

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of February 24, 2018

Sunday School ----- 10
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 32
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 18
 Wed. Eve. Service, 02/27/19 (no service) ----- 0

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of February 24, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,223.00
 Total Received for Week of 02/24/19: \$ 1,223.00

- Week of February 17, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,095.50
 Total Received for Week of 02/17/19: \$ 1,095.50

- Week of February 10, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 478.60
 Total Received for Week of 02/10/19: \$ 478.60

- Week of February 3, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,324.21
 Total Received for Week of 02/03/19: \$ 1,324.21

- Week of January 27, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 517.20
 Total Received for Week of 01/27/19: \$ 517.20

- Week of January 20, 2018 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 400.90
 Total Received for Week of 01/20/19: \$ 400.90

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

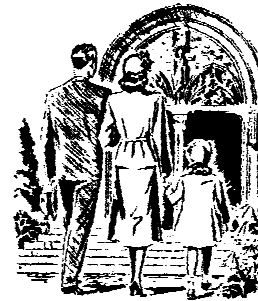
Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
Volunteer Needed! ----- Greeter
 Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher
 Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain ----- Outreach
 Bertha Segebarr ----- Custodian
 Flowers ----- Shirley White

REMINDER



The Importance Of Sundays

by Wayne Hardy, Pastor - Bible Baptist Church of Stillwater, Oklahoma

One of the great joys of pastoring Bible Baptist Church in Stillwater, Oklahoma, is being able to pick a service, any service, and walk into a thriving, bustling sanctuary full of expectant people. It is especially comforting to realize they are not there because I have beaten them over the head to attend church faithfully. They seem to be there because they **want** to be, because they enjoy being there. It seems to run fairly deep in our church's DNA since the

overwhelming majority of members attend all the services on Sunday, as well as on Wednesday night. It makes it difficult to pick a favorite service because they're all so full of life.

It's not that way everywhere I go, whether preaching in an independent Baptist church or attending someplace different on vacation. Our family was vacationing in Colorado once, and I was reminded that finding a church to attend is not always easy. The independent Baptist church we sought to attend was 45 minutes away and having Sunday morning services at the lake, requiring us to bring food and lawn chairs to fellowship with brothers in Christ from other congregations. They cancel Sunday night services through the summer, evidently due to lack of participation. Another church in town that was having a Sunday morning service had canceled Sunday night because the leadership would be working on a project and wouldn't be there to conduct the service.

Plenty of churches are capable of attracting large Sunday morning crowds, but the fact that they are nearly empty for most other services seems to imply that the grand production on Sunday morning is more responsible for bringing them in than a real commitment to the Lord's Day and a hunger to hear God's Word. I've noticed a few characteristics about churches that have a healthy attendance for all their services, and many stem from the church's view of Sunday and services in general. I will list these as challenges by which readers may measure their view of Sunday services.

1. Treat Sunday as the First Fruits of Your Time - Give God the First and Your Best. The early church clearly gathered on the first day of the week and served as a testimony that honoring Christ for His work at Calvary was a priority for them. We get to spend the other six days divided up among our careers, homes, and hobbies. It seems fitting and right to give the Lord His own day.

Also consider giving Him the whole day, just not part of it. The practice of honoring the Lord for a whole day had precedent in the Sabbath law from creation before evolving into the first day of the week after the resurrection. In both cases, the emphasis was on the whole day. It is healthy and strengthening for a church to offer members the opportunity to honor the Lord corporately the entire day. It is a great witness to a busy culture when Christians take a whole day out of their just-as-busy schedules and submit it to a kingdom much larger than their own little culture.

2. Make the Decision Once, Not Every Week - the Family Who Has to Decide Every Week Whether to Go to Church Has Already Lost Half the Battle. Every church has those members you know are going to be there every time you go. That is because they made the decision once and that settled it. The basic question is, **"Are you going to be a faithful worshiper or not?"** Answering "yes" to that question answers a thousand other questions at the same time. While it may not be easy, it really is simple.

(continued inside)

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3. Have a High Threshold for Missing - What Will it Take for You to Miss? What level of discomfort or sickness? What relative or friend can displace your time with other believers worshipping Him? Be honest about whether His day gets the short end of the stick when the schedule gets tight. Who do you feel should give up their time when you need more? *I am always thrilled at the testimony of our church when we have as many cars in the parking lot as Walmart on snow days.* I'm not advocating that there is innate spirituality in putting oneself in danger to go to church when it snows, but why should Walmart be worth the danger when church isn't? It's also humorous how many people are "too sick" on Sunday, but aren't on Monday. *Decide to draw a threshold high enough that says God deserves your highest effort.*

4. Don't Be Casual - It Is Trendy These Days to Treat Church Like Any Other Place We Go. Yet, it still makes a statement when we refuse to treat His presence too casually. I realize that our culture rarely dresses up for anything any more. What better way and time to make a statement than to exhibit outwardly what you should feel inwardly? This is a very special time. Any church dress code should be whatever comes to mind immediately after thinking, "I'm going into the presence of God." God doesn't give brownie points for ties and skirts. But, studies are numerous and undeniable that we treat something better the more effort we put into preparing for it. Consider this when it comes to food and drinks, as well. The focus is meant to be on feeding our souls, not our bodies. Our concentration and that of those around us can be hindered when we munch on snacks we bring to church. *Another form of being casual is getting up and leaving.* While there are viable reasons occasionally, anyone standing up in a crowd of people who are seated is obviously going to take the focus off of God and place it onto himself.

5. Be On Time - Are You Habitually Late? Excuses always exist to be late and there are always ways to be early. This can be a matter of prioritizing God's time. Being there ready and in your place when the first song starts is beneficial. It makes a statement to your family about what you find most important to be on time for. We have ladies with several children who constantly amaze me by getting everyone ready and to church on time every time.

6. Be Open During Invitation - Every Invitation Is an Opportunity to Respond to Something God Wants in Your Life. Some messages will leave you needing to correct something, while others may leave you needing to strengthen something else. Some serve to confirm what is already living in your heart. Ask God directly what your response should be; assume that He will speak to you every service. James says that the danger of hearing without doing is, in effect, deceiving yourself. Enough invitations without some kind of response to God may make it hard to feel much conviction in the future.

7. Participate - Be a Part of the Service. When it's time to sing, join in. When it's time to give, do your part. When the preaching is going on, look at the one speaking and listen intently. I'm amused to go to an Oklahoma State University basketball game and see how much people paid to sit in the closest seats to the action, then go to the house of God and find people crowding around the furthest seats away. Make a statement and develop a mentality that fills in the front seats and says to visitors, "We want to get as close to what's going on as possible!"

On Sunday, your church needs to be the most coveted place to be in your community. It needs to be the center of truth and divine presence wherever your church meets. It's infectious and will spread whenever it is a reality in the pew. Let them see that an independent Baptist church might be more conservative, but we are anything but backward and boring. It's where the action is!



WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HAVING A CHURCH FAMILY?

Question: "What is the value of having a church family?"

Answer: What value is there to becoming like family to other believers? Acts 2:42 could be considered a basic statement of quintessential church activity: *"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."* The Bible places importance on the church family unit because of these reasons:

• **We Study God's Word Together** - A church family provides consistent Bible teaching. This often comes through small groups, Bible studies, teaching from the pastor, Sunday school lessons, and so on. The church family is called to grow spiritually together, spurring one another on. Second Timothy 3:16 says, *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

• **We Honor God Together Through Worship** - There is a unifying factor when believers worship God together, whether it's through music or preaching or serving. Psalm 34:3 emphasizes a call to corporate worship: *"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."*

• **We Find Accountability** - The church provides a practical

framework for accountability. Once relationships grow and friendships form, there is someone to encourage you, rebuke you when necessary, and rejoice with you. Proverbs 27:17 says, *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* Accountability is crucially important in the battle to overcome sin, and the church family is a great place to find someone to pray with, talk to, and confide in.

• **We Find Support in Trial** - When trials come, a support system is crucial. When in need, you will want your brothers and sisters in Christ to uphold you in prayer and assist with practical needs like meals, cleaning, and childcare. Galatians 6:2 encourages us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

• **We Gain Opportunities for Service** - We not only receive support in the church; we give it as well. Your calling in the church is to contribute, not just to receive. When we are in close fellowship with other believers, we know when they need support and prayer. We can step in and help in practical ways. Ephesians 6:7 says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

• **We Make Disciples** - There comes a time when we need to learn to feed, not just be fed (Hebrews 5:12). We can evangelize, teach, encourage, and "disciple" our church family. *"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen"* (Matthew 28:18-20).

In an age when the culture is increasingly secular, it is beneficial to be in a family of like-minded believers. These brothers and sisters can encourage you in your faith journey, respond to your questions about spiritual issues, and be a support in times of hardship. The church family can also give you opportunity to serve and disciple others. *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* (Hebrews 10:24-25). ÷

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DISNEY HOLDING A "GAY PRIDE" PARADE FOR FIRST TIME

The Walt Disney Company is embracing LGBT pride month for the first time ever and hosting a gay pride parade in its Disneyland Paris park in France. The massive corporation has been moving toward a more liberal approach to sexual identity over the last decade, but the "Magical Pride" parade, set to take place on June 1, 2019, is the first time the Disney Parks have openly embraced and endorsed the shift.

The event will take place right at the beginning of global pride month - June - and will feature a "Magical March of Diversity Parade," reportedly involving DJs, live music performances, and themed photo opportunities for visitors to the Disneyland Paris park, according to Queerty. Gay pride events in Disney Parks are not new.

The "Magical Pride" celebration has been an "unofficial" event at Disneyland Paris since 2014. Disney parks located in the United States - Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and Disneyland in Anaheim, California - have both hosted unofficial LGBT events including "Gay Days," an unofficial weekend celebration for gay couples and same sex parents. The first Gay Days celebration took place in the mid-to-late 2000s.

Disney has been inching closer to a cultural shift over the last decade, slowly incorporating openly LGBT characters into its television shows and animated features (including an LGBT background character in Frozen). The upcoming Disney live action film, *Jungle Cruise*, based on the Disney parks attraction of the same name, will feature the first openly gay character in a Disney live action feature.

- from "Disney Holding," *The Daily Wire*, Jan. 30, 2019

