



Where Faith  
Comes To Life

July 20, 2017  
Vol. 24, No. 15

**Baptist Church  
of the Covenant**

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# THE CROSSROADS

## God's Wonders

Maybe this summer you have already stood on the beach and observed a wonderful sunset; stood in the blueberry field and snacked on a handful of berries right from the bush; admired a rainbow after an afternoon rain storm; or enjoyed fresh figs from a friend's bush. These are wonders that we often seek in the summer. They remind us of God's goodness to us. But, do you ever think about what wonders are in store for your urban church that is surrounded by concrete and lots of loud traffic?

Last week, I could not imagine anything better coming our way than the energy of a new staff member, the reality of 12 of our folks in Cuba, receiving two crates of deodorant as a gift for Take What You Need AND a check for the work we do at SouthTown from an "interested stranger," not to mention the steady work that is giving the Fellowship Hall a much needed face lift. Does it get much better than this? Oh, indeed it does!

You see, there is a small parking lot on the corner of 22nd Street South and 8th Court South that is adjacent to our sanctuary. It is owned by Southern Research Institute (now UAB), and because we have been allowed to park in that lot on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, many of our members assume that it belongs to us. It does not, HOWEVER, we now have the opportunity to make it our own.



UAB is in the process of selling "loose lots" throughout the city to generate capital for the campus. The SRI lot is one of those that they would like to sell. We are doing due diligence and getting comps to compare to the comps from the real estate company. We will have an environmental study done at some point. Then, we will negotiate with UAB about the final cost of this lot and hopefully, we will buy it. This will come to the church for a vote in the future when we have an agreed upon sale price.

Why would we want this lot? Initially, we would use this lot for parking rental during the week and parking for services on the weekend and in the evenings. Ideally, if we can raise enough money to pay for it in cash, it could generate income to pay down the current indebtedness. (Remember that when we purchased Cat Haven and tore it down, we built a parking lot, improved the ministry center, built a playground, installed a new organ, and improved the sanctuary. We still owe \$552,624.33 for all of this work. We have made great strides in paying down this debt.) We also need this lot if we are ever going to build a multi-level educational building that accommodates offices and is adjacent to the existing sanctuary. (Remember FINSAT? Those long range plans show this type of building.) The purchase of this lot also insures our control over what just might be put there. (Imagine a pay-day lending organization going there!)

While all of the official conversations are going on, there are some unofficial things that you can be doing.

- \* Pray! Pray for the officials of UAB to have "ears to hear" when we make our proposal and for generous hearts to receive it. Walk the parking lot and pray that we can meet the challenge of receiving this property as a fulfillment of long time dreams and vision.
- \* Examine yourself. We do not anticipate having a capital campaign in order to purchase this property. We would encourage and invite those who can to make a one-time gift to the "New Property Purchase" designated account.

**CONT.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BCOC Barons Night

August 19, 6:30 p.m.

Barons Night at Regions Field is next month! Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Please give your ticket orders and money to the church office. Contact Kit Heifner, [kitheifner@gmail.com](mailto:kitheifner@gmail.com), with any questions.



### 35th Annual Beach Retreat

Registration due August 15



BCOC is headed south for the annual beach retreat over Labor Day Weekend! Join your church family for food and fellowship in sunny Panama City Beach, Florida at the Laguna Beach "Resort." Meals are included and the schedule is light so that you can stick your feet in the sand and enjoy your chosen family.

Registration forms are available on the church website [HERE](#) and in the sanctuary foyer. Please email Rachel Butler at [scoots1111@gmail.com](mailto:scoots1111@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

**CONT.** We sing a hymn about God's "wonders displayed where'er I turn my eye" (No. 32), and I Corinthians 2:9 reminds us that "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of men and women conceived, what God has prepared for those who love God." I believe that we are living in a time of wonder with a God who loves us more than we can ever imagine. Will you join me in my excitement?

For the privilege of serving alongside of you, I am  
Sincerely yours,  
Sarah

## BIBLE STUDY

### The Psalms and Prayer

September 7, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

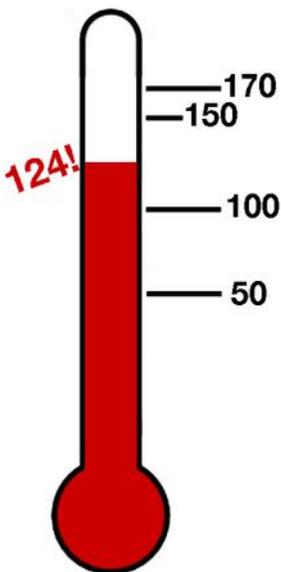
Beginning this fall, LaMon Brown will be teaching a 10-week class entitled "The Psalms and Prayer: How Psalms May Improve Your Prayer Life." The class will recognize that the Psalms were both the ancient prayer book of Israel and the earliest hymn book used by the church. Together the class will look at the Psalms to discover different paths for a fuller prayer life and some by-ways best left untraveled. The class will meet on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30. The class will meet 10 times, ending on November 9.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Only 11 days left in July!

### Each One Buy One

### Chairs Fund



Would you join us in purchasing new chairs for the fellowship hall? The chairs are \$45 each. (We need a total of 170 chairs.) So far, we have received funds that will purchase 124 chairs. If each one bought one, we would be completely set. **If you are willing, please send your check designated for "chairs" through the end of July.**

There have been **so** many volunteers helping with wiring, lighting, ceiling tiles, and clean up. Thank you so much! The painting is done. Ceiling tiles and light installation are almost complete. Flooring has begun.

### 2017-2018 Member Interest Survey

Please respond by July 31, 2017.

Use the form linked [HERE](#) to indicate the areas in which you would like to participate.

Check all areas of interest. The form is also linked on our website [www.bcoc.net/looking-ahead](http://www.bcoc.net/looking-ahead) and paper copies are available in the foyer of the sanctuary. Contact the church office with any questions or concerns.



### Care Team Volunteers

Patricia Todd has created a care team for Judy Bridgers to help provide meals, exercise etc. If you are interested in joining the support team please fill out the survey linked [HERE](#) or contact Patricia Todd at [reptodd@gmail.com](mailto:reptodd@gmail.com).

### Take What You Need

**For August:** Feminine hygiene products and tissues.  
Quart size ziplock bags are needed especially!

## Social Media Manners Matter

Social media provides many opportunities for us to share news and pictures with family and friends. At Baptist Church of the Covenant, we need to ask you to stop and think before you post, however. A large number of foster children are a part of our church family. It is against the law to post pictures of foster children. Also, we may have families in our congregation who do not like to have their children's faces available to a larger audience. Please ask permission before posting. One other request: be aware that being snarky and strongly opinionated in the presence of your friends is different from posting attitudes on social media where there is no context, facial expression or body language to accompany your message. Be sure that anything posted may be read by anyone of any age and that your message does not communicate or create barriers. Thanks for your help.



On July 13th Senate Republicans introduced their revised health care bill, the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), in an attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. (For more information comparing ACA and BCRA, check out this LA Times article [HERE](#)) Throughout the past weeks and days the BCRA has garnered staunch opposition (notably the American Medical Association). If you also stand in opposition but are unsure what you can do, I encourage you to call our Alabama senators to voice your opposition.

Calling politicians is an easy, quick, and pragmatic political step as each phone is tallied on whether the caller supports or opposes a policy. I was intimidated to call until I discovered there is no debate or questioning. It is a simple 1-2 minute call where you give your name, zip code, and your support or opposition.

For instance, "Hello, I'm Taylor Bell, I live in the 35209 zip code, and I want to voice my disagreement with the Senate's proposed Better Care Reconciliation Act." Calling is no guarantee, but with enough people it does make an impact. Though BCRA looks as though it will no longer pass, there are already talks about other questionable health care policies, and therefore now is always a great time to make your voice heard.

*Our Alabama Senators' DC Office Phone Numbers:*

Richard Shelby: 202-224-5744

Luther Strange: 202-224-4124

– Taylor Bell

## JULY Birthdays

Jerry Grantland 7/20	Robin Demonia 7/25
Marshall Burton 7/21	Jeff Barton 7/27
Dudley Fortune 7/22	Lovell Litton 7/28
Victoria Evans 7/23	Jimmy Hawley 7/28
Michael Baswell 7/24	Betsy Weidenbach 7/30
Walter Furman 7/25	Caroline Humphreys 7/31
Steve Johnson 7/25	Susan Richardson 7/31

## CHURCH BUSINESS

### Week of July 9

General Fund \$14,018.00  
Building Fund \$415.00

### Week of July 16

General Fund \$8,105.60  
Building Fund \$205.85

### General Fund Gifts needed each week to meet the 2017 Budget: \$13,312

*The indebtedness of the church is \$552,624.33*

### Traveling this summer?



Don't forget to send in your tithel! Consider marking it off your to-do list by setting up automatic payments with your bank. They can mail BCOC a check monthly on your chosen day, whether that's the 1st, 10th, or 30th.

Contact Sherri Swickard, [sswickard@bcoc.net](mailto:sswickard@bcoc.net), with any questions.

Thank you for all you give!



## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Home

Judy Bridgers

Bob Powell, Cottdale

Christian Church,  
Cottdale, AL

Shalom Baptist Church

Corita Blanco

Boca de Mariel, Cuba

Elizabeth Lott, St. Charles  
Avenue Baptist Church,  
New Orleans, LA

*with sympathy*

*Sympathy is expressed to the Butler family in the death of Sim's father, Al. To Bob Patterson in the death of his brother, Jim Patterson. Also to Tim Liptak in the death of his cousin, Mary. To Kyle and Katie Sheehan in the death of Kyle's father, Britt. And to Lyndsey Robinson in the death of her cousin.*

**DEACON OF THE WEEK: FRANK McCRORY, 205-381-3885**

**Sunday, July 23**

*Helpers Pickup* – Elaine Stephens, Bill Peeples  
 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – George Crear, David Hoefelman  
 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitor* – Marsha & David Henderson  
 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship  
*Greeters, Ushers & Offering* – Dianna Anderson, Shirley Brymer, Preston Miller, Kathleen Smith, Angela Moore  
*Worship Care* – Stephanie Parnell, Vicki Brymer, Cheryl Pathasema, Karen & Matt Stinnett, Sarah Hines  
 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Dennis Day, Sarah Young  
 10:00 a.m.. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Denise Gardner, Connie McCrory, Marsha Henderson, Pat Hawley  
 10:30 a.m.. – Sunday School  
*Offering Counters* – Robbie Yarbrough, David Henderson  
*Helpers Class* – Brian Berthiaume  
*Building Lockup* – David Hoefelman  
 11:30 a.m. – Ministries Committee

**Monday, July 24**

10:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

**Wednesday, July 26**

*Check Signers* – Morgan Ponder, Jenny Smith



Taylor Bell has begun his official duties as Ministries Coordinator. He will maintain loose office hours, Monday – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. His office is located on the children’s education wing, near the main office. Be in prayer for Emily as she prepares for her pharmaceutical boards.



**DEACON OF THE WEEK: MELANIE LANIER, 205-937-7353**

**Sunday, July 30**

*Helpers Pickup* – Esther Gardner, Lynette & Don Sandley  
 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – Thelma Jackson-Ward, David Henderson  
 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitors* – Monty Hogewood, David Goodwin  
 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship  
*Greeters, Ushers & Offering* – Youth  
*Worship Care* – Ann Carol Mann, Daniel Ingram  
 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Kathy Grissom, Peggy Sanderford-Ponder  
 10:00 a.m. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Brian Berthiaume, Carol Watson  
 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School  
*Offering Counters* – Kathy Grissom, Elaine Stephens  
  
*Helpers Class* – Brian Berthiaume  
*Building Lockup* – David Hoefelman  
 11:30 a.m. – Finance Committee Planning Session

**Monday, July 31**

10:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting  
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

**Wednesday, August 2**

*Check Signers* – Lynn Smith, Bob Duffy

**Saturday, August 5**

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry  
 Tim Liptak, Lisa Whitman

**Worship, July 23**  
**Sermon by Sarah Shelton**  
*Living the Dream*

First Reading            Genesis 28:10-19a  
 Second Reading        Romans 8:12-25  
**Third Reading**        **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**Worship, July 30**  
**Sermon by Sarah Shelton**

First Reading            Genesis 29:15-28  
 Second Reading        Romans 8:26-39  
**Third Reading**        **Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**