

They hold a special place in God's heart. They have a unique set of needs. They are looking for a place to call "home" – a place to worship, a place to grow, a place to serve, a place that offers purpose. The Bible calls these: "strangers," "aliens," "sojourners," "foreigners."

Yahweh had just delivered His special people, the Israelites, from the clutches of the Egyptians. With every sandy step forward, these excited-but-disoriented wanderers experienced God in new ways. The One who had been to them mostly story, mostly silent for 400+ years was now alive, powerful, leading, "there." The living God was in their midst, but they had no real sense of how to worship Him. Graciously, He taught them.

God met Moses in the Tent of Meeting and gave him the nation's How-to-Worship Manual. We know call this manual "Leviticus." In the heart of the book, as He details worship that pleases Him, we see God's heart for the stranger: *"When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God"* (Lev 19.33-34). What a compassionate God we serve! He wants to relate not only with those who **are** His people, but also with those who **would be** His people ... the new folks, the visitors, the guests.

At one time – whether 70 years or 7 days ago – each of us was the "outsider" coming "in." In His grace and for His glory, God is leading new folks to our church family. Let's not forget how they might feel: nervous, intimidated, disoriented. Let's go out of our way to be a warm, welcoming, and encouraging people. If you see someone in the parking lot, hallway, or sanctuary who looks like he/she may need some assistance, say something like, "Is there something I can help you with?" God will use that gesture of love ... even if that person turns out to be a member already!

This month FBC is kicking-off our "First Step" class, which meets during the Sunday school hour. Pastor Haskew and I will be spending time with guests and walking them through a four-week study of what it means to be Christian, Baptist, and an active part of our church. If you might benefit from this class, please come. And, encourage guests to take this "first step."

As a church family we must prayerfully, creatively, and actively strive to become more and more welcoming to the new people, guests, strangers. Why? Because they are special to God, and He is worthy of their worship. As Leviticus reminds us (paraphrased), "Let's treat them as our own."

By His grace and for His glory,

Bro. Tony

Church Staff:

Tony Gomillion	Senior Pastor
Jon Haskew	Associate Pastor/Minister of Education
Rodney Hawkins	Minister to Students
Renee Luna	Financial Secretary
Becky Garner	Secretary
Wilma Wright	Secretary

October

Schedule of Events

- October 1-2 Directory Pictures
- October 2-3 Guys Retreat
- October 6 Missions Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m. - Downstairs Conference Room
- October 11-15 Fall Break
- October 12 2nd Tuesday Ladies Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
- October 15-16 Marriage Conference - Friday night 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday morning 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Supper, Breakfast & Childcare provided - Sign up by October 10th - Registration available or contact Jon for more information
- October 17 Sunday School Teacher Meeting/Training - 4:30 p.m. - Fellowship Hall
- October 18 Deacons Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- October 20 Business Meeting
- October 24 Red Cross Blood Drive - 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- October 27-30 Directory Pictures

Don't Forget

GROW - Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery - Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.



Upcoming Events

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| November 6-7 | Girls Retreat |
| November 14 | TN Right to Life Bottle Drive |
| November 14 | Thanksgiving Meal & Preschool Performance |
| November 17,18 | Olan Mills directory pictures |
| November 21 | SS Leader Meeting |
| November 21 | "Thanks-Giving" Sunday |
| November 24 | NO Services |
| November 25-26 | Church Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving! |