

The Messenger

"God's People on Mission in Marion County and Around the World"

Foxworth First Baptist

September 2025

A NOTE FROM THE HEART OF YOUR PASTOR

Recently, on Wednesday nights, we've been looking at what the church is all about...

Take a look at this article by Baptist pastor Tim Challies concerning church membership (part 1 of 2):

"I believe in church membership. I believe in membership as a practical matter that allows a church to function well. But even more so, I believe in membership as a biblical matter that allows a church to faithfully follow the Scriptures."

I suppose we ought to define our term. While acknowledging that membership can vary from church to church and context to context, the essential core is some kind of a formal agreement between the institution of a local church and the people who make up that church—an agreement that these individuals belong to that church in a way others do not. Hence, you are free to visit Grace Fellowship Church and participate in its worship services, but we will regard you a little differently than we regard the members. For example, you will not be able to conduct the business of the church, and neither will you be permitted to participate in all of the church's ministries. Some privileges and responsibilities are the exclusive domain of the members—those who are formally affiliated with the church.

With that in mind, let me offer some reasons why I believe church membership is a crucial practice for a healthy church.

Church membership makes sense of a Christian's obligation to other Christians. The New Testament is replete with instructions on how Christians are to relate to other believers. Yet many of these commands can either only be carried out or can best be carried out in local contexts. You may be able to bear my burdens from a thousand miles away, but those who are closer are much more able. And so membership answers this question: Who are the people I am especially called to love? Or who am I primarily meant to serve with the gifts God has given me? It narrows the answer from the entire global church to one specific congregation. To become a member of a church is to say that these are the people God has most explicitly called me to love, serve, and pray for. These people are my "one another."

Church membership makes sense of a Christian's obligation to his spiritual leaders. Hebrews 13:17, for example, instructs Christians to "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account." Are Christians to obey and submit to all Christian leaders? Or are they to obey and submit to particular Christian leaders? It makes the most sense to understand this command as local, as saying that Christians are to submit to and obey the leaders of their own local church.



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Tyler Chavis

Worship Leader: Donovan McComb

Choir Director: Ellen Ball

Associate Pastor: Jonathan Pittman

REGULAR WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUNDAY

9 am - Small Group/Sunday School for all ages

10 am - Gathered Worship

5 pm - Adult and Children's Choirs

Discipleship Training for Students and Adults

6 pm - Gathered Worship; Pre-Bible Buddies;
Bible Buddies (1st-3rd); Bible Drills (4th-6th)

WEDNESDAY

5:15 pm - Fellowship Meal (Donations only)

5:45 pm - Children's Kick-off Celebration

6:10 pm - Kids groups, Student Ministry
(FLIGHT), Adult Mid-Week Bible Study and
Prayer Time

...While I freely admit that the words “church membership” are not found in the pages of the Bible, I am increasingly certain that the concept is. It is there because it is an essential mark of a healthy church and a core practice of a healthy Christian.”

Church membership cannot save, but devotion to the Bride of Christ should be evident in the life of a Christ-follower. While the years that have passed may have seen the “lowering” (or minimizing) of the importance of church membership, may we be a generation that sees such raised to the level of importance the Bible places on it.

May the LORD bless & lead us as we seek Him.

Pastor loves you!

And I’m honored to serve HIM alongside you.

Bro. T. J. [Signature]

<p>Nursery</p>	<p>August Financial Summary</p> <p>General Fund \$19,657.98</p> <p>Family Life Center Given to Date: \$801,835.33 Given in August \$3,188.00</p>	<p>Wednesday Night Supper Menu</p> <p>Sept. 3: Chicken Enchiladas Sept. 10: Red Beans and Rice Sept. 17: Chicken and Sausage Gumbo Sept. 24: Pork Chops and Potato Casserole</p>
<p>September Birthdays</p>	<p>Announcements</p>	
<p>1: Pamela Mason 4: Patty Dykes 6: Kimberly Dunaway 7: Keith Barber 8: Savanna Turnage & Brydon Walley 9: Melanie Heurtin & Jeffrey Smith, Jr. & Ettie Faye Windham 10: Brad Bynum 12: Beverly Haddox 16: Jo Ellen Carr & Shelly Smith 17: Heath Morgan & Joyce Morgan 19: Sue Barber 21: Cindy Dixon, McKayla Stringer, & Candice Thomas 22: Carla Pruitt & Jerry Watson 23: Samantha Hensarling 24: Shelton Dykes & Melanie Robbins 25: Kinsleigh Chavis 29: Jonathan Glover, Stacey Morgan & Larry Stringer 30: Joanna McDaniel</p>	<p>September is Margaret Lackey (State) Missions Emphasis</p> <p>Sept. 1 –Labor Day– Church office closed Sept. 2 – Circle of Prayer – Ladies meet at 6 pm. in the Family Life Center. Sept. 7 – Kidzville/MVP – These activities take place during the preaching portion of the morning service. Children are welcome to bring an offering. Sept. 9 – David & Judy Spiers’s Anniversary Sept. 10 – Kim & Paula Ramshur’s Anniversary Sept. 11 – Gideons Meeting – The meeting starts at 6 pm in the FLC. Sept. 14 – David & Jan Turnage’s Anniversary Sept. 15 – ACP deadline – All information is due to the church office by noon. Sept. 15 – Kevin & Melanie Heurtin’s Anniversary Sept. 17 – Patrick & Monica Foxworth’s Anniversary Sept.21 - Margaret Lackey Fundraiser Lunch – Following am service in FLC. Sept. 24 – See You at the Pole</p> <p>September items – OCC – Tee shirts, bandanas, and underwear (2-4). September items – Food Pantry – Packaged mashed potato or rice sides, hamburger helper.</p>	
	<p>Upcoming...</p> <p>*Potential Joint Revival Services - more information to come.*</p> <p>Oct. 5 - Kidzville/MVP. Marion Baptist Fall Meeting - Hosted by Cedar Grove Baptist. Messenger meal at 6 pm, with service starting at 6:45 pm. Oct. 6 - Agenda Day - All information due to church office by noon. Oct. 7 - Circle of Prayer - 6 pm in the FLC. Oct. 8 - Regular Business meeting. Oct. 16 - Don and Lennie Hammond’s Anniversary Oct. 28-29 - Mississippi Baptist Convention.</p>	