

*THE* FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

# *ILLUMINATOR*

"Ye are the LIGHT of the world." Matthew 5:14

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NO. 37



## *HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8**

**GOAL: 150**

**Potluck Dinner immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Meat & Drinks provided – bring a covered dish and join us.**

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**THREE FORKS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL MEETING**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**WHITESBURG FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

I am happy to be back with you after preaching Homecoming at Fairview Baptist Church, my home church in South Carolina. The highlight occurred during the invitation when a man in his early sixties came forward, knelt at the altar with the pastor, and gave his heart to Jesus. He had been coming to church for only a month. His wife told me she had been praying for years for him to be saved. She plans to move her membership there and he will be baptized Sunday. They both wept and the church rejoiced.

Giving your heart to Jesus is the first step in God's plan for you. Then baptism. Discipleship follows and continues throughout our lives. Not only are we to be discipled (learn and grow in our faith), but we are called to disciple others. All of us, every believer is called to "*go and make disciples*". Maybe you have not been adequately taught in the faith yourself. Or, maybe you want to disciple others, but are not sure how to do it.

On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. in the church fellowship hall, I am kicking off a disciple group open to everyone. It will be the introductory session in which I will unveil the direction we will go. The goal of this group is two-fold. **First**, spend time teaching and sharing how we go about discipling a believer. The Bible is our text, but other materials will be used. **Second**, each of us will pray about and choose someone we can disciple and who can disciple us – some who will be our accountability partner too, someone who will challenge and encourage us in the faith.

The theme of this group is *becoming healthy*. That includes every area of life, but especially *spiritual health*. If churches were made up of spiritually strong and healthy believers, we could accomplish much in the Kingdom. So, come out this first time, just to see what it is all about. You can decide if this is something that fits you. Call or write me if you have questions.

**Bro. Tony**

[Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org](mailto:Tony.Brown@whitesburgfbc.org)

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**ELIZA BROADUS STATE MISSIONS OFFERING**

**CHURCH GOAL ----- \$600.00**

**GIVEN TO DATE ----- \$350.00**

# FAITH AND FAMILY

This week our church had the privilege of hosting the Addiction Recovery Center Convocation. I think that most, if not all of us, would agree that this area has been hit hard by drug (prescription and illicit) and alcohol issues to the point that it is epidemic. Satan is very skilled at convincing people that they can play with fire and not get burnt; yet many will find themselves enslaved in torment to what once provided short-term pleasure or escape. Satan continues to whisper to these folks that they truly need the substance, that no one else can understand what they are going through, and they must go through it alone. In the process, not only does the person using the substance get burned but significant harm can occur to family, friends, and even strangers. Throughout this process negative behaviors are reinforced and rewarded, and Satan is very pleased.

I have been asked many times if Christians can have substance use problems (typically people mean, "Were they ever saved in the first place?"). My answer is yes, Christians struggle with many types of addictions. Any time someone or something takes priority over God in a Christian's life, sin moves into the picture and repeated sin becomes a distinct possibility (and the more it is repeated the more likely it will continue). Spiritual warfare is real and Satan's desire is for Christians to sin against God. For the Christian struggling with addiction, I believe spiritual oppression is involved (the Christian is urged to sin, to deny God's word, and to feel spiritually dead – note that this is very different from spiritual possession, the Christian is not controlled by a demon but influenced instead. I do not believe that a person can have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and be possessed by a demon concurrently). Again, Satan tells the Christian that they must go through this alone, lying that God does not want them and other Christians will not understand. As the Christian listens to the lies, their witness is damaged and relationships suffer.

All this to say, we have to start talking about the problem of addiction. And we have to approach it in a way that communicates love, compassion, and the heart of Christ. We have to support the person but not the addiction (this topic alone would take several articles to tackle). If you or a loved one is struggling with substance use, don't believe the lies that Satan is telling you. Talk about what is going on and seek help. In John 17:17, Jesus prayed the following for his disciples, "*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth*". Jesus is the One we need to believe, surrender to and follow. He is greater than any struggle we face and can be trusted in all situations.

In Christ,  
**Jeremy**  
2 Timothy 1:6-7

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Have you ever noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and next the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us.



*"He predestined and lovingly planned for us to be adopted to Himself as [His own] children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the kind intention and good pleasure of His will—" Ephesians 1:5*

When children are adopted, they are taken into a home they know very little about. The child's last name is changed and they have siblings that they must get to know and trust. Over time the new family nurtures and teaches the child and they begin to mature, grow and be an integral part of their family.

When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, He adopts us into this wonderful family of believers. We start out as little babes but as we begin to learn and grow, we begin to see how amazing our family is and what a wonderful Father we have. We instantly have brothers and sisters that lift us up and support us. Family that laughs when we laugh and cries when we cry.

Every Sunday at our church we are greeted when we arrive by a loving group of greeters. I look forward every Sunday to seeing them when they open the door. They always hold the door open and shake your hand, or if you are willing, give you a great big bear hug. After meeting our greeters, you then go to one of our great Sunday school classes, where you are welcome with care and compassion. At the beginning of morning worship every Sunday, Jeremy greets us with, "Good morning, Family!" If you make it back on Sunday and Wednesday evenings you get to be a part of some of our great ministries by participating and serving which even more strengthen those family bonds.

I love the song, *The Family of God*. I wanted to share the second stanza of the song with you this week. I love my church family and I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God:

*"You will notice we say 'brother and sister' 'round here,  
It's because we're a family and these are so near;  
When one has a heartache, we all share the tears,  
And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear."*

I'm so glad to be a part of the *Family of God*, and so very thankful for my church family.

## **SCHEDULE**

- October 28 – Choir Practice and Fellowship, 5:00 P.M.  
at the home of Jerry & Phyllis Ingram
- December 3 – Youth Christmas Variety Show – 6:00 P.M.
- December 10 – *Star of Wonder* – Children's Play and Musical – 6:00 P.M.  
Church-wide Christmas Fellowship
- December 17 – *Sing Gloria* Play and Cantata – 6:00 P.M.



*"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."*  
Proverbs 18:24

Youth struggle with making friends and some struggle with choosing friends that will truly stand by them and support them. Often youth face challenges, and the root cause of most of those challenges is poor friendship choices. The Urban Dictionary defines friend as, *"A friend is some who tells you if you're being stupid, but who doesn't make you feel stupid"*.

One of my favorite candies is taffy especially banana. When I visit the beach or Gatlinburg, I always visit candy shops to watch them make taffy and usually walk of the shop with a huge bag of taffy. Taffy is made by stretching or pulling a sticky mass of boiled sugar, butter or vegetable oil, flavorings, and colorings until it becomes aerated. The making of taffy could be compared to how we build and mold friendships. As we grow, we being to be stretched. When we meet new people, a flavor is stirred into our mixture. Sometimes that flavor doesn't mix well into our mixture and causes us not to be aerated enough to reach the exact level of taffy we desire but sometimes we have flavors added that mix perfectly with our taffy.

So, we should desire to choose friends that support us, that encourage us, and most of all, tells us when we are "being stupid". Remember as you are being stretched, meeting and developing relationships with new people, make sure to choose the flavors that mix well with your taffy. Choose your taffy flavor well.

*"No one has greater love [not stronger commitment] than to lay down his own life for his friends."* John 15:13.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS**

*September 24*

*Regina Brown, Tracie Day*

## **FALL 2017 YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 30 – Movie Trip – Location and time to be announced

October 7 – Lamplight Theater Kingsport – Mortality Room \$8 Admission –  
Play starts at 6:30

October 27 – Bonfire after the Football Game

November 3 – LOCK-IN – 8:00 P.M. – 7:00 A.M.

November 15 – Instead of Youth Bible Study we will be helping with Operation  
Christmas Child

November 16 – Crowder American Prodigal Tour – UVA Wise, \$20

November 19 – Church-wide Thanksgiving Dinner

November 22 – Thanksgiving Break – No Bible study

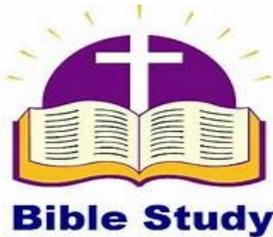
December 3 – Youth Christmas Variety Show

December 20 – Christmas Caroling at Food City

December 27 – No Bible Study

December 29-31 – Winter Xtreme - \$120

We will also plan on attending *Star Wars the Last Jedi*



## HIGH ATTENDANCE DAY SET FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Praise the Lord, our Sunday School Program is growing and our workers all need to be commended for their faithful service and efforts in helping to make this happen. We especially want to offer praise for two new classes that have started just this year and are off to a great start. This is Fred & Cheryl Hall's class for mixed adults who were not in a Sunday School class, and Calvinston & Rebecca Cook's class for young adults. Last Sunday's attendance was the highest this year with 133 present.

While this is good, we want it to keep spiraling upward, and Sunday, **October 8<sup>th</sup>** is designated as **High Attendance Sunday**. The goal for this day is 150. We can reach the goal if we all pitch in and do our part, which would be to at least bring one more. Granted, coming one Sunday may not be the ultimate goal, but it could plant the seed that would bring the visitors back to church.

Also, on this day we will be having a Potluck Meal which we could view as a "Dinner-on-the-Ground". It's fall and visions of past church dinners with chicken & dumplings, fall beans, sweet potatoes, stack cake and such come to mind. But of course, our members always bring out the best dishes possible and it will create even more visions. Meat and drinks will be provided by the church. I hope you will bring your special dish. During the meal, awards will be present and we will also be observing *Pastor Appreciation Day*. If you have questions, please call Kendall Ison at 633-9831 or Jeremy Horn at 633-2277.

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## STEWARDSHIP TEAM MEETING

Monday, September 25, 6:00 P.M.

As many of you know, our church is participating with Kentucky WMU in the Christmas Backpack Project. We have committed to provide 25 filled backpacks for distribution to children living in poverty in Kentucky and Cincinnati at evangelistic events. We have 14 filled (with a promise of four or more coming soon) and some extra items for additional backpacks.

If anyone would like to participate in this project, the following items are needed:

Empty backpacks for older children  
Underclothes for old children  
Non-perishable food items  
Toys (small enough to fit in a backpack)

Each backpack will also include a copy of the Christmas story leaflet and a Mailbox Bible Club postcard.

Backpacks need to be turned in no later than October 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact the church office or Carol Brown, WMU Director.



CONGRATULATIONS to Quinn Richard Allen & Chasity Faey (Williams) Fisher on the birth of their daughter, Zoey Leigh Grace, born on Friday, September 15 at 5:26 P.M. at WARH. Zoey weighed 7 lb. 1 oz. and was 19 inches long. Proud grandparents are: James & Christina Fisher, Danny & Lisa Patrick, and Tim Williams. May God bless this new little one and her family.

**FILL THEM WITH**



It's that time of year again to start thinking about **SHOEBOXES!!!** For the month of September, we will be collecting: crayons, colored pencils, markers, loose paper, glue sticks and scissors.

Shoeboxes are filled with toys, personal hygiene products, school supplies and religious materials telling the story of The Greatest Gift Ever Given – Jesus Christ.

Last year the Whitesburg First Baptist Church donated over 400 shoeboxes and was a part of one of the largest collection in southeast Kentucky and southwest Virginia with close to 9,000 shoeboxes collected. That would not have been possible without the generous donations of our people.

If you want to be a part of the 2017 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project, please see Lee Adams or email her at [Lee.Adams@uky.edu](mailto:Lee.Adams@uky.edu) or call her at 606-634-5698. If you would like to donate money, you may write the check to Whitesburg First Baptist Church and write *Shoeboxes* in the memo line.

Thanks for supporting the Shoebox Ministry and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with millions of children all over the world.

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A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one fall day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed! "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!" Her grandson said, "Yep, and he did it left-handed." Perplexed Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?" The boy said matter-of-factly, "Because we learned in Sunday School that Jesus sits on God's right one."

## EXTENDED SESSION WORKERS

**Sept. 24**

Laura Whitaker, Liz Sergent

**Oct. 1**

Linda Setzer, Tricia Lewis

## PRESCHOOL WORSHIP

**Sept. 24**

Lee Adams

**Oct. 1**

Allison Combs Huff

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS

**Sept. 24**

Viva Anderson, Brenda Cook

**Oct. 1**

Amanda & Byron Thomas



Sept. 24:	David Cook, Tracy Keller
25:	Jon Setzer
26:	Elisha Horn
27:	Tyler Everidge
28:	Paul D. Adams, Billy Parks
29:	Philip Bentley, Brenda Cook, Andrew & Paul Fleming
30:	Shannon Mullins

## LAST SUNDAY'S STATISTICS

Sunday School -----	133
Adults     --	76
Youth      --	21
Children   --	25
Preschool  --	11
Morning Worship -----	157

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES

Housing Authority -----	
Letcher Manor -----	30
AWANA/IGNITE/YOUTH -----	121
Children: 85       Adults: 36	

## ADDITIONS TO DATE

(September – August)

By Baptism -----	
By Letter -----	
By Statement -----	
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS -----</b>	

## TOTAL RECEIPTS

Budget Receipts -----	\$ 4,062.00
Budget Requirement -----	\$ 7,171.00
Family Life Center -----	\$ 210.00
Designated -----	\$ 15.00
State Missions -----	\$ 195.00
Budget Required to Date -----	\$269,498.00
Budget to Date -----	\$242,666.42

## IN THE HOSPITAL

BERTHA DAY, Local ARH  
 ELLIE HUTCHINGS, Kosair Children's

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## FAMILY LIFE CENTER

### TOTAL NEEDED – PHASE 2

\$500,000.00

### GIVEN TO DATE

\$425,367.00

### NEEDED

\$74,633.00

## DEACON OF THE WEEK

September 24 - 30

**JERRY INGRAM**