

The Siluria Messenger

July 2023

Going forward together . . .



Siluria Baptist Church
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A Visit with the Pastor . . .

The deacons serve as counselors and ministry partners to me, and I'm indebted to them for their assistance. In our June meeting I shared two visions with them, the first of those I'd like to explain here.

It's inarguable that the 2020 pandemic affected every church. For the first time in our lives we were forbidden to gather for study and worship. I remember Clark Boyd and Greg Sims meeting with me urgently and regularly to determine how to respond to this mandate. Nothing I've ever seen in churches produced as much disagreement as distancing, masks and vaccines.

Thom Rainer, formerly of LifeWay Christian Publishing, reported a sobering loss in weekly Bible study in Southern Baptist life due to Covid—nearly a 28 percent decrease in weekly Sunday School between 2019 and 2022.

This was also our first attempt at broadcasting. I remember some of those first recordings from the pastor's office and laptop since I was the only one present on Sunday morning. Jim Hancock and Clif Culpepper helped us get more proficient. Now we have good equipment and broadcast every Sunday.

It's time to press forward in obedience to God.

For the "Pastor's Prayer Partners," I'll ask all who are willing to commit to prayer with a group of three ("prayer triplets") for six weeks this fall. These groups will pray each week for specific needs, and will pray at a time and place of their choosing. The church is available of course, but groups can meet wherever they'd like and at a time they like. Jesus prayed before daybreak and Paul and Silas prayed at midnight, so the time of prayer isn't important. This is a group decision.

The object of our prayers is for God's leadership

in our church, earnestly asking for his guidance just as the young church in Acts did.

I propose these six weeks of prayer begin the week of Sept. 3, and that the entire group meet for an evaluation session on Oct. 17 (Tuesday night) or 21 (Saturday morning). The group can decide which is better. In this group meeting we'll use simple forms to evaluate worship, Bible study and evangelism and then talk about these together. These discussions and suggestions will become a significant part of our way forward.

The late Vance Havner told a joke about a tense deacons meeting. The chairman announced, "Gentlemen, it's time to pray." To which another deacon responded, "Oh my, has it come to that?" It's always time to pray and I ask you to join me in this concerted prayer program in the fall.

Devotedly,
 Michael J. Brooks

Birthdays	
7	DJ Massey
8	Chuck Whited
8	David Holcombe
13	Dianne Colegrove
14	Traci Boone
14	Gypsy Thomas
16	Ken Krater
17	Janis Daniel
17	Rick Hudson
19	Kelsey Todd
20	Clyde Nelson
21	Chloe Johnson
21	Claire Johnson
22	Anita Cates
23	Joseph Honeycutt
24	Greg Davis
24	David Powell

On July 2, bring a covered dish and join us after the service for a



Fellowship Meal

Meat will be provided, so please bring a side or dessert.



Church Staff	Michael Brooks, Pastor	michaeljbrooks2020@gmail.com
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Dates to Remember
2 Fellowship Meal
2 Deacons Meeting
4 Independence Day
Staff Anniversary
Luther Foreman July 1, 2019
Homebound of the Month
Gypsy Thomas
For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:4
Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. Romans 6:5-7