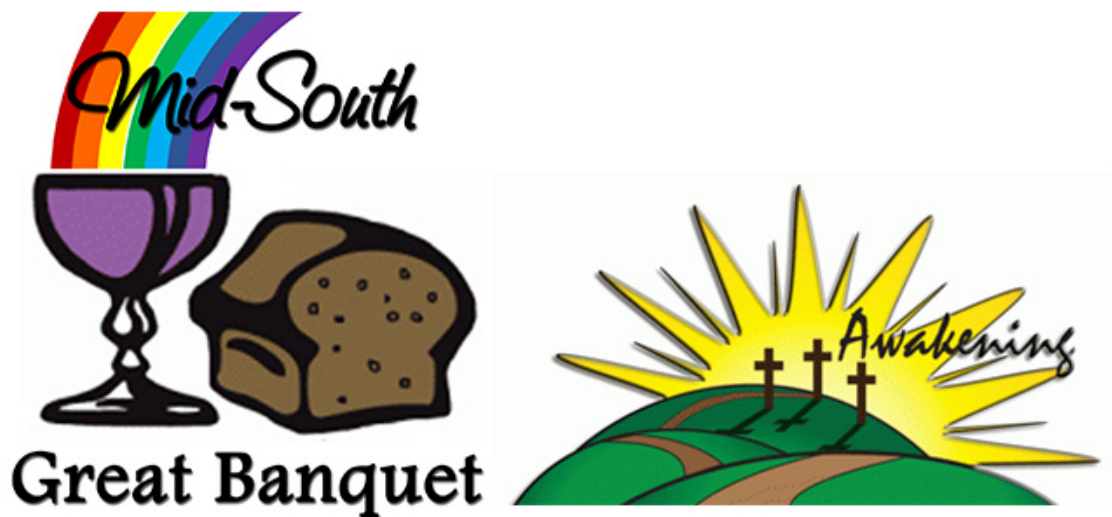


[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome New Members!

Thank you to all who contributed over the weekends by being on the team, attending send-off, providing snacks and drinks, serving a meal, participating in serenade or candlelight, praying for the weekend, making Agape, and unloading or packing up. It takes so many to bring it all together and the support from our loving community helped shape these wonderful weekends. What an amazing gift to receive our newest brothers and sisters into the community!

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Great Banquet #84

By Tim Bauder

Lay Director for the Men's Fall Great Banquet Weekend. I am so thankful that our Heavenly Father blessed me by surrounding me with so many Godly men to form the Mid-South Great Banquet # 84 Team; He gets all the Glory. We all learned that it was not about us but that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Yes, we all witnessed the true meaning of Philippians 4:13, how it truly works in each of our lives when we put Jesus Christ first and that we truly trust and obey.

As we proceed forward in our journey, building on to our relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ lets us hold on to this verse from John 7:38, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Let what we learned during this season be our testimony and may God always get all the Glory. Be always an encouragement to one another.

De Colores,

Tim Bauder
Lay Director
Mid-South Great Banquet #84

Great Banquet #85

By Kellie Evins

To say that the Women's GB #85 was a success is an understatement. If you had told me, back in the spring of 2010, at my Banquet, that I would be the Lay Director one day, I'd have laughed my head off! But what a blessing that task was!!!! I don't know that I've ever experienced a smoother, more pleasant or more relaxed banquet! It was truly a wonderful weekend filled with laughter, tears, and an abundance of Agape love for every single guest and every team member. I had the privilege of watching God work from such a unique vantage point! Whether team member or guest, I was doubly blessed to share that weekend with so many loved ones. Thanks be to God for knitting that particular team together with those particular guests at just that particular time. Hallelujah!

Much Love,

Kellie Evins

The Website

The website continues to be updated with new information. We are now rotating the home page between Great Banquet and Awakening promotions depending upon which weekend is next.

Here are some of the things you can do on the web site:

- Register guests & sleepers
- Volunteer to serve
- View current teams
- Sign up to pray for upcoming weekends
- Pay weekend registration fees
- See a calendar of upcoming events

You can also obtain instructions for:

- Signing up for the Remind text messaging service
- Subscribing to the calendar on your mobile phone

And you can do all of this from your browser, tablet, or mobile phone.

Email us to provide suggestions, corrections, desired features, or just let us know what you think about the site at webmaster@midsouthgb.com.

A Note from the Board

By Diann White, Assistant Spiritual Director

During Advent, we expectantly await the birth of Christ in the midst of the chaotic commercialization of Christmas. Roads are clogged with way too many cars, bells are ringing, stores are crammed with crazed shoppers, and Christmas carols are blaring. Everywhere you look you see nativity scenes displaying a cast of characters including Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, wise men, and of course sheep, a token donkey and up to three camels. You may have noticed that many of them have a spotlight that shines on the Christ Child in the manger.

Some of us are making long to-do lists hoping to make Christmas more memorable for our families. Some of those without lists are probably worried that they should be doing more. The funny thing is that we don't need to do special things to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Our best use of Advent is for us to focus on doing the same things that we should be doing all

After all, with crowds everywhere you go right now, there are plenty of opportunities to be kind to strangers. Advent is a great time to appreciate that the true gift of Christmas is Jesus, our Savior. Not only do the nativity scenes remind us to slow down and turn down the noise, I think that the spotlight on Jesus is a great example of how we should act during Advent. Our actions as well as our whole lives, should point to, focus on, and illuminate Jesus. Like the person who works a spotlight at a concert, we should be out of sight, in the shadows behind the light so that all attention is rightly directed to Jesus. Again, pointing others to Jesus is not just an Advent activity; it's what we should be doing all year long. Most of us still need to work on fading into the background, but with practice, our spotlighting skills will improve.

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul calls us to glorify God in all that we do: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)."

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.

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.



Carrie's Corner

Christmas greetings!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and joyous Christmas! Those who were able to attend our annual Thanksgiving (November) Gathering had a wonderful time of fellowship and worship, for the first time at Faith Baptist, Atoka. We're grateful to have a new church to partner with in our endeavors, and we appreciate all their hospitality.

I would like to recognize our "retiring" board members: Sharon Stone, David King, Larry Bryant, and Don Bogen. These four have worked tirelessly over the past 3 years to better our board and our community. As you see them in the days ahead, please express your appreciation to them for their willingness to serve.

In addition, the board is happy to welcome several new board members next month: John Bean, Kevin Jenkins, Rodney Kirkwood, and Karen Randall. In addition, we welcome Kellie Evins who is moving into the Community Lay Director position that Don is vacating. Kellie and Joy Karel will be sharing the CLD duties between them in 2018, including both Great Banquet and Awakening responsibilities. Please keep them in your prayers in the days ahead as they work out the new responsibilities they share.

This has been an eventful year, and I look forward to another year of accomplishments in 2018. I hope to see you all at our various events in the new year, beginning with the Awakening activities Jan. 13-15.

Meanwhile, have a blessed New Year!

Carrie Whaley, Board Chair

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 the Banquet, those who have served on a few teams, and those 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 Awakening weekend. Please make 118 for the weekend. If you would like to give something special for sleepers only, the maximum number of sleepers is 44, 22 boys and 22 girls.

Scholarships for the Weekend

Remember that scholarships are always a need for the Banquets and Awakenings. 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.

UPCOMING Events

2018 Awakening Weekend

Saturday, January 13 – Monday, January 15, 2018

Lay Directors: Kristy Scarbrough & Bradley Karel

Awakening 4th Day Event

Thursday, January 18, 6:30-8:30 PM

2018 Spring Weekend

Men's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #86

Thursday, April 19 – Sunday, April 22

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

Lay Director: Larry Bryant

Women's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #87

Thursday, April 26 – Sunday, April 29

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

Lay Director: Sylvia Henry

4th Day Event

Saturday, May 5, 6-8 PM

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



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

February 24, 2018 – Advent Presbyterian Church – Cordova, TN
1879 N. Germantown Parkway, Cordova, TN 38016

August 11, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church – Jackson, TN
1573 N Highland Ave, Jackson, TN 38301

November 10, 2018 – First Cumberland Presbyterian Church – Olive Branch, MS
8161 Germantown Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654

*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.*



Please be in prayer for the spring lay directors as they prayerfully consider their teams 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 awakening and spring banquets.

Pray for our sleepers and team! The Awakening Prayer Chart is now available on the website. Click on "Prayer Chart" found on the left hand side, **or click the Prayer Charts button below** – scroll down until you find the Awakening weekend and find the time that works best for you.

*Prayer Charts, as well as Sponsor and Registration Forms, can be found on the website,
www.midsouthgb.com.*

Prayer Charts

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.

2018 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 Directors	Kellie Evins	901-317-9393	kelloves31@gmail.com
	Joy Karel	901-270-5686	joyakarel@aol.com
Treasurer	Lisa Murdock	901-496-5344	lmuro504@gmail.com
FACILITIES	Chris Cave	901-238-7530	ccave@bellsouth.net
	Mike Patten	901-233-9836	mikepatten007@outlook.com
LEADERSHIP	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
NEW BOARD MEMBERS	John Bean	901-870-0356	beandude33@yahoo.com
	Kevin Jenkins	662-609-1755	bonedrum@gmail.com
	Rodney Kirkwood	901-827-9420	rkirkwood777@gmail.com
	Karen Randall	901-489-8023	ksrandall1949@gmail.com

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 quarterly for the Mid-South Great Banquet and Bartlett Awakening Communities.



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Past Issues

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