



Pastor's Corner

Good Sunday morning to you all! I trust the Lord has blessed you, as He always does His children. I wanted to start this month's letter off with a word of apology to those who do not attend Sunday night services. In last month's "Pastor's Corner", I used a word which struck a nerve with some of our members. That word was 'dying', when I should have used the word 'declining'. My intention was not to cause a negative conversation, but to initiate a conversation we all need to have concerning our church. (Yes, it is our church, as I am a member as well.) The conversation surrounds something near and dear to me, God's glory being had through His church.

In years past, our church has seen God at work in amazing, and even at times, overwhelming ways! I have been studying our church, asking questions of members who have been here for 50 or more years, and those who have been here for less than 5 years. Those who have been here the longest recall days of seeing God's blessing the church to having an average attendance of 200 plus for a time, and seeing many people giving their lives to Christ. They can recall a couple of different pastors during this time, yet the focus of their conversation was never on the pastor, but on the people who were actively serving the Lord. While volunteering was strong, while commitment to sharing the gospel was strong, and while there were still strong relationships between the people of the church with the community, the church was blessed numerically.

Before we get too far, I want to assure you that I am not hung up on numbers, but I do believe that a healthy church is steadily growing spiritually and numerically, as the pattern from Acts repeatedly demonstrates. I believe Acts teaches us that the church which focuses on the mission God has given it, who loves Him, who loves its neighbors, and who loves each other will see God blessing it spiritually and numerically. This is why my focus since arriving has been so dedicated to our remembering God's mission and vision, as revealed in His Word. Now, back to the study...

When I speak to those who have been here for less time, one of the things which held them here after visiting, is our “family feel”. We do really good at welcoming visitors. We are firm in our commitment: to God’s Word, to giving cheerfully and generously to the work of the Lord, and to ministering to those within our inner circles within the church. They enjoy our worship, and where it is heading. They see God’s potential for doing great things in and through this body of believers, and they believe it will happen if we all come together in unity and love.

Whether I have talked to longstanding members or fairly recent members, the overwhelming consensus is that we are ready to see God propel us into a new phase of His glorifying Himself through His church. We have all the makings to see a new movement of God on our behalf, which will not only see spiritual growth, but numerical as well. This will happen as we begin aligning everything we do with God’s mission and vision. I am not predicating the statement which the church came up with before my arrival, as it easily helps with describing how we can begin taking care of God’s mission by, “Taking, and helping others to take, the next step toward Christ, together”, by fulfilling God’s Commission to make disciples, by loving God, by loving others (our neighbors), and by loving each other. It is my firm conviction, that when we begin to align the church’s ministries in this manner, God will begin overwhelming us with His two-fold blessings of spiritual and numerical growth. It is at this point we will once again share the statement from our sign out front, “Come Share The Victory!”

Revitalization, seeing God moving in a great way again within our church, begins one heart at a time. Will you join me in praying for God to align our hearts to His mission, His vision, and His will? Will you join me in praying for opportunities in our ministry area to arise, and for the volunteers to see these opportunities taken advantage of? Will you pray for unity and love to be the character traits of our church family, both inside and outside of the building we meet in? I believe God will answer these prayers, as these are in accord with His Word and His will for His church. I am very grateful for where we have been, as a church, but I am looking forward to where God is taking us as we move forward, “Taking, and helping others take, the next step toward Christ, together.”

WMU

Our WMU has been busy. We have many plans in the works as our ministry grows. We want to encourage our women to be involved with our ministries and many women and men and children are without even knowing it.

WMU is responsible for the missions work of the church and outside these church walls to a great extent. It's through the WMU that we collect many of the offerings that support missionaries and mission work around the world. Offerings such as **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering** (United States and Canada), **Margaret Lackey** (Mississippi) and **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** (International). WMU also supports



children's missions through RAs and GAs. It was the WMU that began the work our seniors continue with the ML TOOTLE Mission.

Speaking of Annie Armstrong, our goal for this Easter is \$6,000.00. To date, we have collected \$2,163.00. One hundred percent of this offering goes to support Southern Baptist missionaries across the United States and Canada. We hope you will help us exceed our goal.

Another offering and mission we have adopted is **Pure Water, Pure Love**. This, too, is a worthy and worthwhile cause as it provides clean water, wells, and well supplies to missionaries and those they serve in the United States and around the world. We, here in the United States, take clean water for granted. Yet, there are many, even in the United States, that do not have clean water for drinking and bathing. We hope you're will get a water bottle from the foyer and take it home and put your "spare" change in it throughout this month to turn in on Sunday, **April 29th**, our next **Fifth Sunday** turn-in date. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could double what we have given to-date!?



Our WMU continues to collect items for the **Gulfport Women's Shelter**. This shelter houses battered, abused and mistreated women and their children. We are collecting lotion, shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and socks. Please do not give any sharp items or items containing alcohol.

The numbers are in for the 2017 Operation Christmas Child ministry. Internationally 11,012,840 boxes were given; 8,878,954 from the United States; 20,008 from the Gulf Coast. The goals for 2018 are: 12,000,000 International; 9,100,000 United States; 21,000 Gulf Coast.

We are ready to get this ministry started for 2018! In fact, we may already be behind. We are asking everyone begin picking up items for your shoeboxes now. We will also plan a packing party this year for our church. So, we are asking for members to bring in packs of colors and coloring books (NOT gigantic ones) for the month of April. Each month we will ask for a new item. We also be giving more information for better, easier assimilation of the boxes for delivery. As always, we appreciate your love, prayers and support for this ministry.

We appreciate the support of our church families in all of **OUR** ministries!

Carolyn Stewart, WMU Director

Women's Enrichment Ministry

We have had a wonderful beginning to our year in Women's Enrichment Ministry. We have hosted a bridal shower and a baby shower. We had nine women attend the Abundance Conference. We also had a Bible study.

Here's what Lori Evans wants you to know about the Abundance Conference:

On March 17, six women plus three others attended the Abundance Women's Conference at First Baptist Church in Biloxi. We listened as many gave testimonies about what God has done in their lives and had a wonderful time of worship and praise as well. Speakers included: Amanda Bible Williams, Nicki Koziarz, Lisa Harper, Jackie Hill Perry, Angela Thomas Pharr and Jamie Ivey. The music was performed by Seth and Nirva Ready. We had a wonderful time together with our Lord. **Lori Evans**

We had twelve women participate in our Bible study, *Why Do You Believe That?*, by Mary Jo Sharp. It was a thought-provoking and challenging study; one that calls us out of our comfort zones to have faith conversations with those we meet in our daily lives. Mary Jo lovingly has given us the knowledge and tools we need "to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope" that we have (1 Peter 3:15).

Women's Enrichment Ministry

Ladies, we have an exciting event in the making for [Saturday, May 12th](#). We will have a luncheon at 11:30 am. Our topic will be about three of the gardens that had great significance in the Bible. While we enjoy a delicious lunch, we will be blessed by a devotion, prayer and special music. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend. We also hope you will bring your mothers, daughters, sisters and girl friends!

We have much more to come!

Extraordinary Women's Conference

We will once again be attending the Extraordinary Women's Conference in Pensacola, Florida the weekend of [April 20th – 22nd](#). This is a retreat for our ladies, which means we will be there through [Sunday](#). We have an awesome time and really grow spiritually individually and as a group. Our group time is amazing! Our locked-in group rate for this conference is \$59.00. There is a sign up in the church foyer.

For information or opportunities with Women's Enrichment Ministry, please contact Michelle Herrin, Lori Evans, Meredith Cunningham, or Judy Helms. It is our goal and our pleasure to enrich the lives of women and girls of all ages.



Michelle Herrin, Women's Ministry Director

Children's Ministry

This month in RAs and GAs, we are studying about church planters in Boston. We had a tea party to commemorate the Boston Tea Party. The children were awarded badges during the morning worship service on Sunday, March 17. Adrian Peterman, Ethan McDougall and Matthew Williams earned Lottie Moon badges, Hooked on Fishing, and a 2018 badge. Abigail and Olivia Peterman earned Lottie Moon badges and Tea Party badges as well as 2018 badges.

From Karen Peterman:

VBS is June 18-22. We will begin meetings in April. Please watch for announcements. Please check out Pinterest for ideas about the Time Lab VBS. We need teachers for science/crafts, missions, Bible study. We need people to help build and decorate the set for our nightly drama. We have had several to volunteer for assisting, but we need leaders for these areas.



During our VBS, we will travel through time and meet the most important man ever—a man who was not just a man, but also God. One who turned the world upside-down. One who existed outside of time.

Please pray for VBS! Please pray for a revival in our community. Pray for God to display His infinite love through our church as we lift up our Redeemer, JESUS!



Lori Evans/Kim Peterman, Children Ministry Directors

Men's Ministry

This morning (April 1st) the Brotherhood will be serving another excellent breakfast. This ministry is only provided for a short period and unfortunately the end is in sight. The first Sunday in May will be the last breakfast for the season. Take a moment and thank the men behind the serving counter and in the kitchen for the wonderful job they do each month.

Jim Riley, Brotherhood Ministries

M.L. Tootle Missions

The M. L. Tootle Food Pantry is continuing to serve our community with the steadfast support of FBC Lyman. Please continue to pray for the food pantry and the people who come to us for help. Most of our customers are hurting financially, physically, emotionally, and/or spiritually. There are so many in our community, and the numbers seem to be growing.

Judy Helms, M.L. Tootle Mission

Backpack Ministry

This month we had a special need. A second grader transferred to Lyman elementary. The teacher noticed he was dirty, wearing the same clothes every day. We immediately stepped in. He is now on the back pack list. We sent home shampoo, soap, deodorant, underwear, socks, shoes and clothes. Please pray for this little boy. He was so excited about his new shoes. These are things we take for granted.

We are now working on the Easter boxes. They will be picked up this week. If you know someone who needs our help, please tell us. The backpack ministry is only a successful ministry because of your donations and God's help. We thank you for your continued support.

Love, in Christ,
Bonnie Thrash, Backpack Ministry Director



FBC Lyman is excited to have special guests [Deliverance Five](#) live in concert on tonight, Easter Sunday, April 1 @ 6pm!

Loved Ones

We come together this morning missing one of our sisters in Christ, and it is with a sad heart that we think about our friend and loved one that has been a part of our life for so long. On the other hand, we look forward to seeing Beverly again in heaven. Pray for the Lee family as they go through this time of loss. Here is Beverly's obituary from *The Sun Herald*:

Beverly Gay Scarborough Lee, age 80 of Gulfport, passed away on March 29, 2018. She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred W. Scarborough, Sr. and Mamie Scarborough; a brother, William A. "Bookie" Scarborough; and a granddaughter, Whitney Page Lee.

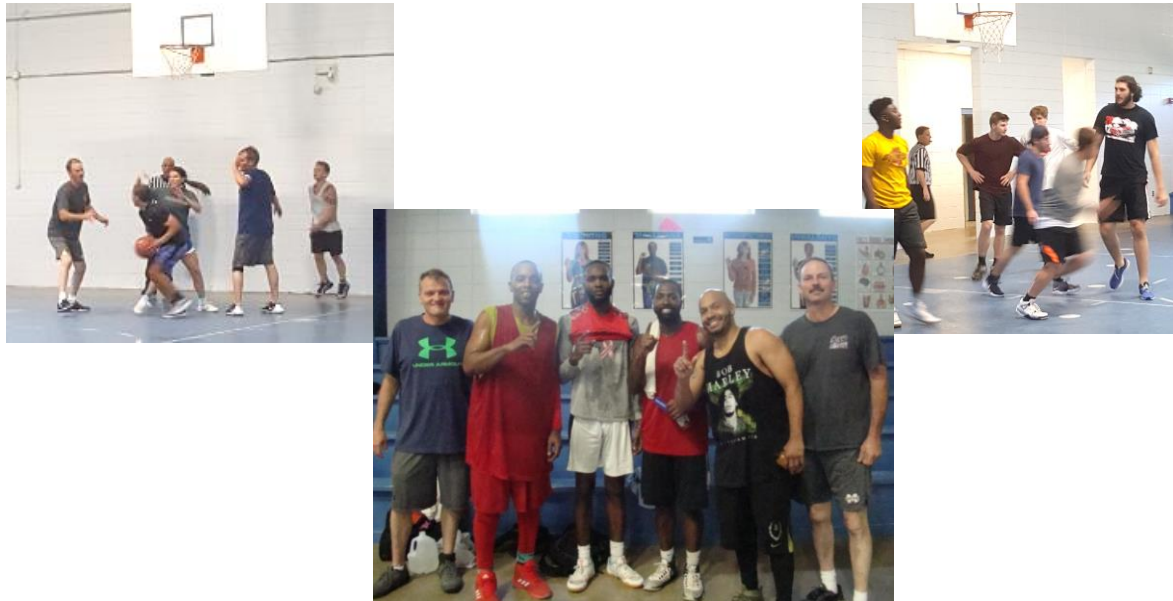
Beverly is survived by her husband, Jack Lee, Sr.; four children, Jack Lee, Jr. and his wife, Ann of Gulfport, Calvin W. Lee and his wife Shonda of Gulfport, Luanne Triggs and her husband Kevin of Gulfport, Nancy Ladner and her husband Lamont of Gulfport; her grandchildren, Lauren Williams, Jackson Lee, Colton Lee, Lauren King, Brent Lee, Meghan Fielder, Kristen Garcia, Marlee Gertz, Justin Triggs, and Jordan Ladner; nine great grandchildren; her brothers and sisters, Fred W. "Ros" Scarborough, Jr. of Delisle, Carolyn Scarborough of Long Beach, Catherine Randall of Gulfport, Grady "Buddy" Scarborough of Pass Christian, Etta Scarborough of Gulfport, and Ricky Scarborough of Pass Christian.



She was a member of First Baptist Church of Lyman where she served as the Sunday School Secretary and Director of Young at Heart. Beverly was the Past President of the NCO Air National Guard Auxillary and volunteered for over 20 years at Garden Park Hospital and Memorial Hospital at Gulfport. She retired from the Harrison County School System after 23 years of service. She also coached girls' softball for the Orange Grove Youth Association and enjoyed following her children and grandchildren's sports activities. Beverly loved to travel, cook for family gatherings, and spending time with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

A visitation will be held on Monday, April 2, 2018 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the RIEMANN FAMILY FUNERAL HOME, 11280 Three Rivers Road, Gulfport, MS. The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 11:00 AM with a visitation for family and friends from 10:00 AM until the service. Burial will follow at Gulf Pines Memorial Gardens.

2018 Basketball Tournament



Basketball tournament

[Saturday, March 31st](#), our church held a basketball tournament as a fundraiser for the backpack ministry. It was held at Lyman Elementary where many of the kids that are a part of the ministry attend. FBC of Lyman led by our pastor, David Horton, has been active in several projects and special events at the school.

This is the second year we have held the tournament, and this year's turnout was amazing. We had 11 teams enter and held games on both ends of the court from 10am-3pm. A team of Cunninghams plus one came in second and the tournament was won by a team captained by Kiono Barnes. The tournament was a great success from start to end. We started off with a devotional and gospel presentation by Jeff Peterman followed by some excellent competition.

We would like to thank all the members of our church that came out and volunteered with everything from helping get everyone signed up, selling concessions, keeping score and refereeing. This was not just a tournament but an opportunity for our church members to start building relationships with members of our community. As the fundraiser we were able to raise \$900.00 for the backpack ministry. We thank God for an amazing day and hope that you will join us at our next special event.

Nathan McDougall

SPRING FLING

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th

immediately following morning

worship



*Fun &
Games*

*Food &
Fellowship*



Counting Committee – April 2018

1st	8 th	15 th	22nd	29th
Alex May	Brandy P.	Joyce P.	Rachel D.	Alex May
Meredith C.	Kim G.	Vera A.	John C.	Meredith C.

Deacon of the Week – April 2018

1 st	8 th	15 th	22nd	29th
Doug W.	Doug B.	Kenny P.	Nathan M.	Steve H.
669-1300	722-6568	323-4693	547-8330	234-2958

Church Contact Information

Pastor	David Horton
Youth Director	Nathan McDougall
Minister of Music	Matthew Brown
Ministry Assistant	Jeff Cunningham
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