

The AP Corner

Deep AND Wide: What is Growth?

One of the terms we routinely throw around in church life is "church growth", and we generally accept that what we are talking about is numerical growth. The quest for this can become an all-consuming obsession for a church, and even more so for a pastor. It is not uncommon in Baptist preacher circles (and Evangelical circles in general) for one of the first questions to be "How are y'all running?" This is not a bad question, and is in fact an important one. Living things grow. Healthy things grow. To ignore this question can be an indicator that we have begun to fall asleep on our mission and purpose in the world.

HOWEVER, numerical growth must never become the only question. It should not even be the primary question asked of a church. In my recollection, none of Paul's letters have even a passing reference to numerical growth. Neither do any of the letters to the churches in the first part of Revelation. And for certain there are no numbers mentioned. At all. We should be at least as concerned, if not more so, with the spiritual growth of the church as we are with growing our attendance, membership, and/or participation numbers. Most of us know this down deep, but it is dreadfully easy to lose sight of it. The reasons for this are multiple. Growth in size is easier to measure, arguably easier to achieve, and often more tempting to brag about or seek validation from. When it happens, it can be exciting and even intoxicating. It is what gets noticed by the world, by other churches, and even by the "religious establishment". However, in God's economy, it is of way less importance than growth in discipleship, spiritual maturity, the fruit of the Spirit, our love for each other, and our closeness/intimacy with God. Our depth is of more eternal importance than our width. This is kind of like when a person realizes that their health is more important than their appearance; that their character is more important than their reputation; that the internals are more important than the externals. I am very hopeful (and I hope you are) that we could soon enter a season of numerical growth at RSBC - fill up our buildings, expand our ministries, touch more lives, and change our world. But let's not get it twisted - the first priority must always be our personal spiritual health, growth, and maturity and that of our church. Would you join me in praying for that this month as summer winds down and autumn approaches on the horizon?

SOWING SEEDS FOR SERVICE

“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37

What a joy to have volunteers give their time recently and encourage Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary, Middle and High Schoolers in preparation for the start of this next session of school.

You might recall that RSM schools are now on a “year-round schedule” which is officially defined as “a 180-day instructional calendar that redistributes standard breaks”. For RSM, this translates to a new school year that started July 20th.

One of the most stressful parts of starting school for parents and students is often making sure students have the required school supplies to be successful. To help with this, Mrs. Jennifer Perkins, RSM 4K Teacher, along with a team of many others, put together a community event whereby local churches and businesses were invited to set up tables with specific school supplies and assist kids with “backpack packing”. Ridge Spring Baptist Church answered the call as did Oak Grove Baptist Church, Warrenville Revival Center, Bethel Pentecostal Holiness Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Batesburg Church of the Nazarene, and Radius Church.

Kids and parents gathered at the elementary school on July 16th with Joanne Crouch, Diedra Derrick, Andrew Linde, Lynda McGee, Judi Taylor, Cody Webb, and Haley Webb sharing smiles and invitations to Ridge Spring Baptist Church services/events as they manned our table -- which incidentally was stacked high with 500 composition notebooks!

Thank you to our volunteers and to Pastor Dean Hill for being a part of this work. We hope to continue to outreach and minister to the staff and students in our local public school system. What a blessing this has been so far.

Announcements regarding future volunteer opportunities will be provided as they arise, but in the meantime, please feel free to contact Tanya Butts if you would like more information about our efforts to reach others by partnering with Ridge Spring-Monetta Elementary School.



From left: Andrew Linde, Joanne Crouch & Cody Webb welcoming students & presenting notebooks @ RS-M Elementary registration.

Shroud of Turin:

On August 5, our Wednesday night devotion time will be dedicated to a “Shroud of Turin” presentation by Jimmy Jackson (brother of Rev. Bobby Jackson). Please make plans to come out for this (even if you don’t typically attend on Wednesday nights). Regular schedule will be followed (6:00 pm supper, 6:30 pm study).

Intercessory Prayer List

Our military	The people of Ukraine
Betty Ann Cone	Wendel Duncan
Kent Perry	Pauline Berry
Kathleen Gibson	Rudy Stoddard
M/M Verley Metts	Debbie Fallaw
Susan Carvalho	Karen Hendrix
Sandy Miller	Judy Adamick
Paul Metts	Richard Miller
Darlana Mixon	Yvonne Christenbury
Jody Daly	Sarah Schwarz
Michel Rodgers	Leila Masters
Derick Capperton	Opal Lybrand
Betty Lynn Murphy	James Campbell
Damon Drake	Jimmie Livingston
Bill Gibbs	Dana Berry
	Helen Greene

Note of Thanks

The family of Charles Phillip Burckhalter acknowledges your kind expression of sympathy with deep appreciation. Thank you for the beautiful flowers and for being at the service for Charles with your support and prayers. It was greatly appreciated. Denise Burckhalter

WMU-Titus 2

At our June craft event we all had a great time of fellowship and fun with a Bible study on Turning Your Worries Over to God given by Mrs. Joanne Crouch who also taught us how to preserve natural flowers in resin hearts. In July we learned about both Cold Process Soaps and made Hot Process Soaps taught by special guest speaker Mrs. Sarah Hurt who also gave a wonderful devotional on Trusting God in the everyday situations. All the ladies immensely enjoyed learning how to process and create Old Fashioned Soaps with natural oils, color tents, and aromas. Thank you to all who participated. Hope you can join us next time for Barbara's Bread Breakers on August 23 to learn about Winter White Wheat and to make some Old Fashioned Sweet Breads. See you all there.

Upcoming Events

Aug 5: Wed 6 pm Meal 6:30 Children's activities & Devotion by Jimmy Jackson, "Shroud of Turin"
Aug 12: Wed 6 pm Meal 6:30 Devotion/Children's activity
Aug 15: Sat - Ridge Ramblers to Planetarium, 2:30 pm
Aug 19: Wed 6 pm Meal 6:30 Devotion/Children's activity
Aug 23: Titus 2 - Barbara's Bread Breakers 3:00 pm
Aug 26: Wed 6 pm Meal 6:30 Devotion/Children's activity
Oct 25: Quarterly Business Meeting

Ridge Ramblers

The Ramblers had a great time of fellowship and a delicious lunch at Mig's last month. We had twenty-two in attendance! Afterwards, some of us treated ourselves to ice cream at the new ice cream parlor. It was surely an enjoyable time. Keep your calendar open on Saturday, August 15th for our next outing. See pictures taken at Mig's below:



August

Birthdays & Anniversaries



7 Jerry McGee	21 Elaine DuBose
8 Lynda McGee	22 Tim Crouch
11 Dean Hill	24 Morgan Rutland
11 M/M Buddy Bostian	24 M/M Matthew Chambers
16 Susan Carvalho	26 Gloria Rikard
16 Crys Lybrand	27 Miriam Rodgers
17 M/M Brian DuBose	27 Josh Nance
18 Anna Rae Smith	28 Gerald Taylor
	30 Faye Richards

	<u>Deacon of the Week</u>
August 2	Jerry McGee
August 9	Will Boatwright
August 16	Tim Crouch
August 23	Brian Derrick
August 30	Kevin Yon
	<u>Nursery</u>
August 2	Corbin & Jill Yon
August 9	Drake & Nicole Yon
August 16	Diedra, Blair & Morgan Derrick
August 23	Shannon DuBose & Lydia Yon
August 30	Corbin & Jill Yon
	<u>Children's Church</u>
August 2	Kyle & Beth Richards
August 9	Kevin & Lydia Yon
August 16	Shannon DuBose & Mildred Webb
August 23	Tanya Butts & Nicole Yon
August 30	Kyle & Beth Richards
	<u>Flower Calendar</u>
August 2	M/M Brian Derrick
August 9	Glenn (Lee) & Philip Asbill
August 16	The Holston Family
August 23	M/M Eddie Webb
August 30	M/M Chan Corley

	<u>Children's Sermon</u>
August 2	Kyle Richards
August 9	Lydia Yon
August 16	Mildred Webb
August 23	Kevin Yon
August 30	Brian Derrick
	<u>Church Greeters</u>
August 2	Joanne Crouch
August 9	Judi Taylor
August 16	Billy & Miriam Rodgers
August 23	David Sawyer, McKenzie & Drayton
August 30	Vicki Pierce
	<u>Safety Team Duty</u>
August 2	Tim Crouch
August 9	Brian Derrick
August 16	Kevin Yon
August 23	Kyle Richards
August 30	Will Boatwright

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