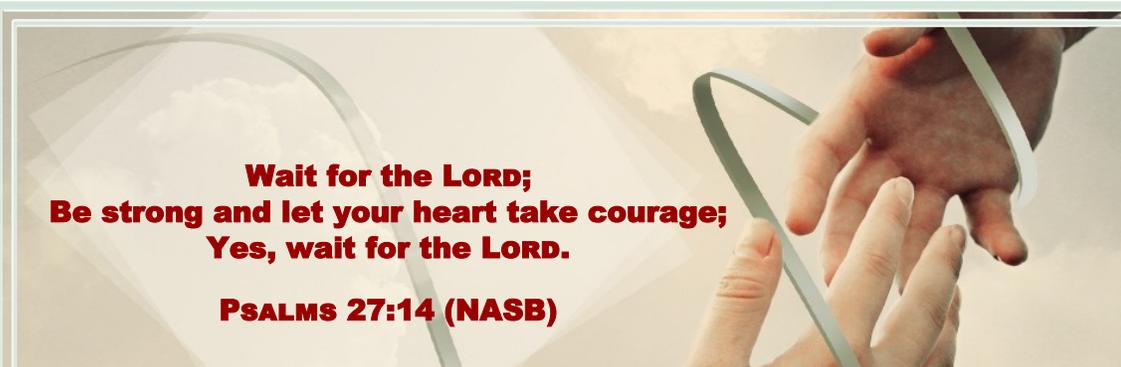
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**Wait for the LORD;  
Be strong and let your heart take courage;  
Yes, wait for the LORD.**

**PSALMS 27:14 (NASB)**

January 20th was the day that the first hammer was swung and the renovations to our facility began. And now, nearly two months later, the sanctuary and foyer are taking shape. Though a little frustrating and inconvenient at times, this is proving to be an exciting season for our church and the future of it.

In scripture, when Jesus was raised from the dead, the disciples hung onto the promise Christ had left them; I am leaving, yet I will return. They were scared, hiding, praying and expectantly waiting on His return. It's with that same expectant hope that we should keep our focus on our vision and patiently wait on the Lord to reveal Himself through exponential growth.

To prepare for that growth, the goal of our updated facility is to create an atmosphere that is welcoming, authentic and most importantly, a place that people can cultivate a strong, life-changing relationship with the Savior. We need to keep in mind that our church building is merely a tool that we can use to expand God's Kingdom, but the real growth begins in the hearts of the believers as we humble ourselves, pray and present our lives as a sacrifice to God. An inevitable adjustment that we will have to make to our sanctuary is the repurposing

of our occasional dedicated flowers or items. In the past we were able to place flowers in honor or remembrance of your loved ones on the communion table in the front of the sanctuary. With the new stage design, there is no proper place to display them. It is important to honor those that made a lasting impact on our church family, therefore, any flowers or items that are meant for honor will need to be placed in the Sunday School class in which they were involved or that you are a part. Though, if you would rather, a monetary gift honoring your loved one can be made to the mission and ministries of First Baptist Jackson, in their name.

As renovations come to completion and we begin to see a final picture come into focus, may we be filled with excitement and become energized with the expectant hope that God will use our church building, our church family and our individual lives to bring Him glory. Let us encourage each other to wait on the Lord, with patient expectation, and fervent prayer.

Josh Hensley



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead  
one hour Saturday night, March 8th.**

# A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

Let me begin by saying, “Wow!” God is accomplishing great things through the ministry of First Baptist Jackson. The remodel of the sanctuary is underway with the hopes of completing the project within the next few weeks. After the completion we will announce a time to celebrate what God has done at First Baptist Jackson. The leadership, deacon body, followed by the church, also approved to focus on remodeling and updating our children’s area with the ideas of security, fun, and engaging the next generation for the cause of Jesus Christ. We live in a very different world than a decade ago requiring that we go above and beyond concerning reaching the next generation and security issues related to keeping our children safe. Another blessing of our church is the move to a two-service format.

Sunday, February 23rd, we started a two-service morning worship format. After reviewing the services, we realize the sound quality, the balance of instruments, the music, the lighting, and many other details are not where we hope to be within a month or so. We plan to balance the sound, volume, and instrumentation much better as we move forward. So remember to be patient and realize both services are a work in progress. On the flip side, the change of the service was a great success with a 9% increase in the Sunday Morning Worship attendance. I understand that those numbers will fluctuate, stabilize and with the Lord’s blessing, grow even more.

Serving as the Senior Pastor allows me sort of an insider’s look at the people of First Baptist Jackson. With an insider’s look, I am simply overwhelmed at the vast amount of positive, affirming, and uplifting comments that I hear on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. From the precious senior adults who stop me after service to let me know how proud they are of their church for focusing on reaching the next generation, to the young parents with beaming smiles on their faces because they are glad their children will have a safe and fun environment to learn about our Lord and Savior. From the Ministerial

Staff Team, who embody the passion for the future of the church, to Sunday school teachers and deacons, who just throw their arms around my neck with hugs letting me know they are overjoyed that God is reviving First Baptist Jackson.

Your excitement for the future is contagious. I am glad to work alongside a church with such great love for one another and unity in fellowship. I can hear and sense a great unified voice rising in our church family and boldly declaring: “We will reach the next generation!” With the declaration, I believe your voice is the voice of Jesus Christ crying, “The Spirit and Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of Life without price” (Revelation 22:17). Let’s be a church that opens our arms to our community and says, “Come.” I would encourage all of you to continue being the positive, mission-minded, evangelistic, Christ-honoring, voice of God.

Also, I would encourage you to be the voice that calls for us to reach children. One of the only times in Scripture when Jesus becomes “angry” is when His disciples turn children away (Mark 10:13). What a sobering thought to know when we disregard children, God becomes angered toward us. Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the Kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.” (Mark 10:14-16) I am so proud that our church has chosen to “bless” the children as Jesus did.

Lucas Clabough

## REMINDER

**This will be the last time the Evangel will be sent through the mail. From this point on, the Evangel will be primarily available on our new website, Facebook, church email list, and through our Welcome Center.**

**The Evangel WILL be mailed to shut-ins, hospitalized, and nursing home residents.**



# Letters from the Staff



## Worship and Media Ministry

In the last few weeks, the worship and media ministry here at First Baptist Jackson has expanded and accelerated in growth, involvement and opportunity. With going to the two service format, we are now able to provide many chances for our members to serve Jesus Christ with their creative gifts and talents.

With the renovations, we now have the capability to project images, record video, and offer high definition (HD) multimedia to our church body and our community. We have launched a new website ([www.firstbaptistjackson.tv](http://www.firstbaptistjackson.tv)) and are keeping up-to-date on our Facebook page. It's a fact that the young families we are trying to reach will check out our Facebook page and website long before they even step foot through our doors.

In the next few weeks, we will iron out the new sound and lighting features of our services, and ask that you give much grace to our volunteers. We also will provide a high definition video recording of our weekly sermons, available on our new website and in a DVD format, upon request.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, once again, for allowing me to be a part of this amazing church body. I am extremely excited as to what the future brings as we strive for excellence in everything that we do. May God be glorified!

Josh Hensley

## Senior Adult Ministry

Most of our chatting is done through the Senior Moments Newsletter, but I did want to remind you of a few upcoming March events. This month's **S.A.M. breakfast** will be held March 12 at 8:30 in fellowship hall. (*Check the SM for menu, theme & activities info*). On Thursday, March 20, we are planning a "Welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring" **Day Trip to Giant City Lodge** (*family style Chicken Dinner, drink, dessert, gratuity & travel: \$20.*) The bus will leave from the church parking lot at 10 a.m. and return by 4. You may sign-up on office door or call the church office.

*Other senior notes:* Payment is due for the April Branson Trip (\$385 per person) and the May Senior Camp-out retreat (\$135.50 per site). Again, refer to your Senior Moments for additional information & details or call me at church- 243-8415 or home- 243-4635.

## Children's Ministry

Starting this weekend, we are launching our new Children's Sunday School and Worship for grades K through 6th! When you drop your kids off at 9:45 am, you won't need to pick them up until after the Modern Worship Service (11:00 am).

We will begin *The Gospel Project for Kids*, a three-year chronological study of scripture, by Lifeway. Each week's study will build upon the previous week, and we can't wait to help boys and girls to discover the big picture of God's story.

Each week we will use dramatic story-telling, interactive games, and multimedia to make Bible stories come to life. We will spend time worshipping through music & motions, as well as learning about missions. Kids will be provided a mid-morning snack. In order to begin securing our children's area, we ask that you please bring your child to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the educational wing and sign them in.

If you would like to help with the children's ministry, feel free to contact me, or fill out the tear-off portion of the bulletin and put it in the offering plate. I am in need of people who love kids and desire to invest in their lives and faith. Thanks!

Lindsey Hutson



## Personnel Committee

- The Personnel Committee has completed additional interviews this past week with the top candidates for the position of full-time Minister of Students and Missions. Please pray that God will show us, without any doubts, the person He wants to lead our youth and college ministries.
- The church affirmed Mary Pearson as part-time Administrative Assistant at the last business meeting. Mary's help in the office has been invaluable. In addition, Mary has a great heart for ministry and is involved at Trinity Baptist Church, St. Marys, where her husband, Adam, serves as Senior Pastor.
- The Personnel Committee has temporarily hired Tonya Schwartz to fill the part-time Financial Secretary position. We will be presenting her for affirmation at the March business meeting. She has church financial and accounting experience, as well as, other non-profit accounting experience. We are blessed to have found such a qualified candidate.

### STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

# First Impressions Ministry

**“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”**

**Colossians 4:5 (NIV)**

Do you remember what it was like the first time you walked through the doors of First Baptist Jackson? Were you nervous? Did you know where to go? Perhaps you came with family or friends? Or maybe you came by your own accord and had no idea where to go or even what you were doing stepping foot inside a church. This may have even been your first time coming to a church.

Did you know that five percent of people who attend church on a Sunday morning have never set foot in a church? It would make sense that the “First Impression” of the church is to receive the best experience possible, right?

The First Impressions Ministry has been created to help current visitors feel a sense of warmth and welcome as they step through our doors. We want them to know they are welcome in this church, that they know where to go, where to take their children, where to get a cup of coffee and interact with fellow members, and most importantly, that Jesus loves them and desires a relationship with them.

Many people may think that something as small as a greeting ministry doesn't have an impact on the way that a person views Jesus, but in this culture, it definitely does. At FBJ, we want people to know immediately about the life changing love that Christ has given us, and the easiest way to do that is to reciprocate it! We want visitors to feel welcomed the minute they walk through the door, and allow them to experience firsthand the love and hospitality that FBJ has to offer.

A First Impressions Training Workshop will be held Sunday, March 16, for anyone interested in becoming a part of this ministry. There are areas for EVERYONE to participate in, from door greeters, to coffee brewers, to parking lot and welcome desk attendants, to children's area escorts. If you are interested in participating in this ministry or obtaining more information, meet in the fellowship hall directly following the 11am service on Sunday, March 16. Lunch will be provided. Contact Heather Hensley for more details.

### Financial and Attendance Information

# Ministry Schedules

## March 2014

### Preschool Ministry

Date	Toddlers	Bed Babies
Sunday, March 9	Kati Miinch/Larissa Petzdoldt (Morning) Devin Mauk (Night)	Diane Miinch (Morning) Avis Bollinger (Night)
Wednesday, March 12	Angie Kelly	Jessie Breckenridge
Sunday, March 16	Tracy and Emily Smith (Morning) Diana Prince (Night)	Jeannie McCord (Morning) Conna Pate (Night)
Wednesday, March 19	Bev Nelson	Judy Johnson
Sunday, March 23	David and Kristi Black (Morning) Jean Norman (Night)	Rona Mallard and Kim Williams (Morning) Clarinda Unger (Night)
Wednesday, March 26	Angie Kelly	Sharon Frankum
Sunday, March 30	Tim and Cindy Huey (Morning) Janie Owens (Night)	Sharon Frankum and Kirstin Huey (Morning) Anita Seivers (Night)
Wednesday, April 2	Jean Norman	Sandra O'Loughlin
Sunday, April 6	Cassandra and Kendra Bollinger (Morning) Kim Williams (Night)	Avis Bollinger and Clarice Jones (Morning) Heather Hensley (Night)

### Youth Breakfast Cooks

March 7	Hurst
March 14	Nelson and Watson
March 21	NO SCHOOL
March 28	Hurst

### Sunday Van Ministry

March 2	Arvie Odom, CDL	344-4361
March 9	Marilyn Hamilton, CDL	243-5185
March 16	Dennis Hurst, Van	243-2148
March 23	Darrell Kuntze, Van	833-6620
March 30	Jim Litzelfelner, CDL	270-5350

### Wednesday Night Meals-Fellowship Hall

Serving time is **5:00 pm** for attendees of Wednesday night ministries or committees that may be meeting. All others will be served at **5:15 pm**. Take-outs will be ready at **5:30 pm**.

**Prices: \$3 per person, children under 5 are free.**

Please call the church office by noon on Monday for reservations and/or cancellations.

<b>March 5</b> Chili/ Vegetable Beef Soup Hotdogs, Veggies And Dessert	<b>March 12</b> Fried Chicken Veggies, Salad, Rolls and Dessert	<b>March 19</b> Meatloaf Slaw, Veggies, Roll And Dessert	<b>March 26</b> Chicken Spaghetti Salad, Garlic Bread And Dessert
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# MISSIONS | highlight

**A**s we prepare our hearts to pray for North American Missionaries and give to the Annie Armstrong Missions offering, we will focus this Evangel issue on a missionary couple named Patrick and Archalena Coats who serve in Homestead, in the southernmost part of Miami, Florida.

Patrick grew up in a family of preachers but wasn't interested in being a pastor. After feeling God's call and spending a great deal of time in prayer, he and his wife surrendered, and he quickly became an assistant in his church.

They looked at their multicultural city and felt led to begin a Bible study in a theater building, which was a non-threatening place for unchurched people. Forty people attended the first night and from this small start the Kingdom Covenant Church was established.

Patrick says, "The church's vision is loving God, loving people". He believes that we must live out the Great Commission as we do life naturally. Patrick's work with the North American Mission Board is to serve as a church planter catalyst and pastor. He also leads others through Urban Impact Ministries in Miami to reach out with the gospel.

Please join us in praying for this couple and their request that more people would catch the vision of church planting, and that they would be good witnesses in a natural way.

**Patrick and Archalena Coats**  
Church Planter Catalyst/Pastor  
Kingdom Covenant Church  
Homestead, Florida



## Other Weekly Prayer Needs:

### Week 2:

Our missionary friends Paul and Robin Tinley who serve as International Missionaries in Venezuela have requested pray for Christians there because of a higher degree of violence and repression growing in the country. They ask we pray for God's will in Venezuela, and for peace and security. Please pray for this couple and their co-workers too.

### Week 3:

Let's pray together this week for our International Missionaries in Lesotho. Jim and Teressa Flora and their children serve in the Maluti Mountains among the Basotho people. Pray for their health, strength, and God's power as they reach out in the villages with the gospel.

A young couple appointed a year ago have joined the Floras, JB and Liz Bundrick. They asked us to pray for two females to join them in this difficult work as journeymen.

### Week 4:

North American Missionaries Alan and Babs Dial with two young sons moved to Tok, Alaska a few months ago to begin work with the indigenous native people, The Athabaskens. They are focusing on five of the villages. Please pray for them to be accepted and be able to begin Bible studies in these areas. Ask God to open hearts and minds to the Gospel message. Pray for encouragement for this family as they live in a harsh climate. Ask God to protect and encourage them and meet their needs. Pray for the missions center they hope to open.

### Girls in Action celebrate their founding in 1913 with GA Reunions!

A GA Reunion is being planned in the near future for any women who were members of a GA organization (in this church or others) in the past. Please contact Barbara Popp by phone (243-2560) or e-mail: [bpoppwmu@att.net](mailto:bpoppwmu@att.net). Include your name, the church where you were a GA....and your phone number.

Join us as we Celebrate this 100th anniversary of a missions organization that touches and influences girls for the rest of their lives!



## PROJECT HELP: Human Exploitation

Every day we are faced with decisions of what to do when unpleasant topics come our way. We can turn and run the other way or we can face our fears and take a step forward in faith believing God will guide us.

National WMU has done just that. In 2010, we began the journey with Project Help: Human Exploitation. Our local church WMU struggled with this topic. It is not easy to raise awareness about something so ugly and scary. We think it is not happening in our area, our state, our nation. We think it happens in some other nation. We all need to wake up: It is here.

Some of you may remember approximately a year ago, WMU gave our church family information on different types of human exploitation through Program inserts. As a reminder, WMU's definition of human exploitation is the unethical, selfish use of human beings for the satisfaction of personal desires and/or profitable advantage.

The issues of human exploitation include:

- Exploiting and misusing God's natural resources for personal gain
- Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Queen-Bee bullying
- Human Trafficking for labor or sex
- Media's exploitation of children and families
- Pornography and sexting

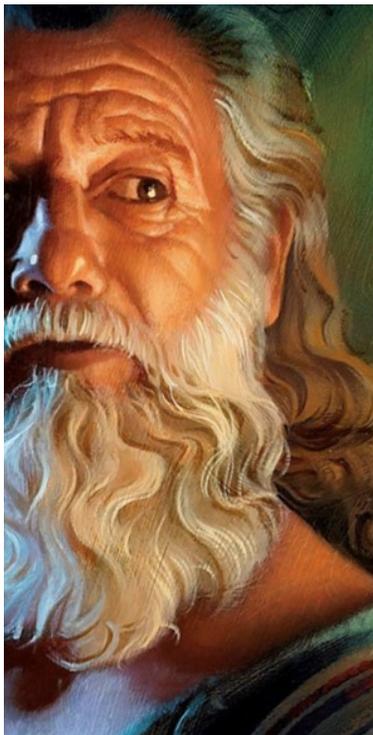
Why should God's people be involved in addressing these issues? Because this is where the church needs to be, addressing issues that affect the wellbeing of God's natural resources, and the people whom He created.

As all the WMU age-levels have continued to learn more about Human Exploitation over the past year, additional information has come to light of the human trafficking industry not just in our nation, but in our State of Missouri. Human Trafficking is a \$32 billion dollar industry where 1.2 million children nationwide are trafficked every year. The average age of sex trafficking victims in America is 11-14 and some 20+ mental health issues face these victims. Just 2 hours away, St Louis is considered a "hub" for human trafficking because of its location to interstate highways, air and rail transportation.

During the weeks of March, WMU will share additional information through our Sunday School classes about 2 agencies (ICA and Missouri Baptist Children's Home) who have partnered to open the first safe home in the United States, in St Louis, for domestic victims of sex trafficking. This safe home opened on Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. It is an unpleasant topic, but thankfully God is providing a way for victims to receive help.

As with all unpleasant topics and decisions, we must ask ourselves: will we turn and run the other way? OR will we face our fears and take a step forward in faith believing God will guide us. I believe we are stepping forward in faith, and God will guide us to take some action. Stay tuned for what that might be.

Let us remember Proverbs 31:8, "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves."



  
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# EXPERIENCING GOD

Women's Bible Study  
Every Wednesday @ 6 pm

If you plan on being a part of this study, please contact Rona Mallard or the First Baptist Jackson church office.  
Study books are available through Lifeway.

## Options for Women

Opening soon in Cape Girardeau!

Options for Women is a pregnancy resource center that understands that a woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy may face some of the most difficult decisions she will ever make.

The First Baptist Jackson church family is encouraged to bring diapers (newborn and size 1) and wipes to support the ministry as they reach out to young women and help them know of other options besides abortion. Women on Mission will be collecting items through the end of March. Place items in the collection baskets near the church office hallway.

For additional information about *Options for Women*, Contact Rick Williams or Cindy Huey

## CHURCH INFORMATION

### **Lucas Clabough**

Senior Pastor

### **Josh Hensley**

Minister of Worship and Media

### **Jean Schweain**

Senior Adult Ministry

### **Lindsey Hutson**

Director of Children's Ministries

[www.firstbaptistchurch.tv](http://www.firstbaptistchurch.tv)

Church Office: (573) 243-8415  
FAX (573) 243-2730

Email: [fbcj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fbcj@sbcglobal.net)



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## Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY:           8:30 am - Blended Worship  
                      9:45 am - Sunday School  
                      11:00 am - Modern Worship  
                      6:00 pm - Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY:       5 pm - Fellowship Meal  
                      6 pm - Bible Studies/Prayer

**This will be the last time The Evangel will be mailed!**



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