

# The Challenger

## Ministerial Staff

Fred Harris, Pastor • Ted Pate, Associate Pastor

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Reaching people, touching lives, and growing together in Christ's love.

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NO. 1

My cell phone still has buttons that you actually push because absolutely nothing happens when you touch its screen, I read books with pages that can actually turn, and my bank statements are printed onto paper before they're sent to me in the mail.



Can you tell I'm not a huge proponent of change? The more one knows about my natural inhibitions, the more of a surprise it is then that I've been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of some of the drastic changes First Baptist has made in recent years. Moving from two services to one, changing the service times so we have more time to talk with each other afterward, replacing pews with chairs, putting a Connection Center in the Worship Center that serves coffee and refreshments – I've applauded them all. Why would that be true when in most areas of my life, I live quite comfortably in my never-changing ruts?

The answer is simple. I applaud change that could better enable us to do two of the tasks in the church that should never change: 1) making disciples, teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded, and 2) connecting with each other and loving each other.

I mention this because it was a source of conversation at Church Council at our meeting this past month. We were reminding ourselves that whereas all these changes that we're making can be wonderful tools, they're not wonderful solutions. Comfortable chairs versus sagging pews do not bring people closer to the Gospel. Only the actual Spirit-empowered sharing of the Gospel can do that. One united service time with coffee and refreshments cannot bring love and connection between people in a congregation. Only people making a Spirit-inspired effort and taking the time to connect with others can accomplish that. Is it happening? It is not enough to sit back and say, “Preach it Fred! The church should do this and the church should do that” as if the church were some nebulous entity that fulfills our personal responsibilities for us. The only appropriate response to the challenges set before us as a church is “*WE* need to be doing this” and “*WE* need to be doing that.” There's not a program schedule or refreshment station in the world that can take the place of what *WE* should be doing in sharing the Gospel and sharing Jesus' love with others.



“Fred, truthfully I have a hard time figuring out what to say when it comes to sharing the Gospel.” I get it, it's not easy for most of us. But we're here to help! November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>, from 6:00-7:30 PM, we're going to have a special Evangelism Training led by a Gideon named Del Lewis from Snowflake. He'll be teaching us ONE way of sharing the Gospel. By no means is it the only way but it will be enough to

get us started in a Gospel-oriented conversation. Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you there!

In His Grip,  
Pastor Fred



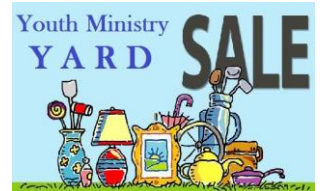
**Church Secretary Position:** We have begun accepting applications for this part-time position. Candidates must be available to work Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - noon. Requirements: A strong, active Christian faith; Word, Excel, Publisher, public relations. A skills test will be given. Stop by the church office for an application starting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Are you willing to serve our community by helping at the Block Party on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>? **Workers are needed** for a variety of areas from sorting clothing, manning the clothing give away, food service, prayer, and games. Call the church office at 289-2484 if you would like to help.

Could you help set things out for the Youth Group Yard Sale? Workers are needed on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 a.m. - Noon to get things out and priced for the sale. Many hands make light the work - we need a lot of hands!!! Come by and help even if you can't stay all morning.

Seeking all of your "treasures" for the Youth Group Yard Sale coming up on November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. Drop items off at the church office or call 289-2484 for pick up. Thanks!



**Hope Pregnancy Center:** We need donations of canned veggies and fruit and any other canned goods that would be good for an easy fall meal. Please drop donations off at the office. Thank you for your support!



**AWANA Harvest Festival:** Donations of candy and cupcakes are needed. Please drop off candy to the church office. Cupcakes need to be brought closer to the festival (October 31<sup>st</sup>). Thank you for your support!



| Mark Your Calendar!      |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| October 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 6 p.m. Youth University   |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Block Party  |
| October 13 <sup>th</sup> | 4 p.m. - Deacon Meeting   |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> | 1-8 p.m. - Worship On The Corner at the Standing On The Corner Pavillion            |
| October 25 <sup>th</sup> | 11:30 a.m - Senior Adult Luncheon at The Falcon                                     |
| October 26 <sup>th</sup> | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. DPBA Annual Meeting in Show Low                                    |
| October 26 <sup>th</sup> | 5:30 p.m. - Youth Cook Out at NAOMI House ( <u>Leaving</u> the church at 5:30 p.m.) |
| October 30 <sup>th</sup> | NO AWANA (Harvest Festival on the 31 <sup>st</sup> instead)                         |
| October 31 <sup>st</sup> | Harvest Festival  |
| November 1 <sup>st</sup> | 5-7 p.m. - Youth Group Yard Sale  |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 8-11 a.m. - Youth Group Yard Sale   |

**Twice Fed**

Twice Fed has started! 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday evenings. Join us for a meal (donations to cover the cost of the food are accepted) and Bible Study. Feed your belly and feed your soul!




Do you feel called to serve at First Baptist Church? Has God laid it on your heart to help in a certain area? Speak to one of our pastors. Maybe you feel led to volunteer but you're not sure where you fit in. Does one of these areas intrigue you? Sound Booth Technician, Connection Center, Bible Study leader, Children's Church team, Ushers/greeters, Children's volunteer (camp, VBS, Bible study, AWANA), Youth volunteer (Chaperone), Party platoon (potlucks, pool parties, creek day, block party etc.), Worship Team (singers, instrumentalists, sound booth, Media Shout), Meals ministry (funerals, sick, grieving), Visitation and Evangelism, Transportation (trips to doctor's appointments, pick-up for church etc.), Shopper. Please visit with one of the Pastors to get plugged in!