

A son honors his father, and a servant his master, If I am father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me? says the Lord Almighty. [Malachi 1:6]

God commanded His people to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" on His day. Through dynamic worship, God is honored and respected. God asked the Jews, his chosen people, the above question when they neglected true worship even after God restored them again by rebuilding the nation of Judah after their exile in Babylon.

The church is God's children for whom He died and loves unconditionally. As our heavenly Father, He gives His church abundant and eternal life. As Master, He expects honor and respect. Hebrews 10:25 states "let us not give up meeting together." When the church meets for Bible study and worship, we are promised God's presence. He is honored by our praise and worship, and we show Him our highest respect. The Hebrews passage goes on to state "let us encourage one another- and all the more as we see the Day approaching." Let's do our best to be a part of the festivities this coming Lord's Day, which is High Attendance and Fall Harvest Sunday.

Each Sunday School Department has set a high attendance goal in Bible study. We are encouraging our beloved church to reach the highest attendance in years with over 600 people assembling together. The goals are printed below:

Department	Enrollment	Attendance Goal (two better than our best)
<b>Adult Division</b>		
Adult 1	30	21
Adult 2	116	73
Adult 3	108	54
Adult 4	66	40
Adult 5	93	45
Adult 6	64	37
Married Young Adult	57	37
Single Adult	13	11
Career	39	20
University	120	75
Sub-total	706	413
<b>Youth Division</b>		
Senior Hi	39	30
Junior Hi	48	41
Sub-total	87	71
<b>Children</b>		
5-6	40	26
3-4	30	25
2	23	20
1	20	21
Sub-total	113	92
<b>Preschool</b>		
Five	12	10
Four	16	12
Three	13	14
Two	10	12
One	12	10
Babies	15	14
Dept. Off.	2	2
Sub-total	80	74
Gen Officers	9	7
Total	995	657



HATS OFF to both of our Young Musician Choir and Youth Choir. They sang in the morning and evening services respectively this past Sunday. Hard work and excellent leadership produces the kind of sound with which these choirs sing. To God be the glory!

HATS OFF to all who have been and will be a part of the Fall Harvest Festival. This event has become an annual tradition. I believe it is one of the most effective things we do in communicating love to community. I remember well overhearing one visitor questioning another at this event the first year I came, "This is free? They don't charge anything?" I can't help but believe that when we provide something wholesome, free of charge, simply as an altruistic act, the world takes notice. I'm so grateful to be a part of a church that has this kind of heart. To God be the glory!

WITH THIS IN MIND, I want you to encourage family and friends to attend both the Fall Harvest Festival and the concert by *The Melody Boys Quartet* which follows from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This concert should appeal to a wide range of ages and musical tastes. In keeping with the concept of our Fall Harvest Festival being a gift to the community, we will not be receiving a love offering during the concert. The concert is fully funded by the ministry of music. It is indeed a concert; a time of wholeness, Christian fun and fellowship. For many of us there will be times of worship, but it is not a worship service *per se*. So, invite everyone you can to come. Pray that seeds will be planted.

MENTORING is a very popular word these days, especially in some television advertisements for children. Neither the word nor the idea are new to me. I have had many *mentors* throughout my life who have *mentored* me at many different stages. However, this newest emphasis is a little paradoxical to me. Let me explain.

An actor who appears in one of these ads plays in an award-winning television program. Having viewed the program, I must admit that this actor and his co-workers are skilled in their craft. However, my primary reason for watching the program at the outset was so that I could know for myself whether the criticism of its content is warranted. It is. While well-done, is unfit for children (and I believe adults) to watch. When the scripture, "whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report..." is applied, though well-crafted, the program remains substandard in content.

This brings me to the paradox. Isn't it odd that an actor involved in programming that does nothing to aid the plight of children has been chosen to promote mentoring them? It is a dramatic picture of our society as a whole, a society which says:

To enjoy personal freedom we must not be bound by the teachings of God regarding love. We will ignore the love which He demonstrates and challenges us to give, a love which manifests itself in commitment to marriage, sexual purity, respect and courtesy toward our fellowman, and personal sacrifice for the good of others. And having discarded these principles as detrimental to our *personal freedoms*, then we will appear on national television, using our award-winning talents (only mentioning occasionally, at an award show, of course, that they are God-given), to poignantly beg other adults to follow our lead and give two hours of time on Saturday to play basketball with a child whose life has been wrecked by the consequences of our self-indulgent society, in the hope that those fleeting moments we give as mentors will compensate in some small way for all we've taken from our children in the pursuit of our *personal freedoms*.

Next week I want to share with you the names of some of my mentors, since for now, as usual, I'm out of space.

Mike

## UNIVERSITY Ministry

Hey, did you go to Midnight Madness last week? The basketball season is quickly sneaking up on us! Why do they call it Midnight Madness, anyway? The "Midnight" part is obvious enough - they can't start practicing until after 12:00 a.m. on October 16. What about the "Madness" part? Maybe because it's a chance to get out there and go crazy for those Hogs, acting like a bunch of fools to break up the monotony. Maybe it's because Hog fans are just "Mad" about their team. Or, maybe you have to be nuts to be out watching basketball practice at midnight! But, out of love for the Hogs, many fans aren't afraid to risk being called crazy.

You know, many first century Christians faced such a risk. To the philosophical Greeks (the dominant culture of the day), the notion that Christ had risen from the dead was lunacy (Acts 17:32; I Cor. 2:14). In spite of this, many believers held firmly to their faith in Jesus, even if it meant facing scorn as a fool (I Cor. 1:18-27). Does this mean that all of our Christian beliefs should be irrational? Of course not. The apostle Paul's weren't. But when faith in God and in His word led to rejection by the world, these early Christians were ready to face it for their Lord.

Are you willing to do the same? Will you stand up for your beliefs in the risen Savior, even if it could result in inviting the scorn of those who don't know Him? Even if it means facing rejection? Let's be willing to be fools for Christ, if necessary in order to stand up for Him. Many (maybe you) are willing to do it for the Hogs - will you do it for your Lord?

Bruce

## Children's Ministry

of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church



HIGH ATTENDANCE SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 27

The Children's Department is having a contest to see who can reach their goal for high attendance. The class who reaches their goal or comes closest will win a Pizza Party for them, their parents, and their teachers. The party will be Sunday, November 3 at 12 Noon, right after church. Everyone bring your friends!

Lisa

## YOUTH MINISTRY

of Fayetteville's First Baptist Church

And the Father waited..... The son was at a party. He had never felt so accepted and loved. His "friends" were all around him praising him for throwing the blockbuster event of the year. Food and wine flowed freely as did conversation and other such things at parties like this. The son reveled in the moment.

And the Father waited..... The aftermath of the party weighed on the son like the merchant's carts on the shoulders of those who passed outside his door in the morning light. The hangover was just a sidenote compared to the emptiness of the room. All his "friends" had gone. All the excitement now seemed to just echo like someone screaming into a large canyon. As he regained what was left of his senses, he realized that he had lost everything. Weeks of partying had left him broke, hopeless, and abandoned.

And the Father waited..... The pigs stunk, but it was work. Living in a pig stall for most of every day was not the same as the plush apartment where he had been, but he was surviving, and as time passed he realized that was exactly all he was doing, surviving. He remembered how well his Father's servants had been treated back home. He remembered how they lived and what they ate. (For you have a lot of time to think while feeding pigs.) Then his heart jumped with hope, something he had not experienced for a long time. Maybe, just maybe.....

And the Father waited.... It was a long journey home. He thought of twenty different ways to ask his Father to let him become a servant. He thought of his Father's reaction. What would he do if his Father refused him? Where would he go? How could he live? He would just have to fall at his Father's feet and depend on His mercy.

And the Father waited.... He came around the bend that led to his boyhood home. The sight almost made him stop in his tracks in amazement. There in the middle of the road, though along way off, was his Father, waiting for him. Suddenly feelings of fear and hope intermingled as his feet seemed to move on their own accord down the road toward his Father. He fell at his Father's feet and cried for mercy, but his Father stopped him in mid-sentence and ordered his servants to prepare a feast as not one had ever seen. He ordered them to bring fine clothes, a ring, and some shoes. He hugged his son and the son melted in his Father's arms.

And the Father celebrated.... (Luke 15:11-32 NIV)

Maybe you have run away from your Heavenly Father. Maybe you have found yourself in despair, abandoned, or alone. Your Heavenly Father waits to accept you, forgive you, and restore you. Will you turn to Him? Will you come home?

Please pray for our youth that they will daily come to their Heavenly Father and allow Him to strengthen them and guide them to live for him. Thanks so much. God bless.

In Him,  
Jim

### Praise Record - Oct. 20

Sunday School Enrollment	1023
Sunday School Attendance	472
New Sunday School Members	3
Weekday Attendance	12
Morning Worship	461
Evening Worship	197
Received October 20	\$ 9,218.79
Required October 20	\$ 16,153.85
Received in October	\$ 53,605.95
Required in October	\$ 48,461.55
Received in 1996	\$ 665,366.24
Required in 1996	\$ 678,461.00
Find Us Faithful - 10/20/96	\$ 1,536.00
Find Us Faithful - 4/14/96	\$ 124,367.00
Balance owed Cornerstone loan 9/30/96	\$ 982,609.46

### EXTENDED SESSION ~ Oct. 27

**Babies:** Evelyn Brooks,  
Alma Kitchens  
**Older Babies:** Judy Allen,  
Karen McCoy  
**Ones:** Jonathan & Leslie Martin,  
Michael Allen  
**Twos:** Dan & Nancy Eckels  
**Threes:** Shannon Davis,  
Allen Thrasher, Steven Thrasher  
**Fours:** Linda & Terry Dilley

### PARKING/VAN MINISTRY-Oct. 27

Parking ..... all members  
Van ..... Bob Mayes

### HOSPITALIZED

Betty Blackard ..... WRMC #560  
Glen Wing ..... WRMC #436  
Clementine Hembree, Rehab #102

### DEACON OF THE WEEK

Luther Freeman, Oct. 27-Nov. 2

### SYMPATHY

Our church family extends Christian love and sympathy to Bryan Walker on the loss of his grandfather, Gyles Walker of Van Buren, on October 15;

... and to Don & Claudette Hunnicutt, in the recent death of her brother, Derrick Sean Smith.

### NEW MEMBERS CLASS FOR CHILDREN

**Sunday, October 27**

Meet in the Conference Room

Teacher: Mary Covey

### WOMEN ON MISSION WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Monday, November 4, 10:00 a.m.

~Program and Lunch~

### MEMORIALS

*In memory of Eathel Barton*

Ben & Marie Harrison

*In memory of Druid Jones*

Paul & Charlene Vinson

*In memory of Ben Lewis*

Paul & Charlene Vinson

*In memory of Minta Robinson*

Audrey & Earl Guinn

Greg & Hannah Lee

Harold & Imogene MacDonald

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mayes

Evelyn McDonald

Bob & Jennie Riggs

### 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

# The VOICE

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### FROM YOUR PASTOR

My thanks to Allen Thrasher for filling the pulpit while I was away. Also, to the staff for the extra load they carried.

I am pleased that three of the gambling amendments to our state constitution have been struck down. Now we need to pray, work hard and vote against Amendment Four. We do not need more legalized gambling in Arkansas. The cost far exceeds the benefits.

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

Love,  
Preacher

### This Sunday, October 27th



**5:00-7:00 p.m.**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Free Games • Candy • Door Prizes • Food**

**Workers still Needed:**

- **Concessions** - 30 minute shifts - Cyndy Meares, 443-7817
- **Games** - Lisa Lovell, 442-6240

### The Melody Boys Concert

**7:00-8:00 p.m.**



*A Festival of fun  
for  
the entire family!*

**HIGH ATTENDANCE GOAL THIS SUNDAY - 600**