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From the Pastor

Church members should have high expectations of those who serve as leaders in their church. The Bible, particularly in 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, contains clear standards concerning the roles and responsibilities of those who serve in pastoral ministry. In addition, 1 Peter 5 also speaks of the nature, identity, and work of a pastor; “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory” (vv. 2-4). In my opinion, there is perhaps no greater need in the modern evangelical church than faithful pastoral ministry.

A couple of Sunday nights ago we examined Apollos and applied the characteristics which are evident in his life in Acts 18:24-28 to those serving in Gospel ministry. I challenged our body to expect the following characteristics from pastors at First Baptist Church. Several of you requested the outline which we used to discuss Apollos, so in light of that request and with a desire for faithful pastoral ministry at First Baptist Church Paducah, here are four characteristics which should be evident among those who are Ministers of the Gospel.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you as ministers of the Gospel.

A Gospel Minister Should Be Biblically Knowledgeable.

Apollos was “an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures” (Acts 18:24). He was knowledgeable and competent—even powerful and strong in his understanding of the Scriptures. In his writings, Luke could have mentioned any characteristic about Apollos—his personality, his socio-economic status, his hobbies, or others. However, Luke mentioned his grasp of the Scriptures.

As it was in Hosea’s day, some might say that one of the greatest needs in the church today is the knowledge of God (Hosea 4:6). After lamenting the condition of his people, Hosea then challenged them, “Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD” (6:3).

God has gifted each of us in unique ways. Each of us goes about our calling in different ways. However, regardless of the means by which pastoral leaders approach their work, it is essential that ministers of the Gospel realize that their primary responsibility is to be ministers of the truth. As Gospel ministers, it is our privilege and responsibility to proclaim the truth and lead others toward a life which is lived in accordance with that truth.

A Gospel Minister Should Be Obviously Passionate.

Apollos is described as being “fervent in spirit.” (Acts 18:25) Not only did he have knowledge in his head, he also had passion in his heart. He knew God, and he also loved God. He had both knowledge and passion.

Passion and knowledge are not meant to be mutually exclusive. On the contrary, as Christians we are commanded to love God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind. Paul wanted his people to be both passionate and knowledgeable (Romans 10:2). Peter drove home the importance of both understanding and passion when he says, “Grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

A Gospel Minister Should Be Humbly Teachable.

Obviously, Apollos did not have the full story of God’s Good News. He “knew only the baptism of John,” and upon hearing his message, Priscilla and Aquila “took him and explained to him the way of God more accurately” (Acts 18:25-26). Reading the rest of the story reveals that Apollos was willing to be taught. Apollos was commended by the brothers as he went to Achaia, so obviously they thought him worthy of

their recommendation.

None of us should ever think we have come to a place where we know it all and that there is nothing more to learn. All of us should be continually growing in our relationship with God, and Gospel ministers should do no less.

A Gospel Minister Should Be Helpfully Convictional.

Upon arriving in Achaia, we are told that Apollos “greatly helped” the believers, for “he powerfully refuted” others (Acts 18:27-28). No doubt, Apollos’ teaching was scriptural and helpful. However, Luke tells us that Apollos was helpful as he refuted others. There was necessary correction taking place in Apollos’ teaching, but his correction was helpful.

In describing Timothy’s work, Paul said that “the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,” and then he says “correcting his opponents with gentleness” (2 Timothy 2:24-25).

Conviction is necessary in Gospel ministry, but ministers must be helpful in their convictions. They should be bold and gentle—accurate and humble—convictional and helpful.

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Thank you for the privilege of serving you as ministers of the Gospel. What a privilege and responsibility! Please pray for us that we might be ever more biblically knowledgeable, obviously passionate, humbly teachable, and helpfully convictional. To this end we strive—for the good of First Baptist Church and beyond, and for the glory of our great God.

Revelation 22:21,

Todd Brady
Pastor

Upcoming Events @ FBC

First Monday Prayer

First Monday Prayer will be held on Monday, May 5. First Baptist's chapel will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on that day for those who wish to come to the chapel and pray. As you pray this month, please include these specific points:

- Pray that we will continue to be obedient to God our Father in our commitment to study, to listen, and to base every action upon His Holy Word which is full of glory, grace, and truth. (John 1:14)
- Pray that the Romania mission team will glorify Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, as they communicate the Gospel to the people of Romania during May 12-22. (Matthew 28:19).
- Pray for God to use the National Day of Prayer (May 1) to cause our nation to repent and draw near to Him and realize that He alone is our strength and our shield. (Psalm 28:7)
- Pray that we will be a people who express the love and mercy of Christ to our neighbors. (Luke 10:37)

New First Baptist Church Directory

Olan Mills will be here on July 15, 16, 17 and August 15 and 16 to take pictures for our upcoming directory. There is no cost to our members, but each family's participation is crucial to the directory's success. More information regarding scheduling an appointment will be coming soon.

Read the Bible Through in 2008

May 3	2 Kings 6-8	May 11	1 Chronicles 1-2
May 4	2 Kings 9-10	May 12	1 Chronicles 3-5
May 5	2 Kings 11-13	May 13	1 Chronicles 6-7
May 6	2 Kings 14-15	May 14	1 Chronicles 8-10
May 7	2 Kings 16-17	May 15	1 Chronicles 11-13
May 8	2 Kings 18-20	May 16	1 Chronicles 14-16
May 9	2 Kings 21-23	May 17	1 Chronicles 17-20
May 10	2 Kings 24-25		

Romanian Mission Trip Needs

The mission trip to Romania will be May 12-22, 2008. Please be in prayer for Tom and Maria Unici, Jim and Cheryl Ewing, Nina Weston, Ioana Cosoreanu, and Wayne Hodge as they minister to the people of Romania. They are still taking items to be distributed to the people of Romania including reading glasses (those found at "dollar stores"), over-the-counter medicines, head scarves for ladies, and personal hygiene items. If you would be willing to help in this effort, please bring your items to the church office.

Children's Ministry "Outrigger Island" VBS Registration

We are now accepting registrations for Outrigger Island VBS. Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Friday, June 23-27, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Registration forms are available in Creation Station and can be returned to Creation Station or the church office. *Outrigger Island* is for all children who have turned 4 years old by June 23, 2008, through those who have just completed 5th grade.



VBS Teacher and Volunteer Opportunities

We are connecting volunteers to ministry in the form of Vacation Bible School! Whether your ministry gifts are relational, musical, artistic, recreational, or just being an encourager, we have a fun and awesome opportunity for you! From teaching to coaching to helping serve, VBS is a fantastic way to impact young lives. All training and support is provided. Please call Hutch Hutcheson at 442-2728 or Shannon Stivers at 488-2995 for all the scoop!

Student Life for Kids Children's Camp

Student Life for Kids is our four day summer camp for boys and girls who have completed 3rd through 5th grades. We will be traveling to Shocco Springs Baptist Camp (near Talladega, AL). Camp will feature lots of activities including adventure games, swimming and water fun, and field sports as well as a great time of discipleship and Bible Study. For more information, call Hutch Hutcheson at 442-2728.



Children's Choir "Acorns to Oaks" Musical

Our Spring Children's Musical will be Sunday, May 4, at 6:00 in the Worship Center. Come learn with the children about growing in Christ from this musical based on the parable of the seed and the sower.

First Sports

Church League Softball for Men and Women

FBC softball teams are now forming. Games run from May to August. Cost is \$40 per person. Contact Jeremy Hudgin at 442-2728 for details.

Women's BOOT Camp

Want to get in shape before summer? Our recreation ministry will host a women's boot camp led by Josh and Laura Porter. This will be a 4-week camp during the month of June. They will meet 3 nights a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) from 6:15-7:45. Each class will consist of strength training elements, aerobic activity, and spiritual devotions. The cost for participating is \$60, which includes t-shirt and water bottle. Proceeds will benefit starving children in Tanzania, Africa. All fitness levels are encouraged to participate. Space is limited. Free childcare is provided. See Jeremy Hudgin for more information.

Mega Sports Camp

Mega Sports Camp is coming the week of July 7-11. Look for some exciting changes including the addition of T-ball to our list of sports. More information to come!

Miscellaneous News

Birth Announcements

A son born to David and Kimberlyn Vinson on April 4, 2008. His name is Dallas William Vinson. Proud grandparents are William (Bill) and Jana Kim Medlin. Proud great-grandfather is Chuck (Dillard) Hillman.

A son born to Jeremy and Erin Goodman on April 29, 2008. His name is Samuel Joseph. Proud grandparents are Rick and Joyce Hubbard.

Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to Vivian Shoemake in the loss of her husband, Earl Shoemake, who departed this life April 19, 2008, to Roy Hensel in the loss of his mother, to Bob Seay in the loss of his wife, and to Vickie Seay and Michele Ritchie in the loss of their mother, Glenda Seay, who departed this life April 30, 2008.

In Memoriam

Louise Randle departed this life April 21, 2008.

Special Gifts

Gifts have been received in honor of Vivian Shoemake. Memorial gifts have been received for Dee Cuff, Don Askew, Sparky Atkinson, Beryl Hurt, and Earl Shoemake.

SOS Items Needed

Share Our Surplus (SOS) is a ministry to connect those who have a material need with those who would like to donate items such as an air conditioner, microwave, washer and dryer, gas stove, refrigerator, couch, chairs, loveseat, lamps, dishes, pans, kitchen table and chairs, and beds and mattresses of all sizes. Please call Cola Ro at 442-3725 if you can help with this ministry.



Television Ministry

The FBC TV crew is looking for volunteers willing to serve once every 3-4 weeks as camera operators for the 11:10 a.m. Worship Service. No experience is necessary—just your willingness to serve. To volunteer or to find out more, call Bob Kersey at 217-1443.

May Bus Driver

Perry Vaughn—270-554-2443

Thank You Notes

Our family wants to express appreciation for your concern and support during the loss of our mother and grandmother, Alice Strickler. The many cards, calls, memorial gifts and especially prayers were a great comfort to us during very difficult days. From all of us, thank you.

Donna Grief, Steve Strickler, and our families

My mother, Mary Pritchard, was in Lourdes Hospital for 5 weeks. Many of your church members and your pastor came to see her. (She and Dad are not able to go to church and they watch your Sunday morning service.) This thrilled her. Many have been faithful to send cards. She is now in Mills Manor (Healthcare) in Mayfield. She wanted me to send their thanks.

Mary Pritchard and family

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Worship—Great Room
9:30 a.m. Library Open
10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:10 a.m. Worship—Worship Center
11:20 a.m. Panama Fundraiser Lunch—Great Room
5:00 p.m. Youth Discipleship
6:00 p.m. Kids on Mission
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Musical

Monday, May 5

6:00 a.m. First Monday Prayer
9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class
10:00 a.m. Sampson II Group

Tuesday, May 6

9:30 a.m. MOPS
10:00 a.m. Ministries of Outreach/Card Writing
6:00 p.m. Aerobics—Gym

Wednesday, May 7

9:00 a.m. Fit for Life Exercise Class
9:30 a.m. Aerobics—Gym
10:00 a.m. Bea Walker Roundtable
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:00 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Livewire Experience
6:00 p.m. AWANA
7:00 p.m. Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8

6:00 p.m. Aerobics

Friday, May 9

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class

Saturday, May 10

Sunday, May 11

9:00 a.m. Worship—Great Room
9:30 a.m. Library Open
10:05 a.m. Bible Study
11:10 a.m. Worship—Worship Center
5:00 p.m. Youth Discipleship
6:00 p.m. Kids on Mission
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship—Worship Center

Monday, May 12

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class
1:00 p.m. Marie Jester Group

Tuesday, May 13

10:00 a.m. Ministries of Outreach/Card Writing
6:00 p.m. Aerobics

Wednesday, May 14

9:00 a.m. Fit for Life Exercise Class
9:30 a.m. Aerobics
5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal
5:00 p.m. Praise Band Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 p.m. Livewire Experience
6:00 p.m. AWANA
7:00 p.m. Choir/Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursday, May 15

6:00 p.m. Aerobics

Friday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Fit For Life Exercise Class

Saturday, May 17



LifeLine

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

What You See!

Here is a schedule of our FBC programs along with scheduled air times.

Comcast Channel 37:

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 8:00- 9:00 a.m. - FBC Music (Taped)
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. - Chapel Bible Class (Live)
- 10:45-11:10 a.m. - FBC Music (Taped)
- 11:10-12:10 a.m. - Worship Service (Live)

Sunday Evening Schedule

- 6:00- 7:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Tuesday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - FBC Music (Taped)

Wednesday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. - Chapel Bible Class (Taped)
- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Thursday Schedule

- 9:00-10:00 p.m. - Morning Service (Taped)

Channel 6:

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 11:00-12:00 - Sunday Morning Worship Service
(Tape Delayed from Previous Week)

Financial News

April 20, 2008

Budget Received: \$37,300.99
Designations: \$4,201.99

April 27, 2008

Budget Received: \$45,987.67
Designations: \$6,432.67

Totals to Date:

Total Budget Received: \$839,603.52
Total Budget Required: \$776,976.23
Total Designations: \$83,275.03

Sunday School Attendance

April 20—721
April 27—755

Menu

Wednesday Night Meals

May 7

Farmer's pork chop with potatoes and gravy, lima beans or corn, roll, as-sorted desserts

May 14

Ranch cheddar chicken, baked potato, green beans, roll, assorted desserts

Children's Menu Available upon Request

LifeLine Deadline

The deadline for items to be submitted for the next LifeLine is May 9, 2008.
You may e-mail your items to cperkins@fbcpaducah.org