

GREAT BANQUET/AWAKENING Newsletter



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

A Note from the Board Spiritual Director

By Michael Qualls

There's an interesting moment in the Jonah story. Resisting the leadings of God to preach to the Ninevites Jonah, instead, takes a cruise. Turbulent seas cause the crew to wonder who has brought this havoc? Jonah accepts the blame and they toss him overboard to drown. But he doesn't drown. Instead he is swallowed by a hungry fish. Stewing in digestive fluids, clearly not up to their usual effectiveness, for three days it suddenly occurs to him: maybe I should pray? You think? I can't help but wonder if the story might have changed for the better sooner if he had thought to pray before the crisis.

Why do we, like Jonah, wait till we are "in the belly of a whale" to pray? Why are we forgetful, hesitant, or resistant when it comes to regularly

The New Website is Here!

The new and improved web site is live! Check out the improvements including:

- Mobile-friendly functionality
- Improved forms
- Enhanced newsletter registration
- Online calendar that you can link to your mobile device
- List of books and resources to help personal spiritual growth and Christian discipleship
- Reunion groups page
- Agape ideas

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"Why are we forgetful, hesitant, or resistant when it comes to regularly talking to God?"

talking to God? Some might guess it's because we really don't believe prayer accomplishes all that much. I believe exactly the opposite may be true.

Please see *Spiritual Director* on page 4

- Weekend photos
- And so much more!

Go to www.midsouthgb.com and take a look around.



The website has a new look!

Ways to Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Be His Unseen Hands and Feet – The Great Banquet is an amazing experience, and we all want others to have that same type of unique encounter with God that we did. Since there are many ways to be involved, the challenge is deciding the right fit for you.

Since the teams are made up of around 30 people, not everyone can be on a team. Plus, teams are a mixture of people who just went through, those who have served on a few teams, and people who have served on many teams. As much as we'd like, we all can't serve on all the teams.

So, begin prayerfully considering now how you can be an unseen servant and help someone experience Christ's unconditional love. Opportunities to serve include: serving and/or

decorating for meals, being a part of the prayer vigil, assisting the agape team, writing letters, making gifts of agape, providing snacks, attending community events, and making banners. Keep in mind that Christ's love is best demonstrated by as many people as possible having an opportunity to give of themselves.



Now is the time to start making agape for the spring weekends. Please make 65 for each weekend. If you would like to give something special for guests only, the maximum number of guest each weekend is 30.

The teams have begun meeting for the spring weekends and are in need of our prayers. A list of team members will be posted on the Mid-South Great Banquet website, www.midsouthgb.com.

Please pray for this group of leaders as well as for potential guests.

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

Sponsor and registration forms can be found on the website.



The 72 hour Prayer Chart for both weekends will soon be available on the website (www.midsouthgb.com). Once loaded, hover over "Community" on the top banner and click "Volunteer" from the dropdown – 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.

Upcoming Events



Gatherings

6:00 PM – Potluck Dinner followed by fellowship & worship.
Childcare will be provided.

March 4, 2017 – Advent Presbyterian Church – Cordova, TN

1879 N. Germantown Parkway, Cordova, TN 38016

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

Spiritual Director from page 1

Part of the answer may lie in just how powerfully transforming prayer can be. Perhaps we are afraid to regularly talk to God because we know God will not leave our life untouched. He will use our openness to set us on new paths and empower us for dynamic new mission, perhaps taking us beyond the familiar and comfortable. Few of us are courageous enough to choose the discomfort of the unknown unless the discomfort of the known pushes us beyond.

Henri Nouwen is onto something when he writes, "praying is no easy matter. It demands a relationship in which you allow someone other than yourself to enter into the very center of your person, to see there what you would rather leave in darkness, and to touch there what you would rather leave untouched." It is in this intimacy that we discover, not just who God is, but who we really are and who we are authentically called to become. May we join the earliest disciples in the famous request, "Lord teach us to pray."



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.

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.

2017 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

Gatherings

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Customer Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code