

From the Desk of Your DOM

This is not my typical article. However, I feel compelled to share how God speaks to us. He (God) speaks through His people, through the Bible, through prayer, and through the church. If you have ever read *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby, these concepts may be familiar to you.

As we have been studying this book in our Tuesday night and Thursday morning Bible studies, I have become increasingly aware of God's leading. Over the past few weeks, I've had people from different churches sit in my office or call me on the phone to express the same concerns and thoughts as the senior members of our congregations.

In this edition of *The Beacon*, you will find articles designed to strengthen and encourage you as you enter into a new phase of life. These articles should also challenge our churches to evaluate the ministry we provide for our senior adults.

If we don't currently have an active senior adult ministry in our churches, we should prayerfully consider developing one. Seniors are a vital part of our church community, and it's important that we provide opportunities for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth tailored to their unique needs and gifts.

Let's seek God's guidance in how we can better minister to and include our senior adults.

John Mohler DOM

Baptist Beacon

A Newsletter of the Harrison Baptist Association
An association of 17 praying Churches serving the Lord

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HBA /NGR Camps :Youth Camp May 27-30 Children's Jun 30-July 3

It's never too early to volunteer for camp

Help Needed:

Prayer support

Cabin Leaders

Bible Study Leaders

Electives Leaders and helpers

Nurses

And so much more

Get a hold of a camp committee person or a camp director

Or HBA office and we will help you find the perfect spot

where God is calling you to help.

We need you for a safe God leading life changing camp

Coffey Baptist Church

Start your day by seeking God's presence, and you'll find joy in every moment

High School Basketball games, Sunday Church Services along with Wednesday evening Bible Study/dinner, Christmas Shopping, baking, School Christmas programs, family gatherings, New Year's celebration ... deep breath....Oh, God is good! We pray this finds everyone doing well!

Remember the "HBA Pickers" will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00, here at Coffey. Roger will keep all the regular folks posted on any date changes. "The Pickers" gathered on December 10th. They sang Christmas songs, and enjoyed supper and snacks. Again, if you are at all interested in joining the HBA "Pickers", please contact Roger for more information (660-334-0100). You are always welcome! There is room for all talents...singing, playing an instrument or just enjoying the camaraderie of Christian brothers and sisters.

"Ignyte Worship".....

Ignyte was at the Lake Viking Church on November 30th, with several in attendance. They had a wonderful time! Again, if your church would like an evening of praise, fellowship and God's Word...just contact Ignyte Worship! Josh and Hannah Silver would be thrilled to set up a date with your kids (adults are welcome too!). Just give them a call to set up your night to "set your youth on fire for the Lord!" Josh: (660) 605-3354 or Hannah: (660) 605-3219.

The Missouri Trappers, for District 8, gathered on

The Missouri Trappers, for District 8, gathered on December 5th to the 7th, for their fall trapping clinic. The location for this year's event was located north of Pattonsburg. This was very well attended by novis trappers and seasoned trappers. The Clinic was put together by Pastor Tim, Roger Barker and Tommy Alexander.

Our church hosted a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The youth and children performed a "Shadow Play" to the song "Mary Did You Know". They did a fantastic job! Thanks to all those that made this so so special! Afterwards, finger food was enjoyed by all.

Pray everyone fared well during the January 5th "blizzard". 19 brave individuals concurred the elements and made it to Sunday School and to the Church Service. Heavy snowfall, along with blowing snow and drifting, kept the others house bound for the day.

Our Wednesday Bible Study is at 6:00, **AND** we bring a covered dish and enjoy food and fellowship together. The "food theme" changes weekly, so you will never get tired of something and are even surprised at some new dishes that someone brings to share. We have a place saved for you! Please join us for a blessed evening!

Saved to serve,
Cindy Barker

First Baptist Church of Bethany Update

By Pastor Ryan Kunce

Greetings to our sister churches in the Harrison Baptist Association! As we step into the new year, I'm thrilled to share the wonderful ways God has been working in and through our church over the past two months. Your prayers and partnership in the gospel mean so much to us as we continue striving to lead all people to be devoted followers of Christ.

Christmas Celebrations and Outreach

This past December was filled with opportunities to reflect on the birth of Christ and reach out to our community. Our *Christmas Cantata*, "The Song of *Christmas*," was a highlight, with the choir powerfully proclaiming the gospel message through music. Families and friends gathered to celebrate, and we were overjoyed to see new faces join us in worship. Additionally, our *Kingdom Kids Family Night* brought joy as our children presented the Bible verses they have been learning, reminding us all of the importance of planting God's Word in young hearts.

We were also blessed to surpass our goal for the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*, raising an incredible \$13,290.48 to support international missions. Praise God for the generosity of our church family and the eternal impact these funds will have!

Youth and Children's Ministry

The *Youth Christmas Party* was a great success, bringing laughter, games, and a message of hope to our students. We are thankful for the commitment of our youth leaders in helping our teens grow in their walk with Christ. Our children's ministry is thriving as well, with *Kingdom Kids* resuming in the new year with great enthusiasm. We've also introduced *Children's Camp Pledge Jars* to help send our kids to camp, and the response has been supportive.

Adult and Senior Ministries

The women of our church enjoyed a wonderful *Ladies Brunch, Cookie Swap, and Devotion*, which provided an uplifting time of fellowship and encouragement. The Over 50 Group gathered for a special *Thanksgiving* luncheon, enjoying great food and even better company. Our *weekly prayer group* continues to be a faithful gathering of believers lifting up the needs of our church and community.

Facilities and Projects Update

Exciting progress continues on our *multipurpose building and children's area*! The multipurpose building now has its sheetrock and knockdown texture complete, with final coats of paint applied. The children's area is also taking shape, with plumbing, electrical, and HVAC installations moving forward. We are grateful for God's provision and the faithful giving of our members to support these projects.

Looking Ahead

As we enter this new year, we were excited about the *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday* held on *January 19th*, featuring guest speaker Brandon Lyddon. Our church is committed to standing firm in the Word while finding joy in every circumstance through our *ongoing study in Philippians* during our *Wednesday* night Table Talk.

We are grateful for the partnership we share with our sister churches in Harrison County. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We pray that God continues to bless each of your ministries as we serve together for His glory.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan Kunce
First Baptist Church of Bethany

Hello from First Baptist at Pattonsburg!

The busy [Christmas](#) season is now in the rearview mirror! On [November 24](#), the shoeboxes from Operation Christmas Child were dedicated during the morning worship time. Thank you to Sandy Booth and all those who participated in this ministry. Also on that day, the community [Thanksgiving](#) Service was held at the Christian Church, with Pattonsburg's pastor, Josiah Young, delivering the sermon. [November 25](#) was the day that the ladies involved with the Cookie Day ministry brought [Thanksgiving](#) treats to area nursing homes and shut-ins. Thank you to those who participate in this ministry.

Our Holiday Dinner was held on [December 8](#) after morning worship. Some of the Team Kids came to sing "J-O-Y" and "It's About the Cross", two favorites from the after-school Team Kids program. The church [Christmas](#) Program and Candle Lighting Service was held on [December 15](#). Some members of the church joined the youth group for [Christmas](#) caroling on [December 18](#). On [December 29](#), we observed the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

A Birthday Dinner is planned for after worship on [January 19](#). This was moved because of the snowstorm. A Chili Cook-Off is scheduled for [February 9](#) after worship.

As of [January 12](#), \$1,685 has been collected for the Lottie Moon [Christmas](#) Offering. The offering will continue to be collected until the end of January.

Cookie day was on [January 13](#).

Youth Group is meeting again after the holiday break, and Team Kid will resume on the [first Wednesday in February](#).

The next Second Harvest food distribution is scheduled for [January 24](#).

Our next calendar planning meeting will be on [February 2](#), so hopefully we will have some Easter news for the next Beacon. Until then, stay warm!

Gregg Hartley and your fellow believers at Pattonsburg

Update from the Harrison County Ministerial Alliance

We are seeking increased collaboration from our local county churches. At this time of the year we are receiving requests for assistance in rent and utility bills. If funds are available we help with extra help in fuel for those traveling. We also help transits with motel rooms for a night out of this cold weather. Your help is greatly appreciated. Rev. Bob Skeens, Treasurer

We have many great local ministries. This one is solely funded by donations. This is a great way to help your neighbors and impact our communities. Pray and see if God would help you donate.

You may send donations to % Ministerial Alliance 1705 Woodruff, Bethany Mo 64424 or Call Bob @ 660-425-8165 for more information.

Greetings from Winston Baptist Church

We had a wonderful program to celebrate [Christmas](#) at Winston.

We will have a Valentines meal after our worship service on [February 16th](#),

We recently have had really good attendance at our [Wednesday](#) night bible study. It is encouraging to see so many gather to study Scriptures and fellowship.

God bless,

Brad Walker

Older individuals

Older individuals who feel like they're losing their position or influence in church may experience a range of emotions, including sadness, frustration, or a sense of being undervalued. These feelings often arise due to generational shifts, changing leadership, or evolving church dynamics. Here are some considerations and approaches for navigating this sensitive situation:

Understanding Their Feelings

1. Loss of Identity: For many, their role in the church is deeply tied to their sense of purpose and identity.
2. Generational Transition: They may feel replaced as younger leaders take on responsibilities or as the church adopts new practices.
3. Change in Community Dynamics: A shift in the church culture or relationships can leave them feeling disconnected.

Steps to Address the Issue

1. Acknowledge Their Contributions: Recognize the value of their years of service and express genuine appreciation for their dedication.
2. Encourage Mentorship: Invite them to mentor younger members, allowing their wisdom and experience to continue shaping the church.
3. Create New Opportunities: Offer roles that honor their abilities, such as prayer ministry, hospitality, or teaching.
4. Foster Inclusion: Involve them in discussions about church changes to ensure they feel heard and valued.

Encouraging Personal Growth

1. Shift Perspective: Help them see this as an opportunity to transition into new areas of influence, like intercession or discipleship.
2. Spiritual Renewal: Encourage them to deepen their personal relationship with God, focusing on the eternal value of their faith journey.
3. Community Engagement: Suggest involvement in activities outside the church that align with their passions and skills.

Supporting the Church's Role

1. Leadership Awareness: Church leaders should actively involve older members in vision casting and decision-making processes.
2. Intergenerational Connection: Organize events or programs that bridge the gap between generations, fostering mutual respect and understanding.
3. Celebrate Legacy: Regularly honor older members through testimonials, special services, or awards that acknowledge their lasting impact.

By addressing these concerns with empathy and intentionality, the church can create a harmonious environment where older members feel valued and inspired to continue contributing meaningfully.

Think about this and pray about and for our Churches

John Mohler
DOM

The Bible offers wisdom, encouragement, and guidance specifically for older individuals, affirming their value, purpose, and role in God's plan. Here are key themes and scriptures that speak to older people:

1. Wisdom and Experience are Gifts: Job 12:12: "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"

- The Bible emphasizes that with age comes wisdom, which is a valuable resource for guiding others and glorifying God.

Proverbs 16:31: "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness."

- Aging is seen as honorable, especially for those who live in righteousness.

2. Continued Purpose and Fruitfulness: Psalm 92:14: "They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green."

- God assures that older individuals can remain spiritually fruitful and vibrant, continuing to make a difference.

Titus 2:2-5: Paul instructs older men and women to be examples of godliness and to mentor younger generations.

- **Older Men:** "Be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love, and endurance."
- **Older Women:** "Be reverent in the way they live... and teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children."

3. Strength in God's Faithfulness: Isaiah 46:4: "Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."

- This verse is a reminder that God's care and purpose for individuals do not diminish with age.

2 Corinthians 4:16: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

- The focus is on spiritual renewal and eternal hope, regardless of physical aging.

4. Leaving a Legacy: Psalm 71:18: "Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."

- Older individuals are called to share their testimony of God's faithfulness with the younger generation.

Deuteronomy 32:7: "Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past. Ask your father and he will tell you, your elders, and they will explain to you."

- Elders have a vital role in preserving and sharing the history and teachings of faith.

5. Comfort and Assurance: Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

- God encourages trust and dependence on Him in every season of life.

Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

- This is a reminder of God's steadfast love and faithfulness, which sustain us throughout our lives.

Summary: The Bible reassures older individuals that they remain vital and purposeful in God's plan. It calls them to use their wisdom and experience to mentor others, bear spiritual fruit, and testify to God's faithfulness. They are encouraged to trust in God's sustaining power and to view aging as a time of renewed purpose and deeper reliance on Him.

I hope these words encourage you and I would pray that you would go back and look at them from time to time for strength and guidance. John Mohler

Mt. Pleasant # 1

Greetings to the churches of the Harrison Baptist Association. we keep you in prayers at all times. in April 12th a Saturday 6:00 PM we will be having Guy Olin Thomas in revival. and Sunday april 13th poem Sunday also. come hear him lift the name of Jesus.

JC Davis Pastor

Melbourne Baptist Church

Hello from Melbourne. We're excited about what God is doing. God is alive and well. His presence is all around us if we are looking. As we are in the middle of winter it's great to see God's creation change or transform in our very own eyesight.

Whatever the landscape is pretty or otherwise it all becomes a crimson white purity. Reminds me of Jesus. At the end of each month, we have an Adult Bible Drill where we compete against the youth. Let's just say we need practice or more dedication.

This month we will be joined by Immanuel's youth. That should be fun. It's great to all work together to grow the Kingdom. On Wednesdays we are doing a Bible Study on the Genesis account of creation. I'm very excited about that.

In January we had our wild Game Supper and the men in our church spoke. They did a great job. The food was terrific.

If you're not going anywhere, come and join us.

Sundays: Sunday School - 10:00 AM Worship - 11:00 AM

Wednesday: Wednesday 6:30 pm Bible Study on the Genesis account of Creation and we pray, Youth Bible Drill. At Melbourne we believe in the Power of prayer and prayers are being answered. Which is faith in action. Pastor Brian Rhodes

The HBA WMU Planning group is still working on details of the 2025 WOW, but I can tell you a few things about it. It will be on Friday, March 14, 2025 at Immanuel Baptist Church. Our working theme is “Arise! Shine!” A meal will be served at 6:00. Following the meal, missionaries, Joseph and Abby Williams, who live in Kansas City, Missouri in a Somalian neighborhood, will tell us about their mission to share the gospel with the Somalian people. The “WMU Not Ready for Prime Time Players” will make an appearance during the program. There will also be door prizes, fellowship, worshipping God through music, fun and games during the evening. No registration required. Be sure to mark your calendars and make sure that the other women at your churches know about this annual women’s event. Each church will receive a WOW flyer with complete details at the end of February. Just come and be with us that evening.
Susan Ward HBA WMU Director

Birthdays

February

10 Levi Joyce
13 Brian Rhodes
14 Casey Joyce
21 Ryan Kunce
24 Lisa Schell
28 Jenny Skeens

March

10 Robert Skeens
30 Dwight Schell
31 Judah Worley Make a new calendar

If I missed anyone so very sorry

BSU News: Hello all!

We at the BSU at NCMC will be taking a team of students to Japan this [May 11-24, 2025](#) we will be in Osaka and Fukuoka, Japan for the duration of the mission trip. We will be working in accordance with different teams in that area and we are partnering with Crowder College BSU on this trip. We plan to do several outreaches, 5 minute English lessons on the street, TikTok street interviews, gospel sharing and building relationships. We are so excited to be going on a mission. We have myself plus 5 students attending this trip from our school and we are fundraising as a group and individually. Each person must raise about \$3,500 for this trip! Consider donating to this trip! We will be having an upcoming fundraiser Feb. 15- a pay what you want, get what you want soup supper at the BSU upstairs! Consider coming, getting some tasty food, meeting some of our students going, and donating! Or you can send donations to:

Baptist Student Union
1108 Main St.

Trenton, Mo 64683

Make checks payable to:

Baptist Student Union

Memo: Japan

If donating towards a specific student designate by putting their name in the memo.

Students Going;
Myself- Christina Boatright
Hannah Gryder
Andrea Jenkins
Hannah Leftwich
Valorie Gabrielli
Ty Claypole

Thank you,
Christina Boatright

Calendar:

February

6 Pastor Brown bag lunch

10-16 WMU focus week

14 Valentine's Day

19 Presidents day

23 Layman's Day (a day set aside to raise up men to preach
To give them opportunity) if your church has someone or would
like to have someone come let us know at the HBA office.

March

3 VBS Clinic training First Baptist Church Chillicothe

6 Pastor brown bag lunch

9 Bible drill Churches

2-9 Annie Armstrong Easter offering

8 HBA Mission comforts (This is a new event. Place to be
determined)

9 Daylight savings time

16 Association Bible drill

14 WOW Retreat, 6 PM Immanuel BC

18-19 Spring DOM Conference

23 HBA prayer rally 6 pm Melbourne BC

28 Beacon news do in HBA office

29 state Bible drill Ridgecrest BC Springfield, MO

30 5th Sunday sing

NGRBA-HBA
CAMP COMMITTEE
SUNDAY OF
GIVING
FEB. 23, 2025

We are asking all our churches
to please consider donating to
NGRBA-HBA Associational
camps- this will go directly to
our camps to be used to help
cover expenses for some of our
leaders, recreation, trainings

etc.

To donate write checks to NGRBA-HBA Camp
Committee

send to your Associational offices:

NGRBA:

1108 Main St. Trenton, Mo 64683

HBA

