

Weekly Reports

	7/13	7/20	*MTD
Sunday School Attendance	130	128	
Worship Attendance	154	148	
Budget Offering	\$5,061.36	\$5,513.00	\$20,412.51
Weekly Budget Needs	\$9091.00		*Received Month-To-Date

MEMBERS IN SERVICE THIS SUNDAY, JULY 27

Nursery - Gary & Collene Hall

Children's Church (Ages 4-1st) - Annette Highley, Jeanne Mantlo

Deacon of the Week - Jimmy Baker

MEMBERS IN SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Nursery - Melba Hooper, Amy Suter, Christy Suter & Youth

Children's Church (4 thru 1st) - Jennifer Washburn, Sheila Tope

Deacon of the Week - Mike Crawford

First Baptist Church
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Greenbrier, TN 37073

Church Office

Located behind the church
phone 615-643-4507
hours Monday thru Friday,
8:30am-4pm
www.greenbrierfirst.com

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Donna Heflin, Ministry Assistant
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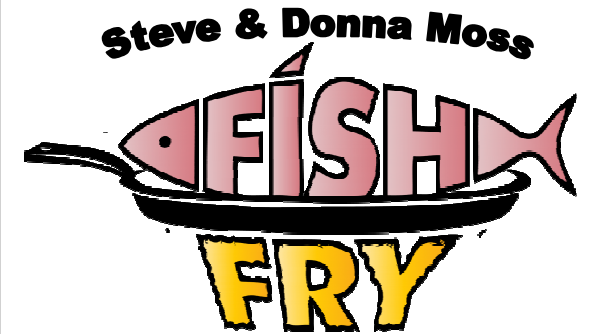
The First Word

A newsletter for family and friends of Greenbrier First Baptist Church July 24, 2014

School Supplies & Backpack Give Away

This Saturday, July 26
from 9:00-11:00 AM

Thanks everyone for your generous donations! We are prepared to outfit approximately 100 students for school this fall! If you'd like to direct traffic, help with supplies, or volunteer in other ways, arrive in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 AM.



This Sunday, July 27

5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Enjoy the food and fellowship and invite a friend to join us for this annual event. Thank You Steve & Donna!



August 1-2

All men with reservations, be watching your email for van departures and details! If questions, call Bro. Nathan or the church office.

From Your Pastor - Nathan Washburn

Trusting God's Plan in our Plight

At one time or another, all of us have felt like the odds were stacked against us, and there was no foreseeable way out. We may have questioned God's goodness or doubted God's power—after all, if he loved us and could stop this, why was it happening? Even as we prayed, we may have grown more fearful and doubtful as God remained silent.

This is how the Israelites, and Gideon in particular, felt in Judges 6. The people, as a whole, were neglecting the Lord and failing to do what He said. Outsiders were creeping in against them and were taking over their tents, crops and livestock, so that they had no sustenance. The people were hiding in caves and rocks and were distraught and discouraged. At the end of their rope, they were crying out to the Lord, fearful of what might happen next and wondering if things would change. Gideon himself even asked the angel of the Lord when approached, "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His miracles which our fathers told us about?"

What happens next is a magnificent turn of events by an amazing God through an average guy, and we can take heart because:

God always has a person.

Gideon, ripe with fear and humility, is threshing out wheat in a wine press so no one will detect him and take his wheat. And God wants *him* to deliver Israel from Midian. This

man, the youngest in his family, which is the least in their tribe, is the one chosen by God and even addressed as "valiant warrior." He's not the strongest, wisest, or noblest, but he's chosen. That's how God works—he uses the normal, the mundane, the weak even, to showcase His power and wisdom.

God always has a plan.

Once Gideon is chosen, he's told to get his army together. When he does, God tells him that it's too big. God wants the glory, and a large army would be tempted to take credit for what God was doing, so they downsize. First they ask if anyone is afraid—22,000 leave. No big deal, right? They've still got 10,000. Then they stop to get a drink of water and everyone who kneels to drink is sent home—9,700. This leaves 300. Perfect.

The gear to help defeat Midian? Trumpets, empty pitchers, and torches. The plan? Blow the trumpets and smash the pitchers, then hold up the torches and yell, "For the Lord and for Gideon." God's plans are amazing because they are so unconventional. We would never come up with a plan like that because we don't have the power to be able to defeat an army with trumpets and torches. Instead, we have to strategize to play to our strengths. Not God. He knows and ensures the outcome, so his plan is always perfect, however absurd it may seem.

God has all power.

This person God had chosen and the plan he had scripted were for one main reason—to

show his people his power. God has the power to make the strongest person ineffective and the best plan fail, and he also has the power to make a weak person lead an army and an absurd plan work perfectly. When the army shows up and blasts the Midianites with their noise, they attack each other in utter confusion, Israel wins with battle, and the land has rest for forty years. To God alone belongs all power.

You might find yourself in a situation similar to the Israelites now. No, you're not hiding in a literal cave because your life is in danger, but you may be withdrawn inside because you've been hurt. You might not have physical enemies like the Midianites who've stolen your cattle, but you can quickly identify your spiritual enemies that have taken something from you—doubt, fear, lust, anger, bitterness, or general self-absorption. God has a plan to use your current situation as a backdrop against which he is going to show his power through your weakness. Take heart, valiant warrior, the God you serve is able.

RCBA Senior Adult Trip

Let's go see the sinkhole at the Corvette Museum. Damaged cars are still on display. We'll leave Robertson County Funeral Home at 9:30 Tuesday, August 12th. After the tour, we will have lunch at Ryan's Steakhouse in Bowling Green. Reservations deadline is Thursday, August 7th. Tickets available from Helen Baggett or the Association Office for \$17 each.



Sunday Morning Sermon Series

Join us at 10:30 AM for "Identity"

July 27 - The Relationship of Marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33

August 3 - Relationships At Home

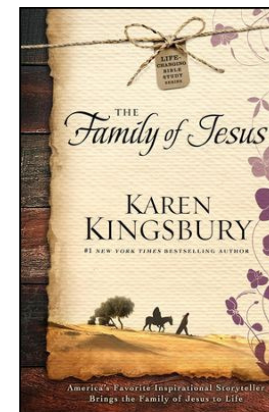
Ephesians 6:1-4

August 10 - Relationships At Work

Ephesians 6:5-9

August 17 - Relating to the Spiritual Realm

Ephesians 6:10-24

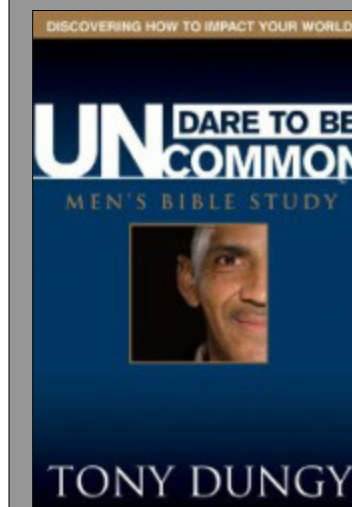


**FALL WOMEN'S BOOK
STUDY BEGINS
SEPTEMBER 7**

"The Family of Jesus"

- Karen Kingsbury

Contact Mary Ann Brooks to
reserve your book by Aug. 17.



**COMING
THIS FALL:**

**DARE TO BE
UNCOMMON**

*A Bible Study
for Men*

*Written By
Tony Dungy*