



## *Monday Morning Missive*

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! I love that grand old doxology. Sometimes my heart just gets so full that it is the only thing that adequately expresses my praise for the Father, so I sing it over and over again. That's how I feel this morning after our amazing day of worship yesterday. It was just one of those days when everything comes together – the music, the message, even the announcements – in such a way that our hearts are touched by the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. When those days happen, great things happen. My heart was moved by the power of the Holy Spirit as our altar was full in the second service. My prayer is that hearts were made right with the Father so that ruptured relationships will be healed. Then, we had three new members added to our church family. Welcome Joyce Smith, Joanna Vaughn,**

**and Julie Klein. We will be baptizing Joyce and Joanna in the very near future.**

**We capped off our day with a prayer vigil for Maddie McClendon and her family. Again, what a powerful prayer service we had with over 150 people lighting their candles and praying for this precious family. We believe that God has something special in store for Maddie, and my prayer is that through her testimony many cancer patients will be Maddie Strong and learn to trust in our Heavenly Father. Keep praying, and keep believing.**

**There is an issue that I would like to address. There seems to be a rumor going around that we are going back to one worship service. Please know that can only happen if the church decides to do this in a business meeting. However, I encourage you to think about the reason we went to two services in the first place. We were running out of space. We had people walking in the door and then leaving because there was no room for**

**them to sit. If we truly believe that we are a church on mission for the Father with a desire to reach the lost and equip the saved, it is our responsibility to provide a place where more and more people can come together for worship. The truth is that if a church is not continuing to grow then we will soon die. There is no middle ground. I see my first responsibility as your pastor to guide our church to a place where we can continue to do just that. That's why we voted to go to two services – because our heart is to reach people. I pray that has not changed.**

**But there is another very practical reason why we cannot go back to one service. Our average worship attendance right now, not counting Easter Sunday, is around 240. Our maximum seating capacity is 265. When you consider the need to continue to social distance – at least for the near term – that reduces our capacity to about 150. As you can see, there is no way we can social distance in one service. Add to that the fact that our attendance continues to grow, we must**

**consider what the future holds for us. God will only bless our church if we continue to do what He has commanded us to do, so let's not allow our personal wants to convince us to hinder the growth God wants to give us.**

**I know that one of the big complaints about two services is not being able to see all of your friends. Here is my suggestion: get together with your friends and choose which service you will attend. This way, everyone has the choice of which service to attend.**

**Let me remind you of two things. April is the month that our church demonstrates our love and appreciation for our ministerial staff. On April 25, we will be honoring Bros. James, Zack, and Forrest during our business meeting. If you would like to bless them, bring a card, write a note telling them how you feel, and if you choose, give them a love offering. There is a basket in the church office where you can leave these cards. Then, keep in mind that we have two paid nursery**

**worker positions that we need to fill. If you would like to apply, talk to Bro. Forrest. If you know of a good candidate, give him their contact information. We need to do this quickly because we are bursting at the seams with little ones. Help us out, if you will.**

**Please know that every time I send out a missive, I do so because these are the thoughts that are on my heart. I am always interested in hearing your response so that I can know what's on your heart as well.**

**Love you all,  
Bro. Ben**