



Together in Christ, we love God and others.

THE LINK

March and April 2018

Our Covenant **By Pastor Bill Booth**

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be talking about covenants. God from the beginning has been willing to build a relationship with humanity; however, we have from the beginning created problems in that relationship because of our sin. Therefore, God made a way to bridge that gap through His offer of grace and forgiveness. God has also reached out to us with a promise to form covenants with His people. From Adam to Noah, from Abraham to Moses, over and over we see God reaching out to His creation to establish a lasting relationship.

It seems fitting during this time to present to you the following staff covenant. We have been working on this for the past year. I wanted to take our time and talk carefully and prayerfully about these ideas. I also wanted to have some time to live in this community of faith to better be able to speak to the best ways for us to form this document. It is a living document that we will revisit regularly, and update as needed, yet it is likewise a firm commitment on the part of our staff to agree on the best way to live out our faith as a community of faith called by God to serve in this place and time.

I hope you will read it carefully and that you will recognize the thoughtful process that brought this document to life. I further hope that it will not only guide us as a staff, but similarly serve as a guide for our entire congregation about a way to work and serve together.

I am confident that we will continue to grow into the leaders that God has called us to be as we seek to love Christ and others with faithfulness.

Staff Covenant **First Baptist Church of Maryville,** **Tennessee**

As the staff of First Baptist Church Maryville, we commit ourselves to the following covenant. We will honor our mission statement, "Together in Christ we love God and others," as we seek to be a Christlike community of compassion. By Christlike we mean that in word, deed and character we strive to follow Christ's example. Our Community binds us together in both support and accountability. Our Compassion is shown in our loving actions towards one another and the world.

We commit ourselves to be faithful Christ followers who practice both personal and corporate spiritual disciplines in order to grow closer to God and to become more like Christ. The following spiritual practices are among the ways we seek to move toward spiritual maturity: prayer, meditation, Bible reading and reflection, celebration, fellowship, and worship.

As a community of both support and accountability, we make the following commitments to one another:

- We are committed to follow God's leadership and will never allow fear or the fear of failure to be a reason not to do so.
- We will speak the truth in love to one another and will talk to each other and not about each other.

(Continued on Page 2)

Staff Covenant Continued

- We will be active listeners who not only hear but seek to understand. We will take ownership of our opinions and feelings with the use of “I” statements.
- We will offer trust and earn trust through our words and actions.
- We will pray for one another and support each other through the challenges and joys of life.
- We commit to allowing the freedom to disagree openly and without fear of reprisal, valuing each person’s ideas.
- We commit to be creative, open to change, and to seek new ways of reaching others beyond the walls of the church.
- We will be good stewards of the resources God gives us.

It is the love of Christ that compels us to be loving and compassionate toward one another. Therefore, we will demonstrate that compassion in our dealings with one another and with our church family and community. We will view our work in light of God’s calling and recognize that each of us are ministering by using the gifts God has given us. We practice these gifts as a way to love and encourage one another and to help build the Kingdom of God. We pray that others will see the love of Christ at work in our lives and experience His Mercy and Grace through our words and actions.

- Adopted on February 6, 2018



Roundtable Discussion

**Wednesday, March 7, at 5:30pm
in the FLC Gym**

We will meet together as a church family to discuss Mission and Budget Priorities. We will enjoy a free Chick-fil-A dinner before starting our meeting. No RSVP is required for the meal. Free childcare will be available for infants through sixth grade in the children’s area.

Our Deepest Sympathy

To Leroy Rogers and his family upon the loss of his brother, Bill Rogers, on February 8, 2018.

To Bob McDaniel and his family upon the loss of his brother, Ed McDaniel on Feb. 16, 2018.

To Sue Gibson and her family upon the loss of her brother, Larry Davidson, on February 27, 2018.



FIRST BAPTIST NURSERY SCHOOL

Congratulations to director Judy Tucker and the First Baptist Nursery School staff for achieving a three-star rating. They received 6.03 out of 7 which is the highest rating they have ever achieved. Thanks for making our nursery school a safe place for kids to grow and learn.





**Wednesday nights at 6pm
starting on March 21
in Room AM107
(beside the church office)**

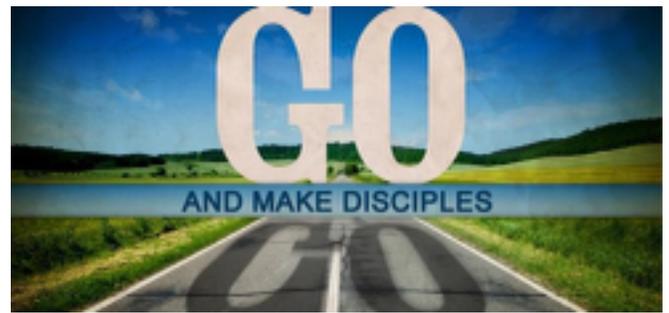
Pastor Bill Booth will be leading a marriage group on Wednesday nights starting March 21st in Room AM107 (beside the church office). The group will discuss the book entitled, "Things I Wish I'd Known Before We Got Married" by Gary Chapman. This group will be open to all couples whether married or nearly married.



**Thursday, March 29.
7:00pm in the Gym**

Our church will celebrate our roots in the Jewish faith by experiencing a Christian version of the Seder Celebration. This traditional Jewish ritual commemorates the freeing of the Jewish slaves from Egypt and was observed by Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. We will see through this experience how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb.

This event will not be a full meal. It will be a tasting experience. Childcare will be available during the event in the children's area. Please RSVP by the tear-off in the church bulletin or by contacting the church office. The last day to sign up is March 25.



**2018 Youth Mission Trip
Fundraiser**

Sunday, March 25
in the gym following the service

You are invited to stay after church on March 25 for a delicious lunch prepared by our Youth Mission Trip Kitchen Crew. There is no charge for the meal, but we will give everyone an opportunity to make a donation for this summer's Youth Mission Trip to Charleston, SC.

Adults and youth will share more information about our trip. There will also be a Silent Auction and a Live Auction with fun items and experiences upon which you can bid.

We hope you will plan on joining us for a fun afternoon. Please fill out the RSVP on the insert in March 4th's worship guide or contact the church office to let us know you will attend. The deadline to RSVP is March 18th.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Linda Lawson - 15 years
Beverly Coleman - 13 years

Thanks for your faithful service to FBCM!



Michael and Cindy Steighner



**Mighty Musical Monday
at the Tennessee Theatre
April 2, 2018**

Enjoy Mighty Wurlitzer organ performances by Dr. Bill Snyder and Freddie Brabson and a vocal performance by special guest, Kathryn Frady. American soprano Kathryn Frady has been widely praised for her vocal range and dramatic talent.

The cost is \$10, payable on the day of the event. This fee includes van transportation and a brown-bagged lunch containing a sandwich, chips, and dessert.

We will leave the church by van at 11:15am and return around 1:45pm.

Please sign up by contacting the church office so we will know how many vans and lunches to provide. The deadline to sign up is March 25.

There will no Joy Club event in March.

Scheduled Closings

The church office and the gym will be closed on Good Friday, March 30.

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, April 11, while staff serves at Special Olympics

The church office will close for lunch on Wednesday, April 25 for Administrative Professionals' Day.



Regular Wednesday evening activities will not meet on March 14, due to Spring Break.



Intercessory Prayer Group

The intercessory prayer group will meet Monday, March 5, from 9:30am to 10:30am in Room 207 of the Family Life Center. (The room has been changed due to Family Promise.) This group meets on the first and third Mondays of each month in FLC Room 203. All are invited to attend. Contact Karen Robinson or Patti McCloud for more information.



new hope
Blount County Children's Advocacy Center

Stewards of Children Training

Rhonda Stinnett will lead a *Stewards of Children* training in the Learning Center on Tuesday, March 13, from 6 to 8pm.

This prevention training program teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. It is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. This training is free of charge and open to the public.



This Young Adult event is now meeting on Sunday nights in the FLC Lobby. Fellowship starts at 7pm and Worship starts at 8pm



**Saturday, March 31 from 11am to 1pm
at Greenbelt Park**

Hunts will be available for toddlers - 6th graders.

Children will have prized eggs to search for and they will be entered in a drawing for giveaways.

We hope you will join us!



Sunday, April 1

Photographers will be available before Bible Study and after church to take free family Easter photos.



**Community Workday
Saturday, April 14**

This ministry is taking volunteers to serve the community on April 24. If you'd like to participate, go to their website for more information: www.mycommunityworx.com.



**Sunday, April 22
at 5pm in the Gym**

We'll start with a pizza supper, and then we'll test our knowledge on such topics as history, geography, music, movies, and more. Bring a team of six or join one when you get there.



Attention 2018 Graduates

On Sunday, May 6, we will recognize graduates in our service. If you are graduating in 2018 from college or trade school and would like to be included in our recognition, please contact Kelly Ferguson by calling the church office or by email at kelly.ferguson@fbcmaryville.org before Sunday, April 29. She will need to know from what school you will be graduating and what degree(s) you earned.

Graduating high school seniors will be contacted by Gary Stinnett with details about this service and their luncheon.



Mondays at 1:30pm in Room AM107

Please notify Cindy Steighner or Carole Lewis if you plan to attend so they can prepare enough supplies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Note: All dates are subject to change.

MARCH

- 4: Retirement Lunch for Charles Ballard
- 4-11: Family Promise Week
- 7: Roundtable Discussion, 5:30pm, Gym
- 10: Potluck with the Booths - Chambers, Brown, and Barnard Bible Study Groups
- 11: Daylight Savings Time begins
- 14: No Wednesday night activities (Fall Break)
- 21: Marriage 101 starts at 6pm in AM107
- 25: Communion in the service; Youth Banquet and Auction after the service
- 29: Seder Celebration, 7pm, in the gym
- 30: Good Friday - Office and Gym closed

APRIL

- 1: Easter Sunday
- 2: Joy Club trip to Tennessee Theatre
- 11: Staff serving at Special Olympics
- 14: Ellis/Ballard Potluck with the Pastor
- 22: Trivia Night at 5pm in the gym
- 25: Administrative Professionals Day - Office closed for lunch.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY

- Adult Studies - 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

For more information about available Bible Study Groups and Growth Groups, go to our website at fbcmaryville.org.

CHURCH GROWTH 2018

Attendance Information:

	<u>Bible Study</u>	<u>Worship</u>
February 4	237	286
February 11	219	271
February 18	234	335
February 25	229	290

Offering Information:

February 4	\$22,201.50
February 11	\$15,602.00
February 18	\$13,607.00
February 25	\$11,335.00

Offering needs each week	\$18,109.00
Need to Date	\$633,815.00
Received to Date	\$658,929.72

Building Fund

Received	\$1,460.00
Received to Date	\$15,746.50
Balance - Building Fund Total	\$85,007.79

Missions

Received	\$859.33
Year to Date	\$12,474.33

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
 Closed from 9 to 11am on Tuesdays for staff meeting.

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.