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Reflections

VOLUME XXXX

April 8, 2011

No. 13

Raise Up Your Church!

A couple of years ago, when our nation's economy took such a drastic downturn, so did our church family's giving. Some of the reasons are not difficult to understand; lost jobs, reduced salaries, reduced benefits, and a deep sense of financial fear.

When our church leaders realized that we were in a financial storm, we "battened down the hatches" by adopting a budget that, we believed, would allow us to keep our staff intact and our core ministries active while spending \$200,000 less than the original budget. We've been waiting for the financial storm to end and our national economy and church giving to return to normal.

That hasn't happened. The economy continues to be weak and our church's giving continues to be less than normal. What do you do when your church's ministry costs more than the support you're receiving? Monday night, at the close of our deacons' meeting, Chairman Rick Childs captured the meaning of this moment in our church's life. He said, "We have a choice. We will either raise our giving to the level of our ministry or we will lower our ministry to the level of our giving."

Right now, our church finance committee and Jamie Mann, our church's financial manager, are working day and night to build a plan to bring the cost of our church's ministries down to the level of our present giving. Be sure that you understand how such measures could change the life of our church. Ministries we love could lose their funding or be eliminated altogether. Church employees could lose compensation, benefits, or even their jobs. This is not some possibility for the distant future. Whatever steps are deemed necessary will be taken in the next few weeks.

The good news is that we don't have to bring down our ministry. We can raise up our giving. But what we do, we must do now. I know that some of you have lost jobs and can't give right now. But I believe that if everyone who loves this church will do what he or she can, we can meet this challenge and remain strong.

I feel encouraged when I think about that "great cloud of witnesses" who have gone before us in our church's 168 years. They survived a Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression, and many other challenges and passed a great church on to us. This is our moment to trust God's faithfulness, seek His kingdom first, and raise up our church.

This Sunday morning, April 10, I challenge you and myself to bring an offering that will raise up our church and keep all of our ministries strong. Then, on Sunday night, attend the Called Church Conference, hear the report of our finance committee and learn how you can help.

Now is the time to raise up our church!
Ronald D. Vaughan

Kentucky Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 10
4:00 p.m. in the Patio Room



Our Goal: \$15,000
Received: \$10,506

This Sunday at Berea First Baptist Church

Discovery Service, 8:15 a.m.
Cornerstone Service, 10:30 a.m.



This Sunday:
Your Anger Shows Your Heart

Sunday Evening, 6:00 p.m.

In the Senior Adult Building
Called Church Conference
Special report from our
Finance Committee and our
Church Financial Manager

Name Above All Names

Lifting Up the Name of Jesus
through Music, Message, and the
Ordinance of the Lord's Supper
Sunday, April 17
10:30 a.m.

Beth Moore Bible Study

Sunday, April 10
4:30 p.m. (Note Time Change)
In the Library

Youth Spring Break

During the week of spring break (April 18-20), our youth will participate in some local missions work. They will be cleaning up and making updates to the Berea House, as well as helping several BFBC members by working in their yards. Please keep our youth in your prayers this week and if you would like to help in any way, contact Drew Stables by Sunday, April 17. (246-1921)

WORLD CHANGERS

Youth Mission Trips
Deposit of \$60 is due by April 17.
Total cost per student: \$200

High School and College
Nashville, TN, June 12-18

Middle School
Sugar Hill, GA, July 24-30
For more information contact
Drew Stables at 246-1921.

Easter Lilies

Again this year we want to give you the opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. These gifts will be listed in a special edition of "Reflections." Call the church office for more information or to give your donations of \$12. Due by Sunday, April 17.

The Very Newest

Congratulations to **Jordan and Jason Osteen** on the birth of a son, Carson Bennett, born April 6. Carson is the grandson of Mary Lou Meadows and Brad McCarrson and the great grandson of Tom and Martha Jordan.

Camp Registration

Deadline to Register is Friday, April 15

Forms available in the church office or online at www.bereaafc.org.
Space is going fast—register now!
Registration Fee: \$50 Total Camp Fee: \$160

LAST WEEK AT A GLANCE

April 3, 2011

Weekly Required Budget Giving... \$28,542.31
Budget Gifts Received.....\$36,465.40
Budget Overage.....\$7,923.09

Pass It On Giving.....\$2,813.00
Designated Receipts\$9,730.70
TOTAL DEPOSIT.....\$49,009.10

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to:

Evelyn Holcombe in the death of cousin, Tom Biggs.

Charlie Miller in the death of his aunt, Margaret Miller.

Gloria Weaver in the death of her father, Marvin Elledge.

Carolyn Abbott in the death of her aunt, Melvee Beeks.

Memorial Gifts

Given in memory of:

J. Frank Williams by:
Max and Martha Melton
Ernest and Betty Reece

Jewell Miller by:
Jim and Carolyn Crosby
Ernest and Betty Reece

Winnie Haskins by:
Ernest and Betty Reece

Ruby Masters by:
Ernest and Betty Reece

College and High School Graduate Recognition Service

Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.

Each year we are proud to recognize those who have taken steps to prepare for the future. Again this year, our Graduate Recognition Service will honor both high school and college graduates.

COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, please contact the church office to let us know that you are graduating and to let us know whether you can participate in the service. A detailed letter will be mailed soon.

Opportunities

SUNDAY

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Morning Worship
6:00 pm Evening Worship
TeamKid
Discipleship Classes

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am Senior Adult Choir
5:15—6:30 pm Supper
6:00—6:45 pm Preschool Choir
1st—5th Grade Choir
6:00—7:30 pm Discipleship Classes
6:45—7:30 pm 3—5 Year Mission Friends
1st—5th Grade G.A.'s
1st—5th Grade R.A.'s
Prayer Ministry and
Bible Study
7:35-9:00 pm Adult Choir

Student Ministry, Grades 6-12

WEDNESDAYS

5:00 pm Crosswalks opens
5:15-6:20 pm Café open for supper
6:30-8:00pm Fun-time and Worship
8:30 pm Crosswalk closes

SUNDAYS

6:00-7:00 pm Small Groups

Coming in May OPERATION LOVE FROM HOME

Gifts of Love to Support our Troops

WMU Group Meetings

Alice Faille Group
Tuesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Building

Susan Tidwell Group
Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Welcome Center

Nan Herring Group
Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Home of Margaret Chapman
13 Weybridge Ct.

The Reaching Center

Items needed this week: canned fruit, canned corn, canned soup, canned meat.

Wednesday Supper Menu

Adults:

Baked Chicken, Scalloped Potatoes,
Broccoli and Cheese, Fruit, Roll

Kids:

Chicken Strips, Creamed Corn, Fruit

*Reservations and/or cancellations
Must be made by noon, Tuesday.*