



# The Messenger

July 20, 2017

## Upcoming Events



### Shine On...

All of the many volunteers that made Vacation Bible School a huge success!

### Just July

During the month of July, we invite you to dress more comfortable at the Main Campus. Throughout the month in worship, we will be singing more hymns and having special music.



### The Season's Charity Choir Concert To Benefit Backpack Buddies

On Saturday, July 22nd at 7 p.m., the Season's Choir will be performing in the Sanctuary at the Main Campus. The purpose is to raise funds for the Backpack Buddy Program. This Program provides food for need based children in Long Beach and is totally funded by donations. It is currently extremely low in funds and cannot continue without your help! For further information about this program, please contact Lori Cripple or the church office at 863-9619.

### Newsletter Changes

In August, we will begin sending out The Messenger (church newsletter) on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month in an effort to be good stewards of time and resources. This will include the paper and electronic versions. If you need something placed in the newsletter, please continue to submit all information by noon on Tuesday prior to its publication.

### Questions of Life and Faithfulness - August Worship Series

Recently, I asked you for the big questions of life and faith that were on your minds. In August, we will focus on these questions in worship at the Main Campus.



August 5th - What happens when we die?  
August 12th - Why do good people suffer?  
August 19th - Are Christians supposed to be perfect?  
August 26th - How can Christians live faithfully in divisive times?

### **OAKS Luncheon**

OAKS (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) will meet Wed. July 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. in the Christian Life Center to enjoy a meal and fellowship. All senior adults are invited to come to our luncheon and program. This month's program is about "Senior Exercise." Our own Sara Schroeder, from Family Physical Therapy, Long Beach, will remind us about some of the activities we can be doing at home to stay healthy. Please come and join us.



### **Promotion Party**

Our preschool through 6th grade Sunday School classes will have a Promotion Party during class time on Sunday, July 23rd, at 9:45 a.m. Our children will change to their new classes on Sunday, July 30th.

### **Well Jr Class Changes**

Starting on Sunday, July 30th, the ages of our Well Jr classes will change. The younger class will be available for kids ages 3-Kindergarten. The older class will be available for kids in 1st and 2nd grade. If you have any questions, please contact Lori Cripple.

### **New Treasurer Needed**

The Board for the Wesley Foundation campus ministry serving the Gulf Park Campus of the University of Southern Mississippi in Long Beach is looking for a treasurer. This is a very part time volunteer position for which training will be available. If you'd like more information please contact Janis Slade at 209-5268 or e-mail [janisslade@aol.com](mailto:janisslade@aol.com).



### **Summer Mission Project**

The school supply lists (for the Long Beach School District) are now available in the lobby of the sanctuary and the Well. We are collecting school supplies as our church wide summer mission project.

### **Online Giving**

Just a reminder, you can go to our website at [fumclb.org](http://fumclb.org) and click on the Online Giving tab to make giving quick and easy.

[Online Giving](#)

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## **Weekly Updates and Events**

### **Prayer Concerns...**

PC & Dee Havens, Pat & James Holifield, Kayne Troutman, Debbie Knight, Wanda Miller, Chrissy Edwards, Shorty Haulk, Joseph Poupart, Jackie Branch, Jan Flynn, Sandra Gibson, Randal Guthrie, Diane Saul, Barbara Ballanco, Kathy Reynolds, Cory Miller, John Harrison Doucet, Lois Jones, Barbara Barlow, Alibe Hinton, Susan Molesworth, Jason LaFrance, Jeremy Smith, John French, Janis Slade, Rev. Love Loftis, Patrick Kirkland, Carl & Doris Flethrich, Rev. Ron & Connie Durham, Carol Hill, Caitlyn Johnson, Shayla Hosey, Darrell Clark, Pat Newcomb, Ricky Bullock, Bonnie Long, Jeri

Allen, Mark Powell, Mary & Dick Kinser, Hazel Holdenmon, Lil Jobe, Paul Hicks, &  
Mary Kerg.

## **Last Weeks Givings and Attendance**

Budget Offering for 7/16/2017 \$9,168.15

8:30 - 100

11:00 - 73

11:00 @ The Well - 255

Sunday School - 127

## **In Memory**

A donation was given in memory of Fanny Mae Bullard by Jim and Becky Collins.

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## **Weekly Calendar**

### **Sunday, July 23rd**

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Morning Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship @ The Well - Fleming Auditorium USM

3:30 p.m. Puppets upstairs in Moore Hall

### **Tuesday, July 25th**

9:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study in the Christian Life Center (CLC)

### **Wednesday, July 26th**

11:30 a.m. O.A.K.S. (Older Adult Kindred Spirits) Luncheon in the CLC

5:30 p.m. Heart and Soul for Youth

7:00 p.m. Well Band Practice

### **Thursday, July 27th**

6:00 p.m. Revelation Bible Study in Youth Hall

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## **This Sunday 7/23/2017**

**Sanctuary**

**Rev. Jon Kaufman - Preacher**

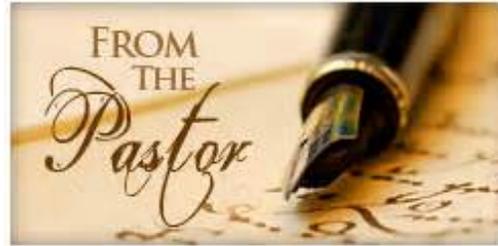
**"Wheat Among the Weeds"**

**Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

**The Well**

**Rev. Ben Barlow - Preacher**  
**Series: Fruit of the Spirit**  
**"Faithfulness"**  
**Galatians 5:16-26**

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Messes. On Monday morning of this week, I had awakened early to make sure our son Ryan was up and getting ready for his high school band camp. I started a cup of coffee and was looking forward to doing some reading. While the coffee was brewing, I walked toward the front door to look out when I noticed that our dog Bailey had gotten sick and made a small mess near the front door. Then I walked back to the living room and noticed by the back door that, in the middle of the night, Bailey had made a huge mess right in front of the back door. At least he was trying to get out.

I have to be honest that I got really mad at Bailey because my quiet early morning plans had been turned upside down. For the next 45 minutes, Ann and I picked up, wiped down, sanitized, swept and then mopped our floors. After we had finished cleaning, I looked at Bailey who had a forlorn look on his face and I was reminded by Ann that Bailey never did that and that he must be sick. After things had quieted down, I told Bailey that I still loved him anyway, even if he had made a mess. He is a really good dog.

I think about the messes we make in life or the messes we make of life and I am awed by the fact that God loves us anyway. The great truth of God is that God has an unlimited supply of love and grace - he never runs out. As a church, God's grace is our greatest gift, our most abundant resource.

To be honest, I don't know that I always love people despite their messes. I want to and I hope to and I strive to live that way, but there are times when I know I fall short. So, I guess I have a mess too. But, I strive to live into the character of God's generosity and I pray that God will help me to grow.

After all, there are a lot of messes in the world and there are people who need to know that God loves them anyway. What would it be like if you and I, if we together as the church were known entering into the messes of life and loving anyway. I hope and pray that I get there one day - through God's unlimited supply of love and grace.

Yours in Christ,

Jon

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