Sitting at my desk a few days ago, I turned to the side, leaned forward, and reached out to grab a book from the shelf. Unbeknownst to me, that motion, repeated over time had cracked and weakened the welds holding the foundation of my chair. As my weight shifted to the front edge of the chair, the final strands of metal that were holding things in place gave way. The chair, in an instantaneous burst of movement, tilted 90 degrees forward and unceremoniously dumped me into the floor. Let’s just say I was surprised...didn’t see that coming...had no warning...in a flash there I was, sprawled on the office floor. I laughed at myself, and immediately gave thanks that no one was sitting across the desk from me. I’m even more thankful that no cameras were rolling, for I can see the whole thing plastered across social media! No damage done to me or the floor, I got up and began searching for a new chair. In the process, I thought about how often life comes upon us just like that.

One day, or even one instant, everything is running smoothly and going according to plan. We are engaged in that which we’ve done time and time again. Life, normal, mundane, regular...then suddenly the weld breaks and we are cast onto the floor of existence by circumstances we never saw coming. Such times call for three things.

1. Evaluate the damage. When you are dumped out of your chair of life you check to see how badly you are damaged. Not doing so can result in injuries that fester and create further problems down the road. The other tasks you were engaged in at the time of the dumping fade into temporary insignificance as you evaluate the situation. In life, being dumped in the metaphorical floor will always create some spiritual opportunities. We must take inventory of them.

2. Address the resulting issues. If we see that the sudden expulsion from the chair has indeed created significant issues, we must then address those issues. Every injury calls for different treatment, but applying that treatment is vitally important. When we are hurt we need the great physician to come to our aid and do what only He can. Don’t be stubborn and keep your wounds a secret. Let Him work on them to bring healing and restoration.

3. Fix or replace the chair. You’ve got to get back to work, right? You need a chair, but you need one that will not dump you in the floor. So you take a look. You find what broke. You determine if it can be fixed or if it needs replacing altogether. With that determination made, you do it. When I say, “you do it,” I mean that you engage with God to take the necessary steps to avoid being tossed onto the floor of life again. His role in the process will supersede yours. You may get dumped out of a different chair, but make sure you don’t get tossed by the same one again.

I don’t know what your chair will be, but I know that sooner or later we all end up on the floor. Thankfully, there is a God who is always there to help us get up and keep going. Trust Him. Rely upon Him. Allow Him to pick you up, dust you off, heal your hurts, and get you back in a sturdy chair. The Psalmist wrote, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.” Psalm 147:3. When your chair breaks, He will be there!
POI N T S F R O M P O W E L L

Thought: May is a transition month as school draws to an end and summer begins. There are graduations and weddings to attend and celebrate. Families are planning trips and there are many new adventures and opportunities. Any new chapter in life brings excitement as well as some fear and anxiety. I’m listening to a song this morning that is reminding me that God knows each step of our journey. “on the way, Kyrie (have mercy). Each step you are with me, Lord lead me in Your mercy. Each step on this journey, Lord, keep me in Your mercy.” In Deuteronomy 31 we read “The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” And in Isaiah 41, “I’ll give you strength. I’ll help you. I’ll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.” What a comfort to know that God is always with us. He will direct our paths. He will help us overcome our fear and He will protect us. He asks for our faith and obedience, and promises His presence. In difficult valleys, on sunny beaches, in new beginnings and painful endings God is there and will keep you in His mercy.

Early choir: The Early Service Choir is off to a wonderful start. We still have room for you! Come and join us as we sing praise to God. You are welcome to sing in either or both of the Worship times in the Sanctuary on Sunday morning. Both choir rehearse together on Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the Sanctuary building. I appreciate those who are singing in both services each week.

Children’s Choirs: I am thankful for our Children’s Choirs and the good work they did this year. I want to commend the parents for making this a priority and for having your child here each week. It was a precious sight to see the Children’s Choirs praising God in their own way in worship. The children and workers have had a great spring learning new songs, learning about music and most of all learning about the God we worship. I appreciate these teachers and their hard work; Camille Sandifer, Thersa Moore, Mallori Boothe, Kelli Jones, Ann Milner and Scott Brownlee. Children’s Choirs will begin again in August.

Singing Christmas Tree 2015: Our first Singing Christmas Tree was a huge success by any measure. We want to build on our first effort and make the impact for Christ even greater. There will be a Singing Christmas Tree 2015 planning meeting on May 31 at 5:00 p.m. in the CLC. This is for ANYONE who would like to be involved in preparing for the presentation this year. The Christmas Choir Kick-off Party will be on August 15 and the Tree will be on December 12 and 13.

Sonshiners Mature Adult Ministry

SONSHINE LUNCHEON: Our May meeting on May 12 will be our basket making day. Please bring goodies to fill the baskets; help us fill the baskets; and then offer to deliver them. The lunch that day will be catfish with all the trimmings and dessert. (There will be an $8 charge for the meal.) You will NOT have to bring a covered dish! This is will our last meeting until August.

BASKETS: We will make our goody baskets in May! Your help is needed to fill the baskets and we’ll need volunteers to deliver them after lunch. Please bring “goodies” for the baskets, i.e.: Homemade items. Small cans of fruit juice. Dried fruit. Salty snacks. Cookies. Muffins. Mini nut bread. Chex mix. Wrapped hard candy. Granola bars. Granola mix, etc. Snack items, sugar-free candy, etc.

JOYFUL NOISE: We will sing twice in May; on the 7th at Care Center of Clinton and on the 21st at the Nichols Center in Madison. The bus will leave at 9:15 a.m. and we will sing at 10:00 a.m. Our “uniform” is a white top and black pants. We will spend extra time in ministry and then have lunch together after we sing. Everyone is welcome and invited to come and go with us. All the songs we will sing are familiar to you and we always need people to go and visit with the residents.

F A L L   T O U R - October 19-22

2 Great Shows! Good Food! Wonderful Friends! Times to Rest & Relax! Moments to Inspire!

Sonshiners are sponsoring a trip to Branson, Missouri on October 19-22. This is a Monday to Thursday trip. We will spend all 3 nights at the Hilton Promenade. Highlights of the trip include: Tours of the College of the Ozarks and Dogwood Canyon; The Brett’s Show at the Dick Clark Theater and JONAH with a backstage tour. A non-refundable $100 per person deposit is due by July 15. The balance will be due by September 1. The cost per person per room is: Single $745. Double $565. Triple $505. Quad $475. The cost includes the deposit. Invite friends and join us for 2 great shows, good food, wonderful friends, time to rest, relax and shop. And moments to inspire! There is no “age requirement” everyone is invited and welcome! Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.
LOCAL MISSIONS

During April, 24 families, a total of 88 people, were assisted through our Food Pantry. Several items needed at this time are: macaroni & cheese, jelly, saltine crackers, ramen noodles and ravioli. Donations are appreciated.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JOURNEY OFF THE MAP

JUNE 7-10, 2015
5:30 – 8:00 P.M.
4 YEARS—6TH GRADE
(must be 4 by 9/1/2014)

VBS REGISTRATION

We are looking forward to a great week as we Journey Off The Map. Parents, you can register your child online at this link: https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myChurch/?id=26173 and click on the Participant Registration on the left side of the screen. Please help us by registering your child early.

M-FUGE MEETING

May 31 - 7 p.m.

Parents, your attendance is important!

Drivers Needed . . .

We recently purchased a 33 passenger bus from Liberty Baptist Church in Flowood. First, THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to the bus fund over that past couple of years! We paid cash and had enough in the fund to purchase new tires and take care of a few other matters. The state requires that drivers of such a bus hold a commercial driver’s license. If you have a CDL and would like to be on the driver list, or if you are willing to obtain a CDL and be on the driver’s list, please contact the church staff or a member of the bus committee. We are excited about the opportunities the bus will provide!
CHILDREN/PRESCHOOL MINISTER SEARCH

During the April Church Family Meeting, the church approved a new full-time Children/Preschool Minister position. The search committee is currently working to seek the person God has selected to fill this position. Please be in prayer for this team as they seek God’s will for this position. The team is: Courtney Franklin (Chairperson), Mike Green, Ted Lewis, Casey Spence, Janice Stevens, Randy Cotton, Gil Powell, Dwayne Parker, Joe Cole.

Welcome Angie Boydston!

We welcome Angie Boydston as our part-time interim Children’s Ministry Consultant. Angie is a Mississippi native who grew up in Louisville. She currently serves as the Preschool/Children’s Consultant for the Sunday School/Small Groups Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Before joining the Convention, she served as Childhood Minister at churches in Hattiesburg, Jackson, and Brandon.

She loves developing leaders and helping churches catch a vision for dynamic Children’s Ministries. Also an avid sports fan, she can often be found watching her nephews play football and baseball or cheering on her Mississippi State Bulldogs.

PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Growing up in a strong Christian home has given me a background of values for which I am thankful and a relationship with the Lord that I want to share with others. I became a Christian at the age of six as the result of my Sunday School teachers’ concern for me; and I answered God’s call into the ministry in the summer of 1989 as I worked as a children and student camp counselor. I believe that in view of that call, I should seek opportunities to serve the Lord in the area to which He has called me—to encourage and inspire children and their families, as well as those who minister to them.

Church Family Worship and Fellowship

May 17, plan to be in the CLC at 5:00 pm for an evening of worship, fellowship, and fun! We will kick off the evening with a time of worship led by the Youth Praise Team, a word from Bro. Joe, and follow that with food, fun, and fellowship for all ages. Invite your friends and come join in!

Table Talk

Applying the Word in the World

Join Bro. Joe for an informal discussion of God’s Word and apply it to today’s current events and life situations. Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the CLC (except 2nd Tuesdays when Sonshiners meet). Everyone is welcome!

J.A.M. Zone (Jesus and Me)

Children 3 thru 2nd grade during 10:30 a.m. Worship

OLDER CHILDREN K-5 thru 2nd Grade

Come to worship and dismiss during the offertory hymn
Tina & Jessica Lokey

Wednesday Night Supper

Served 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the CLC
$5 Regular / $3 Alternate ($16 Max per family)
Please sign up by noon on Monday

6  Pot Roast & Gravy, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, Bread, Dessert
   Alternate: Pizza
13  Chicken Tenders, Potatoes & Gravy, Lima Beans
    Salad, Bread, Dessert
    Alternate: Same
20  Poppy Seed Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans
    Salad Bread, Dessert
    Alternate: Corn Dog & Chips

Wednesday Night Supper Assistants

Delivering - Plates Ready at 5:15 p.m.
   6  Allen & Thersa Moore
   13  John & Liz Thompson
   20  Bill & Becky Richardson
   
   Assisting at 5:30 p.m.
   6  Michelle Jones / Christi Varner / Kim Webb
   13  Charles & Jo Richardson / Theresa Nutt
   20  Jason & Trish Perry / Connie Walker

We will hold a parent/child dedication during Classic Worship on May 10. Contact the church office to participate.
**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY**
- Early Worship: 8:00 a.m.
- Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
- Classic Worship: 10:30 a.m.
- REFUGE: Contemporary Worship in The Place: 10:30 a.m.
- Youth Ministry Tracks: 6:00 p.m.
- Youth Praise Team, Puppet/Drama Team
- Youth Leadership/Production Team
- Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.

*NO SUNDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES*
- May 3 - TCA Baccalaureate Service
- May 10 - Mother’s Day
- May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend

**WEDNESDAY**
- Men’s Prayer Breakfast: 6:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Night Supper: 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- Mission Friends, RA’s & GA’s: 6:30 p.m.
- CrossOver Student Worship: 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Choir Rehearsal: 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Bible Study in the Sanctuary: 6:30 p.m.

**MAY DEACON ON CALL**
Friday thru Sunday should a critical need arise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deacon on Call</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>D.R. Bozeman</td>
<td>601-594-9429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-10</td>
<td>Stephen Estes</td>
<td>601-421-1780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17</td>
<td>Brad Franklin</td>
<td>601-214-6958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-24</td>
<td>Mike Green</td>
<td>601-672-7763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-31</td>
<td>Benny Grewe</td>
<td>662-571-0379</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WELCOME CENTER**
- 3 & 10 Rita Jensen & Cheryl Ross
- 17 & 24 Tim & Kim Potter
- 31 Melanie Nance & Linda Loper

**Worship Prayer Ministry**
- 3 Derek & Michelle Jones
- 10 Kenny & Margaret Creel
- 17 Stephen & Kim Estes
- 24 Jenny & Hannah Cole
- 31 Gina Bozeman & Liz Thompson

**FLOWER CALENDAR**
If you would like to place fresh or silk flowers in memory or honor of someone please contact the church office for available dates.

To receive text message updates about church events text FBCFLORA to 95577