

First Baptist

110 North Main Street
P.O. Box 28
Loretto, TN 38469
Phone: 931-853-7171

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First Focus

*Touching Loretto, Lawrence County and
the World with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

Church Staff

Bro. Sammy Wallace, Pastor
pastor@fbcloretto.org
Bro. Clayton Wilbanks, Music Minister
clayton@fbcloretto.org
Angie & Kenneth Parker,
Youth/Children
kapyouth@fbcloretto.org
Becky Urban, Secretary
fbcoffice@fbcloretto.org
Visit us at: www.fbcloretto.org

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PAID
Loretto, TN 38469
Permit # 28
Non-Profit Organization

First Baptist Loretto

March 28, 2018

FIRST FOCUS



Happy Retirement!

First Baptist Church Loretto would like to congratulate Bro. Sammy Wallace on his upcoming retirement on April 30th. We are planning a reception for Bro. Sammy and Ms. Debbie on Saturday, April 28th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall for everyone to come and celebrate with us. We are inviting our church, our community and all former Churches and staff to join us that evening. Finger foods and desserts will be served. Then on Sunday, April 29th we will have a church-wide luncheon for Bro. Sammy and his family immediately following the morning worship service. There will be no evening service. Church will provide meat, rolls and drinks you bring the side dishes.



Sunday is Easter. I love to celebrate both Christmas and Easter. They are of the most favorite times of the year for me. This year has an added level of celebration for me.

Christmas is the time we always join hearts in celebrating the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God sent his Son to become the Savior of the World.

And of course, during the Easter Season, we reflect on the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of our Savior.

Earlier I said this season has an added significance for me. Well here it is: Sunday our oldest daughter, Felicia Rutledge, will celebrate her 40th Birthday. Oops, I wasn't supposed to tell her age, so pretend that this line is not here when you read it, LOL.

I remember the pride and excitement that I felt on April 1, 1978. This was our precious baby girl. But would I have given her life on a cruel cross so that sinners could have been saved. I really doubt that, don't you? That's what makes God's Love and Mercy so Great – He goes well beyond what any of us would have dared to do.

Of course for Jesus, the death on the cross was just a three day getaway. Yep, after three days the stone was rolled away so we could see that He had risen. He arose because he was perfect, death had no claim on Him.

So Sunday, I will celebrate the birth of my daughter, Felicia, and the resurrection of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and yours this Easter Season.

Bro. Sammy



As we look back at this week in history and think of all that Jesus Christ went through in the course of a week, I'm amazed at His friends. A few stuck close by, some walked around not knowing what to do next and one even sold Him out to the highest bidder! What a great group of people to surround yourself with in life.

I find myself in this same place at times. There are a few friends that I know I can always count on and there are some who come in and out of my life not really knowing what all has transpired and then there are some who would sell me out in a heartbeat!

Isn't that comforting? But I know this: **"But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."** Proverbs 18:24

I'm so thankful that I can always count on Christ Jesus to always be there when I call. He will never forsake me or leave me, no matter what I do.

What kind of friend are you being to others? Are you a BFF, fair weather friend or a deserter?

I found this quote from Chuck Swindoll: "I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's face it, friends make life a lot more fun."

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' Matt. 22:36-39

Be a Blessing!

Bro. Clayton



What does it mean to be a Christian? What does a Christian look like? talk like? act like? According to the Bible,


(1) a Christian is a person who has faced realistically the problem of his own personal sin (Rom. 3:23; 6:23); (2) a Christian is one who has seriously considered the one divine remedy for sin (John 3:16); (3) a Christian is one who has wholeheartedly complied with the terms for obtaining God's provision for sin (Mark 1:14-15; Acts 20:21); (4) a Christian is a person who manifests in his life that his claims to repentance and faith are real (Eph. 2:8-10).

God sent Jesus to earth and the cross so that we might not have to pay the penalty for our sins. Then through the resurrection, we are promised to be resurrected to a glorious body forever in His presence. But, while we remain, we should transform into the image of Christ and not to the image of this world (Rom 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18). We should build up our brothers and sisters in Christ (Eph 4:29). We should go out into all the world leading and teaching others about the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Have you repented for your sin? Have you trusted in the Only Name that can save? Are you showing the fruit of the faith that you have?


In Christ Alone,
Kenneth & Angie Parker

WMU
April 10
6 pm in fellowship hall



I took my troubles to the Lord;
I CRIED OUT TO HIM
and
HE ANSWERED
my prayer.
Psalms 120:1

Welcome To Our Church



By Baptism:
Hank Hood
Molly Brooke Stone


Our Deepest Sympathy

First Baptist Loretto and church family extend our deepest to the family of:

Stacey Gresham

Senior Adults


Senior Adult lunch will be Tuesday, April 3 at 11:30 a.m. Pot Luck. Senior Adult Supper will be Thursday, April 5th Leave church at 6 p.m. Dining at Logan's



Senior Adult Fellowship


Thank You!

Thank you have been received in the church office from:
Family of Mary Ann Springer
Family of Bobby Brodie



VBS
June 4-8


If you would like to help with VBS sign up sheets will be in the bulletin starting in April, or you can call the church office 853-7171.



Please Pray For:

Our Nation
Government Leaders
Schools
Teachers
Church Leaders
Pastor Search Committee

ON MISSION
HERE & NOW



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100%
of your gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering* supports North American missionaries.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 Million

North American Mission Board
ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

Our Goal:
\$1500.00