

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2023

FROM RICK BENNETT

Friends, I look forward to being together on Sunday, October 1! I bring you greetings from the leadership of Tennessee CBF, and on behalf of the CBF family everywhere, thank you for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is your giving, going, and serving through the years that has allowed CBF to field missionaries around the globe among marginal populations to bear witness to Jesus. We must never forget that Jesus' local church exists for God's global mission. Thank you for trusting CBF with that reminder, work, and partnership.



The Gospel we celebrate on Sunday is characterized by God's mercy, embodied in Jesus. As we prepare ourselves to hear and receive again this reminder of God's nature, it is never more poignant and meaningful than when we consider where God's mercy has touched and is touching our lives. When actively parenting, our family's daily bedtime tradition insured that our children share in a call and response that reminded them of God's mercy. On turning out the lights, we would offer, "God's mercies are new every day!" Which prompted our boys to respond, "And tomorrow is a new day." As followers of Jesus, we should live in daily awareness of how God's mercy surrounds and comes to us in Jesus and through the Spirit.

The mercy extended to us compels us to bring news of and embody this mercy to others everywhere. I've been known to say, God's mission to reconcile and renew all things includes and begins with you. Our text for Sunday, October 1, demonstrates just how easy it is to forget it.

I look forward to seeing you!

Rick Bennett
TCBF Field Coordinator



YOUTH MINISTRY

By Chad Hartsock



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MARY DARBY!



On October 5th, Mary will turn 100. We are wishing you the happiest birthday, Mary!! Thank you for the gift of your presence in our Church family. We are **so** grateful for you!

FUTURE MESSENGERS

Beginning in 2024, in an effort to lower mailing costs, we ask that you notify the church office if you wish to continue receiving your Messenger by mail. If you do not, please note that there will be digital copies available on the church's website: www.fbcjeff.org.

Thank you!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Josh Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through August 2023

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 09/28/2023) = \$0.00

	May	June	July	August
Income	\$30,957.87	\$25,563.08	\$25,612.44	\$18,237.70
Expenses	\$25,616.71	\$26,920.58	\$29,765.49	\$26,372.43
Net	\$5,341.16	\$1,357.50	\$4,153.05	\$8,134.73
YTD	\$9,091.67	\$7,734.17	\$3,581.12	\$4,553.61

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
September 3	44	66
September 10	53	83
September 17	44	85
September 24	45	86

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

October 1: Leon Shoemaker & Karen Smith/Chad Hartsock

October 8: Carolyn Blevins & Jim Wilson/Nenette Measels

October 15: Susan Garber & Carey Herring/Josh Gibson

October 22: Heidi Thomas & Ann Porter/Chad Hartsock

October 29: Heidi Thomas & Ann Porter/Nenette Measels



DEACONS' MEETING SUMMARY

By Heidi Thomas, Deacon Chair

The Deacons held their monthly meeting on September 21 in the Agape SS Class at 4:00 p.m.

Eleven deacons were present. Pastor Mike Smith joined the meeting. Sunday, September 24, is his last day at FBC but he stated he will always be an advocate for the Church. He encouraged the deacons to support the staff and commended the deacons and the congregation for being prepared to have a successful pastor search.

John Burton gave an overview of the process for nominating deacons. A form will be made available to the congregation for nominations. The nomination process will close on October 22 and the election will be on October 29, 2023.

A motion was made and passed to offer the \$300 of unspent funds in the deacons' budget be used to update the visitor cards that are located in the back of the pews.

Jim Wilson will be leading the ESL class for the upcoming year.

A recommendation will be sent to the Church Advisory Committee to reinstate offering collection during the Sunday morning service.



PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

By Thomas Milligan, Chair, PSC

The Pastor Search Committee met nine times during the month of September. We conducted phone conversations with the prospective candidates, then did additional interviews by Zoom.

We hope to finish all the Zoom interviews in early October and proceed to checking references.

Our top candidate will then be invited to Jefferson City to meet with us in person.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Committee.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

'Tis the Season for Trunk-or-Treat 2023!

Join us as we celebrate Fall with our second annual Trunk-or-Treat! We had an amazing turnout last year (we estimated at least 300 visitors), and we are hopeful for a similar response from the community this year! You can help us make this event a success in several ways:

- 1. Host a trunk!** We had around 12 trunks last year. We would love to increase that number this year!
- 2. Donate candy!** We actually had to buy candy mid-event last year, so we need *lots* of candy! Our goal this year is 2,000 pieces. Help us make that happen! Candy donation bins will be placed at the preschool entrance by the library, just inside the covered entrance, and in the foyer outside of the sanctuary.
- 3. Donate money!** Don't have time to shop for candy? Not sure what to buy? Donate a few dollars to help us purchase what we need! You can give cash to Bethany or anyone on the Children and Youth Committee.
- 4. Volunteer to help!** If you are not interested in hosting a trunk, we need people on hand to run games, distribute candy when trunks are low, and make our visitors feel welcomed!

We are so excited for Trunk-or-Treat this year. It is an amazing community event, and we anticipate another large crowd. Thank you for your support in creating a fun, safe, and well-attended event at FBC!





The Volunteer State Missions Offering (VSMO) is an opportunity for congregations and individuals anywhere in Tennessee to volunteer at every partner ministry in the state!

Partnerships include:

- Samaritan Ministry
- Olive Branch Ministries
- Welcome House, Knoxville
- Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies



SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

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Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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