



THE CONNEC TION



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

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COUNTING ON GOD (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Cedar Fork is prime soil for raising rocks and cedars with two rock quarries and uncountable cedars. Over the years our family farm (5 generations of Sharps) has increasingly grown less grass and more cedars. The cycle of growth is that first weeds, then bushes, then cedars. Once cedars become dominant, nothing else will grow beneath them.

In order to qualify as a farm, I've been trying to recover some of the traditional grass areas. It's a never ending work that was in progress when I was born on the farm and grew up here. Of course, I'm a little more able to "do my part" now than when I was a child and I have inherited the work my Grandfather began.

Galatians 6:9 says, "And let us not become weary in "doing good" for in due season we will reap a harvest if we don't give up."

I feel like I'm king of the mountain, or in my case the Holler. I am able to watch my grandchildren play in the grass in which my barefoot feet played as a child. I know that in years to come I am able to give to my grandchildren, my friends, my community a wonderful place to enjoy God's abundant creativity in East Tennessee. By clearing, planting, cultivating and watering I am able to offer others a new place, a view of life they have never seen and perhaps create an inspiring haven of rest.

It takes time to bring back useful plants that bear fruit. Sometimes we just want to clear cut everything present so that we can start over with the new. Many times a new Christian is expected to immediately produce mature fruit. It takes a long time for a young tree to develop the roots that will sustain a fruitful harvest. It requires patience and the investment of time on the part of the workers to cultivate, plant, water and prune out the "suckers" that rob nutrients needed to produce fruit.

Old trees have deep roots, thick trunks (nothing personal), a tremendous history with unlimited potential for producing fruit. In most plants, fruit is produced on the new growth. That's why old trees need to be trimmed and pruned.

No matter which type of tree you're working with it takes time to see fruit. When we expect "overnight" success, large numbers of people responding, numerous new works being planted quickly, we set ourselves up for frustration. A productive orchard doesn't happen in a year or two or even five. It happens because each generation is committed to thoughtful attention and patient investment of wise labor.

In days that become months, that become years, that become generations of patiently tending the vineyard of the Lord, we are creating a robust, fruit-bearing environment. It is profitable and even expected that a great harvest takes a while. Sometimes, we see all the work ahead and we become fearful and doubt seeps in. Questions like, *What do I have to show for it? Where's the fruit?*

"Hab" tells us, ***"Though the cherry trees don't blossom and the strawberries don't ripen, Though the apples are worm-eaten and the wheat fields stunted, Though the sheep pens are sheepless and the cattle barns empty, I'm singing joyful praise to God. I'm turning cartwheels of joy to my Savior God. Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength. I run like a deer."*** Habakkuk 3:17-19 MSG Bible.

I don't know how many games Tennessee Vols will win but I do know that we can count on God and it won't be a "Heaven Mary" pass in the last 4 seconds. God is growing a fruitful people at First Baptist Church as long as we "take heart, gain strength from God and run like a deer following Jesus.

Bro. Larry

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES

Hello First Baptist!

I can't believe it is already October! Time sure does fly. If you haven't already, I would love for you to check out Missions Nights. It's on Wednesday nights and we have something for all ages (Pre-K through Senior Adult). Kidz Choir and Youth Choir also meet on Wednesdays.

Starting this month we are also providing a free dinner for everyone before Mission Nights begin. Dinner runs from 5 to 5:45pm and drop-ins are welcome! That means it doesn't matter if it is 5:01 or 5:44, if you come between that time we will have dinner for you!

Youth Choir starts at 5:30.

Kidz Choir, Youth Group, and the Adult bible study/ prayer meeting starts at 6.

Also, I would also like to ask you to pray about the ways God might have you help on Wednesday Nights (or with the children and youth in general). There are a lot of things going on and this is very exciting. However, we do need some help, whether it is helping prepare the meal or helping lead our young people, there is always something for you to plug into!

God Bless,
Robert



Pre-K to K



Girls 1st to 6th Grade



Boys 1st to 6th Grade



7th—12th Grade





REGIONAL EDUCATION CENTER MINISTRIES

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Is the FBC Food Pantry an Evangelism Outreach or a Discipleship Program?

When Matthew 28 says, “Go and make disciples,” was he talking about evangelism or discipleship training? The New Testament actually illustrates that they are a part of the same process. Recently that fact was brought to my attention when a long-time church member expressed his excitement of sharing his testimony and leading someone to Christ at the food pantry. This man had considered himself a disciple of Christ for many years. He had been a member of the local church, taught Sunday School classes, and held church offices, but had always considered evangelism reserved for the pastor and optional equipment for the Christian. The New Testament actually indicates that every disciple of Christ will be a part of evangelism. Sharing the gospel is necessary to a growing life in Christ. As one works in any of the compassion ministries sponsored by the church like the food pantry, gospel conversations develop with the converted and the non-converted. This forces the disciple to better articulate the truths of the Bible. As Philemon said, “I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” Christians are told to love God and their neighbor. The food pantry allows church members to tangibly show that love by handing out food, smiles, prayers, and meeting other needs of the community. When that interaction with the community occurs, that love deepens and our sight broadens for the real need for the gospel salvation of our neighbor.


As one serves as a disciple of Christ, he becomes committed to leading another person to Christ, and nurturing that person until they can lead someone to Christ and begin to nurture them. So the cycle of evangelism and discipleship goes on. Thus, the food pantry gives the church member a place to grow as a disciple and to share in a natural environment of service. They continue to evangelize and disciple until another is able to repeat the process. One church member disciplined a young lady who rededicated her life to becoming a disciple of Christ. This young lady soon evangelized her daughter, her son-in-law and grandchildren and all were baptized. Pray that this new generation of Christians will continue in the faith.

When it comes to the question of the food pantry, maybe it is not a question of “either/or” but a question of “one and the same.” Please get involved in the exciting process going on at the FBC Food Pantry or some other compassion ministry sponsored by the church.

October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Benevolence 9:45am SS 11am Worship 5pm Deacon's Mtg. 6pm Worship	3	4 FBC Food Pantry 9am-Noon	5 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission	6	7	8 Lock In 6pm to 9am
9 9:45am SS 11am Worship Noon Global Hunger Lunch 6pm Worship	10 Columbus Day	11 FBC Food Pantry 9am to noon Church Council 6pm	12 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission	13	14 No School	15
16 9:45am SS 11am Worship 6pm Worship	17 [Fall Break	18	19	20	21 Fall Break Ends]	22 GAs/RAs JAM 9am CGBA Annual Mtg.
	Youth Mission Trip to Rainelle WV					
	Boss's Day	FBC Food Pantry 9am-Noon	6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs			
23 9:45am SS 11am Worship-Gideon Noon-Business Mtg. 5:30pm Pot Luck & Family Night Mtg.	24 6pm Building & Grounds	25 FBC Food Pantry 9am-Noon	26 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/Youth on Mission; Line Glider Races Teddy Bear Collection	27	28	29
30 9:45am SS 11am 6pm Worship	31 Halloween					

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 FBC Food Pantry 9am -Noon	2 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission	3	4	5
6 Benevolence Daylight Savings Lord's Supper 9:45am SS 11am Worship 5pm Deacon's Mtg. 6pm Worship	7	8 Election Day FBC Food Pantry 9am -Noon Church Council 6pm	9 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission	10	11 Veterans' Day	12 Children & Youth Activities
13 Veterans Day 9:45am SS 11am International Mission Svc. 6pm International Mission Svc.	14 WOM-Lottie Moon Auction 6pm @ Ferrell's TBC Summit Larry/Susan; Robert/Rebekah; Roger/Judy; Travis/Stephanie attending	15 FBC Food Pantry 9am -Noon	16 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission	17	18 Wedding Set-Up	19 Wedding Kitts/Gravy 2:30pm
20 9:45am SS 11am Worship Thanksgiving Meal 5:30pm	21	22 FBC Food Pantry 9am -Noon	23 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study No GAs/RAs	24 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	25 Church Office Closed	26
27 Advent—Hope 9:45am SS 11am 6pm Worship	28 6pm Building & Grounds	29 FBC Food Pantry 9am -Noon	30 5-5:45pm Dinner 5:30pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Mtg. & Bible Study; GAs/RAs/ Youth on Mission			