

## FIRST FACTS

Sunday, January 20, 2019

### The People Came...

Sunday School	310
9:00 AM Worship	361
PM Worship	128

### The People Gave...

Budget Receipts	\$ 20,593.16
Building Fund	\$ 250.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 100.00
Other non-budgeted receipts	\$ 3,020.00
Total Receipts	\$ 23,963.00
Budget Receipts to date	\$ 54,838.34
Budget Requirements to date	\$ 69,117.57
Budget Expenses to date	\$ 32,876.23

Sunday, January 27, 2019

### The People Came...

Sunday School	372
9:00 AM Worship	392
PM Worship	100

### The People Gave...

Budget Receipts	\$ 15,711.00
Building Fund	\$ 190.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 40.00
Other non-budgeted receipts	\$ 1,174.00
Weekday Preschool Wages & Taxes	\$ 27,098.58
Total Receipts	\$ 44,213.58
Budget Receipts to date	\$ 70,549.34
Budget Requirements to date	\$ 92,156.76
Budget Expenses to date	\$ 55,037.15

## CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Aaron D. Johnson, *Pastor*  
 Rev. Jonathan Lancaster, *Associate Pastor*  
 Jill Arrington, *Children's Minister*  
 BJ Faucett, *Student Minister*  
 Curtis Burtram, *Interim Minister of Music*  
 Pam Whitt, *Pastor's Ministry Assistant*  
 Mary Moore, *Financial Ministry Assistant*  
 Dana Hill, *Programs Ministry Assistant*  
 Carolyn Ledbetter, *Weekday Preschool Director*  
 Luke Ledbetter, *Building Superintendent*

First Baptist  
 Church of Boaz  
 225 South Main Street P.O. Box 337  
 Boaz, Alabama 35957  
 256.251.0561  
 www.fcbboaz.org

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# First Baptist Church of Boaz

*A family committed to love God, grow in Christ, & live His mission.*

First  
 Edition

Volume 28

Issue 2

January 30, 2019

## KEENAGERS

Covered  
 Dish  
 Lunch



with chicken fingers provided  
**Monday, February 4**  
**11:30 AM**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Speaker: Jennifer Bray**  
 Assistant District Attorney  
 Marshall County

## Baby Bottle Boomerang



Prayer + your coins  
 = changed lives.

Help us share the truth with young women and teens who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy. Simply fill the baby bottle with coins, cash or checks to benefit **Real Life Crisis Pregnancy Center.**

Bottles will be collected in the vestibule **until February 17th.** Checks can be made payable to Real Life CPC.

All Baby Bottle Boomerang contributions will be used for our moms and their babies' needs. All donations of \$25 or more can receive a tax receipt. Place your name and address in the bottle.



### Our Newest Members:

#### By Letter (5-7)

Kenny, Donna & Lane Smith  
 225 Ellis Rd  
 P.O. Box 475  
 Boaz, AL 35957  
 PH: 256.251.0561  
 Deacon: Dan Erwin

#### By Baptism (4)

Kensley Smith  
 225 Ellis Rd  
 P.O. Box 475  
 Boaz, AL 35957  
 PH: 256.251.0561  
 Deacon: Dan Erwin

## WMU at Branchwater

**Tuesday, February 12**  
**at 3:00 PM**

**Special Guest:**  
**Cindy Kennedy**  
**Missionary**

#### Deacons On Call Feb 3

Neal Arrington  
 Stan Clemons

#### Deacons on Call Feb 10

Adam Howard  
 Ricky Smith

**Sincere Christian Sympathy is extended by the staff and church family to ... The families of Jim Wilson, husband of Telina Wilson, and Francis Kirkpatrick.**

# Where Do You Fit?

- **WHAT** are your gifts and talents?
- **WHERE** do you enjoy serving?
- **HOW** can you best serve others as you serve the Lord?

**Find your place in the Ministry of FBC Boaz and plug in TODAY!!!**

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ...Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of it."*

*1 Corinthians 12:12, 27*

# FROM THE PASTOR...

Aaron D. Johnson

Dear Church Family,

If you miss a Sunday you are going to miss a blessing! We have been the recipients of many blessings over the years. However, the past few Sunday mornings have been special. It is obvious that God is working in our family. I don't remember a season during my time in ministry when God has strung together so many Sundays of such significance. Across all ages the response has been most encouraging and I would go so far as to say enthusiastically! Please join us for the blessing.

Please take a minute next Sunday and go out of your way to encourage someone. Encourage your teacher, the greeter who meets you in the parking lot, someone who leads in worship, just anybody you see. We all need a cheerleader sometime. This year be that cheerleader for someone.

Last weekend a large group of our men attended a men's retreat in Woodstock, Ga. Each of these men made a personal sacrifice of time and financial resources to attend. Each one received blessing. I want to challenge each of you who attended to bring the passion home! Don't leave the mountain top and settle for life in the valley. And all of those who did not attend, join me in seeking God's blessing on our church family. We have yet to see what God has in mind for those who love and seek Him.

I had a bit of a challenge while attending the Men's retreat. During the first meal I found myself choking. Four times in my life this has happened. It wasn't the kind that occluded my airway, just a choking that occluded my esophagus. I excused myself and managed to clear the blockage. Salad was the culprit and that says something about healthy eating! The blockage was clear, however, the pain would not subside. After about 2 hours I decided I needed to visit the local ER. Laine Spruiell had driven and was kind enough to take me to the ER where I spent the night. So far all the tests have shown nothing more than a hiatal hernia. I have an endoscopy scheduled for tomorrow and a stress test for Monday. Thanks for your prayers.

I believe that we have been blessed in recent days, in part, because we have demonstrated a genuine spirit of love and we are proving to be moldable to what God is doing. Our worship time change has brought about a boost in Bible Study attendance. We didn't expect this, however, we are delighted with the response. If we remain moldable in the Potter's hand, there is no limit to what we will see Him do in our family of faith.

Please take a moment this Sunday and make an attempt to assign the name of someone who is absent from your class to someone present. My goal is that every person on our church role be contacted every time they are not with us. We have many names on the records who have not been with us in many months or years. Please don't let us miss the joy of ministry to someone because we failed to know they were members of our class. Each one in attendance, please reach one who is not.

See you Sunday!

Your Pastor,

  
Pastor Aaron

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jill Arrington

Together we are guiding children to Jesus

Children's Ministry, it is a joy and a pursuit filled with hope because of Jesus. God has blessed us with leaders who not only love children but take time to build relationships with them and engage them in God's Word. The Bible speaks God's truth to our hearts like no human words can. Similarly, it was wonderful to hear Pastor Aaron recently state that, if children learn about God and His love at an early age, they will have their whole lives to love and serve Him and try to become more like Him. This is our goal.

We have several ministries that take place during the week that stick firmly to this same goal. Enjoy these ministry updates.

First, our weekly Kids Bible Club is the only way some of the 80 KBC kids in our community are getting any exposure to God's Word. It's amazing and very heartwarming to teach the Bible to these children who range in age from 4 years old to 5th grade. They sit with their faces upturned toward a leader and attentively listen. They are very intrigued when they hear the stories from the Bible. The leaders are amazed at how much they retain from week to week. A few of the "veteran" KBC children help the leaders teach. Most importantly, the leaders feel like the children are beginning to see how all these stories have a Christ connection and how God loved us so much He sent Jesus to die for us. Also, they are beginning to understand that even though they are young, they can tell people about Jesus and His love inside their home and community. One leader states that just the other day, while at the bank, a parent told her how much her child enjoys Bible Club. God is moving and speaking!!

Next is Celebrate Recovery childcare. Parents attending CR on Monday nights need to know their children are safe and happy so they can focus on becoming whole as a family unit. A meal, a Bible story, crafts and games provide a familiar routine for them. CR childcare leaders become a part of their lives, praying for them and especially for those they may only see once or twice. CR is about unconditional love in an unstable world and children are the most vulnerable.

Finally, The Shepherd's Place is our Monday - Friday Weekday Ministry. We have 162 students enrolled, one year olds extending through fifth grade. The students recently celebrated the 100th Day of the school year on Friday, Jan. 18. This means that we have had 100 days to practice memorizing this year's scripture passage and to learn that our "God who is rich in mercy because of His great love for us" has given us grace to be saved through faith in Christ Jesus. We are blessed to have been reminded 100 times of this truth in God's Word!

Please close out this time of reading by joining us in praising God for His faithfulness to continue to draw all people to salvation. Thank Him for providing and equipping leaders in these ministries.

Thank you to Charlene Alexander, Carol Jones, Lora Lancaster and Bobbie White for their contributions to this article.



WILD ENCOUNTERS ARE  
ON THE WAY!

June 3-6 @ FBC

Join me in praying for those who God wants to amaze  
with His love during VBS this summer.

## ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Jonathan Lancaster

Church Family,

We were blessed to hear from Chelsi Matthews of the Jesse Brooks Foundation this past Sunday night. God is using Chelsi in a wonderful way to minister to the children of Glory Land School and the people of Zuime Aflao, Ghana. I want to remind you that there are several ways you can be part of what God is doing in Ghana through the Jesse Brooks Foundation.

First, you can **pray**. In her presentation, Chelsi mentioned the spiritual darkness that can be seen and felt in the community that surrounds the school compound. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we have the privilege of praying for God's power, protection, and light to cover the people of Zuime Aflao. We can also pray that God would empower Chelsi and the school staff to be supernaturally effective as they show love and deliver the gospel to everyone they meet. In addition, we can pray that God will provide for the needs of the students and staff of Glory Land School in a powerful way.

Second, you can **give**. Chelsi told us of many needs. Children need scholarships to cover the cost of school supplies, uniforms, and meals. Teachers need training to be able to better serve their students. A large portion of the school building still needs a roof. In all these needs, God can use our resources to make a big impact. You can sponsor a child for \$30/month or give \$40 to buy 40 blocks to help in construction efforts, but gifts of any amount are appreciated. Donations can be sent directly to:

**JESSE BROOKS FOUNDATION**  
2935 Solitude Road  
Alberville, AL 35950

Finally, you can **go**. Chelsi mentioned that each year groups come to serve in Ghana. There is a need for three types of mission teams. Medical mission teams serve the community by bringing much needed medical care. These teams help provide Chelsi and the staff a greater connection to the community while meeting the physical needs of the people. Construction teams are needed to help complete continuing work on the school campus. Their work will allow the students and staff to make the best use of the facility throughout the year. Finally, there is a need for teams to come engage children at the school and in the community in fun events that will lead them to connect with the local church. To learn more about upcoming trips, you can call **256.558.6118** or contact Chelsi directly at **chelsi.matthews15@gmail.com**.

Grace & Peace,





## Celebrate Recovery

### The Insanity of it All

*"We came to believe that [God] could restore us to sanity."  
(Step 3 of Celebrate Recovery)*

Quite a concept, isn't it? That God actually restores us to sanity. Of course the trick is convincing someone that their life is insane to begin with.

"Insanity" is defined as "doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result each time." When we look at it in that light, most of us are guilty of doing that regularly. We make a commitment to leave that pet sin behind or to start reading our Bible and praying just like we have dozens of times before, and we convince ourselves (again) that it's going to be different this time. Somehow we'll manage to stick with it this time.

But we don't. Not for long anyway. Why is that? Because we're expecting what failed last time to work this time.

That's insanity.

The real insanity is that, in our human pride, we continue to convince ourselves that we don't need God to change us – that we can somehow manage to change our fallen nature by way of our fallen nature (i.e., doing it ourselves).

One of the beautiful ironies of the Christian life is that we find victory only in submission. To find any measure of sanity in this insane world in which we live, we must first submit to Christ and to His way of doing things. We have to refuse to let the world squeeze us into its mold, but instead;

*"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world,  
but let God transform you into a new person by changing  
the way you think."*

*(Romans 12:2 NLT)*

Submit to Christ this week; for the sake of your own  
sanity!



For more information about CR, contact Chris Amos  
256.572.7580, chris@fbcbaoz.org.