

**April 15, 2018**  
**CELEBRATION**  
**Who Shall We Be?**  
**Ephesians 6:10-20**

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**1. We face** \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. We are fighting** \_\_\_\_\_.

- “We have seen the enemy and he is us.”
- We must understand our \_\_\_\_\_.

**3. We must fight spiritual battles with** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- \_\_\_\_\_ lives.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- Pray at \_\_\_\_\_ and for \_\_\_\_\_.

# Lagniappe

by Dr. Waylon Bailey

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Welcome to Dedication Sunday at First Baptist Church.

Today marks a milestone in the history of First Baptist Church Covington as we dedicate a new Worship Center and our new Connection Center to the glory of the Lord.

First Baptist Church began in 1904 when a very small group of people met to establish a Baptist church in the city of Covington. It's hard to imagine, but the city was established in 1813 and did not have a Baptist church until 1904. For the first 40 years this church struggled. The church had a number of outstanding pastors but most of these stayed only a year or two. Everything about our history at that time indicates that the church was "a small, struggling congregation." For the first two years, the church used the building of the Covington Methodist Church. In 1906 they purchased a cottage and met there until 1948. That cottage no longer exists.

In 1946 when "the boys came home from the war," First Baptist Church called a new pastor, Baxter Pond, and began talking about building a functional church building. That building, which cost \$35,000, was completed in 1948 and still stands at the south corner of 23rd and Jefferson Avenues in downtown Covington.

Since 1946 the church has only had six pastors: Baxter Pond (1944-54 & 1956-65), Calvin Garner (1954-1956), Guy Futral (1966-1980), Reid Doster (1980-84), Sid Young (1984-88), and me (1989-present). Where the early years indicated struggle and instability, the last 70 years have indicated stability, unity, and growth.

In the 1984, the church opened its third worship center on the north corner of 23rd and Jefferson Avenues. In 2001, to accommodate an abundance of growth and ministry, the church moved to its present 43 acre location at the intersection of Highways 1085 & 21.

Today's time of celebration and dedication completes the vision established in 1997 to move to a new location. We are now a regional church, with worshipers coming from six Louisiana parishes and parts of Mississippi.

Thank you for helping us celebrate God's goodness!