

Connecting People To Jesus!

Please join us in praising God for the faith decisions that have occurred recently in the life of First Baptist Gulfport.

Michael Bobo	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Lindsey Bobo	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Jessica Smith	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Alexis Vander Pol	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Fisher Daniels	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Jeffrey Savin	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Katie Mabb	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Keturah Standberry	Profession of Faith and Believer's Baptism		
Earnie Coffell	Transfer of Letter	Mac Coffell	Transfer of Letter
Tanya Coffell	Transfer of Letter	Bruce Pruitt	Transfer of Letter
Leanna Coffell	Transfer of Letter	Andy Taylor	Transfer of Letter
Mav Coffell	Transfer of Letter	Charlene Taylor	Transfer of Letter

Who will you lead down the Roman Road? There are five verses in the Bible that will help lead others to the path of salvation.

- *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23***
- *God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5:8***
- *The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 6:23***
- *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **Romans 10:9***
- *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **Romans 10:13***

Please call the church office if this is a decision that you want to make today. 228.831.3400.



MEET OUR STAFF

Dr. Jimmy Stewart | *Senior Pastor*

Eric Smith | *Executive Pastor of Ministries*

Ben Sticker | *Associate Pastor, Students | Missions*

Bryan Billings | *Administrator*

Elizabeth Dollar | *Director of Preschool/Children's Ministry*

Bruce Pruitt | *Worship Service Program | Media Director*

Ann Billings | *Office Manager & Pastoral Executive Assistant*

Heather Hicks | *Ministries Assistant*

Lizzie Whipps | *Social Media & Communications Coordinator*

Joe Davidson | *Maintenance Supervisor*

Tina Lewis | *Financial Administrative Assistant*

Justin Steiner | *Student Ministry Intern*

Eldon Authement | *Custodian*

You may use the enclosed envelope to send us a prayer request or to mail your tithes and offerings.



Budget Adoption Process for 2021

- Church Receives Proposed 2021 Budget - November 1
- Business Meeting/Church reviews and discusses Proposed 2021 Budget - November 8
- Business Meeting/Church votes on 2021 Budget - November 15

GIVING TITHES AS OF 10/4/2020	RECEIVED 10/4	RECEIVED YTD	BUDGET NEED YTD
	\$ 31,453.56	\$ 1,120,870.51	\$ 1,453,325.74
AMPLIFY THE HOPE BUILDING PROGRAM	RECEIVED	PLEDGED	# OF PLEDGES
	\$ 826,877.98	\$ 1,041,806.00	135

CONTACT | 12190 Highway 605 Gulfport, MS 39503 | (228) 831-3400 | fbcgulfport.org

THE MESSENGER

OUR JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST BAPTIST GULFPORT

OCTOBER 2020

BECOMING MULTIPLYING DISCIPLE MAKERS

Healthy churches are healthy because they have a growing number of healthy disciples! How healthy are you? Your spiritual health has a direct impact on the health of our Church. Healthy churches grow both numerically and spiritually. Will you be part of Amplifying Hope Across the Coast by Connecting People to Life in Jesus? I am challenging you to be an intentional contributor to the growth of our church. Let's work and grow together to Amplify Hope.

Monday, September 28th First Baptist Gulfport hosted a DiscipleFIRST forum featuring pastor and author Craig Etheredge. Dr.

Etheredge is a disciple making pastor who is leading churches to adopt a systematic approach to making disciples. Pastor Craig is the author of *Bold Moves*, a

book that practically explains the purpose and process of disciple making. He is the Senior Pastor of FBC Colleyville, TX. He is also the founder of DiscipleFIRST, an organization committed to equipping every believer with the knowledge and ability to fulfill Jesus' mandate to make disciples.

Nine members of our church family are joining me on a nine week DiscipleFIRST Cohort designed to equip us to make disciples who make disciples. Pray for us as we embark on this journey. Stay tuned for the opportunity to become a multiplying disciple maker

My prayer is that God will give you and every member of First Baptist Gulfport the desire to become a healthy, multiplying disciple maker.

4HisGlory,

Dr. Jimmy Stewart



The annual Fall Festival at First Baptist Gulfport is scheduled Sunday, October 25th from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM. This is a church wide, community outreach event. **You can help!**

• Invite People

• Donate bags of candy and drop off in entrances of Church by Sunday morning, October 25th.

• Decorate your car/truck trunks. You may bring extra candy and we will provide some as well. **Sign up in Atrium or text 228-265-5020 with the keyword FALLFESTIVAL**

• Bring a lawn chair.

- 01 BECOMING MULTIPLY DISCIPLE MAKERS
- 02 CULTIVATING GROWTH IN GROUPS
- 02 STUDENT MINISTRY
- 03 CARING PEOPLE THROUGH SERVICE
- 03 PRESCHOOL | CHILDREN MINISTRY
- 04 CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

Cultivating Growth In Groups

Participation in a Life Group is vital to the well-being of Christ-followers. In Life Groups, we commit to being present and available to a small group of people. As we regularly gather with one another around God's word, we learn practically how to live life in obedience to Christ.

If you have questions about Life Groups or would like to explore becoming a Life Group leader please contact Pastor Eric Smith by phone at 228-831-3400.

See below a list of current Life Groups or for latest Life Group information: fbcgulfport.org/life-groups.

SUNDAY 9:00 AM Caviness Life Group (Women Multi-Generational)	MONDAY 9:30 AM Word Seekers Life Group (Women)
Reid/Weldon Life Group (Couples 30's)	6:00 PM Lost and Found (Couples 20's)
Renick Life Group (Couples 40's)	TUESDAY 7 PM Young Adult Life Group (18 – 35)
Upper Room Life Group (Co-Ed Multi-Generational)	WEDNESDAY 9 AM Fishers of Men (60+)
Hull Life Group (On-Campus and Virtual)	10 AM Mary Sunday School Class (60+)
Scrap Iron Group (Virtual)	6 PM Bible Journaling Life Group (All Women)
5:00 PM Dabbs Life Group	THURSDAY 5:30 PM God and Country Life Group
6:00 PM Gen X Life Group (Virtual)	

HOPE PACK MINISTRY

The Hope Pack Ministry has begun again for the School year 2020/21. Right around the corner from our church campus, there's a population of children attending a local elementary school who are in need of basic food assistance. You can partner with us in a school-year long effort to help these children in our community. Weekly, a "Hope Pack" is filled with food and delivered to the school on Friday so children do not go hungry over the weekend.

To help with HOPE PACK MINISTRY:

- Join us each Wednesday @6:00 PM to pack in Room 101
- Donate food items | single serve microwavable macaroni & cheese, single serve fruit cups, or single serve instant oatmeal (Drop in Atrium)
- Donate monetarily by **texting 228-265-5020 with the keyword HOPEPACK**
- Each Hope Pack is \$5.00 a piece and we are currently making 35 Hope Packs each week.



BASKETS OF LOVE

Save the date for our Annual Ladies Night Out. Join the women of First Baptist Gulfport on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30 PM in the Atrium to serve the homebound as we pack Baskets of Love for them. For more information about Women's Ministries fbcgulfport.org/women.

GUEST EXPERIENCE TEAM

A special shout out to the Guest Experience Team (G.E.T.). From greeting us in the parking lot, opening the doors for us, greeting us in the entrances, making coffee for us and ushering us to our seats each Sunday guest and members alike have felt the love of Christ amplified each week on campus. If you would like to be part of this team please contact Heather Hicks at 228-831-3400.

STUDENT MINISTRY

The Student Ministry is making PLANS for you – don't miss out!

We always have a place for YOU on Sunday mornings! Join us in The Amp for **Life Groups** at 9:00 AM!

Save the Date for Friendsgiving 2020 | November 21st at 6 PM in The Amp. Sign-ups for this event will start November 1st. You can sign up to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish, then plan on joining us for our First Annual Friendsgiving in The Amp! Parents, if you would like to help, please contact Heather Hicks at 228-831-3400.

Annual **Jingle Bell Night** to celebrate Christmas together is scheduled for December 13th! Stay tuned for more information!

Coming Soon: January 2021 Bible study, DNow, Summer Camp, and other mission projects!

For more information fbcgulfport.org/students



MEMBERSHIP INTEREST CLASS

discoverFIRST

NOVEMBER 1 + 8 | 9AM IN THE LOFT

SIGN-UP BY TEXTING DISCOVER TO 228-265-5020 OR BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE.

discoverFirst is designed to help you learn more about our church, connect with others, and provide an opportunity for church membership if you desire. You will learn the mission and vision of First Gulfport, get information about church ministries, and hear an overview of our discipleship process. **discoverFIRST** will also help you assess where you are in your spiritual growth and identify your next steps to know and follow Jesus. It's casual, fun, and interactive, so go ahead and plan to participate! Be sure to stop by Cafe 605 to get a complimentary cup of coffee on your way to the class. The class meets for two sessions on Sunday mornings November 1 and November 8 in the Loft. You can **register by calling the church office 228-831-3100 and asking to speak to Ann Billings or text 228-265-5020 with keyword DISCOVER**

Deacon Affirmation and Ordination

- October 25 - Present new deacons to the church
- November 15 - Deacon Ordination

PRAYER LIST

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Prayer is such an important part of our faith in Jesus Christ. We have the privilege of praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ. First Baptist Gulfport publishes a weekly prayer list that is available for you! Please contact Ann Billings at abillings@fbcgulfport.org if you want to share a prayer request or would like to receive the weekly prayer list by email.

CHURCH CALENDAR

To stay up to date with the latest church calendar go to the churches website www.fbcgulfport.org/events. Don't miss the happenings at First Baptist Gulfport.

Caring People Through Service

During the last few months of uncertainty and upheaval, it has been our privilege to help Amplify Hope in our community by ministering in practical ways to our Gulf Coast neighbors. You have helped by donating food and water to the needy, providing financial assistance to those facing tragedy, praying for a nation in need of Christ, and encouraging others in our community. We're excited about serving alongside you at several upcoming opportunities to Amplify Hope Across the Coast!

It is our honor to serve closely with Gulf Coast Community Ministries, as they continue to meet the very practical needs of those in need in our community! We would love for you to help them as they work to keep their supplies stocked and their facility ready to minister. You can help by dropping supplies (listed below) to our church building or to GCCM:



- 1 lb. bags of rice, grits, beans, spaghetti noodles
- Macaroni and cheese
- 15-16oz. cans of vegetables, fruits
- Canned soup
- Canned meat
- Cereal

We will also be partnering with GCCM for a SERVE MINISTRY EVENT (November 7, 9 AM-2 PM) featuring several important service projects, including light building maintenance, painting, cleaning, organization, landscaping, prayer walking, and whatever else is needed. You can sign up to serve by calling us ahead of time at 228-831-3400 or by joining us on the 7th at GCCM!

Lastly, we are excited to begin collecting items for CAMPING FOR HOPE (December 4-5) to be passed out to the homeless population of the Gulf Coast at the "Camping for Hope" outreach event. Starting October 18th, we will be collecting the following (new or slightly used) items to help provide for our homeless neighbors as the weather begins to change:

- Sleeping bags
- Tents
- Tarps
- Jackets

You can also text BENEVOLENCE to (228)265-5020 to give.



Saddle up for November's Family Night with a Western-twist, celebrating how God's love reaches "As Far as the East is from the West!" We'll see you, your children, your students, and the whole family on November 1st from 5 PM-7 PM.

Christmas at First Baptist Gulfport

Mark your calendars now for all things Christmas.

Christmas Worship Choir

Worship Choir Practice each Wednesday night 6 PM
There is room for **YOU!** Contact Ben in the office for more details or see you Wednesday night at 6PM!

Participatory Worship Service

In addition to weekly worship join us for a special **Participatory Worship Service Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM.**

Christmas Eve Service Thursday, December 24, 2020

Make plans TODAY to be at one of our Christmas Eve Services 4:30 PM or 6 PM. We will have safety measures in place as we participate in the Lord's Supper and continuing the tradition of our candlelight service.

Operation Christmas Child

Contact Stephanie Pierce | stephpierce228@gmail.com | for more information. Boxes will be available October 11th in the Atrium and are due no later than November 22nd. Plan to have a packing party with your family or with your Life Group!

Angel Tree

YES, we will host Angel Tree again this year. We have requested 30 children from families with incarcerated parents. We will receive names in late October and you will see the Angel Tree in the Atrium. Grab an Angel and help support these children in tough family situations have a memorable Christmas.

Annual Adult Christmas Banquet

Saturday, December 12, 2020 11:30 AM with doors opening at 11:00 AM. Tickets go on sale in Atrium November 15th for \$10 each.

Preschool | Children

First Baptist Family, We are excited to announce that both our Preschool and Children's ministries, along with Students and several Adult Life Groups, are unified in the study of The Gospel Project during our 9:00 AM Life Groups. This unification gives families the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation during the week on what they talked about at church. Each week your child receives a worksheet containing a summary of the Bible story, Big Picture Question and Family Discussion Starters, to help you engage with your child. Please feel free to reach out to Elizabeth Dollar with any questions you may have on how to use the worksheet to help start your conversation with your child.

We LOVE investing in the next generation at First Baptist Gulfport! Our volunteers sing about, speak about, and read about Jesus with your children so that the next generation will understand how important the presence of Jesus is to every aspect of life. Thank you, Preschool & Children's Ministry volunteers, for all that you do!

To invest in the leaders of tomorrow, you can volunteer by texting **228-265-5020 with the keyword VOLUNTEERS** or by contacting **Elizabeth Dollar at edollar@fbcgulfport.org**!