



SIMPSONVILLE

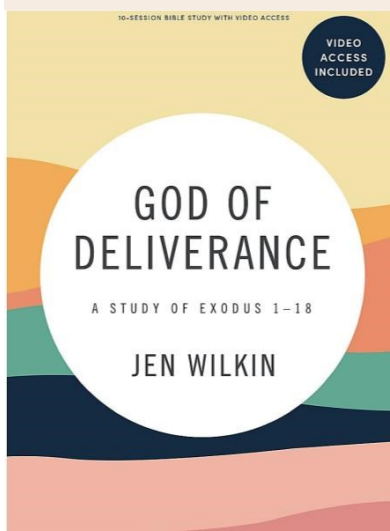
BAPTIST CHURCH

August 2022

Volume 33 Issue 8

Fall DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Begin Wednesday, August 17 at 6:15pm.



Women's Study

God of Deliverance: A Study of Exodus

By Jen Wilkin

Join us as we journey together through the book of Exodus and see how God is the "God of Deliverance" to the nation of Israel by rescuing them from slavery and bondage. Yet their story is our story-the same God who delivered Israel also delivers all those He loves from slavery to sin and the pharaohs of this world.

Book cost: \$16. Meets in Room 203.

Please note that books are recommended but not required.

Facilitator: Angie Melton

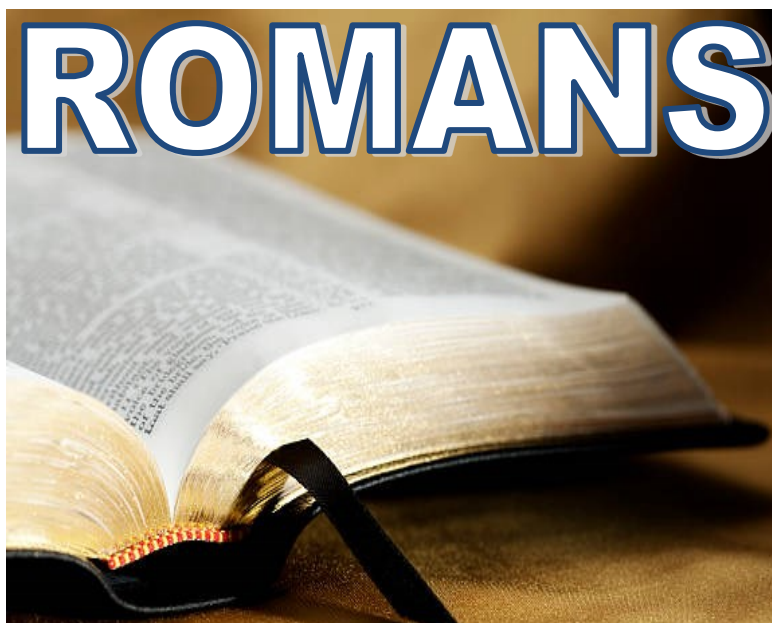
Men's Study

ROMANS

Within the pages of Romans, the apostle Paul powerfully shares his message of good news and eternal salvation with the church, advises believers on theological truths, gives practical applications for living the Christian life, and shows how God's righteousness comes by grace alone through faith in Christ. The book of Romans underscores that Christianity is far more than just a doctrine—it is an essential road map for daily living. Please join the men of SBC as we seek Jesus together!

Meets in Room 202.

Facilitator: Bob Melton



Kingdom Life by Steve Boyd

Remembering the Past while Anticipating the Future

Simpsonville Baptist Church has built four buildings in her history and is beginning the fifth building in August. The buildings include the original church sanctuary on Main Street, the 1923 church sanctuary (demolished almost 5 years ago), 1988 multi-purpose building (administrative & fellowship hall), and the 2003 Family Life Center.

We celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit in and through His church in the 1988 building for 34 years. Church buildings often hold much spiritual, mental and emotional experience. Such important attachments usually occur because of meaningful events. We have worked, studied God's Word, and fellowshiped TOGETHER in the 1988 administrative/fellowship hall building. Simply put, many memories abound...

Prayer meetings, Classic Worship, memorial services, marriages, deacon ordination and meetings, ministry meetings, administrative team meetings, tutoring, VBS snacks/crafts, student benefits and DNow, Student worship, marriage conference, baby showers, birthday celebrations, nursery, offices, adult classrooms, church and staff offices and more.

We now enter another historic moment for Simpsonville Baptist Church when we demolish one 4600 square foot building in favor of a new 19000+ square foot building. We are excited to begin construction on a new facility with these same worship, ministry and fellowship functions and events, but with more opportunity because of better space. It's appropriate that we give memory to the past while celebrating a new future of opportunity through a new building.

We must remember that a building is a tool for use, but the main element of the church is God's people exercising their Holy Spirit-given gifts to serve and to lead the lost to Christ as Lord and Savior. This has always been the purpose of the Church and we must pray that SBC will grow to embrace this as our first priority. Please pray for the worship, fellowship, and ministry of our church!

One-Year Prayer Emphasis beginning soon

With the construction of our new Multi-purpose Education Building beginning next month, the Bible Truth Seekers Adult Sunday School class is sponsoring/organizing a new Prayer Emphasis period for our church. This will be an opportunity for our entire congregation to participate in a year-long prayer emphasis scheduled for the 24-hour period on the 24th day of each month (Nehemiah 9:1-3, Hosea 6:6). This emphasis is scheduled to begin on September 24, but if enough participants sign up, we may want to begin on August 24.

Participants will sign up for time slots (15 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, etc.) when they will dedicate this specific time to praying on the 24th of each month. A place will be assigned on our church property for those who wish to come to a specific place and time for their prayer commitment. (This is said to work better than just doing it at home or one's place of work, but wherever it works best for each person is fine.) A prayer guide and current list of prayer needs will be provided at that site for pickup for use during one's prayer time that month.

Begin praying now that this emphasis will become a needed part of your prayer life. One that finds a dedicated time to pray for our church family and your personal family. Both have many needs. In many ways, COVID has given us a break in routine, and now may be the best time to start new schedules and commitments. Look for more information coming in our newsletter, bulletin, e-news and announcements. Pray that you will be led by the Holy Spirit to join with others in seeking God's direction for our lives and for the life of our church more than ever!

Bible Truth Seekers Class





Meadow Ridge Blessings Box

The Blessings Box at Meadow Ridge is used every day of the week.

Donation requests: cereal, oatmeal, cereal bars and PopTarts, canned meats, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, dried black beans, soup mixes, white rice, sugar, corn meal, toilet paper, paper towels, dish liquid, tuna helper-type products, vegetable oil, canned fruit and vegetables, bags of apples/potatoes. Donations of food can be dropped off at the church office or placed directly in the box. Monetary donations can be taken to the church office.



Thanks to Adventure Club our Blessings Box has been restocked and refilled!

Summer Apartment Ministry

We have had a great summer with the kids!

We regularly had 16-20 that attended VBS.

We had two craft days at the apartments with over 20 children participating.

We took 19 children to the movies (K-7th grade) with 5 adult chaperones. Three of the children had never been to a movie theater.



Haven of Rest Shoe Drive

Classic Worship hosted Debe Polich from Haven of Rest, Inez KY back in May. Following her visit, several in our SBC family decided to collect sneakers for the children returning to school in Inez. Through the leadership of Becky Straub, we collected 60 pairs of sneakers!! Our Bunco ladies collected money for two months to help with the purchases.

We are seeking an individual that would be able to take the shoes to Inez, KY. Please contact the church office 502 722-5246 if you can help!



NEXT STEP TRAINING

Next Step Training Program has had so many great things happening since the last update that I barely know where to begin! First of all, we graduated a new class on June 16th and celebrated with a pool party and potluck! Each student cooked something from scratch and brought it to the celebration. All of the families were able to attend and we had an incredible evening of celebrating the accomplishments of the students and sharing ideas for upcoming sessions!

Second of all, we now have 100% placement rate for our students! This means that every student took their next step! Some of them got jobs (The Forum, Stelised, Zappos, etc) and some entered college! One of our students is looking to change roles and we are in the process of finding him a new position that will help him develop new skills!

Third of all, the Simpsonville Farmers Market is in full swing and our current class of students have all participated! The customer base that we have built over the past 4 years have been incredibly warm and encouraging to all of our students as they gain customer service skills which as a general rule is not one of their strengths. They have all worked on getting out of their comfort zone and learned that talking to our amazing customers isn't so bad.

Fourth of all, we are going to have a pickleball tournament to benefit the program which is mainly funded through the Office of Vocational Rehab. This tournament will provide the needed funds to scholarship students who are not eligible through OVR, but who desperately need what God provides through our ministry!

Lastly, our fall session is set to begin on August 16th and we have enough students to form two groups! The growth is wonderful and manageable thanks to the Lord and His timing and leading. One of the groups will have students who are ages 18-20 and the other will have students ages 25-30 which makes it easier for each of the staff to tailor the class time toward the specific needs of the group.

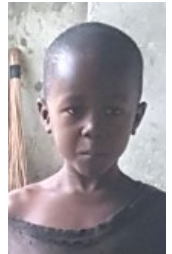


Suellen Barnes



Mijomboni Orphanage Update

We are very pleased to share that the children are settling down. We have received multiple reports about how well the children are doing. Nathan shared this update regarding Boniface, Juma and Chris- *"They hail from different villages but have something in common, humility. Always thankful. They feel privileged to be in the Rescue Center. It took them time to accept using a mattress, they had not seen! They freely play with others. Juma Kwaka being a Muslim, is taking time to pray for others. They had no formal schooling, they are now enrolled and enjoy school activities. Health wise, they have undergone a wonderful transformation, their hair has changed from brown to dark black. We are forced to buy them new clothes because of the increase of their body size!"*



Inflation is hitting the orphanage hard BUT they are growing most of what they eat and supplement with the goats and eggs.

We are very excited to share that our Vacation Bible School kids raised \$1,044.12 on behalf of the Rescue Center. This money will help offset the cost of rising prices in the area and will be used to help pay for an Administrator.

Global Prayer Needs for August

- 1 Jordan: Pray for a young mother held hostage by relatives for several weeks because of her Christian faith.
- 2 Afghanistan: Pray that our brothers and sisters will persevere through opposition and persecution.
- 3 Uzbekistan: Pray for more fellowship and collaboration among churches.
- 4 Lebanon: Pray for Christians whose houses were destroyed in August 2020 Beirut Port explosion.
- 5 Central African Republic: Pray for Believers who have lost loved ones and seen unspeakable violence.
- 6 Iraq: Pray for Brother Ahmed, a former Muslim who went missing in Baghdad in October 2020.
- 7 Nepal: Pray that laws designed to restrict churches will not be approved.
- 8 Algeria: Pray for Christians whose churches were closed by the government.
- 9 Sri Lanka: Pray for those ministering in Buddhist-controlled areas.
- 10 Tunisia: Pray for Christians who are isolated by distance from other Christians.
- 11 China: Pray that God will provide protection and mercy to those in difficult circumstances.
- 12 Eritrea: Pray for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of recently released prisoners of faith.
- 13 Kenya: Pray for a Somali Christian family who returned to their community to share the Gospel.
- 14 Laos: Pray that village leaders will follow the law that allows people the right to become Christians.
- 15 Egypt: Pray for Ali, whose father tried to kill him when he became a Believer through a satellite tv program.
- 16 Oman: Pray that Muslim seekers will come to Christ after reading distributed Bibles and Scripture portions.
- 17 Bhutan: Pray for an increase in youth engagement with the Gospel.
- 18 Kuwait: Pray for the protection of Kuwaiti believers, who are meeting in increasing numbers.
- 19 Turkmenistan: Pray that new church leaders will replace pastors who fled the country.
- 20 Syria: Pray that the many Christian converts from Islam will grow in knowledge and faith.
- 21 United Arab Emirates: Pray for a woman and her children hiding from family because of their faith in Christ.
- 22 Somalia: Pray for the families of Somali believers who had been killed for their faith.
- 23 Indonesia: Pray for pastors facing financial crises, especially those who rent worship space.
- 24 Uganda: Pray for the courage and safety of Christian converts from Islam who are now sharing the Gospel.
- 25 Iran: Pray that Iranians who have dreams and visions will come to faith in Christ.
- 26 Mali: Pray for those proclaiming the Gospel to the north, a stronghold for Islamist activity.
- 27 North Korea: Pray for South Korean missionaries who are imprisoned in North Korea for their Gospel work.
- 28 Morocco: Pray for the wisdom of Believers caught by secret police.
- 29 Yemen: Pray that the faith of persecuted Christians who leave the country will not be shaken.
- 30 Ethiopia: Pray for Believers who face persecution from both Muslim and traditional Christians.
- 31 Burkina Faso: Pray that widows will be able to overcome the trauma of seeing their husbands killed.



Sylvia Hinton, daughter of Brent and Karen Hinton, is spending much of her summer serving as a summer missionary. Idul Adha is the Islamic holiday where Muslims offer a spotless or a good goat/lamb/cow to Allah. After sacrifice, there is a weighty emphasis to share the meat with the poor.

"The celebration starts on Saturday night, July 9th, with the last call to prayer of the day continues all night long with special prayers. The next day, Sunday, July 10th, Muslims will rise up early to kill their animal and offer prayers. Then, it is time to cook and prepare for friends and family to come over to feast."

A week ago, KK invited a couple and I to come and experience the holiday. KK made us food to eat and we sat around the table and talked for hours. In many of our conversations we had, KK explained the origin of the holiday which comes from the story of Abraham and the almost sacrificing of Ishmael. In the Islamic belief, the chosen line is through Ishmael, not Isaac. Amy, JD (her husband), and I were able to ask questions and have the opportunity to retell the story of Abraham and Isaac while discussing the good news."



Please remember Sylvia in your prayers this summer!

Adult Growth & Discipleship Update

The Bible teaches that the church's primary job is to make disciples. Jesus was very clear in Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV):

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ..."

In the Biblical sense, all Christians should be disciples just like we should all be ministers, servants, missionaries, etc. But Jesus also said that being a true disciple isn't easy. Listen to Jesus' words in Luke 9:23 (NIV):

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

Our goal in discipleship is to utilize Community Spaces and Learning Spaces within the Church to move us toward a greater level of commitment and to becoming more and more like Jesus. These spaces include Sunday School, Small Groups, Men's and Women's Ministries, Core Classes (doctrine, theology, etc.), Bible Studies (how to read the Bible, the story of the Bible, books of the Bible, etc.), Spiritual Habits (Prayer, Evangelism, Serving, Missions, etc.), Family Support, and more.

It's almost August and Summer is flying by! Before we know it, Fall will be here and school will be starting back. Our new Sunday School Year is about to start, and our discipleship programs will be starting up soon. I hope you will plan on being part of our great Sunday School Program as well as our men's and women's Fall studies:

Sunday School – We have some great classes and some AWESOME teachers! If you are not currently involved in Sunday School be sure to visit one of our great classes at either 8:30am or 11:00am on Sunday. Being part of a good Sunday School class is essential to our growth and helps us to have a better community experience. If you need more info on our classes, please let me know or see any of our staff members. We will help you find a class that is great for you.

Discipleship — I invite you to take part in our Fall Adult Discipleship Programs beginning Wednesday evening August 17. Here is the current Fall schedule for adults:

- **Women:** God of Deliverance – A Study in Exodus led by Angie Melton Room 203
- **Men:** A Study in Romans led by Bob Melton Room 202
- **Coming Soon** – New Members Orientation (TBA), Spiritual Gifts (TBD), and more.

I hope you will join us starting Wednesday evening at 6:15pm for one of these great classes that will surely help you grow in your walk with the Lord.

Hope to see you Sunday!

Bro. Billy

2 Peter 3:18



A few reasons to join a class NOW!

† Sunday School encourages spiritual interaction between the students and the teachers, as well as providing a comprehensive way of learning as a group.

† Assembling together with the Saints is a form of fellowship that we are all commanded to do as believers and followers of Jesus Christ. Being together in community is a vital part of Christianity.

† Gathering together in community enables us to have knowledge of fellow church members and to understand the needs of others within the body.

† Well frankly, Sunday School is fun. Ask anyone who is currently in a class, if they LOVE their class and they will tell you YES! If you are NOT in a class, you are missing out.

8:30am Sunday School Classes

Vineyard Class	Room 201	Rick Taylor
Pursuit	Room 202	Byron Thompson
Pastor's Class	Room 205	Steve Boyd
Joy Class	Room 206	Mike Moore

11am Sunday School Classes

Truth4Life	Room 201	Mike Moore
Quest	Room 202	Cindy Childers
Bible Truth Seekers	Room 203	Lowell Ashby
Women's Class	Room 205	Linda Otterback
Multiply	Security Office	Ryan Gossom
SALT	Room 106	Matt Moore

Children's & Students Classes are held at 11am only.

Adult Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day & Luncheon

Sunday, August 28
Luncheon for teachers at 12:15pm in the FLC.

Please contact the church office at 502 722-5246 if you plan on attending.

Class members: This would be the perfect day to bring an apple for your teacher!



NURSING MOTHERS' ROOM

PRIVACY PLEASE

been made into a nursing room for new moms during the worship service.

Did You Know?

The former Adventure Club office has temporarily



Children's Ministry Worker Training & Luncheon

**Sunday, August 7 at
12:15pm**

Training will be led by Jesse Wright.
The meal will be catered by
Jeff Read.

Please sign up in the foyer of the FLC or
contact Jesse
at jesse@simpsonvillebaptist.com to
RSVP your attendance.

The great evangelist D.L. Moody once said, "If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!" Some powerful words by a man who was responsible for reaching millions of souls for Christ! Moody understood when you reach a child, you reach a parent; *and that is why I am so excited to relaunch our children's ministry at SBC! Here are a few things you can expect coming up on August 21st!*

- Updated security and check-in system.
- Children's Church for K-2 grade. (3rd grade and up will join family in worship)
- New video-based teaching material for all ages for Sunday and Wednesday programs.
- A detailed schedule for each hour. Children's Church, Sunday School, Wednesday's.
- All resources prepared weekly for volunteers: lesson, crafts, snacks, games, etc.

My goal is to put together weekly programming that points children to Jesus, communicates to our community that we value children, and makes it easy for volunteers to lead well. On August 21st, we take the first of many steps in moving toward these goals. It will happen in phases, but we simply cannot move forward without committed volunteers. Would you please be in prayer about serving in this area? I know things have been frustrating, but change is coming! I want our children's ministry to be life-giving to our children and our volunteers as well. Please join me in praying about the future of the children's ministry and for the volunteers to make these changes possible. If you would like to serve, see the volunteer card below, and if you have any suggestions or ideas on how to help us improve, contact me at Jesse@simpsonvillebaptist.com.

Volunteer Sign-Up		Simpsonville KIDS
Yes, I want to serve in Kids Ministry!		
Sunday Morning	Wednesday Evening	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9:45am, monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:15pm, weekly	
<input type="checkbox"/> 9:45am, quarterly	<input type="checkbox"/> 6:15pm, monthly	
<input type="checkbox"/> 11am, weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot commit to a regular schedule, but I am willing to serve 2-3 times per year as a last minute backup	
<input type="checkbox"/> 11am, monthly		
<input type="checkbox"/> I cannot commit to a regular schedule, but I am willing to serve 2-3 times per year as a last minute backup		
Name: _____		
Phone: _____		
E-mail: _____		
For more information, contact Pastor Jesse at jesse@simpsonvillebaptist.com .		

It's been a busy summer for our students and children's ministries. We had back-to-back student MFuge camp and Centri Kid Camp ongoing. The youth spent a beautiful and very fun day at Canoe KY and we squeezed in a student lunch at a local restaurant!





Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville
Thursday, August 25
6:30pm

Equip and sharpen your leadership skills in
Children's Ministry
Student Ministry
Sunday School Teachers
Women's Ministry
Evangelism

The church will pay all fees.

Sign up in the foyer of the FLC or contact Billy at
billy@simpsonvillebaptist.com
if you would like to attend.

Church Staff Job Opportunity

Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary is to support the mission and vision of the church through administering the finances of SBC and Adventure Club under the leadership of the Senior Pastor, Finance Team and Personnel Team.

Minimum Qualifications

Excellent organizational skills; Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; High degree of accuracy and attention to detail; Strong follow-through and time management skills; Ability to independently perform multiple tasks and handle changing priorities successfully in a fast-paced environment; Solid understanding of basic bookkeeping and accounting principles; Experience with spreadsheets and data entry.

Desired Qualifications

Knowledge of banking practices and fun accounting;
 Experience with church or non-profit finances.

Custodian

The Custodian is responsible for the daily cleaning and upkeep of the FLC/Worship Building and the Youth Building of SBC and Adventure Club.

Minimum Qualifications

Good organizational skills; Good communication and interpersonal skills; High degree of accuracy and attention to detail; Dependable; Strong follow-through and time management skills; Custodial experience in an office, school or church environment.

Financial Secretary resumes can be sent to
sbckypersonnel@gmail.com.; Billy Bell will receive the
 Custodian resumes at billy@simpsonvillebaptist.com.



GoodTime Travelers Adult Day Trip
Howard Steamboat Museum
 in Jeffersonville, IN
Tuesday, August 23

We will leave from the church at 10:15am,
tour the museum, and enjoy lunch at a
local restaurant.

Take a step back into the historic Steamboat Era. This beautiful 1894-built Mansion is a 22-room marvel built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. It was the home of the famous Howard steamboat building family of Jeffersonville. The collection features original furnishings, brass gasoliers, stained glass windows, intricate carvings throughout and a magnificent black walnut grand staircase replicated from a famous steamboat. Master craftsmen from the family shipyard created much of the exquisite decor features in the mansion. Howard built steamboats included, the luxurious J.M. White, the speed record-holding City of Louisville and the popular Indiana. Models, photographs, paintings, half-hull models, tools, and other amazing historic artifacts abound in our unique Jeffersonville museum.

Sign up in the foyer of the FLC to reserve your seating.

Classic Worship is taking a break in August.
Please join us on
Thursday, September 1 at 10am.

Guest Speaker: Billy Bell



Sunday,
August 21

Please contact
 Steve Boyd at
steve@simpsonvillebaptist.com
 if you or a family member would
 like to participate.

Church Family Prayer Needs

Byron Thompson
Vicki Moore
Amy Griggs
Chuck Rhoads
Robert Woodson
Edith McGowan
Allen Ruble
Bruce Brantley
Christina Ruble
Larry Kerr
Bonnie Pruitt

Men's Summer Golf League

Weissinger Hills in Shelbyville

August 4 & 18
September 1 & 18

Cost: \$20 per night for 9 holes.



Our Simpsonville Baptist Church Thursday night men's golf league is open to everyone, so feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. I would like to know if you are coming, so email or text me the week of our Thursday night outings, so I'll know how many to expect and schedule.

Lowell Ashby

502 777-2540 or lowellashby9@gmail.com



August

- 1 Judy Ayers
- 2 Mike Moore, Doug Wilkins
- 3 Cheryl Read
- 6 Johnnie Gowin, Mike Hammond
- 7 Mark McAllister
- 10 Sarah Garner, James Minor, Logan Rogers
- 16 Gerri Boyd, Charlotte Bradley
- 18 Alan Straub
- 21 Matt Garner, Luc Kramer
- 23 Juanita Myers
- 25 Paula Garner
- 27 Mike Dugle, James Renfro, Marie White, John Vaughan
- 28 Taff Moore
- 29 Gary Huff, Marilyn Rhoads
- 30 Jude Miller, Lowry Miller, Carley Stein
- 31 Dale Sanford

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

**Saturday,
August 2
7:30am**

**Cracker Barrel in
Shelbyville**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

**Wednesday Programming Begins
August 17 at 6:15pm**

Men's Discipleship-Room 202
Women's Discipleship-Room 203
Students-Warehouse
Children K-5th-Gym
Preschoolers-Room 107

Nursery available for our Discipleship classes

**Read Through
The Bible
Challenge
AUGUST**

- 1. Acts 23
- 2. Acts 24
- 3. Acts 25
- 4. Acts 26
- 5. Acts 27
- 6. Acts 28
- 7. Romans 1
- 8. Romans 2
- 9. Romans 3
- 10. Romans 4
- 11. Romans 5
- 12. Romans 6
- 13. Romans 7
- 14. Romans 8
- 15. Romans 9
- 16. Romans 10
- 17. Romans 11
- 18. Romans 12
- 19. Romans 13
- 20. Romans 14
- 21. Romans 15
- 22. Romans 16
- 23. 1 Corinthians 1
- 24. 1 Corinthians 2
- 25. 1 Corinthians 3
- 26. 1 Corinthians 4
- 27. 1 Corinthians 5
- 28. 1 Corinthians 6
- 29. 1 Corinthians 7
- 30. 1 Corinthians 8
- 31. 1 Corinthians 9

BUNCO NIGHT



In July our Bunco ladies collected funds to help pay for sneakers for the children which are being served at Haven of Rest in Inez, KY.



**BUNCO will take a break in August.
We will resume again on Thursday, September 1 at 6:30pm**

Mending Widows' Hearts-Widows with Widows Ministry

Friday, August 19 at 10am in the Warehouse.

Kathy Nickel will do a brief presentation on ALC Pregnancy Resource Center.

Spiritual Intimacy

3 Ways to Forge a Stronger Marriage



On my second date with my wife, our relationship hit its first speed bump: ordering pizza. She loved veggie pizza; I couldn't pick broccoli out of a lineup. Awkward, even for the server, who had to give us "a few more minutes" 17 times. Years later, we realized we'd each experienced a silent "uh-oh." It all worked out, thankfully—these days we compromise with supreme.

[We're often desperate to forge a connection with our spouses](#), scared to death our interests will diverge and our marriage will crumble. We tend to think the deepest bonds between people are formed by shared interests, likes and dislikes. We worry if those passions change, we'll grow apart. As Christ followers, though, we have an unbreakable connection with our spouses: the Holy Spirit. Therefore, spiritual intimacy forges the deepest, most significant bonds between wives and husbands, because our spiritual lives make up the core of who we are. Spiritual connections create stronger intimacy than shared vocations, hobbies, or senses of humor. Since our relationship with God can always grow, that means our marriages can, too.

3 ways to grow spiritual intimacy in your marriage

1. Get real.

Are you able to be honest with God? To open up and talk to Him about what's really going on in your life? That's the first obstacle to hurdle in your path to spiritual intimacy. Your spouse can be your greatest help, but do you feel safe communicating that to them? Sometimes we need a different form of communication to open up. A letter or text might be a better way to express difficult things. You can write it in an hour or over two weeks, look back over it to see if you're communicating clearly, and even ask a friend to give it a glance. You might even "prime the pump" by expressing your fears and needs off the bat in a separate letter to lay the foundation for a helpful conversation. If you're still struggling, the way forward may be to [enlist a trusted friend, pastor, or counselor to help](#). Tell them the struggle you're facing and ask for help to open up with God and with your spouse.

2. Listen well.

Sometimes, when my wife shares how she's doing with God, I get into fix-it mode. Instead of listening and empathizing, I tell her how to solve her problems. Ugh. We create safe-sharing opportunities by committing to listening well without judgment or advice unless it's specifically requested. We can create that space by modeling that posture and politely asking for it. My wife reminds me of this by saying, "Babe, can I process something with you?" That language tips me off that it's not problem-solving time.

3. Connect with God together.

Once you're ready to build intimacy with God and with your spouse, why not kill two birds with one stone and do it together by praying? Being honest with God and your spouse and asking Him to draw you closer together seems to me like pouring rocket fuel into your Honda's gas tank. Reading the Bible together can also be a great connector, but fair warning: For me, it was a bit of a learning curve. I began our marriage thinking I was supposed to lead my wife spiritually. That's true, but what does that really mean? In year one, I thought it meant knowing the most and being the best. Instead of learning together, I was attempting to teach and impress. Needless to say, those early times reading the Bible together fell flat. Sara wanted a confidant, not a Bible study leader.

The leaders in our lives aren't the ones who tell us all the answers or lord knowledge over us. They invest in us, care about us, and sacrifice for us. I usually have to take what I've assumed about leading my wife and flip it on its head—ask her advice, admit I don't know an answer, confess my shortcomings. Here's a crazy thought—I should ask her what she desires of me in a leader! Only took me a shade under a decade to figure out.

A Vision of Flourishing

The prophet Ezekiel experienced some tough times. He saw the violent exile of the Israelites from the Promised Land because of their unfaithfulness. To encourage Ezekiel and His people, God shows him a beautiful vision in [chapter 47](#): a trickle of water that grows into a wide, tree-lined river. That vision of flourishing reveals God's plan for our relationship with Him, growing into eternity. That's God's dream for our marriage, too. As we knit our hearts to God more and more, we're drawn closer to Him and closer to each other. Whether we've been married for a week or half a century, growth is possible. More intimacy awaits as we focus on our relationship with Jesus.

And I know that in your marriage things might not be great right now—you might be struggling, drifting apart. There's hope, though. Adversity has been the heat that forges intimacy for my wife and me. As we've moved toward Jesus together in whatever situation we've found ourselves, fear fades away as our hearts knit together and we know that nothing can tear us apart.

Not even pizza toppings.

**Hey,
have you met...?**



Hello Simpsonville Baptist Church Family!

It's been approximately 16 years since we were members at SBC. Our previous time at SBC was filled with some of the best church memories from the 31 years Michelle and I have been walking with our Lord. When we walked back in the doors a few months ago we were greeted with so much love and warmth that it felt like being home!! Since our time away, we've served as youth leaders, a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and watched most of our 6 children become adults. God has blessed us richly! Numbers 6:24-26 was reminded to us after a few years of struggle, which says "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace." Thank you for bringing us home to SBC!

Andy, Michelle, and Esther Woodward



Jay, Liz & Baylee Branstetter

The Branstetters are a busy family. They own Berry Bee Acres here in Simpsonville where they sell honey and U-Pick blackberries. Liz serves in our nursery and you will find Jay in the band each week. Baylee comes early on Sundays and helps the Security Team get organized and assists in Children's Church. Baylee is also a sponsor of one of the children in our African orphanage.

They enjoy a good round of Sequence occasionally!



Community Garden Help Needed

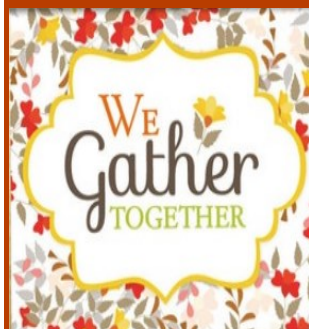
Debbie Willman has been single-handedly taking care of the garden at Meadow Ridge and she could use a little help.

Please give her a call at 502-777-9852 if you have an hour or two available each week!



Window Air Conditioner Free to A Needy Home

**Contact: Dana Sailings
502-930-9608**

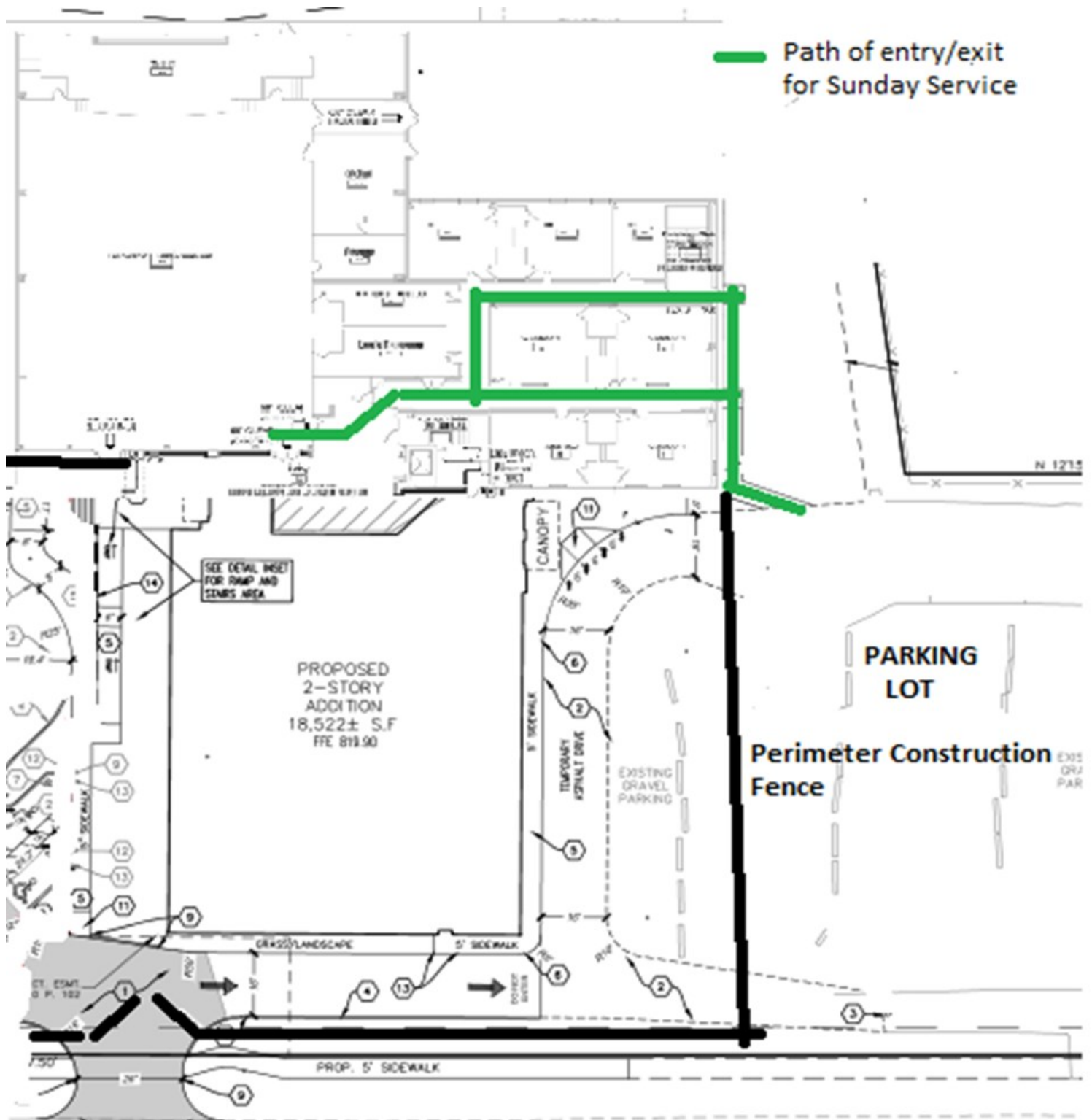


We Gather Together has been on a summer hiatus but is about to get back into full swing! We had such a great time meeting new people as well as connecting with old friends over a meal. At the end of our winter/spring time of gathering, the hosts gathered for a meal and it was delightful! We got to know each other in a comfortable setting and grow deeper in our connections. When we know our family, it is easier to serve them in times of need and to serve alongside of them to serve others.

If you would like to participate and share a meal with a group of friends (new and old) from SBC, please email me at WeGatherTogetherSBC@gmail.com. The commitment is three meals over a period of three months. You will be placed in three different groups so you will have a chance to dine with 12-20 different people! If you would be willing to be a host, please let me know that, too. Hosting simply means that you will open up your house to three different groups over those three months. You don't have to provide all of the food. Be creative! Have a dessert meeting, have a pizza party, have a potluck!

Suellen Barnes





NEW ENTRANCE UPDATE

Next week the new access sidewalk is scheduled to be poured. On the following Sunday a temporary construction fence will be put in place around the Fellowship Hall. This will result in the need for new entry into both hallways on the North end of the building as shown on the attached drawing in green. The building is scheduled to be demolished between the 1st and 12th of August.

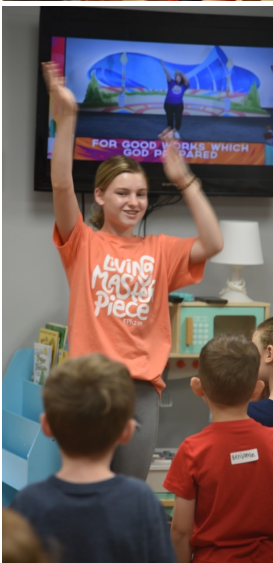
Please note the green pathways that show the new entrances for Adventure Club and Worship will be at the end of Nursery and Children's Ministry hallways on the first floor.



A giant thank you to our Adventure Club leadership, Jill, Teresa and Tracy for leading our Vacation Bible School emphasis this year! They wrangled, with the help of 62 volunteers, an average of 192 children for the week.

There were two mission projects this year. The children collected 1,168 school supply items to help send to Rattlesnake Ridge! The girls collected more than the boys so they were treated to a color run!

The VBS offering total was \$1,044.12 for our Mijomboni Orphanage. Our 4-5's class raised the most money and they were treated to a candy buffet!





Staying connected to friends, family, and small groups has never been easier. Watch content together on RightNow Media with our new groups feature. One person can play, pause, and rewind videos for the entire group. Everyone can use the chat window as the video plays. Use the groups feature to learn, encourage one another, and grow in your faith.

New Feature: See your whole group and discuss the series with the new built-in video chat function! Also, you can connect all of your devices to RightNow Media?

Go to <https://help.rightnowmedia.org/hc/en-us/articles/4415483863821-Connect-Your-Devices> to connect to FireTV, Roku, Apple, Chromecast, Android or PC.

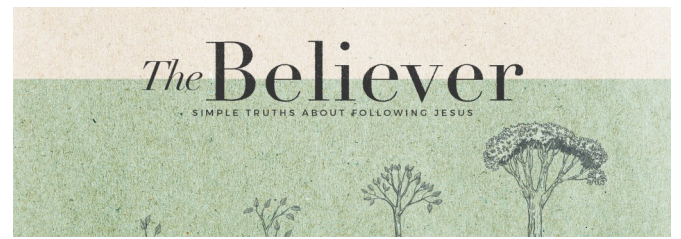
Just Ask Devotional

J.D. GREEAR

Want to grow in your prayer life? In this seven-day devotional series, pastor J.D. Greear guides us through common questions and misunderstandings about prayer. He focuses on Jesus's perspective on prayer, encouraging us to pray often, boldly, and with expectation.



The Believer Series is Pastor Jim Cymbala's brand new video series for those beginning their walk with the Lord or any believer in Christ who wants to go back to the basics of the Christian faith. Topics include "Salvation," "The Importance of God's Word," and "Fellowship with God." Study guide included.



In Light of Eternity Francis Chan

Caution: This film was shot on location in East Africa and contains mature themes and brief images of extreme suffering and naked children.

For their twentieth wedding anniversary, Francis and Lisa Chan traveled to East Africa to visit a ministry committed to helping young women out of the sex industry and providing for orphans and children in need. At the time, they were writing a book on marriage, later published as, *You and Me Forever*. After experiencing the work of the ministry in Africa, they decided to self-publish the book as a way of maximizing the book's earning potential and devote the proceeds to the ministry.

Using their story, this film offers a powerful glimpse into the light God is shining in the dark places of Africa by telling the tales of transformed lives as well as those who devoted their resources toward the service of others. But this film is also an invitation to consider what God has given to us that we can extend to those in need for the sake of introducing them to their greatest need—a relationship with Jesus Christ.



Dear Church Family...

I wanted to thank you for the sympathy gift in the form of a Kroger gift card. It is yet another way that you care for me and I am grateful.

Valerie Hebdige

The Family of Lewis Brewer appreciates so much the marvelous brunch provided by the wonderful people of Simpsonville Baptist Church. You greatly blessed all of us with your kindness during this difficult time.



Pickleball is going strong and growing! Since the last update, we have hosted two evenings of "intro to pickleball" for youth. One was to the community and one was to our youth group. Both were huge hits (no pun intended), and it was so fun to be a part of introducing a fun game to the next generation and seeing parents play with their kids! Our community of players is very welcoming and inviting to newbies and oldies, LOL!

In addition, we are going to host a pickleball tournament September 23rd and 24th to benefit the Next Step Training Program! The brackets will be fun and out of the norm for a tournament so as to include everyone no matter their skill level, age or length of time with the sport. Please go to www.nextstepky.org to get more info about signing up to play and to volunteer.

Also, pickleball times changing for the rest of summer! We are going to push our start time back to **6:30pm** to accommodate summer work and commitments. *Suellen Barnes*



This year we are combining our annual Back-To-School event with our annual Church Picnic!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

5-7PM

Held at the Parklands (Price Waterhouse Pavilion near Egg Lawn).

**Fun for the entire family including
karaoke, spike ball, nine-square, children's playground & splash park,
apple cider-making.**

(Bring your fishing poles and a bag of apples if you want fresh cider.)

Each family should bring a side dish or dessert and lawn chairs!

Volunteers Needed!!

Please contact Jesse Wright at jesse@simpsonvillbaptist.com or sign up in the foyer if you can help.

**Simpsonville Baptist Church
PO Box 56
Simpsonville KY 40067**