



Together in Christ, we love God and others.

THE LINK

January 2018



Identity Crisis

by

Pastor Bill Booth

It had been an eventful and joyful day as we were making our way back to church riding on the church van. Our van full of volunteers had taken part in the Mission of Hope Christmas program at Yellow Creek Elementary School in Middlesboro, KY. Over 600 children filled the gym and participated in songs, games and a story before having the opportunity to choose some presents. It was a great event. Our van had a wide age range from elementary age to the “very mature.” On the drive back we talked about many things. Riddles and “Knock, Knock” jokes dominated the conversation for a good portion of the time. Then the discussion took an interesting turn. Someone suggested that his coworkers often challenged his Christian beliefs, some from other denominations while others held to differing faiths. Another person talked about a friend who once worked in the ministry but now has become an atheist, and he described their ongoing dialogue about matters of belief and faith. Our lighthearted banter had taken a more serious turn. And being the “Pastor-in-Residence” on the van, all eyes turned to me for clarification and guidance. Don’t get me wrong, I do love a good conversation and I most often have some ideas to share, yet I am also quick to acknowledge my own limitations and point to the source of truth, Christ, as the place to take our ultimate questions. We discussed these issues for some time and I felt like we had a good, open dialogue. It even seemed to be of interest to most everyone on the van since almost everyone jumped into the conversation. A really crucial moment came when the eldest statesmen among us suggested that this kind of conversation would

be helpful on a Sunday morning. I was able to tell him that he would not have to wait long to hear just that.

Beginning in January 2018, I will be talking about our Baptist Identity. It has become evident to me over the past few years that Christians in general and Baptists in particular are suffering from a bit of an identity crisis. The rapidly changing world is causing chaos and confusion while at the same time challenging every belief and boundary. It seems to me that we struggle to articulate our beliefs and therefore feel unprepared to face the competing voices that challenge us. Likewise, we quickly find ourselves drawn into the common mistake of hearing only the loudest and most extreme voices while at the same time getting overly focused on peripheral issues where it feels safer to make bold pronouncements. It is time for us to think seriously together about what we say we believe and even more importantly “who” we say we believe, namely Jesus, and what it looks like to follow Him faithfully. To assist our good dialogue, I will be teaching from a book called “The Four Fragile Freedoms” on Wednesdays which will follow the previous Sunday’s topic. That way we can meet to discuss in depth these very important issues. I do hope you plan to attend both Sunday services and the Wednesday dialogue sessions. I look forward to having this great conversation with you.

Wednesday Kickoff Event



Come and enjoy a free Chick-fil-A dinner on Wednesday, January 10, from 5 to 6pm in the Family Life Center. After dinner, we will introduce new studies and then dismiss to go to the first session. Please RSVP for the meal by Sunday, Jan. 7 via the bulletin tear-off or by contacting the church office.

WEDNESDAY Night

Wednesday Night Adult Growth Groups starting January 10, 2017 at 6pm

- *The World's Greatest Book, The Story of How the Bible Came to Be* by Lawrence Schiffman and Jerry Pattengale - facilitated by Charles Ballard in the Craft Room.
- *The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms* by Walter Shurden - facilitated by Bill Booth in Room AM 107 (next to Church Office).
- Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace* - facilitated by Mike and Lori Bishop in the Learning Center. (Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend this study.)
- *That the World May Know, A Ray Vander Laan Study* - facilitated by Joe Hall in FL 207.



**The Lee University Singers
will be joining us for worship on
Sunday, January 28, 10:30am**



**A Special-Called Business Meeting
to affirm new deacons will be held on
Sunday, January 7, after the service.**



**Potluck Lunch
Tuesday, January 9, 10:30am
Bring a covered dish to share.**

Guest speaker will be Bruce Poplin, pastor of Long Ridge Baptist Church in Coker Creek, TN. He has been to Russia and the Ukraine 17 times and is coming to share how he saw the Lord moving and touching lives there.

FIRST BAPTIST MARYVILLE'S CHILI COOK-OFF

**Sunday, Jan. 28
5:00 PM
in the FLC Gym**

Sign up to bring a crockpot of your favorite chili, and we'll provide the fixin's and the beverages. Voting will be done with monetary donations, and the proceeds (after expenses) will help fund our youth summer mission trip.



FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND GREAT FOOD !

To sign-up to enter your chili, please email Gary Stinnett at gary.stinnett@fbcmaryville.org.

**WELCOME
new members**

Wilma Loy - Letter

Our Deepest Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Helen Southards. Helen passed away on Nov. 30, 2017. Helen joined FBCM by letter on Feb. 20, 1994.

Sympathy to the family of Norma Hunt. Norma passed away on Dec. 18, 2017. Norma joined FBCM by letter on Mar. 5, 1967.

Sympathy to Regina Crisp and her family upon the loss of her mother, Delia Houk.

First Step Luncheon



Sunday, January 14, in the gym
after the Service

If you are a new member to FBCM, a visitor, or a member who wants to know more about FBCM, we invite you to a free luncheon with the church staff on Sunday, January 14, in the gym after the service. This will be an opportunity for you to meet the staff and learn more about our church.

If you plan to attend, please contact the church office by phone at 982-5531 or by email to Beverly.Coleman@fbcmaryville.org to let us know.



New Member Class

Starting on Sunday, Jan 21, 9:15am
in Room 209 of the Family Life Center

Pastor Bill Booth will be leading this three-session class (Jan. 21, 28, and Feb. 4).

We encourage all adult new members to attend as well as those who are thinking about joining or are interested in learning more about membership at First Baptist Maryville.



Parents are invited to the following luncheons to learn more about plans for 2018 in these groups.

Youth and Parent Luncheon Meeting

Sunday, January 7

After the worship service in the gym.

2018 release forms will be available for parents to fill out, and a notary will be there to notarize forms for free. Please bring your student's medical insurance card so we can make a copy to go with the 2018 release.

Child and Parent Luncheon

Sunday, January 21

After the worship service
in the Kids' Park.



The Church Office and the FLC gym
will be closed on January 1.

Thank You!

Thank you for being so generous with your donations to the Foster Care Association. We collected over 40 bags of underwear, socks, blankets, and tons of stuffed animals to bring comfort to children in need. A big thank you to those who donated money to provide diapers as well. We love you guys!

- "The Littles"
7th & 8th Grade Girls
Bible Study Group

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

- Bible Study Groups - 9:15am
- Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30am, Sanctuary
- Kids' Worship - 10:30am, Kids' Park

WEDNESDAY

- Adult Studies (Starting Jan. 10) - 6:00pm
- Choir Rehearsal - 6:00pm, Choir Room
- *Collision* Youth Worship - 6:00pm, Youth Room
- *Recharge* - 6:00pm. K-6 Grade in the Gym
- Childcare is available at 6pm in room CH101

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Charles Ballard - 4 years +
Theresa Carnathan - 17 years
Steve Radford - 41 years
Bill Robinson - 4 years

Thanks for your faithful service to FBCM!

CONTACT INFORMATION

202 West Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN 37801
Website: fbcmaryville.org
Office Phone: 982-5531 -- Fax: 982-5533
Gym Phone: 982-4898 -- Daycare: 984-0667
Weekend Emergency Phone: 865-456-3668

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8am to 4:30pm, Monday - Thursday
8am to 3pm - Friday

FLC GYM HOURS

6am to 9pm - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
6am to 3pm - Wednesday and Friday

Contact the gym for more information
about group fitness classes and orientation.

CHURCH GROWTH 2017

Attendance Information:

	<u>Bible Study</u>	<u>Worship</u>
November 5	231	319
November 12	238	326
November 18	239	320
November 26	246	338
December 3	262	423
December 10	286	351
December 17	273	319

Offering Information:

November 5	\$33,969.50
November 12	\$19,786.00
November 18	\$8,850.50
November 26	\$7,031.00
December 3	\$27,654.50
December 10	\$59,119.00
December 17	\$36,312.50

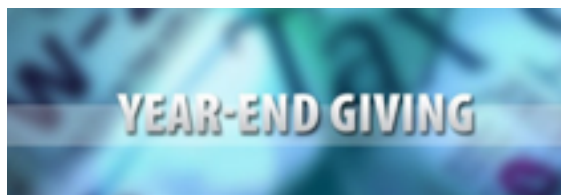
Offering needs each week	\$18,109.00
Need to Date	\$452,725.00
Received to Date	\$470,984.02

Building Fund

Received	\$3,585.00
Received to Date	\$12,076.50
Balance - Building Fund Total	\$81,337.79

Missions

Received	\$7,241.00
Year to Date	\$10,162.50



Contribution statements will be mailed no later than Jan. 31, 2018. It is best not to file your taxes until you receive your contribution statement. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Hatcher.