



October 2022

Newsletter

Flat Springs Baptist Church

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Spotlight on our Sunday School Classes

Joy Sunday School Class

Joy – Others - You

What is the spiritual meaning of joy? In our class it means Jesus, Others and You. Each Sunday we open our class with sharing prayer requests, praise reports and dedicate that time to share with each other the needs of our community and church family, as well as our own personal needs. Appropriate cards are sent each week to let those that we have prayed for know that we care and are praying for them.

We have a time to study and grow in our love for Jesus and His word. As we study God's word and learn how we can share His love, it is our desire that the knowledge we learn will be transferred from head to heart to hands as we share with others the "Joy" that is within us.

Having joy includes feeling good cheer and a vibrant happiness. But joy, in its fuller, spiritual meaning of **expressing God's goodness**, involves more. It is a deep-rooted, inspired happiness. The Bible says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10).

Our teachers are Julie Cameron, Lisa Leslie, Judith Nance and Linda Wilson. We have 24 ladies consisting of widows, singles, and married. We welcome anyone to come visit or join our class.

Sunday School & Worship Attendance August 2022

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service
9/4/22	68	86
9/11/22	86	100
9/18/22	92	112
9/25/22	101	132

Bread of Life Ministries Meal

On Saturday, October 22nd the Outreach Committee is sponsoring a meal. We need donations of your time and items. The following donations are needed:

1. A variety of canned drinks, diet and regular
2. Bottled water
3. A variety of Little Debbie Snack Cakes
4. Packaged Dinner Rolls
5. People to help prepare the meal at 9:00 in FSBC kitchen
6. People to help serve the meal at 11:00 at Bread of Life
7. People to deliver meals at 11:00

Please put all donated items in the small kitchen by October 16th. Thank you for your prayers and support.

COMMITTING TO WALK IN FAITH AS A FAMILY

Join us October 16th at 10 am

Parent/Child Dedication:

Justin & Kensi Ward - Carter David

Jordan & Katie Tillett - Tucker Lee

Thanksgiving Mission Trip

Outreach committee is planning a mission trip to Whitley City, KY for their annual Community Thanksgiving Meal sponsored by Crossroads Ministry. The meal will be the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

If any person or family is interested in this 4 day mission opportunity, contact Lou Anne Griffin or David Aycock. Dates of trip: November 17-20.

Deacon of the Month: Stephanie Bridges

Baptist Men's
BREAKFAST

October 16th
8:00 am

Message from Pastor Gary

Dear Friends,

In the King James Version of the bible it says, "Where there is no vision the people perish" Proverbs 29:18 (KJV). For the last several months our Diaconate has begun to have some special meetings outside the regular Diaconate meetings to pray and do what we have called long range planning.

The church over the last several decades has adopted what we call either mission statements or vision statements. You can go to <https://www.churchrelevance.com/2013/03/27/30-examples-of-church-vision-statements/> and see thirty examples of church vision statements ranging from 5 words to 127 words.

Before I came, Flat Springs adopted a statement that we have faithfully put on the bulletin every Sunday for the past two decades. Do you know what it is without looking a little further down this article? Sometimes, when we see something all the time, we almost stop seeing it at all. Maybe I need to do a better job of making that vision statement something we know and take seriously.

Our statement consists of 29 words. It reads, "Flat Springs Baptist Church is a family of believers who seek to glorify God, to guide others to Christ, to grow in our faith, and to give of ourselves." Not bad, would you agree? The conversation the Diaconate has been sharing is "how do we actually accomplish that vision statement?"

In a time when regular church attendance is not measured in weeks but in months, what does that say about the value of all the work the worship leaders put in preparing our Sunday morning worship service? The musicians practice as does the choir. Hymns are tied to the message of the morning as is the Children's sermon. There are folks prepared for children's church and there are folks in the nursery. The building has been heated or cooled to a comfortable temperature. Bulletins have been prepared to share all that our church deems important to accomplish that important vision statement. And finally I, after much prayer and Bible study, attempt to bring the message God has laid upon my heart for our entire church family to hear.

I didn't know if you ever thought about all I have mentioned in the above paragraph. Our church is made up of tremendous people, all who love the Lord. We are family, and we miss when some of the family is not with us. It is my prayer that we will make it a priority to fill the Lord's house each Sunday with folks that are seeking "to glorify God, to guide others to Christ, to grow in our faith, and to give of ourselves!" That will go along way to help us accomplish our vision for the future.

Your Pastor,

Gary

Opportunities to Pray - Give - Go

October 15 Ladies Retreat at Juniper Springs BC in Broadway 8:30 AM – 1:30. \$20.00 per lady to pre-register – Due to Flat Springs office Oct 9.

Mid-October Pack shoebox gifts for Operation Christmas Child Oct 12th packing materials available from Atrium and lobby of F.H. Due to Atrium by Sunday, November 13

Early October Donate individually wrapped hard candies for RED BOX for NC Women's Prison Ministry project. Any hard candy is acceptable, but peppermint and butterscotch seem to be favorites. NO chocolate candies and NO candies with soft centers are allowed. 300 bags is the association goal and will be packed along with toiletries to be delivered to NC women's prisons prior to Christmas. Due in Atrium by Sunday, October 30th



Message from WMU

Did you know? Days after Russia invaded Ukraine, volunteers with **Baptists on Mission** were there to help welcome and serve Ukrainian refugees pouring into Poland, Hungary, and Moldova. Not surprising, most refugees are women and children. Teams organize and distribute supplies in/from warehouses, provide medical care, supply food and essentials to families through our partnership with "House of Hope," a German Christian group. Through this and other growing partnerships, we are helping get food and needed supplies into the war zones. These are just a few ways Baptists are *providing relief for today and hope for tomorrow*. Data shows that through July 2022, 15 teams (170 individuals) mobilized at the border of Ukraine and Hungary, 13

teams (91 individuals) served in Moldova, and 17 teams (130 individuals) operated in Poland. *Baptists on Mission* is funded by the *NC Missions Offering*. If you would like to donate to Christians lending a hand, this is a secure way to do so. Just use one of our gold color giving envelopes. Volunteers purchase their own air travel tickets, so what we give is 100% used for ministry. Along with food and supplies, volunteers are working with children and ministering to people, physically and spiritually, by witnessing, teaching, and praying with those who are displaced.

When our hearts are broken, let's push our support,

Stephanie
Flat Springs WMU Director



Friends & Family Day

October 23, 2022



I am excited to announce we will be observing Friends & Family Day on October 23, 2022. I encourage each SS member to invite at least one person to be a special guest.

Please pray daily and specifically for the people you will be inviting to this special event. Allow God to work, He will choose the right guest.

Besides your invitation, offer a ride to church and maybe Sunday lunch. Let's make this a wonderful

time of fun and fellowship.

We will be abbreviating our SS hour. The bell will ring at 9:25 making everyone aware to proceed to the fellowship hall for a time of light snacks and fellowship.

John 15:7-8 NIV says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Let's make this an eventful time in the life of our church.

Message from Sandy Creek Baptist Association WMU

October arrives with glorious colors creating beauty almost beyond description, as if nature is donning its very own coat of many colors. A new season marches forward in evidence of God's promise that "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22). The season and these words are powerful reminders of who God is and that He is in absolute control.

Remember to donate individually wrapped candies

for the **RED BOX Women's Prison Ministry** by end of October and take time to be holy – Participate in your home church's plan for **Baptist Women's Worldwide Day of Prayer on Monday, November 7th**.

Let your light shine forth in the darkness and glorify Him,

Susan T. Ferguson,
Association WMU Director

