

Staying Informed with Matt's Memo

First Baptist Church Merritt Island

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Bring the **HEAT**

(Please announce to your SunSch Class)

Saturday, July 9, at 9 AM in our gym, the Firehouse Student Ministry will be hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament called "Bring the Heat!" The purpose of this tournament is to honor our local firemen. The cost to enter a team of 4 is \$30. Everyone is invited to sign up and encouraged to invite their friends to play! Registration forms and more info can be found on the Firehouse website: firehouse.fbcmi.com. Come and play, or watch your pastoral team take on all challengers!



Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 1, 9 AM-Noon

VBS is fast approaching! Some volunteers are still needed. If you are able to help, please contact our Children's Ministry office at 453-2146, x 552. You can still pre-register your child at the kiosk in the church foyer or www.fbcmi.com. Please be in prayer for 2 things: 1) opportunities you might have to invite kids in our community to attend, and 2) that God would work in a powerful way to draw kids to Jesus!

New Discipleship Classes Just Started!

Our second round of short summer classes began this week. However, there is still plenty of time for you to join! Offerings include: "Intro to Church History" with Pastor Matt, "Grief Care" with Dr. Vic Jungkurth, and "Why Christian Kids Rebel" with counselor Rob Robinson. For more info, go to www.fbcmi.com and click on "Small Group Fellowship Brochure."

Pastor Matt's 2011 Southern Baptist Convention Report

Although I did not get to attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix this past week, I managed to keep up with a significant amount of the convention proceedings online, and I wanted to give you a brief report.

1) The Pastors' Conference featured some incredible preaching that you may want to watch. The videos are gradually being posted at this link: <http://vimeo.com/channels/aspire>. I especially recommend listening to Rick Warren, John Piper, Louie Giglio, Darrin Patrick, and Johnny Hunt. Much of what Darrin said goes well with Pastor Titus' recent messages in Galatians.

2) You can also watch the video archive of the actual convention meetings online at sbc.net. I HIGHLY recommend the convention message by Dr. David Platt. It is found on Wednesday morning, the 14th video down the list. Some of you studied Dr. Platt's book "Radical" with Pastor Titus last fall.

3) In light of the increasing diversity of our nation and our desire to reach people of all ethnic groups, the convention voted overwhelmingly to hold itself more accountable with regard to involving ethnic churches and

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leaders throughout the convention. And as a good step in that direction, for the first time, an African-American was elected to the position of 1st vice president of the SBC. Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Ave. Baptist Church in New Orleans, took that position and is considered by many to be a frontrunner for the next president of the SBC. I am very excited about this possibility.

4) Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, GA, was reelected for a second term as SBC president. Bryant did an incredible job over the past year and during the convention, so this is also a blessing.

5) Other resolutions adopted included: 1) An affirmation of the biblical doctrine of hell (countering the popular book by Rob Bell) 2) A much-debated resolution addressing our border control and immigration issue 3) A resolution affirming religious liberty, and 4) A resolution calling for President Obama to defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act.

6) Pastors were encouraged throughout to - instead of relying upon the International Mission Board to do all SBC mission work - lead their churches to partner with the IMB in "adopting" one of the 3,800 unreached people groups in the world. Unreached people groups are those who have virtually zero access to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

7) Many of the outcomes of the Great Commission Resurgence movement that was set into motion at the convention two years ago were finally put into place. These are difficult but necessary changes that we must make as we focus less on our home turf (where the gospel is readily available) so that we can focus more on getting the gospel to areas where it is possible to live and die and never hear of Jesus' sacrifice and love for the world.

Please be in prayer for our convention, that God would find us faithful in making disciples in our own communities and around the world.

- Pastor Matt

Happy Father's Day!