

# BEHIND THE SCENES

Volume 2, Issue 5

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FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GREG SYKES

## A Call to Action for “3”

As we’ve already established, one of the beautiful things about our new third service (not-so-cleverly named “3”) is that it will not alter our morning service schedule.

If you are currently attending either of our morning worship services — either at 9:30 AM or 10:50 AM — it’s possible that we could have our third service in operation for months before you even know it is there.

But that’s not a good thing!

Yes, it’s nice, for the sake of continuity, to keep doing what we’ve always done on Sunday mornings, but we need some of our “regular” attenders to think outside of the box.

In fact, I would argue that we need to you think Biblically.

In the past, it was always difficult to recruit volunteers to serve because folks (understandably) did not want to volunteer and miss out either on their Sunday School class or the church service.

But now we are entering a world where you can come for your typical Sunday morning experience — including Sunday School and worship — and then come back to volunteer for us during the third service hour.

And here’s where the Biblical thinking comes in: Jesus, Himself, said that He came not to be served, but to serve. Service is a kingdom value, and God promises that service rendered in His name, for His glory, will receive a just reward in eternity (if not in the here and now).

So we desperately need some of

our folks attending our morning services to look like Jesus and become servants during the “3” service.

We have significant needs with children and preschool classrooms, we have significant needs in the audio/visual department, and we have significant needs in terms of greeters and parking lot attenders.

To be blunt, the needs are great. Any time you launch a new endeavor, it’s difficult to anticipate all of the curveballs and hoops that you may have to jump through — it would sure position us for success if we had a legion of volunteers standing by to help.

So I would encourage you to please pray about serving in some form or fashion with “3.” You’ll get to be a part of our new service, and you’ll help our church address its space problems and reach new families for Christ . . . And you know that will be exciting and rewarding! Both now and in eternity future.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Darlene Jernigan or Mike Cloud regarding serving with preschoolers or children. And you can contact Justin Myrick regarding audio/visual service and Mark Palfreeman regarding parking lot and greeting ministries.

One way or the other, we need to you! The future of our church needs you, and the families we have yet to reach for Christ need you.

This Sunday, we’re going to spend a little time during our worship service talking about “3” and the problems that led to this solution (who doesn’t need to



take a breath after our “Danger, Danger” week?).

I hope you’ll leave with a better understanding on the spiritual principles that we considered when embarking on this solution, and I hope you’ll see even more clearly how much we need a core group from our congregation to step up and help us by serving on the forefront of this new endeavor.

“3” has tremendous potential to further unify and expand our church, but we need everyone to pitch in and serve if that’s going to happen. We desperately want to see our morning and evening crowds mixing and mingling and even serving one another — that’s what the church looks like in the New Testament, and that’s what we’re hoping to see right here in FBC.

And one way or the other, please be praying that this launch goes well, God receives the glory, and families are reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

**This Sunday:**

**“3: Winning the Battle**

**Joshua 5:13-6:20**

**The Battle of Jericho**

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**Beginning Sunday, February 19:**

A new five-week journey in Hebrews entitled, "Good News For Man."

Sunday, February 19: "Our Destiny"  
Hebrews 2:5-9

Sunday, February 26: "Our Savior"  
Hebrews 2:10-18

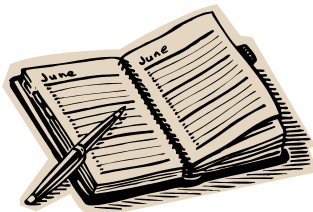
Sunday, March 4: "Moses: A Deliverer"  
Exodus 2:1-4:1

Sunday March 11: "Our Deliverer"  
Hebrews 3:1-6

Sunday, March 18: "Warning: Do Not Doubt!"  
Hebrews 3:7-19

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**A Call for Unity as We Face New Challenges:**



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I hope you have experienced what I have seen over the last few months here at FBC: an outpouring of God's Spirit.

Our services have been fresh, we continue to see decisions for Christ, and the baptismal waters continue to be stirred.

Its an exciting time to serve here, and I honestly believe its an ex-

citng time to worship here.

But, unless we are an extremely atypical church, there's always a little stress and stretching even as good things happen.

We're introducing our new Minister of Worship this Sunday (aren't you glad Robert Ramsey is here!), and that's new.

We're introducing our new third service this Sunday, too, a solution to problems of exponential growth, and that'll be new, too.

And I know you're still getting used to this new pastor and all of my idiosyncrasies and "Danger, Danger," moments.

And we know folks are sometimes resistant to change . . . Shocking, huh? Rather than be naïve and be shocked if folks get

a little uncomfortable, I'd rather head that off at the pass and call on our congregation to pray and seek unity in the days ahead.

God is at work and it is an exciting time to be at FBC Russellville. But we need to be a good steward of this blessing and outpouring of God's favor — we need to pray for one another, encourage one another, and respect one another.

May we embrace the principles of Ephesians 4: may we "be completely humble and gentle." May we "be patient, bearing with one another in love." And may we "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Onward and upward, friends, for His glory!