



Monday Morning Missive

Good morning, First Baptist Church! God is so good, isn't He? We had a great day of celebration yesterday in honor of Mrs. Yvonne Petty. Thank you for coming out to show her our love and appreciation. Thank you to Mrs. Emily Patterson for coordinating everything to make it happen. When you spend 55 years taking care of children at one church, you make a big impact, and that should be honored. Once again, First Baptist, you did it well.

We had another reason to celebrate yesterday. Welcome to our new members: Jason, Melissa, Faith, and Jayden P'Pool. Hope is also part of the family, but she hasn't made a profession of faith yet, but we still welcome her, too. We look forward to baptizing Faith and Jayden in the near future. Also, we welcome Mrs. Agnes Wages. It is always

a blessing to have people choose to become a part of the most loving church family I have ever known. When you get a chance, make sure to get to know these people. And by the way, if any of our guests are reading this, we would love to celebrate you as new members!!!

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to really get back to work. That means we need you here – in worship, in Bible Study, in small groups, in missions, on Wednesday night, in choir, etc. I know that's a lot to ask, but there is something I have noticed in my lifetime that I want to share with you. The church used to be at the center of everything that happened in a community. In fact, businesses, sporting events, and every other aspect of life was built around the church's schedule. That isn't the case any longer, and look at what has happened in our society. Families are falling apart. Abuse of every kind is rampant. We are more divided in our politics and our theology. As I was driving to the church this morning, God drove this thought deep into my heart. The only

hope we have in this nation is for His church to return completely to Him – without reservation and without conditions. We need a spiritual awakening that reignites a passion for holiness and worship that will result in obedience and service. But let me let you in on a little secret. Even if our society never experiences this kind of healing, it is still available to you and your family. It is available to our church. All we have to do is surrender ourselves completely to Him. As I said yesterday, when we got saved, God placed a desire in our hearts to live a life that is pleasing to Him. We need to reclaim that desire and do what it takes to make it happen: keep ourselves pure through the renunciation of all sin.

Well, that's my sermon for this morning. Don't forget all the things happening this month. Men's Bible Study kicks off this Wednesday at 10 a.m. Our Ministry Safe Training -- required for all children and youth volunteers -- will take place Saturday at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. Small groups start this coming Sunday. If you haven't

heard from your host by Thursday, let me know. We will have a special ordination service January 19th at 5:00 p.m. for Zack and Forrest. And we will continue to collect our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. We are called to go into all the world, and while we can't do that on our own, we can be part of it by giving to this special offering.

One final thing: don't forget Zack's request for help. DNow is an important weekend for our church because it takes our youth deeper into the word of God. He needs a host home for the boys, drivers to transport the youth to and from the host homes, and servers during the meal times. If you can help out, let him know ASAP.

Great things are happening at First Baptist Church Dadeville. You don't want to miss any of it, and you might want to spread the word around the community so they won't miss it either.

I love you, church.

Bro. Ben