



2014

# THE CONNEC TION

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



Page 2: VBS; Kidz Summer Camp; Senior Adult Recognition; Unsung Servants; Manna House

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## BABY STEPS OR GOD STEPS?

Baby steps are wonderful celebrations if you're watching your grandchild walk from the safe arms of a loving parent to the waiting arms of a joyful grandparent. Both parents and grandparents watch dutifully and remain close enough to respond if a child starts to take a false step.

No one wants to see their child scrape a knee or bump a head while learning to walk and run. It is with great sadness that we observe a child that is not able to run or walk. Ironically we encourage a child to walk while frantically try to make sure he doesn't fall.

Walking into your personal world to make disciples is a BIG job! Most likely, any person who tries it will fall a few times. Yet that is one of the God Steps we are commanded to take. I have never read in the Bible where baby steps, cautious steps, or faithless steps are commended by Jesus. It's sad when churches or Christians are only willing to take small steps toward small challenges of faith. In other words, it is sad to see Christians who's greatest challenge of faith is baby steps while being consoled by other fearful family and friends equally resistant to God-size challenges. "Baby steps" should be limited to children while "God Steps" are the discipleship response to a living faith in Jesus.

**I wonder if Jesus had baby steps in mind when he said:**

*"Jesus told him, 'If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' "* (Matthew 19:21)

*"But I warn you—unless your righteousness is better than the righteousness of the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven!"* (Matthew 5:20)

*"Then he said to the crowd, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me.' "* (Luke 9:23)

*"But Jesus told him, 'Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.' "* (Luke 9:60)

Jesus didn't call people to only take baby steps or safe steps. He confronted them with challenges so big that to respond would mean turning their lives upside down, live by faith and courageously become the very presence of Jesus in our world! Many walked away but that never stopped Jesus from instructing his followers to take God steps.

We worry about asking someone to hand out bulletins, greet visitors or help serve communion. And we don't even consider asking someone to commit to teaching a new class, leading a small group or share the Gospel with an unbeliever for fear of completely freaking out the "Christian" with such a request. Yet every Christian is called to repent of our sin and follow Jesus Christ and that requires the greatest challenge of all, *that we die to self, live for Christ and walk in the God-steps of Jesus in spite of the cost.*

It is hard to find a "Christian" who consistently takes God-steps. With deep sadness and loss our community has lost such a person in Edwin Robertson. It didn't take long for me to see him as a man of vision and boundless energy for God's work. He lived with a deep reservoir of faithful obedience to the fact that God actually meant for us to change our world, starting right here in our community. While many choose to walk in self-centered baby steps, cautiously trying not to stumble, it is with deep admiration that I was honored to know and be one of the many who have benefitted from the ministry of Dr. Edwin Robertson. Edwin, thank you for your willingness in life to "die to self, live for Christ" and calling all of us to walk in God steps in spite of the cost.

Brother Larry


# 12 TRIBES from the WILDERNESS ESCAPE VBS

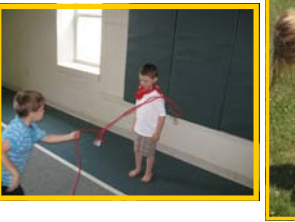


## KIDZ SUMMER CAMP "Country Fair Camp"



**UNSUNG SERVANTS**  
Thank you to everyone who helped with VBS & Kidz Summer Camp.

 Food Donations for Manna House for August: Spaghetti Sauce & Noodles

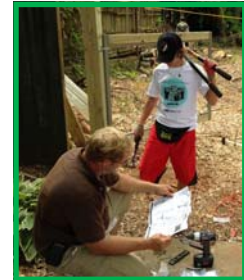
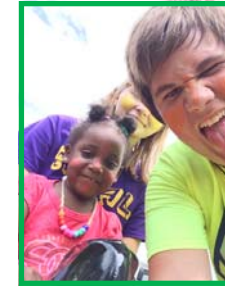


## Senior Adult Recognition July 20<sup>th</sup>



**Community Ministry**  
Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry.  
The Benevolence Team

## Youth at FUGE



## First Baptist Church Ministry Center

Imagine entering a classroom where ladies sit around a covey of computers operating their own business on-line. They are selling women's fashions to supplement their incomes which help pay for food, rent or utilities. They don't get rich, and it's a lot of work but what lady doesn't like to shop and sell?

FBC New Tazewell is in the process of starting a **Ministry Center** located off campus at 1724 Epp St. in Tazewell (just behind the courthouse). It's a great place for you to become involved in the life of your church. We will have **Introduction to Computers** classes. A **Food Pantry** will give assistance to those in need of good nutritional food. The **First Power Fashion** is a class for ladies that are interested in making a little extra money to supplement the family income, by selling fashions on-line. Classes begin Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>.

We operate under the name The Regional Education Center, a 501c3 non-profit organization directed by Roger Hansard.

What can you do to help The Ministry Center get started?

- \*Cash donations may be tax deductible.
- \*Donate "New with Tags" ladies fashions for on-line training program.
- \*Volunteer to answer the phone a few hours a week.
- \*Volunteer to distribute food each month.

We also need of digital scales, up-right freezer, office supplies, certain food stuffs and a mannequin.

For more information call Roger Hansard 423-526-7513

Take a class or encourage someone else to sign up: First classes begin August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Several members are being trained to operate the food pantry at this time. We believe the Bible teaches that followers of Christ need to meet those in need at the point of need. The Ministry Center is an outreach to the community away from the church building but depending on the Church to provide for those in need. We always give a hand-up not a hand out.

It's exciting to see the church move from an inward focus on ministry to community outreach and encourage anyone to get involved in the effort to take Christ to a community that is lost.

Please pray for your team as we try to lead this Ministry Center in a way that will be pleasing to God.

**RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY IS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup> AT 10am.**



# August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Benevolence Offering 9:45am SS; 11am Worship	4  <i>FBC Ministry</i>	5 	6 10am FBC Ministry Ctr. <i>Ribbon Cutting</i> 	7 	8 	9
10 9:45am SS 11am Worship Noon Discovery Mtg.	11	12	13 6:30pm Short Bus. Mtg. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study; <i>Bible</i>	14	15	16
17 9:45am SS 11am Worship	18	19 <i>Relay for Life</i>	20 6:30pm Prayer Meeting Bible Study; Bible	21	22	23
24 9:45am SS 11am Worship	25 <i>Equipping U Conf. Chilhowee Hills BC 4:15 or 6:30-9pm</i>	26	27 6:30pm <i>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study;</i>	28	29	30
31 9:45am SS 11am Worship						

# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Labor Day</i>  <i>Church Office</i>	2	3  6:30pm Prayer Meeting & Bible	4	5	6
7 Benevolence Offering 9:45am SS 11am Worship	8	9	10  6:30pm Short Bus. Mtg.	11	12	13
14 9:45am SS 11am Worship	15	16	17  6:30pm Prayer	18	19	20
21 <i>Back to Church Sunday &amp; Homecoming</i>	22	23	24  6:30pm Prayer	25	26	27
28 9:45am SS 11am Worship	29	30				