

# The Messenger

November 2024

## PATTERNS OF DYSFUNCTION, PT. 3

This is the third installment in a series of articles on worldly alternatives to a gospel focus.

### #3 – Fruitless Busy-ness

Most churches have certain “big” events they host each year. These events often generate lots of excitement and some of the largest attendance numbers of the year. They also can eat the largest amounts of money and planning. In the midst of all the hustle, typically no one stops to ask, “Why are we doing this?” If the question were asked, the inquisitor would likely receive a response with more heat than light. These events come and go each year, often with an unspoken target audience rationale for their existence. Whether the target audience is the children, the senior adults, the community, etc., we still often lack a clear definition of what we are providing through these activities.

So what kind of events are we talking about? Let’s name a few that are right around the corner:

- Trunk or Treat
- Fall Festival
- Thanksgiving Meal
- Christmas Musical/Play
- Christmas Party
- Christmas Eve Service
- New Year’s Eve Service

There’s nothing inherently wrong with any of these. In fact, some of them can provide great seasonal worship opportunities, while others can provide useful platforms for making friends, sharing the gospel, and encouraging believers in need of a church home. But will they?



## Contents

From the  
Desk of the  
AMS

October  
Birthdays

Fall Meeting  
& Missions  
Conference

Family  
Discipleship  
Retreat

Patterns,  
cont.

Anna’s  
Article: JCBC

Job Board

***continued on page 6***

October	November 15-17	November 28	November 29
	Family Discipleship Retreat	Happy Thanksgiving! (HBA Offices Closed)	Registration Opens: Men's & Women's Conferences
December	December 5	December 6	December 14
	Minister & Spouse Banquet	Angel Tree Deadline	JCHA Winter Wonderland
	December 24-27		
			Merry Christmas! (HBA Offices Closed)



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 11	November 26	November 27
Allen Davis	Zach Smith	Bobby Bernard

### Welcome, New Pastors!

Woodlawn Baptist Church  
welcomes Pastor **Jeff Connell!**

Oak Hill Baptist Church  
welcomes Pastor **Hobbie McCreary!**

Bethany Baptist Church  
welcomes Pastor **Hunter Strayhorn!**

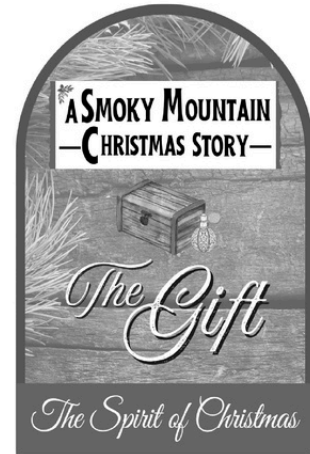
### Churches Without Pastors:

- Blountville First
- Boone Trail
- Cherokee, Jonesborough
- Colonial Heights
- Erwin First
- Friendship Chapel
- Muddy Creek
- New Life
- Tennessee Avenue

*First Baptist  
Church  
Blountville, TN*

*Invites you to*

**THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS 2024**



**Performance Information**

December 6	7:00 PM
December 7	2:30 PM
December 8	5:00 PM

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**Prices**

Dinner and Drama.....	\$20.00	Adults
.....	\$10.00	Children 12 years & under
Dessert and Drama.....	\$3.00	
Drama Only.....	Free	

*Doors open 30 minutes prior to published starting time. Everyone is asked to enter through the doors to the Sanctuary (facing Bltv. UMChurch.). You will be escorted to your table from the Sanctuary.*

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**Ticket Purchase Information**

Tickets go on sale in person on FRIDAY, November 8 at 9:00 AM.

1. The welcome center will open at 8:30. (These are the main doors to the Sanctuary on the west side of the Sanctuary.)
2. At 8:30 you may enter the building and take your place in the Sanctuary line for the tickets you want to purchase.
3. If you need tickets for multiple performances, PLEASE BRING SOMEONE FOR EACH LINE.
4. Signs in the Sanctuary will direct you to the correct line and seats.
5. Purchase tickets when it is your turn.

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To purchase tickets by phone: Call the church office at 423-323-8033 (option 1) after 9 AM on Monday, November 11. All seats are reserved. All sales are final.



## Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

*This holiday season, we want to offer a free, catered dinner to your family, gifts for your children, and an opportunity to make Christmas memories!*

*To register, scan the QR code. Please fill out the form including your child's name, age, and how many people will attend. To receive your child's backpack, you must attend the event. Backpacks will not be delivered.*

*\*Please register by Sunday, November 24th!*

**Mountain View**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday, December 8th, 5-7pm  
150 Champions Ln, Johnson City, TN 37601

**Backpacks will include:**

- Hygiene products
- Food & Candy
- Age appropriate toys
- School supplies
- Clothes





JOIN US

NOV. 15



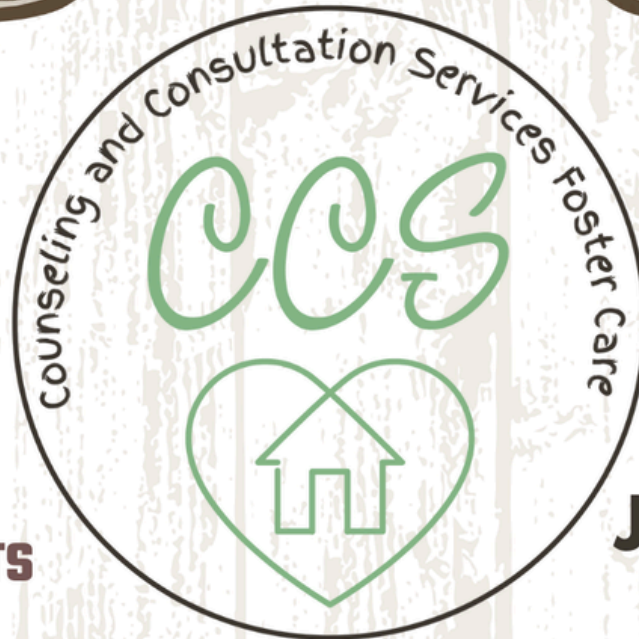
**BISHOP MARTIN**

FROM THE SOUND OF HOPE

@6:00 PM



**SIGN UP FOR TICKETS**



**HERITAGE  
BAPTIST  
1512 JOHN  
EXUM PKWY.  
JOHNSON CITY**

**FOSTER PARENT INSPIRATION  
WORSHIP**

**SPECIAL MESSAGES FROM BISHOP  
MARTIN AND FIRST LADY DONNA MARTIN**

423-722-0448 [fostercare@candcservices.org](mailto:fostercare@candcservices.org)

## PATTERNS OF DYSFUNCTION, PT. 3

### **Entertainment or Intentional Opportunities?**

The events listed above tend to be tailored one of two ways: for the glory of God as we worship and witness, OR as seasonal entertainment and nostalgia for church members and their loved ones. While we all like to enjoy bits of nostalgia and entertainment during the holidays, they are not worthy goals for absorbing great amounts of the church's resources. If we will harness these opportunities for kingdom purposes, we will get the entertainment and nostalgia thrown in for free.

### **Osmosis vs. Clarity**

Never assume that attenders know why you are hosting an event. They may think you just want them to enjoy the season. Whatever type of event you are hosting, prioritize face-to-face connections. Contact cards can be good for follow-up if people complete them, but they do not guarantee another in-person conversation. Strike while the iron is hot – with the gentleness of Jesus and the power of His gospel!

If you don't get enough time to share the gospel, at least let visitors know that you love them and desire to help them. Remember, a quality gospel tract (Choose wisely!) or mini book can speak in your absence.

### **Pre-conversion Points of Connection**

Becoming a disciple of Jesus does not make clear sense to lost people. The worthiness of Christ to be worshipped does not compute in their minds because they are spiritually blind, deaf, and dead. Yet, God uses certain circumstances to prepare lost people to hear and believe the gospel. While it is easier to entertain lost people, meeting them at a point of brokenness is usually more fruitful. I once heard a pastor from Las Vegas tell how God used his church's involvement in local foster care and court mandated community service to both improve those systems and lead people to Jesus! While an initial greeting doesn't usually bring up deeply personal concerns, a simple, "How can I pray for you?" can go a long way toward opening the door. Remember, the holidays can be fun, or miserable, depending on your situation.

As you plan for the upcoming holiday season be careful not to invest numerous resources while forgetting the gospel focus. Even traditional fellowship events should focus on Christ. Let us intentionally harness our holiday gatherings to the glory of God!

With hands to the plow,



**6  
Nov  
Pickup**

**6  
Dec  
Return**

Johnson City  
Baptist Center  
2024

# Angel Tree



*Christmas*



**Pick up Wish Lists  
Return Wrapped Gifts  
at our Offices!**

207 University Pkwy, Johnson City, TN



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# Classifieds: Our Job Board

See full Postings online at [holstonba.org/jobs](http://holstonba.org/jobs)



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## Ministry Staff

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### **Boone Trail Baptist Church Ministry Assistant Johnson City, TN**

Part-Time

Boone Trail is hiring a ministry assistant who will serve the Pastor(s), staff and ministries of the church in a range of administrative and office tasks.

Please email your resume to the BTBC Personnel Team at [personnel@boonetrail.net](mailto:personnel@boonetrail.net)

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### **Grace Baptist Church Music Director Johnson City, TN**

Please mail resume or inquiries to:  
Grace Baptist Church  
Personnel Chairman  
612 Collins Drive  
Johnson City, TN. 37604

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### **East Watauga Avenue Baptist Church Piano Player Johnson City, TN**

Part-Time

Approximately 2 hours/week  
Sunday mornings & Choir  
Practice

For more information or to submit resume/application contact: Pastor Michael Chatman at (423) 268-4800 or [j.michael.chatman@gmail.com](mailto:j.michael.chatman@gmail.com)

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## Pastor/Senior Pastor

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### **Cherokee Baptist Church Bi-Vocational Pastor Jonesborough, TN**

Please send resume, references and cover letter (experience and vision) to

Cherokee Baptist Church  
143 Mayberry Rd.

Jonesborough, TN 37659.

ATTN: Pastor Search Committee  
or via email:  
[cherokeepastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeepastorsearch@gmail.com)

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## Other Pastoral Positions

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### **Doe River Baptist Church Music Director Elizabethton, TN**

Part-Time

Please send a resume, references, and a letter of introduction describing your experiences and your vision for this position to: Doe River Baptist Church, Music Search Committee, 113 Avon Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643, or [doeriverbapt@hotmail.com](mailto:doeriverbapt@hotmail.com).

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### **Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Youth Pastor Erwin, TN**

Full-Time

Candidate needs to develop a program to grow and lead young people to be disciples and witnesses for Jesus. He must work alongside a senior pastor and staff. For more information, visit [calvaryerwin.org](http://calvaryerwin.org).

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### **Clark Street Baptist Church STUDENT MINISTER Johnson City, TN**

PART-TIME

Resumes may be sent to [clarkstreetbc@gmail.com](mailto:clarkstreetbc@gmail.com)