

GREAT BANQUET/AWAKENING Newsletter



Mid-South Great Banquet, P.O. Box 343357, Bartlett, TN 38184
www.midsouthgb.com boardofdirectors@midsouthgb.com

Welcome New Members!

Thank you to everyone who contributed before, during, and after the Men's and Women's fall banquets! Your service and love helped shape these successful weekends. We were blessed with a total of 22 guests at the Men's banquet and 28 guests at the Women's. What an amazing gift to receive our 50 new brothers and sisters into the community! Christ's love was demonstrated through talks, agape, prayers, meals, and the service of a wonderful, supportive Community. God was present and lives were change.

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Reflections of My Time as Lay Director of the Fall Banquet

By Mike Karel

The fall banquet was truly a blessing for me. Going into the banquet I thought I knew exactly what to expect. I had done many banquets and many jobs prior to being a Lay Director. But when the time came to do the job, it was truly a task. A good task, but all the same a task. God blessed me and allowed me to have a great team of Men to assist me in the process. I truly believe we had one of the best groups of speakers that I have ever experienced on a banquet weekend. Some of these speakers I had heard before but on this particular weekend God gave them an A game and they produced. Roy did an awesome job as head Spiritual Director. His Grace talk was amazing and captivated everyone. Head Kitchen, Mike Patton, was the man and his team did a great job. Head Agape, Cory Evans, was also on point and kept us going. Our music team rocked the house and our table leaders had fantastic conversations with their tables. Prayer must have had a direct

*"We had a great group of guys
and a fantastic group of
guests."*

connection with God because again our speakers were great. Our Board Rep Larry Bryant had to step in and take over a table because we lost a team member early and Larry was the man. He took on the job and was wonderful. Bradley Karel had to take the talk that we lost by the team member having to leave and Bradley nailed it. We had three team members that were Awakening Alumni and I was proud to have them. These young men did their jobs and more. We need more Awakening people to move up to the Great Banquet Community. We had a great group of guys and a

Please see *Reflections* on page 6

Great Banquet #81

By Betsey Bogen

You work on something for months, pray about it, meet with others and have some idea of what you hope it will be like but never could I have imagined it as it really happened. God was in charge and He does things we can't begin to fathom. It was.... WOW! Overwhelming. Spirit filled. Emotionally charged. Hilarious. Amazing. Phenomenal. Miraculous (2 sisters gave their lives to Christ... there was a small electrical fire that night in my cabin which only confirmed to me that the Enemy was furious about that) I am still OVERFLOWING with hope, love, joy, grace, and peace. I left for Pinecrest Thursday night and



Women's Mid-South Great Banquet #81 Cover Art

returned home with 28 new Sisters in Christ! I came home still belly laughing and still singing. We danced, did Zumba and Pound (#owmyhighs!), I was flash mobbed, we ate until we couldn't eat anymore. I watched one of my sisters come in as a caterpillar and transform into the most beautiful butterfly there ever was. And the next day as I was

Please see *Banquet #81* on page 6

New Website Coming in 2017

The Mid-South Great Banquet & Awakening community continues to be blessed to have Bob Vawter who maintains our web site and helps keep everyone up to date on team rosters, upcoming event details, and informing us about specific team needs. Thanks Bobby!

In January 2017, the board is unveiling a new and improved web site which offers expanded functionality to further serve our community.

First we want to continue to inform guests & sleepers about this community. The web site will

endeavor to calm fears and answer questions guests may have about the weekend.

Second, just as we are called to know Jesus as Lord and make Him known, this new web site will also help us to know Him better by offering a list of Christian books, devotionals, audio books, and other resources to help your spiritual growth and Christian discipleship.

But wait, there's more...

Please see *New Website* on page 5

"In January 2017, the board is unveiling a new and improved web site which offers expanded functionality to further serve our community."



The website has a new look!

I Bring You Greetings from All on the Great Banquet Board!

By Carrie Whaley

There have many exciting things that we've been busy with this year to try and make our G.B. community even stronger. First of all, the pastors are working on a Lay Spiritual Director's training that we hope will be in place in time for anyone serving in that position on the spring Banquet teams. All future Lay Spiritual Directors will be expected to complete it prior to serving on a team in that position. We're excited to be able to better prepare team members for their responsibilities, and I would like to thank Chris Scruggs and Michael Qualls for heading up this endeavor.

Second, I'm so pleased to announce the roll out of a brand new website! It will still be found at www.midsouthgb.com, but that's about the only thing that will look the same. I think you will love all the wonderful changes and additions, though.

A huge shout out to Larry Bryant, who has put MANY hours on this project in recent months. As you have a chance to check it out, let Larry know how much you like and appreciate it!

And a final thing I wanted to mention concerns a need our community currently has. We need a new laptop computer to use on the weekends (5 per year). The one we have now is very dated and has become unreliable, causing our Tech team members to have to come up with one from someone to use. I think we can do better than that! So I just wanted to let you know that we would happily accept donations of any size toward that end, or if anyone feels so moved to supply us with a new one, we would certainly accept that too!

Please see *Greetings* on page 4

Scholarships for the Weekends

Remember that scholarships are always a need for the Banquets.

There are many needs for the weekend and oftentimes we have guests or sponsors who are unable to pay the necessary fees. If you feel led, please email the board at boardofdirectors@midsouthgb.com to notify them of your desire to make a donation for a scholarship.

Reunion Groups

One of the most important parts of the Great Banquet and Awakening is the follow-up. Although the weekend lasts only three days, you are invited to use its lessons for the rest of your life. After attending the Great Banquet and Awakening, you are challenged to:

- Strengthen your own spiritual life through study and active congregational

participation; and

- Strive to become an active disciple of Jesus Christ in the world through your church.

Reunion groups of three to five people meet weekly to examine their goals of spiritual growth and to encourage one another to a life of discipleship.

Please see *Reunion* on page 4

New Website from page 2

- Are you looking for a reunion group? The web site will publicize community reunion groups and encourage community members to get plugged into or even start their own group.
- Are you and your reunion group out of agape ideas? Many agape ideas are posted on the site and you are encouraged to share your own.
- Do you want to relive weekend memories visually? There is a gallery of past weekend group photographs.
- An expanded Awakening presence.
- Sign up for the 72-hour prayer vigils.
- Learn more about Great Banquet history and your Mid-South Great Banquet Board of Directors.

Greetings from page 3

We hope you'll enjoy and benefit from both of the projects for years to come. Don't hesitate to share your suggestions and good ideas with any board member. As they roll off the board, we salute Dustin Williams and Amy Bishop for their years of service, and we welcome Kellie Evins, Mike Patten, and Kelly Blevins as our newest board members. Please keep the board in your prayers in the months ahead, that we will have the wisdom to make wise decisions for our beloved community.

"We need a new laptop computer to use on the weekends."

We all wish you a blessed holiday season as we share in the joy of the *Word that was made flesh and dwelt among us!*

DeColores!

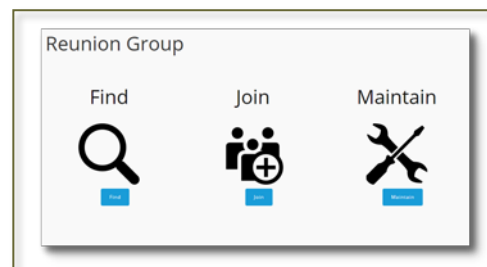
We are also introducing several "techie" improvements to improve the overall web site experience.

- A responsive web site design that works better on your smartphone & tablet.
- Improved guest, sponsor, team, and volunteer registration forms and processes.
- Improved method for newsletter registration.
- Mobile calendar integration that allows you to subscribe to the Great Banquet and Awakening calendar and have the events automatically appear on your smartphone or tablet.

Everyone is encouraged to visit the current site and we look forward to the future improvements to come in January 2017, www.midsouthgb.com.

Reunion from page 3

Visit the Reunion Group page on the website and find a group that meets near where you live or work, or start a group of your own. Either way, this is the best way for you to remain close with your Great Banquet and Awakening friends to share and be accountable to other Christians.



See the website for more information.

Upcoming Events

2017 Awakening Weekend

Saturday, January 14 – Monday, January 16, 2017

Lay Directors: Kristy Scarbrough & Zach Johnson

Awakening 4th Day Event

Thursday, January 19, 6:30–8:30 PM

Gatherings

6:00 PM – Potluck Dinner followed by fellowship & worship.

Childcare will be provided.

February 25, 2017 – New Hope Christian Church– Bartlett, TN

3300 Kirby Whitten Rd, Bartlett, TN 38134

May 20, 2017 – Advent Presbyterian Church – Cordova, TN

1879 N. Germantown Parkway, Cordova, TN 38016

Keep in mind that Gatherings aren't just for the community.

It's a great place to bring friends or family that might go through a future weekend.

This gives them a great opportunity to meet members of the community prior to going through their weekend.



2017 Spring Weekends

Men's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #82

Thursday, April 20 – Sunday, April 23

Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, 21430 Hwy 57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: David King

Women's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #83

Thursday, April 27 – Sunday, April 30

Pinecrest Conference and Retreat Center, 21430 Hwy 57, Moscow, TN 38057

Lay Director: Erica Cave

4th Day Event

Saturday, May 6, 6–8 PM

Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 3427 Appling Road, Memphis, TN 38133

Reflections from page 1

fantastic group of guest. The guest started to gel immediately. We did something a little different with our training weeks. We told something about each guest every week of the 9 weeks. That way we would be familiar with them before the weekend. Again God was with us and never let us go. God kept us attentive and prepared us for the weekend.

**De
Colores!!!**

Banquet #81 from page 2

wandering into Barnes and Noble and missing all of my wonderful new sisters, I felt a tap on my shoulder only to turn around and see one of those beautiful women with her arms out to hug me. I will carry this experience with me the rest of my life and I know it will sustain me in times of self doubt or trouble which will surely come – in fact trouble hit right away when I locked my car keys in my trunk just as everyone was leaving the campground. But I just laughed because I knew it was gonna be ok. Our verse for the weekend was Romans 15:13; May the God of Hope fill you with all JOY and PEACE as you Trust in Him so that you may OVERFLOW with Hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Great JOY indeed!

De Colores!

Please be in prayer for the spring lay directors as they prayerfully consider their teams as well as for potentials guests.

Ask God to lay friends and family in your life upon your heart that you could sponsor for the fall banquets.

Sponsor and registration forms can be found on the website, www.midsouthgb.com.



Pray for our guest and team! The 72 hour Prayer Chart for both weekends will soon be available on the website (www.midsouthgb.com). Once loaded, Click on "Prayer Chart" found on the left hand side – scroll down until you find Mid-South Great Banquet for both the men and women's weekends and find the time that works best for you.

Special Note from the Board

If you or someone you know, who is a member of the Mid-South Great Banquet has recently changed email address, physical address, or phone numbers, please contact Sylvia Henry and let her know so that she can update the database. Sylvia's contact information is listed below with the board members.

2016 Board Members

Spiritual Director	Michael Qualls	901-239-5674	mqualls@memphisseminary.edu
Assist. Spiritual Director	Diann White	901-870-6777	diannwhite12@yahoo.com
Chairman of the Board	Carrie Whaley	731-431-4805	whaletales@att.net
Community Lay Director	Joy Karel	901-270-5686	joyakarel@aol.com
Community Lay Director (Awakening)	Don Bogen	901-277-2801	donbogen@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Lisa Murdock	901-496-5344	lmur0504@gmail.com
FACILITIES	Chris Cave	901-238-7530	ccave@bellsouth.net
	David King	901-486-9888	davidking319@yahoo.com
	Mike Patten	901-233-9836	mikepatten007@outlook.com
LEADERSHIP	Larry Bryant	901-237-9037	larrybryant@yahoo.com
	Kellie Evins	901-317-9393	kelloves31@gmail.com
	Sylvia Henry	901-674-1080	shshenry@bellsouth.net
COMMUNITY	Kelly Blevins	901-485-8398	tazchee@hotmail.com
	Paula Denbow	901-461-4400	paula.denbow@mosaik.com
	Sharon Stone	901-493-8072	chrestmanstone@bellsouth.net

Please feel free to contact any of the board members with any questions or concerns you have concerning the Mid-South Great Banquet or the Awakening.

Newsletter published monthly for the Mid-South Great Banquet and Bartlett Awakening Communities.

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De Colores!



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.midsouthgb.com

Key Dates

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Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code