



First Baptist Church
Exalt • Equip • Extend

F B C Connection

November 2019

A Word From the Pastor

Josh Schmidt

Family,

The Lord has blessed us incredibly since the last time I have talked to you.

We have had people join our church through letter transfer, and baptisms! We have had great attendance numbers in a very cold season! We also have seen you give generously to many causes in the kingdom. All of our youth sponsorships for *Xtreme Winter* have been taken care of and it looks like we are going to be taking a massive group! Thank you so much for your willingness to give.

This Thanksgiving season, I am so reminded of all the things I am thankful for.

I am thankful that I have a Savior who pulled me out of the depths of my sin. And, while I still sin every day, He enables me to serve with His grace and forgive me daily. I am thankful for a wife who is my rock. Lauren, the First-Lady, never



expects praise or recognition and she is willing to serve in the back-ground. She lets me pastor, she lets me make mistakes, she raises our child and she walks so close to Christ.

I am thankful for a beautiful son, Benjamin. Lauren and I pray daily that the Lord would one day save Him and use Him. He is our treasure.

I am thankful for a church staff and deacons that are dedicated. These men make my life easier. They lift my burdens. They let me make mistakes. They love me (sometimes!). I am grateful for them.

I am thankful for you. Yes, you who are reading this. You are the reason that I do what I do. God is doing something wild here right now. We have to protect it. Thank you for letting me be me and forgiving me when that isn't enough. I am grateful that God has given me 2 years here. If he keeps me here for 5, 10 or 50 more, I will be so grateful!

Pastor Josh

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Pastor Blogger



Josh Schmidt is the latest member of the Schmidt dynasty here at First Baptist Grayson. He is a man of many hats. At church he is Pastor, husband, father, son, the 2nd VP of our State Conference, member of every committee under the sun, chief contributor to the church newsletter among other things. Outside the church he's a great friend to many, Chaplain to Champlin's guys, avid reader, an Old Testament scholar, taco aficionado and last but not least . . . A **BLOGGER**.

No that's not some derogatory term, it's someone who writes an online journal called a blog.

The entries in his blog are varied and give the reader insights into Josh the man (should that be Josh THE MAN?) and not just Pastor Josh. Of course, being a Pastor the subjects most often concern the Christian walk.

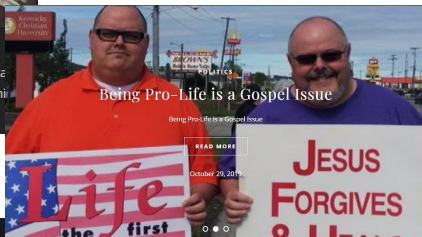
You can check it out at:

<http://pastorjoshschmidt.com/>



PASTOR & BLOGGER

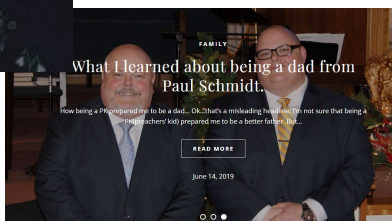
Josh and his son, Benjamin. The goodness the boy looks like his momma.



Being Pro-Life is a Gospel Issue



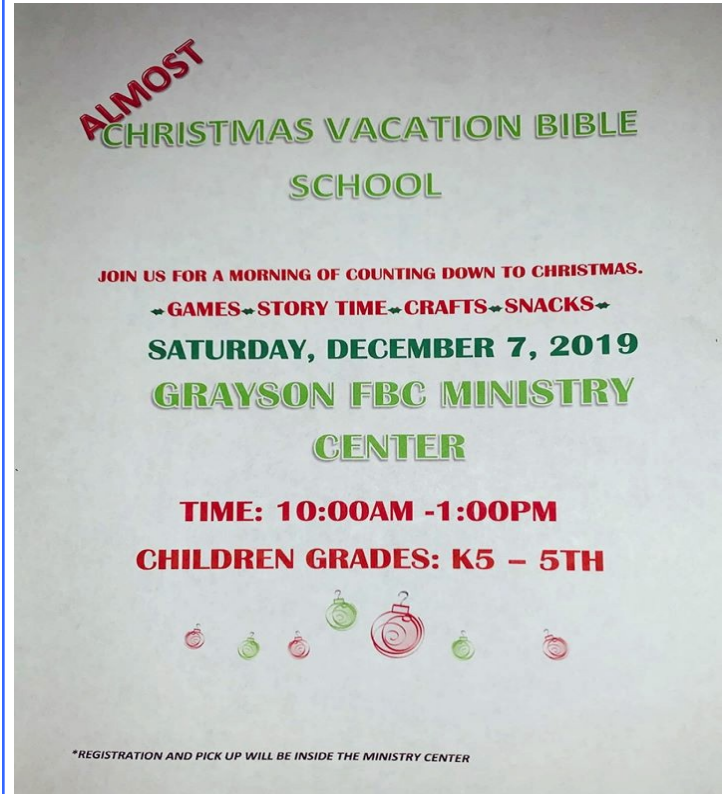
BOOK REVIEW
Adorning the Dark: Thoughts on Community, Calling and the Mystery of Making.



FAMILY
What I learned about being a dad from Paul Schmidt.

Almost Christmas VBS Almost Here

SEE Ronda Stevens for details . . .



Food Baskets

Thanks to all the Life Groups and individuals that donated to our Thanksgiving basket drive. Twelve full boxes and several bags of extra items were collected for the Prichard Family Resource Center's Thanksgiving baskets.

-Mary Jane Suttles



Contributors for this Issue

Josh Schmidt, Ronda Stevens, Amy Burton, Barbara Satterly, Joy Thompson, Tim Champlin, Erin Thompson, Vicky Riffe, Sid Mosser, Jacob Dotson, Mary Jane Suttles, Mary Nelson, Rick Thompson

TELL US WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE

Email us at fbcnewsletter@foothills.net with suggestions for articles in your FBC Connection!

Pastor on the KBC Convention



This past year, I had the great privilege of serving as the Second-Vice President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. While this was a lot of work that took

me away from Grayson at times, it has been a blessing for me and a blessing for our church.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is a network of 2350 Kentucky Baptist Churches and 750,000 members who partner together for missions, education, and religious liberty. It has existed since 1837, 8 years even before the Southern-Baptist Convention, and Kentucky Baptists led the way by creating the Cooperative Program which was later adopted by the Southern-Baptist Convention.

One of the exciting things that happened in the past year as I served was the calling of our new Executive-Director Treasurer, Todd Gray. Todd is a friend and I was so personally blessed that he is God's man for the job.

At FBC Grayson, 9.5% of our annual budget is designated for the Cooperative Program through the KBC. This generally amounts to around \$30,000 that we give for missions in the state. In the life of our church, that total has exceeded \$570,000!

In the last 2 years, we have been near the top 100 in baptisms out of the 2350 churches in our convention. I anticipate we will break that next year. It's all for God's glory.

Thank you for letting me serve as your 2nd Vice President for the convention. It was my honor to represent our state, and my friends at FBC Grayson!



KBDR in Kenya

First Baptist Grayson member Roger Whitehead's work with Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief was featured in a November 14th article in

Kentucky Today by Mark Maynard.

The article chronicles the efforts of Roger and three other Kentucky Baptists in Kenya. Relating how this was a different kind of trip for the men in that they were not doing the type of work the group is normally involved in doing. This time they were motorcycle mechanics and Bible story tellers. Roger was involved in the Bible story telling part of the ministry along with Brother Wayne Terry from Garner Baptist Church. Thank you Roger!



New Church Logo

Thanks to Jacob Dotson for the church's new great looking logo!



Ronnie Dotson Featured

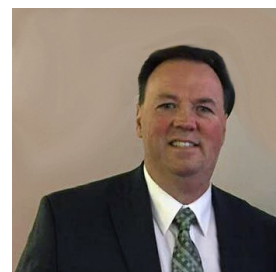
In a November 6th issue of **Kentucky Today**

(KentuckyToday.com)

Mark Maynard featured First Baptist Grayson member Ronnie Dotson, Superintendent of Carter County Schools.

In the article Maynard highlights that in 2019 the system was one of only two in the entire state to receive a 4-star rating at the elementary, middle and high school levels!

FBC Grayson congratulates Ronnie and all the staffs of the Carter County Schools for the job well done!



Bereavement Committee



As Pastor I am not supposed to show favoritism . . . BUT . . . of all the committees in the church, I believe that the most dedicated is our Bereavement Committee. It is a blessing that they are dedicated because unfortunately we have had to rely on them quite a bit over the last several years. It is such a blessing to people in our church and in our community when we minister to them through food, fellowship and prayer after the burial of one of their loved ones.

I am so thankful for Beverly Stapleton and Helen Rose Dowd for leading this committee! Rick Thompson took some great pictures of the committee in action during Lona Snyder's meal.

If you see any of our committee members, let them know how thankful you are that they serve in this way!



*That their hearts might be comforted,
being knit together in love . . .*

Colossians 2:2

Deacons and Wives Provide Widows Dinner



Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child was a big success this year with First Baptist Grayson again serving as an area Collection Center.

Through the efforts of 27 volunteers working over 300 hours under the direction of Vicky Riffe, 2,482 boxes were collected November 18th through the 25th. Boxes were brought in from 32 area churches to add to the 461 boxes collected here at FBC Grayson.

On Nov. 25th a crew of around a dozen loaded 142 shipping boxes onto a truck supplied by Brother Harold Dyer for transport to Morehead to be loaded onto trucks for shipment to North Carolina. From there the boxes will be shipped to locations in various places all over the world for girls and boys so they can have gifts from believers here in our area to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Of course, included in each box are materials so that the boys and girls will be able to learn about the reason we celebrate Christmas and to know about our Savior and hopefully come to know Him.

A HUGE thank you to all those that packed boxes, volunteered and in any way helped this year!



A special thanks goes out to Vicky Riffe whose tireless efforts played a HUGE part in making FBCG's role of area collection site for Operation Christmas Child in 2019 a big success. Vicky coordinated volunteers, baked, cooked, spoke on the radio, loaded boxes, greeted visitors, compiled statistics, kept records and anything else that needed to be done during the 45+ hour-over 8 day collection period. She has gone above and beyond the job description in order to ensure success of the project.

BE SURE TO LET HER KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE HER DEDICATION!



I'M THANKFUL THIS YEAR FOR . . .



I am thankful for the gift of Salvation. This year has been a tough one for our family. In the midst of our 12 year old son fighting for his life, we had peace that if God chose to take him, he would be in heaven. Then, the morning after William woke up, my brother and his wife woke to their precious baby girl unresponsive. Because of our promise through Jesus, they will see Natalie again! Three months later, our beautiful, faithful Marmee passed away after fighting Alzheimer's. She is the reason that we all know Jesus. It's been hard to watch my Poppop learn to live without his bride of 67 years. The one thing that gets us through is the hope that we will all be together again!

William's recovery has been miraculous, but the true miracle is that God loves us even though we don't deserve it. The true miracle is that He loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son so that we might be saved! The fact that any of us have the chance to go to heaven is a miracle that I am forever thankful for and keeps me moving each day!

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Amy Burton



I am grateful/thankful for my salvation! I PRAISE JESUS for this awesome privilege!

Barbara Satterly



This thanksgiving I'm incredibly thankful for the FBC Connection team and their hard work ever single month to keep our members informed and entertained!

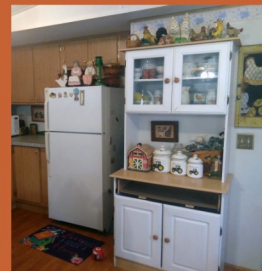
(RICK IF YOU DONT PUT THIS IN YOUR FIRED!)

Josh Schmidt

A Thank You From Diana & Angie Boggs

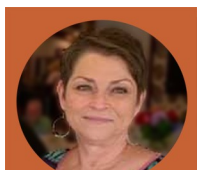


Words cannot tell my church family how much we appreciate all you've done for us to get our new home. This new home is truly a blessing, we don't have to worry about leaks everywhere and worrying the house may collapse. We are enjoying living in our new home so much! Thanks again for all you've done for us. We love our church family so much. God bless each of you!
Diana & Angie Boggs



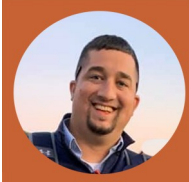
I'm thankful for the presence of God, so near and constant in my life.

Joy Thompson



This year I am thankful that God brought us to FBC to serve and worship. Thankful for a Pastor that preaches the Bible and loves his church!! God's mercy and faithfulness!!

Ronda Stevens



I'm thankful for Rick Thompson!
District Coach of the Year,
Tim Champlin

(Tim was just joking when he said this, but I needed the content so I used it)



I am thankful for my salvation!

Mary Nelson



I am thankful for the Christian testimony and witness of other Christians, especially my wife and daughter, that encourages me to strive to make Jesus the guide of my life.

Rick Thompson

I think it goes without saying that anyone who has come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is thankful for their salvation. It's definitely not something that we want to take for granted, but as our relationship with our Savior deepens, there are so many stages of growth that bring an awareness of specific ways He is molding us.

During this particular season of thankfulness, the thing that I am most thankful to God for is His provision. That one word can encompass so many things, salvation being one of them. I am so very thankful that He made a way for me. I am thankful that He has prepared an eternal home for me. Along with those provisions, I am currently seeing how He provides for me in abundance through the smallest of ways. Day in and day out, He makes Himself known to me through a variety of blessings. He is *Jehovah-Jireh*, the God who provides. Sometimes, like Abraham, He shows us that when we place our beloved Isaac on the altar in obedience to Him, He provides another sacrifice. We must open our heart to Him, without reservation. Not keeping back a small portion for ourselves with a faith that is lacking. But when we offer full surrender, unwavering trust in all that He is and all that He has, He will indeed provide.

Erin Thompson

