

The Connection

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*"A church in the heart of Russellville
with Russellville on its heart"*

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Bro. Mike Duncan, Minister of Music & Youth
Randy Whitley, Outreach Minister

FOCUS: Spring to Church

April showers bring May flowers. Yes, spring is here, and God is fertilizing the landscape with sunshine and rain. Plant life is waking up. Are you awake this changing season? We as Christians can come to life as never before. We have so much to be thankful for. On the 24th, we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is a time when many attend a church service. Let me encourage you to

celebrate the Savior of the world with your attendance at Sunday School and worship services every Sunday. God is so good and patient with all of us. What would you do in times of need if you had no God to reach out to? Come worship with your church family and honor God, our only hope.

I appreciate all the teachers and officers that recently attended a Sunday School meeting. We are praying that a class for young married and one for single/college age will become a reality. Join us in prayer and give your suggestions in this matter.

See you Sunday,

Gaylen Baugh
SBC Sunday School Director

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

— Matt. 28:19-20

Wedding Anniversaries

Jerry & Konnie Smith	02
Jerald & Tonia Harper	04
Barry & Amy Dill	04
Mike & Barbara Dorris	05
Bill & Teresa Browning	12
James & Charlotte Cauley	14
Glenn & Sue Blick	17
Barry & Beth Kennedy	17
Kevin & Nicole Bibb	24
Victor & Debra King	24



*With
Sympathy*



Second Baptist Church would like to extend its deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one. May God give peace and comfort to you and your family.

To the family in the loss of their loved one, Linda Laster.
To the family in the loss of their loved one, Marie Jennings.
To Jeff Ethridge in the loss of his wife, June Ethridge.
To the family in the loss of their loved one, Pearl Laster.

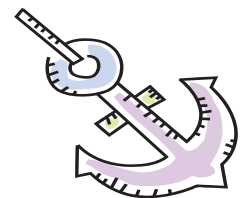
KIDS Korner

It's Spring, which means a lot of activities for children at school, on ballfields, and during Spring Break. We'd like for preschoolers and children to include Mission Friends, GA or RA groups as part of their activities. We meet Wednesdays nights, 6:30-8:30 P. M., except business meeting nights.

It's not too early to start thinking about Vacation Bible School. The Association Clinic will be April 28th, 6:00-8:30 P. M., at Southern Heights. Whether you've taught for years, or are new to VBS, there's something for you! We are beginning to get the list of teachers and volunteers; see Mary Celsor or Konnie Smith if you are willing to help in VBS.

Love in Christ,
Konnie

Don't forget:
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
Goal: \$1 for each North American
Missionary



SBC Great Neighborhood Giveaway
Sat., May 14th, 7AM-1PM
See church bulletin flyer for more information.

Mike's Minutes

Rated **T** for **TEEN** — Parents strongly cautioned!

I sympathize with parents who think they are ready for the long awaited transformation between puberty and adolescence. We think we know what is going to happen, but do we really? Think of this as a cross between **Godzilla, Lost in Space, and Invasion of the Body Snatchers**. To me, working with teenagers and parenting is, hands down, exponentially more frightening and suspenseful. I can say from experience that I'm convinced that nothing completely prepares a rookie parent for the extraordinary, mind-bending, world-rocking, overwhelming experience of full-out adolescent emotional anarchy.



I only had one child of my own to actually raise, but I know from working with hundreds of other teenagers over the past twenty plus years in youth ministry that I rode the teenage roller coaster that has the g-force of Space Mountain and didn't come with a bar across the lap to keep you on board. The experience defies description. It's still a dangerous ride. It's frightening and ultimately, for me, has been an all-out adrenaline-pumping, mind-blowing, God-glorifying experience.

So what's the formula of this thriller called *Parenting Teenagers*?

Typically, teenagers make unusual, unpredictable choices. You just never know what they will try next. Most of their stunts involve toilet paper, shaving cream, high-altitude leaps, cheap thrills, hair color, duct tape, and if possible on youth trips, it all happens around three in the morning. I've thanked my Heavenly Father many times for making me a heavy sleeper. It's amazing how the sins of my youth days seem to boomerang back to me, leaving a noticeable knot on my head. The past few years have left several battle scars from the teenage years. Here are a few of the major productions that a few traumatized parents have experienced and shared with me.

The Invasion of the Body Snatchers (7th & 8th Grade)

Plot: You wake up one morning and realize that the hormones and mood swings have abducted this cute little mini-you that used to live down the hall. Suddenly, this new resident looks at you as if you were a member of the cast of *Leave It to Beaver*. In a matter of weeks, the wash of hormones across the frontal lobe of your child makes you the most outdated, uncool, irrelevant person of the new millennium. In fact, you are now so irrelevant, he/she wants to be dropped off a few blocks from all social events. You now find yourself running through the streets of town screaming like a lunatic, "Who stole my child!?!"

That's when parents usually come to the realization that they are no longer best buddies. They start looking for the empirical research of the other older and wiser experts and the youth pastor. Most teens are capable of swallowing any lie, taking any dare, and messing up their lives in a permanent way unless the parent puts on the parent hat. It's not cool, but it is required.

The Godzilla Factor (9th & 10th Grade)

As a rookie parent, you will see your child grow physically and intellectually, and you'll say to yourself, "My child is getting it."
No, they aren't. Not now...Not by a long shot...

It is then that you say that one syllable word that can throw any teenager into an all-out, melodramatic, door-slammng frenzy: "NO!" That's when the emotional Godzilla has risen from the depths of the Pacific. Throngs of parents have run for their lives! Doors slam and angry words spew forth from this once adoring child. The temperature rises and suddenly, life gets very difficult. (Now days this experience can be best understood in the 3-D, LED color of life.) Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Lost In Space—But Ultimately Found (11th & 12th Grade)

By now, you face the reality that life in the home has changed dramatically. It has probably challenged your universe. You'll learn and continue to learn and re-learn lots of biblical truth with practical applications. As a parent and youth director, I've learned, and so will you, that I can be assertive, even though I hate being assertive. I've learned that God's workshop is supernatural, and that He does most of His good stuff while no one is looking. I've learned that doing the right thing doesn't always guarantee success. But it's always the better road to take, even if it causes you pain. I've also learned this past year especially, that the older I get, the more important it comes not to mess it all up. People are watching. Especially the little kids down the hall. I can't let some stray thought, fantasy, or impulse bring my entire ministry to a screeching halt. Last, but not least, I've learned that the only time I have with our youth is right now, so I dare not miss this day. Parents, the worst-case scenarios rarely happen. And even if they happen, God is bigger than all of them. And His plot is more exhilarating than the wildest Hollywood script.

I love you all,

The Connection

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Librarian,
Suzann Coles

April Birthdays



Sue Wood	03	Bobby Utley	15
Shelia Hahn	04	Charlotte Cauley	16
Cheyenne Belew	04	Daphne Clark	17
Shawn Jones	04	Cara Williams	18
Barbara Dorris	05	Drew Chambers	18
Bill Browning	06	Michael Hooper	18
Kenneth Page	06	Zachary Yell	20
Sarah Cheaney	06	Ben Harris	21
Malene Gibbs	06	Christopher Starks	22
Cole Celsor	06	Joda Boley	24
Dorothy Sawyer	07	Duane Watkins	26
Addison Young	07	Ashley Carter	26
Tom Hargrove	08	Donovan Kash	28
Margaret Wells	08	Shea Humphrey	28
Victor Dodson	08	Leo Brooks	29
Marjorie Jeffries	08	Angela Belcher	29
Irene Elamon	09	Mary Brown	30
Sherrie Taylor	10	Debbie Whitman	30
James Cauley	10	Connie Blick	30
Dorothy Rosser	15	Kayelynn Davenport	30