



Where Faith
Comes To Life

August 17, 2017
Vol. 24, No. 17

Baptist Church
of the Covenant

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THE CROSSROADS STEP UP TO THE PLATE

The Ministries Committee would like to introduce two new ministries: Food Drive Sunday and Pray, Fast, Advocate. These ministries are responses to God's vision that all His children be fed and nourished. We understand these ministries as distinct, yet intimately interconnected. Like threads interwoven to form a beautiful tapestry, we recognize each of these ministries as divinely interwoven by God for his work. Without each thread the tapestry is made weaker. With each thread the tapestry is made stronger. That is why, though the actions of food drives, praying, fasting, and advocacy are in practice distinct, they are spiritually unified by God. Each thread is divinely interwoven to strengthen the Biblical vision for all people to be fed and nourished.

Did you know that the 21st of every month is when SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) run out for most people? This makes the last part of each month the hungriest. It is this concrete reality to which that these two ministries seek to respond. We are ready to *Step Up To The Plate* through our Food Drive Sunday and Pray, Fast, Advocate!

FOOD DRIVE SUNDAY: What can we do for those who are hungry *now*?

On the third Sunday of every month, we will collect food items for Greater Birmingham Ministries. It is around this time that GBM is in greatest need for resources and families needing the greatest assistance. There will be collection boxes on the third Sunday in the Sanctuary lobby and Alley lobby. A list of pantry needs can be found on our website www.bcoc.net/gbmpantry or in your August 13 Sunday bulletin insert. If you would like more information on the Food Drive Ministry you can email Mike Casey at miken35244@bellsouth.net

PRAY: How do we connect this work to God?

We think the spirit of prayer is best captured in this Latin American prayer: "God, to those who have hunger, give bread, and to us who have bread, give us hunger for justice." Pray for those who hunger. Pray for those in power who make decisions concerning the welfare of those who hunger. Pray for us Christians that we may work towards justice with those who hunger.

FAST: How might we draw closer to God and those who hunger?

Fasting is a spiritual discipline practiced many times in Scripture. We fast in order to draw closer to God. Here, we fast to be in solidarity with people who are hungry and with a God who decries such hunger. We are encouraging you to fast on the 21st of each month, both to draw closer to God and stand with those who are hungry not by choice. Fasting may mean no eating the whole day, skipping lunch, or abstaining from some other activity.

ADVOCATE: Why are people even hungry in the first place?

Can we do something about that?

Here we strive to impact the conditions that make food drives a necessity. In advocacy we step back from people's immediate situations to examine the social and political conditions that impact people's lives. During coffee fellowship hour we will host an advocacy table with information, and blank post card and phone call scripts through which you can contact our state and federal representatives. We will also use this platform to provide information on other food advocacy opportunities as they emerge. If you wish to find more information about advocacy you will find them at www.bread.org. If you would like more information on the Pray, Fast, Advocate Ministry you can email Taylor Bell at tbell@bcoc.net and Suzanne Martin at suzanne_marti51@hotmail.com

Through these ministries, we hope that threads are interwoven to the grand tapestry that is God's vision for all humanity to be fed and nourished. We pray that you will participate in one or more of these "threads;" to be a part of God's vision to feed the hungry. Let's Step Up to the Plate!

UPCOMING EVENTS

LABOR DAY BEACH RETREAT

LAGUNA CHRISTIAN RETREAT RULES



1. No alcohol on the premises.
2. No pets allowed.
3. No water balloons or large squirt guns.
4. No smoking in rooms.
5. Use public access paths to go to beach.
6. Quiet is expected after 10:00 p.m.

BUS DRIVER NEEDED!

Do you have what it takes to lead the BCOC convoy to Panama City? Please contact [Valerie Burton](#) or [Rachel Butler](#) if you would like to volunteer. The drive is a little over 5 hours long. The bus typically leaves BCOC at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and Panama City at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

No payments will be accepted at the retreat. You **MUST** pay before you arrive in FL. If you have questions about the status of a payment, please contact [Sherri](#) in the church office.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- * Bed sheets, pillow, pillowcase
- * Soap and other toiletries
- * Bath towel and bath mat
- * Black trash bags and tape (to black out windows)
- * Bible
- * Reading material and/or journal
- * Casual clothes
- * Sandal or comfortable shoes
- * Beach towel and chair
- * Swimsuit(s)
- * Sunscreen



Regular activities will be held at Baptist Church of the Covenant on Sunday, September 3.

WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

- August 23 Quarterly Business Meeting
- August 30 "The Stories We Live: Finding God's Calling All Around Us," Pastor Sarah
- Sept. 6 "The Stories We Live," Pastor Sarah
- Sept. 13 2018 Budget Proposal
- Sept 20. "The Stories We Live," Pastor Sarah

FISHER HUMPHREYS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 AND 27

For the next two Sundays, we will welcome Rev. Fisher Humphreys to the pulpit. Fisher Humphreys is professor of Divinity, Emeritus of Samford University. He was ordained by the First Baptist Church of Columbus and has served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He is the author of several books, and editor of *Nineteenth Century Evangelical Theology*.



EDUCATION

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 byways best left untraveled. The class will meet on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 in Room 203. The class will meet 10 times, ending on November 9.

OPEN TABLE FORUM

AUGUST 27, 10:30 A.M.

The Open Table Forum will be held next week, August 27, at 10:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Bock Mayse Ministry Center. This forum welcomes anyone who would cast a vision or voice a concern for our faith community. Facilitators for this session are Lyndsay Cogdill and Peggy Sanderford-Ponder.



At the beginning of every school year, I wish for a new 64-count box of Crayola crayons. The full box of colors bearing all different hues. Apricot, burnt Sienna, Sky blue, Carnation pink, Forest green. No color is the same. All the crayons are unique and purposed for creativity – even beauty! There is a place in the box for all the colors.

The Education Committee is charged to provide “a program of Christian Formation that is advanced, innovative, and based on sound biblical interpretation” by BCOC’s corporate commitments. We believe we have some of the most discerning and creative teachers prepared to lead here every week. Our curriculums and class formats are rich and varied to match our colorful assortment of children, teenagers, and adults. There is a place for you in Christian Formation at BCOC. There is a you-sized place for your thoughts, your questions, your wonderings. Let us grow and learn together this year to see what beautiful thing will be created.

Saturday, August 19

9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Classroom Workday for all Teachers and Education Committee Members at 9:00 am. All classrooms need a clean sweep. There will be coffee, juice, donuts to eat on the trail.

Ready, Set, Color!

August 20

All 2017-18 Leaders, Teachers & Volunteers will be commissioned in Worship at 9:00 a.m.

All teachers and class members will gather in the Fellowship Hall during coffee-time, 10:00 am, in order for those promoting to find new classes. Children and parents, meet this year’s teaches and find out drop-off and dismissal procedures.

Sunday School

Preschoolers, Children, and Youth

Babies/Toddlers

Room 103

Kit Heifner, _____

2 year olds

Room 104

Janet Goodwin

Godly Play (3s-K)

Rooms 101-102

Pat Brown, Bev Mulvihill, Caroline Jansen, Peggy Sanderford-Ponder

1st & 2nd Grades

Room 214

Ann Carol Mann, Nancy Yarbrough, _____

3rd & 4th Grades

Room 213

Christa Allen, Dennis Hodtwalker, John Hollis

5th & 6th Grades

Room 212

Patrick Chappell, Daniel Ingram, Leigha McLendon, Dennis Wilson

Middle and High School

Youth Room 208

Kristen Berthiaume, Daniel Evans, Suzanne Martin, Matthew Ponder

Adult Sunday School

BCOC has nine adult classes that meet during the Sunday school hour. Please find more information on our website about each one. Printed descriptions are available in the foyer of the sanctuary and at coffee fellowship on Sundays.

Sunday Evening Youth

(begins August 27)

- 5:00 Youth Music, choir room
- 6:00 Snack Supper, Fellowship Hall
- 6:25 Games and Bible Study, Youth Room 208
- 7:30 Dismiss

Open the Box!

Wednesday, August 23

- 5:00 Fellowship Supper is served in FH
Guests from the community are welcome.
- 5:25 1st-6th grade supper served in BMMC
Preschool supper in FH with families
- 5:50 Children’s Choir, 1st – 6th in BMMC 105
Sherrie & Dan Lawhon, Ashley Gilbert, Morgan Ponder
- 6:00 Mission Friends, 3 yrs – K in Room 108
Julie Burge, Cindy Goodwin
- 6:15 Adult Prayer and Bible Study in FH
- 6:15 NEW! Wonder, youth discussion group
- 6:25 Children in Action
1st – 2nd in BMMC 114, Sally McElroy, Kelly Jolly
3rd – 4th in BMMC 104, Claire Carter, _____
5th – 6th in BMMC 108, Susan Jackson, Dennis Hodtwalker
- 6:30 Preschool Music, 3 yrs – K Rm 108
Sherrie Lawhon, Ashley Gilbert
- 7:00 Dismiss Adults and Youth
Covenant Choir Rehearsal, choir room
- 7:05 Dismiss Preschool and Children

Please contact a member of the Education Committee or Valerie Burton if you would be interested in serving on Wednesday night with our elementary Missions leaders – where we still have openings.

2017 Education Committee

Morgan Ponder, Chair

Janet Anthony, Michaelle Chapman, Daniel Evans, Jill Holley, Sara Hoover, Ann Carol Mann, Ann Elizabeth McInvale, Lloyd Shelton

WELCOME

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF EVALUATIONS

The staff committee is working on evaluations for our staff members for October 2016 - September 2017. Our newest hires will not be included in this process as they have not yet served a year. Below you will find a link to the performance appraisal for Pastor Sarah, Valerie, Dan, and Jimmy. Please take some time to complete these appraisals. Thank you,

- Delane Tew

Please take this opportunity to participate by filling out the Google form [HERE](#) or visiting goo.gl/t9VBaX



Trey Adams



Kelly Adams



Anita Ampah



Steve Ampah

BARONS NIGHT

6:30 P.M. AUGUST 19

If you reserved tickets for BCOC Barons Night this Saturday you can meet Kit Heifner outside the gates starting at 6:00 p.m. to pick up your tickets.

CHURCH BUSINESS

WEEK OF AUGUST 6

General Fund \$25,865.35
Building Fund \$462.03

WEEK OF AUGUST 13

General Fund \$8,960.25
Building Fund \$330.00

General Fund Gifts needed each week to meet the
2017 Budget: \$13,791.00

The indebtedness of the church is \$536,570.29



Meg Butler 8/17
Megan Foster 8/19
Ginger Frost 8/19
David Goodwin 8/21
Sara Bateman 8/21
Amy Woodward 8/22
Sara Hoover 8/24

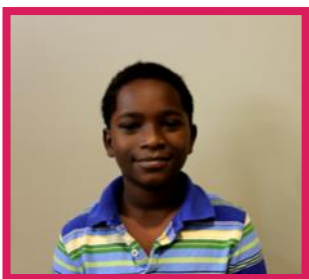
Julie Burge 8/24
Dennis Hodtwalker 8/25
George Taylor 8/25
Bill Stockton 8/26
Don Gardner 8/28
Anna Lautenschlager 8/30



Claire Carter



Marshall Burton



Gizatu Evans



Logan Hawley

PRAYER CONCERNS

HOME

Cloritta Thomas

CUBA

Jesús Pacheco

Bob Powell, Cottondale
Christian Church,
Cottondale, AL

Shalom Baptist Church
Corita Blanco
Boca de Mariel, Cuba

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

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

FOR SEPTEMBER: Travel-size Kleenex and hand sanitizer

DEACON OF THE WEEK: BILL CAUGHRAN, 205-470-6640

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 – PROMOTION SUNDAY & NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION

Helpers Pickup – Esther Gardner, Becky Belcher
 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – Mark Burge, Rick Mitchell
 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitor* – A.E. McInvale, Jill Holley
 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Greeters, Ushers & Offering – Faith & Bill Stockton, Kelly Mitchell, Sharon Chappell, Elaine Stephens, Jenny Smith
Worship Care – Susan Richardson, Pat Brown, Peggy Sanderford-Ponder, Jason Hall
 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. – *Glass Lobby Greeters* – Scott Russell
 Greater Birmingham Ministries Food Drive
 10:00 a.m. – *Coffee Fellowship* – Cindy Goodwin, George Crear
 10:30 a.m. – Sunday School
Offering Counters – Pat Hawley, Sue Shaddix
Helpers Class – Nancy Yarbrough
Building Lockup – David Hoefelman
 10:30 a.m. – Covenant 101 – Bart & Lynda Grooms
 12:30 p.m. – COM
 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Youth Back-to-School activity

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

Check Signers – Lynn Smith, Bob Duffy
 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells
 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner – Children
 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Leadership Learning Academy
 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Children's' Choir
 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Mission Friends
 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Prayer, Announcements, Business Meeting
 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Music
 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Children in Action
 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Adult Choir
Choir Lock-up – Larry FitzGerald

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Foster Kids' Closet, DHR
 Pat Hawley

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Brian Vaughn, Jeff Barton

Worship, August 20
 Sermon by Fisher Humphries
Let All the Peoples Praise You

First Reading	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Second Reading	Psalm 67
Third Reading	Matthew 15:21-28

DEACON OF THE WEEK: CINDY PONDER, 205-821-0002

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Helpers Pickup – Elaine Stephens, Bill Peebles
 8:30 a.m. – *Lobby Monitors* – George Crear, David Hoefelman
 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. – *Alley Door Monitors* – Marsha & David Henderson
 9:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
Greeters, Ushers & Offering – Dianna Anderson, Preston Miller, Kathleen Smith, Shirley Brymer, Taylor Jansen, 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 – Nancy Yarbrough
Building Lockup – David Hoefelman
 10:30 a.m. – Open Table Forum, BMMC – Lyndsay Cogdill, Peggy Sanderford-Ponder
 11:30 a.m. – Ministries Committee
 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Snack Supper
 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Youth Bible Study

MONDAY, AUGUST 28

9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Overeaters Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

Check Signers – Lynn Smith, Bob Duffy
 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Adult & Preschool Dinner (FH), Handbells
 5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Dinner – Children
 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Leadership Learning Academy
 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Children's' Choir
 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Mission Friends
 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Prayer, Announcements
 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Preschool Music
 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Children in Action
 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Adult Choir
Choir Lock-up – Chuck Rogers

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Beach Retreat – Laguna Christian Resort, Panama City, FL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Beach Retreat – Laguna Christian Retreat, Panama City, FL
 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Saturday Morning Grocery Ministry
 Tim Liptak, Lisa Whitman

Worship, August 27
 Sermon by Fisher Humphries
The Plainest and Simplest Thing in the World

First Reading	Psalm 23
Second Reading	I John 4:7-21
Third Reading	Luke 15:11-24