

# Baptist Beacon

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DIXON

PASTORS BUNYAN & RACHEL COCAR

815-284-6823 - FBCDIXON.COM



## Pastor's Page

### Good Theology

Much of the world is run by theological claims about God. Some people claim that God gave them a plot of land, thousands of years ago. This has led to aggression and violence, to reclaim "their land." A different group of people think that if you kill your enemies you'll go to heaven. This is obviously not true and is the exact opposite of what Jesus said. Still another group believes that if you die in a war your country is involved in, you will go to heaven, regardless of what atrocities you committed in that war. I can't hardly believe this one. All of these are theological claims, having to do with our understanding of God. But none of them are very good. These have to do with power, control, national pride and eternal rewards aside from how we behave and live. These claims do not get us closer to God. So we have to ask, are there things that we believe that are optional? What if someone espouses a claim that they say is from God, but it's just their opinion? What if we disagree on some things?

I saw a claim recently that men having beards was not good. This preacher got very animated and loud, and told his congregation that Christian men should not have beards. That would be sad for me since I like my beard, mainly because I can avoid shaving. More than likely Jesus also had a beard, as it was customary in his time. So a good theologian would say, it's optional to have a beard. A good theologian would not make claims that having a beard is bad, nor good. It's neutral. Many of these claims are simply man's attempt to manipulate others, and have power over them. My hope is that we always have good theology, and good hermeneutics (interpretation) and that we are able to think critically on all issues.

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#### Weekly Meetings

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Sunday Morning  
Sunday School  
**9:15am**  
Worship  
**10:30am**

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Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
**9:00am**

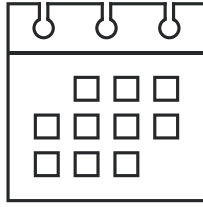
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Wednesday Night Meeting  
**6:00pm**

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3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Dorcas Meeting  
**1:00pm**

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## Coming Events

### June

8<sup>th</sup> - Elder Board Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> - Men's Breakfast

27<sup>th</sup> - Trivia Night

### July

#### (No mid-week services)

3<sup>rd</sup> - Petunia Fest  
Cookout

5<sup>th</sup> - Community Praise  
Service & Parade

6<sup>th</sup> - Elder Board Meeting

### Phone Out of Order

Our phone system has not been working for months now, if you're trying to call the office we're not ignoring you. We're just not getting the call. Pastor Bunyan is working on it.



### *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

- 1 - Sean & Stephanie Glenn
- 2 - Lynette Kirk
- 3 - Dale Beeman
- 4 - Elliott Grace
- 5 - Angie Gomes
- 5 - Jim Olsen
- 14 - Don & Nancy Smice
- 17 - Nina Mardaus
- 20 - Jason Potter
- 22 - Ray Dalton
- 24 - Joyce Kreger

We are working to update birthdays and anniversaries, please let us know if we missed you or a family member!



### Meet Your Missionaries

Follow this link for a complete list of our International Ministries global partners:  
<https://internationalministries.org/international-ministries-global-servants/>

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# Prayer Requests

## New Health Issues

- Steve Spera's daughter-in-law has been diagnosed with cancer
- Gary DeBord has shingles along with his cancer diagnosis.

## Praise

- Bunnie's surgery went well and we were blessed to have Darrel with us last Sunday!
- Best wishes to Becky & Paul!



## Other Concerns

- Our nation
- Our service men and women
- Unspoken requests
- Food Insecurity
- Friends & family members of our church
- Peace around the world and in our country
- Those with depression
- That leaders would rise up in the church
- Those with financial concerns

## Condolences

- Deepest sympathies to the family of Sam Wells who passed on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 96.

## Continue to Remember

- Bunnie & Darrel Heath
- Bill & Joyce Cruse
- Lance Lopez
- Kaitlyn Marschang
- Pat Soulon
- Jim & Arden Olsen
- Katrina Shirley
- Dale Beeman
- Angie Gomes
- Nina Mardauss
- Pam Vivian
- Devin Beard

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## Sunday Morning Statistics

### April Giving

	<u>Current Offering</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Total</u>
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$3,165.00	\$60.00	\$3,241.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> .	\$1,150.00	\$75.00	\$1,825.00
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$2,844.05	\$385.00	\$3,443.05
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,243.00	\$256.00	\$3,929.00

\*For reference, we need approximately \$3,000 a week to stay on track with our annual budget

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## Pastor's Page (continued)

For instance some folks claim that the Bible does not allow women to preach (1 Tim 2:12). Then there is a verse that says the opposite (Gal. 3:28). Paul says women should remain silent, but then in other places Paul says it doesn't matter who you are, you are included in the kingdom of God. If something was very important to Jesus, he would have mentioned it, and when he doesn't, we have to apply the theological guidelines that he left us with. Some people think it's right and kind and good to have women pastors. Others think they are being more faithful and better Christians if they don't have women pastors. But they should look at the early church who had to do this very thing based on the teachings and example of Jesus, and they had women in leadership.

This month the Southern Baptist Convention will have a discussion and vote on women clergy. They have a statement that one of their leaders wrote that women clergy cannot be permitted to have any roles of leadership in the church, not even children's pastors. How then do we explain Jesus being supported by women, Jesus lifting them up, Paul saying it doesn't matter what gender you are, and also the several women in leadership in the early church? What is happening is bad theology. Their vote to ban all women will probably pass, and women will be relegated to second class citizen status. We should pray this does not pass. Not just because we have women clergy in our church, but because women clergy are in line with the teachings of Jesus and Paul. The cases where Paul says otherwise seem to me to be specific cases, not a general blanket statement for all time.

Good theology is so important in the world today, because many people use the language of God on their side to manipulate people. We must be smart enough to look at their actions and see if they are speaking the truth. Jesus told us that we will know someone by the fruit they produce in their lives. That remains true today. If someone is loving and kind and comes to a different conclusion theologically than we do, we can accept that. But if someone is angry and rude and mean, their fruit is not of God. Anger and fear do not produce the kind of people God wants. If our position on certain issues are based on fear of the other, fear of losing something, fear of a different group we should examine our position. God does not deal in fear, that's a mark of Satan. If someone is angry with another group of people, and is ready to fight over an issue; that too is not of God. Violence is not condoned by Jesus.

So you see, theology is all around us. I hope that we can see ourselves as beginner theologians. Every time we interpret Scripture or think we know something about God, we do the work of theology. It's necessary work that can change the world. Let us not neglect our duty to proclaim the truth about Jesus, the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

*Pastor Bunyan*

# Our Church Directory is Online!

Throughout the month of June Cassie will have her camera with her to take a headshot or family photo of whoever needs or wants one for their contact card after service.

To access the directory online, go to [members.InstantChurchDirectory.com](https://members.InstantChurchDirectory.com) and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on “Send Secure Sign-In Link.” Then check your email and click on the “Log in to Instant Church Directory” button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the **Apple® App Store** and the **Google Play™ Store**. Just search for “**Instant Church Directory**” to download.

**Important: Your email address must be listed in the directory before you can log in. If you don't have one or don't wish to share one, we can get you a printed copy of the directory once everyone has a photo submitted and the directory is complete.**



Our Church Directory is powered by  
*Instant Church Directory.*

# DO YOU NEED PERSONAL HYGIENE OR INFANT SUPPLIES?

**DIGNITY DRIVE OF DIXON HAS:**

- TAMPONS**
- PADS**
- LINERS**
- DIAPERS (FOR ALL AGES)**
- BABY FORMULA**
- WIPES**

Thanks to a collective effort made by the community and local churches, all of these items are available right now on an emergency need basis for free, no qualifying forms to fill out. There is a limit of one visit per month and in order to keep track of our donation supplies we'll ask for some very basic information, but that information will be kept confidential and not used for any other purpose.

The Dignity Drive is a ministry operated out of the First Baptist Church of Dixon in collaboration with the Church of the Brethren and The Worship Center.

For questions or more info, or to schedule a time to pick up supplies, check out our Facebook page **Dignity Drive of Dixon** and send us a message or call Pastor Cassie from First Baptist at **816-813-4925** (yes, 816, not a typo)

If you wish to donate any of the above supplies they can be dropped off in the blue tote outside the front doors of First Baptist Church (111 E. Second St. in Dixon) any time of the day.