



2017

# THE CONNEC TION



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

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## WHO IS THE BOSS?

The young husband felt henpecked and decided to ask a friend about the problem. The friend told him, "You don't have to let your wife bully you! Go home and show her **YOU'RE THE BOSS!**" The young man got home, slammed the door, shook his fist in his wife's face, and growled, "From now on, you're **taking orders from ME!** When I get home from work, I want my **supper ON the table.** I want my **clothes LAID OUT.** I will be going **OUT WITH the boys.** You will be **STAYING HOME.** And another thing, do you know who's going to **TIE MY TIE** tomorrow?" "Yes," she replied calmly, "The undertaker."

In a recent conversation with a successful businessman we were talking about church and how decisions are made. He commented that in his business, he made the decisions because he was the boss.

When you read the Old Testament you find that it didn't take man long to get into trouble being his own boss in the Garden of Eden. That trouble continues all through the Bible as a constant challenge to overcome. God revealed the solution time and time again but it's effectively stated in 2 Chronicles 7:14, **"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."**

I'm thankful that God didn't create the church to be managed by a human boss, or bosses, to make the decisions. You might wonder how things worked so amazingly in the early church as seen in the book of Acts. The answer is, they were focused, united, consistent and gloriously messy but with a laser-focused message and mission. That church was led by men and women who were fueled not by what they believed, but by what they had seen. It wasn't the teachings of Jesus that sent his followers into the streets, to defy a religious system that had been in place for more than a thousand years. It was the resurrection of Jesus, the Living Lord, that propelled them forward with the faith that even "the gates of hell" could not stop them.

In our day, ultimately we must also decide "Who is the boss?" The early church was called "The Way." The Way (the church) was never about a place or a building. The word "church" is not in the New Testament. The word translated "church" means gathering, assembly, community, or congregation. It wasn't a religious word. It could apply to a town council (manage the town) or military gathering (mission in battle). It came to represent Christians that gathered, not in a place, but who "assembled" with a purpose.

The purpose was to sing songs, worship and focus on the message of the Gospel; Jesus the Son of God died, was buried, and arose from the dead. The "assembly" did not change their world by ONLY teaching the words of Jesus. They changed the world by declaring "Jesus is alive" and I am a reborn person in Christ. Jesus is the boss in my life, the hope of my eternity, the purpose for my living.

So what is the church? It is believers who "assemble" for worship but whose mission is to "gather" for a common specific purpose; go, teach, bring others to Christ.

Who is the boss of the church? You know the answer but are you living like the "assembled" church and dedicated to the "mission" of the church following the orders of the boss? Here is our mission. Mt. 28:19, "Go make disciples, baptize them, teach them to obey everything I have commanded you." How will we do that? Decide who's the boss for the orders have already been given!

The church is not about you; it is about Jesus. The church is not a building (us); it is a purpose (reach the lost). The church is not a location; it is a Spirit empowered movement of faith and belief that guides us Monday through Saturday (being Jesus' disciple to others). Finally, it is about what we don't do. Acts 15:19, "It is my judgement, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles (Christians or non-Christians) who are turning to God."

Bro. Larry



# A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES



Hello First Baptist!

I hope you have been enjoying the New Year and have been keeping warm! I want to start off by saying how happy and proud I am of our Wednesday night activities. I want to give a big Thank you to our leaders! Whether they are helping teach a class, leading children/youth choirs, or helping with the Wednesday night meal!

By the way, if you haven't already, come on out to Wednesday nights for a free hot meal and then stay for Bible study. We have something for all ages ranging from preschool to adult!

Dinner is from 5 to 5:50 and is drop-in style. This is our way of aiding in the hectic mess of life, especially as it occurs on Wednesday nights. Think of it as we are taking something off of your plate (pun intended!!) If you would like to help in preparing or providing for Wednesday night meals, there are several ways to do that. We post our menu for Wednesday night meals outside the gym. If you would like to donate something, take a look at our menu and you should see a list of things that we would need. Just put your name down and try to have the supplies in by Monday or Tuesday of that week. If you would like to help prepare a meal, just come talk to Sharon Oakley or me.

As far as other things going on, several of our activities in February are make-up days from stuff that had to be pushed back (girls night for example). Keep a close watch in the bulletin for more details.

That being said, I would like to let you know about something I'm very excited about. Starting in February, we will begin having a Sunday night activity for our children. K4C, otherwise known as Kidz 4 Christ, our summer camp activity for children in 6th grade or younger, will also have a permanent place during the school year on Sunday nights. We will continue with learning from our Team Kid curriculum and will run for as long as our other church activities!

Another thing that is very exciting is that our youth will begin studying *Experiencing God* (Youth Edition). This powerful study will help our youth to find God in the day by day moments, not just at church. Our kick off for both the children and youth studies will be on Sunday February 5th. We will have a Super Bowl party at the church! We will even have a TV with the big game on! Parents/adults are also invited. Bring your favorite game day snack and we will have a good time together!

God Bless,  
Robert

Pre-K to K



Girls 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



Boys 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



7<sup>th</sup>—12<sup>th</sup>  
Grade





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Theology and The Food Pantry

By

Roger Hansard

The food pantry recently passed the over 15,000 served since it opened. We have identified and certified almost 800 families in need of emergency food. Since January 1, 2017 we have distributed over 7000 pounds of high quality food. Twenty seven volunteers have given over 300 hours of their time to aid the needy and be a witness to the love of God. I recently had a brief but very thought provoking conversation with one of the volunteers. It is evident that this woman loves the lord, and shows it to everyone. She is a visible carrier of the compassion of God. She illustrates the value of all people, she relates to them, she makes them smile. After observing her praying with a client I said to her, “you must have had a revival in the worship service Sunday.” Her response has really given me something to think about. She responded, “This service today is my worship. I pray, meditate on scripture, and praise God as we give out food every Tuesday. I do not see why people think hiding behind stained glass windows and withdrawn from the world is the only form of worship. I don’t think that is even biblical.” Is compassion ministry worship? I guess it depends on your theology.

I think of at least four fundamental beliefs a Christian may hold that helps answer that question. The first is what we believe about the bible. Many Christians affirm that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired. That God is its author, and all Christian’s beliefs, creeds, actions and conduct can be based upon its standards. God’s compassion is shown in over 200 scriptural references throughout the Bible. Scriptures give us implicit guidance in 1 John 3:17, “But whom has the world’s goods and seeth one in need and shutteth off his compassion, how dwells the love of God in that man?”

The second fundamental belief that helps us clarify our approach to compassion ministry is our view of God. Have we internalized, or taken to heart, the belief that God is a God of love, mercy, and compassion? Does He want to sanctify, regenerate, and save all men? If we do then compassion ministries give us a place to put that belief to work. We are able to transfer out faith into real life situations, and what was just a theory becomes real practice.

I think how we answer the question of, who is man? Will be indicated in our compassion ministry. The Bible says that man was created in God’s image. That he was holy until he voluntarily sinned. Everyone took on this sin nature and is in need of a savior. This sin caused everyone to have a relationship problem. Those that minister, and those that are ministered to, have a problem. One cannot fix the real core problem until restoration of a relationship with God is found. I believe that this is where many compassion ministries fall short. There exists a need to aid in the spiritual restoration of lives as well as short-term ministry. The provision of tangible goods like food, education, housing, and clothing must be accompanied by the strength of the Holy Spirit and a robust discipleship program (mentoring).

Finally, Who is Jesus Christ? And how did He show the compassion of God? The Bible says Jesus is God’s son and yet He is God with us. He showed us who and what God is. He showed us that God is a God of love, mercy, and compassion and he illustrated that in innumerable acts of kindness wherever he went. And He taught His disciples that He was the light of the world and when He went away that His disciples were to be that light of the world by doing the things that He did. If a Christian internalizes this belief it becomes empowering and energizing. I thank God that many of you are showing the love of God by faithfully “doing missions” at the food pantry. And I thank those who because of physical or time limitations have found a way to continue Jesus ministry by giving financial support, praying and encouraging on a regular basis.



Nursery & Toddlers



# First Baptist Cares

New Tazewell, TN

## First Baptist Church, New Tazewell, Tennessee

Larry Sharp, Pastor  
 Todd Spangler, Music Director  
 Robert Rash, Director of Student Ministries  
 Travis Wright, Minister of Education  
 Pam Worley, Deaf Interpreter  
 Jeff Lewis, Chairman of Deacons  
 Beverly Slayton, Administrative Assistant

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### February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Post Cards & Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	2	3	4
3 Benevolence 9:45am SS 11am Worship Lord's Supper 3pm Deacon's Mtg 6pm Small Group Children's Youth Begin	6	7 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry  6pm Church Council	8 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	9	10	11 Valentine Banquet— student ministry Banquet Fund Raiser for Liles Mission Trip
12 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6pm Small Group Children's Youth	13	14 Valentine's Day 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry	15 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	16	17	18  Student Ministry Event
19 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6pm Small Group Children's Youth	20 No School President's Day Church Office Open	21 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry	22 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	23	24	25
26 9:45am SS 11am Winter Jam-Youth  6pm Small Group	27  6pm Building & Grounds	28 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry				



### March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Prayer Post Cards & Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	2	3	4
5 Benevolence 9:45am SS 11am Worship Lord's Supper 3pm Deacon's Mtg 6pm Small Group Children's Youth	6	7 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry	8 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	9	10	11
12 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6pm Small Group Children's Youth	13 Spring Break	14 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry  6pm Church Council	15 NO 5-5:45PM Dinner NO 5-11pm Youth Choir  6pm Bible Study	16	17	18
19 9:45am SS 11am Worship *Missions Voice Network-India 6pm Small Group Children's Youth	20	21 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry	22 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	23	24 RA Pinewood Derby	25
26 9:45am SS 11am Worship  6pm Small Group Children's Youth	27  6pm Building & Grounds	28 9am-Noon FBC Food Pantry	29 5-5:45PM Dinner 5-11pm Youth Choir 6pm Bible Study; GAs/RAs Youth on Mission	30	31 RA Conclude-FBC White Pine	