

# The Siluria Messenger

September 2023

Going forward together . . .



**Siluria Baptist Church**  
 10696 Hwy 119 S  
 Alabaster, AL 35007  
 (205) 663-7904  
 siluriabaptist.com

## A Visit with the Pastor . . .

A trend across denominational lines is a shortage of pastors. Research shows many pastors “gave up” during Covid, and many retired. Half of Alabama Baptist churches have bi-vocational pastors, so there’s a shortage of part-timers as well. Ken Allen of our Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions told us a few weeks ago that 554 Southern Baptist churches in Alabama are pastor less, this is 17 percent of our churches.

Another trend is that numbers of pastors are serving longer. The average American is 38, and the average pastor is 60.

So why aren’t younger men committing to ministry? No one seems to have a handle on this.

Allow time for a little history and reflection.

My predecessor didn’t live in the church-owned home and the church determined this wouldn’t be the case for us, either, in 2014. We lived there

a few weeks and then purchased a home in Pelham, five miles away. A broker contacted us in 2015 with interest in the church property, and the church agreed to the sale. Furniture went to a family in need and the kitchenware was brought to the church. Now eCO Credit Union is on this site. As I said at the building dedication, I was the last person to sleep on the property!

We had some physical upgrades in mind for our building, including a sanctuary HVAC unit and a roof. Deacon chair Clark Boyd pressed for some ministry spending as well with these proceeds. About this time Traci Boone asked for some help since she taught youth on Sundays and Wednesdays. Then I got a call from my friend John Killian about a promising student he had at the New Orleans Seminary extension. This collusion of events, plus the affirmation of the congregation, made Justin Massey our first student pastor in modern history. He was followed by Gardner Fish, Jim Hancock and Cody Seals. Justin enrolled at our seminary in Kansas

City, and Gardner and Jim are now pastors. Cody, too, feels called to pastoral ministry.

We’ve allowed student pastors to do anything the pastor can do, including preach, teach, baptize and administer the Lord’s Supper. Gardner and I made several home visits with the portable Lord’s Supper kit we own, and he officiated. So, in addition to their duties with youth, our student pastors have gained pastoral experience and received encouragement from our members while serving at Siluria.

Thus, the nearly \$200,000 we gained from the property sale has been used to upgrade our interior facilities, but also has been a worthy investment in the lives of a new generation of ministers.

Surely this is a good thing for which we give thanks.

Devotedly,  
 Michael J. Brooks

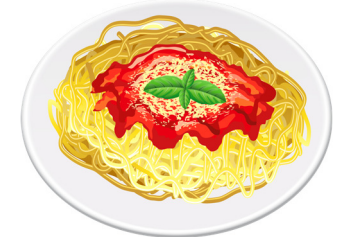
<b>Birthdays</b>		 <b>Myers-Mallory</b> State Missions Offering  will be our special offering for September. Money donated will go to help support AL WMU, Disaster Relief, Church Planting, Partnership Missions, & Church Revitalization.	<b>Dates to Remember</b>	
2	Robert Gardner		3	Prayer Groups begin
5	Kellie Haller		4	Labor Day
8	Kayrene Page		10	Called Business Mtg
14	Linda Parvin		10	Deacons Meeting
20	Candice Storey		11	Patriot Day
20	Tim Storey		16	Men’s Breakfast
21	Helen Bunn		17	Youth Fundraiser
22	Leonard Joiner		28	Ladies’ Night Out
24	Joel Anderson		<b>Student of the Month</b> Tanner Hall	
25	Tanner Hall	<b>Homebound of the Month</b> Kayrene Page		
26	Don Bunn	Church Staff Michael Brooks, Pastor      michaeljbrooks2020@gmail.com Luther Foreman, Music Minister      LV4man@hotmail.com Cody Seals, Youth Minister      codyseals215@gmail.com Katie Abney, Ministry Assistant      siluriabaptist@gmail.com Visit our website at siluriabaptist.com		



Business meeting Sept. 10 to vote on our 2023-2024 Nominating List. Copies of the proposed list are available at the church.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Philippians 2:4**



Youth Fundraiser Spaghetti Lunch Sept. 17. Eat in the Fellowship Hall or take home.