Ah, Missouri weather! There is an old saying that if you don’t like the weather in Missouri hang around a day, it will change. This past Sunday we were in the mid 70’s and tonight it will snow, with a low of 20 by tomorrow evening.

Speaking of Sunday . . . I suppose everyone has already heard about the football game that was played in Miami. It is not often that folks here in Missouri give much thought to a football game in south Florida, but the one this past week-end had a bit of significance. Everyone gets excited about the home team having a win, especially in a championship game.

Even those who aren’t hockey fans were glad the Blues won the Stanley Cup last year, and I would venture to say many among us are hoping the Cardinals can win the World Series this year. Who know, there may even be a few hoping the Royals do!

But while winning is great, faithfulness is better.

You know, the Chiefs went 50 years without a Super Bowl win. Yet the fans were still Chiefs fans, and the players still put their heart into every game they played. Same with the Blues. Same for the Cardinals – we are in a “drought” right now as the Cards haven’t won a World Series since 2011!

But what about your church? What is considered a “win” for your church? What about a Championship win?

Sure, we all love to see folks accept Christ and get baptized. Teresa and I were at Mt. Carmel this past Sunday and rejoiced with the church family as two folks were baptized. When a soul is snatched from the clutches of hell, cleansed by the blood of Christ, and granted the gift of life eternal that is definitely a win!

But there are other wins – marriages healed, families restored, children being trained in the way they should, prodigals coming home, and more. Even so, none of those wins would be possible if it weren’t for the faithful times in between. The SS teachers who prepare the lesson and teach it week after week. The hours spent in prayer when no one else is around. The “showing up” when so many other things demand our attention. The giving of our tithes even when the bills are piling up. Faithfulness.

You know, spring training does not guarantee a World Series Championship. But I can guarantee you that there will be no World Series without a faithful effort in Spring Training.

If you, or your church, are yearning for a “win” let me encourage you to simply be faithful. Be faithful in the small things. To be faithful even when the “win” seems to be so elusive. To be faithful even when there is no tailgating or “Faithful Parties” to attend.

Paul wrote “I have run the race, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. In the future, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness...” Maybe we have it all wrong . . . maybe being faithful is the big championship win. Everything else is just evidence that we are winners, that we are overcomers. When Jesus welcomes us home and says “Well done, my good and faithful servant”, that will not be winning the championship, that will simply be a recognition of our faithfulness now. Be faithful.

Your Fellow Servant, Timothy
MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

MISSION TRIP TO ROCHESTER MN DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO JULY 25-31

ON MISSION CELEBRATION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11-14, 2020

CAMP DATES HAVE BEEN SET
PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS
MORE INFORMATION WILL COME SOON.
CAMP P82, ROCKY MOUNT
JULY 13-15 Completed Grades K-3
JULY 13-17 Completed Grades 3-6
Group leaders and other volunteers are needed. If interested please Contact the Association Office, 392-6591.

DEACONS ORDAINED
On December 15th, Honey Springs ordained Quincy Robinett as a deacon. Quincy is a life-long member of the church, and the son of Terry and Rose Robinett. Harold Elson is Pastor at Honey Springs.

On January 19th, Rusty Russell was ordained a deacon of Hickory Point. Russell grew up at Hickory Point and is married to Rachel. Kelvin Walker is Pastor at Hickory Point.
VALENTINE BANQUET
February 14, 2020 6:30p.m.
First Baptist Church of Iberia
3 Bonnie Drive, Iberia MO
Main dish, drink and bread provided
Cost of Dinner one side dish or dessert
Everyone welcome
rsvp to : Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association. Leave your approximate number of those attending with:
Carol at 573/392-6591

Old Fashioned Community Hymn Sing
Everyone Welcome
Thursday, February 20
10-11:30am
First Baptist Church, Eldon
209 S Aurora
choose your favorite hymn for the group to sing
Hymnals Provided
come and make a joyful noise to the LORD
We are witnessing moral anarchy, as Western nations abandon all semblance of biblical authority. There is nothing more essential to our lives than our manhood or womanhood, yet our culture is embracing transgender identity and is thus uprooting the very structure of our bodily existence. Untold numbers of boys and girls are being harmed. Most significantly, God is not honored or obeyed.

Dr. Bill Victor, who serves in the Developing Leaders Group and as the Scholar in Residence for the Missouri Baptist Convention, will speak on how Christians are to celebrate the beauty of God’s creative design for manhood and womanhood; train our children to thrive in a sexually confused society; and respond biblically to sexual chaos in our culture.

Dean Greer and Amanda Smith, Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministries, will teach the Christian individual how to respond to a loved one who is same sex attracted or at odds with their God given maleness or femaleness.

Please make plans to join us. There is no charge to attend. Please register via Eventbrite or email Bev Ehlen at bevehlen@yahoo.com or call her at 314.608.1068 so we can guarantee your seat.

YOUTH SUPER BOWL PARTY

Getting together with friends to watch the Super Bowl is a popular thing to do, and generally a good thing. But sometimes those watch parties can devolve into something less than godly behavior. As a part of our continuing effort to strengthen the relationships of our youth with Christ and with one another, the associational youth council put together a Super Bowl Party again this year.

I was proud of our youth as every one of them stood respectfully during the singing of the national anthem. During Zach White had some activities planned for halftime, including a game called “Traffic Jam”. There was some nervous chatter for about three fourths of game, but by the last quarter everyone was more at ease and everyone was having a good time.

The food was good, some new friendships were made, and of course the game itself was GREAT!

Zach White, Zach Mendenhall, and Caleb Smith have been doing a fine job of planning and activities and ministering to our youth. Check future issues of the Voice for future events.
The Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association and MBCH invite you to join us the morning of March 14th from 9:30am to 11:30am at Blue Springs Baptist Church on Hwy Z, for a very important and informative training.

**What is Stewards of Children ®?**

Stewards of Children® is a prevention training that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The program is designed for organizations that serve youth and for individuals concerned about the safety of children. It is the only nationally distributed, evidence-informed program proven to increase knowledge, improve attitudes, and change child protective behaviors.

This is a special invitation to all parents, grandparents, bible study teachers and ministry leaders to join us for a training on how to keep children safe. There is no cost to the event so come on over and Join us for this special event!

_Brother Timothy Faber_
UPCOMING EVENTS

February 8: Pastors and Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM
February 14: Associational Valentine Banquet, FBC Iberia, 6:30 PM, 3 Bonnie Drive, Iberia
February 20: Old Fashioned Community Hymn Sing, 10:00-11:30 AM, FBC Eldon, 209 S. Aurora Street
February 28-29: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
March 8: Daylight Saving Time Begins [Spring forward one hour]
March 14: Pastors and Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM
March 16: Darkness to Light End Child Sexual Abuse, 9:30 AM, Blue Springs Baptist Church
March 27-28: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
March 29: 5th Sunday Sing at Mt. Herman Baptist Church, Hwy FF, Olean, 6:00 PM
March 31: Assoc. VBS Clinic, FBC Eldon, 209 S. Aurora, Eldon
April 5: Palm Sunday
April 10: Good Friday
April 11: Pastors and Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM
April 12: Easter
April 14: Executive Board Meeting, Tuscumbia Baptist Church, 7:00 PM
April 24-25: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
May 7: National Day of Prayer
May 9: Pastors and Wives Breakfast, Blue Springs Baptist Church, 8:30 AM
May 10: Mothers’ Day
May 25: Memorial Day
May 31: 5th Sunday Sing at Mt. Herman Baptist Church, Hwy FF, Olean, 6:00 PM

Lois McDonald
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