

# M<sup>the</sup>essenger

JANUARY 2020 | VOLUME LVIII ISSUE 1



THE  
VISION  
ISSUE



## January

1st - Office Closed - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

10th & 11th - REPLICATE Conference at Southwestern

10th - 11th - Revitalization Team Training - Linden, TN

10th-11th - VBS Preview Event @ Ridgecrest

14th - Ministry Teams Meeting 8:30am @ HBA **RSVP NEEDED**

21st - Financial Issues Seminar 9:30- 11:30 @ HBA Office

23rd- 25th - Bivocational Ministers and Wives Retreat (TBMB) - Pigeon Forge

27th - Seminary Extension Begins New Course @ HBA Office 6:30pm

28th - Executive Board Meeting @ HBA 9:30am **RSVP NEEDED**

30th-31st - VBS Preview Event @ FBC Hendersonville

## February

2nd - Groundhog Day

14th - **Valentines Day**

15th - Children's Missions Day

29th - Surprise an Extra Day!

## March

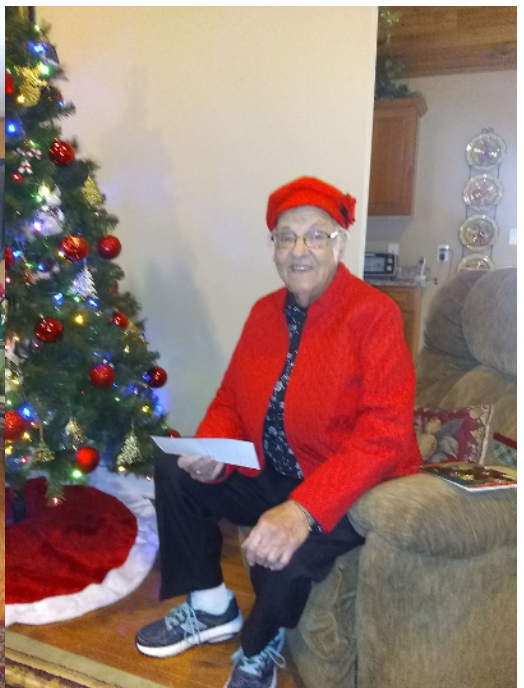
1st - 2nd - State Evangelism Conference - Brentwood, TN

8th - 15th - Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering.



*Thank You*

Thank you to everyone who made this season extra special for our widows. We were able to bless them more than we ever have before. It was truly amazing to see them receive such a blessing.



# Ben Brags — on the Savior!

by ben profit



My soul makes its  
(BRAGS) in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and  
be glad. Oh, magnify  
the LORD with me, and  
let us exalt his name  
together! Psm 34:2-3

20/20 is the benchmark  
for good vision. This  
year, 2020 just has to be  
a great year to talk  
about vision and how to  
begin a better focus with  
clearer vision.

Studies find, “Half the population needs glasses;” And  
Half the Church needs a vision exam; And Half the  
Association needs eye surgery...to better see what God  
sees and love what God loves, TOGETHER.

For 2020, I want to share an old vision with a  
“corrected-vision” application. Let’s feel around for our  
glasses; They have got to be here somewhere.

Help me “Set the Table” for the Next-Level Era of  
Association Missions. As I said at Annual Gathering,  
“Like Moses, I can take you as far as the river, but I  
can’t go with you into the Promised Land. But your  
Joshua will be (or become) a next-level leader.”





And I said, I'm getting  
old and worn thin,  
**BUT...**

"I still want to see  
churches become so full  
of Jesus,  
so obsessed with  
missionary enterprises  
and Kingdom building,  
so broken & contrite  
and so led by the Spirit  
of God...that in unity of  
spirit, full of  
risk-taking, trusting  
faith, that a thoroughly  
equipped army of God  
would pour out as one  
sea of missionaries to  
strategically,  
intentionally obsesses  
with the transformation  
of every soul in every  
community of NE TN."

Wipe those glasses...can  
you see it?

## TWO PARADIGMS OF FUTURE ASSOCIATION MISSIONS:

Organization that exists to provide Resources &  
Relationships

Multi-Level Networks of Missionaries in Action

The first paradigm is an oversimplification of current perception, and some have gone so far as to label this the "Entitlement Mindset," in the same vein as dependence on government assistance... or in a staff-heavy church, where members "pay the ministers to do the work of ministry...and we must feed consumers or else they will find a better deal elsewhere."

And Association is just an extension of church life, so if the paradigm is (ONLY) about "provide resources for me," then we have lost the primary purpose for churches cooperating in mission action.





The Resourcing and Relationships phase is strictly there to prepare churches to DO MISSIONS, not to be an end in itself. Besides, as one pastor said, “I can find any kind of resource I want on the internet. You don’t need to do that for me.” If this is true, we must correct our vision for the reason we exist.

The second paradigm is future-thinking, and it leans on Relevance, which networks and, by nature, builds Relationships while engaging in collaborative action...much like combat veterans bond for life during a tough Mission. Everything starts with laser-focus on the ultimate Mission, and all the

training, strategy and supply is Mission-Specific only. Each Team has a unique part of the total Mission, and their “Network” develops unique training, strategy and supply for its unique purpose. Apply this idea to Ministry Teams.

## AUTONOMOUS CHURCH...NEVER FEAR!

Nobody wants the Association to replicate what only the Church is called and sent to do. But yes, we will absolutely want to initiate deliberate, effective, equipping and sending ACTIONS, through NETWORKS that TRANSFORM...TOGETHER.

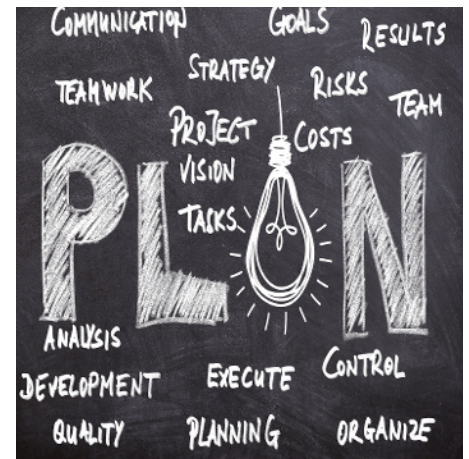
SO...How can we begin to “Set the Table” to become an equipper and facilitator of Kingdom-focused, systematic, co-laboring in partnership MISSIONARY ACTIONS, which transform people groups, tribes and communities all over NE TN and to the Uttermost?

Oh, did you expect me to just answer that myself? No, I am retiring soon, and I cannot Set the Table for you.

Phase One: Listening Clusters, in regions of Holston.

Phase Two: Transition Team clarifies purpose & strategies of Relevant Future Association.

Phase Three: An informed Search Team matches DOM candidates, who could lead a Relevant Future Association.



Be on alert for your invitation to participate in a Listening Cluster near you.

Ben

# Executive Board is coming!

Our Executive Board meeting is coming up and we want to see you there! Come be a part of this exciting new time for Holston.

Coffee and Doughnuts will be provided so please call the office and let us know you will be coming.

(423) 929-1196

- Tuesday  
January 28th at  
9:30am
- Lower Level of  
the HBA office.





# *Congratulations Pastor Luka!*

Luka,

From all of us here at Holston Baptist Association we wish you the biggest congratulations. We pray that the Lord would continue to guide you, use you in his Kingdom and bless you and your family!

Pastor Luka Temaj at Faith Fellowship Baptist Church has graduated with a Master in Divinity and following the year 2020 will pursue his doctoral degree through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Luka will be stepping down from the senior Pastor position at FFBC in May of 2020 in order to pursue his academic degree. Luka has been with Faith Fellowship since March of 2015 and has faithfully served and revitalized FFBC as of June of 2018, established four paid staff members, membership role and church financial stability. "My prayer is that we will continue to serve our community and proclaim the Gospel of Christ."





## CONGRATULATIONS!

On November 23rd Solomon's Temple Missionary Baptist ordained Jeff Roberts as deacon. Jeff was accompanied by his wife Teresa and daughter Brianna. Also present was Pastor Dr. Bobby Bernard. The Churches of the association and all of us here at the HBA office would like to Congratulate you in your service to the Lord!

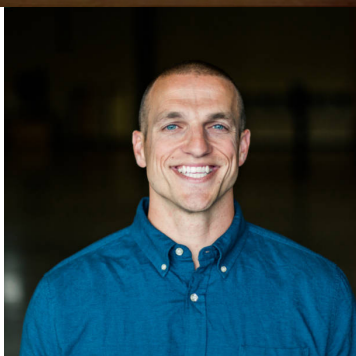


## CONGRATULATIONS!

Clark Street Baptist Church, Johnson City held a Deacon Ordination service to welcome Bill Glover & Jared McKay as new deacons. Pictured left to right are, Bill Glover, Deacon Chairman Danny Hughes, Jared McKay, Pastor Randy Hommel. The Churches of the association and all of us here at the HBA office pray that you would be blessed and that the Lord would continue to use you for His Glory!



**D.A. Horton** serves as Pastor of Reach Fellowship in Long Beach, CA and as an Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies at California Baptist University. Previously he served as Chief Evangelist for the Urban Youth Workers Institute, a church planter/pastor in Kansas City, MO, a National Coordinator of Urban Student Ministries at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Executive Director at ReachLife Ministries.



**Solomon Rexius** is the Director of Salt Company at Cornerstone Church in Ames, Iowa, reaching college students at Iowa State University. He was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, and completed a Masters of Divinity at Western Seminary in Portland. Before moving to Iowa, he was a college pastor in Eugene for 6 years at University Fellowship Church. Solomon and his wife Lizzy just celebrated 8 years of marriage, and together they are the proud parents of one son (Israel) and three daughters (Crystal, Georgia, Penny), with one more girl on the way.



**The Liberty Worship Collective** is made up of the most talented, next-generation worship leaders in the world, selected from over 1,200 competitors annually. The students selected have the privilege of leading worship at the largest weekly gathering of young people — Liberty University's Convocation. From God-glorifying worship to world-class songwriting, the Liberty Worship Collective is the future of worship — now.

# REPLICATE

JAN. 10TH AT 6:30PM JAN. 11TH AT 9:00AM

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Learn how to implement effective disciple making to reach your community and grow a healthy church.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

**Lead Pastors** desiring to create and sustain a vision for discipling in your church while also leading and empowering your staff to embrace the Great Commission.

**Spiritual Formation Pastors and Ministers of Education** who want to maximize your small group/Sunday school ministries to build biblical community that leads to multiplication and exponential spiritual growth.

**Discipleship Pastors** who want to develop and implement an effective discipleship pathway that helps people engage in ministry, grow personally, and make disciples within the community.

**Men's and Women's Ministry Leaders** who want to develop a clear pathway for men and women in the church that maximizes biblical multiplication and growth in their respective ministries.

**Student and Kids Ministry Leaders** who want to develop a holistic discipleship strategy to reach students and kids and equip parents to disciple their families effectively.

**Key Lay Leaders** who want to fan the flame of effective discipling in their church context while leading others to embrace Christ's command to make disciples

# To Your Health

by: greg burton



Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! These are such perilous times for people who must watch their nutrition for their health. I am not referring to a weight loss diet, but a doctor-mandated dietary plan to respond to issues such as diabetes or heart risks. The holidays, birthdays and family gatherings

be sure to keep your serving size small. Do not return for seconds. Ask some kind soul to help you with gentle accountability. Have other food and drink options. Change your seating during times of desserts and refreshments to remove yourself from greater temptations.



can often be problematic when limiting salt, cholesterol and carbohydrates! How do we survive?

Keeping dietary numbers in healthy ranges is necessary for many health conditions. Holiday foods taste so good! They stir memories, build comfort and become the focus of much fellowship. Moderation is supposedly the key, but it can often be a seemingly impossible task.

Plan a strategy for gatherings. Scout ahead. Know what options are best for you. If you must eat something you know is unhealthy

For those on heart healthy diets never add salt at the table. Never. You create a high risk of fluid around the heart and congestive heart failure. Use pepper or other spices.

Overall, if you cannot control your moderation then switch to abstinence. Holidays should be about celebration. We would all be wise to "eat to live, not live to eat."

Happy New Year!

Greg Burton

# “News from the Johnson City Baptist Center”

by: anna huggins



Let me begin the new year with a word of thanksgiving to all the individuals and churches who made Christmas very special for the children we minister to at the Baptist Center. Seventy-plus boys and girls received gifts from the Angel Tree which Holston Baptist Association sponsored. These gifts were an extension of the love of Jesus shared by you this season, and may have been all many of the families had for their celebration. Thank you again for so willingly responding to this outreach. Every child on the tree was blessed by one of you. We appreciate each of you very much!

Previous to the Angel Tree was our Thanksgiving dinner for the community at Tyler Apartments and the neighbors on Hopson Street. We served 60-70 people that evening. We were blessed by the spirit of those who prepared, served and ministered that night at our gathering. Special thanks to Central Baptist, and Fordtown Baptist for all the help you provided.

None of the ministries at the Johnson City Baptist Center could be conducted without your commitment to this endeavor. The prayers and participation are much needed. Here are some prayer requests for the new year:

\* Pray for the children's Bible studies as they resume this month, that the children would be attentive, have good behavior, and be receptive to the Holy Spirit's teaching.

\* Pray for the adult Bible study that those who attend would follow through with the lessons of God's Word we receive.

\* Pray for our volunteers who so faithfully teach, that they will be refreshed to lead and love the children and families.

\* Pray for Sunday afternoon worship services that folks would see the opportunity for them to have a time of regular worship in their neighborhood.

\* Pray for the re-roofing of the activity house at the Baptist Center. It had to be delayed until this spring; pray for the team that will be working on that.

\* Pray for the summer mission teams, that we would have a full calendar for VBS, and for the churches that come to serve with us. You can sign up now to join us for a week!

As we look ahead to this new year of our Lord, let us remember His words from Lamentations 3: 22-23 (KJV): "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."

Let us remain faithful in His service,  
Anna Huggins

# Church Health

by: bryan smith



We all have reasons for why we do what we do and here are five of mine. Why do I and others work so hard to insure the sustainability of our churches? Right here is your answer. We want to do all we can to insure our grandchildren has the same opportunities to attend a Bible-believing, God-focused house of worship as you and I did. In the decade to come, it is going to take courageous leadership to insure this occurs. I know where I stand: my goal is not to leave this part of my world as I found it but to do all I can to improve it with the help of Almighty God.

The largest population of evangelicals in the U.S. are part of the The Southern Baptist Convention and for the past 12 years it has been in decline, as has most other denominations. Before we make some incorrect assumptions, may I say there are several reasons that have been documented. Declining fertility rates amongst evangelicals are a genuine reason for decline as is the wide acceptance of a 24/7 work culture where more people are not able to attend church at 11:00 on a Sunday morning. While I have listed a few things, we retain only 62% of our youth into adulthood in our SBC churches.

<https://religionnews.com/2016/06/28/southern-baptist-gains-and-losses-in-one-chart/>

Though this article is two years old, it is applicable today. The writer speaks of eight major shifts seen in how we do church. You can

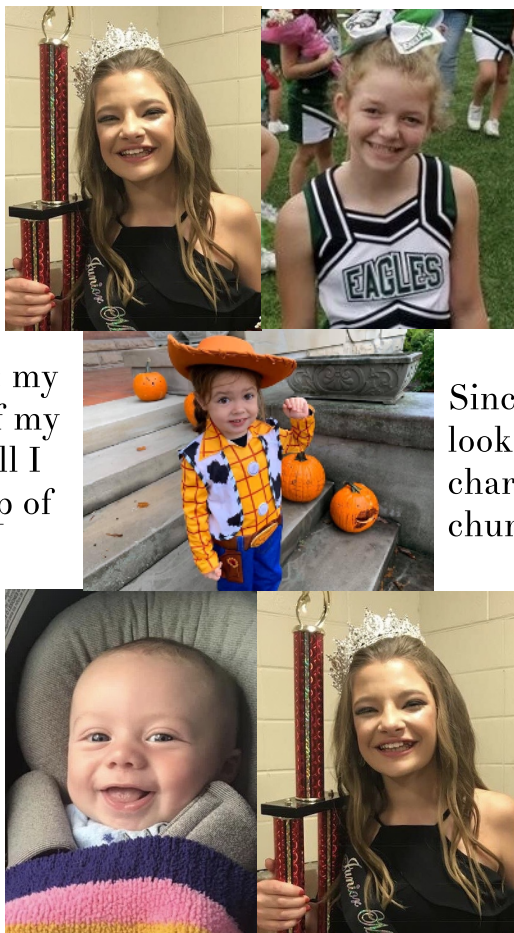
bet that in the next ten years we will see many more and you can bet some of them will make several of us uncomfortable.

<https://thomrainer.com/2017/05/eight-major-changes-in-churches-the-past-ten-years/>

Since I mentioned the future, let's look at what some of the characteristics of a healthy church will look like in the days ahead. This should give us something to strive towards because I believe he is correct in his assumptions.

<https://thomrainer.com/2019/06/the-healthy-church-in-2029-ten-major-changes-in-ten-years/>

Why am I working so hard for the sustainability of a Gospel presence in Northeast Tennessee? For Callie, for Rowan, for Cora, for Dylan, for Levi, and for your grandchildren as well. May 2020 be the year of great focus for all of us toward accomplishing that goal. As always, I invite you to call me and let's begin a conversation.





# 3 Reasons Estate Stewardship is Beneficial for the Local Church

**By Bill Gruenewald**

As leaders, we all want to build long-term financial stability in our churches. While regular tithes and offerings help ministry happen today, what about tomorrow? If church membership and giving decline, it could prove harmful or even fatal for a lot of churches. But, there is a way to build long-term financial stability to compliment the regular giving of your congregation – through Estate Stewardship!

Churches need to be intentional about planned giving, and having an Estate Stewardship Plan is the first step. Most churches already have members who are committed and invested in the church's ministry and vision. Why would a church not want to have a plan in place to allow these faithful members to continue to be a part of what God is doing even after they've gone home? There are many reasons Estate Stewardship can benefit your church, but I will give you three reasons to consider it.

## 1. Generational Wealth Transfer

While numbers vary, many pundits estimate that close to \$60 trillion will pass to the current generation by the year 2061. We are

in what is called the “Golden Age of Planned Giving.” In the past, the church has been passive in requesting estate gifts to help fund ministry. This needs to change. We need to “make the ask” and provide faithful members with the opportunity to give. The reality is that everyone will leave an estate, but NOT everyone will leave a legacy! Help educate your church members on the value of legacy giving.

## 2. It is Biblical

Of these 2,000 verses, many relate to inheritance or legacy giving. A Google search reveals there are over 2,000 verses in the Bible that relate to money. That is significant. I believe God knew that money and finances would be a problem for mankind, which is why he spent a great deal of time trying to teach us to use His resources in the best way possible.

A significant verse is found in Proverbs 13:22 – “a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.” Inheritance is not limited to just money – it includes our faith, character, and integrity. But, this verse speaks to the long-term view we should have



as we steward the resources God has given us. We need to be thinking, “what I can leave that will benefit future generations?”

For the church, it is the same question:

“What can I plan for now to provide resources so my church can continue to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

Stewardship does not stop when we die. We have to “finish well”, and have an estate stewardship plan that benefits our families and also leaves a legacy of faith to help the church reach the next generation.

### 3. The Potential

An article in USA Today in 2015 stated that 64% of Americans do not have a will, trust, or estate plan in place. Almost 7 out of 10 people in your church have not planned for the future. The church is the logical place for us to have this conversation with our members. What if the church educated them in the Biblical mandate of estate stewardship and provided resources for them to put a plan in place? We can show them how they can leave a financial legacy of giving that will benefit the Kingdom of God for years to come. Many of them already know how to

give; they do it each week with their tithes and offerings. Help them take the next step of generosity to put a plan in place to make a legacy gift from their estate.

### What's Next?

That is a great question. The Tennessee Baptist Foundation can assist you in putting together a plan to educate your members and help you establish a Legacy Ministry that will bless the next generation with the Gospel of Christ.

The first step is scheduling a Faith-Based Estate Planning Seminar for your church. The Foundation will explain what is necessary for a well thought out estate plan and show them how they can be Legacy givers by leaving a portion of their estate to carry on the cause of Christ. Just click on the link below, and we will contact you to help you get this scheduled.

The Tennessee Baptist Foundation wants to help all our churches in Tennessee and partner with them in the ministry God has for them in their communities. Contact us today. We are ready to serve you.

# HELP WANTED

Piney Flats First Baptist Church is accepting resumes for a bi-vocational part time Youth Pastor and also a bi-vocational part time Children's Ministry Director. Please send resume to [PastorAllenDavis@gmail.com](mailto:PastorAllenDavis@gmail.com) or the church email, [pineyflatsbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:pineyflatsbaptist@gmail.com), attention personnel committee.

Holston needs volunteers (individuals or churches) to take on the task of upkeep and maintenance on the Buffalo Ridge Cemetery. This is the cemetery that HBA owns. This would include mowing, weeding and blowing leaves in the fall. Please contact us at the HBA office at (423) 929-1196 if you or your church are interested.

Woodlawn Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time Youth Minister who has a committed relationship to Jesus Christ with a servant's heart and a passion to minister to youth in a way that glorifies God. In this roll a qualified candidate would be expected to effectively administer and develop spiritual growth and evangelism of our Youth (Middle & High School Students), through Bible teaching, worship, discipleship, mission's involvement, counseling, & recreational activities. Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry preferred. Salary negotiable with experience & training. Send resume to 1400 Southside Avenue, Bristol, TN 37620 (Attention: Personnel Committee) or drop off between the hours of 9am – 2pm Mon – Thursday.

# Holston Has a Drone



Have a church event that you would like pictures of? Want a promotional video for your church website or Facebook page? Do you just need to make sure your church's roof is in good shape?

Contact Jeremy Carlson at  
[jeremy@holstonbaptists.org](mailto:jeremy@holstonbaptists.org) for more information

# VISION

## 2020

*"GO TELL Camps are the most exciting youth camps in America! There is no greater music and teaching anywhere. Your students will leave blessed and excited. I highly recommend GO TELL."*

**JOHNNY HUNT**

National Strategist for Evangelism, Southern Baptist Convention



**RICK GAGE**

Founder of GO TELL Camps

*"GO TELL Camp was born out of a passionate prayer meeting in 1988 to evangelize the youth of America and equip them to find others who need the Lord Jesus Christ. Three decades later, more than 100,000 students and their leaders have been touched by God through these annual GO TELL Camps. I want to encourage you to bring every teenager in your town to a GO TELL Summer Camp. I promise you their lives will never be the same."*



**EDDIE CARSWELL**

Founder of NewSong and Winter Jam

*"Rick Gage is a man on fire for Jesus and for telling everybody about Him! If GO TELL is doing an event, expect God to be moving!"*



**CLAYTON KING**

Teaching Pastor at NewSpring Church (Anderson, SC)

*"I encountered God in a tangible way over 30 years ago at the first ever GO TELL Camp. I still haven't gotten over it and am honored to be a part of the GO TELL family."*



**KIE BOWMAN**

Senior Pastor at Hyde Park Baptist Church (Austin, TX)

*"I've known Rick Gage for 30 years; and in that time, he has had one passion – winning one more person to Christ! I've sent our youth, and I've spoken at numerous GO TELL Camps – they are the best! The best music. The best organization. The best preaching. You cannot beat GO TELL Camps!"*

## HBA VBS Clinic 2020

Thursday, April 9, 2020

FBC Blountville

5:30 Open House

6:00 Opening Rally

6:45 Conferences

8:30 Dismissal

If you would like to be a part  
of this ministry, please let  
me know !!

Tammy Hammitt

HBA VBS Director

(423) 677-8503



### Daily Content

- Day 1: Foundation of Love — Matthew 9:9-13
- Day 2: Foundation of Forgiveness — Acts 26:1-29
- Day 3: Foundation of Worth — Matthew 26:36-46
- Day 4: Foundation of Promise — Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20
- Day 5: Foundation of Life — Matthew 7:24-29

### Rotation Sites

High Steel Worship Rally  
Blueprint Bible Study  
Jackhammer Music  
Excavator Missions  
Bulldozer Crafts  
Wrecking Ball Rec  
Food Truck Snacks

**Theme Verse:**  
I am sure of this, that he who  
started a good work in you will  
carry it on to completion until  
the day of  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
*Philippians 1:6 (CSB)*

Come to hear and learn about all  
the wonderful things the kids will  
experience at VBS next summer!!

You might even win a real awesome  
door prize or two!! See ya then!!



**BUILDING  
ON THE  
LOVE OF  
JESUS**



# 2020 VBS PREVIEW EVENT

RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER  
JANUARY 10—11, 2020

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

Check-In\* .....11:00AM  
Main Session 1.....12:30PM  
Breakout 1.....1:45PM  
Breakout 2.....2:50PM  
Breakout 3.....3:55PM  
Breakout 4.....5:00PM  
Dinner Break\* .....5:50PM  
Main Session 2.....7:00PM

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

Breakfast\* .....7:45AM  
Creative Zone Open.....8:00AM  
Breakout 5.....9:00AM  
Breakout 6.....10:05AM  
Main Session 3.....11:15AM  
Dismiss\* .....12:00PM

\*Dinner and Breakfast are available in the Dining Hall by purchasing a Ridgcrest meal ticket upon registration. Lunch will not be available for purchase either day at the event.

Event schedule subject to change.



# 2020 VBS PREVIEW EVENT

FBC HENDERSONVILLE / THURS—FRI EVENT  
JANUARY 30—JANUARY 31, 2020

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Check-In\* .....11:00 AM  
Main Session 1.....12:30PM  
Breakout 1.....1:45PM  
Breakout 2.....2:50PM  
Breakout 3.....3:55PM  
Breakout 4.....5:00PM  
Main Session 2.....6:00PM  
Dismiss\* .....6:45PM

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Creative Zone Open.....8:00AM  
Breakout 5.....8:30AM  
Breakout 6.....9:35AM  
Main Session 3.....10:45AM  
Dismiss\* .....11:30AM

\*Meals are not provided on site either day of the event.

Event schedule subject to change.

The year 2020 is displayed in large, white, sans-serif font. It is decorated with several colorful streamers in shades of purple, blue, red, and yellow, which are draped and looped around the digits. The entire graphic is enclosed within a thin white rectangular border.

# 2020

**HOLSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
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