

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

The term for disciple, or some form of it, appears 269 times in the New Testament. It IS a big deal. One of the best definitions of disciple is found in the book by Glenn McDonald, *The Disciple Making Church: from Dry Bones to Spiritual Vitality*. He says a disciple is a "lifelong learner and follower of Jesus Christ." Pretty simple. Very profound. Perhaps we have missed a couple aspects of what it means to be a lifelong learner.

First, it seems to me that it means we approach all matters of faith and conscience with humility. After all, we don't know everything. We aren't done learning, are we? When we say "yes" to Jesus

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"A follower is interested not simply in knowing, but in doing."

we enroll in the school of Christ-following. Graduation does not occur until we "cross that narrow sea." All along the way we are supposed to

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Great Banquet & Awakening Event Reminders

Very often we hear:

NOW. YOU. CAN.

"I wish I could be notified when candlelight services will be held. It meant so much to me and I don't want to miss a single future service."

We want you "plugged in" with upcoming community events and weekend needs.

"I wish someone would let me know when they have specific needs during the weekends. I would love to come help wherever needed."

In August 2017, the Great Banquet and Awakening community began using a new Cell Phone Text Messaging Service called REMIND. This service is designed to provide a quicker and more convenient way to notify community members using cell phone text messages. We intend to use it to inform you about upcoming Great Banquet and Awakening community events and needs.

"I would've been at the last Gathering / 4th Day / Send Off / Dedication / Community Event, but I just didn't know about it. How can I be notified?"

"I would like to hear about information or news that happens between Great Banquet and Awakening weekends."

Please see *REMIND* on page 5

Carrie's Corner

Hello friends,

I'm a year and a half now into my tenure as chair of the GB board and since my last communication with you, so I thought I would provide a little update about the busy year we've had.

- In February, we welcomed Jack Pitzer, creator of the Great Banquet, to our meeting and gained fresh perspective from him.
- This spring, Michael Qualls spear-headed

a team to create a training manual for Lay Spiritual Directors, and the first training was held prior to the spring Banquets. Going forward, opportunities will be offered at least once a year, as needed.

- You have undoubtedly already noticed the new website which Larry Bryant has worked tirelessly to create. It should provide for our needs for many years to come. Please let him know of your appreciation.
- In addition, several board members have

Please see *CORNER* on page 6



Now is the time to start making agape for the fall 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. If you bring gifts for a particular guest or team member, it must be able to fit in the letter bag (size of a paper lunch bag) **along with** the letters

Speaking of Agapé, we also need new cushions for the conference room. If you would like to purchase or make cushions, please contact Sharon Stone at chrestmanstone@bellsouth.net.

We will need 54.

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.

Upcoming Events



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

November 11, 2017 – Faith Baptist Church – Drummonds, TN
900 Simmons Rd, Drummonds, TN 38023

*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 Fall Weekends

Men's Fall Great Banquet Weekend #84

Thursday, September 28 – Sunday, October 1

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

Lay Director: Tim Bauder

Women's Fall Great Banquet Weekend #85

Thursday, October 5 – Sunday, October 8

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

Lay Director: Kellie Evins

4th Day Event

Saturday, October 14, 6–8 PM

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

2018 Awakening Weekend

Saturday, January 13 – Monday, January 15

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

Lay Directors: Kristy Scarbrough & Bradley Karel

Spiritual Director from page 1

be growing, changing. And the horizons just keep expanding as we are challenged again and again by studying the revelation of God, our experience, and the Spirit who leads us into all truth. Leonard Sweet expresses in this quote what has been my own experience: The greater amount of knowledge you accumulate, the bigger your island gets, but the greater the shoreline of the unknown becomes. In short, the more you know, the more you know you don't know." (Jesus: A Theography)

Second, it seems to me that we must diligently allow our lives to be shaped by the living Jesus. Perhaps the greatest singular distinction of the Christian faith is that it is not based on the precepts of a great teacher—though Jesus was certainly that. It is predicated on the post-

resurrection living presence of the One who IS the way, truth, and life. So we must be willing to allow our worldview, our relationships, our everything to be continually placed in the hands of the Master who is artfully renewing us in God's image. A follower is interested not simply in knowing, but in doing. Do not expect to learn anything, unless you are willing do something with that knowledge. So at the heart of all we try to do in the Great Banquet is an attempt to make it possible for persons to continue on the path of learning and following Jesus. My prayer for me is that, today, I am able to grow a little more and show a little more of Jesus than I did yesterday, but not as much as I will tomorrow. Let my discipleship never be stale, thoughtless, effortless. There is no life in that.

DeColores.

The teams have begun meeting for the fall 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.



Pray for our guests and team! The 72 hour Prayer Chart for both weekends will soon be available. Go to www.midsouthgb.com and click on "Pray for Current Teams." Once loaded, 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.

REMIND from page 1

To receive messages, send the following text message:

@msgbawake

to the number:

81010

If you have trouble with 81010, try texting **@msgbawake** to **(501) 244-3816**.

We hope you will get "plugged in" with the community by trying the REMIND service. You will see that we will not overwhelm you with too many text messages. We believe you will find it useful to stay informed with upcoming events, community needs, and keep in closer contact with your Great Banquet and Awakening friends.

Remind Tips

When you receive your welcome text: DO NOTHING!

You are now registered. There is NO need to click on the link, or install an APP, or do

anything else. You are registered and will receive future text message reminders sent from the Great Banquet and Awakening communications team.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- We have not sold your personal information to a marketer. (And we never will.)
- We will not overwhelm you with frequent messages from the Great Banquet and Awakening community.
- The REMIND service is typically used by schools; however, it may be used (for free) by other organizations, like us. During the registration process you are NOT required and should NOT join a school.
- You will only receive messages from us (unless you already use the REMIND service with another group, school, or church).
- We registered every cell phone number we have received through the registration process. To leave all classes owned by Mid-South Great Banquet, simply reply to the text message with @LEAVE. To leave ALL classes on Remind, reply with @STOPALL.

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.

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been working hard on revisions to all the team manuals (again!), and we're excited to try them out on the fall weekends.

- Currently, the board is working on reviewing and clarifying policies from the past 10 years to develop a board policy manual. Stay tuned for the release of some of those policies when the process is completed, including updated criteria for team and board service.

So you see what an incredibly busy year it's been (and this is only August)! I can't say enough how hard-working this board is...Please seek them out as you're able and express your gratitude to them—they do it all for the love of the Great Banquet and this community. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of them!

De Colores,
😊 *Carrie Whaley*



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
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	Kellie Evins	901-317-9393	kelloves31@gmail.com
	Sylvia Henry	901-674-1080	shshenry@bellsouth.net
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	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.

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