



The Torch

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER 2023 – APRIL VOLUME 67 NUMBER 6

Pastor's Pen

We at First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill (FBCCH) know that we lost an integral of our congregation in the passing of Dr. Arrol N. Martin. He had been a part of our congregation since the late 1980s and his life was so interwoven into the life of our church. As I reflect upon his passing, I am reminded of a passage of scripture where Jonathan the son of King Saul, and David who would eventually become king, were talking about David's suspicion that King Saul was out to get him. Jonathan, seeking to offer solace to David when David was choosing not to come to the New Moon feast because of Saul, states in [1 Samuel 20:18b, "...You will be missed because your seat will be empty."](#)

Though the context of this passage is different than the context of which I am writing, the main thrust of the passage carries the same weight. There was a deep love ~~that~~ between Jonathan and David. There is a deep love between FBCCH and Arrol Martin. Paraphrasing this passage, Arrol will be missed because his seat will be empty. There are several seats that he occupied that would cause us to miss him.

He will be missed from his seat at the table of friends. His friendship list was long and diverse. From people he grew up with in Haynes Height, to his FBCCH community, to NASCAR zealots and fantasy football fans, he loved sharing them and get into deep conversations and details about their common interests. He will be missed from the seat at the table of friends.

He will be missed from his seat at the table of faith. Though his ministry path began at another church, his greatest involvement came from his serving at FBCCH. Starting as an intern under Dr. Wallace Charles Smith, he had served in some capacity of the church since then. He facilitated the work of the Room in the Inn for us, preached and taught on many occasions and helped us in many ways in the role we established for him as Assistant to the Pastor. He was very much engaged in the work of the American Baptist Churches of the South, eventually becoming president. He was one of my students when he worked on his Doctor of Ministry degree. He will be missed from the seat at the table of faith.

He will be missed from his seat at the table of family. He had a deep and abiding love for his family and was engaged in so many aspects of their lives. They were a close-knit family. It is always tough losing loved ones. It is especially tough losing someone so quickly, who seemed to still be in the prime of his life. There is no replacing of someone like that. Our prayers are with the family as they now seek comfort and solace in this season of grief. He will be missed from his seat at the table of family.

Yes, he will be missed. But even as his seat will be empty from these places, he is now able to claim another seat. He can now, as our fore parents used to sing, "sit at the welcome table" of the Lord. And I am sure it was echoed throughout heaven with the Lord saying to Arrol, "Well done my good and faithful servant, well done". And one day we too, who have accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior will find our seat at that table. We say farewell until we meet again.

Kelly M. Smith Jr.
Pastor

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT

10-Day Prayer and Fasting Challenge

Friday March 31st -Sunday, April 9th

Submitted by Rev. Joe Ella Darby, Assistant to the Pastor for Discipleship

On behalf of Pastor Smith, welcome to our 10-Day Prayer and Fasting Challenge!

Pastor Smith has themed this year, *Year of Revival!* For the past six weeks, our congregation participated in Revival Praying Bible study by Scott Pauley. Pauley stated, “Revival doesn’t begin in groups, but with individuals. If revival comes to our land, it will not come because of one man’s sermon. It will come because God’s people learn what it means to seek the Lord.”

Pastor Smith’s March sermon series theme was *Reviving our Personal Worship*, and we are inviting members (and friends) of our congregation to join us in a church-wide prayer and fasting challenge. **For 10 days, starting Friday, March 31st and ending Easter Sunday, April 9th**, we are seeking God and asking God to revive our personal worship and strengthen our personal relationship with God.

The late Dr. Bill Bright, Founder of Campus Crusade asserts that “Fasting is one of the Spirit’s tools for strengthening and transforming grace in our lives. This spiritual practice is a gift from God meant to grow us and draw us into a deepening relationship with Him. If you do not already know this power and the importance of fasting, here are some insights drawn from God’s Word and personal experience to get you started:

- Fasting and prayer can restore the loss of your “first love” for the Lord (Revelation 2:4) and result in a more intimate relationship with Christ.
- Fasting is a biblical way to truly humble yourself in the sight of God (Ezra 8:21). King David said, “I ... humbled myself with fasting” (Psalm 35:13, New International Version).
- Fasting enables the Holy Spirit to reveal your true spiritual condition, resulting in brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life.
- Through fasting, the Holy Spirit will imprint God’s Word deeper on your heart, and His truth will become more meaningful to you.
- Fasting can transform your prayer life into a richer and more personal experience.
- Fasting can result in a dynamic personal revival and make you a channel of life change to others.

Before you begin, ***Set Your Intention!*** What do you desire in terms of reviving your personal worship? Next, ***Schedule time to Meet God in expectancy.*** Consider, what time and how much time each day you will devote to prayer and God’s Word. Then, ***Decide Your Fast.*** Finally, enjoy this time and ***BE open*** to however God chooses to show up for you!

Here are a few options for fasting (*Before choosing to skip a meal, please consult with your health care provider.*)

Fast a food group: Fried foods, Sweets, Meat, Snack Foods, Caffeine, Starbucks, Dining Out, etc.

Fast entertainment: Television; Social media (Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram);

Fast during a certain time: Forgo a meal time(s); Intermittent Fasting times (<https://rb.gy/4rk1r7>)

Lastly, Pastor Smith and I are excited for this time that our congregation is taking to seek God’s face. Plan to join us **Monday nights at 7:00pm and/or Friday mornings at 7:00am for our church’s prayer times.** You can **join either time by calling (712) 775-8967 and entering the code 342779.** As you journey through this challenge, remember your why! Know that we are praying for and with you as you embark on this journey. Now let’s expect God to revive our personal Worship.

☐ **Day 1: Friday, March 31st**

Listen: “As the Deer” by Peniel Tambama

https://youtu.be/s_WTPMPIfJU

Read/Meditate: Psalm 42; Psalm 43:5

Journal/Reflect: How is it with your soul? What do you desire from God during this fast?

Confession: Confess any challenges in pursuing God

Prayer Focus: To desire more of God.

☐ **Day 2: Saturday, April 1st**

Listen: “Goodness of God” by CeCe Winans

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y81yIoI_3o8

Read/Meditate: Psalm 84; Romans 8:28

Journal/Reflect: How has God been faithful to you? Nothing is too small to consider.

Confession: Confess times when you struggle to see God’s goodness

Prayer Focus: Express gratitude for God’s faithfulness.

☐ **Day 3: Sunday, April 2nd**

Listen: “Because of Who You Are”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3xre0jGE28>

Read/Meditate: Psalm 136

Journal/Reflect: Why do you worship God? Who is God to You?

Confession: Confess times when you fail to worship God.

Prayer Focus: To know God more intimately.

☐ **Day 4: Monday, April 3rd**

Listen: “Psalm 34” by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfW2mkkMTAg>

Read/Meditate: Psalm 27 Psalm 34

Journal/Reflect: How has God met you in your fear?

Confession: Confess your fears.

Prayer Focus: Give God your fears. Taste and See that God is good.

☐ **Day 5: Tuesday, April 4th**

Listen: “Here I am to Worship”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ2u15TEk_o

Read/Meditate: Psalm 95; Philippians 2:9-11

Journal/Reflect: Why is God worthy of your praise?

Confession: Confess things that hinder your worship or making time for God.

Prayer Focus: Affirm God’s worthiness.

☐ **Day 6: Wednesday, April 5th**

Listen: “Shall Not Want” | Elevation Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duLKCOmxbJs>

Read/Meditate: Psalm 23, Psalm 121

Confession: Confess how you tried to be your own guide.

Journal/Reflect: How have you seen God as shepherd?

Prayer Focus: Experience God’s goodness and mercy.

☐ **Day 7: Thursday, April 6th**

Listen: “Fill Me Up” – Tasha Cobbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvMxR32zoC8>

Read/Meditate: Ephesians 3:16-21, 5:17-18; Col. 1:9-12

Journal/Reflect: What’s the Holy Spirit’s role in maturing you?

Confession: Confess what hinders you from being filled.

Prayer Focus: To be more filled with God’s Holy Spirit

☐ **Day 8: Friday, April 7th**

Listen: “Now Behold The Lamb” Kirk Franklin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CK1R1suY6U>

Read/Meditate: Luke 23

Journal/Reflect: Consider the depth of Christ’s sacrifice

Confession: Confess any insecurities that limit your reception of God’s gift of love.

Prayer Focus: Receive and remain secure in God’s Love.

☐ **Day 9: Saturday, April 8th**

Listen: “Wait On You” - Elevation Worship & Maverick

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K3TYG7Q_fj4&list=RDjnCKcLfQhy8&index=21

Read/Meditate: Psalm 37:5-7; 46:10; Isaiah 40:28-31

Journal/Reflect: What have you learned while you wait? Why is waiting necessary?

Confession: Confess your struggle in waiting.

Prayer Focus: Grow stronger in your trust/hope

☐ **Day 10: Sunday, April 9th**

Listen: “The Anthem”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA1BSK_MudQ

Read/Meditate: Luke 24:6-7; 1 Peter 1:3

Journal/Reflect: What does living a victorious life look like to/for you?

Confession: Confess any sin that hinders you from living in freedom and victory.

Prayer Focus: To receive God’s forgiveness and lean into the complete work of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

JOB FAIR

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
Nissan Stadium, Wesley
Mortgage Club

1 Titan Way | Park in Lot H

10AM-3PM

FOR MORE INFO, SCAN THE CODE OR
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EASTER EGG HUNT

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12:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.

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All ages welcome!

Prizes & Music
& Food provided



For more information, call 615-255-8757



Virtual
Good
... Friday
Meditation

April 7th

3:00 p.m.

Rev. Joe Ella Darby

  FIRSTBAPTISTCHURCHCAPITOLHILL

Prayer Request/Sick & Shut-in List

Deacon Richard Dinkins
Sis. Jan Jones Carter
Major Alicia R. Bodie

Sis. Rose McDonald
111 N. Carolina Ave. #204
Lexington, NC 27292

Sis. Leslie Williams
2929 Old Franklin Rd.
Antioch, TN 37013

Bro. Derrick McDaniel
Good Samaritan Health & Rehab
500 Hickory Hollow Terrace
Antioch, TN 37013

Sis. Maggie Roper
Riverview Health and Rehab
1600 West Claiborne Ave.
Greenwood, MS 38930

BIRTHDAYS

APRIL

1 Valerie Molette
2 Ronald Collier
4 Erica Collier
Tavon McKnight
5 Paul E. Robertson
6 Kristopher Currie
8 Gwendolyn H. Vincent
10 Robert Boone Jr.
Isiah Daughtdrill
12 Kevin Carter
Myah Lipscomb
13 Derek Howard
15 Leonia Lawrence
16 Majorie Davis
17 Francene Barbour
18 Marquentas S. Deaderick
23 Maia Payne
26 Tiara Boothe
29 Maggie Roper
Patrick Slay
Jeffrey Wood Jr.
30 Esther Wright

MAY

3 Kristen Daniel
Ian Dinkins
4 Kellye Greene
Fred Jones Jr.
Edith Kimbrough
10 Emmitt Hayes
11 Conra Collier
13 Kendra Springer
14 Jillian Duke
15 Regina Morrow
Key'aira Stinson
16 Johnny Holmes Sr.
Elise Swanson
21 Sara Cain
Sunny Owunnah
Denzel Williams
25 Marcia Mitchell
Marlee Wade
27 Carlton Crutchfield
Kornelius Dickerson
28 Tatiyanna McCall
29 Antonio Stacker
Harold Stewart
30 Ta'Naisha Hillman
Allison Johnson

JUNE

4 Imani Byrd
5 Kyndal Christion
6 David Todd III
10 Yolanda McGriff-Chatman
11 Breneatha Demonbreum
Courtney Greene
Weldon Kidd
15 Jamar Ritch
Samuel L. Robinson
Joy M. Sims
18 Desiree Robertson
Da'Karia Shyes
19 Jewel Burks Solomon
20 Kerry Schrader
William Webb IV
23 Ryan Gentry
25 Leigh Lovett
Kena M. McDaniel
Kenya McDaniel
Taylor A. Slay
Sandra Weaver
28 Anita Greene
Harley Wood

<u>DAY</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
The Empty Tomb		
Saturday, April 1	"Deliver My Soul, O Lord"	Psalms 22:20-31
Sunday, April 2	"The Angels Call the Women"	Luke 24:1-12
Disciples Come to Believe the Resurrection		
Monday, April 3	"I Have Seen the Lord!"	John 20:11-18
Tuesday, April 4	"Blessed Are Those Who Believe"	John 20:19-31
Wednesday, April 5	"The Lord Is My Strength"	Psalms 118:1-14
Thursday, April 6	"I Shall Not Die, but Live"	Psalms 118:15-29
Friday, April 7	"Jesus Meets Two Disciples"	Luke 24:13-24
Saturday, April 8	"Jesus Opens the Disciples Eyes"	Luke 24:25-35
Sunday, April 9	"You Are Witnesses of These Things"	Luke 24:36-49
Jesus Cooks Breakfast		
Monday, April 10	"Hospitality and Redemption"	Luke 7:36-50
Tuesday, April 11	"Raised with Christ in Glory"	1 Corinthians 15:27-31, 35-44
Wednesday, April 12	"Death is Swallowed Up in Victory"	1 Corinthians 15:45-58
Thursday, April 13	"God, Hear My Morning Prayer"	Psalms 51
Friday, April 14	"Great Is God's Faithfulness"	Lamentations 3:21-36
Saturday, April 15	"Joy Comes with the Morning"	Psalms 30
Sunday, April 16	"Jesus Appears by the Sea"	John 21:1-14
Jesus Reinstates Peter		
Monday, April 17	"Jesus Brings Danger and Conflict"	Matthew 10:28-42
Tuesday, April 18	"Peter Denies Jesus"	John 18:13-27
Wednesday, April 19	"Repent, Turn, and Live"	Ezekiel 18:13-27
Thursday, April 20	"Godly Grief Produces Repentance"	2 Corinthians 7:1-11
Friday, April 21	"O God, Blot Out My Transgressions"	Psalms 51:1-9
Saturday, April 22	"Create in Me a Clean Heart"	Psalms 51:10-19
Sunday, April 23	"If You Love Me, Follow Me"	John 21:15-25
The Empty Tomb		
Monday, April 24	"The Stones Would Shout"	Luke 19:28-40
Tuesday, April 25	"Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem"	Luke 19:41-48
Wednesday, April 26	"If Mortals Die, Will They Live?"	Job 14:1-15
Thursday, April 27	" 'This Is My Body' "	1 Corinthians 11:23-34
Friday, April 28	" 'Why Have You Forsaken Me?' "	Psalms 22:1-2, 7-19
Saturday, April 29	"Lift Up your Heads, O Gates!"	Psalms 24
Sunday, April 30	"You Shall Receive Power"	Acts 1:1-11

Deacons of the Week for April 2023

Week of	Deacon	Phone#
1 st	Terry Deas	919.523.6949
9 th	Martin Currie	615.832.9662
16 th	Ernest Dismuke	615.876.3522
23 rd	Carol Boone	615.851.1527
30 th	Emmitt Hayes	615.790.7312

MINISTRY OF STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT

Year of Revival
“How I Got Over”
Genesis 32:22-32

**February
19**

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by Kathy Harrell

Everyone has a story of how they got over--how they survived some trying situation. It is the story of our people who endured the brutality of slavery and Jim Crow. But it is also a story of each of us individually, our testimony of survival through pain and suffering. And it is our story of how the hand of God has been with us. Not all of our stories are due to being victimized by others. Some things that we had to work through were self-inflicted. Yet, through the mercy of God, we still got over. We are the things that helps shape our story of how we have gotten over.

Point 1- You have gotten over when you are not defeated by the consequences. The scripture tells the story of Jacob who wrestled with a man (God) and ultimately ended up with the intentional and permanent dislocation of his hip (by “the man”- God). Even so, Jacob continued to wrestle until he received his requested blessing. It shows us that we do not come out unscathed in every situation. There are some lasting effects of our situation. We sometimes don’t look like the pain and suffering that we’ve been through. Yet, we got over because we did not accept defeat.

Point 2- You have gotten over when you find your blessing. Another part of Jacob’s story shows how he how consistent he was in trying to get over on other people. By tricking his father, Jacob stole his brother’s rightful inheritance. He was even born holding onto his brother’s heel. Like Jacob, we too are guilty of trying to get over on people because of our own selfish desires. Jacob received his blessing, but scripture does not tell us what that blessing was. Blessings can be misinterpreted. They are more than the material riches of the world like financial gains, fame, or fortune. Blessings are anything God gives to us to help us live and enjoy life. Maybe we should wrestle with God more; we may be missing our blessing thinking that other things are what we need.

Point 3.- You have gotten over when your morning comes. This story of Jacob began with night, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. But when we reach verse 31 of our text, it tells us that the sun was rising. The rising sun is symbolic of a new, fresh start, a new beginning. Yesterday is the past and cannot be undone. But the new mercies and grace of God gives us another chance to get things right.

Look forward to your morning!

Year of Revival
“When It’s Over
John 11:38-45

**February
26**

Rev. Janiece Williams

Submitted by: Beverly M. Brown

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Rev. Williams provided a historical perspective of scripture selected and then Rhetorically. The question asked, what do you do when it is over for reasons such as divorce, retirement, relationship ended, job/career ended, life ended, business failure, family abandonment, heart is broken, etc. The one consistent substance and variable associated with all these matters is Jesus’s presence is still needed. Keep trusting God/Christ Jesus when all the matters are resolved which can create the necessary pathway for God/Christ Jesus to be glorified.

Rev. Williams three (3) recommendation are:

1) - Remain steadfast in one’s faith and recognize God/Christ Jesus in the unexpected.

When it is over, do not get stuck in history; instead, expand the expectations in God/Christ Jesus, and keep on being liberated.

2) -Recognize God’s hand and expect miracles that were not expected in unexpected times.

Read John 11:22. He can and does use ordinary people to accomplish/fulfill His mission(s) will.

3)- Be reminded of possibilities and experience the power of God/Christ Jesus when He is facilitating the outcome/end.

Just as with Lazarus the timing, place, and situation had to be right in His eyes.

Finally in the epilogue, the story is not finished, it was a new beginning with Jesus and Lazarus. Because he lives and rose from the dead, keep trusting in God’s ending to usher in a new beginning.

Amen, Amen, & Amen.

Year of Revival

“Standing on Holy Ground”

Exodus 3:1-6

March
5

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Deborah Luter

Pastor Smith began by saying that the President speaks behind the presidential seal. God doesn't always come in official spaces and time; He doesn't need a God seal. This story is so crucial to the story of Moses and the people of Israel. It shows that even when the world may be in chaos God is still hashing out a plan for the redemption of God's people. The people were suffering at the hand of pharaoh and the Egyptian people. Moses was not in that situation anymore having fled because of his own misdeeds. Yet God needed Moses to liberate the people.

Point 1-It is Holy ground because it is the place that calls

us. The bush was burning but not consumed. It is the kind of phenomena that causes us to want to come closer to try to figure it out on our own. But the calling from God is never able to be figured out. It just happens. And we come to trust that God knows what God is doing. Moses didn't know what he was getting into by coming close to the burning bush. As a matter of fact if he had known he probably would have resisted harder. The disciples of Jesus were called. But if they had known what they were getting into they might have just stayed where they were too. Everyone has a calling on one's life. God calls us not through our seeing the whole picture and understanding what we are getting into. God calls us so that we can trust that this is the right thing to do. The apostle Paul states that we walk by faith and not by sight. Our motto is that we follow where faith leads.

Point 2- It is Holy ground because it is the place that

comforts us. When one visits Muslim and Temples of worship in other religions they take off their shoes before entering their places of worship. It is a sign of reverence of which is sacred. Most of the time people remove their shoes at home to get comfortable. You may recall the story of a woman who came and washed the feet of Jesus to bring him comfort.

Point 3- It is Holy ground because it is the place that

completes us. The word “HOLY” has the same root as the word WHOLE. It is speaking about wholeness, or literally, without injury. It means complete. We come to the place of worship fractured, fragmented and broken. We come depleted, tired, weary and worn. But yet we still come. We come because the coming completes us. It makes us whole. It shores up our broken places. Isaiah 53:4 - But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities :the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (KJV) “He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment, he made us completely well.”(CEV). As we gather around the Lord's Table because of this. There is the symbol of his brokenness.

Year of Revival

“When You Pray”

Matthew 6:5-15

March
12

Pastor Kelly M. Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Adrienne Fancher

Remember learning The Lord's Prayer when growing up? Learning to say grace before meals or *Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep* at bedtime taught us how to pray. Praying is sharing your theology: your understanding of, relationship with, and belief in God. Jesus teaches how to put prayer at the center of all we do in the Sermon on the Mount. Sometimes we think prayer is just a ritual – which fine – but prayer can express our belief in God. We ought to pray all the time to stay in constant conversation with God. Prayer must be at the core of our personal and church revival. We are directed to pray in private. However, it is important to pray in public, not to impress others, but when praying on behalf of others (such as in worship services or on prayer calls).

Point 1- When you pray, you should pray with invisibility.

Even though others can see or hear you, you should pray not as the center of attention, but you should talk with God in any way comfortable for you. God can handle it when you're angry or upset. God knows what you need and what is in your heart when you are searching for words. Pray in order to listen to God's response. Prayer is not to place orders for what you want; it is time for conversation. *Invisibility* is not for you to be seen, but for others to see God.

Point 2-When you pray, you should pray with intimacy.

“Our Father” is meant to be a personal address – like “Daddy.” Pray in a way that expresses an intimate relationship with God. Jesus teaches us that we can pray in a personal way. “Give us our daily bread” says that we trust God to provide for us.

Point 3- When you pray, you should pray with integrity.

“Forgive others as you ask God to forgive you” is Jesus teaching us that if we want grace and mercy from God, then we need to show grace and mercy to others. If we want blessings, we must have the integrity to bless others. In our own faith practice, we cannot be hypocritical. Try to demonstrate a willingness to be like Jesus – to do for others what you ask God to do for you.

We learn “For thine is the kingdom” because we ought to praise God as we end our prayer. Even though you may not have all the answers you seek, give God the Glory for what God has done and will do. Hypocrisy is doing what is antithetical to God's Love.

We will not be hypocrites!

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

900 Nelson Merry Street | Nashville, TN 37203

www.firstbaptistcapitolhill.org

Kelly M. Smith Jr., Pastor

Our Mission

First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill is Building, Restoring, and Revitalizing lives through Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

Love God, Make Disciples, Serve Community

Looking for a Church Home?

If you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to come and visit us! There are several ways to become a member of FBCCH.

Baptism - when a person is willing to initially express a belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and is willing to live one's life according to His will. Baptism is the symbolic initiation into the Christian faith.

Christian Experience - when a person who has previously been a member of another church chooses to unite with FBCCH, believing this to be the place for one's spiritual nurturing. These people have already been baptized and have committed a faith relationship with Jesus Christ.

Watchcare - when a person wishes to have his or her membership with FBCCH while he or she is temporarily living in the city.

Associate - when a person who has a membership in another church wishes to have a membership in FBCCH.

Restoration - when a former member chooses to rejoin FBCCH.

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Scheduling Access to Church Buildings

To all groups needing entry and use of the church, sanctuary, and Ennix-Jones Center during the week, please call the church office at 615-255-8757 in advance of your event. This is to ensure personnel are available to allow entry and to have a record for security purposes. Your cooperation is highly appreciated.