

August 2014

FSBC Messenger

First Southern Baptist Church El Dorado Kansas

Mark Your Calendar

7.17

Youth Game Night

7.20

Teachers' Meeting

7.21-25

Vacation Bible School

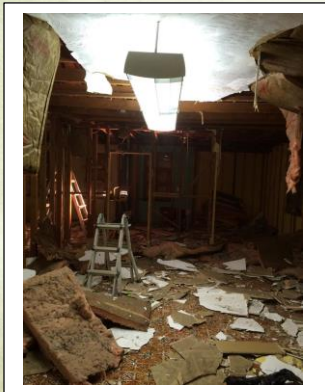
7.27

Lord's Supper Observed

Picnic at forest park

8.3

Back-to-School Bash



Foyer Remodel

Sometimes God's blessings can be a little messy, a little loud, a little chaotic. God is blessing us in a very big way right now! On June first, we met our financial goal to start our foyer remodel. On Tuesday the third, much to our surprise, the contractor told us he would arrive to start demolition on the ninth! That gave us a few days to move our offices and library and brace ourselves for the joyful inconvenience of construction. Let me pause right now to thank all of the church members who dropped everything and helped us make that happen.

Upon writing this, we are two and a half weeks into the project. Old walls, paneling, ceiling tiles, carpet, and even a set of stairs have been pulled out. Six windows were found inside the walls, some of which were stained glass and have been set aside for future projects. We have run into a few minor snags. For example one wall we intended to remove was load-bearing, so our plans had to be modified.

The workers have increased support for the roof, new electrical has been run, walls have been put up, other walls have come down. Each day we can see huge changes as this process goes on, and every day they clean up the day's rubble and leave things as "normal" as possible. As a result, you can already see how much more open the foyer is for foot-traffic on Sundays. You can visualize the bright and open offices and library that are materializing. Yes, God's blessings have brought us a lot of noise, mess, and chaos, but we are filled with His joy watching the progress.

Deacon Update

The Deacon body has met twice in the last two months to begin the process of bringing "yokefellows" onto the Deacon body. A yokefellow is a prospective candidate for Deacon who works with the Deacons for a minimum period of 6 months. As 1 Timothy says, "let these also first be tested." After this period of testing, prospective deacons would go through a formal ordination council of other ordained men and presented to the church for approval. First Southern Baptist church ascribes to the following description of a Deacon as set forth in 1 Timothy 3: 8-15: ⁸Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. ¹¹Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Please be in prayer for the men to be asked that the Lord's will for their lives and our church would be done.

Children's Church

June was an exciting month and July will prove to be just as exciting! We had eight children from our church attend Kids Camp. Last year we had two that attended. Praise the Lord! We will easily send ten next year, so we need to start fundraising now. If you have any suggestions or ideas for raising funds, please contact me. This year we had two decisions of Salvation, one rededication, and five that felt led to work in special services for the Lord during camp. Thank you to Pastor John and Madie Harris for going as sponsors, and to all of you who showed your support through our lunch and breakfast fundraisers.

Vacation Bible School is approaching fast! If you are interested in helping out with one of our biggest evangelistic events, please let me know. We can always use more hands. Our theme this year is Agency D3. Kids will learn to become special agents to Discover, Decide, and Defend the truth about Jesus as they examine the hard evidence. VBS is available for children 5 years to fifth grade. The dates have been re-scheduled to July 21-25 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Dinner will be served and bus rides are available. We will be starting our flyer distribution soon.

In August, we are having a back-to-school bash on August 3 for all children ages 5-fifth grade. August 27 we will be starting Wednesday evening services for children ages 5-fifth grade as well. If you are interested in serving in any of the above opportunities, please contact me.

Blessings!

Lesa Rumsey

Birthdays & Anniversaries

7.4

John M.

7.5

Mary M.

7.7

Jonelle R.

7.22

John & Mary M.

7.25

Ron S.

7.28

John T.

8.7

Amanda H.

Rod & Laura L.

8.11

Tim B.

8.13

Chris G.

8.17

Brandy B.

8.18

Garrett R.

8.19

Kurt & Michelle S.

8.27

Joe & Deb R.

8.29

Martha R.



Growth

Webster defines Growth as “progressive development” and that can either be good or bad. When I was a kid I couldn’t wait to “grow up.” I wanted to have a job and be able to buy more Topps Baseball cards. Maturity, and a car payment, has nullified that desire for Topps trading cards. In High School I vowed that if my waist size got larger than the in-seam of my pants then I would diet! Due to “progressive development” (brought on by my love of Buffalo wings) that particular goal is also gone. But our girth should not be the only area in our lives where we experience growth; we should be seeing growth spiritually as well.

As a Pastor I think about this question a lot, “What does spiritual growth look like?” Is it more people in pews? More volunteers at our upcoming VBS? More baptisms? Those may all be valid ways of measuring church health, but are not necessarily effective at measuring individual spiritual growth.

From an outside perspective I find it difficult to measure spiritual growth. I can see people that are making more Godly decisions by turning away from sin and improving their situation through positive changes (new job, new healthier relationships, etc.). And of course I see people that continually indulge in sin and then wonder why God isn’t hearing their prayers and their life is a wreck. Those are the obvious examples of spiritual growth, or lack thereof.

The vast majority of people I encounter say they want to grow spiritually; some of that may be due to the fact that I’m a Pastor (much like if a personal trainer asks you if you want to get in shape you give them an obligatory “yes”) BUT the proof is in the pudding. Or in both the spiritual and physical sense, the growth will be evident by the effort you put in! So, how can a person experience spiritual growth?

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double-minded people! James 4:8

Growth begins with repentance and cleansing then continues with a genuine pursuit of knowing God. Check out the article below on in this newsletter entitled “10 Questions for a Six-month Spiritual Checkup.” I hope the questions challenge you to continue to do better or encourage you to keep it up! And as always, if I can be of any help, my door is always open—my temporary office is across from the nursery.

In Christ,

Bro. John

10 Questions for a Six-Month Spiritual Checkup

By Chuck Lawless

It's hard to believe that almost ½ of 2014 is now gone. Rather than worry about days past, though, let's focus on preparing for the rest of the year. Use this list as a spiritual checkup to evaluate your walk, and then let us know how we might pray for you.

1. **Are you reading the Bible daily?** If you adopted an annual reading plan at the beginning of 2014, is your reading up to date? If not, take time this week to caught up. You might choose, if necessary, to adjust your plan – but still read daily. If you did not adopt a plan in January, pick a strategy for rest of the year.
2. **Are you praying daily?** Are you praying regularly and recurrently (1 Thess. 5:17)? Do you pray for those in authority, including government and church leaders (1 Tim. 2:2)? Are you praying by name for other believers to speak the gospel boldly and clearly (Eph. 6:18-20, Col. 4:2-4)? Do you pray for your enemies (Matt. 5:44)?
3. **How often have you shared the gospel this year?** Is the gospel so striking to you that you cannot keep it to yourself? Have you reached beyond the church world to develop gospel-centered relationships with unbelievers? For what non-believers are you praying as Paul did (Rom. 10:1)? Ask God to increase your burden for lost people (Rom. 9:1-3) throughout the remainder of this year.
4. **Are you faithfully fighting sin in your life?** Be honest – have you experienced victory over sin this year? Is there a sin that continually haunts you even though you've sought to overcome it? If so, what steps do you still need to take this year? Confess that sin to someone? Seek accountability? Simply repent?
5. **What scriptures have you memorized this year?** Do you echo the desire of the psalmist: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You" (Psalm 19:14)? Based on your memorization of God's Word this year, would I conclude that you treasure God's Word in your heart (Psalm 119:9-11)?
6. **Are you serving faithfully in a local church?** The church is much more than a place to attend; it is a family that loves us and provokes us to good works (Heb. 10:24). Through the first half of 2014, have you used your spiritual gifts as a member of a local body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:1-11, 1 Pet. 4:10)? Are you supporting His work financially? Commit today to invest yourself in God's church throughout the rest of 2014.
7. **Are you exhibiting the work of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23)?** Here, allow the Word to guide your self-evaluation: "Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. . . . But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control." Which traits most characterize your life today?
8. **Who is walking more with God because of your influence this year?** That is, are you making disciples? Have you purposefully pointed away from self to direct others to follow the Son of God (John 1:29)? Or, to ask the question in the negative, is there anyone who walks *less* with God today because of your example and influence this year?
9. **What steps have you taken to spread the gospel to the nations?** The Great Commission is a global calling (Matt. 28:18-20), even for those not called to go to the nations full-time. Have you intentionally studied about God's work around the world this year? Are you praying for missionaries by name? Are you fully open to taking a mission trip this year or next?
10. **How would your family assess you as a family member and a believer this year?** Those who live with us are most equipped to evaluate our spiritual walk. If I were to ask your family about your walk with God, what would they say? Would they say your life – all of it, including behind the scenes – models Christ? If not, decide today what steps you will take the next six months.

Regardless of what you learn in this evaluation, God is a God of new beginnings (2 Cor. 5:17) – which means you may recommit yourself to Him today.

How might we pray for you as He grants you a start to the second part of this year?

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	2 Youth F.U.E.L.	3	4 John M.	5 Mary M.
6 Ignite 6pm	7 Jonelle R. Men's Bible Study 7pm	8 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	9 Youth F.U.E.L.	10	11	12
13 Ignite 6pm	14 Men's Bible Study 7pm	15 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	16 Youth F.U.E.L.	17 Youth game and Movie Night 7pm	18	19
20 Teachers' Meeting 4:30 Ignite 6pm	21	22 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am John & Mary M.	23 Youth F.U.E.L.	24 Ron S.	25	26
VBS 5:30pm to 8:30pm Mon-Friday						
27 Lord's supper observed Picnic at Forest Park 5:30	28 John T. Men's Bible Study 7pm	29 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	30 Youth F.U.E.L.	31	Notes:	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Back-to-School Bash Ignite 6pm	4 Men's Bible Study 7pm	5 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	6 Youth F.U.E.L.	7 Amanda H. Rod & Laura L.	8	9
10 Ignite 6pm	11 Tim B. Men's Bible Study 7pm	12 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	13 Youth F.U.E.L.	14	15	16
17 Brandy B. Ignite 6pm	18 Garrett R. Men's Bible Study 7pm	19 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am Kurt & Michelle S.	20 Kurt S. Youth F.U.E.L.	21	22	23
24 Ignite 6pm	25 Men's Bible Study 7pm	26 Men's Bible Study 6:30 am	27 Joe & Deb R. Youth F.U.E.L.	28	29 Martha R.	30
31 Ignite 6pm	Service Times: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday evening: Bible study 6 p.m. , Youth Ignite 6:00 p.m Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m. , Youth F.U.E.L. 7p.m.					

VOLUNTEERS July-August					
Date	Bus	Teacher	Helpers	Nursery	Count
7/6	Mike	Lesa	Madie	Rod & Tyler	Johnie G., Richard & Deb S.
7/13	John	Lesa	Kathy & Robert	Johnie & Donna G.	Johnie G., Rod & Laura
7/20	Stuart	Deb	Lesa & Joe	Stuart & Jonelle	Johnie G., Martha, Lesa
7/27	Deb	IN SERVICES		Dianna & Shawn	Johnie G., John M., Robert
8/3	Mike	Lesa	Amanda & Joseph	Kurt & Michelle	Deb, Rod & Laura
8/10	John	Lesa	Mike & Kayla	Rod & Tyler	Deb, Richard & Martha
8/17	Stuart	Lesa	Madie	Johnie & Donna G.	Deb, Lesa & Johnie G.
8/24	Deb	Lesa	Kathy & Robert	Stuart & Jonelle	Deb, John M., Robert
8/31	Mike	IN SERVICES		Dianna & Shawn	Deb, Rod & Laura




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