



# Moorings

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Baptist Church, Lexington, Kentucky

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## Grow Up!



By Carl Peters  
Senior Pastor



Have you ever had an older sibling tell you to, “grow up!”? My much older brother, John, would scold me with these words when my behavior didn’t match his expectations. When Kendall was just a baby, Daulton would ask Renee’, “When can he play?” Truth was, he had some growing up to do. Typically, when we are healthy, we grow. Ask Phil and Dee Dee about their German Shepherds. We can also attest to this as we have watched Oakley grow up overnight into a very healthy two year old. Simply put, healthy bodies grow.

The Apostle Paul uses the imagery of growing up in Ephesians 4:15-16. He writes, *Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.* Previously, Paul had laid out that the pastors were given to the Body to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. This leads members of the Body toward maturity as they *grow up into Christ.* When each member of the Body is working properly, the entire Body grows! This is a sign of

good health.

What does this look like in action? For individuals, it means conforming to the image of Christ. It means serving others rather than being served. It means using our giftedness and our resources to bless others. It means offering ourselves as living sacrifices to fulfill the purposes of God in the world. Very specifically, it means committing our lives to the one eternal purpose and five earthly tasks: worship, evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and prayer.

When we exhibit these Christlike behaviors, something incredible happens. The Body of Christ begins to grow. In Acts 2:47 tells us what God does when the Body of Christ is healthy. *And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

Is this what we are seeing in churches across America? Actually, no, it is not. Thom Rainer laments that as many as 16,000 churches may close this year. That is the exact opposite of good health and growth—that is death.

The diagnosis of these dying churches is that they have forgotten the basic Biblical principles laid out in Ephesians 4, Acts 2 and other passages. In 1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Paul addresses this crisis. *But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not*

*ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? This passage is quite revealing. These immature Christians are acting like babies! What they need to do is, “Grow Up!”*

What are we to learn from this? At Anchor, your pastors desire to equip you for the work of the ministry. As we become equipped to serve others, we grow up into Christ. In this Biblical model, all of us are ministers. Further, we have all been given Spiritual gifts intended to be utilized in building up the Body of Christ.

This becomes a very personal concern for each of us. Ask yourself, am I growing up into Christ? Or, am I still drinking milk? Am I more like Christ today than yesterday, or a year ago? Am I feasting on God’s Word, becoming equipped to serve, and devoting myself to fulfill the eternal purpose and earthly tasks given the Church? If all of us will, “work properly,” not only will we be growing, but the Lord will add to our number those who are being saved. This is the picture of good health that God desires as we, “Grow Up!”

## Church Family Information—November

### Birthdays:

3	Peggy Moore	20	Larry Daulton
	Martha Proctor	22	Arvilla Martin
6	Cynthia Arbra	27	Shane Smith
	Toni Bennett	28	Bailey Jorgensen
	Barbara Daugherty	29	Sally Worrall
9	Jim Atherton	30	Wally Ratliff
	Lily Broome		
	Don Burton		
	Dino Lancianese	<b>Anniversaries:</b>	
	Nicholas Lancianese	2	Andy & Tracy Hiatt
10	Tony Thomas	12	Stephen & Dimple Hatfield
16	Leea Lyons		
	Alice Simmons		

*Please contact the church office if your Birthday or Anniversary has been missed. We would like to acknowledge all of our members' special occasions!*



**BRIDAL SHOWER**  
for Jasmine Lawson  
Sunday, Nov. 14  
Following worship in  
the ARC

*Light refreshments will be served. Jasmine is registered with Amazon and Target. All the ladies of Anchor are invited to attend!*

**Friday**  
**Nov. 12**  
**7:00 p.m.**



**Pizza**  
**will be**  
**provided!**

**Bring games**  
**and snacks to**  
**share!**



by Paul Jorgensen

## Gospel to Every Home

Over one year of planning took place. Our church fasted and prayed on the third Thursday of every month for over a year. We engaged in forty days of prayer and held training events at the church. Prayer teams were engaged and volunteers prepared Gospel gift bags. Many volunteers claimed streets and were praying over these streets. Then, in the month of April, we began our efforts to take the Gospel to Every Home in our area!

Every Saturday from April through October, members of our church have

gathered in the sanctuary to pray together, receive materials and then go into our neighborhood to share the Gospel. While going door to door, fast friendships have been forged between evangelism partners. Our goal at each door is to be pleasant and invite people to worship with us at Anchor. Next, we follow up by asking if they are familiar with the Gospel story and if they have a relationship with Christ. Last, we enquire as to the general welfare and offer assistance through prayer or if there are other needs with which our church might be able to assist. This short conversation has had eternal impact on some and we have been able to be an encouragement to many others. At homes where nobody answered the door, a Gospel gift bag was left with materials about our church, a Gospel tract, the Jesus DVD

and a card explaining our purpose of taking the Gospel to every home along with contact information to the Billy Graham hotline.

Over the course of these seven months, the people of Anchor Baptist Church have taken the Gospel to over 4,300 homes! We have seen three people make a profession of faith, trusting Christ as their Savior on their doorstep. We have prayed with hundreds of people at their door who shared a life need with us and our prayer team has continually prayed for dozens who have asked for specific prayer. We have averaged 14 visitors in church every week during these seven months. Our church membership has increased and we have been able to be an encouragement to many Christians we have met to share their faith along with us. If you prayed with

us, packed gift bags with us or carried the Gospel with us, thank you for your service to the Lord. Together, we praise the Lord for working through our church to share the Gospel story and be a testimony of His loving grace and tender mercies.

Though we have ended our weekly outreach for the cold weather season, we are looking forward to next year to continue our mission of taking The Gospel to Every Home. Gospel gift bags will continue to be available at the welcome desk for you to share individually with family or friends or others you may meet. While we celebrate God's work through us, we are actively praying and planning for our efforts next year to continue taking The Gospel to Every one of the 11,000 Homes that we have adopted as a church.

*Discover the Joy of Missions*

## WMU News– Thanksgiving

The dictionary tells us that Thanksgiving means: The expression of gratitude, especially to God. The act of giving thanks: Grateful acknowledgment of benefits or favors, especially to God. An expression of thanks: A public celebration in acknowledgment of divine favor or kindness.

Like everyone, I too can make a very long list of things and people for which I am truly grateful and blessed. This Thanksgiving I especially want to express gratefulness for the gift of freedom to worship and to openly own a Bible. The past year brought opportunities to hear several missionaries speak about where they have served or are currently serving. Many spoke of the suppression of freedom to own a Bible, to share the Gospel and worship God. This is nothing new for many missionaries, I just happened to be in places where I heard it discussed. Each month I'm

reminded of Christian persecution around the world when the little magazine *Voices of the Martyrs* arrives in the mail. Also, during the past year the Gospel to Every Home began in Kentucky and Anchor Baptist embraced the challenge. Coincidence, I don't think so. This precious life-giving message is freedom on so many levels: Free from sin - know you are forgiven - know you are loved and free to love others in Christ - free from shame – free to worship God – be part of the family of God - learn from God's Word – have Jesus as a friend – have the Holy Spirit to comfort you and be your advocate, have a home in the new heaven, and so much more. I'm very thankful for the gift of freedom in Christ be free to gather in the house of the Lord to worship Him. Now the Bible...what a

book! I'm so thankful for the Bible. I can't imagine not knowing the great stories in the Bible, the encouragement from heroes of the faith, learning how God wants us to live, Jesus teaching us how to pray, God's promises for each of us, assurance that His Word would prevail and that He wins in the end. How thankful I am to live where I am free to own and study and hear God's truths preached.

Many have served and fought for these two freedoms: Perhaps you or someone (or several) in your family. I'm thankful for those who have gone before me so that growing up and as an adult I had and have the freedom to choose to embrace the Gospel. I pray that this Thanksgiving there will be many, many expressions of thankfulness for our freedom to openly worship the one true God.



*By Sherry Browne, on behalf of the Women's Missionary Union*

**Kickoff to Christmas**  
*(Mark your calendar!)*

**Friday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.**



*You are invited to attend a pot luck dinner followed by The Music of Christmas by The Waymakers*

Hosted by the Helmsmen SS Class. Meat and drinks provided. Please bring a side dish and a salad or dessert. Please contact the church office, **296-1214** or sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## Media News

The ministry of friendship: We often sing, What A Friend We Have in Jesus and Jesus Is All The World To Me. These hymns speak of God's Word that shows us how Jesus is not only our Savior that we should obey but our close FRIEND who truly cares for us. He laid down his life for us. The words go like this. "Jesus is all the world to me, My life my joy, my all; He is my strength from day to day, Without Him I would fall. No other one can cheer me so; When I am sad, He makes me glad, He's my friend." Amen to that.

If you have a true, close friend in this world you have a treasure. Don't take it for granted. Hold on to it dearly and cherish it. My wife, Dee Dee and I lost a dear friend of many years this last week. Bertha Merriman was our true, close friend. Bertha never married and had no children of her own. She had tons of nieces and nephews. Even great, great ones. She had a big family that loved her dearly. Blood family and extended family. If Bertha was your friend then you were a blessed person. I first met Bertha at Asbury College back in 1985 when I was a freshman there. Her sister, Doris, ran the College Post Office. Bertha would often be in there working with her. Later I got to know Bertha more when I worked at Asbury as a carpenter in the late 1990's. Let's just say I

teased her a little back then. A few years later Dee Dee started working at Asbury as a custodian in the woman's dorm at Asbury. Not a glamorous job at all. Bertha and her worked around each other for a while but were not friends at first. Actually, Bertha didn't even like Dee Dee at first. Another custodian had been talking bad about Dee Dee to Bertha, then one day they went out to lunch and Bertha spilt some food on her shoes. Dee Dee got down on her knees and cleaned her shoes off for her. From that moment on, Bertha and Dee Dee were great friends. Bertha loved to give and love on people. She would take Dee Dee and I, Jordan, Jonathan and Phileena all out for our birthdays every year. We got together every Christmas as well exchanging gifts. Bertha was always buying us gifts. Dee Dee and her loved going out to eat together. They of course talked and texted all the time on the phone. Bertha came to our kids graduations, high school and college theatrical plays, baseball games, marching band

competitions and much more through the years. A true friend. A friend is someone that doesn't just do things FOR you but does things WITH you. Together. Friends bring joy, laughter, love, hugs, fun and the truth to your life. They are there in the good times and the bad.

Friendship is a ministry I believe. Jesus said to model him as he is our friend. He modeled friendship all through his Word. John 15: 12-13 is very clear about friendship and its importance. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. I close with a great song that sadly gets made fun of a lot by some. It is a great song nonetheless. A song called Friends by Michael W. Smith. Here is the Chorus: "And friends are friends forever If the Lord's the Lord of them; And a friend will not say never 'Cause the welcome will not end; Though it's hard to let you go in the Father's hands we know; that a lifetime's not too long to live as friends."



By Phil Jackson  
Music and Media

Bertha had a liver transplant 15 years ago and just recently had trouble again with it. She died last Thursday. This is how you know you were true friends with someone. Your heart hurts when they are gone. We attended her funeral/celebration of life. What an encouragement to see the many people she touched through her 55 years on this earth. Bertha, we will carry on and befriend others like the Lord Jesus longs for the church to do. Tell people about Jesus and his love. Yes. Teach and disciple people about Jesus and his love. Do acts of kindness for strangers and other we come into contact daily, of course. Worship Jesus together. Check. Being a true friend and caring about them for a lifetime laying down your life for them.....well that remains to be seen by Christians and the Church worldwide. Jesus help us. We are weak. We cannot do it without your help.

### ANCHOR BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. Carl Peters—Senior Pastor  
Rev. Phil Jackson—Associate Pastor for Music and Media  
Rev. Paul Jorgensen—Associate Pastor for Family Ministry  
Mr. Daulton Peters—Children/Youth Ministry Director  
Mrs. Claire Vance—Pianist/Accompanist  
Ms. Patty Wilson—Administrative Assistant  
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"Mooring's" is a monthly publication for the members of Anchor Baptist Church to inform and encourage all who follow and support this ministry for Christ Jesus.

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