



February 2014

PBC *Connections*

A Challenging Question



All of us face challenges in our lives, don't we? As your pastor, I have seen many of you face challenges in the past three years, and for some of you the challenges continue. Challenges are common to us all; no life is free from challenge. How we respond to challenges, however, powerfully informs and forms our lives thereafter. How do you respond to challenges?

You'd have to be an ostrich with your head in the sand to not know by now that Pfafftown Baptist faces a real challenge. Some years ago I learned, as I'm sure you know already, that the Chinese language symbol for "crisis" translates as "dangerous

opportunity." That is what PBC faces these days, a dangerous opportunity. Whether we make it a challenge to be overcome or a burden to drive us to our doom is up to us. Nothing is predetermined in our challenge; we literally have the fate of our church in our own hands.

Our challenge, though, is not singular. We face a handful of challenges, and we must address them one at a time. The most pressing challenge is our financial challenge. I'm fully invested (no pun intended) in that challenge, and I'm asking you to become fully invested, too. If I am the only fully invested person ours will be a sad story. If a fair number of you fully invest with me we will have a movement on our hands. And if a great number of you fully invest with me we will have nothing less than a bone fide miracle on our hands!

I recently participated in a webinar on generosity. A webinar is a group learning opportunity with an expert that occurs over the internet and lasts only an hour or so. In this generosity webinar the expert, a long time leader of churches to grow in generosity, shared with us the five signposts on the pathway to faithful generosity:

(Continued on page 2)

Challenging Question... *(continued from page 1)*

1. Begin to share an offering.
2. Plan offerings for the coming year.
3. Increase offerings as a percentage of income.
4. Begin to give a tithe (10% of income).
5. Give beyond the tithe.

Kim and I are invested at step 5 and beyond. We are making great sacrifices in our family to see a miracle at PBC. Who will fully invest with us to be a part of a miracle at PBC?

Last month, when things came to a head, I asked for and received a curious data set from Susan, our wonderful office guru. I asked Susan to calculate the average yearly offering of the average worship attendee for the year. We took the undesignated giving for the year and divided it by the average worship attendance. No names or offerings were ever viewed. The data was very revealing.

From 1990 to 2013 the trend of the average yearly offering was steadily upward. A closer exam showed, however, that the line has been flat since 2002, variable, but statistically flat. We can blame the economy, 9/11, the Taliban, Bush, Obama, previous ministers, or me, but that flat line tells a different story. That flat line says people quit passing along the signposts a long time ago.

As I have asked many times recently, our challenge is to give more generously to help our church. Generous giving is a reflection of an understanding of a blessed life. Wherever you are along the road of generosity, will you consider moving to the next step, or two steps up? This is our dangerous opportunity. This is our challenge. This is the time for not passing the buck, but generously giving the bucks back. Who will answer the call with me? I have faith all of you will.

As always I'd love to hear from you, any way you want to reach me, about whatever you think.

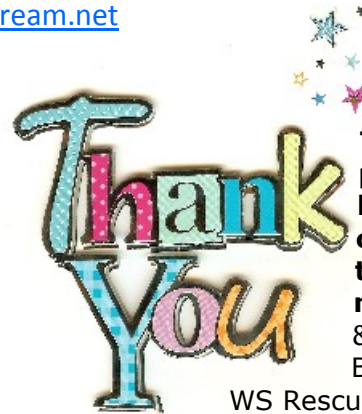
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Baptist Women's Day

On February 23 — Baptist Women's Day — we will welcome guest speaker **Dorothy Barham**, from Lillington, NC. Ms. Barham is a widow with three children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She works part-time as bookkeeper for Cape Fear Insurance Agency.

She is also a member of Lillington Baptist Church; teaches in Sunday School, serves on the Missions Committee, and is active in all areas of church ministry. She has been on 38 mission trips in this country and to other countries.

Ms. Barham is currently serving as Associational WMU Director and member of Missions Committee, serves as Prayer Coordinator for the WMU/Myanmar Prayer Partnership, is a member of the Executive Board, and leads prayer retreats and training conferences.



Thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office from the following

ministries: Forsyth Jail & Prison Ministry, Baptist Children's Home,

WS Rescue Mission, Baptist Retirement Homes, Second Harvest Food Bank, Samaritan Ministries, Hospice & Palliative Care Center.

Take a moment to read their encouraging words.

God's commands are designed to guide you to life's very best.
You will not obey Him, if you do not believe Him and trust Him.
You cannot believe Him if you do not love Him.
You cannot love Him unless you know Him.

— Henry Blackaby —

Make a Joyful Noise



January highlights included the first rehearsal of an 8-minute song in Praise Band that will feature two and maybe three keyboard instruments at once, lots of new

pieces sight-read and evaluated in handbells, and revisiting favorites in Sanctuary choir. I can't speak for how children's choirs are going directly, only that I hear the kids having fun, and that they'd love more company. I continue to remind you how much your child, your grandchildren, your nephews and nieces, and your neighborhood children are wanted to help strengthen this wonderful ministry.

On February 26, the Sunday morning worship will be presented by the Baptist Women. We're working on something for women's choir only that day. If you're a woman and would like to be a part of that song, please contact me. I'll be happy to let you know the rehearsal schedule for any given week, and you can just show up for that portion. It's not at all hard, and one or two rehearsals will be sufficient.

Do you play an instrument? If so, would you be willing to share your gifts as either a soloist or in a group? I have a number of pieces in our choir library and handbells library that I don't do

because it calls for an instrument that, as far as I know, we don't have anybody in the congregation who plays. This is a reminder that the music ministry is open to all of you. I don't pass judgments as to who sings and plays and who doesn't. If you're willing, we'll find a way for you to participate. But if you haven't told me you're available and willing, I don't know about it.

NEW WORSHIP FEATURE: The Hymn of the Month. There are over 600 hymns in our hymnal. No, not 666 hymns; That just happens to be the ironic number of the last hymn. Incidentally, it's a great hymn. Would you feel comfortable if someday we sang hymn # 666? Would it help to know that the first hymn in the hymnal is #2, and there are plenty of hymn numbers devoted to responsive readings, so there are really only about 620 hymns or so. The point is that we probably only sing about a quarter of them regularly. There are favorites we deserve to sing over and over, so that each generation knows them as well as the previous one. There are also many that don't get sung but have a message we need to hear. Last month's hymn was "Stir the Church, O God, Our Father." Earlier, we did "God, Our Author and Creator." Each month, we will try out a new or rare hymn and sing it for two or three Sundays, depending on the complexity.

In Christ, *David*



Children's Valentine Activity

On Sunday, February 2 at 10:30 am the children will be decorating Valentines for local nursing home residents.

SouperBowl of Caring Sunday, February 2

The children will be accepting donations for local hunger relief. The mission statement of the SouperBowl of Caring organization is: *Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and in need.*

February Birthdays

Julie Sizemore	Feb 2
Cathy Reavis.....	Feb 7
Marsha Salmons.....	Feb 8
Tonya Oliver.....	Feb 9
Tracy McAninch.....	Feb 12
Derek Sizemore.....	Feb 13
Georgia Brown	Feb 15
Lilly Bounds	Feb 20
Sharon Beatty	Feb 23
Taylor McAninch.....	Feb 23
Ken Carpenter.....	Feb 25
John Griffin	Feb 25
Bonnie Howard.....	Feb 25
Debra Rierson	Feb 27
Carolyn Carpenter	Feb 28



I know it's been a while. We've had Thanksgiving, Christmas and another year has dawned. The months got away from me. Excuses aside, so sorry for the lapse in communication. Thank you for the birthday call and singing to me!!!
It was good to see you.

We are getting busier and busier!! Work wise and the 'main thing' as well. It's so exciting to see Him at work and joining Him in it. Along with victories come attacks and the enemy doesn't like for there to be advances.

Pray for new 'family members' and more to come!

Pray for our Israeli secretary. She fell at home while standing in a rolling desk chair and broke her hip. She was moved from the hospital yesterday, after almost 3 weeks, into a rehab facility. The projected stay is 1 – 2 months. She and her husband have 3 children, the oldest is 13 years.

Blessings my Family, Ann

February Events

Feb 1	Men's Breakfast
Feb 2	SouperBowl of Caring
Feb 2	Children's Valentine Activity
Feb 8	Youth Snow Tubing
Feb 10.....	WMU Night Group <i>Valentine Party for Hinkle House</i>
Feb 11.....	WMU Day Group
Feb 16.....	Deacon's Meeting
Feb 20.....	Single Seniors Lunch
Feb 23.....	Baptist Women's Day

WEATHER POLICY

Our church will follow the procedures below when inclement weather (snow, ice, etc.) may cause cancellation of our church services.

Sunday School and Sunday morning worship — Watch WXII Channel 12 for updated information. A decision will be made Sunday morning by 7:00 am.

Wednesday evening activities — If local schools have closed or let out early due to weather conditions, our evening activities will be canceled. If the inclement weather begins after school closes for the day, follow the same procedures listed for Sunday services. A decision will be made by 5:00 pm.

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