

BEHIND THE SCENES

Volume 8, Issue 2

March 13, 2018

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GREG SYKES

Three Easter Services: 7, 9:15, & 11

I hope I don't sound like a broken record, but surveys continue to insist that one of the very best times to invite your "unchurched" friends and family members to church is Easter Sunday.

In fact, in our part of the world, surveys tell us that over 70% of those who aren't engaged in church will attend a service on Easter — if invited.

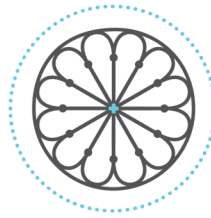
So, what's stopping us? Why not pray through your friends and family over the next few days and then, in the days leading up to Easter Sunday, April 1, ask God to open up opportunities to invite them to attend FBC with you?

Again, the odds are in your favor! And, to make things even easier, we're adding a 7 AM service for the day.

Many of our congregation grew up attending a "Sunrise Service" for Easter, and it just makes sense to add that option back for this special Sunday.

We're hopeful it will help those that are traveling for the holiday to attend services before you leave, and it will just help us shift a few bodies out of our traditional services — 9:15 AM and 11 AM — as well as open up parking.

We will not have Life Groups on Easter Sunday — primarily because our parking lots "empty out" a bit better on such a big attendance Sunday.



FIRST BAPTIST
RUSSELLVILLE

And I do hope you understand our thinking regarding all of these schedule changes — we're just trying to provide more opportunities for everyone, members and guests, to worship with us on Easter Sunday.

With the hope, of course, of getting folks connected to FBC in the days ahead.

It will be a special day, but it will also look and feel a lot like what we do on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis — because we want to give guests a good understanding of who we really are. No smoke and mirrors, so to speak.

We'll even be launching a new sermon series in the book of Acts with a message that affirms on our DNA as a missions-minded church.

So, again, let's start praying and strategizing about who we can bring with us on Easter Sunday, April 1. See you then — at 7, 9:15, or 11 AM! (NOTE: we will not have our third service at 6:15 PM.)

Thursday, March 29: Lord's Supper Service

We have another great opportunity for our church family in the week prior to Easter. Easter is well-worth our celebration — we certainly want to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and how He defeated death, Hell and the grave for us. But, to properly do this, sometimes it's necessary for us to reflect on what the Cross really cost Christ. It has become our tradition to provide a time of reflection on the Cross during the Lord's Supper Service the Thursday night prior to Easter. Make plans now to join us at 7 PM, Thursday, March 29 in the sanctuary.

Sunday, March 18: Gideon Sunday

Finally, don't forget our special schedule for this Sunday. We again get to celebrate our partnership with Gideon's International. Arnie Burk, Sr. will be our speaker and this will be a one family worship service day — no Life Groups and a service at 10:30 AM. And you will have a chance to financially support this ministry.

And please be in prayer for our Spring Break Mission Trip to San Diego, March 17-23.

**This Sunday:
Gideon Sunday
Arnie Burk**

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR GREG SYKES

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FIRST BAPTIST
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Sunday, March 18
Gideon Sunday
One Family Worship Service, 10:30 AM only

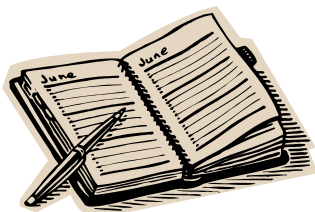
Sunday, March 25
“Good from Bad, Again,” Acts 15:32-41
Conclusion, “The Jerusalem Council,” sermon series

Sunday, April 1
“Westward Expansion,” Acts 16:1-15
Week One, “The 2nd Missionary Journey,” sermon series

Sunday, April 8
“The Battle Begins,” Acts 16:16-24
Week Two, “The First Missionary Journey,” sermon series

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Our 2017 Cooperative Program Giving



Follow us on Twitter at
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(for your pastor's account).

It's always an exciting day for me as your pastor when I receive our annual contribution statement from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention early in the Spring.

The statement details our church's giving to and through the Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist and Arkansas Baptist entities.

And here is why it is worth celebrating — in 2017, while continuing our Genesis Project and opening our new sanctuary — we gave \$471,529.05 to the CP and other SBC causes.

That's almost a half million dollars in round numbers! And, statistically speaking, it's right at 15.7% of our annual budget from 2017.

Just in Arkansas, that giving helped start 33 new churches and baptize 109 people. Thirty-five college campuses were engaged, with 1,243 students mobilized for missions to 44 countries and 25 states. Disaster Relief served 45,484 hours and made 3,012 ministry contacts. And 320 children in crisis were cared for, with 26 decisions for Christ!

2018 Missions Banquet:

And, if you'd like to know what we're planning, dreaming, and hoping to do in terms of our giving and going in 2018, there's a great night coming up in April where we will lay it all out.

Mark Tuesday night, April 10th on your calendar and check in with any active deacon or your Life Group leader for banquet tickets. Tickets are \$5 and just help us cover the cost of the meal.

The evening will be devoted to hearing our missions strategy in 2018, and special guests will be Brad Branham, ATU BCM director, and Dale Huntington, pastor and church planter, City Life Church of San Diego, California.