



2014

# THE CONNEC+ION

First Baptist Church \* 814 Buchanan Road \* New Tazewell, Tennessee  
Connect to God, Family, and Community!



## “Liar Liar” – Matthew 5:33-37

Last week a good friend, Willene Pierce, died. She was the WMU Executive Director for the Baptist Convention of MD/DEL and my immediate boss as the manager of the MD/DEL WMU retreat camp. We loved Camp Wo Me To, Willene, our WMU board of directors and our ministry there. We loved working there.

When we needed a break, rest and relaxation, we’d pile into our van and drive across the MD/PA border into the heart of Amish Country for what we called a “buggy fix.” A buggy fix is when you take the time to find a place where the speeding train of work and life slows down to the relaxing speed of a horse and buggy.

Do you know an Amish buggy doesn’t have a speedometer? If you’ve never followed a horse drawn buggy down the highway you might wonder “How do they know if they’re breaking the law?” When they pass the speed limit signs do they guiltily look in the rear view mirror to see if the police know they, like most of us, really don’t pay much attention to speed laws? The answer is no and the reason they don’t is it’s difficult to break speed laws driving a two-horse-power family buggy, even in a school zone. My point is that Amish family’s live life above the demands of speed laws and so they never worry about breaking them.

When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, he wasn’t listing all the laws we should not break, He was calling His people to live life so far above the demands of the Law of Moses that we would not need to wonder if we have obeyed the standard.

Luke said (10:27) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself.” If we are devoted to that standard, we live life automatically at a level of love that fulfills and exceeds the laws of Moses. In fact, when we start focusing on the demands of the law it is usually because we already know we are living in sin and start looking in the rear view mirror for the policeman to catch us.

We are in the process of looking at what God wants us to do as a church and how to do it. You will see scheduled meetings to develop “action plans and tasks” that will guide us in the weeks and years ahead. The teams are open meetings and you are invited to any or all of the meetings to join others who prayerfully and intentionally desire to obey God and follow God’s plan for Claiborne County and First Baptist Church.

Jesus said (Mt. 5:33-36) “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made. <sup>34</sup> But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup> or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup> And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.” Jesus is teaching that our obedience to God should be based on principles so far above the law that we need not look back, right or left to determine if we are keeping our vows to God. People in Jesus’ day would take oaths by lesser things than God: like I swear by heaven that I’ll do this, or I swear by all the earth that I’ll do that. And they thought that by swearing by something less than God they wouldn’t have to answer to God for breaking their oath.

In the Islamic culture, it is ok to lie to a person as long as that person is not a kinsman or if you make an oath by any other authority than God. Jesus tells us that everything we say should be an oath. When you say “Yes I’ll do something”, whether you had a contract or not you should do it. When you’re speaking, whether you swore on a Bible or not, you should tell the truth. Jesus calls us to live FAR ABOVE THE LAW so far that we no longer need consider the law.

Everything we say is just as solemn as if we had said, “May God strike me down if this is not true” before we said it. The fact that we swore an oath should never be what makes us truthful. The fact that we’re Christians should. The fact that we are sons and daughters of the true and living God should. We don’t need legal restraints to be truthful.

A few years ago there was a hilarious movie about a man who had to always tell the truth. The title was “Liar Liar!”

How seriously do you take the vows you made to God? For example, the Old Testament says we should give 10% of our money to the church. It doesn’t really talk about special or designated offerings, love offerings, special offerings, it talks about giving to “the church” 10% of what God’s blessings to you. Whew!! Sure glad that’s an Old Testament Law and it’s never mentioned in the New Testament in connection with being a Christian. Of course Jesus did say he did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. What if Jesus wants us to live so far above the law that laws and vows to keep them are not needed because Jesus knew that His followers would be so filled with God’s Spirit that their giving would surpass the law and enable God’s people to join with and fulfill God’s plan.

As we implement God’s action plan for our church, I pray that we will climb to the heights of heaven and see a vision of what God wants us to be and do. I pray that we may strive to live, give, and serve so far above the law that God will bless us with every opportunity to accomplish His will and become the very body of Christ in our community. I pray that we are not living a lie and our promises made to God are sacred and not revocable. The principle is: LOVE FREES US TO LIVE BEYOND THE LAW, NOT BELOW IT. EVERYTHING WE SAY SHOULD BE A VOW: WHEN I SAY YES, I SHOULD MEAN IT. WHEN I SAY NO, I MEAN IT, ON THE STAND OR ON THE TELEPHONE TO A FRIEND, BECAUSE THAT’S HOW JESUS LIVED ABOVE THE LAW. Everything He says He will do. Will you do what you say?

Bro. Larry

*Living Last Supper, Thursday, April 17th, 2014*



*Easter Sunrise Service, Sunday, April 20th, 2014*



## What's Happening in Youth

Youth Camp is June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> @ North Greenville University SC. We have **29** going! We will need scholarships to assist with the financial burden/hardship. As usual, we appreciate all you do for our Youth!

### Community Easter Egg Hunt



### UNSUNG SERVANTS

Ruby Harrell & Skylar Zug - for taping plastic eggs.

Everyone who helped set up and take down the Living Last Supper.

Sach, Charlie, Matt, Bill - for cooking Easter breakfast and the women who prepared casseroles.

2nd Harvest Volunteers - 354 families were served for a total of 967 individuals receiving food. 79 children's vitamin coupons were given away.

Thank you.

The TTT arrive at FBC on Sat., July 5<sup>th</sup> and leave on Sat., July 12<sup>th</sup>. We are tasked with providing *awesome ministry opportunities*.

We have asked the team to lead our Sunday morning worship service on July 6<sup>th</sup>. They will also be assisting with our Kidz Summer Camp on Mon., July 7<sup>th</sup> through

Thur., July 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Each evening from 5:30-7:30pm we will serve dinner and have a worship service.

Please contact the office as soon as possible to volunteer to house these youth. We are expecting 3 girls and 3 guys.

TENNESSEE  
TRAVEL  
TEAMS

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014

6:30pm

Church Council Meeting-**CANCELLED**

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

6:30pm

Short Business Meeting

## KIDZ SUMMER CAMP "Country Fair Camp"

**Starts Tue., June 17<sup>th</sup> 10am**  
Tuesday's & Thursday's

through July 17<sup>th</sup>

10AM TO 2PM

For Grades K to 6th

Volunteers needed

9:30am to 2:30pm

1. To help with camp
- At Noon
2. To provide lunch
3. To help serve lunch

Special week of Kidz Summer Camp:  
Mon., July 6<sup>th</sup> to Thur., July 10<sup>th</sup>

Contact the church office or Jamie to help.  
Details of meeting coming soon!



Food Donations for  
Manna House for May:  
Canned Soup

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL










Many opportunities available to help.  
Please contact the church office or  
Jennifer Compton.

# MAY

1 <sup>st</sup> (Thur)	National Day of Prayer	11 <sup>th</sup> (Sun)	Mother's Day - No Evening Service
3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sat) 11am-3pm	Hansard/Heineck Wedding Shower	12th (Mon) 6:30pm	Prayerful Dependency Mtg.-All Invited
4 <sup>th</sup> (Sun) 5pm	Deacon's Meeting	13th (Tue) 7pm	Liles/Duff Wedding Shower at FBC
5th (Mon) 7pm	Vibrant Leadership Mtg.-All Invited	14 <sup>th</sup> (Wed) 6:30pm	Short Business Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> (Tues) 6:30pm	Church Council— <b>CANCELLED</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> (Mon) 6:30pm	Building & Grounds Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> (Thur) 6:30pm	Nominating Team Meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Memorial Day-Church Office Closed

## May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	VBS- June 8 to 	 Kidz Summer		1 National Day of Prayer	2 	3 
4 Benevolence Offering 9:45am SS 11am Worship	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 9:45am SS 11am Worship	12	13	14	15 7pm Connection	16	17 
18 9:45am SS 11am Worship	19	20	21	22 7pm Connection	23	24
25 9:45am SS 11am Worship	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29 7pm Connection	30	31

## June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Benevolence Offering 9:45am SS	2	3	4 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible	5 7pm Connection	6	7
8 9:45am SS 	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Father's Day 9:45am SS	16	17 	18 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible	19 Kidz Summer Camp 10 to 2pm	20	21
22 9:45am SS 11am Worship	23 	24 Kidz Summer Camp 10 to 2pm	25 6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible	26 Kidz Summer Camp 10 to 2pm	27	28
29 9:45am SS 11am Worship	30	<b>FUGE Youth Summer Camp - North Greenville University SC</b>				
						