

The Baptist Builder

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Palafox and LaRue — Pensacola, Fla.
ELWIN L. SKILES, Ph.D., Pastor

Volume I

JUNE 16, 1950

Number 15

You Are Invited

What? CHURCH-WIDE PICNIC AT BAYVIEW PARK—PICNIC AREA.

When? Wednesday, JUNE 21, activities begin at 4:30 with group recreation.

Who? For all church members, Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood, and W.M.U. members and their families.

What to Bring? A PICNIC LUNCH, a spirit of FUN, and an extra piece of CHICKEN for our PASTOR. COLD DRINKS will be furnished.

Let's make this a grand and glorious occasion as we meet in God's great out of doors. We should have at least 1,000. We are counting on you and your family to share with Fun, Food and Fellowship.

The following program of activities has been arranged:

4:30 - 5:30 — Group recreation by departments of our Sunday School. There will also be volleyball, croquet and other games.

5:30 - 6:30 — Soft Ball games, East Side vs. West Side, in the Junior, Intermediate, Young People and Adult departments.

6:30 - 7:15 — Everybody eats — DRINKS FREE — remember your "Picnic Dollars."

7:15 - 7:35 — Fun period — Sam Jordan in charge.

7:35 - 8:00 — Sing praises unto Jehovah — led by a choir of over 150 voices from the Junior and Intermediate departments of V. B. S.

8:00 - 8:30 — Family Altar under the Stars — Dr. Skiles.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

| By Comparison | 1949 | 1950 |
|------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| Enrollment | 1499 | 1486 |
| Attendance | 860 | 857 |
| | Enrolled | Present |
| Gen. Officers | 10 | 9 |
| Adult A | 215 | 107 |
| Adult B | 391 | 215 |
| Young People | 106 | 72 |
| Senior | 79 | 32 |
| Intermediate | 85 | 51 |
| Junior A | 116 | 77 |
| Junior B | 86 | 51 |
| Primary A | 51 | 30 |
| Primary B | 64 | 34 |
| Primary C | 60 | 36 |
| Beginner A | 45 | 28 |
| Beginner B | 49 | 35 |
| Nursery A | 12 | 14 |
| Nursery B | 59 | 24 |
| Nursery C | 58 | 42 |
| TOTAL | 1486 | 850 |
| "Save the Summer for the Saviour." | | |

INSTRUCTION CLASSES PLANNED FOR NEW MEMBERS

Believing that a program of orientation for all of our new members will be beneficial both to them and the church, we are inaugurating the policy of requesting all who come into our fellowship to attend four periods of instruction. These will be conducted during the Training Union hour on Sunday evenings. These discussions will serve to acquaint our new members with the meaning of church membership, the program and varied ministries of their new church home, the opportunities afforded for individual participation, and the larger program of our denomination.

A tour of the church buildings and visits to our library and offices will be a part of this program. Discussion leaders will be the Pastor, Educational Director, the Deacons and others.

Schedule cards will be issued to the new members. In the event that one of the classes is missed, that absence can be made up in the following month. Those who have united with our church in recent months will find these classes most helpful.

The first class will meet on Sunday evening, June 18, at 6:45. The place of meeting will be the church auditorium.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

We are in the midst of a wonderful Vacation Bible School program. Let us be much in prayer that through this school we may be successful in assisting our children to a clearer understanding of Christian truth. The commencement program on Friday, June 23, will be one of the high hours in our church year. Come early if you expect to get a good seat.

PICNIC TIME IS HERE! We are going to have such a good time playing games, sitting in the shade, getting better acquainted, enjoying good music, and entering into the spirit of one big family altar. I hope everyone will plan to attend this big event. Perhaps some of our shut-ins will be able to come and sit in cars or in chairs under the shade trees. At an appropriate place in the evening's program, I plan to recognize the following individuals and groups: the youngest and oldest persons present, the newest and oldest members of our church, the largest family, all who have united with our church in the past year, and all who hold elective offices in our church organization. A special event which is not on the planned program should be an outstanding attraction of the pre-supper period. This will be a ball game with the bald-headed deacons on one team and the grey-headed deacons on the other. Your pastor will be glad to umpire the one inning game.

THREE ATTEND Y. W. A.

WEEK AT RIDGECREST

Three members of the Virginia Wing Y. W. A. are attending the Y. W. A. week at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly in North Carolina. Our W. M. S. has made it possible for Misses Margaret Resmondo, Peggy Watts and Norma Overton to make the trip.

TRAINING UNION

233 Followers of Christ presented themselves for duty last Sunday evening at 6:45. Were you in your place of training? Get aboard our Training Union choo-choo next Sunday.

Remember Adult B has charge of the "Training Union Moments" in the evening worship next Sunday night.

LET'S GO TO THE PICNIC KILROY WILL BE THERE

How can you find out who Kilroy is? By shaking hands with every one you see. The four persons designated to be Kilroy will tell you when you shake hands with them.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

All attendance and enrollment records for recent years for Vacation Bible School at First Baptist have been broken during this first week of Bible School. On Tuesday of the first week (when this copy was prepared) the attendance was 290.

We are proud of the excellent work that is being done in all departments. The adult leaders are giving their best.

Mothers and fathers of the boys and girls in the school and all other members of our church are invited to attend the commencement program on Friday evening, June 23, at 7:30.

Also remember the ALL CHURCH PICNIC at Bayview Park on Wednesday, June 21. Our Junior and Intermediate V. B. S. choir of 150 voices will sing. The choir is under the direction of Mrs. Maurice Davis.

MANY THANKS to all who responded to our request to bring lemons and sugar to help with refreshments. Also we are indeed grateful to those who are assisting with the transportation and serving of refreshments. You are helping in a wonderful way to make our V. B. S. a success.

* * *

TRY IT AND SEE

The systematic observance and practice of systematic giving through the church and denominational budget on the basis of tithing as a loving Christian privilege and duty will help each individual Christian in the following ways:

1. It will scripturalize his duties.
2. It will organize his responsibilities.
3. It will systematize his privileges.
4. It will capitalize his resources.
5. It will stabilize his faithfulness.
6. It will magnetize his co-operation.
7. It will centralize his supplications.
8. It will immortalize his loyalty.
9. It will Christianize the world.
10. It will evangelize the lost.
11. It will sanitize the sick.
12. It will stigmatize his penuriousness.
13. It will criminalize his stinginess.
14. It will crucify his selfishness.
15. It will democratize his spirit.
16. It will multiply his usefulness.
17. It will glorify his Master.
18. It will widen the four dimensions for Christ's Kingdom.

— L. R. Scarborough.

EVERY BAPTIST SHOULD

KNOW - - -

WHAT BAPTIST BELIEVE

By DR. J. E. DILLARD

There are certain fundamentals for which Baptists contend more persistently and more insistently than any other people. These may be stated as follows:

1. The absolute undelegated Lordship of Christ. He is prophet, priest, and king. He is Saviour, Lord, and example. Baptists care little for man-made creeds and concessions. We ask: What did Jesus say? What did He do? What does He want us to do? We claim for ourselves and grant to all others full liberty where Jesus is silent, but we are uncompromising where Jesus speaks.

2. The authority and sufficiency of the Word. The New Testament tells who Jesus was and is, and what He said and did, and what He said for us to do. All creeds, conduct principles, programs, and polities are to be judged by this book.

3. The competency of the soul in religion. Baptists believe that any soul has as much right to approach God for himself and to read the Bible for himself as any soul that ever did live or ever will live. Hence they deny the right of any pope or priest or saint or virgin or institution or ordinance or any other being or thing to come between the soul and God. Christ is the only mediator. For Baptists proxy religion is unthinkable.

4. An experience of grace. Baptists believe that being a Christian is essentially a spiritual experience and not a matter of creeds, rituals, and ceremonies. "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

5. A converted church membership. Baptists believe that only persons old enough to make intelligent choice, to realize and repent of sin, and to accept Christ by a definite and voluntary act of faith are proper subjects for scriptural baptism or for membership in a New Testament church.

6. A church a pure democracy. "Tell it to the church." Baptists believe a New Testament church is an independent, self-governing body of baptized believers, the members of which possess equal rights and privileges and have equal duties.

— Sunday School Builder.
(Continued next week)

ECHOES FROM RIDGECREST

The following letter was received from a group of our College Students who are attending B. S. U. week at Ridgecrest:

"We wish you could be here to experience with us all the wonderful joys of Ridgecrest. There's just no other place like it. If there could be a 'heaven on earth' we're sure that Ridgecrest would be it.

"God has something great for each person who comes to Ridgecrest. A surprise package every consecrated moment of the day. We receive inspiration in early morning watch, in fascinating Bible study hours, in some lonely place where we might go to pray, in some challenging message of sermon or song or in happy recreational hours, or just as we live in Christian comradeship with others.

"Each person at Ridgecrest shares his happiness with others. Everyone seeks to out do all the others in friendliness, in self-denial, in sacrifice. In such a friendly atmosphere formal introductions become unnecessary. Everyone — students, leaders, faculty members, all — make up the Ridgecrest family. We thank God that we have the opportunity this year to be a part of this wonderful family."

Yours in Christ,
BARBARA GILLESPIE.
PAUL CARO,
GEORGIE RUTH LEE,
MARGARET ANN DAVIS,
H. R. DENHAM, JR.,
DORA ETTA SOLOMON

JUNE 25 IS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY IN OUR CHURCH. LET US OBSERVE THIS SILVER ANNIVERSARY WITH A GENEROUS OFFERING.

MAIN MOTIVE OF TITHING

1. It is to teach men to put God and the church first.
2. It is to teach men to recognize and acknowledge God's ownership.
3. It is to teach men that a minimum ration of giving is the tenth.
4. It is to teach that tithing is an act of worship. The main purpose, therefore, is to secure, not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not the money, but the man; not the possession but the possessor.

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

MAKE SUNDAY THE LORD'S DAY — IT IS!

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Morning Worship..... | 8:30 and 11:00 |
| "Since God is Father"..... | Pastor |
| Evening Worship..... | 8:00 |
| "Marriage Is What Two Make It."..... | Pastor |
| (Third in a Series on Love, Courtship and Marriage.) | |
| Sunday School | 9:30 A.M. |
| Training Union | 6:45 P.M. |

MONDAY —

9:00 - 12:00 — Vacation Bible School (each morning through Friday.)
6:30 — Virginia Wingo Y. W. A.

TUESDAY —

6:30 — Youth Choir rehearsal.
7:30 — Adult Choir rehearsal.
7:30 — The Business Women's Bible Class meeting in the home of Mrs. C. C. McCurley, 1903 E. Brainard.
7:45 — Martha and Homemaker's Class Prayer Meeting at the home of Mrs. Clay Davis, 35 Flynn Drive Corry Heights.

WEDNESDAY —

4:30 — ALL CHURCH PICNIC at Bayview Park.
7:30 — Prayer Service at Bayview Park.

FRIDAY —

7:30 — Vacation Bible School Commencement.

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MEET AND VISIT OUR NEW MEMBERS

By Letter:

118 — Brentwood Bryan, 205 Live Oak Ave., Warrington.

DIRECTORY

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor..... | Dr. Elwin L. Skiles |
| Educational Director..... | Thomas J. Draper |
| Financial Secretary..... | Mrs. G. T. Sutton |
| Secretary..... | Mrs. Thomas J. Draper |
| Treasurer..... | Paul W. Caro |
| Choir Director..... | Mrs. Maurice Davis |
| Organist..... | Mrs. J. F. Griffith |
| Librarian..... | Miss Kitty Sue Wiggins |
| Dietician..... | Mrs. G. F. Manning |