



It has been a couple of months since I have reminded you of our phrase of the year: Whatever it Takes. I did not know what the year would hold when the Lord impressed that phrase, and mindset, on my heart. But here we are, adjusting once again to changes in our office. I appreciate those who have communicated that they are willing to do “whatever it takes” to assist with the necessary tasks. I am grateful to our Leadership Team and deacons for seeing the need to continue to change in the culture of the church and create an environment of service. I have been impressed this month with the number of young adults who have cleaned the sanctuary each week. There are many more opportunities on the horizon!

A life that is willing to do “whatever it takes” is a life of abandonment. It is a willingness to set aside, to abandon our preferences in order to be faithful to God’s mission. Like a bungee jumper diving off a platform, we must relinquish our selfish hopes with total abandon to spread the true hope we have found in Jesus.

The problem is that we hold firmly on to things. This starts at birth. Once a baby learns to hold a bottle, there is no going back to Momma and Daddy holding it. This pattern continues throughout life. Teach a toddler to use a spoon to feed himself, then you discover they are deeply offended if you even go in the direction of the spoon. A teenager begins driving and it is as if he is cursed if he has to submit to riding with his parents ever again. As adults we hold firmly to what we achieve a great job, financial success, beautiful house as if that is all we have. It becomes the singular banner over our lives. However, when we commit to do “whatever it takes,” we hold on to our plans and ideals loosely. We become more willing to follow His plans and ideals, even if on the surface they do not make sense and may not seem successful. The point is that we become willing to hold our plans in an open hand, rather than a closed fist.

We must relinquish our comfort, resources, time, talents, experiences and every other part of our life where we struggle to give God control.

A big view of God is the starting point for living a “whatever it takes” life. Paul understood this when he prayed his desire for the church at Ephesus, that they be able to understand the “breath and length and height and depth” of the love of God (Ephesians 3:18). He knew that a deep understanding of God would result in a deeper faith. Throughout Scripture the

people who were used in the greatest capacities were the ones who had a high view of God. Nehemiah had a big view of God. Upon hearing of Jerusalem's destruction, he appealed to his “great and awesome” God prior to approaching the Persian king to ask permission to go rebuild the city walls; knowing full well that such an approach would mean risking his life (Nehemiah 1:5).

Similarly, Queen Esther knew that her life could be ended if she approached the Persian king about aiding in the plight of the Jews, her people. However, after prayer and fasting, her view of God emboldened her toward her calling to a royal position “for such a time as this.” If it cost her life, she believed, so be it (Esther 4:14).

What would cause a person to risk his or her life for the sake of the mission? It is an unwavering belief in the God of the mission. Pep talks or guilt sessions will not ultimately make you one that will do “whatever it takes.” Only a robust picture of God will enable this type of action. We will not do “whatever it takes” until we recover the grandeur that God made us to know and worship Him and make Him known throughout the whole world.

The need is too great for us to have anything less than a “whatever it takes” heart and commitment. I am grateful God demonstrated such a heart toward me!

In Him,
Bro. Clint

A special-called Business Meeting this Sunday, April 29, following the morning worship service to vote without discussion on purposed constitution changes.

The **National Day of Prayer** is **Thursday, May 3**. We will hold a special prayer time for our country at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.



Just this past week the students and I got to enjoy an awesome hike at the Clark Creek Nature Trail. If you enjoy waterfalls, nature, and hiking I would highly suggest you and your family head on down to Woodville, MS to take it all in. One thing could be said of it though, it's not easy. While it is completely worth it, it is also really tough. Our students can attest to that and my calf muscles are still reminding me of the hills I climbed. While we were hiking I heard several of our students say, "Aaron I don't think I can take another step. I got nothing left." I couldn't help but think of how many times I have heard others say the same thing concerning other moments in their lives. These moments were not always physical. Sometimes they couldn't move forward one more step spiritually or emotionally. I confess there are times when I feel and even say the same thing. But I'm reminded Philippians 2:13, "For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose." This is an idea we will look at further on Wednesday nights at Youth Worship. We are starting a new series called Old School where we will look at some of our favorite and popular stories from the Old Testament. A common theme that persists throughout is that the Lord was constantly working through those who had faith in him to do a work that was for his good purpose. My hope is that our students will internalize this and let it be an overarching theme for their own lives, that through every moment as they seek Christ, he is working in them for his good purpose.

Be in prayer for our students and the adults who are participating in our **Crest Hill, IL Mission Trip May 23-26**. They certainly will have to have this mindset each day.

Also be in prayer for our seniors. **Senior recognition Sunday is May 6th**, but this is only the beginning of the journey that they will face and many of you have been in for some time. Pray that they rely on Christ for their strength and that each decision they make is for his good purpose.

2018 SENIOR ADULT DAY RETREAT

Join us for the MS Baptist Senior Adult Day Retreat

in Vicksburg on **Thursday, May 17**.

The event is from 12:00-4:00 pm.

Sign up sheets will be available in your Sunday School Class.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Lee Royce, Mississippi College

Featured Music:

Anne Elizabeth Buys, 2017 Miss Mississippi

"Reflections Choir", FBC Jackson

**We will leave from the church early enough
to grab lunch, then enjoy the day.**

Text to Give

You can now give by texting any amount to 662-516-5333. The first time you use Text to Give you will be prompted to enter your preferred payment method. After that all you have to do is text the amount you want to give and you're done.

There are no fees to your cellphone account.



VBS TRAINING

FBC will be hosting the Yazoo County Baptist Association VBS training

April 30

Supper will be served beginning at 5:30 pm

Training will begin at 6 pm.



Gifts were received for the following designated funds:
To the Capital Improvement Fund in memory of Bobby Perry
To the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in memory of Frances G. Williams

Financial Report through March 2018

Total Budget Offering **\$203,025.03** less Expenses **\$204,393.43** = **-\$1,368.40**
Total Approved Budgeted through March 2018 = \$229,904.46
Actual Expenses **\$204,393.43**= **\$25,511.03** spending under budget

*\$17,217.11 required weekly to meet budget.

April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22
Bible Study	Bible Study	Bible Study	Bible Study
Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
285	271	267	198
Worship Service	Worship Service	Worship Service	Worship Service
Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
381	252	260	203
Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering	Budget Offering
\$19,378.35	\$14,055.71	\$15,132.50	\$9,128.54



VBS Workshop is Monday night, April 30 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Supper first then opening rally followed by breakout sessions for everyone. If you are signed up to help or are considering volunteering, please join us for this fun night. The Missions, Music, and Snack Rotations will be covered as will decorations. As a teacher, a specialist with the State Baptist Leadership Team will talk through your curriculum, which you will receive upon your arrival. This will give you a real jumpstart to serve this year. Please make every effort to attend.

On Sunday May 20, I Love Yazoo will be across the street at Webster Park for our annual VBS Registration Block Party. Lets gear up for a fun afternoon and go all out to reach these kids for Christ.



AWANA Store Night and Pizza Party on **Sunday, May 6, at 5 pm**, we will wrap up another successful year of AWANA with our Store Night and Pizza Party. In times past some of our parents have chosen to skip out on this night because of the lack of activity. Don't cheat your kids out of this "reward" night for all the hard work throughout the year!

**The Deacons of
First Baptist Church**

will host the Annual

Widows and Widowers

Banquet

Dinner and a Movie

Friday, May 4,

at 5:00 pm.

in the fellowship hall.

All widows and widowers are asked to RSVP to their deacon.

I Love Yazoo is Sunday, **May 20.**

We are working to finalize plans to host a community event with the Yazoo City Police Department, and we will also ask some individuals to team up and go visit the prospects we did not get to visit during our March "I Love Yazoo" effort. **Look for ways to commit to participate in your Sunday School box and the weekly bulletin.**



On Mother's Day, our Worship Choir will be joined by our Children's Ministry for a couple of special songs that you won't want to miss! Our kids have been working on these songs during Sunday School and on Wednesday nights and I am looking forward to leading this intergenerational choir on that day.



If you would like to be a part of this years dedication service on

May 13, please email clint@fbcyazoo.org by May 10.

May is a great time to join our Worship Choir. This past month we have had two new members and would love to have you join us as well. We meet Wednesday at 6:45 pm in the Choir Room on the 2nd floor of the Education building.

May 2018

Regular Weekly Sunday Services

9:45 am—Sunday School
11:00 am—Worship Service
5:00 pm—Awana & Small Groups

Wednesday Services

6:00 pm—Prayer Meeting, Children's & Students Bible Study
and Ladies Bible Study
6:45 pm—Choir Practice

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <u>Local Benevolence Offering</u> Special called business meeting to vote on constitution changes.	30 Association VBS Training	1	2	3 NATIONAL DAY of PRAYER Noon Prayer gathering in the fellowship hall.	4 Widows and Widowers Banquet 5 pm	5
6 Senior Recognition Day LAST NIGHT OF SMALL GROUPS until FALL Awana Store Night	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Happy Mothers Day!</i> Baby Dedication Day	14	15	16	17 2018 SENIOR ADULT DAY RETREAT	18	19
20 	21	22	23	Crest Hill, IL Mission Trip		
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	Deacon of the week: 6 - Grant Andrews, 13 - Dallas Powell, 20 - Craig Standley, 27 - Richard Pickens	

WATCH US LIVE ONLINE!

Sunday morning services are available **LIVE** online. You can watch the service live by going to www.fbcyazoo.org And clicking on the "Live Stream" on our home page.



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YAZOO CITY MS

PERMIT NO. 7

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

FRIDAY—CLOSED

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