

The Evangel

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST JACKSON

OCTOBER 2014



Is our FOCUS the Gospel?

IN THIS ISSUE

Updates from the Staff

Page 2 & 3

Missions Highlight

Page 4

Financial and Attendance Update

Page 5

Can you hear me now?

Communications Update

Page 5

Upcoming Events

Page 8



FIRST BAPTIST
JACKSON

The year was 1806, the month was July, and the date was the 19th, the first permanent Baptist church west of the Mississippi was established. You know the church because the church is ingrained in your history and even your spiritual life. In 1806, Old Bethel formed for the purpose of “propagating the gospel message of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Consider this thought, “God began Old Bethel Church.” Now consider this thought, while the “Old Bethel” building does not have a worship gathering, the church continues. The church continues because in 1824, a small team of mission-minded believers from Old Bethel Baptist Church traveled 1 1/2 miles north (up the creek) to the new little community of Jackson.

Allow the picture to seep down in your mind. God began a work at Old Bethel; and God continues the same work through the ministry of First Baptist Jackson. In fact, God has begun a good work and God will continue a good work until the day of Jesus. The good work dates back before 1806, the work dates all the way back to Jesus standing on the Mount of Olive and telling His Apostles, “God therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28). God’s work begins with missions, continues missions, and ends with missions!!!

On Sunday morning, as a congregation, we have been studying the book of Philippians. The Apostle Paul wrote the Epistle to a ten-year-old church at Philippi, around A.D. 61, to remind them to have confidence in God’s mission. When Paul wrote the letter, the church at Philippi faced internal dangers: disunity, conflict, worldly mentalities, and shortsighted pursuits. God tells the believers to take a step back and build confidence. Confidence assures, God began a work in you, is continuing a work in you, and will complete the work in you. Also, God began a work in this church; God is continuing a work in this church, and God will complete a work at this church.

Paul writes, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:3-6).

Paul was certain that God’s work would continue through believer’s growth in the gospel and the church’s dedication to the proclamation of the gospel. Philippi was a church focused on the gospel. The church partnered as a “fellowship of the gospel” (1:4), struggles were viewed as “confirmation of the gospel” (1:7), circumstances were governed by God for the “furtherance of the gospel” (1:12), with boldness they chose to stand in “defense of the gospel” (1:17), their lifestyles were conducted in a manner “worthy of the gospel” (1:27), and they lived with the “faith of the gospel” (1:27).

While studying the book of Philippians how can we not ask, “Are we a gospel focused church?” Is the gospel larger than our personal preferences? Does the gospel drive us to be externally focused? Is God’s mission the actual focus of our fellowship as a church? I know the ministerial staff and I are excited to see how God is developing First Baptist Jackson as a church focused on the gospel. Each Sunday, the Lord is bringing new believers and seekers to hear His message. In addition, the block parties were a massive statement to the community around as that we love Jackson, we want them to know God, and we are willing to come to where they are! So, with confidence know that God has called you to be a part of a church focused on the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

PASTOR LUCAS CLABOUGH
Senior Pastor

UPDATES from the staff

Student Ministry

September has been a very busy month for the student ministry as we been the first ones on the ground for the block parties by canvassing the neighborhood the Wednesday before the block parties. The students have done an excellent job over the past few weeks in getting the word out and have gone to over 300 homes in the effort to get to know our neighbors and invite them to the block party we have the privilege of hosting in the various neighborhoods. While completing these tasks we have also been involved in 5th quarters with many other students in our community. During the month of October our focus shifts slightly back to Bible Studies and pushing to students to deepen the faith that God has given them, which prayerfully will lead to more efforts in evangelism.

Dates to Plan for and Remember in October

- October 12th - Students will gather with the adults in worship. Andrew Abbott, Baptist Campus Minister @ the Lighthouse SEMO, will bring the message.
- October 26th - Fall Parents lunch and meeting for all children, students and parents. There will be child care for children kindergarten and under. We will talk about the coming year's camp, mission opportunities and bible studies. Those parents attending the meeting will be put into a drawing for a discount on camp.
- All Fridays in October that school is in session The Student Breakfast is held at the Bridge beginning at 7 AM. Transportation is provided to the Junior High School.
- November 1st - Assist children's ministry with The Fall Festival.
- Sunday Nights in October will focus on helping the students know, prepare, and share their testimony.
- Wednesday Nights Worship during October will focus on Prayer.

Missions

This past month we have taken the gospel out to our community. God has opened numerous doors that have allowed us to be on the ground showing the Love of Christ, rather than just talking about it. As we read and study Scripture, this is what God desires of us individual believers and as a local church. Pastor Francis Chan once told the story about using logic to play this topic out to everyday life and how we would respond in real world situations to our view of this command of Scripture... his story went like this. "If I tell my daughter to go clean her room I expect her to go and clean her room. She would be disobedient if she went upstairs for a few hours and returned back to the living room without actually cleaning her room. This would be the case even if she qualified it by saying, 'well I didn't clean my room, but I have a study group on how to clean my room scheduled for next week, or I spend 4 hours praying about cleaning my room to see if that's really what you wanted me to do, or even I know how to clean my room and

have studied the original languages and broke the command down in all of the participles." Pastor Chan then stated, "Even if she had done all of that the command given was still broken because the room remained dirty."

Churches in today's world do not like to imagine or talk about being disobedient to the commands of God, however, if we are not actually fulfilling the command of God we are in fact disobeying God. No matter how much we study, or break it down, our command is still to go. This can be accomplished in many, many different ways and I would ask you to seek God and to identify your God given passions and talents and then apply yourself to the command of God within your family, our church, and our world.

As we focus on being the hands and feet of Jesus we search for practical ways to serve the community around us. Often this happens around the natural gathering of people. Oct. 31 or Halloween is a great time to do that very thing. Traditionally the idea has been for churches to host an event on the night of Halloween to draw people in from the community. Though this has proven somewhat successful our fall festival that will be held on Saturday, November 1st will accomplish this. On the night of Halloween we have the opportunity to either have numerous people come to our door, or we are able to take our children to the homes of numerous people. With this idea in mind we have ordered 2000 "Life Books" which is the Gospel of John, along with small bags that you and your family can sign up to receive the week before Halloween. The big idea is for you to take as many bags you will need to pass out candy if your house is a place that Trick or Treaters visit. This bag will be given to you with information about our church and the Gospel of John. All you will need to do is to put your candy in it and hand it to people as they come to your door! Prayerfully this will open the door for a gospel conversation. If you are someone that goes trick or treating you will also be asked to take the bags with you and after your children have received candy from a homeowner simply give them a back in return.

Church is a very simple way to continue to "Go" and to deliver the Good News. You will see signup sheets in your Sunday School Classes, the bulletin, and online in the next couple of weeks. Please begin to pray for this mission effort.

College

College age students (18-25) : The Deadline to Sign up and pay a deposit for the Passion Conference is right around the corner! OCTOBER 1st is the deadline to sign up for and pay a \$50.00 deposit to reserve your spot for the largest Christian conference for college age students. Mark your calendars for the deadline and for the conference held Jan. 2nd - 4th 2015 in Atlanta Georgia. Total cost includes conference tickets, transportation, hotels and is only 200.00. Payment plans can be set up at \$50.00 per month from October to January if needed. Be a part of a conference that will expose you to great worship, great preachers, and a great time spent with THOUSANDS of other college students! See Pastor John for any other details.

PASTOR JOHN CHIDESTER
Minister of Students and Missions



FALL FESTIVAL 2014
November 1st
2 pm—4 pm

Would you like to help reach our community by working at our Fall Festival? There will be sign up sheets in each Sunday School class and on the information board located in the office hallway. If you have questions, call Kari Kitchen, Children's Ministry Director.

MISSIONS | highlight

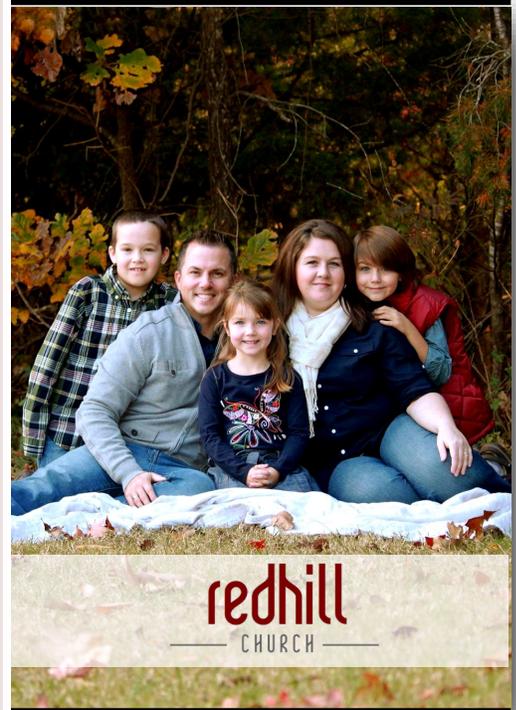
Pastor Rayden Hollis, Lead Pastor of Redhill Church in Edwardsville, IL is in partnership with the Send Network Church Planting of NAMB. Pastor Rayden is in the early stages of developing the Redhill Church and a team that will staff and carry on the vision of the church. Our own pastors, here at First Baptist Jackson, have begun a partnering relationship with Pastor Rayden and Redhill Church.

Pastor Rayden's heart is for people and community. His passion is to unapologetically build relationships that draw people to the Lord. One recent tweet on his church's Twitter page said, "Let's develop a bias toward action. Let's do something about the problems in our community. Evaluate effectiveness afterwards."

Redhill Church has yet to launch, but the plan is to be up and reaching the community in 2015. They are in need of prayers and able bodies to help with boosting their presence in the community of Edwardsville.

Church planting here in the United States has increasingly become a focus for the NAMB and will continue to be as our nation searches for truth. Be in prayer for Rayden, the staff at Redhill Church, and that God continues to guide and direct in creating relationships with the people of the Edwardsville area.

Pastor Rayden Hollis—Redhill Church, Edwardsville, IL



community update

Jesus' ministry was one of fulfilling prophesy and setting examples. His sole purpose for being sent to earth was to complete His Father's mission. It was forefront and God's mission was His mission. Jesus constantly developed relationships with people as He lived His daily life. Anyone and everyone with which He came in contact He invested His life into them to teach truth.

With that same focus and mission in mind, God has called His people to continue and complete Christ's mission. During the month of September, First Baptist Jackson's mission was to build relationships with people from the community. Many activities and events were set up to give opportunity to fulfil that mission.

September 11, FBJ fed and ministered to over 80 first responders of the Cape County Community in the Fellowship Hall. State and local officers, EMS, firefighters, and others were all in attendance.

The church successfully prepared plenty of food for those in attendance and also was able to feed 3rd shift employees of the local police department with the left overs. Also, every Sunday night in September, the church held a block party at various locations in the community. It is reported that over 300 homes were contacted and

130 people were ministered to. Many relationships were started among the parties and developed more through follow up cards sent directly to their homes with the information they provided. Even though the special mission focused month has ended with September, be looking for ways to continue to get involved and live a life of mission at all time. Pastor John is building relationships with many organizations and churches, that will allow you to have ample opportunity to serve in the future.



**Peaceful Valley Camp
FALL WORK DAY
OCTOBER 18th, from 8 am—NOON**

Lunch will be provided. Any Questions? Call Doug Simminger @ (573) 837-0660



Jesus clearly told us to “go and teach...in His name.” While it is far more comfortable to remain inside, among friends, doing familiar activities and feelin’ the love, that was NOT the command from Christ. He definitely told us to be “out there” preaching & teaching the gospel message. We know it well...it’s the Great Commission. But for this particular article, I wanted to take a moment to think beyond what He said. What did Jesus do? What physical examples did He set?

First of all, Jesus knew & obeyed God’s law (*not to be confused with all the petty laws of the Pharisees*) and He loved the church. Throughout His earthly ministry He quoted Old Testament passages; He participated in the Jewish holidays; He attended celebrations and observed the Feasts. He loved to hear and to teach the Holy Scripture. *Likewise, by example, Jesus wants us to honor God’s law and love our church; to enjoy its ordinances, its holidays, and its celebrations ...to benefit from worship and to feel His very presence as we study God’s Word.*

Second...Jesus loved His family and His friends. He enjoyed visiting in their homes, sharing a meal, resting, walking, talking, ministering and praying with them. *In like manner, it is good that we enjoy spending time together... visiting over a fellowship meal, ministering to one another’s needs, studying together and sharing the joys & heartaches of life with our FBCJ brothers &*

sisters. Having family, friends and a church family are vital to our well-being.

But (*third*)...most often, Jesus was out among the people; teaching, healing, sharing and ministering to the ones who needed Him most. He loved the “lost” and craved their salvation from sin...all the way to the cross. The tedious part is that before His ascension into heaven, He left it in our hands. We’re the ones responsible to tell this amazing story of sacrifice, grace, redemption and hope for all eternity. *So for us, it boils down to missions, missions, missions. I pray that we will be diligent and always on task with our Father’s Business...everyday & everywhere...so that in the end, we will not be looking back with regret over things we failed to do. He holds us accountable!!*

I love God’s Word & the study of it... I love my family... I love my friends... I love my church!!! These are all good...but I know I have been called to “go even beyond” all of these. I must also love & care outside my circle... outside my comfort zone. Help me Lord to hear your calling, to obey your command, and to follow your example. Amen.

JEAN SCHWEAIN
Senior Adult Director

This is my first time writing as the Children’s Ministry Director. Over the last few two months, I have had the privilege of beginning my position as the interim director. I want to thank the church for the warm welcome as I joined the staff. I’ve appreciated the kind words, notes of encouragement, and prayers. God has big plans for our children’s ministry. I am excited to watch Him change the lives through this ministry. I have seen many new faces in the last several weeks and look forward to watching our programs grow.

The children’s ministry at First Baptist has gone through exciting changes during the last year. The excitement continued as a new school year started. In August, our children’s weekly activities began using Lifeway’s The Gospel Project curriculum. The Gospel Project was implemented in the children’s Sunday school department almost nine months ago. Now, our preschool Sunday school, Kid’s Worship, and Wednesday Night Kids are using this curriculum as well. The Gospel Project is a three year walk through the Bible and allows our children to learn through hands on activities and exciting lessons. We are using The Gospel Project to reach our children by teaching, connecting and applying the lesson of the week. Sunday school teaches the Bible stories. Kids Worship connects that story to their hearts. Wednesday nights allow our children to apply all this to their daily lives. We want to equip our children to go out into the world to share the gospel!

A major goal of the children’s ministry is to help parents and grandparents disciple their children. The Gospel Project provides awesome resources to help families grow together at home using the Bible story each week. On

Sunday, October 26, a meeting will be held for parents/grandparents of pre-school aged children- students to explain the new curriculum and resources, provide information on upcoming events and plans for this year, and invite parents/grandparents to get involved with our children’s ministry. This meeting will be held after the 11:00am service. Lunch will be served. Child-care will be provided during the meeting.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 1! First Baptist will be hosting a Fall Festival from 2pm-4pm outside in our main parking lot. This will be an afternoon of games, crafts, food, fun, and fellowship for children of our church and our community! This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends, family, and neighbors to come fellowship with us! I’d like to challenge everyone to bring a friend. Make this a family challenge, invite a family to join yours for this event! We will also need lots of help from volunteers to make this a success. I’ve seen how wonderfully our church family worked together for the block parties. It’s been so amazing to see so many adults and kids come out each week to help. We have lots of experience setting up and running stations. Now, we can invite those new friends we’ve connected with to come join us in our backyard! Sign-up sheets will be available in the Sunday school announcements or by contacting me.

KARI KITCHEN
Children’s Ministry Director

Donna and I became members of the First Baptist family in October of 1978. During the past fifteen years we have been serving the Lord by serving his people in a pastoral capacity. It is great to be home. I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve on staff here at First Baptist Jackson. The first Sunday in August was a game changer for Donna and I. We attended the early worship service and could feel the excitement and enthusiasm in your newly remodeled facility. It had been a long time since I have felt the Holy Spirit move as I did that morning. Exciting things are happening in Kingdom work here at First Baptist. We are reaching out in the areas of community involvement and building relationships. Jesus said that “as we go” we are to make disciples. As a member of the First Baptist family, I look forward to doing my part, along side every other member, to advance God’s kingdom. As your

new Minister of Administration and Operations, I look forward to helping facilitate our endeavors. The first major item on my agenda is to implement a new member data managements system called Fellowship One. You will be reading more about the details of this system as we progress. In the coming weeks you will have the opportunity to help by verifying your membership data. Cards will be provided for this purpose. We want to make sure that our records are up to date before we populate the new database. Matthews gospel tells us to “. . . seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” My objective in administration and operations is to do just that.

TIM MILLER
Minister of Administration and Operations

WEDNESDAY

FELLOWSHIP MEALS

OCTOBER 15

Kettle Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables, Cole Slaw and Dessert

OCTOBER 22

Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Creamed Corn, Cole Slaw and Dessert

OCTOBER 29

"Souper" Supper

Chili, Chicken Noodle, Hotdogs, Grilled Cheese, Veggies and Dessert



SENIORS ONLY!!!

**KICK'IN CHICKEN
DINNER**

OCTOBER 30TH

5:30 PM

@THE BRIDGE

Yes, it's already that time again!

Time for the annual "HeeHaw" style Chicken Dinner and Variety Show!

FRIED CHICKEN, ROLLS AND A DRINK...

YOU BRING THE SIDES AND DESSERT.

This event is for Senior Adults only...

so you young chicks stay home

SEPTEMBER

Financial and Attendance Update

NEEDED WEEKLY: \$12,836

September 7-	\$11,788.50	Blended-	161	Modern-	120
September 14-	\$7,033.50	Blended-	166	Modern-	126
September 21-	\$9,283.60	Blended-	175	Modern-	113
September 28-	\$8,682.01	Blended-	161	Modern-	115

COMMUNICATION update

A struggle of having a two service Sunday morning is how to connect and foster unity within our walls. Sometimes things happen in the first service that the second service, unless they are told, have no clue about... and, of course, visa versa. Not everyone uses the same form of spreading "the word" and therein lies the struggle. What is the best and most effective way for things to be communicated?

In my 11 years of ministry I have realized that there is no simple solution or answer to that question. Therefore, people must know and be proactive to find the information in which they are looking. Most of us know that KFVS12 comes on at 9 pm with a recap of the days news. Some of us receive a paper to our front door and can read it for ourselves. And even others find everything that they need to know straight from a phone APP or a computer website. Whatever it may be, when now how and where to find it... we simply have to look.

As we come into the last quarter of the year and plan for the next year, one of our goals, as a staff, is to communicate more effectively. Starting in November, there will be specified location throughout the church and online that you be able to find every bit of information that needs to be communicated. Of course, the information boards in the main office hallway will always have the information that is to be communicated; though, we are working at making it easier to navigate. Another board that we are adding is the one in the Senior Adult Sunday School wing, right off the steps, by the restrooms. We are boosting our online information through emails, website, and social media. BUT... most of our communication will now be done through our Sunday School Classes. Each week, anything that need to be communicated will be in the plastic bin of each Sunday School class. Teachers will have a detailed list of announcements, sign-up sheets, and/or special event information.

Tim Miller, Minister of Administration and Operations, is working on updating our membership database with up-to-date and accurate information (so please fill out your Membership Information Sheet in your weekly bulletin). Hopefully by the end of this year we will be fully integrated into our new software.

Lastly, let me thank you for being patient as we figure out the proper and most effective way to communicate. Let partner together in being most informed. We have made many strides in the last year and I am excited as God continues to bless our efforts in bringing Him glory.

PASTOR JOSH HENSLEY

Can you
hear me
now?



Lucas Clabough

Senior Pastor

lucas@firstbaptistjackson.tv

Josh Hensley

Minister of Worship and Media

josh@firstbaptistjackson.tv

John Chidester

Minister of Students and Missions

john@firstbaptistjackson.tv

Tim Miller

Minister of Administration and Operation

tim@firstbaptistjackson.tv

Jean Schweain

Senior Adult Ministry

jean@firstbaptistjackson.tv

Kari Kitchen

Children's Ministry Director

kari@firstbaptistjackson.tv

www.FirstBaptistJackson.tv

Church Office: (573) 243-8415

FAX: (573) 243-2730

Email: office@firstbaptistjackson.tv



UPCOMING events

- October 10-15- Pastors Josh, John and Lucas will be in Haiti looking to develop relationships with local churches and orphanages. Pray for travel safety and that God will speak to their hearts on how FBJ can partner with Haiti.
- October 17- MOM's NIGHT OUT for all mom's. On Friday, October 17th @ 6 pm , we will have a night devoted to all moms from each and every stage of life. There will be food and a movie, but most of all a time to relax and enjoy a night for you. The Pastors' wives are hosting the event and would like to know if you plan on coming. If you go to Sunday School, there will be a sign up sheet in your class. Otherwise, you can sign up on the information board located in the hallway where the offices are located.
- October 18- PEACEFUL VALLEY CAMP FALL WORK DAY from 8 am—noon.
- October 23- An Evening of Gospel Music, FEATURING the Lesters and the Songfellows Quartet @ 5:30 pm. Benefits will go to the Nolan Weber Foundation
- October 30- Kick'in Chicken Dinner for Senior Adults only. @ 5:30 at the Bridge (More info on page 5)
- November 1- FALL FESTIVAL from 2pm—4 pm (Find out more information on page 2)

