



Finally, the rain has come after a long stint of absentia, which caused a dreadful drought. Most of us generally know that showers come in April, but lately God has seen fit to bless us with multiple showers over the last few weeks. It is so refreshing to look around and see how lush and green everything is. In the Christian world, showers have been compared to blessings and most of us would not mind the rain if it produced tangible gifts that perpetually enhance our life on this earth.

Though rain has a downside, like causing calamity and snarling traffic, its benefits are much greater than all disasters combined. Rain saturates every living organism it touches with life-giving elements which are needed for our survival and theirs.

The New Year can be compared to rain showers. As the rain washes away the dirt, dust and grime we are introduced once again to our beautiful surroundings, that for so long have found refuge behind the elements. It's a two-edged sword, along with the aesthetics of our surrounding we also discover all the things that need to be repaired and or completely removed. The New Year gives us a fresh perspective on our surroundings and exposes the things that need our attention.

I want to challenge our church to think of ways we can garner the attention of our Lord that He may shower us with His blessings now and in the future. We find guidance for this venture in Philippians 3. Paul starts in verse one by giving us a lesson about life. First, he states, *"Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord!"* In verse three we discover the second lesson, *rely solely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. Do not put any confidence in human effort.*

The next lesson is discovered in verse seven. Not only are we not to put our confidence in our own efforts we are also not to put our confidence in our own accomplishments. Notice what he writes, *"I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him."*

In verses ten and eleven we discover Paul's mission in life. *"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!"* It was not enough for Paul to write these things down as aspirational goals; he had to map out a plan of action to complete his mission.

The first part of the plan: **Set your Eyes on the Mark – VS.12-14**

"I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be." So that we may set our eyes on the mark, we must understand and acknowledge where we are now. At this junction in our life, and in the life of our church, we must admit we have not attained our goals as of yet; we are not perfect. There is still so much to learn, thus, we should be working diligently to complete the tasks we were created and designed for. This means we all should evaluate how we spend our time and determine if we are striving to be what Christ saved us for.

Paul writes, *"I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."* We discover in verses 13-14 the way we set out eyes on the mark. First, forget the **past** and **look** forward to the future. Second, focus only on one thing; the purpose of what Christ saved us for and for what He wants us to do and become. I am convinced, if we will all purpose to follow this model of *forgetting the past and pressing forward*, by pursuing the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, we will begin to take giant leaps forward in our personal spiritual growth and in the growth of our church.

Next month we will continue studying the importance of pursuing the will of God and His Kingdom by discovering our divine purpose and practical ways to pursue it.

May God continue to bless each of you and our Church.

Your friend,

Pastor Tim



Valentine Party

Saturday,
February 13th
4:00 pm

First Southern Baptist Church will be hosting our annual Valentine Party. We invite everyone to come join us at 4:00 pm in our fellowship hall. This year our party will be a potluck dinner. Please sign up if you are coming and also what you will be bringing to share with others. The sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Hope to see you then.

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:00 pm

Everyone is invited to come join us for dinner every Wednesday night. A reasonably priced, "home-cooked" meal with dessert. Adults \$5 suggested donation, Children 11 and under free. Bring your appetite. Thank you to Bonnie Swyers for keeping the dinners going while our cook was out of town.

Women on Mission Saturday, February 13th 10:00 am

Please come and join us on Saturday, February 13th at 10:00 am. We will be having a potluck so bring your favorite dish to share.

5 creative ways to give to IMB

By IMB staff

Giving through your church's annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering or the Cooperative Program is not the only way you can support IMB?

There are many other ways to support the IMB's mission to partner with churches to take the Gospel to the unreached peoples and places around the world.

Here are five creative ways to give:

1. **Amazon Smile** - Go to smile.amazon.com, and search for and select "International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention." Start your shopping at smile.amazon.com (you may want to save it as a bookmark in your browser), and 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases will go to support IMB. After your purchase, you'll also have the option to tell your friends on Facebook or Twitter that you've just supported IMB through AmazonSmile.
2. **Kingdom Growers Coffee** - Who doesn't love a great cup of coffee? Kingdom Growers Coffee comes from cooperatives devoted to bettering the lives of their farmers by sharing the love of Christ, training them and getting their products to higher-value markets. When you buy Kingdom Growers coffee through this link, a 10 percent contribution is made through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support IMB missionaries.
3. **Global Hunger Relief** - Global Hunger Relief is an initiative of Southern Baptists, and GHR-funded projects combat hunger in North America and around the world. When you give to GHR, IMB missionaries are equipped to provide food, water and aid to people in need. Give online to GHR, or give through your local Southern Baptist Church or your S.B. Convention.
4. **Text-to-give** - Every gift matters, no matter how small. If you are part of a church and you're looking for a quick, convenient way to give — text "IMB" to 80888 to donate.
5. **Planned giving** - Explore creative ways to include IMB in your financial planning — including gift annuities, bequests, tax-free sales and other means. Your generosity can make an impact on the work of IMB missionaries around the world.

Learn more at imbgiving.org.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - 2nd Class
Assignment - Virginia Beach

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air Force
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona

Megan Hines - USNA - Pastor Tim's Daughter
MIDN - Megan Hines
1 Wilson Rd.
P.O. Box 12610
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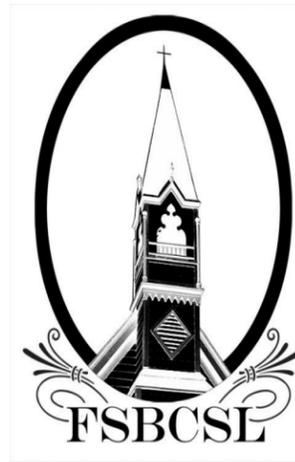
Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am



- 3rd - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 8th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 10th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 13th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
 - Valentine Party - 4:00 pm
- 15th - Office Closed
- 17th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 22nd - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
- 24th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
- 25th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm
- 23th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am

7th - Pete Dal Ferro
 7th - Stacie Kopet
 10th - Pat Harrelson
 18th - Eugene Ivey



First Southern Baptist Church
Newsletter

Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

Pastor: Tim Hines

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Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

John 4:7-8 (NIV)