

The Witness

Volume XXI, Issue VIII

Newsletter

August 2023

REFOCUSING – No Time to Waste

Summer will be behind us in moments. How quickly time passes anymore! Fall (and cooler temperatures – Yes!). Winter. Another year will be gone. And what have we made of it? How many more cycles do we have still ahead? And so it feels with every passing year.

Jeremiah talked (for God) about urgency. “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” (Jeremiah 8:20, ESV) He refers to the urgency to turn back to God. Judgment is coming and the people have delayed any thoughts of returning to God. Soon it would be too late.

Whenever I read this passage, I think of urgency. Perhaps we are not the rebels that need to hurriedly turn to God before it’s too late. But we know people who are. Their time is short. Our days to reach them are numbered as well. If we are to do anything for God, we had best act. If we delay, if we put it off, if we get distracted, time will run out. The harvest is available today. We must engage now. Soon it will be too late. The summer of the spiritual harvest will end. Engage in the harvest today.

But how? It starts with participating. When the church is doing something, be involved. What an encouragement to one another when we all pull together! Volunteer to do something: teach, drive, be a helper, be a set of eyes, visit, fix stuff, pick stuff up, put stuff down,

hand stuff out, greet, be intentionally friendly to everyone – especially to visitors. The ideas are endless. We all can do something. We all have gifts from God that will create special impact, but we have to engage on purpose.

Don’t underestimate the power of just being there. Church services, Bible Studies, events, etc.—see each of these items as an opportunity to invite someone. And invite them again. And keep inviting them until they come. Be intentional about bringing people.

Engage personally. Share your story. Seek to lead someone to Christ (yes you can). Pray for people in need. Especially, pray for people who have spiritual needs. And pray fervently for those who are lost. Ask me to become part of the Prayer Ministry that seeks to pray for people that are lost or that have specific spiritual needs. Let’s pray for personal revival and that others we know would be revived/turn to God.

Summer will soon be gone. Fall will be too. And Winter. Let’s get busy. Life is quickly passing by. Let us make the most of it for the Lord and for His kingdom.

Pastor Danny

Back to School Outreach

Quickly we move from the dog days of summer to the fury of back-to-school events.

Sign up or see Kathy/Dennis to help in Wednesday Night Kids/Youth. If we don’t have enough workers, we will have to change the structure. The Back to School Bash and preregistration of kids for Wednesday Night Kids/Youth occurs on August 19. The preregistration will be combined with our Community Resources and Health Fair. Wednesday activities will begin on August 23. Teacher’s breakfast will occur on August 9 at 8:00 AM.

Speaking of the Community Resources and Health Fair, Steve Couch is going all in to make this a great event. He has many health vendors and most of the retailers and service providers in Yantis involved. Make every effort to be involved, too. You can ask Steve how you can help. Even if you don’t help, be sure and come attend. There will be many things to learn and see. Pray that we will have a host of people show up.

We have plans for more fellowships, more singing, more dinners, a Fall Festival, and a Christmas Eve service. These are just a taste of the things that will be occurring during the rest of the year.

If you have other ideas or feedback let David Freeman know.

Pastor Danny



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH YANTIS HOSTS

YANTIS COMMUNITY

RESOURCE & HEALTH

FAIR

and

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

BASH

August 19th

9am-1pm



Engage in the prayer life of the church! Prayer meetings take place on Tuesday mornings at 7am. Additionally, there is a jar by Pastor Steve Couch's office door where you can leave your prayer requests. Keep an eye on the Prayer Promoter in the weekly bulletin for new names listed. If you would like friend or family member listed on the Prayer Promoter, call the office and let Elizabeth know!

Please pray for the upcoming school year. Jesus Kids and Wednesday Night Youth will resume on August 23rd.

Pray also for Pastor Dennis as he is preaching at a Youth Camp and traveling the first week of August.

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
Cell: 620-397-1753 Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Pastor: **Bro. Dennis Wagner**
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Music and Senior Adult Pastor: **Bro. Steve Couch**
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Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
In the office Mon. - Thurs., 8:30am - 2:30pm

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At-A-Glance

June's Gifts: \$20,414.⁰⁰ 2023 Gifts So Far: \$114,421.⁶⁸
2023 Budget: \$279,287.⁰⁰

Senior Adult Ministry

On July 15, a group of 20 Senior Adults took a trip to Mineola to the Cross County Line Gospel Singing. What a great time we all had. The music from Cross County Line Band was awesome. The trip to Mineola and back was almost as much fun as the singing. All the laughing and giggling in our car sounded like a bunch of Junior High Girls. What a blast!!

The next FBCY Cooking video will be on August 10th in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM. Come be a part of this fun time. Marty Smith and Pat Couch will be demonstrating recipes for the Back-to-School Wednesday Afternoon Program.

The planning is in full swing for the Community Resources & Health Fair on August 19th to coincide with the Back-to-School Events from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We already have numerous organizations that have committed to be here for the Health Fair, including Carter Blood Center, Trinity Mother Francis, East Texas Council on Aging, The Wood County Sheriff's Office, and many others.

The Community Resources part of the fair will be to promote our Yantis Community Businesses. We currently have over 20 businesses coming to participate. We want our community to know our church cares and supports them.

So, mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors. The event is for everyone in our community.

Thanks
Bro Steve