



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Note from the Community Spiritual Director

David's Desk: **New Fall Team Meeting Schedule!**

Ways to Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Upcoming Events

Board Members & Contact Information

A Note from the Community Spiritual Director

By Michael Qualls

I will soon be finishing up another interim pastorate. I will officially have worked myself out of a job by mid-August. This time I have been privileged to serve the members of a congregation following the unexpected death of their previous pastor for about three years. Before that I was interim pastor for two years at another church, and prior to that it was a five year stint with yet another. Since I have a full-time position with the seminary, my role in pastoral ministry in recent years has been to bridge the gap while congregations search for a more permanent pastor who can serve in a full-time capacity. Still, parting is always such sweet sorrow. I love them and they love me. In some cases, we have been through some stuff together. In all cases, they have looked to me to provide spiritual guidance and a "word from the Lord." It is not a relationship that can be abandoned flippantly. So leaving is hard. I hope they have known Christ in my service.

Last night I sat with a group of professors and students in a late-night round table. I am at summer school. We are here to help train people to do the work of the professional pastor. One of the students excused himself to take a call. In a moment he came back in to announce that he had to leave. One of his parishioners had had a massive stroke. It was one of THOSE, powerful and debilitating. She would not survive. They were likely to disconnect life support, but the husband wanted his pastor to be there when they made that decision. We prayed for him and sent him on his way into the dark night for a long six hour round trip. He returned the next day for class. He could not avert the inevitable. He was unable to change the outcome. His prayer in person had no more reviving power than if prayed remotely. The patient died. But what he could do, and did do, was

to embrace the grieving husband and represent the love of Christ in person. I gave thanks in behalf of that family back in Kentucky that they had a minister who would drop everything and drive through the night to be with them in their dark moment to remind them that God cares. God cares supremely and does not put a limitation on the degree of sacrifice God is willing to make on our behalf.

There are many opportunities for us to sacrifice for the Great Banquet weekends. Sacrifice is never pleasant or easy...hence the plain meaning of the word. Nobody likes being inconvenienced. But there is no more powerful witness we can make than to voluntarily do so. It is a privilege and we should count it a joy instead of a drudgery. Let us rejoice when God gives us the blessing of being able to give up our comfort, or postpone some pleasure, or interrupt our "me" time, or forego being catered to in order to share the love of Christ.

De Colores,
mlq

And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ~Ephesians 5:2



David's Desk

With summer winding down, it's time to start planning for the fall Banquets. The Board is excited to announce a change in our team meeting schedule. Instead of the long, drawn out nine weeks of meetings, we have decided to condense to two Thursdays and two Saturdays. Our hope is that this change will allow people that cannot commit to the longer schedule to have a chance to serve. We ask for your patience as we try this new and exciting endeavor. Please note below the schedule of meetings:

- Thursday, September 5, 6:30 - 8:30 PM – *Orientation*
- Saturday, September 14, 1:00 - 6:00 PM – *Talk previews*
- Thursday, September 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM – *Mentoring*
- Saturday, September 28, 1:00 - 6:00 PM – *Talk previews (immediately followed by Team Dedication & Potluck at 6-8 PM)*

Ways to Demonstrate the Love of Christ

Be His Unseen Hands and Feet – The Great Banquet and Awakening are amazing experiences, 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 the weekend, 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 fall weekends. Please make 65 for each weekend. If you would like to give something special for guests only, the maximum number of guests 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.

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.



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

July 27, 2019 – Advent At Cordova – Cordova, TN
1879 N Germantown Pkwy, Cordova, TN 38016

November 16, 2019 – Restoration Church – Munford, TN
60 E Main St, Munford, TN 38058

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.



Men's Fall Great Banquet Weekend #92

Thursday, October 3 - Sunday, October 6

For the Kingdom, 4100 Raleigh Millington Rd, Memphis, TN 38128

Lay Director: Cory Evins

Women's Fall Great Banquet Weekend #93

Thursday, October 10 - Sunday, October 13

For the Kingdom, 4100 Raleigh Millington Rd, Memphis, TN 38128

Lay Director: Amber Stone

4th Day Event

Saturday, October 19, 6-8 PM

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

2020 Awakening Weekends

Awakening Weekends #41 & 42

Saturday, October 18 - Monday, January 20

For the Kingdom, 4100 Raleigh Millington Rd, Memphis, TN 38128

Lay Directors: Jordan Walston & Dana Blevins

4th Day Event

Saturday, January 25, 6-8 PM

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



Please be in prayer for the fall lay directors as they prayerfully consider their teams as well as for potential guests. Ask God to lay friends and family in your life upon your heart that you could sponsor for the fall banquets.

The 72 hour Prayer Charts for both weekends will soon be available on the website. Once loaded, click on *Pray for Men's Team #92* and *Pray for Women's Team #93* found at the top, right of the home page or click the **Prayer Charts** button below - scroll through to find an available 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

Note from the Board

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

2019 Board Members

Community Spiritual Director	Michael Qualls	901-239-5674	mqualls@memphisseminary.edu
Assist. Community Spiritual Director	Diann White	901-870-6777	diannwhite12@yahoo.com
Chairman of the Board	David Freeman	901-508-3773	freemd2@yahoo.com
Community Lay Directors	Kellie Evins	901-317-9393	kellieevinsgb@gmail.com
	Sharon Stone	901-493-8072	chrestmanstone@bellsouth.net
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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.



[Website](#)



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