

AUGUST MANNA

2020





NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

KEITH INMAN

Upcoming Selection of Deacons and Deacon Qualifications

Dear First Baptist Family,

The season is upon us where, once again, we select men to serve in the role of deacon. In the past few years, the deacon body has expressed a desire to adjust the qualification section as it is now understood and practiced. This past year, a deacon qualification study committee has met frequently to discuss the qualifications as written in the New Testament. The committee members who conducted the study are: Joe Browning, Brian Collier, Fred Stalls, Gary Jones, Jim Taylor, and Marty Davenport. I served as an ex-officio member.

In accordance with the meaning of the Word, work, and practice of the New Testament, deacons are to be servants and spiritual leaders of the church. The task of deacon is to serve with the pastor and other staff members in performing pastoral ministry tasks, caring for church members and other persons in the community, and leading the church in fulfilling its purpose, mission, and vision.

Based on the New Testament and the expectations of First Baptist Church of Murray, these criteria summarize the qualifications for a man to serve as a deacon.

- Believes in the Bible.
- A person of demonstrated maturity (1 Tim. 3:10);
- A believer led by the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3);
- Has a good reputation in the church and community (1 Tim. 3:10);
- Controls his tongue—gracious, clean, and honest in his conversations (1 Tim. 3:8);
- His wife and children display Christian character and behavior (1 Tim. 3:11-12);
- Should have reached 21 years of age.
- Should be a person of proven and exhibited faithful family fidelity and has full support of spouse. Can be single. (1 Timothy 3:12);
- Member of our church for three years and active in its various programs and ministries.
- He should only be controlled by the Holy Spirit: a deacon should abstain from use of intoxicating substances, for example, alcoholic beverages, pornography, social drugs, and any activity that would damage his witness (Ephesians 5:18 and 1st Timothy 3:1-7).

We believe the Bible itself is without error as the inspired and infallible word of God. We desire every deacon to be a good steward of the time and possessions entrusted to him by God. This would be demonstrated by being a cheerful, generous, New Testament giver, working well with others in the ministries of our church, and has a proven commitment to Christ and First Baptist Church of Murray.

The bullet point “Should be a person of proven and exhibited faithful family fidelity and has full support of spouse” (1 Timothy 3:12) is the primary change that the study committee and deacons are wishing to bring to the church for consideration. This would bring an end to the current FBC practice of prohibiting a man who has experienced divorce from serving as a deacon. In other words, divorce, while a serious issue, would not immediately disqualify an individual from serving as a deacon. Other factors surrounding the divorce would be considered.

We believe there is a strong biblical case to be made for embracing the interpretation of Scripture, which allows someone who has experienced divorce to still be considered as a legitimate candidate for serving as a deacon. This interpretation is embraced by denominational leadership, conservative pastors, seminary presidents, our current SBC president, and a variety of biblical scholars and teachers. This in no way “lowers the bar” in regards to qualifications for service. People who would describe themselves as inerrantists believe that divorce does not disqualify one from serving as a deacon.

Over the next few weeks, I will be presenting more information which supports our deacons’ desire and recommendation. The issue that has caused different belief and practice is found in 1 Timothy 3:2-12, where the phrase “husband of one wife” has been given as a qualifier to serve. This phrase does not use the term “divorce” in the original Greek language, a language of which Paul was a master. The argument has emerged that if Paul had wanted this to be interpreted in the context of divorce, he would have used the word divorce which is readily available in the Greek language. However, many scholars believe that this phrase refers to a “one-woman kind of man,” a man who has demonstrated he is faithful to a covenant relationship in the present. The best and most common understanding of this qualification, “one-woman man,” is that it refers to a man who is completely committed to his wife both physically and emotionally. Furthermore, he has demonstrated through his character he is not a “serial monogamist,” one who tires of his current wife and moves on to find another. As a result, we can see how the interpretation of “no divorce” is problematic. The Greek word “apoluo” which is found in Matthew 5:32 and Luke 16:18 is nowhere to be found in these verses in 1 Timothy 3. Furthermore, the other interpretive options of this verse addressing polygamy or “no divorce” fall short of the original intent when solid exegetical, biblical interpretation methods are applied.

Much time and prayer has been devoted by the above-mentioned committee this past year. My prayer is that our church will receive this recommendation in the spirit in which it has been written.

JASON ELLERBROOK

Jason's first day with FBC is August 2!
We are so excited to have him as a part of our FBC staff and family. Be sure to give him a warm welcome the next time you see him!



EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR



NOTES FROM M.A.G.I.C. MINISTRY

BOYD SMITH

It has been way too long since we last met as a group. I can't tell you how much I miss seeing you. I have had a few visits standing outside on a patio, but that was before the summer heat arrived. At any rate, I trust that you are being safe during these difficult days.

It saddens me to tell you that we have cancelled the August M.A.G.I.C. movie and dinner fellowship. However, we are hoping to start back in September if possible. We are literally taking this one day at a time. I am so thankful we can trust the Lord to help us through times like this. I love you much!



NOTES FROM STUDENT MINISTRY

JON KYLE ALLRED

In youth ministry, we really love preaching, teaching, and studying through the books of the Bible! Other books and resources are beneficial and great for use in God's Kingdom... but anytime we can get students excited about the words of Scripture, that's a win! In saying this, we love to teach these books of the Bible using the Christ-Centered Exposition commentary series. The chief editors of these series are from theological giants such as David Platt, Tony Merida, and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Danny Akin. They have made such a major contribution to this series in giving both commentary and oversight. From time to time, they use different authors, theologians, and pastors to give the bulk of commentary on various books of the Bible, such as Matt Carter, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler, Landon Dowden, Jim Shaddix and many more! I currently have been using the CCE on the Gospel of John, as authored by Matt Carter and Josh Wredberg. It's fantastic! I would like to share with you something I've had to learn lately as it relates to my ministry in youth and FBC.

In John 3:27, Carter brings out an important topic in dealing with John the Baptist. He discusses John's "perspective on ministry." In John 3, John the Baptist had to calm some of his own disciples because they were getting jealous and confused as to why so many had been going to Jesus instead of John. For many years, John the Baptist had been the beacon and light. For many years, John the Baptist had been preaching and teaching and had developed a major following. For a long time, John the Baptist was the voice of one crying in the wilderness. Therefore, naturally, John's followers had become confused and disgruntled to see that Jesus was now getting all of the attention. They somehow had confused John's preaching of the coming Messiah with someone else...surely not this Galilean? Nonetheless, they probed John about the "success" and current "popularity" of his ministry. John's response hit me harder than I ever have gotten hit on the football field (and I was a running back)! "John answered and said, 'A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven. So this joy of mine has been made full. He must INCREASE, but I must DECREASE'" (John 3:27, 29b, 30).

Wow! Do we understand what John the Baptist is telling us? It's not about you. It's not about me. It's not about big buildings and big budgets and thriving church programs. It's not about "what used to be" or "the good ol' days." Don't you know John's followers were thinking this? They had missed it when their "group" was thriving and growing and ministry was booming! Wow! That's all I can say right now. All of us surely miss the good ol' days! Do you remember when 600+ would come through the doors of our church building? Do you remember when we didn't have to wear masks and giving someone a hug wasn't considered taboo? Of course you do!

However, this doesn't define the church. These things do not give the church its identity. Let's not mistake who we are following. Are we following the ministry of yesterday? Or are we following Jesus? Don't get me wrong! I miss what used to be! And honestly, I am hoping and praying we can have some of those norms back again one day soon! However, let's be encouraged today that Jesus is sovereign.

The CCE on John says this, "Jesus should be the focus, not earthly leaders (or programs or buildings or past ministry – my added emphasis). John the Baptist answers the implied question from his disciples similarly. They want to know who should be followed. In essence he says to his disciples, 'Don't follow me instead of Jesus. Follow Jesus.'" Ministry is about pointing other people to Jesus. If we miss that, we miss it all. If we surrender that, we've lost. Everything good you've received, whether it's financial prosperity, physical abilities, or ministry success, comes from heaven. It's a gift from God. For John to grow frustrated, angry, or unhappy with God for taking people away from his ministry would be to act as if it was because of himself that people came. His perspective was that God is in control. God brought these people to him, and if God takes them elsewhere (or gone altogether because of a pandemic – my emphasis added), that's God's decision. The good hand of God is the reason for any success in ministry. Big buildings, growing budgets, and increased attendance don't measure the success of a ministry. Ministry is about pointing people to Jesus, not gathering people to us." (CCE, pp. 71, 71.)

Be encouraged today! Let's stop mourning the past. Let's start praying and watching to see what God does with His church in the present and the future! God is still in control! Follow HIM!



NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

MIKE ROSE

As we prepare for the fall season, I would like to invite all who are interested to come and sing Christmas music with us. "*Sing Christmas!*" is the name of our musical for this year and it is a congregation sing-along. We will be rehearsing on our own and will put sections together later in the fall. We will put the entire thing together a few weeks before we sing it on a Sunday morning. Hopefully that will be in December, but we might have "Christmas in January," or "Christmas in February," or "Christmas in" Whenever it is, it will be a lot of fun and I would love to have the loft full for this event. We have about 90 copies of the book, so there is definitely room for you to come and join us. This would be a great opportunity for you who would like to sing with us, but don't wish to commit to doing weekly rehearsals with the group. At this point, I envision two sectional rehearsals and two or three final rehearsals and it will be good to go. Come and join us! Let me know if you are interested and I will get a book and rehearsal CD to you right away.

It has been really nice to feature our instrumentalists at our 8:30 am service. If you play an instrument and would like to participate in leading in worship, please let me know and I will be sure to work you in! Thank you so much to our instrumentalists for sharing their abilities with us during this time in our church life. Our choir will be back singing again when we feel it is absolutely safe for everyone!

The Hymn Sing we had in July was tremendous! We are in the process of scheduling another one soon. We will be doing this more often. It was indeed a fantastic time of worship and I am delighted with the participation. God has blessed us with wonderful music and it is nice to get together and sing the songs of Zion with one another!

God bless you as you continue to work together to bring others to Him. I am delighted to be serving alongside you here at First Baptist!



NOTES FROM KIDS 1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME

Kids Virtual Midweek

MidWeek videos will be posted online beginning Wednesday, August 5. Videos will be posted on our Facebook page (FBC Murray Kids 1st Ministry), Facebook group (Kids 1st Ministry at FBC Murray) and our website (fbcmurray.org/kids). Ollie videos and the So & So Show will be posted in the Facebook group (we can post copyrighted content only in a Facebook group). Be sure to join if you haven't already!



Promotion Sunday Drive-Thru

We cannot wait to see all of your faces on Sunday, August 30 from 9:30-10:45 am for a Promotion Sunday Drive-Thru. Drive under the FLC awning as we celebrate your child's new grade! They will receive a goodie bag with candy, their phase card, August's verse card, and other surprise treats!





*First Loves
Murray*

**Help us give 50 students
back-to-school
clothes and shoes!**

First Loves Murray exists to provide back-to-school clothing items to underprivileged students (K-12) in the Murray and Calloway County School Systems.

We need you to sponsor a child!

To help us meet the needs of 50 students, we need many people to give! \$100 sponsors an elementary school student and \$125 sponsors a middle or high school student, but gifts of any amount are welcome. Checks can be made out to FBC and mailed to 203 S. 4th St. Murray, KY 42071. **Please designate First Loves Murray in the memo line!**

*COVID-19 restrictions make First Loves Murray look a little different this year. Instead of shoppers, parents will take their children to JCPenney and Shoe Sensation to pick out their clothes and shoes. An FBC staff member will then pay the tab, pray with the family, and give them information about our church.

Join us in praying for our children, college students, teachers, and professors!

First Loves MSU - August 10-16

To show God's love in a tangible way, FBC will distribute hand sanitizer to college students during the August 17 worship services. Professors will be recognized in the August 17 worship services.

First Loves Teachers - August 17-23

To show God's love in a tangible way, FBC will distribute masks and hand sanitizer to Murray and Calloway Schools, including Christian Fellowship, New Covenant Christian Academy, and Mother's Day Out. Teachers will be recognized in the August 23 worship services.

Guided Prayer

During these two weeks, join us in praying at noon for these specific requests:

Monday - Teachers/Professors

Tuesday - Students

Wednesday - Administration

Thursday - Support Staff (Bus Drivers, Custodians, etc.)

Friday - Parents

Saturday - School Boards

Sunday - Safety

Teachers and professors, sign up to be recognized at fbcmurray.org/teach.

DEACON QUALIFICATIONS ZOOM Q & A

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 | 6:00 PM

Meeting ID: 303 805 1295

Passcode: 9N1sCb

Do you have questions about the revisions to the deacon qualifications? Join the FBC deacons for this informative and interactive Zoom call. Email info@fbcmurray.org if you have any questions about how to use Zoom.

PHILANTHROCORP ZOOM WEBINAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 | 6:30 PM

Email info@fbcmurray.org for the registration link

PhilanthroCorp has helped thousands of families with their **financial planning** through wills and trusts that meet their goals, save taxes and **support ministries** they care about. Through PhilanthroCorp's services, your inheritance will be structured to stand the best chance of helping the ones who are most dear to you. Our partnership with PhilanthroCorp allows you to have a **free** consultation with our PhilanthroCorp representatives. Come to the webinar to learn more!



Church Programming Update

Q: Will there be fellowship suppers this fall?

A: To keep everyone as safe as possible, we will not be having fellowship suppers this fall. We hope to be able to resume fellowship suppers this winter!

Q: Will there be MidWeek for my child and student?

A: There will be no in-person MidWeek services for children or students in August. Virtual content will be available each Wednesday at fbcmurray.org/kids and fbcmurray.org/students. Stay tuned for our September Manna for more information about MidWeek for children and students.

Q: When will Sunday School return to normal?

A: To maintain social distancing regulations, Sunday School classes will continue to meet virtually or in-person at various times throughout the week. We will communicate with Sunday School teachers when it is safe for all classes to gather in the building at the same time.

Q: When will childcare and Kids1st be available on Sunday mornings?

A: There will be no childcare/Kids1st on Sunday mornings in August. As cases continue to rise in our county, we want to keep our children safe. Stay tuned for our September Manna for more information about when childcare will be available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS



Chaney Beth Clark joined by baptism on Sunday, July 12, at the 11:00 am service.

AUTOMATED ACH DEBIT

Did you know that you can download and complete a form to have funds debited at regular intervals from your bank account? It won't cost anything to you or to First Baptist! You can go to fbcmurray.org/give to complete a form. Forms can be mailed to FBC ATTN: Lori Morgan, 203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071. Once it's set up, you don't have to do anything else: so easy! Forms are also available in the church office. Contact Lori if you have any questions.

CHURCH OFFICE AND LIBRARY HOURS

The church office is open to the public Monday-Thursday from 8 am- 4:30 pm. The church library is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 am-2 pm. We ask that you limit visits to those that cannot be handled by email or over the phone.

STAY CONNECTED

Keith Inman - Senior Pastor
kinman@fbcmurray.org

Jason Ellerbrook - Executive/Discipleship Pastor
jellerbrook@fbcmurray.org

Boyd Smith - Pastor of Prayer and Care
bsmith@fbcmurray.org

Jon Kyle Allred - Student Pastor
jallred@fbcmurray.org

Rachel Riquelme - Children's Ministry Director
rriquelme@fbcmurray.org

Mike Rose - Traditional Worship Leader
mrose@fbcmurray.org

Facebook and Instagram
[@fbcmurray](#)
[@fbcmurraykids1st](#)
[@fbcmurraystudents](#)
[@fbcmurraycollege](#)

YouTube
First Baptist Church of Murray

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info@fbcmurray.org

Website
fbcmurray.org

Phone
270-753-1854

CHURCH INFORMATION

FINANCES (AS OF JUNE 30, 2020)

\$ 685,574.00	Budgeted as of 06/30/2020
\$ 647,380.43	Budget Receipts as of 06/30/2020
\$ 580,835.58	Budget Expenditures as of 06/30/2020
\$ 140,000.00	WMO 2020 Goal
\$ 39,318.82	WMO Receipts as of 06/30/2020
\$2,780,917.48	Family Life Center Receipts as of 06/30/2020
\$1,097,979.80	Family Life Center Borrowed as of 06/30/2020

MEMORIALS

FINANCIAL

Contributions to the World Mission Offering have been received in memory of Leah Steeves and in honor of the marriage of Amy (Winkler) and Chris Teats.

LIBRARY

The book *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary - Ephesians* has been given in memory of Vester Orr, husband of Bonnie Orr, by the Be-One Senior Adult Sunday School class.

The book *Bloom Where You're Planted* by Mary Rodman has been given in memory of Lynette Tadlock, sister of Andrea Hogancamp, by the Betty Sledd Mission Group.

ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Service	11:00 am Service
July 5	61	82
July 12	40	77
July 19	53	98
July 26	64	97



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071 | fbcmurray.org | 270-753-1854

AUGUST CALENDAR

2020

Sunday, August 2: Worship Services (8:30 am and 11:00 am)

Sunday, August 9: Worship Services (8:30 am and 11:00 am)

Sunday, August 9: Deacon Qualifications Zoom Q&A at 6:00 pm

August 10-13: First Loves Murray

August 10-16: First Loves MSU

Sunday, August 16: Worship Services (8:30 am and 11:00 am)

August 17-23: First Loves Teachers

Thursday, August 20: PhilanthroCorp Zoom Webinar at 6:30 pm

Sunday, August 23: Worship Services (8:30 am and 11:00 am)

Sunday, August 23: Business Meeting (5:30 pm in the Sanctuary)

Sunday, August 30: Promotion Sunday (9:30-10:45 am at the FLC)

Sunday, August 30: Worship Services (8:30 am and 11:00 am)

