

CATCH THE VISION!

“Where there is no vision,
the people perish.”

Proverbs 29:18

July 26, 2010

*“The church with a glorious past, present and future,
where everlasting relationships are built!”*

First Baptist Church Affton
8751 Mackenzie Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63123

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GREETINGS IN THE WONDERFUL NAME OF JESUS!

We had a tremendous weekend in the house of the Lord and God's presence was very evident. I am grateful for all of our visitors. I received many good comments from them about our services. I trust that our visitors will return and consider

joining our church family.

I was blessed to have my sister, Joan Feeler and her husband Cliff with us in the services. Cliff is Pastor to the Senior Adults at First Baptist Church in Denton, Texas. They were visiting in the area and he was also here to promote his upcoming trip to the Holy Land. He held an informational meeting after the service. There is still time for you to sign up for this trip if you would like to go.

Sunday night we had a great service with some extra people in attendance. Again, we had some visitors and the spirit of the service was great. I had said on Sunday morning that I would be sharing some personal things after the evening service for anyone who wanted to stay. I appreciate those who made the extra effort to come and listen.

On Sunday, July 11th I introduced visitors in the service that were family members that I had not seen in 43 years. I shared that it was an interesting story that I would share at a later date. That time was last Sunday night. Those of you who were at this church when I came in view of a call know that I was married for a short time when I was 18. My wife passed away three years later. (Sandy and I were married after she passed away.)

There was a daughter born to this first marriage and through circumstances beyond the control of my daughter and I, we were separated for 43 years. During this time we did not know that each other still existed or where the other one lived. On Easter Sunday my younger sister informed me that she had made contact with my daughter through Face Book and asked her if she would like to hear from me. I made contact with her and we immediately

bonded and the 43 years melted away. We have been in constant communication ever since.

Darlalea (Lea) Cuevas, her husband Bryan and their daughter Carlie were the visitors in our service on that Sunday. They stayed in our home that weekend, we spent the weekend in activities together and they came to church with us. It was quite a reunion. They live in Biloxi, Mississippi where Lea is the Head Teller for a bank, Bryan is a Charter Boat Fishing Captain who owns his own business and Carlie is your normal 8-year old girl.

This is truly a miracle of God. I know God can do anything, however without the modern technology of Face Book this reunion would probably have never taken place. The other miracle is that my daughter and I are reconciled as if we were never apart. It was instantaneous joy, love and acceptance. We both share unconditional love for each other and Lea, Bryan and Carlie love Mama Sandy as well.

I appreciate so much the love, joy, acceptance and encouragement given to Sandy and me on Sunday night. Lea and her family hope to be back for Thanksgiving. Of course, we will be going to see them and they will be here from time to time. We talk or email almost every day as we are trying to make up for 43 years of separation. The next time they are in the service I will introduce my daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter to you. I can't wait for you to meet them.

I trust that all of you will continue to rejoice with Sandy and me as well as Lea and her family and Robin and his family and praise God for this miracle. God is so good!

I know that many of you were not present for my testimony on Sunday night. Also, many of you were not members of this church when I came here over 10 years ago and went through a question and answer period in front of the entire congregation. If you have questions, feel free to talk to me. Nothing is off limits and I will be glad to share this story with you. I am rejoicing that my daughter who was lost is now found.

You will also be interested to know that Lea and Bryan are both Christians and members of a Baptist Church in Mississippi. Bryan has also served in various areas of

Continued from page one...

ministry through the church over the past years. Carlie has not yet accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. We are praying that she will when the time comes.

I hope to see you Sunday with a smile on your face, a friend by your side and a Bible in your hand as I share a word from the Lord. May God richly bless you and please keep praying for all of us.

JUST REMEMBER THAT GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO SANDY AND I!

Loyalty, Commitment, Faithfulness

Can you define these words?
What is your simple definition of these words?
Do we have loyalty and commitment today?
Are we loyal and faithful?

Through the month of July in Sunday School we have been studying in I Samuel about Samuel, David, Jonathan, and King Saul. It has been a very interesting study about these men and their lives. We are looking at the relationships of these men to each other and to GOD. What was each of their loyalty to one another? Pastor Dana has also been preaching from I Samuel about David and his relationship with GOD. These four men were all quite different and each one listened to the wisdom of the others and had loyalty to GOD at times. Isn't it fitting that in today's relationships we can see the comparison in David's day in the Old Testament. David trusted GOD for the future and he also listened to his leaders before he became King. As we move into August, would you consider your loyalty to one another, to our leaders, to your Sunday School class and to your church? Would you review your commitment and your faithfulness? We are here to fellowship and love one another. Read I Samuel chapters 18 through 30 this week and see the relationships of these four men and how God used each of them. Maybe God is wanting to use you. What is your commitment?

...from a church member

CHURCH BUS DRIVER NEEDED



We need at least one more driver and could use more to set up a longer rotation. You do not need a special license. Contact the office or Harold Huffstutler today to volunteer. This is a great ministry opportunity.

CHILDREN'S CAMP



Around 9:30 am July 26th, 10 children and 4 counselors headed for Children's Camp at Van Buren, Missouri. South Missouri Baptist Assembly is located on top of a hill above the beautiful Current River. Reanna Smith, Jenise Woolf, Sam Bender and Zach Claus took time off from work and/or their summer vacation to go as counselors for these children. We praise God for their dedication. Please be in prayer for this group that they will be safe and have a great time. Also, pray that God will work in their lives and will save those who do not know Him and that those who are Christians will be drawn close to God. Thanks to all of you for supporting the fundraisers, giving donations or providing scholarships so that these children can attend camp. We look forward to hearing their report when they return. Our group will be joining a number of children from various churches in the Southeast Missouri Baptist Association. They have planned, promoted and will carry out a well organized and inspirational camp with music, crafts, games, mission activities and lots of Bible studies and some interesting sermons. We appreciate their willingness to let us join them. Some of these children are from families that are not members of our church and this may be their first religious camp experience.

FURNITURE NEEDED



Oasis International is an organization that helps refugees and immigrants in our area become new neighbors and friends by providing furniture and clothing. **No clothing items are needed at this time**, but they do need the following items that should be in good to very good used condition (no tears or pet stains, etc.). **Chair, coffee table, couch, love seat, lamps, end tables, television, television table, mattress/box springs, crib/toddler bed, chest of drawers/dresser, pillows, sheets, blankets, kitchen table, kitchen chairs, microwave.** If you have any of these items to give away, please call the office. If we have enough items, we can arrange a pick up here at the church.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

- August 5th - Seth - 3 years as Worship Leader
- August 10th - Kay - 3 years as Church Pianist
- August 14th - Mary - 19 years as Secretary

We praise God for the years of ministry given by all of our staff.



AFFTON DAYS ACTIVITIES

The next big event on our community calendar is Saturday, September 18th the date of the Affton Days Parade and festivities. This is a real outreach tool for our church and a way to show the community we care. We are usually heavily involved in this event. This needs to be a church event with many of our people involved, not just a few. (This is a ministry event of our church, not just the ministry of one or two people.) We need to get this organized soon. The pastor and others will work with you and help you get organized and enlist volunteers. **We need someone to take responsibility for this event and serve as Coordinator.** As previously stated, you will get lots of help and training for this, but we need one person or a committee to take on this responsibility. Please pray and volunteer today so we can start our planning process and enlisting people to help. This event will not be very effective if we wait until the last minute to plan it and only a few people are involved. We usually have food, entertainment, tents and tables on our lot, a float in the parade and a number of activities on our lot. Please pray about this ministry and see where God wants you to serve in this area.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

There will be a meeting at the church on Sunday, August 8th at 4:30 pm for anyone interested in our upcoming Affton Days ministry. As we continue to state, this is not the ministry of one or two people. This is a church ministry that must be supported by the entire church family. This meeting will be held in the Pastor's Study if room permits. If necessary we will move to an alternate room. The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm about how we want to participate as a church in the annual Affton Days Parade and celebration. Anyone who has the slightest interest in this ministry should attend this meeting. This will be a meeting to share ideas and information. We want to hear from church members about how they think we should participate in this activity. We also would like to organize a committee with various subcommittees to start the planning and preparation process and to eventually carry out this ministry on September 18th. Please plan to attend this meeting and come having prayed for God's will in this ministry. We need a large group of members to come and share their thoughts with the group.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

On September 15th FBCA will be 70 years old!
What a great time to celebrate as we participate in Affton Days Activities.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE



Lou and I have returned from Ridgecrest, North Carolina from the national Sunday School Leadership Conference from July 9-12. We attended several breakout sessions discussing the Transformational Church written by Thom S. Rainer and Ed Stetzer. We also discussed Great Expectations by David Francis. You will be hearing more in the future.

To all teachers: please put the 26th of September on your calendar. We will have a luncheon after church. Please, it is important all attend!

To all members of FBCA: begin praying that you will listen to God's calling to step out and commit to teach in 2010 and 2011.

Yours in Christ,
Bill Wright

HOLY LAND TOUR



Pastor Dana's brother-in-law, Clifford Feeler is hosting a trip to the Holy Land through Dehoney Travel, Inc. The date is December 27, 2010 through January 8, 2011. Cliff is the Senior Adult Pastor at First Baptist Church in Denton, Texas. He has taken a number of groups to the Holy Land over the years. This is a 13-day Holy Land Tour including Israel, Jordan and Petra. The cost is \$ 4,289.00 from Dallas, Texas. We have brochures and a 12 minute informational DVD in the office for anyone who is interested.

FALL BRANSON TRIP



The Hilltopper Group has decided to take a fall trip to Branson. The proposed date is November 4-6, Thursday through Saturday. The cost will probably be what it has been in the past, \$ 350.00 per person for two people to a room and \$ 450.00 or less for one person to a room. We will have more exact figures later. Sandy and Pastor Dana are organizing the trip and will serve as tour guides. You do not have to be a senior adult to go on this trip. We welcome persons of all ages. We would like suggestions on the shows and attractions you would like to see. It is possible some Christmas shows will already be starting. We would also like to know if you would desire a full day or a half-day at Silver Dollar City. Please give your suggestions to the pastor or Sandy and let them know if this date will work for you.



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Our congratulations to Dillon and Jessica Burke on the birth of their son Ethan Alexander on July 12th. He weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz and was 19.5" long



We rejoice with you in his safe arrival and pray that you will raise him to love the Lord



HILLTOPPERS' MEETING
 August 6
COVERED DISH LUNCHEON
 11:30 am

Bring a friend and join us this month

Our deepest sympathy to...

The family and friends of our Doris DiBartolo who passed away July 24th. Doris had been a member here for 40 years and had been an active member in our Hill-topper group for years. Her visitation will be Tuesday at Kutis, Affton Chapel, from 4:00-9:00 pm and then on Wednesday at 9:30 am here at the church followed by the funeral at 10:00.



The family and friends of our Herbert Pidcock who passed away last week. Herbert had been a member here for two years. Tentative arrangements are for Saturday, July 31st with visitation at 10:00 am and the service at 11:00 at our church. Arrangements are through Kutis, Affton Chapel.

Regular Sunday Services

9:00 Sunday School
 10:15 Morning Worship

6:00 Evening Worship

Regular Wednesday Services

6:00 Youth FUEL!

7:00 Bible Study

Deacon of the Week

**July 25
 Bill Wright
 August 1
 Dan Bender**

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	July 18	July 25
Enrollment	131	131
Attendance	84	78
New Members	0	0
Visitors	3	2

Total Morning Worship

	103	110
Sanctuary	85	91
Children's Church	6	11
Nursery	12	8
Evening Worship	30	38

OFFERING

Weekly needs	\$ 4,920.00
Received 7/18	\$ 4,014.10
Received 7/25	\$ 3,245.00
YTD Received	\$136,841.13
Parking Lot 7/18	\$ 465.00
Parking Lot 7/25	\$ 85.00

Bread Ministry
 July 31-August 1
 Bill and Lou Wright
 Sam Bender

Need A Ride?
 Call the Church office by 3:00 p.m. on Friday if you need a ride Sunday and you are on our bus route.

Church Staff

Senior Pastor: Dana L. Burris
 Worship Leader: Seth Carruthers
 Youth Directors: Tom and Jennifer Martin
 Church Secretary: Mary Bond
 Custodian: Gregg Crain
 Church Phone: 314-631-8750

PRAY AT

10, 2, 4 and Bedtime