

Welcome

Welcome to Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church! A place to believe, be loved, and belong! Thank you for being with us to worship our risen Savior! May you experience His peace and know the difference that He makes in life and

Transition

by Ben Simpson, Pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Somewhere right now a church is seeking a pastor. The church is in a time of transition, and the members need encouragement. If your church is in this scenario, I simply want to hearten you with five biblical truths.

1. God will be with this church at all times.

You are not forsaken. God is with your congregation. "I will never leave you or forsake you," (Heb 13:5). Pastors will come and go. Only God will never leave us. And the presence of God is more vital to the life of the church.

2. God is in control.

God "works all things according to the counsel of His will" (Eph. 1:11). Do you believe that? This pastoral transition is not happening outside of the will of God. God is working this according to the counsel of his will. So, the question is not, "Who is in control?" God is in control. The question is, "Will you rest in him by trusting him?"

3. God plans good out of this transition.

It might not feel good right now, but God has promised that he works all things together for the good of his people (Rom 8:28). Is your church part of his people? If so, this transition is included in "all things"? Therefore, you can rest assured that good will come from it. That's how awesome God is: even those things that don't feel good are used for good. It might not be the good you have in mind, but it is good. Therefore, walk forward in faith.

4. Ministry must go on.

Notice what the Great Commission does not say, "Go therefore and make disciples . . . if you have a pastor."

One church that I used to work with lost their pastor. When I'd call their lay leaders about a ministry opportunity, their answer was always, "Well, you see, we just don't have a pastor right now." They had forgotten that ministry must continue in the interim. The Great Commission doesn't include any conditionals.

Does ministry become a bit harder without a pastor leading? Probably so, but if he was a good pastor, he will have obeyed Ephesians 4:11-12 by equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. In the interim, you and the lay leadership of the church must make sure ministry continues. Get to work!

5. The church must not scatter.

Jesus promised the flock would scatter at his crucifixion (Mat 26:31). For a season, that's exactly what happened. The same often happens in churches during pastoral transition. Because "their" pastor is no longer there or ministry begins to lag, folks trickle out. Some reasons for going might be legitimate, but this may also be the time in which the congregation should most strongly gather together for support and encouragement.

Recognize the temptation to scatter and work more diligently to stay bound together in unity and love. This will be a season of testing for you. I know you didn't ask for it, but with God's help, you'll endure it. --

Pilgrim Rest Family, may we take heart in these truths! God is faithful and I know that in a couple of years we will be able to look back to this time and see – like the Israelites did – his deliverance and blessings. -- Sis. Tonya

Prayer Requests

Gish Ivy, Debbie Grimmett, Vance Morris' mother & grandmother, our church, Bro. Richard's sister, Vivian Carnahan (Steven's daughter), Joe Smith, David & Johnny Faye Dillard, Sisters Abbie Stricklen & Evelyn Brown, Mary Brown, Sally Smith, America and Israel.

Nursery Schedule

1st Sunday – Saletha, Nancy
2nd Sunday – Leah, Jill
3rd Sunday – Renee, Molly
4th Sunday – Katelyn, Tonya
5th Sunday – Maddie, Callie

Security Servants

1st Sunday – Greg, Rob
2nd Sunday – Ernie, Rick
3rd Sunday – Don, Vance
4th Sunday – Kirtley, Mason
5th Sunday – Volunteers

New?

For questions about Pilgrim Rest, salvation, or membership email us at ask@pilgrimrestlittlerock.org or visit us at pilgrimrestlittlerock.org.

AUGUST 2025

Coming Up

Sunday, August 3rd

- Bro. Gunner McGathy preaches in view of a call.
- Potluck Fellowship following service

Wednesday, August 6th

- 7:00 p.m. Business meeting – Election of Officers & Teachers

Sunday, August 24th

- 12:45 p.m. First Christmas Cantata Rehearsal (bring a sack lunch)

Friday & Saturday, September 12th – 13th

- ABA Ladies Retreat – details coming soon.

Sunday, October 5th

- Homecoming Day with potluck, and special music by the Holcomb Family (we will take a love offering for them).

Saturday, October 25th

- Fall Festival at Tony & Nancy Brown's pavilion.

Service Times

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Evening Classes - 7:00p.m.

Wednesday Choir Practice - 8:00 p.m.

Believe.
Be Loved.
Belong.

Birthdays:

1st – Rick Miller

2nd – Nancy Brown, Rob Gilliam

3rd – Paul Crawford

9th – Greg Daniel, Martha Ivy

10th – Don Kuhn

15th – Evelyn Brown

24th – Renee Kuhn

27th – John Avery

Anniversaries:

5th – Tony & Nancy Brown

6th – Richard & Kelly Brown

Blessings
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE