

NOVEMBER 2019



Welcome New Members!

We had wonderful fall Banquet weekends and we are blessed to welcome 9 men and 14 women as new members to our community! It's amazing how God works and uses every situation to bring Him glory. Thank you to everyone who helped before, during, and after the weekends!

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Reflections from the Fall Lay Directors



Banquet #92

By Cory Evins

I was real humbled to be called on to be the Lay Director of the Great Banquet #92. It was an awesome experience to see God at work from the lay director position. It was a blessing to watch the Lord mold and make this weekend into His!

Banquet #93

By Kellie Evins

Should I?

God always gets His way on Banquet weekends. And Banquet #93 was certainly no different. As your Community Lay Director, I can say that stepping onto a team that has been prayerfully and carefully put together by another is daunting. But Amber Stone had done exactly what all past great Lay Directors have done and she crafted a wonderful team that I was able to sit back and watch get the job done. Team service is such an honor and a tremendous privilege. It was also a treat to be able to walk alongside this group of guests for their Banquet. It's been a huge blessing to see them join this community by forming reunion groups, sharing prayer requests, and some have even found new church homes! Whew...God is so good, isn't He?

De Colores,
Kellie Evins
Community Lay Director
Mid-South Great Banquet & Awakening

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
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- 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.

A Note from the Community Spiritual Director

By Michael Qualls

At the end of December I will be stepping aside from the position in the community I have held for a long time. I have been honored to serve as the Spiritual Director for the Mid-South Great Banquet community for a number of years now, before that as Assistant Spiritual Director. I have been awed by how faithful God can be—showing up and showing out. I have gotten to know so many wonderful servants of God. I have served alongside some giant-slayers. I have been amazed at the hearts of commitment in some and surprised at the level of human shortcomings that surface in some and perplexed when those two things are evidenced in the same person...particularly when that person is me. I hope it has not been a case of the “blind leading the blind,” but I am positive it was at least the “broken leading the broken.” In my role I have attempted to give sound spiritual counsel...some of which was deemed to be sound and followed, some of which was ultimately deemed not to be sound and set aside. Only God knows which was the right decision, in either case. We walk by faith, not by sight, after all, and we must ever be humble about what we think we know or think we see. At least I was part of the process of prayerfully discerning God’s will for this community. That’s good enough for me.

Thank you, thank God, for the privilege of serving. Rev. Diann White, Assistant Spiritual Director, will step into this role. She is exactly what we need...capable and committed, with a love of people and desire to minister to their needs. We have enjoyed great collaboration and have established a pattern of interdependence which I can only hope will continue. The board will name her successor soon.

There's a story about an old spinster and an old bachelor in a small Arkansas town, Evelyn and Bill. They were introduced at church and found they had some things in common. They started going to ball games together, then out to dinner. Bingo on Thursday nights and, in the Fall, the county fair. Everyone began to think of them as a couple and would invite them to events and outings. Before long they just assumed they would be doing most everything together. Months turned into years and it just seemed that they would go on in this pattern forever. Then one evening they were sitting on the porch swing after a great evening out, Evelyn turned to Bill and said, "I been thinking. Why Don't we get married?" Bill mulled this over for a long while in silence then blurted, "Aw shucks, Evelyn, at our age who'd have us?" This is a perfect example of overlooking the obvious. It is possible to miss what's right there in front of us! During this season of thankfulness I wonder what it is that we take for granted?

The contribution of others to our lives, for example? There is no such thing as the self-made man or woman. That is a fantasy of ours. By the time you make it to your workplace on any given morning you are dependent upon thousands of people around the globe—for the food you eat, the clothes you wear, and the street you drive on.

We all tend to minimize what we bring to the table. I am no different. But if we believe, as I do, that God has especially gifted each one of us to work together for God's glory, that means me too! So, God has used me to do good things, not the least importantly within this community. Privileged to serve on many teams, men and women, we have seen transformative work of the Spirit in many lives. As a member of the board we have wrestled with some head-scratchers...and dealt with some things that will make you pull your hair out. We do it all as a team. A team of servants. I am happy to take a different place on this team.

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 Awakening weekends. Please make 118 for each weekend. If you would like to give something special for sleepers only, the maximum number of sleepers is 44, 22 boys and 22 girls.

If you bring gifts for a particular sleeper 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.



COMING SOON



G A T H E R I N G

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

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

February 29, 2020 – Faith Baptist Church – Bartlett, TN
900 Simmons Rd, Drummonds, TN 38023

July 18, 2020 – Fullview Missionary Baptist Church – Bartlett, TN
7100 Memphis-Arlington Rd, Bartlett, TN 38135

November 14, 2020 – First Presbyterian Church – Jackson, TN
1573 N Highland Ave, Jackson, TN 38301

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.

2020 Awakening Weekends

Awakening Weekends #41 & 42

Saturday, January 18 - Monday, January 20

Location: TBD

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

2020 spring Weekends

Men's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #94

Thursday, April 23 - Sunday, April 26

Location: TBD

Lay Director: Steven P. Henry

Women's Spring Great Banquet Weekend #95

Thursday, April 30 - Sunday, May 3

Location: TBD

Lay Director: Rhonda Qualls

4th Day Event

Saturday, May 9, 6-8 PM

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



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

The 72 hour Prayer Charts for the weekend will soon be available on the website. Once loaded, click on *Pray for Mid-South Boys #41 & Girls #42 Awakening* 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
Treasurer	Lisa Murdock	901-496-5344	lmur0504@gmail.com
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	Kelly Blevins	901-485-8398	tazchee@hotmail.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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Our mailing address is:

Mid-South Great Banquet

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