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**September 2011**



### ***Candidate to preach on August 28 with potluck to follow service***

By now, if you are a voting member of First Baptist Church of Virden, you should have received a letter from the Search Committee inviting you to worship on Sunday, August 28 as they present a candidate for pastor to the members and friends of First Baptist Church.

John Parrish and his wife, Kelsey, have already had the opportunity to visit our community, and tour our church building. John and Kelsey have two young daughters, Peyton, age 2 and Piper 8 months.

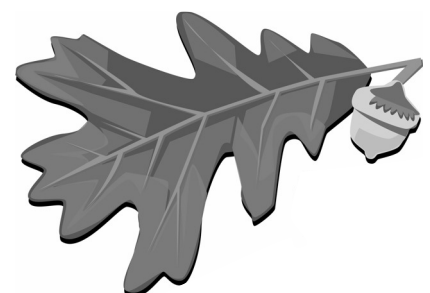
John is a 2004 graduate of Judson College. He has been a church camp counselor at both Lake Benton and Lake Springfield Baptist Camps. He is presently the Adult Advisor for the ABY Board and has served as a youth sponsor at his current church. John has been employed by the Wells Center in Jacksonville, a nonprofit agency providing treatment services to individuals and families affected by the abuse of alcohol and other substances and by mental health issues. He recently felt the call of God to enter the ministry and is agreeable to being a bi-vocational minister at our church, should we decide to extend him the call. Given his background with youth, John is especially interested in and excited about our Wednesday evening ministry and Kids Club.

After the morning worship service on August 28, at which John Parrish will preach, we will gather in Pitman Hall for a potluck dinner. This will be your opportunity to meet and become acquainted with John and Kelsey. There will be plenty of time for John to answer any questions you may have about his feelings, his goals, and his hopes for a life in the ministry—particularly related to First Baptist of Virden. Please come prepared to offer not only your questions, but your hand of Christian fellowship.

You are asked to continue to lift up the Search Committee and their candidate of choice in the days leading up to August 28th and beyond. A special business meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 31 at 7 PM for the purpose of voting on calling John as our church's new pastor. It goes without saying that this is one of the most important decisions you can help make as a member of First Baptist Church. You have supported the Search Committee with your prayers—now it is time to support them with your presence and your vote. May God lead both us and the Parrish family in our time of decision.

*It is useless to pray for more knowledge,  
power or faith until you begin to use what  
you have already.*

—Henry Bucklew





**Hey Kids!!!**

Wednesday night  
Kid's club resumes its  
normal schedule on  
September 14.  
We will begin  
meeting each week  
for a time of food, fun,

and Bible Study. No Kid's Club on the first Wednesday of September because of Business meeting. Plan to attend—and bring your friends!

**ABWM needs our help**

The ABWM has received their White Cross Quota and would appreciate some help in filling it. The following items are needed by October 1st:

- 5 bags of beads for crafts
- 5 Watercolor Pads

- New Men's Clothing:
- XL - 4X Shirts
- XL - 2X Underwear
- XL - 4X Sweatshirts
- XL - 4X Sweat Pants

There was a list of school supplies as well, but that has been purchased already. The quota will be sent to Brown Indian Church in Walters, OK.

One of the best things about heading back to school is the chance for a fresh start. A new year, new teachers, perhaps even a new school offer students the opportunity to try a little harder and do a little better than the year before.



Praise God that he allows us to always start over. Jeremiah writes that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23a). With God's help, we can begin each day with a clean slate and a new attitude, determined to make some changes for the better.

**PRAY  
for our  
Students**



Many thanks to everyone who helped pack up the school supplies for this year's Back to School event.

The event helped 98 families representing a total of over 200 children. Next year's event will be

held in the Girard community. There were plenty of supplies to spare and those were divided equally and taken to the two elementary schools, the Middle School and the High School. Those supplies will help out in the classroom all year long. This effort involved donations from the churches of Virden, Girard, and Thayer and included volunteers from both communities and many churches. The event went very smoothly and now we have solid numbers for next year's event. It was a perfect example of how God's people can come together for the good of those in need.

**Seek to please**

Shift your prayer life from "Please, God" to "Please God." Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God's pleasure.



Jill Hawkins is the Volunteer Coordinator for the Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach in Springfield. This organization helps sort and package medical supplies that are shipped throughout the world.

The Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach is in need of volunteers to help and are seeking your help on Saturday, September 10 from 8:30 AM until Noon at their facility at 4930 LaVerna Road in Springfield. You must be at least 13 years of age to volunteer. See Jill



On August 3rd, at the age of 81, Red Paisley went to be with our Lord. Obituaries are facts for the newspapers—so that is where we will leave it. Red Paisley is best remembered by those who loved him most—his family. First Baptist was as much Red's family as his wife, children, grandchildren and great-granddaughters were.

His love of music was passed on to the generations that followed him, and the First Baptist Church choir will forever miss his "Amen!" stamp of approval. None of us will never forget this strong, independent, opinionated Christian man who loved deeply. We will continue to lift up Carol, and all her family as they celebrate their memories of him and forever be grateful for the Christian man that he was.

The following tribute was written by Travis Kershaw. By request, it is being reprinted here for those who were unable to attend the service where it was read by Pastor Jerry. It proves how important "little things" are in lives of the children around us. I think Red would have liked being remembered this way:

### Sitting Behind Red Paisley

When I heard that Red had gone on to meet the Father, I realized something. My mental image of Red must be vastly different from the one his family has. I haven't seen Red in years. And it's my understanding that in the time it has been since I last spoke with Red, his health has deteriorated. But that isn't what I mean when I say I have a different mental image. You see, for me, the one thing that jumps to mind most clearly is his hands. Specifically the back of his right hand.

I grew up in First Baptist Church of Virden exactly one pew behind Red and Carol Paisley. And I sat eye level to that hand wrapped around Carol's shoulders. I see it so clearly even now. I marveled as a child at how big his hands were. I always thought they looked too rough to be caring. Too big to be soft and nurturing. I can see the gas company ring being swallowed up on either side by flesh. But for all the tough and scary qualities that his hands appeared to have when I was a child, as a man, they were an example to live by.

That right hand taught me how to love my church family. Only once a week would that hand drop away from my eyesight. And it doesn't matter that it happened EVERY Sunday of my childhood, I was always surprised when two sticks of Juicy Fruit gum would blindly come flying back into the Kershaw pew. It was as if he was doing it in secret. Trying to do it quickly and without looking so the pastor wouldn't see, like passing a note in class. The pieces of candy would always find their intended target. Sometimes landing in my lap or flung into the corner of the cushion, Trevor and I would dive for them like candy at a parade. I always loved that part of church.

As I have thought back on that simple act of kindness I realize that it was more than just being kind. It was a display of love. Because that means that every Sunday morning when Red Paisley readied himself for church and loaded his pocket with wallet and keys, he also thought about the twin boys sitting behind him. Of course he would remember to give his own grandchildren gum. Kyle, Drew, Jill, and Katie were his family. But every Sunday Red Paisley made sure to have an extra two sticks of gum because the boys in the pew behind him were family too. A different family, but one he loved just as much. That taught me to love my church family, that we are all responsible for the spiritual life of the children in our congregation. The gum flying blindly over Red's shoulder meant simply that Red was a Christian that took that responsibility very seriously.

Secondly, and most importantly, I learned how to be a Christian husband from that hand. You see, the most important thing that hand did every week was place itself on the shoulders of his beloved wife, Carol. I can distinctly remember thinking that I wanted to find someone someday that I could sit with my arm around in church. I learned that love is an act of devotion that lasts your entire lifetime. And that hand on Carol's back taught me that true Christian love—love that truly lasts forever—comes from God. The foundation of every family must be faith in God above.




And to this day, every time I put my arm around my beautiful wife in church, I think of Red Paisley—a crystal clear image in my mind of that hand. Skin swallowing up that ring with its different colored stones set into it. Hands that seemed too large and rough to actually be gentle. But I know now that they were because they loved so deeply. They held his beautiful wife through so many years. They tossed what must have been a thousand sticks of gum into the pew behind them. And they taught me so much more than I ever thought possible.

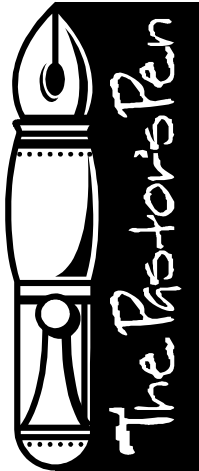
The struggle at times like this is always how to say goodbye. And each person that knew Red must do it in their own way. But for me the most appropriate way would be to toss two sticks of gum into the laps of the girls that now sit behind me at church, and then to set my hand firmly on the shoulder of my wife. To me, Red was a perfect example of how to be a loving Christian husband and father. And my prayer is to always be that to the children who sit behind me in church.

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	22	23 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	24 Supper & Kids Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45 PM	25  Alex Walters	26  Tracy Lewis	27  Libby Klocke
28 Pastoral Candidate to preach at 10 AM Morning Worship Potluck to follow	29	30 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	31 No Wednesday Activities – Special Business Mtg 7 PM  Carroll Morony			

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Diaconate Meets after worship   Rally Day	5	6 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	7 No Wednesday Activities Business Mtg At 7 PM	8 ABWM Noon Meeting	9  Betty Mullen	10 Mission Outreach Volunteer Opportunity 8:30 - Noon
11	12  Bianna Walters	13 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	14 Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45	15	16	17
18	19 	20 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	21 Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45	22  Tony Kershaw	23	24  Mike Hawkins Jan Morony Richard & Doris Weerts
25	26	27 Exercise Class 6:30 PM	28 Supper and Kid's Club 6 PM Bible Study 6:45  Ryan Burch	29  Barb Klocke	30  Jennifer Brown Justin Dibler	



## *Change Is in the Air*

*It's hard to believe that summer is about over and that change is about to happen all around us. We have already begun to notice some changes in the weather and, at times, even a hint of fall. It seems important to use this opportunity to remind us all that change is an unchanging fact of life. We cannot get away from it, and probably should not try. Making peace with change is a challenge we face in every area of life.*

*School has started again. Kids will have new classes, new teachers, and new friends—maybe even new rules. Parents will be faced again with the need for new (probably bigger) clothes, and different clothes because the styles have changed. Things will not be the same as last year. Those who go from one school to another will face a lot of change. Kindergartners going to school for the first time will cause parents to have mixed emotions about this change.*

*Then, there is change in the church. We already know that churches that do not change do not really remain the same. They die. We do not want that to be the fate of First Baptist Church, Virden, and it does not have to be. There is life in this church, and the future holds possibilities that have not yet been realized.*

*One area of change is that of pastoral leadership. As you now know the search committee is about to recommend a young man to become pastor of this congregation. The final decision concerning this recommendation will not come until Aug. 31, but it seems likely that this process will soon result in a new pastor. And that will mean change! When a new pastor comes there is always change. There is a new face, a new family, a new voice, a new style, new thoughts, even new sermons! There will be new concerns, new ideas, etc. The basics of the church, the membership, the gospel message will not change. How that message is delivered could change a lot, and hopefully make the church more effective than it has been.*

*If, as it seems likely, we will be "wrapping up" our ministry with you after about 2 ¼ years there will be real change for Della and me. This has been Della's first experience as a pastor's wife. Both she and the church seem to have survived well. As for me, the interim has been long enough to seem more like a short pastorate, and with the other interim (02-03) I have served with you a total of nearly 4 years. You are family as well as church family. Yet, it does seem like it's time to place this mantle of responsibility on the shoulders of someone else. It will mean significant changes for me and for us.*

*The various ministries of this church have the possibility of growing in both numbers and depth. The reaching of more children, youth, young adults and other adults is a very real possibility. I really think the church is poised to experience some real growth in the near future. That's one change we can all pray and hope for. Yet, with every new person who attends/joins there is change. They bring their gifts and needs with them and the nature of the body is changed. Let us welcome such change.*

*There's no way to adequately express my love and appreciation for all of you. But, if I don't get another opportunity, let me thank you for allowing us to enter your hearts and lives and be able to share ministry with you in this place.*

*God Bless!*

## “Rally Day” Sunday, September 11 – Pray now for its success



In the “old” days, we called it “Rally Day.” In recent years it’s been called “Back to Church Sunday” or “Pack a Pew” Sunday. No matter what name we give it, it will remain a special time in the life of the church as we rally together to make an all out effort to invite both children and adults to Sunday School and Worship on that Sunday. We are even planning a reception following worship with a fun balloon launch. The idea is to get back full swing into the fall activities as children return to school after the summer vacation. On Wednesday, the 14th following Rally Day on September 11 we will resume our WEEKLY schedule of supper, and Kid’s club. Depending upon our decision to call the pastoral candidate, we may even have some new leadership on hand for the youth to meet!

Much like the “Miracle Sunday” we experienced a few years ago, Rally Day is a sort of homecoming for members and friends that we haven’t seen in a while - and like Miracle Sunday, it doesn’t just “happen” without lots of planning, inviting, and most importantly prayers! Start thinking now about who you can invite. Who hasn’t been here in a while? Who do you know that finds it difficult to get out that you can provide a way to church for? Can you drop someone a card? Pay someone a visit?

We all know how time slips by, so begin praying NOW for Rally Day and for the person or persons you want to invite. If Rally Day is to be successful, it must be backed by prayer. Won’t you pray for your church?



First Baptist Church  
157 W. Jackson St.  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

