

## Introducing

Pastor Franklin O. Johnson  
Candidate, Senior Pastor,  
Bowling Green Baptist Church

And his wife, Terri Johnson



Frank and Terri Johnson

The Pastor Search Committee is pleased to introduce Pastor Frank Johnson as the nominee for the position of Senior Pastor. Pastor Johnson has dedicated his life to the Lord's service and has served as a pastor of congregations around the world and in northern Virginia for more than 35 years. He has exceptional qualifications to lead Bowling Green Baptist Church as its Senior Pastor. He is a strong, bible-based preacher who uses scripture, humor, visual aids and clear examples that are directly relevant to today's Christians. He is focused on winning the lost to Christ and maturing Christians in their faith. He is a strong supporter of missions and reaching out into the community. He believes God's church should care for all people. He has exceptional leadership experience, beginning with his tenure as a U.S. Navy Chaplain, as an Executive Pastor at First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, and most recently as Senior Pastor at Lake Ridge Baptist Church. He has been married to his wife, Terri, for 41 years. Terri is an entrepreneur, former owner of Sew Special Studio, a free-lance educator in the embroidery arts and currently serves as an education consultant to the company Silhouette America. However, first and foremost, Terri has been Frank's partner in ministry for their entire married life. Frank and Terri have two married daughters, three grandsons and one more due on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Hobbies include boating, golf, scuba diving and the Chicago Cubs.

We hope you will read the information below on Reverend Johnson's testimony, experience and philosophy of ministry. We also hope that you can attend an event that is planned for **Saturday, 14 May, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM** in the Family Ministry Center, which will provide you an opportunity to meet Frank and Terri and ask him some questions. Pastor Johnson will be preaching in both services on Sunday, 15 May, at which time the congregation will be affirming his call to BGBC by congregational vote. We ask that you continue to pray that God's will be done with regard to this call.

## TESTIMONY

I became a believer during my senior year in high school primarily through the efforts of a Christian coach who was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Our relationship transcended the typical coach-athlete connection because of his interest in our spiritual lives. Not having my family connected to a church meant that I would naturally follow Coach Barrett to his church, Park Avenue Baptist Church (PABC) in Titusville, FL. I was baptized and joined the church. Since then, this church and many of the people in it have had a profound impact on my life and continue to influence my life and ministry.

I was also greatly influenced early in my spiritual journey by two anointed Christian organizations: Campus Crusade for Christ and the Navigators. These two groups have left a legacy of a deep desire for reaching the lost and discipling those who find Christ as Lord and Savior.

While in college, God began to sow the seeds that would later sprout into a call to ministry. This was unknown to me at the time but nevertheless He was doing a deep work in my life to prepare me for my life calling. Part of that preparation was His leading me to First Baptist Church of Winter Park, FL. Three very important things happened in the four years that I was a member there. First I met a beautiful and vivacious young Christian woman named Terri Sykes. I actually met her in a Sunday School class and was suddenly smitten. It took a while for her to come around (she had many suitors), but she succumbed to my charms and we were married 16 months later. The second thing that occurred was that I graduated from college. No small feat, especially given the fact that I had flunked out early in my college career! Thirdly, it was during this time that I felt God calling me into the ministry. This was a definite change in direction for me for I was intent on becoming a Marine officer and really, really wanted to fly jets (like my dad who was an Air Force officer). But God had other ideas. So with an unmistakable call I began full time ministry as a campus minister in Orlando, FL. One year later Terri and I headed for Seminary in Louisville, KY. While in seminary, God was good in that he blessed us with our own small congregation, where I became a pastor for the first time. I was only 25.

Upon graduation I returned to my home church (PABC) and worked for the summer as a children's minister until Calvary Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, FL, called me as Pastor. While in the pastorate God began to stir my heart toward the military chaplaincy (a seed had been planted while in seminary). He did not have to stir very much. I had the DNA. This resulted in a second call about five years later to leave ministry in the civilian world and pursue the military mission field of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

However, as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end," and so it came time, after 24 years, to retire from the Navy. The transition to civilian ministry was relatively easy as my church in which I was a member, First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, called me as their Executive Pastor. I served there for eight wonderful years, helping to build that church into an influential, regional congregation of over 2000 members.

But something was missing, I longed for the pastoral ministry that came with being a senior pastor. It was at this time that another church in my community reached out to me about becoming their senior pastor. And so I did until God called me to resign last October in order to pursue other ministry opportunities.

Now, God has called us to labor together with this part of the Body of Christ known as Bowling Green Baptist Church. This call, like the previous calls in my life, is unmistakable in its clarity and direction. Terri and I are humbled and excited by the special trust and confidence the Search Committee and Deacons have placed in us. As a candidate for Senior Pastor, I look forward to joining the team at BGBC as we join together to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Ministry Vision

To equip, mature and release the people of God so that they can help others BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, BELONG to His church, and BECOME mature disciples.

## Characteristics of a Healthy Church

- **Dynamic and relevant worship services...** where people are able to give expression to God's impressions in their lives. Style of worship is secondary. Substance is primary. Worship is not dependent on style, whether it is "contemporary" or "traditional" but on the attitude of the heart.
- **LifeGroups...** small groups whose goal is to help people grow in faith, connect with believers, bear one another's burdens, fellowship together, and attract non-believers. This has been an emphasis of my ministry everywhere I have been, to include Navy Chapels.
- **Generational Ministries...** these are dynamic and relevant ministries and programs that appeal to a cross section of individuals in the church, such as children, students young adults, adults, and seniors.
- **Missional...** Using Acts 1:8 as the model, an intentional outreach beginning in our community, region, national and international arenas.
- **Evangelism...** Relational – where the fragrance of our lives becomes an attractive aroma to those around us. (2 Cor 2:14-17)
- **Family Ministry...** Equipping and empowering parents in order to provide the primary emphasis in the spiritual formation of children. Utilizing the church as a partner in this effort, not a substitute.
- **Leadership...** A healthy church includes committed church officers, certainly Deacons and staff (clergy and non-clergy) and ministry leaders such as those who serve in key administrative positions overseeing committees and teams. I see Deacons in the biblical model of servants and who are the "boots on the ground" in providing ministry and leading ministry teams. The role of the staff is to both provide ministry directly, but also to equip and train the congregation to do ministry.

## How I use my Spiritual Gifts as a Senior Pastor

**Preaching and teaching.** I possess the ability to take complex and profound spiritual truths, simplify them and provide practical application. I am an interactive preacher, using audio visual components when possible, engaging the congregation, and always seeking illustrations that lend themselves to making the message understandable and palatable. My sermons vary in length but rarely exceed 30 minutes. An invitation or response is almost always part of my preaching. I believe we must give expression to God's impressions in our lives, and that happens often during worship services.

**Team Player.** I am a flexible team player. I don't mind being a team worker. I enjoy the camaraderie and connections from being on a team. I can lead from the front as well. My career as a Navy Chaplain has made me a team builder. I am comfortable in diverse environments, working with all kinds of people, who have different perspectives (and perhaps agendas) than mine. I believe my leadership style lends itself to empowering team members, and helps to bring out the best in people.

**Mentor and Model.** My ministry has been and will be characterized by one on one relationships. I seek to pour myself into, disciple if you will, men who seek to grow deeper in their relationship with God. This is a significant commitment for a senior pastor, and one that most don't make. Not only will I tirelessly work in building up the ministries and programs of the church, but I will always make time for personal discipleship. The Great Commission, I believe, is foremost a personal mandate for each believer, not just a rallying cry for church programs. I will also submit to a mentoring relationship with another senior pastor or denominational leader for wise counsel and accountability.

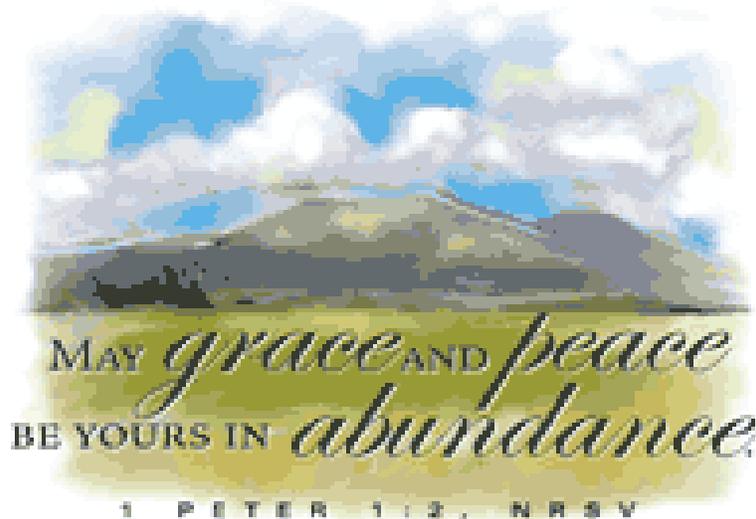
**Evangelism.** I will always seek, first as a believer and as a pastor, to seek and save those who are lost and bring them into a saving knowledge of Christ. Life begets life.

**Enthusiasm.** If it is not done with enthusiasm, then it is probably not worth doing. “Things are caught more than they are taught.”

**Excellence.** 1 Cor 10:31. Think things through, do it well. Do it with enthusiasm.

**Care for all.** My ministry as a pastor extends beyond providing for my “own,” that is just those at BGBC. Or even “facilitating” for those who are like me, other Baptists or evangelicals, but it also means that I “care” for all. Every person God puts on my path, I try and care for them, at their point of need. The only “Jesus” they see, may be the “Jesus they see in me.”

**Women in Ministry.** I believe the bible allows full freedom for women to minister in a church in terms of both function and office. I affirm and celebrate the New Testament teaching on male headship (Eph 5:22-32) as a recognition that God often gives men a gift to lead, but I do not see this as precluding gifted women from taking leadership roles.





## PATHWAYS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Our next Kidz Nite will be Friday, May 6. We will have a talent show and beach party.

In June, we will have a messy games extravaganza!

Watch for info about Vacation Bible School coming June 26!

We also have Centrikid camp coming! This is July 18-22. We have filled our planned slots and are looking forward to an awesome week.

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At our WMU meeting on Tuesday April 12, we were excited to have Brad and Jenn Thomas visit with us. Brad showed us some pictures of his trip to the Ivory Coast, South Africa, and he told us a little bit more about their recent trip there. Along with those from Salem Baptist who made the trip, they will also host a dessert social at Salem on Sunday, April 24 at 2:30 p.m. We will hear testimonies and see more slides about their trip. Everyone is invited!

Correcting the report from the April Newsletter, we received only \$885 toward our \$1000 goal for North American Missions. Again, thanks to so many who were able to give this year. Baptist missions work is undergoing major changes that include downsizing and staff reduction. These are decisions made as part of an effort to cope with a decline in missions income. More than ever, we must commit to supporting our missionaries, strengthening converts, and reaching the world for Jesus.

One example of how Virginia makes a difference with hands-on ministry is the Virginia WMU partnership with Standing Rock Native American reservation in North Dakota. Virginia receives grant money from our offering which provides equine therapy, using horses to integrate spiritual truths into the lives of girls in a way that promotes healing and hope.

Reports from the tea given by the Cardinal G.A.'s (girl's auxiliary) is that it was a success and a good time was had by all.



## **Beginnings Preschool Report for May 2016 Newsletter**

Academically, the year is winding down and studies are almost complete. Student assessments have been completed. Parent conferences are almost all completed. The school year ends May 27.

The March 11 field trip to the library was great. Kids loved riding on the bus as well as exploring the library itself. Another field trip is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup> to G & G for plant education.

We need playground repairs and also a table refinished in the room adjoining the preschool room. This room is sometimes used by the preschool to divide 3's & 4's and is also used for Sunday School. Ed Britt is coordinating with the Building & Grounds committee since these repairs are needed for Sunday School use also.

A bookshelf was purchased for the preschool office. We allotted up to \$200 for the bookshelf. Linda Sullivan, our preschool director and thrifty shopper, found one at a thrift store for \$20, saving us a lot of money.

We continue our Pino's fundraiser because we try to maintain a "cushion," in case of emergency expenditures or an unexpected drop in enrollment. So we hope all will try to remember to go to Pino's or order carry-out the second Wednesday of each month.

The prospects for Fall are promising and we continue to advertise in various ways to increase enrollment each year. Our first Open House will be April 28 from 6 – 8 PM in the Preschool room. If you know anyone with children who will be 3 or 4 years old by September 30 of this year, please pass this information on to them. New Beginnings Preschool promotional pamphlets are also available for you to share.

In addition to recruiting students for this Fall, we will be recruiting at least one new board member. If you are interested in being involved in this important ministry of our church, please tell one of the current board members, Betty Cooper, Ed Britt, Laura Ferguson, Meredith Pack, Kristin Bissoon, or Naeda Gustard.

Please continue to pray for the Beginnings Preschool, the teachers, and the board members.

Betty Cooper, Chair

Beginnings Preschool Board of Directors

# May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	<b>2</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Refit exercise program, FMC 6:30 Hermon Bapt Assn leadership, Philathea Rm	<b>3</b> 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement 7:00 Preschool Board of Directors, Philathea Rm	<b>4</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Rm 6:00-7:45 Beth Moore Bible Study, Library 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>5</b> <b>National Day of Prayer</b> Family Ministry Center reserved for Kids Night prep, all day	<b>6</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:00 Kids Night, Family Ministry Ctr	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Refit exercise program, Fam Ministry Ctr 7:00 Finance Committee, Philathea Rm	<b>10</b> 12:00 Dollie Farmer WMU, Philathea Rm 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement 6:30 Care & Visitation, Philathea Rm	<b>11</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 4:30-Closing—Spirit Night at Pino's Pizza to benefit Preschool 6:00-7:45 Beth Moore Bible Study, Library 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 7:00 Feasts of Israel Bible Study, Family Ministry Ctr	<b>14</b> 4:00-6:00 Reception for prospective pastor, Family Ministry Ctr
<b>15</b> Trial sermon by prospective pastor at both services; called business meeting following each service 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Refit exercise program, Fam Ministry Ctr	<b>17</b> 10:00 Christian Book Club, Philathea Rm 12:00-6:00 Bloodmobile @ BGBC, FMC 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement 7:00 Building & Grounds, Philathea Rm	<b>18</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Room 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 7:00 Deacon's meeting, Philathea Rm	<b>20</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	<b>21</b> 8:00-1:00 Clean Sweep – Girl Scouts yard sale @ BGBC  <b>Fund raisers for Bahamas mission trip:</b> 7:30-9:30 Breakfast 8:00-1:00 Clean Sweep yard sale
<b>22</b> 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	<b>23</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 6:30 Refit exercise program, Fam Ministry Ctr	<b>24</b> 11:00 Library Committee, Library 6:00 County Relay for Life Comm, FMC 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement	<b>25</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool 11:00 Area Ministers meet, Philathea Room 6:30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Praise Band Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00-12:00 Beginnings Preschool	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:45 Contemporary Worship 10:00 Sunday School/ Bible Study 11:00 Traditional Worship	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 Young Lives meet in basement				



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Wayne Burrell
- 2 Allyson Curran
- 10 Jett Smith
- 11 Caroline French
- 13 Kelly Dunavant
- 13 Thomas Dunnington
- 14 Ava Bissoon
- 14 Jenny Wright
- 17 Michael Stroud
- 20 Michael Williams
- 22 Vicky Farmer
- 22 Ronald Moran
- 24 Olivia Perry
- 26 Charles Cushing
- 26 Jackie Gray
- 27 Emily Mack
- 28 Edwin Shuler
- 29 Michael Crawford
- 30 Kathleen Tinder
- 31 Marion (Fran) Mooney



### Deacon of the Week:

- May 1 – Bob Rice
- May 8 – Priscilla Shuler
- May 15 – Sandy Taylor
- May 22 – Ed Britt
- May 29 – Carolyn Lane

**Counters**– Laura Ferguson & Sandy Taylor

**Building Security:** – Deacon of the week

### Flowers:

- May 1 – Jean Davis
- May 8 – Barbara Lewis
- May 15 – Beverly McDearmon
- May 22 – Debbie Kay
- May 29 – Megan & Ashlee McDearmon

### Nursery Workers: \*

- May 1 – Carolyn Lane & Jeanne Jordan
- May 8 – Heather Smith & Jenn Thomas
- May 15 – Cathy Gray & Kailey Gray
- May 22 – Karen Covington & Sheridan Farmer
- May 29 – Ruth Judd & Sandy Taylor

\* Both individuals are responsible for the 8:45 service; the underlined individual is also responsible for the 11:00 service.