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Annual Halloween Costume Party is for everyone!

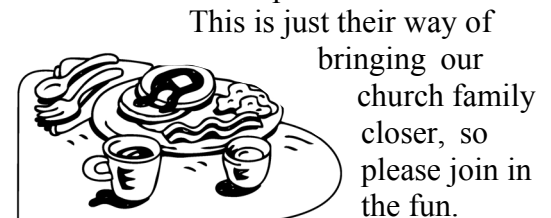
Instead of “Kid’s Club” on Wednesday, October 26, we have planned our annual Halloween costume party. While it is true that trick or treating is usually reserved for the kids—this party is not! Grown-ups are welcome to dress up and attend as well—in fact, the kids really seem to enjoy it when the adults get involved in the fun! Not really into that? That’s okay as well—plan to attend and just have fun watching and voting for your favorite costume!



We will also be needing some goodies for that evening—perhaps you would like to help in that way! Plan now to attend and become involved in any way you would like to! The party will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 PM in Pitman Hall.

Saturday Breakfast with friends—again!

Janis and Mike Hawkins invite you to their home at 80 Sugar Creek on Saturday, October 15 to share in their First Baptist Breakfast time. It will be held from 8 AM until 10 AM. Just stop by anytime during those two hours to share in some great food and some Christian fellowship.



This is just their way of bringing our church family closer, so please join in the fun.






Holiday Craft Show at LSBC our church to host breakfast

The first annual Lake Springfield Baptist Camp Lakeside Holiday Craft Show will be held on October 8th from 9 AM-3 PM at the campgrounds in Chatham. There will be craft demonstrations, and over 25 vendors located in two buildings plus outdoor spaces. Come shop for Halloween, Fall, Thanksgiving, and Christmas crafts. The proceeds will benefit Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. Our pastor’s wife Kelsie is on the LSBC board of directors.

Our church will be serving breakfast to the vendors starting at 7:15 AM as they set up for the show, and will also be selling “canteen” snack items. The plan is to serve biscuits and gravy, donuts, and possibly fruit, all of which can be prepared ahead of time. The money raised from our efforts will go to the camp, but will be used as scholarships for any youth we send to camp next summer. It’s a great way to get a jump start on next camping season.

If you are interested in coming to help serve or to make a donation of food, please see Pastor John by Wednesday, October 5.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2  World Communion Day	3 Blood Drive at PSBT 2-4 PM	4 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	5 Church Supper Kids Club 6 PM Adult Bible 6:45	6 Flu shot clinic at PSBT 9-11 AM	7 Mike & Debbie Liles Jim & Pat Smith	8 Adam & Molly Kershaw
9	10 Columbus Day 	11 Exercise Class 6:30 PM Katie Hawkins	12 Church Supper Kids Club 6 PM Adult Bible 6:45 Choir 7:45	13	14 Adam Kershaw 	15 LSBC Holiday Craft Show 9 AM - 3 PM Our church sponsors Breakfast
16 Food Pantry Sunday	17 David Dibler	18 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	19 Church Supper Kids Club 6 PM Adult Bible 6:45 Choir 7:45 Sue Langley Brandy Palmer	20		
23	24	25 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	26 Church Supper Kids Club 6 PM Adult Bible 6:45 Choir 7:45	27	28 Peg Vidakovich	29 Josh Snodgrass
30	31					

Eyes on God

The move to our new home was very stressful on our puppy. As we sold our furniture and boxed up our belongings, he became increasingly anxious. When the big day came and the truck was packed, we took one last walk through the empty house. Unable to comprehend what was happening, our anxious dog stayed right at our feet. He could make no sense of his circumstances but trusted us to take care of him. During that traumatic time, he never let us out of his sight.

That reminds me of King Jehoshaphat's prayer when a mighty enemy advanced against him and the situation was desperate. Jehoshaphat prayed, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:12, NRSV). God came through for his people that day, and he'll come through for us, too, when all seems lost. Just stick close and keep your eyes on him.

-Kari Myers

Living by Son-Light

Some of our days seem very dark. Sickness, the death of a loved one, the loss of a job or another struggle overshadows life. In our despair, it can be difficult to sense God's presence. If God were here, we reason, surely he'd be shining his light on our dark circumstances.

When life is bright and joyous, it's easy to sense God; the sun becomes a natural metaphor for God's Son, Jesus, the Light of the world. But even on cloudy days, the sun still shines, its presence not bound by our limited vision. And in the darkest night, the sun remains; the warmth it gave before dusk lingers, enough to preserve us into the dawning of a new day. Sometimes we even catch its reflection in the moon.

"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" (Psalm 30:5b, NRSV). Trust in God; even in life's dark times, the Son still shines!



Don't forget that the 3rd Sunday of every month is designated as "Food Pantry" Sunday. Take a look in your cupboards and see if you have any extra food or paper items that you can donate

to the local food pantry. There is a box in Pitman Hall for your collected items. Help feed the hungry of Virden and donate today.

A perspective on perils

Martin Luther's wife Kate, said, "I would never have known the meaning of various Psalms, come to appreciate certain difficulties or known the inner workings of the soul; I would never have understood the practice of the Christina life and work, if God had never brought afflictions to my life."

Martin Luther went one step further, saying, "Oh, His grace and goodness toward us is so immeasurably great, that without great assaults and trials it cannot be understood."



Choir practice will resume on Wednesday, October 12 after Kid's Club at 8 PM. Our thanks to Janis Hawkins for volunteering to direct the choir. Most often the choir will sing to pre-recorded soundtracks.

If you have ever thought you would like to sing with the choir, now is your chance to join in.

The wonder of Worship

How sweet the hour of praise and prayer
When our devotions blend,
And on the wings of faith divine
Our songs of joy ascend!

-Fanny Crosby

When troubles come

Have you noticed that things often seem to fall apart all at once? It could be a string of financial setbacks. First the refrigerator goes out, then the car won't start and next the roof starts leaking. Or maybe our relationships break down or our career unravels.

What can we do when hardships threaten to overwhelm us? Peanuts character Charlie Brown said, "I only dread one day at a time." But we can do better than that.

We can take a deep breath, cling to God's hand and keep walking, knowing that our heavenly Father is always with us.

Welcome Pastor John and family!

First Baptist Church of Virden is proud to welcome Pastor John Parrish, his wife Kelsey, and their daughters Peyton, age 2 and Piper, 9 months. John is a 2004 graduate of Judson College, is licensed and will be pursuing ordination by the American Baptist denomination. He has served as a church camp counselor at both Lake Benton and Lake Springfield Baptist Camps. He is presently the Adult Advisor for the American Baptist Youth Board and has served as a youth sponsor at First Baptist Church of Decatur. John has been employed by the Wells Center in Jacksonville, a nonprofit agency providing treatment services to individuals and families affected by the abuse of alcohol and other substances and by mental health issues. John Parrish will serve First Baptist as a bi-vocational minister for now, and is anxious to become a part of the community and has already begun his duties preaching his first sermon on September 25. They have moved to Virden and John is currently keeping some office hours and making calls on shut-ins and church family.

John, Kelsey, and the girls are already a big part of the Wednesday night activities and fit perfectly into the life and congregation they now serve. Welcome Pastor John and family to Virden and we are proud to have you!

