

The Herald



FIRST BAPTIST
S A N G E R

Vol. L

June 22, 2022

No. 23



SUPER SUMMER

Join us for
a Time of Testimony
from Students
Sunday, June 26, 6:00 PM
in Worship Center

Go Ye Therefore...



*Matamoros,
Mexico*

Ecuador



October 6-10, 2022

Medical services and outreach to all ages. Possible light construction.

October 13-20, 2022

Encourage and support the churches involved in pastor training program.

Contact John Guerra or Frank Wardlow for more information.

Senior
Adults



Sunday, July 10 after Worship Service in Fellowship Hall

Contact: Annice Norman, 940.231.0064



The Southern Baptist Convention met last week in Anaheim for its Annual Meeting. Technically, the SBC exists for only the days we meet in our annual meeting. Considering the fact that we own and operate six seminaries, employ over 5,000 missionaries and operate other entities like the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission makes the statement that the SBC exists for only three days a year seem laughable. But it is technically true. To understand this paradox, you have to examine the polity under which we operate. For those unfamiliar with the term polity, it is a word describing our method of operation including the theological underpinnings of how we organize.

In the SBC, the church is at the top of the hierarchical structure. In other Christian denominations this is inverted. Every SBC church is autonomous. We voluntarily cooperate with the SBC. Every church owns their buildings, calls their own pastors and sets their own policies and doctrine. As a convention, we have a doctrinal statement called the Baptist Faith and Message which lays out the basic theology which governs our group of churches. This statement simply puts forward the doctrinal foundation upon which we make our decisions. The Bible is our ultimate source of authority. Many of the issues debated and decided at the annual meeting arose from this unusual organizing principle. I will attempt to explain this by examining a couple of the major issues decided at the annual meeting.

At the 2021 annual meeting the SBC voted to conduct an independent investigation regarding the conduct of the Executive Committee, the entity that oversees the operation of the SBC between our annual meetings, in relation to sexual abuse by ministers employed by churches within the SBC. This investigation was spurred on by reports from the Houston Chronicle newspaper which listed over 700 reports of sexual abuse. The report was painful to read. The only way to describe it is to say that we failed to protect the vulnerable by relying on the autonomy of the local church. At the annual meeting, our messengers voted to create a database of ministers credibly accused of sexual abuse, along with other actions. These were important first steps to protect the vulnerable. We have started the process of doing the right thing as a convention, but this story will continue.

Another major topic relates to how much authority the Baptist Faith and Message holds over churches wanting to associate with the SBC. The specific issue was the ordination of three women as "pastors" by Saddleback Valley Community Church led by Rick Warren. Saddleback is one of the largest and most influential churches in the nation. In 2000, the SBC added a statement to the BF&M saying that the office of pastor was reserved for males only. It would seem that according to this statement, Saddleback is out of step with the SBC. But the meaning of the term pastor in the 2000 BF&M is debated. Does it mean the title given to individuals who serve in roles other than what we call Senior Pastor only, or to positions like Children's Pastor? This decision was tabled for further consideration at a later time. This is a topic that goes far beyond Saddleback or even what is a pastor. The real issue is what role does the BF&M play in defining who are Southern Baptists. Does a church have to formally agree with every portion of the BF&M, or is it simply a confession of the generally held beliefs of the churches that make up the SBC? This issue will continue to create heated debate.

If someone asked me why remain within the SBC I have an easy answer: we are able to do more together than separated. Our six seminaries provide high-quality education for future pastors and missionaries at a much lower cost than other seminaries. Through our Cooperative Program giving we subsidize the cost of students as they train. For an example, I have a friend who attended a non-SBC seminary for his master's degree. He paid in one semester what I paid for my entire three-year master's program. Another reason to remain within the SBC is our missionary program through the International Mission Board and North American Mission Board. We support over 5,000 missionaries throughout the world taking the gospel of Christ to the world. Our missionaries are well supported financially and organizationally through the most-efficient missions support organization ever developed. We are making an impact around the world through the SBC. There are other reasons to remain in the SBC, but honestly, these two reasons should suffice.

Pastor Grant Bowles - Senior Pastor



Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to Freddie Newland's family in their loss.

Senior Adult Activities

Thursdays, 9:00 AM: Morning Bible Study

Thursdays, Noon: Game Time

For the Record

June 19, 2022 Receipts.....	\$16,153
YTD Budget Receipts.....	\$401,279
YTD Budget	\$473,855



The Mobile Food Pantry date will change to Saturday, July 10 due to Independence Day Holiday weekend.

VBS Is Only the Beginning

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

This was the main scripture from our "Spark Studios" Vacation Bible School last week. It was great teaching the children how God created us and designed us with special gifts and talents to glorify Him and share the gospel.

I want to start off by thanking everyone that helped with VBS! We averaged 93 students (Preschool through 8th Grade) and 65 volunteers every day. I was glad to see all the children there, but I was also so pleased to see the 60+ volunteers every day who worked together in the name of Christ to minister to kids and share the Good News of Jesus. Actually, if you count all those who helped decorate the church, those who donated supplies for snacks, and those who helped with refreshments on family night, then the number is a lot higher. I am proud of my church and your willingness to serve in VBS. You truly lived out Ephesians 2:10. Thank you to all of you that made VBS a success.

This year, Family Night was a little different. We had a professional Christian magician, Matt Adams, perform his show and also spend time sharing the gospel. The show was amazing, but to see families hearing the gospel was the best part for me. After the show, we had 10 students make some sort of decision. Some accepted Christ as their Savior and some wanted to know more about Jesus. For me, this makes the whole process of VBS from start to finish worth it.

But reaching out to our children doesn't end with VBS. Every Sunday we have Connection Bible Study for all ages. And starting this Wednesday, June 22, 2022, we will begin our FIRST KIDS Wednesday night Summer program. It's from 6:00-7:00 pm and is for Kindergarten through 5th grade. To keep the momentum going from VBS, we need your help in reaching out to these children and their families. I am so thankful for Linda Muir, Melissa Sneed, and Sherard Temple for helping on Wednesday nights with RAs and GAs during the school year, but we need others to join in this life-changing ministry. Just as VBS took 60+ people to be effective, it takes more than two or three to make FIRST KIDS and Connection Bible Study effective in reaching children and their families. Wouldn't it be great if we had several more people join our Children's Ministry Team? Please let me know how the Lord is leading you to help in this area. With your help, we can reach kids and their families year-round for Christ! Wouldn't that be fantastic?

Pastor Frank Wordlow - Family & Children Pastor



First Kids Summer Program Wednesday evenings 6:00 - 7:00 PM

*For kids who have completed K-5th grade
Childcare provided for preschool*

Adult volunteers needed - See Frank for details



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Mornings: CBS, 9:15 AM
Wednesday Evenings: 6:00 PM
Doors open at 4:00 PM



VBS 2022 Offerings

Girls: \$172.60
Boys: \$125.52
Total: \$298.12

*The offering will go to
Two Hands Ministry in Honduras*

FALLS CREEK YOUTH CAMP

July 4 - July 9, 2022

Cost: \$230

See Trey for forms.

\$50 deposit required to save a spot.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sunday, June 26, 6:00 PM: Church Wide Super Summer Time of Testimony (WC)

Monday, July 4: Church Offices Closed

Monday, July 4 - Saturday, July 9: Youth Falls Creek Camp

Wednesday, July 6: No SSM

Saturday, July 9, 9:00 AM: Women Coffee Chat (Jus a Cup)

Saturday, July 9, 10:30 AM: Mobile Food Pantry (S. Parking Lot)

Sunday, July 10, 5:00 PM: Deacons Meeting (FH)

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00 PM: Youth Falls Creek Testimony Time (FLC)

Friday, July 15 - Thursday, July 21: Honduras Mission Trip

Monday, July 25-29: Children's Camp at Camp Copass



Volunteers in Preschool, Sunday, June 26, 2022

Shannon, Victoria & Evie Gann

K'Len Gonzalez

Thank you for your service!