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Upcoming Events in May

PLANTING OF THE FBC GARDEN
9 am Saturday, May 4

PRIMETIME TRIP
10 am Tuesday, May 7

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICES
Thursday, May 2
12 noon Community Service with Luncheon
Davis McCann Civic Center
6 pm FBC Prayer Service in the Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
Wednesdays, May 1, 8, 15, 22
3:30 pm FBC Kids Club
3:30 pm Crossfire M.S. Youth
5 pm Family Dinner
6:00 pm Crossfire H.S. Youth
6 pm Bible Study w/ Pastor
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
8 am Saturday, May 11

MOTHER'S DAY
Sunday, May 12

GRADUATION SUNDAY
10 am Sunday, May 19

**CHURCH IN THE PARK
& FAMILY FUN DAY**
River Side Park Pavilion
10 am Sunday, May 19

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 27

FBC MURPHY

Connect. Grow. Go.
MAY 2019 BAPTIES NEWSLETTER

LIVING CHURCH OR DYING CHURCH...THE CHOICE?

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Last month we focused our attention on the Thessalonians Church. Paul shared how a church ought to be.

I came across an article by Thom S. Rainer which talked about how many churches are dying. It was interesting because lately in our own denomination we are looking at many churches closing their doors forever. We need to be diligent and also looking forward that it does not happen in our community. It is good for us to take a look at ourselves. We are a thriving church, we need to be a praying church to bring in many who are not aware of the Savior's love for them. Let us "not fall asleep at the wheel."

God has many wonders for our church in the near future but I found Rainer's article so very interesting and want to share it with you.

"Many Churches Are Dying"

From the Blog By Thom Rainer

Some are so sick that they are a few years, perhaps just months, from death. But too many refuse to do anything. Any potential and dramatic turnaround will not take place because these churches do nothing.

Why? Why do these dying churches walk resolutely down the path of death? Why don't they attempt something dramatic, something bold? I have worked with too many of these churches. Allow me to share six common responses to these questions.

1. They refuse to admit they are sick, very sick. I have worked with churches whose attendance has declined by over 80 percent. They have no gospel witness in the community. They have not seen a person come to Christ in two decades. But they say they are fine. They say nothing is wrong.

2. They are still waiting on the "magic bullet" pastor. They reason, if only we could find the right pastor, we would be

(continues on page 11)

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Connect. Grow. Go.
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SHAKER SAMUEL, PASTOR
KAY REIMAN, EDITOR

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FAMILY FUN DAY

RIVERSIDE PARK PAVILION
SUNDAY, MAY 19

10:00 AM WORSHIP IN THE PARK

11:15 AM ALL CHURCH PICNIC LUNCH

FOLLOWING THE MEAL ... LET THE FUN & GAMES BEGIN!



SUPER ADRENALINE DOUBLE CHALLENGE



BAG TOSS TOURNAMENT

continued from page 1

fine. But they bring in pastor after pastor. Each leaves after a short-term stint, frustrated that the congregation was so entrenched in its ways. So the church starts the search again for the magic bullet pastor.

3. They fail to accept responsibility. I recently met with the remaining members of a dying church. Their plight was the community's fault. Those people should be coming to their church. It was the previous five pastors' fault. Or it was the fault of culture. If everything returned to the Bible belt mentality of decades earlier, we would be fine.

4. They are not willing to change...at all. A friend asked me to meet with the remaining members of a dying church. These members were giddy with excitement. They viewed me as the great salvific hope for their congregation. But my blunt assessment was not pleasing to them, especially when I talked about change. Finally, one member asked if they would have to look at the words of a hymn on a screen instead of a hymnal if they made changes. I stood in stunned silence, and soon walked away from the church that would close its doors six months later.

5. Their "solutions" are all inwardly focused. They don't want to talk about reaching the ethnically changing community. They want to know how they can make church more comfortable and palatable for the remnant of members.

6. They desire to return to 1985. Or 1972. Or 1965. Or 1959. Those were the good old days. If we could just do church like we did then, everything would be fine. These churches are increasing in number. Culture indeed has little patience with a me-focused congregation, much less so than, say, 15 years ago.

Is there hope for these churches? Will

these dying congregations indeed die?

I have seen God intervene a few times in such situations. But, in every case, the church has turned its face to Him, and forsaken all of their own preferences, desires and human-centered traditions.

But most dying churches will die.

I pray that your church, if it is indeed on the path to death, will be the rare exception, to the glory of God.

The above article should energize us and take us to our knees. Please pray FBC will continue to seek His will in all of our ministries and keep Christ's commission at the forefront in all we do.

I am looking forward to the many things we will be doing this May, please be a part of it!

God Bless,
Pastor Shaker

TAKING A SUMMER BREAK

The school year is drawing to a close and FBC Wednesday night will be taking a summer break. FBC Kids Club, Crossfire Youth, Family Dinner and Bible Study with Pastor will meet on **May 1st, 8th, 15th** and **22nd**. Kids' Monday Fun Days will begin in June after VBS. All our Wednesday night activities will resume in mid August with a Wednesday Night Kickoff, so watch for the announcement. Stay cool and have a wonderful and safe summer!!

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

The church office will be closed **Monday, May 27th**, so the staff may spend the Memorial Day holiday with their families.

In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Shaker or Pastor Jake at home.

Have a safe and blessed holiday!!



CALLING ALL MEN

The Men's Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, May 11th**, starting at **8:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. This event is a great outreach to all the guys, young and old. It is always good food, great fellowship and an awesome inspirational speaker (Pastor Jake). Be sure to invite your coffee drinking buddies at the local restaurants, your sons, grandsons, nephews, in-laws and neighbors. It will be a time to meet, greet and get to know new people as well as showing them some of the great FBC hospitality and Christian fellowship.

HELPING HANDS NEED FOR THE GARDEN



produce to the poor in our community. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ron.

Weather permitting, the FBC Food Pantry Garden will be planted on **Saturday, May 4th, at 9:00 am**. Ron McLaughlin will have the garden area tilled and the plants and seeds ready for planting in the vacant lot across the street from the church. The more hands to help, the quicker it will get planted. Everyone, all ages, are invited to help this ministry that helps the Murphysboro Food Pantry supply garden fresh

CELEBRATE YOUR MOTHER AT FBC



It's always great when FBC can have a special service. The Mothers' Day Worship, **Sunday, May 12th** is just that kind of service. It's all about the uniqueness of a mother's love.

All mothers will be honored and we will have a special little gift for each.

Give your mother the best gift possible by sitting in the pew next to her on Mother's Day...she will love it!!!

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Our nation is in need of God's direction and power as our country struggles with violence, sin, and the Godlessness of our society. As Christians and Americans we need to come together, love one another, and to pray together in one voice, asking for our Lord's intervention and help to put America back on track as a Christian nation.

This year there will be two great services on the National Day of Prayer on **Thursday, May 2nd**. The first is the Murphysboro Ministerial Alliance sponsored Community Service starting at **12:00 noon** at the **Davis McCann Civic Center** on 14th St. This community service will include Murphysboro leaders, local politicians, business owners, etc. There will be a sack lunch provided. Everyone is welcome.

The second service will be here at **FBC** starting at **6:00 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. Pastor Jake will lead a prayer service devoted to praying for our country, government leaders, schools, churches, families and our community. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors.

PRIMETIME TO ENJOY THE SPRING SCENERY



Calling all active senior adults. PrimeTime will be traveling to Harrisburg for a leisurely lunch at The Red Barn on **Tuesday, May 7th**. The bus will leave the church at **10:00 am**. Lunch is dutch treat. The ride to Harrisburg will be filled with the sights of spring...trees budding and flowers blooming. If you would like to go, the sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Invite your friends, everyone is welcome.

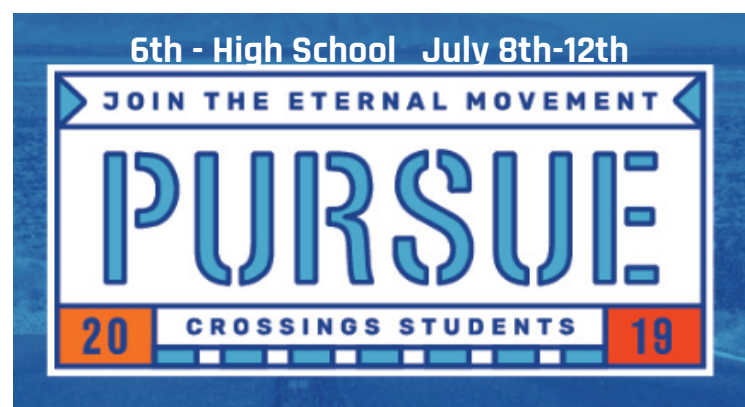


TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO SUBMIT A FAMILY PHOTO

We are working on the 150th Anniversary Pictorial Directory. If you were unable to have your photo taken but would like to be included in the directory, all you need to do is submit a photo to the church office or email it to office@fbcmurphy.org so that it can be sent to Lifetouch. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the church office.



CROSSINGS SUMMER CAMP IS AN AMAZING CHRISTIAN CAMP WITH AWESOME FUN ACTIVITIES AND CONCERTS, LIFE TRANSFORMING MESSAGES, AND A GREAT PLACE FOR KIDS AND YOUTH GROUPS TO GROW CLOSER TOGETHER IN THEIR PURSUIT OF JESUS.



All kids and youth from 3rd - 12th grades are welcome to have a fun, Jesus filled week at an amazing camp. The cost is \$350. Payment & financial assistance may be available. Please contact Kathie Grob or Pastor Jake asap if you would like to attend.



Graduation Sunday

A special time during Church in the Park on **Sunday, May 19th** will be dedicated to our church family graduates.

Middle school, high school, college and military graduates who are an active part of our church will be honored for their academic accomplishments. We would hate to forget someone, so if you know of a middle school, high school, college or military graduate that is active in our church family and should be recognized, please contact Kari Graff at 303-5274. We would like to honor each high school and college student by telling a little bit about the school activities and/or awards they may have received.

ATHENS

Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth

Vacation Bible School

June 2-6, Sunday-Thursday

Family Kickoff Night
5-6:30 pm Sunday June 2
5 pm VBS Fun...
then at 6 pm Finger Food

June 3-6,
9 am-noon
Monday-Thursday

Register at www.fbcmurphy.org

If you would like to help at VBS, please contact Barb Troutman or Pastor Jake.

MARCH 2019 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

Additions to the Agenda/Miscellaneous:

Add fellowship hall renovation approval to minutes. Approval was given through text/email due to weather cancellation of January council meeting.

Last Meeting's Minutes: February 10, 2019 minutes were approved by consensus.

Financial Report: February 2019 Financial Reports were approved by consensus. Questions about IN/OUT line in budget. \$19,626 paid for fellowship hall reno. \$4500 paid to Burke Electric, Helen is checking on what came out of the Regions Business Fund.

Deacon's Report: Communion service will be at The Voyage on Thur. March 21 at 6pm. Flowers were sent to 2 families in the church. Sylvia Carvell presented Ch. 1 of "Autopsy of a Deceased Church."

Ministry Team Reports:

Outreach and Evangelism: 3 on 3 Basketball tournament March 23. 12 teams signed up, anticipating more at the door. Easter Service Invitations for the neighborhood. Community Spring Fest will be April 26. Jake and Moses will work on this together. Jake will work on letter to Tammy Davis' employer - they have contributed funds for this in the past. Worship in the Park May 19. Melinda will request pavilion. Jake, Helen, Melinda will meet to talk further. Gina, Tammy, Kristy will handle food. Celebrating graduates will take place at the park. Send invites to families of graduates.

Missions: Will continue to monitor the

need for funds for camp--90 total attending camp. HS FCA--\$100 to cover cost of leadership conference students attended. \$200 to cover future FCA needs. We will continue supporting. Monthly giving--2019 Food Pantry--will give remainder of 2019 for matching in March-April. Nick Dobbs--Monthly support has stopped as he returned to Bethany to finish school. Jesse's South Africa Report: Steiners are coming home. \$350 will be given to support VBS to the Phillipino Pastor we supported in the past. Chicken & Dumping Dinner raised \$750. \$3,000 given to mission trip

Youth Discipleship: Jake will take over leading Wed evening, both middle school and high school. Youth Leadership meeting will be April 14th following church. Concern over the lack of male leaders. HS/MS FCA will host Christian speaker, Terrance Talley April 3--Concert @ 7. Youth group will attend and help promote. Church Camp--Fundraisers: Peanut Rolls 3/29, Pork Butts 4/13, Yard Sale 4/26-27

Children's Discipleship: Sunday school curriculum: New curriculum will be introduced. Concern over age difference between kindergarteners and 5th graders. VBS will be June 2-6. Kathie is working to include children's ministry families in fundraisers for camp.

Family Discipleship Jessica/Kari will work to organize small groups and family outings to get to know Jake.

Staff Relations: IT/Webmaster: Webmaster and Technology jobs will be merged into IT Technician. Choir Director: Lynn has re-

signed to be with family starting at the end of May. Discussion on choir's future.

Finance/Stewardship Stewardship drive in September. New idea for grant proposal for intern. Outreach intern--grant will match up to \$3,000. Due by April 30-Kristy & Jake will write grant. Kristy is going to find info to clarify what exactly covers Noel's (children's intern) salary. Kroger Proceeds Program--Someone to intentionally set up people's Kroger accounts at the end of a service.

Buildings/Grounds: New boiler resulted in a \$6966 savings from heating costs of last year. This will be presented to the congregation. Fellowship hall remodeling--\$19,626. \$4,500 to Burke Electric. Finishing air conditioning. Still deciding what to do with the door locks throughout the church. Copier--Office copier still has a lot of life and we are under contract for repairs. Modern copier is keeping an eye out for a used copier for a spare in the conference room. Storm door on rental house is being taken care of this week. Jake is pleased with his office, no additional needs. Thermostats needing replaced. Checking about leak in college room and Deacon's storage room. Organ Repair--Estimate \$1500 for parts and labor for 5 years. Repairs were approved to come out of building fund. Fire Department Key--MFD requiring all businesses/churches in town to install lock box with a key--cost is \$350.

Emergency Response Team: Video is currently not working and Judy is getting bids to fix as well as to add cameras. Discussion of finding a balance between security and being a welcoming church.

Special Events: Church Directory photos can be made up 3/25 in Pinkneyville. We may

submit photos--will talk with Paul E. about taking makeup photos for those that can't get to Pinkneyville 150th Celebration--Chris D. is working on Banners for the sanctuary. Easter Brunch--Pam Lipe will take care of this again this year. Graduation Sunday--5/19 during the service in the park.

Worship and Ministry Team: Baptism/Membership classes begin 4/7. Tentative baptism 5/5. Chris D. is working on banners for between stained glass windows as well as banners for the front of sanctuary

College Discipleship: Meeting some Sundays--working to transition into a better meeting time each week.

Kitchen/Dining: Most nights are covered but more help is always needed. Christina will get dates that need filled (typically the 2nd Wed. each month).

Strategic Planning & Action: Finalizing brochure

Nominating Team: Still needing 1 leadership council member and 1 Deacon.

Technology: Dave will talk with Kay to make sure everyone has access to calendar. Add calendar accessibility on website so it can be read by all.

Senior Pastor Report: Men's Breakfast 5/11--8:00 a.m. Working on getting a speaker. Invite the community.

Next Leadership Council meeting will be April 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Trimester Business meeting will be scheduled in June.



MEET & GREET

GREETERS

May 5

Bill & Kim Oploh Family

May 12

Matt & Elaine Hardwig

May 19

Anna Jenkins & Judy Raines

May 26

Angela Barke & Lauren Martin

If you are unable to help, please contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

May 5

Matt & Melinda Guthman Family

May 12

Ed & Terri Miller

May 19

Jeff & Linda Wright

May 26

J. Goforth, K. Dunning, G. Hunziker

If you are unable to help, please contact the church office.



MEALS ON WHEELS

May 27-31

Monday

Memorial Day
No Delivery

Tuesday

Ron McLaughlin & Frank Aldridge
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

Wednesday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Mark & Darlene Pautler

Thursday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

Friday

Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady
Jane Beese & Alice Berry



May 2019

POST THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR!

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles
Acts 2:42-43

WELCOME CENTER

May 5

Albert & Trish Boudet

May 12

Murl Johnson

May 19

Jeff & Linda Wright

May 26

Vic & Patty Koenig



May
BIRTHDAYS

4	Ron Eastwood	22	Philip Hunziker
5	Justin Stilley	22	Chuck Attig
10	Sebastian Smith	22	Melissa Brady
11	Laura Wright	24	Melba Mifflin
14	Terra Troutman	25	Koral McBride
17	Morgan Mifflin	25	Sue Lynn Johnson
18	Timothy Sanchuk	25	Harry Allard
21	Linda Coleman	26	Krista Elliott
21	Monica Kirkpatrick	27	Debbie Burroughs

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to our many

MAY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Discovering Church Membership 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Share the Fruits Plant Give Away	29 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Adult Small Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	30 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	1 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 12:00 PM Community National Day of Prayer Service at Davis McCann Civic Center 6:00 PM National Day of Prayer Service at FBC	3 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	4 9:00 AM Fellowship Hall Reserved 9:00 AM Planting the FBC Garden
5 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Discovering Church Membership 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship	6 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Adult Small Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	7 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM PrimeTime Trip to The Red Barn 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	8 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	10 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	11 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
12 Mother's Day 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship	13 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Deacon Care Team 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Adult Small Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	14 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	15 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study w/ Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	17 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	18 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved
19 Graduation Sunday 10:00 AM Church in the Park 11:15 AM Picnic & Family Fun Afternoon	20 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:30 PM M.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Adult Small Group 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	21 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 6:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	22 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	23 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	24 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:00 PM InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Dinner at SIUC	25
26 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship	27 Church Office Closed Memorial Day	28 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 5:45 PM Worship Meeting 6:30 PM H.S. Girls Group 7:00 PM Praise Team Rehearsal	29 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	30 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	31 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	1