

Parent-Child Dedication on May 9

Deacon Selection on May 2

Please See Articles Inside this Newsletter for Details

***The Pastor's Pen***

**Is "Distraction" Keeping You from Reading the Bible?**

I read an article recently that I think accurately points out why so many Christians fail to read the Bible on a regular basis, even though they profess belief in the Bible as the totally true and trustworthy Word of God. Can you guess the reason? **We are distracted.** Michael Brown, in the excerpt below from his article in the Christian Post, warns us to be alert to the devil's latest tactic to keep us from reading the Bible – keeping us distracted.

"Many of us have numerous copies of the Bible in our home, and literally, at the tip of our fingers, we have instant access to dozens of translations of the Word. A simple click, and there it is: the Bible on your phone or tablet or PC. We can even set up a program to remind us to read the Bible every day, with the passages in question appearing right on our screens.

"The Bible is more accessible than ever, yet, relatively speaking, we hardly access it. **[The problem] is distraction.** Never before have we had so many things vying for our attention. It's not just emails. And texts. And direct messages on Facebook and Twitter and WhatsApp (and a host of other platforms, all demanding our attention.) It's also endless cable TV channels, which are now being overshadowed by endless internet options, including the ability to watch almost any past movie or TV show or current sports event by the hour. It's constant social media posts. And a 24/7 stream of news. And limitless ads pulling us in a million different (and oh-so-interesting) directions at once.

"One night, while doing some research on YouTube, I noticed a fascinating nature video listed in the column to the right, which then led me to another fascinating video, this one about violent, predatory animals. Soon enough, I was searching for videos on subjects like, 'Lions vs. Hyenas' or, 'How Strong Is a Gorilla?' – and on and on it went. I'm not sure if I wasted 60 minutes or 90 minutes that night, but for sure, the time was wasted. I simply got distracted. And how many have been distracted by things far more

(Continued Inside)

# First Focus

A Weekly Newsletter for the Family and Friends of Pickens First Baptist

- All Church Members.....Ministers
- Fred Stone (859-5853).....Senior Pastor
- Bryan Hester (704-4802).....Worship & Associate Pastor
- Jeff Rafferty (607-8306).....Discipleship & Missions Pastor
- Mike Sterlachini (395-5880).....Student & Family Pastor
- Jennifer Hendrix (449-5381).....Preschool Director
- Katie Freeman.....Financial Secretary
- Tricia McJunkin.....Church Secretary

Church Phone: 864-878-6564      Website: [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)

Office Hours: 8:30 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Thursday

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Friday

## ***The Pastor's Pen Continued***

harmful than nature videos?

"Of course, we can't blame the devil for keeping us from the Word. That is our choice and our choice alone. But we can recognize the temptations of our age, temptations which have even robbed us of the ability to concentrate. And we can make a fresh determination to put the Word of God first in our lives.

"May I encourage you to avail yourself of the . . . Scriptural riches we have today, making focused, devotional reading of the Bible a priority in your life? [If we will do that, putting into practice what we read, it will change our lives and our homes.] If enough of us do that . . . it will have a revolutionary impact on the nation. Literally."

### **Join Us on Wednesday Nights for Bible Study & Fellowship**

Everything starts at 6:30 pm and concludes at 7:15 pm each Wednesday. The groups and rooms are as follows:

- Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service: Fellowship Hall
- Adult Choir & Orchestra: Sanctuary
- Youth Bible Study (Grades 6-12): The Xchange (Pizza available @6:15 pm)
- Children (Grades 1-5): J.A.M (Jesus And Me), includes games, crafts, and Bible study. Registration is not required but parents will need to check-in their children each week. Classes meet in the children's Sunday School classrooms, down the hall from the church office.
- Preschoolers: Preschool Hallway Rooms

### **Deacon Selection – May 2**

We will select 5 new deacons on Sunday morning, May 2. As set forth in our church bylaws, deacons are chosen from among the men of our church who are at least 21 years of age and have been a member of the church for at least one year. For the convenience of our church family, a list of men who meet this age and membership requirement is available in the vestibule. However, our church has higher qualifications for deacons than just age and membership requirements.

We require deacons to meet the biblical qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7. Generally, these qualifications require that a man demonstrate Godly character, doctrinal soundness, and the spiritual qualities necessary to provide effective leadership in his home and the church. He should also be faithful to the church in attendance, service, and giving.

Please keep these qualifications in mind as you prayerfully look through the list of men in our church. On Sunday morning, May 2, be prepared to vote for 5 men who meet these qualifications. Keep in mind that this is not a nomination process. The top five qualified men who agree to serve will be presented to the church on August 8 for confirmation.

The men whose names are listed below are currently serving as deacons. Those rotating off this year are ineligible for re-election for one year.

#### Rotate Off in 2021

Milledge Cassell  
Brett Garrison  
Michael Hendrix  
Davey Hiott  
William Reece

#### Rotate Off in 2022

Joe Dunn  
Lynn Fisher  
Larry Martin  
Roger Smith  
Mendel Stewart

#### Rotate Off in 2023

Zander Clarkson  
Jimmy Dickard  
David Harper  
Don Shuman  
Jeff Turner

## ***Discipleship and Missions from Jeff***

### **Mission Trip to Dakota Sonshine**

We are making plans for a mission trip to Dakota Sonshine from June 26<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The trip will consist of either working with the Native American children in camp, or small work projects such as painting, etc. Cost of the trip will be \$500 for church members. Please contact Jeff at either 878-6564 ext. 105 or [Jeff@fbcpickens.org](mailto:Jeff@fbcpickens.org) if interested in participating or with questions. The deadline is May 1, 2021 to turn in a deposit of \$100.00.

### **Mission Focus: Please Continue Praying for Pastor Juan in Peru!**

#### **Cafe Connections is in need of the following:**

1. Prayer Encouragers to "adopt" a client as a secret sister/brother for approximately 8-10 weeks as clients are in recovery. Encouragers are asked to commit to staying in touch with their "adoptee" once per month, if not weekly (most preferable). Encouragers are asked to pray, and on occasion provide a small gift like a candy bar, journal or maybe a \$5 gift card to a local eatery, for their "adoptee". BOTH the "encourager" and "adoptee" will remain anonymous to each other, and will ONLY be known by their first names. Cards and gifts can be dropped off at Cafe Connections. Please call for hours of operation.
2. A small group, individual, or business to provide a meal ONCE per month for 15-20 Behavioral Health Clients and Homeless thru October, 2021. This would be for a Monday OR Tuesday, during the 4th week of every month. For more info call Ann @ 201-1772.

### **Samaritan's Purse**

We have an opportunity to go to the Samaritan's Purse processing center on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and help assemble shoeboxes that will be going to restricted countries! Instead of making their own shoeboxes this year many people paid online to have Samaritan's Purse build them a shoebox. Now Samaritan's Purse has all the contents but needs help putting them together. The exciting part of this is that every one of these boxes will go to countries who restrict the Gospel from entering in other ways. We only have a few spots available, so if you are interested in going and helping with this exciting opportunity then please contact Jeff at 878-6564 ext. 105. We will leave the church at 9:00 a.m. and will return to the church at approximately 9:00 p.m.

### **Mission Trip to Honduras with Carpenters For Christ**

The Carpenters For Christ has been asked to come to San Marcos de Colon, Honduras to help the Good Samaritan Ministry with several projects such as well digging, construction, teaching, VBS, evangelism, and many other opportunities to share the gospel.

Trip date: Saturday June 12 - Saturday 19, 2021

Honduras Mission Trip Meeting Tuesday night April 20th at 6:30, First Baptist Gowensville 5650 SC Hwy 14 Landrum, SC 29356. If interested, **please plan** to attend this very important meeting.

Trip cost \$1650.00

If you have any questions concerning this trip or if you cannot be at the meeting on April 20, please call Randy Atkins (864-612-0165) or Mike Ravan (864-621-0916).

### **Parent-Child Dedication – May 9 in the 10:30 AM Worship Service**

Parents who would like to participate in this dedication are asked to do two things.

1. Sign-up by calling the church office (878-6564) or email Jennifer Hendrix ([jennifer@fbcpickens.org](mailto:jennifer@fbcpickens.org)) by Monday, May 3.
2. Email 5 pictures of your child to [media@fbcpickens.org](mailto:media@fbcpickens.org) by Monday, May 3. Please include the names of the parents, child, and the child's date of birth.

### **Preschool Worship Volunteers, 10:30 a.m. Service**

**April 18:** Babies & 1's, Vicky Hedden & Lisa Hiott; 2's & 3's, Amy, Sophie, and Sadie Sawyer; K4's & K5's, Brett & Lauren Garrison

**April 25:** Babies & 1's, Jeff & Kelly Turner; 2's & 3's, Loree, Mallie, & Morgan Couch; K4's & K5's, Judy Edwards & Katie Shuman

---

### **Safety Team Rotation Assignment**

#### **The Month Of April**

- 4th** - Team B
- 11th** - Team C
- 18th** - Team D
- 25th** - Team A

## **Student Ministry News from Mike**



### **Graduate Recognition Service**

Graduation is right around the corner! If your high school or college student (associate, bachelor, or graduate degree) is graduating, please let Mike know. Also, please email him five pictures of your graduate in a JPEG format. These photos should be a mix of baby, child, and graduation pictures. We will use these pictures at our *Graduation Recognition Service* on Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am. All pictures need to be emailed by Tuesday, May 4 to [mike@fbcpickens.org](mailto:mike@fbcpickens.org).

### ***Bryan's Notes***

Hello Church Family,

I want to make you aware of 3 trips that we are planning again this year. 2 of them are in the fall and at Christmas and one is right around the corner in May. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these trips as soon as possible so reservations can be made.

**Sign Up sheets are located outside Adult IV or you can call me or email me about signing up.**

- **Thursday, May 6th: Trip to Eat Lunch at The Junction and to get Strawberries at Strawberry Hill USA**  
**Cost:** Lunch and how many strawberries you buy  
**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, May 2.**
- **October 11 - 14: (Monday - Thursday) Celebrators in Pigeon Forge, TN.**  
Speakers include Dr. David Jeremiah, Phil Waldrep, Former Vice President Mike Pence, Dennis Swanberg. Musical Guest include Charles Billingsley, The Collingsworth Family, The Gaither Vocal Band, and Gordon Mote.  
**The Cost is:**  
\* \$298 - 2 to a room  
\* \$224 - 3 to a room  
\* \$186 - 4 to a room  
\* \$522 - 1 to a room  
\*No meals are included except for breakfast at the hotel on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. We are staying at the LaQuinta Inn in Pigeon Forge, TN, 125 Community Center Drive.  
**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, May 30th - \$100 per person due that day.**
- **December 2 - 4: (Thursday - Saturday) Trip to Myrtle Beach to see 2 Christmas Shows**  
The cost includes 2 Christmas Shows at the Alabama Theater and The Carolina Opry; 2 Dinners at Chuck's Steakhouse and Original Benjamins; breakfast at the hotel Friday and Saturday mornings; and lodging at the Beach Cove Resort. *\*Right now we are planning to take our church bus. If we get a good number to go, we could charter a bus. That would bring the cost per person up by \$50-\$75 per person. We will have to see how many people sign up.*  
**The Cost is: (Without a Charter Bus)**  
\* \$227 per person - 2 two a room  
\* \$307 per person - 1 to a room  
**Deadline to Sign Up: Sunday, June 27th- \$100 per person due that day.**



**Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
for North American Missions**  
2021 theme is "The Mission Moves Forward"

Church Goal: \$7,500.00

Given To Date: \$4,050.00

Prayer guides are available in the vestibule and the  
Welcome Center along with extra envelopes if needed.

### Pickens First Baptist Church Schedule

#### Sunday, April 18

8:00 a.m. - 1st Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. - 2nd Worship Service

#### Wednesday, April 21

6:30p.m. - Adult Bible Study & Prayer Service, FH;  
Preschool, Children's, and Youth Activities;  
Adult Choir & Orchestra Rehearsal, Sanc.

### FACTS & FIGURES

#### April 11, 2021

Building Fund: \$565,047.21

Sunday School - 191  
Offering - \$18,838.00  
Offering to Date - \$306,594.26  
Goal to Date - \$327,555.90

#### To Give Online:

1. Go to [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)
2. Click on the "MyPFBC" Icon
3. Click on "Give"
4. Choose "Create an Account" or "Give Without A Login" and follow the directions

If you have any questions, you may call Katie in the church office at 878-6564.

#### Year-End Contribution Statements

If you have a MyPFBC account, your 2020 contribution statement is now available to view/print. To print your contribution statement, please do the following:





- Log-in to your account
- Select the *Giving History* tab
- Click the gray *PDF Tax Statement* button

\*\*\*Please call or email Katie if you have any questions or if you would like your statement mailed, emailed, or printed for pick-up. 878-6564 / [katie@fbcpickens.org](mailto:katie@fbcpickens.org)



*Year-End  
Contribution  
Statements*

## CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

	<a href="https://www.fbcpickens.org/youtube">fbcpickens.org/youtube</a>
	<a href="https://www.fbcpickens.org/facebook">fbcpickens.org/facebook</a>
	<a href="https://www.fbcpickens.org/instagram">fbcpickens.org/instagram</a>
	<a href="https://www.fbcpickens.org/twitter">fbcpickens.org/twitter</a>

# Welcome to Pickens First Baptist Church

April 18, 2021

Baptismal Service (10:30 a.m.)

Opening Song

*He Knows My Name*

Scripture

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Congregational Songs

*The Lion and The Lamb*

*Before the Throne of God Above*

Welcome and Prayer

Message In Song *Sometimes It Takes A Mountain*

Andy Williams

Message From God's Word.....Pastor Fred Stone

Song Of Commitment

*There's Something About That Name*

Closing Prayer

8:00 a.m. - Larry Martin

10:30 a.m. - William Reece

Closing Song

Hymn No. 4 *To God Be The Glory*

Pickens First Baptist Church exists to be a Worshiping, Evangelizing, Learning, and Loving (W.E.L.L.) family of faith to the glory of God. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 10:31).

## Online Worship Service Available

\* On YouTube: On your smart TV, smartphone, iPad, or computer go to:

[fbcpickens.org/youtube](http://fbcpickens.org/youtube)

\* On Pickens FBC Website: On your smartphone, iPad, or computer,

go to: [www.fbcpickens.org](http://www.fbcpickens.org)