

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

The LINK

May 2021

Volume 22, Issue 5

As we have been looking at the Holy Spirit on Sunday mornings there has been a quote from A.W. Tozer that truly haunts me. "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit has been withdrawn from the New Testament church 95 percent of what they did would stop and everybody would know the different." The Holy Spirit is the fuel or power of the church. We are a grace enabled people. Grace of God has come in Jesus' redemption and the grace of God has come in the empowering indwelling work of the Spirit. The Spirit did the work in the early church filling believers with a noticeable power and presence. Whether you hold to a continuationist (all the giftings of the Spirit continue today) or cessationist (some of many giftings have ceased today) view of the Spirit's work today, the need has not changed for the church's reliance.

I believe that the modern church of 1900 forward has tried to work to overcome the lack of the Spirit's work. This is seen in much of the hype or manmade energy to stir up something that is simply not there. It is seen in an ignorance of the Spirit and an insensitivity towards the Spirit. When you can create a digital global presence; why seek the Spirit today? When we can pat ourselves on the back; why submit to the leading of the Spirit?

Honestly, when I think about this leading of the Spirit, it scares me a little. I know there are times when I ignore the promptings of the Spirit to share the Gospel with someone, make a visit or call. I know there are times when God prompts me to give in unusual ways. I have also seen and been incredibly grateful for the times that I have listened and followed through.

Acts 4:31, "And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continue to speak the word of God with boldness." Don't miss the connections here of the gathered church, prayer, the Spirit shaking filling, and bold proclamation of the Word of God. Now see the Spirit filled church attributes that follow.

Acts 4:32-34: Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them...

Look at the marks displayed by the church here. They exhibit a Spirit filled unity. They share in a Spirit filled generosity. They testify of Jesus with a Spirit filled boldness. This sounds like a pretty happening place to be. They have no need to create an attractional church paradigm, because the Spirit's work has made them attractive. God has not ceased the pursuit of unity, generosity, and bold testimony in His Church; we are those who can grow comfortable right where we are doing the same things. The question is whether we are listening to the Spirit's prompts and steeping in the Word of God towards obedience. Left to our own we grow selfish and cold. The Spirit's works to convicts us (John 16:8) and lead our lives into "all truth" (John 16:13).

Listen in to a closing statement in our Bible. Revelation 22:17 "The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price." Church lets us come into a fuller understanding of God. Let us rise to a greater and uncomfortable obedience. Walking in the thirst quenching, life giving, leading of the Spirit.

Gratefully,
Tim Singleton



"Let the little children come to me."

Children's Ministry ~ Roz Crane

"IN THE END WE'LL LEARN SOMETHING PROFOUND: IN GOD'S EYES, PLAN B WAS PLAN A ALL ALONG."¹

The Kids in Sunday School just had two lessons about Gideon, from the book of Judges, with the Bible truth being: "We can always trust God." Just like any exercise, whether sit-ups or piano scales, in the end it makes us stronger. As life has been so different this past year, we have hopefully exercised faith and trust and have come out stronger!

HOWEVER, as I look at the places where our preschool, kids, and youth departments still need teachers, I could be like Gideon, throwing out a fleece, to see if God is really with us as we struggle to provide kids what they need to grow in faith.

BUUUUT...as God does over and over, meeting me where I am, this morning I opened Kids Ministry magazine and "SURPRISE, SURPRISE", there was an article titled, "5 Leadership Lessons from GIDEON." Right that moment God met me where I was in my discouragement about "things" being normal and not having all the teachers and helpers we need.

AAAAND...as I read, I realized that I had been so focused on teaching *kids*, that I had not taken time to internalize the truth from last week's lesson for myself, that we can *always* trust God!

Here are 5 lessons from the story of Gideon:

1. THE MISSION HASN'T CHANGED

2 Tim. 4:2 challenges us to present the Word "in season and out of season."

Gideon's mission never changed, only the method.

2. GOD SOMETIMES DOES THINGS IN ADSURD WAYS.

Gideon and 300 men defeated the 132,000 Midianites with clay jars and torches.

3. IT'S NOT YOUR BATTLE

In Judges 6-7 there are at least 11 times when it's GOD'S actions are mentioned, not Gideon's. Stop trying to carry the burden!

4. GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN

God is absolutely, 100%, perfectly in control of every circumstance. Instead of asking God to be with us in our plans, may we ask that He allow us to be with Him in His plans!

5. GOD WANTS US TO WALK IN CONFIDENCE BY FAITH.

When the battle time came, Gideon said, "Do what I do." It's not enough to talk about faith; we have to walk it.

In the end, we'll learn something profound: In God's eyes, Plan B was Plan A all along. 😊

Prayer Ministry

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. 2 Chronicles 16:9

Therefore, may we all - *Pray without ceasing.*
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Commit to pray for the pastor, his family, our leaders and our church!

1. Pastor Tim Singleton and his family

"Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you to give you spiritual guidance.

2. our leaders, and teachers.

Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work." 1 Thess. 5:12

3. our church and all who attend.

for God to open the hearts and minds of all listeners to receive His message.

"Be joyful always, Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstance,

For this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thess. 5:16-18.

4. Pray also for an opportunity to share the Gospel with others.

"When the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will receive power, and you will be witnesses for Me . . . to the ends of the earth."

May we be bold in sharing the Good News!

Pray for open doors to share!

Pray for this Good News to spread in our community by your faithfulness!

*****The National Day of Prayer will be on May 6, 2021 *****

**Theme: Love, Life and Liberty,
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17**

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

(This day will be recognized in the Wednesday evening Bible Study.)



Prayer Requests received in April, 2021

A BIG PRAISE—The church parking lot project has been "Paid in Full."

Ghazi Jahay—had extensive back surgery. Praise, it went well and he is now home recovering. Please continue to pray for his full recovery.

Pat Rankin had a stroke and is having difficulty with walking and physical needs. She has asked to be lifted up in prayer.

John Peters - Continue to pray he will be granted new strength to help his body.

Anna Burke—is still in some pain from her fall. Please pray she will recover completely.

Glenn and Murial Wynn (brother and sister-in-law of Rathbun's co-worker). Praise to God they are both doing better. Muriel needs to regain some weight and Glenn should return to work this month although he still has blood clot issues.

Roger Schwager (Rathbun's brother-in-law's brother) - cancer has returned. He was in KC for 30 days of treatment. Pray for strength to withstand treatment and for it to be successful, plus prayers for the family.

Ryan (Kathy Rebel's cousin's son) has hit in the eye with a golf club. He had surgery to repair the fracture around his eye. The doctors are monitoring the pressure in his eye. Thank you for praying for his healing.

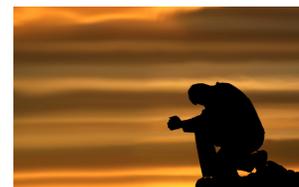
Brenda Brown—Praise—she will not need chemo or radiation after her breast cancer surgery. "She is totally cancer free. Thank you for your prayers."

Arleen Runkle, friend of Rusty Wrinkle, has found out she has brain cancer. Please pray for wisdom and direction for her and the doctors.

Mark Slattery, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church in Larned. Please continue to lift him and his family up in prayer as he recovers from surgery and continues to battle cancer.

Mike, Renetta Furrow's brother is doing well after kidney transplant. He will be monitored for several weeks. Continue to remember Mike and the donor, Amy.

Dear Lord, We believe in the healing power of faith and prayer and we ask you to begin Your mighty work in the lives of these, our friends.



PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES

Alan and Beth Locke, missionaries to Ghana. Pray for God's guidance in training a new missionary couple.

The Cousins Family with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Prayer Ministry, continued

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE US ARMED FORCES

*****Any updates on the personnel listed would be appreciated.*****

Tucker Alexander, Navy, son of Gary and Gail Alexander

Kayla Callahan, Marines

Chris Collicott, Air Force, grandson of Nancy Rogers

Gregg Dodds, Air Force, Shaw AF Base, SC, Wife Morgan, son Greyson. Granddaughter of Darlene Bergren.

Monique Durant, friend of Darlene Miorandi.

Forrest Dresher, son of Kevin and Kelly Drescher.

Michael Frayser, Air Force, son of Bob and Donna Frayser

Anthony Hollin, Army, son of SuLin

Casey Lynch, Air Force, g-daughter, Darlene Bergren. Husband Chris, Children: Braedon, Madyson, Gracyn

Daniel McCray, Ft. Bragg, Texas, Darlene Miorandi's cousins' son

Morgan Whorton, National Guard, a relative of Marla Brocher

Cordell Merten, Air Force, son of Mike and Pam Merten; grandson of Jack and Wilda Merten

John Miner, Air Force, wife, Maranda, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Brett McPherson, Navy

Steven McPherson, Army

Tyler Penn, son of Mike Penn

Justin Powers, Army, wife Angela and daughter Jocelyn.

Devin Ramsey, Army National Guard, son of Aaron Noblitt and Kathye Phelps.

Jasper Rankin, US Marine Corp, son of Denise Rankin and grandson of Freddie Rankin

Dan Reed, Air Force, wife Megan, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Gabe Wolff, Naval ROTC, grandson of Bud and Marla Brocher

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped." Psalm 28:7



PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

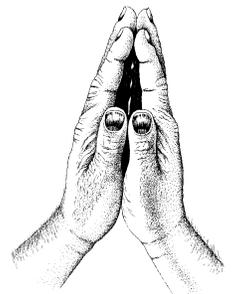
Pray God's guidance for the leaders of our country!

"Your kingdom is founded on righteousness and justice; love and faithfulness are shown in all you do." Psalm 89:14

Pray that America's foundation would align with the righteousness and justice in the foundation of God's throne, and that loving kindness and truth surround us as Christ's love, life and liberty are found in us.

PRAY FOR THE NATION OF ISRAEL

"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you. And through you, I will bless all the nations."
Genesis 12:3



"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you."
Psalm 122:6

Submitted by Nancy Rogers

Spanish Mission Church, Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) Pray for Pastor Reyes.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."
1 Peter 3:1

PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING

Alta Fry, River Bend, Great Bend, **Margaret Suppes**, Cherry Village, Great Bend; **Grady Bolding**, Ellinwood Hospital, Long Term Care Unit

"Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid." Isaiah 12:2

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

Pray for **Robert and Rita Vredenburg** in the loss of **Rita's brother, Tim**. Uplift this family in prayers.

"God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son." 1 John 5:11



WHY PRAY?

1. The Bible commands it. “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thes. 5:17)

Almost 1,000 passages deal with prayer in one way or another.

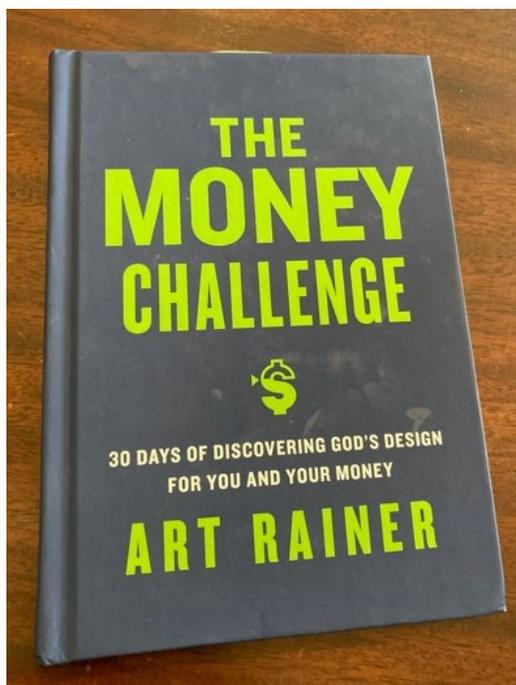
We all want to be, by our prayers, an instrument of God that leads His people to experience His presence as we gather together.

God responds to our personal and corporate prayers—as we read in the account of Peter being released from prison in Acts 12:12-19 by the corporate prayer of believers.

Personal prayer and corporate prayer are like two wings of an airplane. Which one would you rather do without? The absence of either would be fatal. Each is equally important.

Let our prayers for our church be the fuel to ignite God-given power to lift us to new heights in faith, renewed commitment to reaching others, and lift those who have not made a commitment of faith to have their eyes and ears opened to receive the life-giving message of Jesus.

Nancy Rogers—for the Link, May issue, 2021



We would like to make available the Money Challenge to anyone in our church.

Simply email, call, or stop in to request your copy. It is a simple and fast read with a 30 day challenge towards generosity in it. If you would like to use this with others as a group study that is great as well. We will also follow-up and ask how you are progressing in the steps.

First Southern Baptist Church

March	2021	2020
Monthly Offering	\$ 19,590.47	\$ 23,549.19
Year to Date Offerings	\$ 58,098.35	\$ 57,920.84
Monthly Expenses	\$ 22,856.78	\$ 24,594.19
Monthly Overage	\$ -3,266.31	\$ -1,045.00
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 51,751.34	\$ 63,185.73
Yearly Gain of	\$ 6,347.01	\$ -5,264.89

Spanish Mission

Monthly Offering	\$ 2,189.75	\$ 0.00
Year to Date Offerings	\$ 5,606.00	\$ 826.50
Monthly Expenses	\$ 1,915.27	\$ 1,396.67
Monthly Overage	\$ 274.48	\$ -1,396.67
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 3,268.20	\$ 2,243.65
Yearly Gain of	\$ 2,337.80	\$ -1,417.15

God calls you, as part of the body, to service far beyond anything you could ever imagine. He created you for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for you to do (Ephesians 2:10).

OUR NEEDS INCLUDE:

***Children:** 1 Sunday morning helper, Wednesday night: 2 Lead teachers and 2 helpers

***Preschool:** Sunday School Hour: 2 teachers for 2-3 yr. olds; Wed. night teachers for babies and 1 yr. olds

***Youth:** Sunday Morning: 1 Lead teacher, 1 helper; Wed. night 1 lead teacher

Whenever you serve others in any way, you are actually serving God!

May Birthdays

- 2 Rebecca Rebel
- 5 Kathy Burt
- 10 Theresa Wilks
- 10 Michelle Cavender
- 12 Roz Crane
- 13 Joyce Fry
- 14 Randy Fry
- 14 Deacon Singleton
- 21 Eliana Beckham
- 22 Sakston Herrera
- 24 Robert Neeland
- 25 Kortney Traylor
- 25 Emma Traylor
- 25 Tailor Killian
- 27 John Carson
- 29 Briar Stryker



Families of the Week

May 2nd

Linsey McHenry, Tyler and Braydon

May 9th

Wilda Merten

May 16th

Valerie Mills and Terry

May 23rd

Robert and Jessica Neeland, Carston and Kaylea

May 30th

Thelma Northcutt

UPDATE ON PARKING LOT PROJECT

PAID

Contributions thru 3/31/21:	\$204,462.64
April Contributions:	\$ 3,600.00
Total Contributions:	\$208,062.64
Expenses Paid:	\$207,808.46
Current Fund Balance:	\$ 254.18

Extended Session!

I can't emphasize enough how much of a blessing extended session is for parents and children.

Please be preparing to fill in when your Sunday Small Group is assigned.

Extended Session meets during the worship hour (10:45) for kids birth - Pre-K.

Adult Sunday Evening Bible Study

May 2, May 16

Interpreting Scripture

Church E-mail:	FirstSouthernGB@gmail.com
Church Website:	www.fsbgreatbend.com
Phone:	(620) 793-8444
Fax:	(620) 793-8445

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 3:00pm Church Council 5:00pm Business Meeting 6:00pm Evening Bible Study	3	4	5 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	6 National Day of Prayer	7	8
9 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 	10	11	12 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 6:00pm Evening Bible Study	17	18	19 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church	24	25	26 5:30pm Family Meal 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>					