

First Baptist Church

31 West Washington Street

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Clay Stegall
Associate Pastor

Justin Cobb
Minister of Youth

Danielle Davis
Minister of Children

Zach Keller/Mickey Gentry
Ministers of Music

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

Parson to Person

Chalkboards. Nothing defined “school is in session” like a chalkboard. Those black walls spread across the front of the class is where information was presented, problems were solved, and students met praise or ridicule.

I can still remember seeing my teacher writing cursive on the blackboard. It just seemed to flow. I remember my geometry teacher drawing her complementary angles and making her proof work out perfectly on the chalkboard. I remember the nerves when called upon to come to the chalkboard and solve the algebra problem from last night’s homework. That was especially nervousing when I didn’t actually do last night’s homework.

Once in Calculus class at Mississippi State, my professor threw an eraser from the chalkboard at a sleeping student. The professor hit the student’s head and the chalk left a mark on the student’s hat and a cloud of chalk descended on his desk. My dad walked into one of my buildings at State while I was a student there. He said he could still smell the chalk boards.

I can still hear my coach draw out plays on the chalkboard in our locker room. He was able to make the play seem so clear and so simple. It was like a battle plan.

Generations of people have grown up, got educated, graduated, got jobs, families, retired, and died without knowing anything else other than a chalkboard. We went to the moon with the math done, on a chalkboard - Nine times!

One of the many beautiful things about a chalkboard was the eraser. The eraser was magical. You could get corrected in mid-problem with an eraser. You could write something wrong and then erase it. And then you could start all over. The eraser is the magical do-over.

As we start up school again this month, some of us could use a do-over. We need a new start, a clean slate. This is our chance to begin again.

Paul wrote, “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” I really don’t think Paul is telling us to forget history. I do, however, believe Paul is trying to tell us not to live in the past, especially when there is so much good in front of us.

This new year is a clean board, a blank canvas of possibilities. The things in front of us are exciting and new. There’s new information. There’s new people. There will be new situations.

This year, this new beginning, the Lord is calling you to the board. And He has placed the chalk in your hands. It is time for you to add your verse.

Chalkboards,
BroKen

 AUGUST 2026 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 SS Promo Day Deacon Nomination 5:00pm Teacher Supper	3 NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY	4	5 6:30pm Children's Volunteer Mtg	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 5:00pm Family Night Supper M&M Meet the Teachers	13 NATIONAL LEFT-HANDERS DAY	14	15
16 Deacon Election 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Shower for Bethany Aaron 3:30pm Deacons Mtg	17	18 NATIONAL FAJITA DAY	19 6:30pm Fall Bible Study begins	20	21 NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZEN DAY	22
23 7:30pm B'hood Breakfast 5:00pm Sunday School Bizarre	24 NATIONAL EAT OUTSIDE DAY	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Welcome to our new members...



Bryan, Sherra, Hannah, and Bryan II McElroy



Liz Williams & Rivers



Gunner Hendrix



Jack, Merilese & Charlie Nance

What's Happening this Month...

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION DAY

All children (birth-6th grade) will promote to their new Sunday School class on Sunday, August 2. They will start out in the class they are in now and be moved to their new class at the end of the SS hour.

DEACON NOMINATION

Sunday, August 2 during both morning worship services.

DEACON ELECTION

Sunday, August 16 during both morning worship services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER DINNER

All SS teachers and spouses are invited to dinner on Sunday, August 2 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Important information will be covered regarding the new SS year.

FBC YTH

All youth (grades 7-12) activities will start back up on Wed, August 5 at 6:10pm in the youth room.

MIDWEEK CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

all Wednesday night activities for children birth-6th grade will begin on Wednesday, August 12.

CHILDREN'S

MEETING

VOLUNTEER MEETING

If you are involved in any children's activity on Wednesday nights, please make plans to come to this meeting on Wed, August 5 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

CENTRIKIDS SIGN UP

If your child (3rd-6th grade) plans to go to summer camp in June 2027, sign-up begins on Sunday, August 9. See Danielle Davis for more information.

MUSIC & MISSIONS

MEET YOUR TEACHERS

Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30pm
If you have children in our children's ministry on wed nights, you will have an opportunity to meet their teachers after Family Night Supper.

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

Join us in the Worship Center on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30pm beginning August 19 as we continue to "Read through the New Testament." This study will be led by Clay & Jeri Ann Stegall. Cost of book is \$10. For more info, see Clay.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BIZARRE

Sunday, August 23 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Sunday School classes will have tables set up in the FH with ice cream and goodies to share. This is a great opportunity to come meet all of our different SS teachers and classes! Come and get involved in Sunday School!

You are invited to a bridal shower honoring Miss Bethany Aaron, bride-elect of Dennis Hudson, on Sunday, August 16 from 1:30-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bethany and Dennis are registered at City Mercantile, Red Door & Merle Norman

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, August 30 at 5:00pm as we celebrate thru Believer's Baptism. We will have supper following in the Fellowship Hall for everyone!

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, July 5, 2026

Sunday School Total.....403
First Day Worship.....
11:00am Worship.....146 (17)

Sunday, July 12, 2026

Sunday School Total.....432
First Day Worship.....306 (29)
11:00am Worship.....160 (15)

Sunday, July 19, 2026

Sunday School Total.....429
First Day Worship.....309 (28)
11:00am Worship.....136 (11)

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Sunday School Total.....444
First Day Worship.....351 (19)
11:00am Worship.....134 (20)

JULY 2025 BUSINESS MEETING

Budget YTD.....\$743,177.38
Received YTD.....\$724,931.64



Deacons Meeting
Sunday, August 16
at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Brotherhood Breakfast
Sunday, August 23 at 7:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER MENU:

Wed, August 12-
Pizza, Salad Bar, Dessert

Wed, August 19-
Tacos, Salad Bar, Dessert

Wed, August 26-
Chicken Fajitas, Salad Bar, Dessert

DEACONS ON CALL
for AUGUST 2026

August 2-

Eddy Taylor
Buddy Montgomery
Benjamin Hill

August 9-

Mark Vandiver
Kyle Walker
Scott Hatcher

August 16-

Craig Downing
Larry Young
Tommy Wood

August 23-

Mark Griffith
Ben Ashley
Richie Chrestman

August 30-

Kevin Morrow
Terry Wood
George Rutledge

11:00am USHERS for AUGUST 2026

(* indicates prayer door)

August 2-

*Ben Ashelly, Richie Chrestman, Craig Downing,
Sam Gibbs, Glenn Gillen, Mark Griffith

August 9-

*Scott Hatcher, Benjamin Hill, Buddy Montgomery,
Billy Montgomery, Kevin Morrow, Josh Purdon

August 16-

*Ellis Reeder, Jody Stringer, Eddy Taylor,
Mark Vandiver, Kyle Walker, Terry Wood

August 23-

*Larry Young, Ben Ashley, Richie Chrestman,
Craig Downing, Sam Gibbs, Glenn Gillen

August 30-

*Mark Griffith, Scott Hatcher, Benjamin Hill,
Kevin Morrow, Josh Purdon, Jody Stringer

**If you are unable to usher, please find someone to take your place.

Active Deacons will usher throughout the month of August