



# First Baptist Church of Spring Hill

## The Messenger

September 2016

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Rhonda Purtle

God's desire for His church is that it might be a church that is marked by excellence. God expects and demands that we be marked by excellence as we worship and serve Him. But how can we become a church that is marked by excellence?

I want to share with you five ingredients that will challenge us and enable us to become a church that is marked by excellence. It is my prayer that as we begin this new church year that we will rise up to this challenge and thereby allow God to bless our congregation with His power.

First of all a church of excellence has a proper authority. What is the authority for the church? Is it the pastor? Is it the deacons? Is it the congregation? Well the answer to all of those questions is, "No!" The authority of the church is not the congregation, the deacons, or the pastor. The authority of the church is the Word of God. God's Word is the pattern for the program that we are to follow as God's people. Therefore, it is important that we spend a great deal of time studying God's Word.

Second, a church of excellence has a proper adoration. The basic attitude of the church should be that of prayer and adoration to God. That means that every meeting we hold in this church should be preceded by prayer. Every visit we make should be guided by prayer. Every decision that we make should be saturated with prayer. Every lesson we teach and ever sermon we preach ought to be bathed in prayer. It is prayer that makes a church a church of excellence.

Third, a church of excellence has a proper affection. In other words, it will be a church made up of people who love each other. Just before Jesus went to the cross, as He gathered with His disciples for their last meal together, He spoke these words, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). Are we bound together by love? There is no other thing that we can substitute for this important ingredient, love. You see, when our church becomes that kind of place, a place where all are loved, and all are helped, the building will not contain the crowds.

Fourth, a church of excellence has a proper attitude. Opportunities are knocking at the doors of our churches all around our land and so many churches are so afraid of change or are so afraid of doing something wrong that by the time they decide to do something the opportunity is gone and they end up doing nothing. Have you ever wondered why some churches seem to be empowered and blessed by the Spirit of God in a special way, while other churches that are nearby with the same opportunity and possibility seem to be passed by? What is the difference between these two kinds of churches? (Continued on page 2)



## September - Self-Control

Self-control and discipline are words that work together. We often use self-control, but rarely think about it, even when we come across it in the Bible. Self-control means inner strength. One of the Fruit of the Spirit is self-control. Self-control stops...bad habits and bad works. Self-control stops...us when it comes to retaliation. Without it we want to get even. Self-control is not always easy, but without it we would be lost.

Galatians 5:25 *If we live by the Spirit let us walk by the Spirit.*

## Here are a few books from our Library:

**Captured by Grace** by David Jeremiah. This book rescues us from lostness, trumps our weakness and transforms us from victims to victors in a world that does its best to drag us down. Encountering God's grace changes lives forever. Let Dr. Jeremiah show you how the transforming mercy that captured the apostle Paul can awaken with you a fresh experience of the God who loves you fearlessly and pursues you with abandon.

**What's So Amazing About Grace** by Philip Yancey. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. We speak of Grace often, but do we understand it? More importantly, do we truly believe it...and do our lives proclaim it as powerfully as our words? The author gives us a probing look at Grace; what it looks like...what it doesn't look like...and why only Christians can and must reveal the Grace the world is searching for.

Yours in Christ,  
Mary Robertson, Marjorie Wells, & Joan Frank

3	Kathy Miller
5	Tyler Robinson
6	Linda Hagerty
8	Quint Hall
9	Diane Whisnant
11	Zoey Fischer
14	Ava McCain
16	Rose Moore
17	Amy Easton
18	Lauren Gentry
19	Misti Gentry
20	Harlan Groves
24	Jerry White
	Vivian Bowen
	Adam Vaughn
	Hillier Groves
25	David Warren
28	Edna Durham
28	Ann Smith
29	Jan LaRose
	Gabriel McCoy

*Happy Birthday  
to You!*



## Pastor's Page (continued...)

(from page 1) For the most part the difference is one of attitude. Most churches that are dying, decaying, and dissolving are filled with people who gather every week to say, "It can't be done!" They are against every new idea, opposed to every change, they are resistant to every new direction. In short, they want things to be like they have always been. The churches that God is blessing are filled with people who are saying, "It can be done, it will be done!" They are open to new ideas; they are ready for new directions and responsive to change. They are people who want to do something for God. A church of excellence is filled with people who have a positive attitude. Our motto should be: "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!"

Fifth, a church of excellence has a proper aim. Our aim is to please God and to glorify Him. The purpose and goal of a church is to do everything we can do to bring honor and glory to God. The aim of the church is not to maintain the status quo. The aim of the church is not to maintain our little group. The aim of the church is not to make everyone comfortable. The aim of the church is not to create a place where people can display their personal power. Our goal is to be obedient to Him and bring glory to Him. Our aim should be to do anything necessary to bring people to Christ and to disciple Christians, and to grow the church.

We can be a church of excellence. We have all the ingredients that are necessary to be that kind of church. Will we be a church of excellence? That answer depends on you and me. But to be that kind of church will cost something. It will not be easy nor automatic. There is a price tag that comes with this kind of commitment. The question that I ask is this, "Will we move from the comfort zone to the commitment zone in this new church year?" I ask you to join me as we move forward with Christ and for Christ?

*Bro J*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>No Evening Services</i>	5 	6 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	7 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg.	8 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	9	10
11 Deacons' Mtg.	12 Ladies' Bible Study 10:00 am & 6:00 pm	13 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	14 10:15 am Cracker Barrel Fellowship	15 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	16	17 8:30 am Ladies' Breakfast
<div> <div>6:00 pm Steve Holt, State Missions Guest Speaker</div> <div> <b>Week of Prayer for Golden State Mission Offering - September 11-18</b> </div> </div>						
18	19 Ladies' Bible Study 10 am & 6 pm  October Newsletter Items due	20 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	21 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg.	22 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study 	23 <div> <b>Youth Fall Retreat</b>  <b>Cloudland Canyon State Park</b> </div>	24
25	26 Ladies' Bible Study 10 am & 6 pm	27 10 am Ladies' Prayer Group	28 6:30 pm Prayer Mtg.	29 9 am Sr. Adult Bible Study	30	
<b>Schedule of Services:</b> <b>Sunday</b> Worship - 10:00 am Sunday School - 8:45 am Adult Choir Rehearsal - 4:30 pm Discipleship Training - 5:00 pm AWANA - 5:30 - 7:00 pm (Sept.-May) Worship & Youth Svc. - 6:00 pm				<b>Wednesday</b> Children in Action - 6:30 pm Prayer Meeting - 6:30 pm Youth Service (In Youth House) - 6:30 pm Business Mtg. (2nd Wednesday) - 6:30 pm Instrumental Rehearsal - 7:30 pm		

# The Church in Action



**Cracker Barrel Fellowship**  
**Wednesday, September 14**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
**Everyone is welcome!**  
(at The Crossings in Spring Hill)

**Saturday, September 17**  
**8:30 am**

Bring a breakfast dish to share and join a time of good food, fellowship, and inspiration. All ladies invited.



*Ladies' Breakfast*

**English as a Second  
Language Classes**  
**Each Wednesday**  
**6-7:30 pm**

**In the fellowship hall**  
Limited class size  
See Pat Springer for more  
information



**2016 JAM (Journey into Adventures in Missions)**  
**October 1, Victory Baptist Church, Mt. Juliet**

This year's theme is "Road Trip". JAM is a one-day missions event for children in Grades 1-6. Cost is \$15. Deadline to register is Sunday, September 11. Please see Julie Hull if you would like to go ( [juliemhull@live.com](mailto:juliemhull@live.com) or 615.476.9522).

**Children's  
Church**



It's back!!! Summer is over so Children's Church returns on Sunday mornings beginning September 4. Children's Church is a time of worship designed especially for Kindergarten through 4th grade students. Please bring your child to meet our teachers at the back of the sanctuary during the welcome time. Pick up is in the fellowship hall at the end of the service. For the safety of your student, please note that children will only be dismissed to their parent or grandparent. If you are able to join our quarterly teaching rotation, please contact Crystal Vaughn at [cvaughn520@hotmail.com](mailto:cvaughn520@hotmail.com).



## 2016 Season of Prayer for Tennessee Missions

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15)



**Week of Prayer & Offering for  
Tennessee State Missions**

**September 11-18, 2016**  
**Offering Goal: \$1,500.00**



**Future Growth Funding**  
\$62,210.29 in a Construction Acct.  
at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank  
\$365,575.38 in a Building Fund  
at the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.



*Seamless* covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming. Experience the Bible as a whole as you gain clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture. Discover a biblical context that reshapes and brings to life stories from the Old & New Testaments. Join **Linda Bland** as she facilitates this 7-week study of scripture. Contact Linda with questions or for materials needed for this study.