

## Education Ministry

"Jesus went into Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. *The time has come, he said. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!*" [Mark 1:15-16]

**The Kingdom of God** is the heart of the Gospel and was the central message of Jesus' preaching and teaching ministry. When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God, he meant, quite simply, the rule of God. Through the study of the Gospels, it is obvious that his disciples didn't completely understand the kingdom. It's the same today. Throughout history, Jesus' followers have had great difficulty understanding Jesus' teaching and preaching of the kingdom of God. Since the kingdom was the central theme of Jesus' message, it's important for his disciples to learn of the Kingdom.

Jesus was not speaking of a place such as the Holy Land. He was not teaching of a political/military entity such as the nation of Israel, nor was he identifying a certain group such as the disciples or his church. The kingdom of God is independent of all geographical areas and nations of the world. Jesus calls people to enter the kingdom, but the kingdom should be distinguished from those who enter it. It's not a kingdom of man, it's God's kingdom and He builds it. The kingdom is spiritual and eternal. Those who enter it will live forever and possess the gift of the Spirit.

Jesus taught that the kingdom looks unimpressive, but it is going to grow into something greater than all the world's kingdoms. Like a tiny mustard seed which grows into a bush large enough to provide shelter for all God's creatures [Mark 4:30-32], the kingdom will become all that God intended it. Through the parables, Jesus taught that the kingdom is like a farmer [Matt. 13:24], a treasure [Matt. 13:44], a pearl merchant [Matt. 13:45], a king inviting people to a marriage feast [Mat. 22:2], and ten young women [Matt. 24:1]. He spoke also of glad tidings of the kingdom [Luke 8:1] and the mystery of the kingdom [Mark 4:11]. [Some of above is paraphrased from article, *Kingdom of God*, Holman Bible Dictionary, by Fisher Humphreys]

God is loving and gracious toward all people, and the blessed surprise is that he invited everyone to enter his kingdom. He includes all persons without distinction. No restrictions. However, if we enter the kingdom by receiving God's rich grace through faith, we must make the kingdom and its righteousness our first priority [Matt. 6:33]. It is of such value that we should be willing to give up all we have in order to possess it [Mark 9:24].

Currently, each Sunday morning, the adults are studying Jesus' words reported in the Gospel of Matthew. We are learning the secrets of the kingdom of God. Let me encourage you not to miss a single lesson!

See you Sunday with Bible in hand,  
Bob

## From the Minister of Music

**TO PLAN ANYTHING, COMPLETE A GREEN - TO HAVE IT TOLD, COMPLETE A GOLD.** I have mentioned this slogan several times. It's one we all need to learn and use. Let me tell you more about it.

From time to time, I've heard members of our church family say, "How do I reserve a room for a meeting?" "I need to put something in the newsletter." Where is the *official* church calendar, and how do I put something on it?" Well, our church newsletter, church resources, and certainly our program calendar belong to you, the church family. Our church staff seeks to coordinate events, resources, and information for the maximum good of the congregation. Sometimes we succeed, sometimes we don't. We want to increase our success rate by accomplishing three simple tasks: 1) Provide a mechanism for you, the church family, to make your requests, 2) Make that mechanism easy to find, and 3) Explain the procedure often and well.

**THE MECHANISM:** Two new request sheets, a green *Calendar Request* and a gold *Communications Request*, should cover any request you have, used individually or together. Basically, if you need to plan an event or reserve a resource, the green *Calendar Request* sheet should do it - **TO PLAN ANYTHING, COMPLETE A GREEN.**

If you want printed materials - a newsletter article, a postcard mailed, a coloring sheet for preschoolers, address labels for a committee, advertisement of a church event in a local newspaper, a list of your Sunday School class - a gold *Communications Request* is what you'll need - **TO HAVE IT TOLD, COMPLETE A GOLD.** "That's great, but where do you get one of these colorful request sheets?" you ask.

**EASY TO FIND:** The request sheets are already available in the Sunday School directors' boxes and in the church office. However, because the church office is not always open, you can find them at the Welcome Center next to the elevator on the ground floor. We will do our best to see that the wall mounted display always has an ample supply. Feel free to take copies home with you if you like. There will be *white* copies of each in the rear of the display so that you can have them to fax to us if you would like: "That's all well and good, but how do you use them?"

**THE PROCEDURE:** Basically, the top *block* of each sheet explains what to do. Merely complete that section first, follow the instructions given there completing any other areas that relate to your request, and then return the sheet to the church office. If it is not open, slide your request(s) under the door and we'll take it from there.

Members of our Public Relations Committee will be visiting each Sunday School Department during the month of March to explain everything in greater detail and to answer your questions. In the meantime... **TO PLAN ANYTHING, COMPLETE A GREEN - TO HAVE IT TOLD, COMPLETE A GOLD!**

Mike

## YOUTH MINISTRY

*of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."*  
Proverbs 3:5-6

If you have been in church any amount of time in your life, you should know these verses by memory, but I wonder how often they are applied to our daily walk.

What does it really mean to trust in the Lord? Does God truly want us to give up on trying to figure life out on our own? Should we abandon human understanding and simply follow Jesus?

Yes, that is exactly what He is telling us to do. It seems that sometimes we complicate our walk with Christ too much. When it comes to following Him, we need to simply trust. That means that we need to slow down and listen to what God has to say to us and that we need to obey and follow even when the end result of the situation cannot be seen by human eyes. We need to realize that He and He alone knows and controls the past, present, and future, and it is on Him that we should lean.

When we walk in a trusting, dependent relationship with Christ, He promises to direct our path. It is then that we will experience the abundant life that Jesus offers. (John 10:10b)

Pray for our students that they will trust the Lord in everything they do. Pray that they will honor Him in their walk, in their schoolwork, in their family life, in their friendships and dating relationships, and in their church life. Thanks so much for your prayers. God bless.

In Him,  
Jim

## NEWSBOYS



**IN CONCERT**  
**Thursday, February 27**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**FBC Springdale**  
**\$12 per student**

*Sign up  
available now!*

## DEACON'S HOUSE PAINTING PROJECT

In the Spring of this year, a committee of FBC Deacons will be available to prepare and repaint a member's house. It will be done discreetly and the recipient of this gesture will not be revealed without their approval. We simply want to be used to make things better for our family in Christ. To sign up for consideration, contact the office or any deacon or staff member.



## Praise Record - Feb. 9

Sunday School Enrollment	1041
Sunday School Attendance	510
New Sunday School Members	5
Morning Worship	507
Evening Worship	186
Decisions	1
Received Feb. 9	\$ 16,978.52
Required Feb. 9	\$ 17,381.72
Received in February	\$ 38,927.90
Required in February	\$ 34,763.44
Received in 1997	\$ 97,815.49
Required in 1997	\$ 104,290.32
Find Us Faithful - 2/9/97	\$ 4,504.01
Find Us Faithful - 4/14/96	\$ 263,723.22
*Balance owed FUF	
loan 1/31/97	\$ 979,849.62

### EXTENDED SESSION ~ Feb. 16

**Babies:** Maxine Mayes, Debbie Rose, Kendal Hudgins

**Older Babies:** Margaret Little, Jane Eaves

**Ones:** Todd & Sheri Townsend

**Twos:** Steve & Melinda Renfro

**Threes:** Joe & Cheri DeSoto,

Lindsey Loyd

**Fours:** Johnnie Williams, Pam Earhart, Jacque Loyd

### PARKING/VAN MINISTRY- Feb.

Parking ..... all members  
Van ..... Harry Norman

### HOSPITALIZED

Charles Pope ..... WRMC, #507

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

John Story, February 9-15

Thurl Copeland, February 16-22

### NEW MEMBER

Michael J. Fiorino  
502 N. Washington  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
521-4151

### MEMORIALS

In memory of Johnnie Harness

Helen Bocquet

M/M Pearl Clinehens

Ben & Marie Harrison

Mrs. Thelma Kirk

### GIFT GIVEN IN HONOR:

Noble & Clementine Hembree

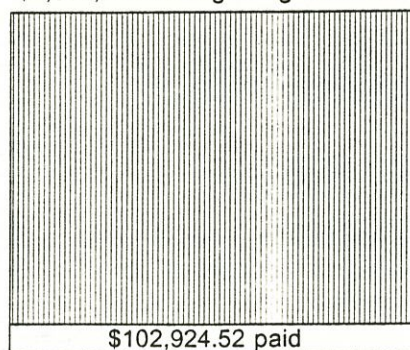
by Ben & Marie Harrison

Patricia Upton

by M/M Robert C. Mayes

### FIND US FAITHFUL

\$1,082,774.14 beginning 12/01/96



Principal Accumulates  
7 1/2% interest each month

## BLOOD DRIVE SURVEY

The next blood drive is scheduled for March 15. We would like to raise the number of units donated. We have averaged just under 40 and would like to go over 50. Would you be able to participate if we moved it to Thursday, March 13 from 4:00-9:00 p.m.? Please clip and return this survey to the office or give it to Ron Austin, with your answer marked below.

Yes, I will be able to on Thursday, March 13 \_\_\_\_\_.

No, I can't on Thursday, March 13 \_\_\_\_\_.

I have donated blood \_\_\_\_\_ times at FBC.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your love and concern expressed through prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and food during my surgery and recovery.

Love - Bobby West

## BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION

The First Baptist Church University Department will host a Book signing and Reception for department member, Chip Austin, author of *Alpha and Omega: A Study of the Beginning and End of Time*, Sunday, February 16, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the church parlor. Those who have ordered books and those who contributed to its publishing may pick up their copies at this time. Copies of the book have been given to the Library at Fayetteville's First Baptist in appreciation for their support.



## 1997 Season of Home Missions

Women on Mission

Tuesday, February 18th

10:00 a.m.

~Luncheon following at Noon~

Dear Brother Mitchell and Members at First Baptist,

Thanks so much for allowing me to present the Gideon message today. I also want to thank the church for the generous offering of \$424.00 which will be used to purchase approximately 90 bibles or their equivalent in testaments to be distributed in 172 countries throughout the world. Distributing God's Word means reaching lost souls. Thanks so much for your support.

Yours in Christ - Lee R. Owen

"The Voice" (USPS 195-220) is published weekly except the last week in December and the first week in January by First Baptist Church, College and Dickson, Fayetteville, AR 72702. Second Class postage paid at Fayetteville, AR. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to "The Voice," c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 906, Fayetteville, AR 72702.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

College & Dickson Sts., Fayetteville, AR

(501) 442-2387

Vol. 45

February 11, 1997

No. 6

## Children are important at Fayetteville's FBC!



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7:00-9:00 P.M.

~In the Gym~

Grades 1-6

Come join us for food, fun, and fellowship on Valentines day.

Bring your friends!

(and your parents, if you want to!)

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## PARENTING CLASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

(date changed from Feb. 23)

7:15 P.M.

~Room 160~

Valuable information for parents of preschoolers. Don't miss it!



Thy father  
and thy mother  
shall be glad,  
and she that  
bare thee  
shall rejoice.  
Proverbs 23:25

## FROM THE PASTOR

The Deacons of our church will recommend four men of our church be elected deacons next Sunday evening at our regular monthly business meeting. They are Joe DeSoto, Bobby Mosteller, John Meares, and Ron Eaton. These men were nominated by members of our church and then questioned by our deacons. This recommendation comes to the church following the guidelines for electing new deacons.

You will have the opportunity to hear these men share their conversion experience next Sunday evening in the worship service prior to the business meeting. I encourage you to attend this service. Pray for these men as they prepare to share with us. Pray also that God will anoint them as they speak.

I'll look for you next Sunday in Sunday School and Worship..

Love  
Preacher