

Sunday School Promotion — August 25 A NEW ADVANCE

The Sunday School is the church functioning around and through relationships. The greatest relationship is our relationship with God. “Christ in you, the hope of glory! We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.” [Colossians 1: 27-8] Out of that relationship all other relationships develop. The church is made up of persons and families who are members of God’s family — His children. We who know Christ as Lord and Father, relate to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, the Sunday School is organized into groups who study the Scriptures, care for and minister to each other, and reach out to people who are not members of God’s family. Each group gives vitality and growth to the church.

Many members always ask the question, why does our church insist on Sunday School promotion? The real issue is; why do we organize the Bible study program into small groups by age? Especially in the adult division? Please permit me the opportunity to answer as briefly as possible.

First — Biblical Reasons

Moses’ organization of the nation of Israel is recorded in Exodus, chapter 18. His father-in-law, Jethro, advised him to “select capable men from all the people - men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.” [Exodus 18: 21] So Moses implemented the advice of his father-in-law and did “everything he said...He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.” Each group consisted of no more than ten families. [Exodus 18: 24-5] In the New Testament materials, Jesus selected twelve disciples to carry out His mission. According to some Bible scholars, He sometimes organized the “twelve” into smaller groups of threes. After a survey of Scripture, it seems that God used small groups to accomplish His purposes more than large convocations.

Second — Practical Reasons

Educators tell us that the ideal number for a learning/teaching situation is from eight to fifteen people. It’s been proven that learning is more effective when each member of the class knows each other and relates to the teacher. When the class becomes larger, the teacher may not know the needs of each student, and the members may not learn from each other.

Business principles dictate that the staff organization be structured in small units. It is commonly agreed that no supervisor should be responsible for more than 10 subordinates. Today, experts like Drucker and Demming suggest that business and commerce functions more effectively and efficiently when there is give and take through a small group structure.

Third — Proven Traditions

Southern Baptists discovered many years ago that age grouping provides the most common basis for group study. The needs of an adult who is the parent of married children are different than the parent of young children. As one grows older and matures, his or her needs change through the generations. Social Scientists identify today’s generations as follows: PowerBuilders - born 1901-1925; PeaceMakers - born 1926 -1944 [my generation] ; PathFinders - born 1945 - 1963; PaceSetters - born 1964-1981; PowerBuilders - born 1982 - 2000. Each generation has different needs and behavioral characteristics. It is sometimes extremely challenging to teach a class of students consisting of a cross section of generations. This is why adults promoting into an older age are uncomfortable and may be frightened when asked to join a class of a different generation. This happens when members of a class refuse to promote. The age grading is of one generation, but the members of the class are of an older generation.

We have found supporting data that reveals a Sunday School class reaches its potential for size and growth in about three years. This is another reason for organizing new units. We should organize more Bible study classes at least every three years. Inevitably, people are reluctant to join a group that has been established for a long time. There are instances where people feel left out or not included in a group that has too wide of an age span or grading. I sincerely believe this is the reason for much of our absenteeism. It may be that absenteeism can be alleviated if members promote to the correct age level .

In summary, the Sunday School should create an environment that develops a closer relationship with God through Bible study. Each department and class should love, pray for, and minister to every member; therefore, each person will feel important and enjoy belonging. New friendships are formed and this results in strong fellowship. Out of these relationships, together we witness and reach out to a needy and lost world in the name of Christ.

The grading schedule is printed on the front page of the “Voice.” Please pray about your place of fellowship and Bible study. We encourage you to join the class of your age group for a new advance! New Friends - Good Teachers - Godly Relationships - Purposeful Bible Study.

See You in Sunday School,
Bob

YOUTH MINISTRY

of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church

God has done some really incredible things in the life of First Baptist Church this summer. We have seen many come to know the Lord through Vacation Bible School, Discovery Week, and weekly ministry. We have seen a renewed fire among many of our members and have seen many guests on Sundays and Wednesdays. God has been so faithful to us over the last few months and continues to be.

Faithfulness is a reciprocal thing though. We, as God's people, have also been called to be faithful to Him. In the eight years that I have been involved in youth ministry, I feel that one of the greatest ways to show our faithfulness to God is through an effective ministry to His people. This ministry includes providing good and safe transportation to all the different ministries of the church.

Over the last few months in staff meeting we have wrestled with the condition of our church vans. Because I am the staff member who is the liaison to the transportation committee and am the one who agrees to requests to use the vans, I have struggled to let these vans out for substantial trips because of their condition. Both vans have been in the shop countless number of times this summer alone. They have broken down or have had problems on children, youth, and senior adult trips.

After many consultations with the staff, the transportation committee chairman, and mechanics, it seems that these vans are on their last leg. The Ford van is 11 years old and the Dodge van in 7 years old. In light of our recent property acquisition, I don't know what the possibility would be to trade either of these in and buy a new one. The transportation committee is still working on that scenario. I do know that God has blessed many of the members of our church. I know that our church cares about the safety and ministry of its members. I know that it will be unlikely for these vans to be in usable condition for much longer. So here's my request. If you would be willing to make a donation of a new van to the church, please let me or Ron Eaton, the chairman of transportation committee, know. Please do not designate your budget gifts for this. That hurts our mission giving and our program gifts. We as a staff feel that this may be one of the only ways to be able to provide adequate transportation for our congregation in the near future. Please pray about this request. I know that God will provide for our church! You or a group of you may be the vehicle in which He has chosen to do it. Thank you for your consideration. God bless.

In Him,
Jim

From the Minister of Music

GRADED CHOIR WORKERS: We are still in need of workers in the graded choir program. There are spaces available as workers and directors in younger children and preschool areas. If you have an interest, please contact Becky Riggs, our children’s choir coordinator or me. If you are concerned about being inexperienced, we will give you some training and help in planning. Read on.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS! As a part of this event scheduled for our Sunday School leadership, Friday, September 6, I will be leading training sessions for our graded choir leaders. It will be challenging, inspiring, informative and most of all FUN!

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE: In anticipation of the start of the school year, our Wednesday evening programs have been tailored to try to help us ease into this typically hectic time. Please note the following:

Wednesday, AUGUST 14
**LAST NIGHT OF THE SUMMER
CHILDREN’S PROGRAM**

Wednesday, AUGUST 21 - **READY!**
Wednesday, AUGUST 28 - **SET!**
Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 4 - **GO!**

These three events will be planned and implemented by Lisa Wheat with the help of parent volunteers. You will be receiving more information by mail.

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 11 - **M & M NIGHT**
(First night of regular Wednesday evening schedule enrollment for Graded Choir and Mission Organizations for children and preschoolers.)

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST! If you have been considering joining our Sanctuary Choir, now’s the time! We will preview our Christmas presentation, Wednesday evening, August 21 during rehearsal in the choir room at 6:40. It’s going to be exciting. So, plan to come. No auditions, just a commitment to do your best and reap the blessing of service and fellowship. We have a robe, folder, and chair for you!!!

Mike

Children's Ministry

of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church



**Next Sunday, August 18
EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY**

We will be having a birthday party in Sunday School to celebrate everybody's birthday! Don't miss it!

READY

Wednesday, August 21, 5:45-7:30 p.m.
SWIMMING (place to be announced later)
Bring swimsuit, towel, \$2 - Snacks provided.
Meet in north parking lot by vans.
Reservations needed by Monday, August 19.
Parent sponsors needed. Contact Lisa, 442-2387.

Praise Record ~ August 11

Sunday School Enrollment	993
Sunday School Attendance	447
Morning Worship	451
Evening Worship	132
Decisions	2
Received August 11	\$ 17,356.68
Required August 11	\$ 16,153.85
Received in August	\$ 36,263.48
Required in August	\$ 32,307.70
Received in 1996	\$ 507,850.11
Required in 1996	\$ 516,923.20
Find Us Faithful	\$ 3,544.00
Find Us Faithful since 4/14/96	\$ 78,380.39
Balance owed Cornerstone	
loan 7/31/96	\$ 1,029,649.26

Extended Session ~ August 18

Babies: Evelyn Brooks, Debbie Rose, Cathy Williams

Young Ones: Margaret Little, Virginia Rose

Ones: Jim & Vicki Rader

Twos: Ron Branscum, Lindsey Loyd

Threes: Jeff & Lora Hayes

Fours: Karen Ramsey, Jacque Loyd

Parking/Van Ministry - August 18

Parking all members
Van Harry Norman

Hospitalized

Glen Wing City Hospital, #100
Tina Barfield NMC #2216
Jordan Elizabeth Hunt WRMC
Frank Spencer WRMC #534

New Members

Ken J. & Jackie Stahman
2629 Deerpath Dr.
Fayetteville, AR
587-0988

Deacon of the Week

Bill Brunner, August 18-24

Memorials

In memory of Evelyn Stubblefield
Harriet & Andrew Hall
Mrs. F.A. Pothast, Sr.
Liz & Joe Powers
Fay Stubblefield &
Steve Stubblefield

Gift given in Honor of:

Rick & Carolyn Tanneberger
by Beulah Parkhurst

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael & Mindy Hunt on the arrival of Jordan Elizabeth, on August 9, 1996. Jordan weighed 8 pounds 15 ounces and 21 3/4 inches long.

... and to John and Tina Barfield on the birth of Noah Zachary, born August 13, 1996. He weighed 10 pounds 1 ounce and was 22 inches long.

Sympathy

Our church family extends Christian love and sympathy to Wanda Hopkins and her family on the loss of her aunt, Juanita Fogleman of Locust Grove, Oklahoma;

... and to the Bill Sergeant family on the recent loss of his sister-in-law, Helen Sergeant of Afton, Oklahoma.

Attention Members

Help! The brass candle holder with arrangement is missing from the table in the parlor. If you have any information as to where it is, please call the church office.

Dear First Baptist Family,

I want to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, and for your concerns, and love during my hospital stay and since I have been home. God bless each of you.

Bonnie Davis

Thank you for your prayers, cards, concerns, and calls during my hospitalization.

Billy Bryan

HOUSE FOR RENT

The church has a house with 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and 2,700 plus square feet for lease. It will be available September 1. Rent to be decided. If you are interested, please call the church office, 442-2387.

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY FAYETTEVILLE CENTER

Now enrolling students for Fall classes, which begin Monday, August 26. OBU-Fayetteville offers the Associate of Arts in Religion Degree. Fall classes are O.T. Survey, N.T. Survey, Intro. to Philosophy, Apologetics, Baptist Heritage, Christian Doctrine, and Later Epistles of Paul. Morning, afternoon, and evening classes are available. Call 582-2301.

Fayetteville's First Baptist Church Staff

Pastor - Jere Mitchell
Minister of Education - Bob Hopkins
Minister of Music - Mike Paslay
Minister of Youth - Jim Thomas
Preschool Coordinator - Clementine Hembree
Minister of Children - Lisa Wheat
Minister of University Students - Bruce Salsman
Organist - Jennie Riggs
Pianist - Rita Savage

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

College & Dickson Sts., Fayetteville, AR

(501) 442-2387

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From Your Pastor

I believe one of the great opportunities First Baptist church, Fayetteville, has is the opportunity to reach international students. The Missions/Evangelism Committee of our church invites you to meet with them August 25, 1995, at 5:00 p.m. to discuss this opportunity. If you have an interest in this, please plan to meet with the committee.

Thank you, Bob Hopkins, for organizing the outreach night this past Sunday. We had a great group of people go out to visit. Thank each one of you who went. God will bless your efforts.

I will look for you next Sunday as we study the Bible and worship together.

Love,
Preacher

FAYETTEVILLE'S FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Promotion Sunday, August 25th

A New Adventure

PRESCHOOL DIVISION (birth through kindergarten)

Rooms - E120, E121, E122, E124, E125, E126, E127, & E128
(all of first floor education building)

ELEMENTARY DIVISION (first grade through sixth grade)

E222 - 1st & 2nd grades
E223 - 3rd & 4th grades
E224 - 5th & 6th grades

(second floor of education building)

YOUTH DIVISION

Jr. High (7-9 grades) Director, Jim Lacy - M209B

Sr. High (10-11 grades) Director, Teresa Trier - M209A

ADULT DIVISION

University - Directors, Dan & Nancy Eckels - E324

Career - Directors, David & Barbara Moore - E226

Special Adults - Director, Evelyn McDonald - A251

Adult 1 - Birthdate 1920-earlier - Director, Noble Hembree - E220

Adult 2 - Birthdate 1921-30 - Director, Clayton Brunson - A170

Adult 3 - Birthdate 1931-40 - Director, Charles Oxford - A160

Adult 4 - Birthdate 1941-50 - Directors, Marion & Kathy Williams - A150

Adult 5 - Birthdate 1951-60 - Director, Bob Hopkins - E322

Adult 6 - Birthdate 1961-69 - Directors, Bill & Carol Brunner - E320

Young Married - Birthdate 1970 and later - Directors, Rick

& Carolyn Tanneberger - E228

Go directly to your new department

