

The *DC Pulse*

Your Connection to a Church with a Heart for the Community

The growing challenge of church attendance

By BILL WILSON
BAPTIST STANDARD NEWSMAGAZINE



Do you remember perfect-attendance pins for Sunday school? Many of you haven't seen one. There was a day when it was a regular feature in churches all across America.

If a person attended Sunday school every Sunday in a year, he or she was awarded a pin or received an attachment that hung below the original pin to denote *another* year of perfect attendance. People took great pride in amassing multi-year pins that honored their spiritual fortitude and persistence. Gradually, the expectation that weekly attendance at church is a given has eroded and been replaced with a hope people will attend church "regularly." The definition of what constitutes "regular attendance" has been redefined downward as competition on weekends has increased. Some churches are realizing very active and loyal people are attending church much less frequently than before. As a result, average weekly attendance is in serious decline.

In the last year, the Center for Healthy Churches has worked with 50 congregations from 16 states and eight denominations. They range in size from 32 weekly attenders to 5,000. In nearly every situation, we engaged our clients in a conversation about frequency of attendance. Rather than conjecture about why people are attending less frequently, we decided to ask them where they are when they are not attending church.

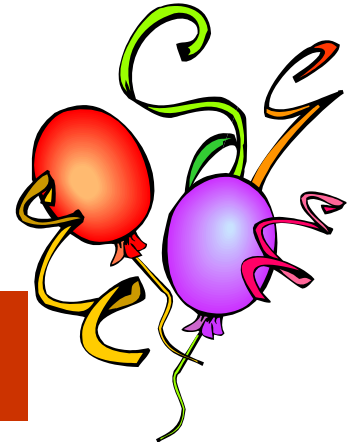
Here are the 10 reasons most frequently mentioned, listed in alphabetical order:

Athletics. College and professional athletic events evoke intense loyalty. For those who travel to Saturday night games, showing up on Sunday mornings is a stretch. Many professional athletic events take place on Sundays and force a choice between attending church or being at the game or tailgate party.

Children. The array of activities for children offered only on weekends is overwhelming. Athletic teams, academic conferences, chess tournaments, cheering competitions, parties and trips have proliferated in the last 30 years. Many parents tag along and find themselves far from home on Sunday mornings.

Celebrate DC Senior Adults with May Birthdays!

George Smith	May 1
Nancy Thompson	May 9
Gertrude Patton	May 18



“With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.” --
Psalm 91:16



Come and claim your seat on the DC Van as Platinum Plus journeys down to **GRUENE** Historic District in New Braunfels.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Lunch: Gristmill River Restaurant (on your own)

Contact Bro. Curtis or Sis. Ora McCormick for more information at (512) 282-3703.

FAMILY ENRICHMENT WEEK June 22 - 26, 2015



Travel back with us to Hometown Nazareth where we'll stand up for our faith among people who doubt that the carpenter's son is really God's son. We'll explore what life was like when Jesus was a kid. You'll craft projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-time games, visit with Jesus' mom, Mary, and eat foods just like the ones Jesus ate.

The study is designed for all ages. The journey to Nazareth begins on June 22, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. each night.



Please also consider donating your talents to Family Enrichment Week this summer. Contact FEW leader Vedia Miles via email at vedia.miles@yahoo.com to discuss ways you may be able to serve.

The growing challenge of church attendance, cont. from cover

Commitment. Many acknowledged the depth of their commitment to weekly attendance is eroding, for multiple reasons. At the heart of the matter is a sense what is offered on Sunday mornings is not meaningful or valuable enough to make the effort to attend.

Exhaustion. On several occasions, we have heard younger families say they find themselves exhausted by a six-day workweek, overactive social life, over-engaged children and a host of other stresses. Several have mentioned Sundays are their only day to be together as a family. Occasionally, they choose to spend the morning together.

Holidays. The number of Sundays that are part of holiday weekends has risen dramatically. One church discovered 26 Sundays in the previous year were impacted by a holiday or vacation week. Long weekends and breaks invite travel and time away from home.

Illness. Several senior adults reported they are living with chronic illness that inhibits their ability to attend weekly worship. In previous years, they would not have survived such a serious illness. Now, they find their ability to get out and participate severely restricted.

Parents. Several median-age adults recounted they miss Sundays because they are caring for aging and ill parents. We frequently heard about rotation systems among siblings to care for an invalid parent. Taking your turn for a weekend each month keeps you out of your church.

Travel. The proliferation of travel as a high-value activity for Americans impacts weekend activities. The ease of travel in our day is a huge shift from 50 years ago.

Vacations, timeshares, second homes: Many admitted they spend multiple weekends a year on vacation or taking advantage of second homes or timeshares.

Work. Nearly every gathering evoked stories of people who work, or travel for work, on Sundays. The official estimate is one in three Americans regularly work on Sundays.

What are we to make of these stories? We must grapple with the illusion Sundays belong to the church and loyal members will be present four/five Sundays a month. Here are some possible strategies to explore:

- Measure your impact rather than simply count your attendance.
 - Count participants over the course of a month/year rather than attenders by the week.
 - Investigate Bible study and worship on alternate days and locations.
- If nothing else, have an honest conversation about the issue. It isn't going away.

Article included at the request of Pastor Parker. Courtesy of "The Texas Baptist Standard."
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Wednesday worship service is on the Wednesday following the first Sunday from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. This month, Wednesday worship is on May 5, 2015. Rev. Mary Whitehurst will deliver the message.



children and youth ministry NEWS

Hey Parents! Have unused packs of diapers that your little angel has grown out of? There are an estimated 12,000 Austin babies and toddlers in a diaper need situation. The **Infant and Preschool Ministry** will hold a Diaper Drive the month of May for Austin Diaper Bank. Austin Diaper Bank is a non profit organization that collects diapers for children and seniors citizens in need. Brand new or opened packs are welcomed. A box to collect the donations will be located in the fellowship hall beginning May 3rd. The last day for donations is Sunday, May 31st.



WANTED:

HEROES

CHILD, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT ANNUAL WEEKEND: June 12-14, 2015

Plans for the Child, Youth, and Young Adult Annual are underway. This year, the College Ministry will lead the steering committee and are joined by several students! The theme is "Wanted: Heroes," with Ephesians 1:18-21 as the scriptural reference. Events planned include a Lock-In on Friday and Scholarship Banquet on Saturday evening culminating with Worship Service on Sunday morning. Please register and purchase a banquet ticket, which includes the new ministry t-shirt. Coordinators are also asking church members to participate in the "Under the Bridge" community service project to collect socks, underwear, and toiletries for men and women. Please contact Miguel Green (miguelgreen03@bellsouth.net), Keith Overton-Hadnot (keith.overtonhadnot@gmail.com) or Leonie Jones (leonie.jones61@my.csun.edu) if you have questions.

Disciple Now	\$35
July 10-12, 2015	
LIVEDIFFERENT	
God, Sex, and Holiness	
...Save the Date	

Save the date for the Youth Ministry's Disciple Now 2015! Disciple Now 2015 is a fun, yet challenging experience designed to push our youth to explore their faith more deeply, gain a greater understanding of God's word, and challenge themselves and each other to grow in their relationships with Christ. Students are asked to make an investment of \$35 to participate in the event. Let organizers know that you're interested by signing up [here](#) or visit with Keith Overton-Hadnot.



Congratulations Graduates!

HIGH SCHOOL

Khaliyl Burns, A.N. McCallum High School -- Thursday, June 4, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.
Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Victoria Campfield, Hendrickson High School -- Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.
Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Trevor Grant Deary, Pflugerville High School -- Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.
Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Rachel M. Forbes, John B. Connally High School -- Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 9:00 a.m.
Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Roderick Grant, Jr., A.N. McCallum High School -- Thursday, June 4, 2015 - 11:00 a.m.
Frank Erwin Center, Austin

Christion Maelik Nunn, Smithville High School -- Friday, June 5, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.
Barry Field, Smithville

Kessiena Marie Ofunrein, Legacy Early College High School -- Thursday, May 28, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
The Event Center Auditorium at Main Street Campus, Taylor

Khaila Alexis Pippin, Hutto High School -- Tuesday, June 2, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Cedar Park Center, Cedar Park

Jordan Smith, Elgin High School -- Saturday, June 6, 2015 - 8:00 p.m.
Wildcat Stadium, Elgin

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Rev. Bernadine Davis, Doctor of Ministry
Baylor University, George W. Truett Theological Seminary -- Friday, May 15, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church, Waco

Jordan Overton, Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance
Morehouse College -- Sunday, May 17, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.
Atlanta, Georgia

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

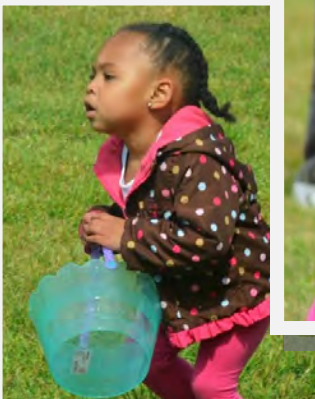


easter egg hunt

Highlights from the DC Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th.



EaSter egg hunt



Photos courtesy of Keith Overton-Hadnot

*D*ivinely *I*nspired *V*irtuous *A*nointed *S*isters

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



In recognition of the bonds of “motherhood,” DC is hosting a reception to honor all mother’s on Mother’s Day, **Sunday, May 10, 2015**, immediately following morning worship. Please join us to celebrate all women who have played a mothering role in our lives.

desperate
for **JESUS**

2015 Women's Conference

Saturday, July 25
from 8 am – 4 pm

VICTORIOUS

but thanks be to God, who gives us the
victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 CORINTHIANS 15:57

\$25/person
including lunch

SAVE THE DATE! Join the D.I.V.A.S and attend the “Desperate for Jesus” conference sponsored by the Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship. Last year, it was a wonderful experience and we know God has something special to say to us again as He raises us to a new level of experiencing Him in a victorious life. Please plan on departing from David Chapel at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 24 and returning to David Chapel by 9:00 p.m. on Saturday July 25. Registration ranges from \$117.00 to \$138.00, depending upon the number of people in a room. The registration cost covers fees for the conference, bus transportation to Dallas, hotel accommodations (Hampton Inn, Desoto), and Saturday meals. Friday meals are on your own. An initial non-refundable payment of \$50 is due by **THIS Sunday, May 3. Final payment is due by June 7, 2015.** Interested in attending? Please see Jacqueline Dozier, Cathleen Caldwell, Kathryn Freeman, or Gayle Collins. Visit <https://www.ocbfchurch.org/dfj> for additional information on the conference and speakers.



Every mother deserves a day and every child deserves a meal.

This Mother’s Day, David Chapel joins many churches across the state in holding a special offering to end hunger as a part of the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering. While the focus day for the offering is Mother’s Day, DC is accepting offerings throughout May. Please give contributions to Sis. Lois Hunt. You may also send a donation by mail to: “Hunger Offering” - Baptist General Convention of Texas, 333 North Washington Ave., Dallas, Texas, 75246.

HOW'S IT GOING?

Participants - have you been checking your blood pressure **twice a week** and recording it in the **Heart360** web portal accessed through your smartphone, laptop or desktop? If not, please go out to <https://www.heart360.org/aaqol> to enroll and document your blood pressure readings twice per week.

If you need help or an alternative method of recording your blood pressure, please contact Rev. Emerson at (512) 972-5186.

Check. Change. Control.™

Financial Ministry



The DC Financial Ministry continues to educate our church on the importance of financial health and God's desire for us to manage our finances biblically. Each month, the ministry is going to give you a tip or reminder to stay on track towards God's goals for you!

Here is the tip for May:

Many advertisers seek to create discontent in us. The more you watch television, read catalogues and shop, the more you spend. Memorize scripture. Here's one that helps, "...for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." (Philippians 4:11b)

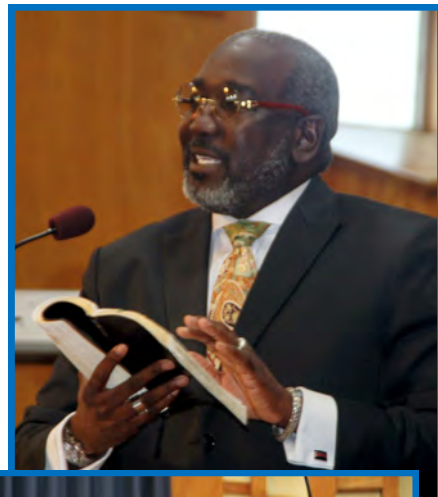
All announcements and articles for the June publication must be submitted to the church office or Keisha Nunn

(communications@davidchapel.org) by

Sunday, May 17th.

91st Church Anniversary Celebration

What a day it was—a celebration of 91 years as a body of believers, united by one hope, one heart, and one mind in Jesus Christ. On Sunday, April 26th, David Chapel Missionary Baptist Church commemorated its storied history and honored God's present provision, while eagerly awaiting the fullness of God's plan for the years to come. The occasion was marked by soul-stirring teaching, preaching, and song, followed by a fellowship luncheon and an uplifting program at the Double Tree Hotel. As is often said—but never more sincerely than now - "A good time in the Lord was had by all." All glory and thanks be to God for 91 years and counting!





"Trusting in God's Provision" - Past, Present, and Future



Photos courtesy of Robert Emerson and Carl Evans. Narrative by Joyce Harris.

DAVID CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
2211 E. M.L.K., Jr. Blvd ▪ Austin, Texas ▪ 78702 ▪
(512) 472-9748 ▪ www.davidchapel.org
“Like” us on Facebook!

Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Esq., D.Min., Senior Pastor

Remember to check the [church calendar](#) regularly for new events and scheduling changes.

ONLINE GIVING — Members and non-members may give their tithes and offerings online safely and securely through checking account, debit/credit cards and electronic fund transfers. Visit David Chapel’s website for online giving, more information, and instructions at www.davidchapel.org.

BABY DEDICATIONS are held the 3rd Sunday of each month, unless it is a holiday or an annual day. Please contact the church office at (512) 472-9748 to schedule your child’s dedication and to obtain additional information regarding the event.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday School -- 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday Bible Studies

Tuesday Morning at 10:00 a.m.

TNT Bible Study at 6:45 p.m.

Nevertheless Church, 2700 W. Pecan St., Suite 570, Pflugerville

Wednesday Prayer & Praise and Bible Study

Prayer & Praise Service -- 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study -- 7:30 p.m.

BIBLESTUDY
JOIN US THIS WEEK

