

Remember to do your civic duty and your Christian responsibility by voting on November 5th.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for your generous response for children who need to know God's love and our love. And THANK YOU, Kidz Kollege and Linda Downs!

Return your boxes November 10th.



November Birthdays

Marge Cook.....3
Ginger Olmsted.....4
Savannah Jacobi.....5
Andrew Parshall.....8
Sarah Southards.....9
Pat Rice.....10
Deena Robbins.....12
Pat Lohaus.....13
Jordan St. Cyre.....16
Gene Crites.....19
Jane Boulch.....23
Donnis Barker.....24
Matthew Johnston.....29

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

November Calendar

Daylight Savings Time Ends.....3
Fellowship Breakfast.....3
Church Council Mtg.....3
Election Day.....5
P.E.P. Club Fellowship.....7
W.M.U. Meeting.....9
Deacon's Meeting.....10
Veteran's Day.....11
Building & Grounds Meeting.....12
Thanksgiving Meal & Service.....13
No Wednesday Services.....27
Happy Thanksgiving!.....28

Sunday Night Bible Study—
Exodus: the Drama of Redemption
Wednesday Bible Study—*Hebrews*



JOHN'S JOTS

November is the season for giving **THANKS** . . . and we have so much to be thankful for.

I am THANKFUL for our staff.

Johnny and Nancy have served over 25 years, Steve & Ronda have served over 10 years, and Rich is the newest addition to our staff. We are indeed blessed to have a dedicated and talented staff, serving the Lord and our Church. My heartfelt thanks to our staff, and the privilege of serving with them.

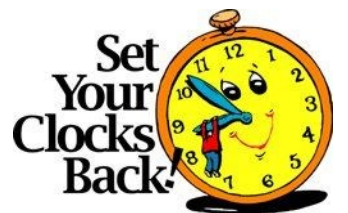
I am THANKFUL for our Anniversary celebration. Thru the years, God has used many people to lead and bless FBCO. And God continues to bless our **Church "Family Tree"**, realizing that we are growing from the fertile soil of our past. The PAST makes us grateful. The FUTURE makes us hopeful. And the PRESENT makes us thankful! God is SO GOOD!!

I am THANKFUL for our fellowship. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be Wednesday, **November 13th, at 6:00pm**. We will have turkey and dressing with all the trimmings. Don & Helen Cook have coordinated this holiday meal for many years, and they do a wonderful job with many willing helpers. A special part of our Thanksgiving celebration is the Lord's Supper. We will observe this memorial around the tables with our Church family, just as First Century Christians did. Of all our blessings, our salvation through Jesus Christ is the greatest. There is no charge for the Thanksgiving meal, but **reservations are needed**. Plan to join us for supper—ours and the Lord's.

I am THANKFUL for your compassion-- Operation Christmas Child boxes are due Sunday,

November 10th. Please don't forget to bring your shoeboxes. And Kidz Kollege did their part—42 OCC boxes (10 more than last year). Great job, boys and girls!! We will have a dedication for these boxes of love that Sunday morning. I appreciate all who filled and donated boxes this year.

I am THANKFUL for the time change. I need that hour! Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour this Sunday, and join us for breakfast at 9:00, before Bible Study.



I am THANKFUL for your love & care—the cards and gifts that you shared for Pastor Appreciation Sunday, and all the concern you have shared since Brenda's diagnosis of cancer. Your love and prayers are a powerful resource we are so thankful for. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!! I appreciate more and more the privilege of being your Pastor.

November is a season to be THANKFUL. Brenda and I are thankful to God for each one of you—our Church family. Thank you for loving us, for praying for us, and for serving God with us. Brenda and I pray for a **Happy Thanksgiving** for each of you and your families.

Gratefully, **Pastor John**

Benevolence Sunday November 24th

Our deacons are asking for a special benevolence offering in this *Season of Thanksgiving* to help some families in need. Please pray about how you can help.

First Baptist Church of Oakville * St. Louis, MO, 63129, * 314 846-8511 * www.firstbco.net

GWEN'S Gallery

How Happiness Happens by Max Lucado

How long has it been since you felt a level of contagious, infectious, unflappable, unstoppable happiness? Maybe your answer is, “I feel that way all the time.” If so, God bless you! (And consider suggesting this book to someone who needs it.) For many of us the answer is, “Well, it’s been a while. I used to be happy, but then life took its toll.”

Worldwide, people profess that happiness is their most cherished goal. Marketers get this. Want to be Happy? they ask. Eat at this restaurant, drive this car, wear this dress. Happiness depends on what you mount on your trophy wall, deposit in your bank account, experience in your bedroom, or serve at your dining table. Happiness happens when you lose the weight, get the date, find the mate, or discover your fate. It’s wide, this way to happiness. Yet, for all its promise, it delivers a fragile joy, here one day, tomorrow scattered by the winds of comparison, disappointment, or unmet expectations.

But what if there is a different, unexpected path to happiness? One that requires no credit card, monthly mortgage, or stroke of fortune. One in which age, looks, and ethnicity aren’t factors. What if the road to joy is less about getting and more about giving?

If you want to know more about life-altering, uplifting, heart-stabilizing, peace-producing joy, read on. In this book you will discover a way of life—backed by Jesus’ teachings and modern research—that produces a happiness that lasts, a reliable joy that endures through any season.

Fatal Strike by Diann Mills

There’s a killer on the loose in Galveston, targeting law enforcement officials and using a fatal injection of snake venom to take them down. Authorities have reasons to believe the Veneno gang is behind the hits, and FBI Agents Leah Riesel and Jon Colbert team up to track down those responsible.

Their best lead is an eyewitness who identifies a young man dumping the third body on a church doorstep. But their suspect has gone into hiding, and those closest to him are reluctant to reveal anything that might help investigators find him.

As Leah and Jon check connections among the victims and dig deeper into motives, they discover appearances may be deceiving. Someone is desperate to keep their secrets hidden, and Leah and Jon must face their greatest fears in order to stop the next fatal strike.



Kidz Kollege

The Kidz Kollege Walk-A-Thon netted \$894 which the kids used to fill 42 boxes for **Operation Christmas Child**. Thanks go to the kids, to the pledge givers, to the teachers and helpers and for the church's support.

Our next big activity was a Halloween party for the kids on Wednesday, October 30th. After that, it's on to our Christmas activities. Remember--all kids ages 4 years old thru 5th grade are invited to Kidz Kollege. So far this year we're averaging 16-18 kids each night. The more the merrier! JUST COME!!!

Ed & Pauline Maness

Kidz Praise . . . Children In Action

October became pretty special to us when Maddie Boxx got baptized! Congrats, Maddie!

We are starting November off with a party for Pastor Appreciation. It's hard to nail him down sometimes. We also will be learning about thankfulness, and starting our journey with Mary and Joseph to the manger.

We praise God by loving one another and we show that love through RESPECT.

Cyndi Harmon



John's Notes



Greetings Everyone.

Great is the Lord and He continues to bless abundantly at FBCO. I am still tingling from the most wonderful 60th Anniversary Service and Celebration. It was great to see so many good friends returning to help rejoice and enjoy the day. Michael Boone and his family put out a wonderful meal with scrumptious desserts that really added to the day. Thanks to Rich Townsend and the 60th Anniversary Committee for organizing and doing an excellent job making it happen. It was great to see Sharon Nokes (arm cast and all) who along with Janet Nicely played the piano on alternating weeks for services during the mid 1960's. Janet was unable to attend but she supplied a great video of her 96 yr old father Warren Nicely who is a charter member that told some stories of the early days of the church. It was also an honor to have Tom Novell back after 40 yrs to play piano during the service and perform a great medley. Tom played the piano in the late 60's and early 70's. He also played flute and piano in the Mehlville High School Band.

On a personal note Mel and Carmen Novell were my parents’ closest friends and our families spent time socializing regularly at each other’s homes along with The McCartys, The Crites, and the Partneys. I started taking piano lessons at the age of 9 and every Sunday, I got to observe Tom playing piano. Tom is the gold standard as an accompanist and pianist. While watching the consummate professional pianist, I learned many things: how to accompany a soloist and follow them while they are singing; and its ok to play what is not on the written sheet music, meaning you can embellish and add notes yourself that allow you to put your personality and expression into the music. Tom’s father Mel was an accomplished clarinetist and, occasionally, Tom and his father would do medleys that totally blessed the congregation. Tom graduated MHS in 1972 and went to college at Cape Girardeau. I became the pianist then and Mr. Novell was the Music Director and Mike Laubert was the Choir Director and organist. Both taught me things I value still today. Mike demanded the best from everyone including himself. You were expected to practice and come prepared to play the music as written with minimal miscues. Practice and to always be prepared is a great lesson. Mr. Novell taught me many things such as how to do introductions and modulate between songs. He also taught me to respect the music, respect the audience, and to strive to do your best for God. I had the opportunity several times to accompany Mr. Novell on instrumental medleys, while he worked his magic on the clarinet.

Precious memories I will never forget. I can never adequately express my gratitude to Tom and Mel Novell and Mike Laubert for their help on my musical journey by words and examples and mentoring along with the many words of encouragement from those of you at FBCO through the years. It was such an honor to have Tom and his wife Bobbi to be a part of the 60th Anniversary Celebration.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS ABUNDANTLY AND I LOVE YOU ALL, *John Gorse*

Come celebrate the spirit of Christmas on Friday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to a FBCO Family Christmas Party hosted by WMU. We will share a potluck dinner, sing carols, wrap gifts for the Giving Tree families, and most importantly pray for the recipients of those gifts.

Here are some ways you can participate:

- Take a tag from the Giving Tree, and purchase the gift. Don’t wrap it; simply bring it to the party with the tag.
- Sign up on the poster located by the Giving Tree to bring a dish for the potluck dinner. (WMU is providing the entrée and drinks.)
- Simply come to the party and enjoy the fellowship as we gather to bless others in our community.

Choose to do one of the above, or two, or all! We would love to see you there!