Second Baptist Church would like to extend its deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May God give peace and comfort to you and your family.

To Rick Browning in the loss of his father, Logan Browning.
To Ruth Ethridge in the loss of her sister, Shirley Utley.
To the family in the loss of their loved one, Page “Buster” Vick.
To Margaret Norman in the loss of her husband, George Norman.

Second Baptist Church would like to extend its deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May God give peace and comfort to you and your family.

With Sympathy

Bro. Michael Duff, Pastor
Bro. Mike Duncan, Director of Music & Youth
Randy Whitley, Outreach Minister
Cathy Johnson, Ministry Assistant
www.secondbaptistrussellville.org

Volume 19 Issue 6 February 2016

Live internet streaming of Sunday morning worship service
Sunday School—10:00 A.M.  Sunday Morning Worship—11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship—6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—7:00 P.M.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Our love for one another should be as unconditional as God’s love is for us. He knows all about us and loves us just the same. He loves us although we have offensive characteristics and experience many failures. Thus we should love one another. True Christian love, God’s kind of love, will ignore difference of color, race, denomination, and disposition. What a revival our churches would experience if all, or even the majority of believers, would learn to love one another as God has loved us.

KIDS KORNER

Children's Ministry Day for all boys and girls is Saturday, February 13th, 10 AM - 12 Noon at The Baptist Building. It is estimated that over 10,000 participate in Children's Ministry Day across our nation! This year we will be making Doggie Biscuits and Cat Cookies for our furry little friends at the Logan County Animal Shelter. We may even have a special guest to "sample" the treats to make sure they are good! Recipes will be provided as you may also want to make treats for pets of senior adults. The event is free...and a light lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted - you don't have to be in one of the mission groups to participate. Hope to see you there...HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY from the GAs and RAs.

In Christ,
Konnie
“In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him, and He Shall Direct Thy Paths”

The Only survivor of a ship wreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none came. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood as a shelter and a place to store his few remaining possessions. One day after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. Everything was lost. Stunned with grief and anger, he cried, “God, how could you do this to me?” Early the next day, however, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him. “How did you know I was here?” the weary man asked. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied. God is always at work in our lives!

In Proverbs 3:6, the Bible says, “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths.” That little phrase, “in all thy ways” implies we are “to do right,” “to be straight,” “to make smooth” or “to be evenly hammered.” I Love that truth, “to be evenly hammered.” I can almost see my Father going before me, the hammer of truth in His hand, flattening every obstacle, hammering down every mountain before me so that when He has made a way, I can cross over. He straightens out the crooked paths, improving my conduct and causing me to do the “right” things in life.

When Mother Teresa was asked, “How do you measure the success of your work?” She looked puzzled for a moment, then responded, “I do not remember that the Lord ever spoke of Success. He only spoke of Faithfulness in love.” This is the only success that really counts.

I guess what I am trying to say is, valleys are best faced with a total abandonment to the Shepherd of the valley. Every valley is surrounded by mountains. How many times have we danced with joy on the mountaintop then moaned and complained in the valley? God is Lord of the mountain and the valley. I suspect that the most powerful life is lived in the valley, not on the mountaintop. Every valley has a Shepherd, a Shepherd who will walk with us through the valley, a Shepherd who will go before us, leading us out of the valley. When the Psalmist wrote these words, he wrote my life message, “I waited patiently for the LORD; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; He set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.”

No Matter where you are today or throughout the course of 2016, your Father is with you. No matter how deep or long the valley may be, He is with you, waiting for you, seeking and asking you to surrender all to Him. Give Him your valley and breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that He will lead you out. In fact, God has ordained the valley as an altar of sacrifice, an opportunity for Him to work through your broken heart and life. Keep your glance on the valley but gaze on the Shepherd. Begin praising Him for your deliverance. It will surely come!

Pastor Michael
Psalm 19:14
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight,
O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

Greetings, on this snowy day in January! As I sit in the office writing this newsletter article, I look out the window and see the ground covered with about 11 inches of snow. It’s just beautiful! It has inspired me to put my artistic abilities on canvas once again. I’ve watched a lot of those “Bob Ross” episodes through the years, and I don’t think I have ever seen one of his paintings as breathtaking as God’s handiwork is today. It seems to have a lot of “happy trees” in it.

In thinking about being “happy,” I’m always trying to write on subjects of interest to you, so after reading an article written by Joe Ball, ex-youth strategist for KBC, I want to speak to our parents today. I remember back a few months ago, during our Wednesday night meeting, I asked our youth, “What makes you happy?” To my surprise, their number one answer to that open-ended question was spending time with family.

Parents, we have a biblical mandate to disciple our children. It is also what our children want. Honestly? They want their parents involved in their lives.

LifeWay Christian Resources and other organizational studies have concluded that the spiritual life of parents is a key determinant in students staying involved in church after they graduate from youth ministry. The research breaks down this way: If a student comes from a Christian family where Mom and Dad model their faith and it is evident that their faith makes a difference in their lives, only 20 percent of those students will not be involved in church in their late 20s. If a student comes from a totally unchurched family, there is a 50 percent probability they will not be involved in church in their late 20s. The final number from Joe’s article is the most sobering one to me. If a student comes from a marginal church family, where the parents attend church only on Sunday mornings, and there is minimal involvement beyond that, there is an 80 percent probability they will not be involved in church in their late 20s.

These numbers should make us stop and think a bit. As parents and church, we need to help them on their journey of discipleship and help them move deeper in their relationship with Christ. We need a vision for the continuum of discipleship. Allen Jackson, professor at New Orleans Theological Seminary says, “Discipleship is not complete until the disciple becomes the discipler.”

Parents, I challenge you to become more involved in your church. The simple fact is that we can’t take students where we aren’t. Not judging, just something to think about!

— Bro. Mike
Wrong is Always Wrong

In a period of loose and sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would live faithful Christian lives must not be ignorant of his devises. (II Corinthians 2:11). Wrong is always wrong despite our efforts to excuse our actions.

Wrong is Wrong, Even If You Don’t Get Caught! Let us remember “the eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:13).

Wrong is Wrong, Even If You Do It for a Good Cause! The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action. The end never justifies the means. “All sin is transgression of the law” (I John 3:4, 5:17, II John 9).

Wrong is Wrong, Even If Others Are Doing Worse Things! To the lost in the day of judgment, it will be little comfort to know others committed worse sins. “The thought of foolishness is sin” (Proverbs 24:9).

Wrong is Wrong, Even If It Doesn’t Bother the Conscience! The conscience can be trained or educated to accept wrong-doing; even as honest sin or evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the Holy God. “...Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

Wrong is Wrong, Even If It Is Commonly Considered Acceptable! The Bible says, “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2). The Christian should “enter not into the path of the wicked, and not go in the way of evil men. Avoid it, turn from it and pass by” (Proverbs 4:15). “Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance (form) of evil” (I Thessalonians 5:21,22).

Remember, There is Never a Right Way to Do Wrong!

— Pat McGee, “The Sword and Staff”
February

02 Randy Whitley, Brenda Croft
03 Faye Clark, DJ Arnold
06 Barbara Shoemake
07 Betty Utley, Whitney Ferguson
09 Debbie Bibb
11 Layton Davenport
13 Cameron Matthews
14 Kathy Dworske
15 McKenzie Duncan
17 Amanda Dancer, Emily Harper, Brett Kinser
18 James Gant, Melanie Scarbrough
19 Debra King, Sandra Grayson, Donna Baugh
20 Christopher Yell
21 Vicki Brooks, Susan Brown
22 RaeAnn Whitley
23 Sandra Kinser, Robin Wood, Kelly Clark, DA Canler
24 Rick Greer
25 Sonja Cauley
26 Josh Bell
27 Carolyn Sullivan, Kristen Carnal
28 Rickey Key

07 Bldg. & Grounds Committee Mtg., 5pm
09 Nursing Home Visitation, 7pm
10 Business Meeting, 7pm
11 Senior Luncheon, 11:30am
16 Lifeline Health Screenings, FLC Gym
18 WMU Meeting, 6pm
24 Deacons Meeting, 6pm

Baptist Hour – Each Monday following 12:20pm news on WRUS-AM
GO Visitation & Meal - Each Wed. night at 5:30pm, EXCEPT on Business Meeting night
Brotherhood – meets on Business Meeting night, 6-7pm
Volleyball - Mondays & Thursday nights

Happy Anniversary
John & Carlene Wheelock 14
Doug & Betty Wright 19
Wayne & Brenda Reeves 19
Bobby & Susan Laird 21
Tracy & Sharon Sprouse 23
Bobby & Mary Oberhausen 27