

# First Baptist Church of Spring Hill

## The Messenger

September 2014

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Ministry Assistant  
Paula Zimmer

Pianist  
Kaye Schneider

Custodian  
Rhonda Purtle

Excuses! Why is it that we feel we can offer excuses when it comes to things of the church that would be ridiculous if used anywhere else? Have you ever wondered what would happen if people were as intense and committed and determined about church as they are about sports - or any number of other pastimes?



- We're asked to teach a class - the excuses start.
- We're asked to serve in the nursery - the excuses start.
- God puts on our hearts to share our faith with a friend or neighbor - the excuses start.
- In fact, if we're asked to do just about anything for the Lord, the excuses start. "I'm too busy; I'm already doing this, get someone else."

Have you ever responded that way? Sometimes our excuses pile up and get in the way of doing something for God.

I read a humorous story about some GI's on furlough that I think illustrates this: *The commanding officer was furious when nine GIs who had been out on passes failed to show up for morning roll call. Not until 7 pm did the first man straggle in. "I'm sorry, sir," the soldier explained, "but I had a date and lost track of the time, and I missed the bus back. Being determined to get in on time, I hired a cab. Halfway here, the cab broke down. I went to a farmhouse and persuaded the farmer to see me a horse. I was riding to camp when the animal fell over dead. I walked the last ten miles, and just got here." Though skeptical, the Colonel let the young man off with a reprimand. However, after him, seven other stragglers in a row came in with the same story - had a date, missed the bus, hired a cab, bought a horse, etc. By the time the ninth man reported in, the colonel had grown weary of it. "Okay," he growled, "now what happened to you?" "Sir, I had this date and missed the bus back, so I hired a cab." "Wait!" the colonel screeched at him. "Don't tell me the cab broke down." "No, sir," replied the soldier. "The cab didn't break down. It was just that there were so many dead horses in the road, we had trouble getting through."*

Can't or Won't? Christians need to be very careful which one we choose. Although we often choose to say we can't, it really is a case of "we won't." Is your excuse "I can't" or "I won't"? Let's face facts when we refuse to follow the Lord; it is because we won't...we disobey because we choose to...not because we have to. The sooner we accept the truth, the sooner we can make a change.

Intricately involved in God's calling, is God's Plan. Now listen carefully to what I am about to say or you may not understand. **God has a plan but He never expects us carry out the plan. He is going to see that it is carried out. He simply wants us to make ourselves available as His instruments.**

**Are we making ourselves available to God or are we offering excuses?**

## Church Library News

*September - When We Sin.*

When we sin and are truly sorry, God will forgive us. But when we sin against a fellow human being, we sin against God twice. We hurt the person God loves and hurt God. We still have to face the consequences of what we said or did and the person might not be able to forgive or forget. So please think what Jesus would do so we **don't offend God and don't cause the other person to sin by not** forgiving or forgetting. Go to Jesus when you are tempted; He understands and is able to help.

Hebrews 2:18 *Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Here are a few books from our Library...

*The Source of My Strength* by Charles Stanley. The author offers biblical principles that help us overcome pain, insecurity, frustration, loneliness, and alienation. Understand how emotional burdens constrict and confine your choices; confront painful memories of the past; and discover the courage and strength to live freely and joyfully in the love of God.

*The Victorious Christian Life* by Dr. Tony Evans. The author takes us through the basics of walking with Christ and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Down to earth stories of real people help us grasp the key principles. In a friend to friend style, Tony helps us **understand how God's fantastic grace makes us spiritual millionaires.**

*Dropping Your Guard* by Charles Swindoll. This book is the **author's challenge to Christians to come out of hiding** - to put down the masks and risk relating to one another openly and honestly. Doing that is not always easy— **sometimes it's downright scary, but he maintains it's the only satisfying way to live; the only way to meaningful friendships and genuine fellowship.**

Yours in Christ,

Lorraine Brown, Mary Robertson, & Joan Frank

## September Birthdays

3	Kathy Miller
4	Joe Bailey
	Brogan Scott
5	Tyler Robinson
6	Linda Hagerty
	Vannie Rice
8	Quint Hall
9	Diane Whisnant
11	Betty Bailey
	Zoey Fischer
13	Frank Lipka
16	Alice Moore
17	Amy Easton
	David Rice
	Katelyn Roland
18	Lauren Gentry
19	Misti Gentry
20	Harlan Groves
24	Jerry white
	Vivian Bowen
	Adam Vaughn
	Hillari Groves
25	David Warren
28	Edna Durham
	Ann Smith
28	Jan LaRose
30	Wayne Bailey

Happy Birthday  
To You!



## Worship Quote of the Month

*What is Worship?*

The worship quote of the month comes from the first chapter of “Worship: The Christian’s Highest Occupation,” by A. P. Gibbs, (Walterick Publishers).

*The term, “worship,” like many other great words, such as “grace” and “love,” defies adequate definition. The meaning of these words, like the exquisite perfume of a rose, or the delightful flavor of honey, is more easily experienced than described. My own definition is derived from two Scripture passages: John 4:23-24 and Romans 12:1. Here is my own definition: “Worship springs from a Spirit-illuminated **understanding** of the greatness and beauty of God through the revelation of his glorious perfections and works—especially manifest in the life, ministry, and accomplishments of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ—giving rise, by the Spirit, to deep and abiding **inward affections** of reverence, love, adoration, gratitude, and praise for God in Christ above all else, and yielding **outward behavior** marked by an ultimate, joyous and Spirit-empowered allegiance, devotion, submission, and obedience to the Lord Christ, seeking in righteousness toward God and man, and live all of life, by the power of the Spirit, to the glory of God through Christ alone.”*

A good exercise, for every reader, is to come up with their own definition of “worship.” What Scripture passages would you use? If you feel comfortable, please send me your definitions. I would love to read them.

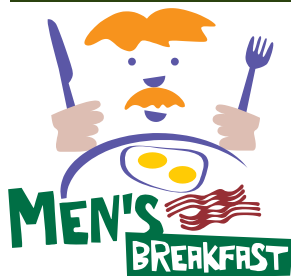
Bro. Nick, Minister of Music



2014



# The Church in Action



**Saturday, September 13  
8:00 am**

Please see Ben Barbre for  
more information.  
(callmedoubleb@gmail.com)

Saturday, September 20  
8:30 am in the  
Fellowship Hall

All ladies invited! Bring a  
breakfast dish to share.



*Ladies' Breakfast*

## Financial Peace University

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

The 9 week course begins, Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30pm. Membership kits are \$99 and can be purchased at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com). For more information, call Bruce 615.476.4548 or Julie 615.476.9522.

## Sunday Worship Schedule



The church voted Sunday, August 17, to continue the summer schedule of one morning worship service until such time as it is determined that multiple morning services are needed. Sunday School will

continue to be at 8:45 am and Worship at 10:00 am.

Cracker Barrel Fellowship  
Wednesday, September 10  
10:15 a.m.

Everyone is welcome  
(at The Crossings in Spring Hill)



**Future Growth Funding**  
\$142,931.37 in a Construction Acct.  
at First Farmer's & Merchant's Bank  
\$364,289.58 in a Building Fund  
at the Tennessee Baptist  
Foundation.



## Family

## Connection

Family Connection at FBCSH is a group of young(ish) families who come together monthly for fellowship and fun. We purpose to love, support and pray for each other. Come join us!!

- Friday, September 19th at 6:30 pm. It's football time in Tennessee (and everywhere else!) so put on your favorite team swag and join us in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite tailgate snack and a 2 liter drink. Dessert and paper goods provided.
- Saturday, October 4th at 5:00 pm. Field trip to the Ring Farm. Loads of fun for all ages—corn maze, slides, preschool play area and more! We have the fire pit reserved at 6:30 for a cookout. Cost is \$9 per person (2 & under free) **plus we'll divide up the fire pit food cost once we get a headcount.** Please RSVP to Julie (615.476.9522) no later than September 24. More details to come!

## Important Updates Coming to the Web Site & More!

We have been diligently working to update our member records. Thank you for turning in your data update sheets. If you have not done so, please contact the church office so that we can be sure that we have your information correct. Thank you to Allen & Heather Hall for the updates to our web site. We want to provide an interactive resource to our church family and community so we can keep everyone informed of happenings in our church.

**Our world is quickly changing and communication is "device driven". Many of us have "smart phones", tablets, and other digital devices.** With that in mind, we will be making our church directory available to church members from our web site. You will see in the coming weeks a link under Connect called **"Member to Member"**. A user id and password is needed to log in to a secure site. Information will not be out there for just anyone to access. You will have the option to look up an individual or family and even print a copy from home. And, if information is incorrect, corrections may be submitted.

We are currently using a portion of this upgrade for AWANA Registrations.



**There's an APP for that!** Yes, there is a **FREE** app available for your smart phone called **"ACS church life"**. This will allow access to the church directory and registration for events securely from your mobile device. Our church staff is already using the app. Church-wide launch will be very soon!

We are still finalizing all the details for these upgrades: adding photos to the directory, calendars, event registrations, and more. Be watching for the announcement of our launch in mid-September and check out our web site: [www.fbspringhill.com](http://www.fbspringhill.com).