

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 400 Main Street - P.O. Box 129
 Union, MS 39365
 Church Office - 601-774-8144; 601-774-8244
 www.fbcunion.net
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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the **OUTREACH** 

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, UNION, MS

Vol. 6 - Issue 8 - AUGUST 2018

Below is an article written by Thom Rainer, President of Lifeway Resources. I thought this was encouraging...I hope you will think so too.

Jon

I am not the brightest bulb in the chandelier. Indeed, put me in a room with nine other people, and I am likely to be the tenth in intellect.

So, I compensate for my cognitive deficiencies by listening, observing, and researching. The wisdom of others is far greater than any chance of intellect I may have. Indeed, I love listening to church leaders. I love watching what other churches do. And I love reporting these observations to you, my readers.

A member of the Church Answers community recently asked about the characteristics of healthy churches today. Immediately, I began to review churches that were having great community impact, whose members regularly had gospel conversations, and whose leaders faithfully preached the Word with power every week.

I noted several characteristics of the thirty plus churches that I would unequivocally designate as healthy. When it was all said and done, I had nearly fifty different traits. But I was able to put most of these traits into one of seven categories.

They truly believe in the power of the gospel. Sure, most church members and leaders would affirm their own belief in the power of the gospel. But few would actually act on that belief. Few actually move into areas and directions that can only be accomplished in God's power. For most churches, it's lip service. But not so for these healthy churches.

They have courageous leaders. I call them "Joshua leaders." They are ready to lead the people into the community and storm the gates of hell. They remind the members to be courageous, even as they are courageous. One pastor put it this way: "I don't want to live a life without making a difference in God's power. I will accept the challenges, the risks, and the criticisms to be able to make a difference."

They embrace change. Most church members, and some church leaders, fiercely resist change. They idolize the past, the way we've always done it. Or they fear the future and God's provisions for the future. But the healthy churches on my watch list embrace change as long as it does not go counter to biblical truth. These churches don't spend their energies and resources trying to convince people to move forward. They are ready to go!

They are not nostalgic. Sure, these church members honor and respect the past. But they don't live there. They are constantly anticipating what God will do in the present and the future. They don't have time to be nostalgic, because they are too busy moving forward.

They see reality. They don't just see reality; they make highly intentional efforts to see reality more clearly. They often have secret guests evaluate their churches. They use tools to help them improve. They don't fear finding something negative with their churches, because those findings become areas for improvement.

They intentionally intersect their lives with non-Christians. They see their weekday vocation as a mission field. They see their neighborhoods as their Jerusalem in Acts 1:8. They intentionally work and do business with non-Christians. They are highly intentional about inviting people to church.


They accept responsibility. Too many church members and leaders blame the changes in culture. Healthy churches see those changes as opportunities. Too many church members and leaders blame their denominations for not providing for them. Healthy churches accept their own responsibility for impacting the community. Too many church members and leaders blame other churches for taking their members and guests. Healthy churches realize the fields are truly white unto harvest. They believe other churches are partners in mission, not competitors.

The work of the Kingdom is the work of the Church	
The Church at Work:	
Tithes & Offerings:	
July 2018	
Regular Tithes & Offerings	45,059.75
Special Missions (Black Rock)	50.00
Children's Ministry	1,760.00
Youth Ministry	2,810.00
Building Fund	615.00
Jeannine Leach	1,205.00
Haiti Missions	5,500.00
Backpack Ministry	100.00
Total	57,099.75



our staff

Pastor: Dr. Jon Martin 601-513-6970 jon@fbcunion.net	Student Minister: Corbin Jenkins 601-562-2667 corbin@fbcunion.net
Minister of Music & Education: Rev. Steve Bufkin 601-575-2041 steve@fbcunion.net	Church Secretary: Paige Walton paige@fbcunion.net
Church Hostess: Karen Adkins	Associate Secretary: Margaret Rush



SUNDAY MORNINGS
11:00 AM


September 2
Betty Smith, Janice White

September 9
Amy Kennedy, Janis Watts,
Madonna Capps

September 16
Deanna Rush, Susie Locky

September 23
Tesa Quinn, Kristen Lee

September 30
Margaret Germany, Carole Germany




ATTENDANCE

August 5
247

August 12
234

August 19
223



TEACHERS

September 2
Celeste Brasher

September 9
Sue Cockerham

September 16
Susie Locky

September 23
Morgan Goza

September 30
Olivia Manning




September 2
Adam De Venney

September 9
Zach Robinson

September 16
Ashley Burroughs

September 23
Dr. Bill Adkins


September 30
Brett Rigby




BIBLE DRILLS
Wednesday, September 5
Youth @ 5:30, Children @ 6:30



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd
Youth Sunday School will
lead worship services.



Begins September 5
Make reservations by
calling the church office
or signing up outside of
the church office.



Sunday Nights:
5:00 - 7:00pm


Wednesdays:
6:30 - 7:15pm



Share God's love with our
special Home Bound
members through cards,
visiting, and prayer.

Maurice Cooksey	Ruby Jean Chaney
Elawease Boler	Sewanna Dewease
Jackie Richardson	Shirley &
Bonnie Ferguson	Chester Estes
Floyd & Mary	Lois Griffis
Stafford Smith	Chloe Luke
Molly Parks	Pauline Gomillion
Shirlen Thomas	Bill Edwards

New Church Directory
Pictures will be taken on:
September 6, 7, 8 and 10.
Schedule your appointments through
the church office or fbcunion.net.



SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
2 Nursing Home Ministry 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 5:00 - Prayer Meeting 6:00 - D-Groups	3	4	5 10:00am - Prayer Meeting Stewardship Committee 5:30 - Fellowship Meal <u>6:30</u> Bible Drills Begin - All Ages Elevate Student Worship Refresh Worship	6 Church Directory Photos 2:00 - 9:00pm	7 Church Directory Photos 1:00 - 8:00pm	8 Church Directory Photos 10:00am - 5:00pm
9 8:00 - Deacons Meeting 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 2:00 - 5:00 - First Aid Training 5:00 - Prayer Meeting 6:00 - D-Groups	10 Church Directory Photos 2:00 - 9:00pm	11	12 10:00am - Prayer Meeting 5:30 - Fellowship Meal <u>6:30</u> Bible Drills - All ages Elevate Student Worship Refresh Worship	13	14	15 FLC Reserved
16 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 5:00 - Prayer Meeting 6:00 - D-Groups	17	18	19 10:00am - Prayer Meeting 5:30 - Fellowship Meal <u>6:30</u> Bible Drills - All Ages Elevate Student Worship Refresh Worship	20	21	22
23 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 5:00 - Prayer Meeting 6:00 - D-Groups	24	25	26 10:00am - Prayer Meeting See Ya at the Pole 5:30 - Fellowship Meal <u>6:30</u> Bible Drills - All Ages Elevate Student Worship Refresh Worship	27	28	29
30 9:45 - Sunday School 11:00 - Worship 5:00 - Prayer Meeting 6:00 - D-Groups						

