Vol. 61 No. 5 heMesseng



from the Pastor

May is a month of transitions in our First Baptist Church family.

In May, we say farewell to Timothy, Brooke, Whitman and Chamblin Timothy has accepted the call to be Senior Pastor at Wynstanley Baptist Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois. (see letter from the Gibsons elsewhere in this newsletter). We celebrate the work of God in calling Timothy to Wynstanley Baptist. Even as we

celebrate, we are sad to see the Gibsons leave us. They have been important vessels of God's grace to First Baptist Church. We will celebrate with a reception in honor of the Gibson family on May 5.

We also celebrate with Pat Inmon as she retires from serving FBC as Pastoral and Publications Administrative Assistant. For almost thirty years Pat has consistently loved and supported the ministers and ministries of FBC. Though Pat and Gerald will still be a vital part of FBC, her day to day service will be missed. May 26 will be Pat Inmon Day at FBC.

These are only a part of the transitions our church experiences in May. We also celebrate with many graduates as they 'commence' new stages of life. We will honor our graduates and their families on May 19.

Perhaps our mothers know more about transition that anyone else. They have helped us transition from infancy to adulthood with love and wisdom. May 12 we will celebrate Mother's Day.

Transitions are hard because they signal change. But God helps us navigate the changes that life brings. Philippians 4:13 reminds us; "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

I'll see you in church on Sunday,

Don





MAY 1

5 p.m. Fellowship Meal

5:30 p.m. AWANA: Affliction Night 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth 6 p.m. Adult Bible Studies

6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

MAY 2 National Day of Prayer

11 a.m. National Day of Prayer Lunch 12:15 p.m. Community Prayer Service

MAY 5

Children's choir singing in both services.

8:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes 11 a.m. Worship Service

3:30 p.m. Reception for the Gibsons

5 p.m. Spud Night

9 p.m. College Pancake Study Break

Reception for the Gibsons Sunday, May 5

3:30-4:45 p.m. in the Atrium





MAY 7

7:45 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast 11 a.m. XYZ Program & Luncheon

Noon Prayer Meeting 4:30 p.m. GriefShare

XYZ Senior Adult Program

Tuesday, May 7

11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Mike Tomes and friends will be singing.
A delicious meal will be provided.

MAY 8

5 p.m. Fellowship Meal 5:30 p.m. AWANA: Party Night 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth 6 p.m. Adult Bible Studies 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

MAY 9

10 a.m. Preschool Story Time

MAY 12

Mother's Day

8:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes 11 a.m. Worship Service

MAY 14

7:45 a.m. Youth Prayer Breakfast

Noon Prayer Meeting 12 p.m. MS Baptist Senior Adult Day

MAY 15

5 p.m. Fellowship Meal

5:30 p.m. AWANA: Awards Ceremony

6 p.m. Midweek for Youth 6 p.m. Adult Bible Studies 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

MAY 19 Graduate Recognition

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

8:45 a.m. Graduates Breakfast Banquet

9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes11 a.m. Worship Service

4 p.m. Swim Party for The Links residents

MAY 21

Noon Prayer Meeting



MAY 22

6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

MAY 26

Pat Inmon Day

8:30 a.m. Worship Service9:30 a.m. Reception for Pat Inmon9:45 a.m. Bible Study classes

11 a.m. Worship Service and 6th grade

Milestone Recognition

Pat Inmon Day SUNDAY, MAY 26

Celebrating with Ms. Pat Inmon as she retires from serving FBC as Pastoral and Publications Administrative Assistant. We will have a come-and-go reception in the Atrium during the Sunday School hour.

MAY 27

Memorial Day

church office closed

MAY 27-30

Big 7 Trip

MAY 28

Noon Prayer Meeting

MAY 29

6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. Band Rehearsal

Deacons of the Week

Apr. 28May 4
Paul Hale, Nelson Little,
Lanny Shackelford

May 5-11
Jamie Hopson, Kevin Howell,
Martin Locke

May 12-18 Jeff Busby, Bill Rose, Steven Russell

May 19-25 Mike Tomes, Matt Moore,

David Erhart

May 26- Michael Ferris, Paxton Little,

June1 Michael Meurrier

Sunday school attendance

March 31 - 513 April 14 - 531 April 7 - 500 April 21 - 866

Budget April 1-21, 2019

 Budget
 \$138,240.57

 Building
 \$1,111.00

 Designated
 \$33,983.76

 Total
 \$173,335.33

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

First Baptist Oxford Goal: \$25,000 Given to Date: \$ 14,376.50

New Members in March/April

Nicholas Dukes and Mike & Trisha MacIntyre

Our Sympathy

To Mrs. Kathy Clayton & family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. June Wetzel.

To Ms. Susan Marascalo & family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Ann Deloach.

To Mrs. Cheryl Crady & family in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Lorraine Nichols.

To Mr. Nathan Yow & family in the loss of his grandmother, Mrs. Lorraine Nichols.

To Ms Susan Dempsey & family in the loss of her daughter, Mrs. Amy Dempsey Tidwell.

To Mr. Will Tidwell & family in the loss of his wife, Mrs. Amy Tidwell.

To Sara Beth Tidwell in the loss of her mother, Mrs. Amy Tidwell.

To Mr. Lanny Shackelford & family in the loss of his mother. Mrs. Willard Shackelford.

To Mr. Bubba Robinson & family in the loss of his father, Mr. Frank Allen Robinson.

To Mrs. Nicole Moorman & family in the loss of her grandfather, Mr. Frank Allen Robinson.

To Mrs. Ann Whitehead & family in the loss of her aunt, Ms. Wilma Magee.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



Thursday, May 2

"Lord, give us a heart for America and give America a heart for God."

Lunch at First Baptist Church

Serving will start at 11 a.m.

Community Prayer Service

12:15 p.m. on Courthouse lawn (rain location FBC Fellowship Hall)

FBC Prayer Watch Hours at Burns-Belfry Museum:

Wednesday, May 1 • 7-8 p.m.

Thursday, May 2 • 12-1 a.m.



8 a.m. - shotgun start • Ole Miss Golf Course

Four-Person Golf Scramble. Cost of \$200 per team includes round of golf, cart, and range balls for each golfer.

Prayerfully consider sponsoring a hole for an additional \$100.

All proceeds go to Children Are People School.

Call the church office for more info: 662-234-3515

First Baptist Weekday Education is looking for full and part-time positions to be filled as soon as possible. We are also looking for those interested in summer work only. If you know of anyone who would be interested in applying for either position, please ask them to contact the Weekday desk at 234-3517. All positions require the applicants to be at least 18 years of age and have a high school degree or GED. Salaries are related to educational level and/or years of experience working with young children. Applications can be picked up at the front desk on the first floor. Please ask for Ms. Linda Glaze, Weekday Director. Thank you for your help in passing this information on.

MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Contact Jeff Holeman at 662.234.3515 or wigtake@gmail.com

LOCAL MISSIONS

May 19 from 4-7 p.m. Swim Party for The Links residents.

Need help with food and games. Your kids are welcome!

USA MISSIONS

July 9-13 Family Mission Trip to New Orleans. liveoaknola.com

Cost is \$75 per person and includes all expenses. Families with children needed to help with Vacation Bible School outreach at Live Oak Church. There will be time for sightseeing and fun. Interested? Contact Jeff Holeman in the church office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

FBC Oxford Summer Missionaries to Oaxaca. June 4-July 27.

Avery Ruth, Walt Maddox, Conley Wilkinson, Cody Cullen, John Harvey, David de los Santos.

Brazil Church Planting Team, June 9-16. Jeff Holeman, Haylee Holeman, Jason Simon, Elizabeth Simon. Michael Meurrier, Myla Meurrier, Rachel Allen, Henry Allen, Billy Lamb, Jonothan Ethridge, Susan Dempsey, Marsha Kisner, Roseanne Brownlee, Abi Rayburn, Tammy Shelton, Craig Gordon, Brenda Gordon, Buster Hale, Ronnie Conner, Walter Harper, Steve Crady, Cheryl Crady.

Retreat for America's Missionary Kids. Panama (Central America).

June 22-26. Cole Kelly, Hilarie Bain, Liesa Holeman, Jeff Holeman,

Justin Sexton, Eric Sexton.

Family Mission Trip to New Orleans. July 9-13. We need THREE families to help with this opportunity. Pray for workers for the harvest.

High School Mission Trip to Oaxaca. July 20-27. Janna Kate Baker, Madeline Crowe, Jackson Dear, Abi Leigh Doss, David Erhart, Don Gann, Melinda Gann, Kyle Gordon, Jeff Holeman, Liesa Holeman, Alyssa Lee, Courtney Claire Little, Nelson Little, Abby McCutcheon.

Please support the

Lafayette County Foster Care Closet

by donating gently worn or like-new children's clothing.

Donation box will be in the Atrium through May 26.

Items will be distributed to foster families whose new foster children have very few belongings of their own.

First Baptist-Oxford Family:

I do not use the term "family" lightly. From the time Brooke, the boys, and me arrived here, we have been loved, prayed for/over, and encouraged. Family, as we all know, is not always easy - but, at the end of the day, we remain connected by the bonds of blood. And that is what we are, brothers and sisters brought together through the blood of Christ shed for us.

In spite of my shortcomings, you have embraced me. In the course of my failings, you have forgiven me. In light of my efforts, you have affirmed me. In times of our fellowship, you have celebrated with me. Now, having given me these past three years much opportunity to learn of my strengths and my weaknesses, you send me off to minister and serve in another context.

I go with a degree of sadness (leaving the embrace of a family is never easy). I go with a degree of fear (recognizing one's insufficiencies can create that). Yet, I go believing that the Lord is leading me and my family to this new endeavor (trusting Christ's strength and provision is always best even if it doesn't add up on "paper").

In the ways I pastor at Winstanley Baptist Church in Fairview Heights, IL, I pray that it will make my family here in Oxford proud. Over the years to come, I sincerely hope to maintain a partnership in the Gospel with my family here in Oxford as well.

Never hesitate to call or to write or to visit. The church address is: 9471 Hwy 161, Fairview Heights, IL 62208. Our new home address, once we close on it in June, will be 3919 Appaloosa Drive, Swansea, IL 62226. When my cell phone number changes, I will let the church offices know to pass that along to you.

Finally, when Baby Girl Gibson comes home to us from India, know that we will arrange a time to bring her back here so that our family at FBC-Oxford can meet her.

In the grace of the Father, the love of the Son, and the peace of the Holy Spirit -

Timothy, Brooke, and the boys

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club

Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. Email wmin@gotofirst.org for more info.

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS



Bugs and Burgers May 1 at 6 p.m.

Big Breakfast for our Graduates May 19 at 8:45 a.m.



PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS



PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

Thursday, May 9 at 10 a.m. in the FBC Library & Media Center





Open to all kids Pre-Kindergarten-6th grade
Sign up and receive a cool emoji tote bag!
Prizes awarded for reading 5, 10, and 15+ books.

Sign up begins May 19 in the FBC children's area.

Save the date for Emoji Fun Day JUNE 26 from 2-3:30 p.m. in the Old Fellowship Hall 'Emoji Movie,' snacks, and emoji fun!





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