



OUR MISSION: “To Re-Present Jesus Christ
In Our Community And Beyond”

Pastor: Dr. Dennis Felder
USBC News

LEAVING THE CHURCH

By Pastor Dennis Felder



I wanted to let you know that **I HAVE LEFT THE CHURCH**. Now that I have your undivided attention, my leaving is only temporary. As a matter of fact, by the time you read this Newsletter, I will have returned.

Lana, Laney, and myself are on a well anticipated vacation. As I am writing this article, we are in Myrtle Beach, SC visiting with family. After a couple of days, we will be taking a 5-day cruise out of Charleston, SC that will take us to the Bahamas. Yes, the Bahamas! The very place were several hurricanes have already struck. Currently, hurricane Maria is fiercely turning in the Atlantic and is forecasted to be in the same location as our cruise ship. It should be an exciting and memorable trip. I will quickly discover how strong my sea legs are.

But let me get back to the purpose of writing this article. I made a previous statement that said, “*I have left the church.*” There are many reasons of why fellow believers leave the church. Some people leave because they move away; while others seek another church to help strengthen their spiritual walk. There are some good reasons for why one may leave a certain church, but for some, leaving a church has no Biblical or spiritual grounds. Even leaving the church can be unintentional, but over time it slowly happens.

Listen, I am not one to put someone on a guilt trip for not attending church. I fully understand that certain events in one’s life can preclude one from being at church. It may be health issues, one’s job responsibilities, or family obligations. However, church is designed to be a place to spiritually recharge, to connect to one another, and to corporately praise our Lord and Savior. Church can give us strength, encouragement, and loving support that cannot be found anywhere else. Therefore, as Summer has come to an end and our schedules have a sense of normalcy, let us make church a centerpiece of our life.

Hebrews 10:25 is a wonderful reminder of the value of church to a Christian. The Scripture reads, “*Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*” You see, we can experience the power of Holy Spirit in a new dimension that cannot be obtained on an individual basis. This basic principle is reinforced by the statement found in **Matthew 18:20** which reads, “*For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*”

Imagine what we can do as Christians to impact the kingdom of God, if we faithfully partner together in body and spirit. I need this partnership, you need this partnership, and most of all, God calls us to achieve such a partnership. So, let us come together to make a genuine and faithful commitment to each other and to the Bride of Christ, His church. See you Sunday!

212th HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

By Pastor Dennis Felder



USBC will be celebrating its 212th anniversary this year. In recognition of this milestone, USBC will be having a very special celebration service on October 15th. Following a very inspirational service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a delicious Potluck Dinner. Also, there is an opportunity for you to bring a covered dish or a dessert. You can use the designated slips in the bulletin to sign-up.

MINISTRY TEAMS

By Pastor Dennis Felder



For the last few months, I have been sharing with you some wonderful and unique opportunities to serve at **USBC** and to help build the kingdom of God. Several people have stepped forward to answer the call, but we are still needing many more to help. This rewarding service can be achieved by serving on one of the church's *Ministry Teams*.

Below, is a list of several *Ministry Teams* that we are encouraging you to become a part of. If you would like to have a better description of each *Ministry Team's* responsibilities, please contact the church for more details. The goal is to have everyone within our church family in a place of service. So, please step up and express your love for Christ by means of your service.

Ministry Teams:

Prayer Team: (*Purpose: To uphold the congregation and its ministries and also the community in prayer and to educate, empower and inspire the congregation in their prayer lives.*)

Outreach Team: (*Purpose: Creates and follows through with plans to help bring people to Christ, to meet the needs of our church family, and to understand the needs of all guests by engaging with these groups by means of personal contact.*)

Hospitality Team: (*Purpose: To plan, coordinate, and oversee designated activities that involve food services for the church and family members of the church.*)

Children's Ministry Team: (*Purpose: To communicate and coordinate all children's activities from birth through 5th grade in order to teach them about God's Word and the love of Jesus Christ.*)

Greeter/Usher Team: (*Purpose: To be responsible for seating and comfort of the congregation, the greeting and introduction of guests, to help minimize interruptions and distractions for church-wide gatherings.*)

HARVEST FESTIVAL

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Saturday, October 21st at 6 pm, **USBC** would like to invite you to attend our *Harvest Festival* that will be hosted at Richard and Mary Doody's house. We

will join each other around the campfire, roast hotdogs, make s'mores, play games, and enjoy an adventurous hayride. This event is for all ages, but we ask that you bring your own chair so that you can warm yourself around the warmth of the campfire. All food will be provided by the church. If you are planning on attending, please sign up at church. The Doody's address is 11304 Mountain View Road, Damascus.

DIVE DEEPER BIBLE STUDY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



How will the world end? Will you be here when the world ends? Are there signs that predict the time when Christ will return? These are all questions that center around the book of Revelation. Our next *Dive Deeper Bible Study* will deal with popular questions that people ask about Revelation.

Please join the *Dive Deeper Bible Study* on Sunday, October 29th at 12:30 pm as we seek answers to such intriguing questions regarding the end times.

MBA REVIVAL

Montgomery Baptist Association Revival

Sunday, October 15 - 18
7:30 - 9:00 pm

Georgia Avenue Baptist Church
12525 Georgia Avenue



Featuring guest speaker, Chaplain (Major General) Douglas L. Carver U.S. Army, Ret.

Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army, Retired, is the Executive Director of Chaplaincy Services for the North American Mission Board, providing professional and pastoral support to 3600 Southern Baptist Chaplains who minister in various institutional settings around the world. He retired from the United States Army in 2011 after serving 38 years of military service on behalf of our country. His last duty position was as the 22nd Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., serving over 2900 chaplains who support the religious and pastoral needs of our 1.2 million soldiers and families.

Sermon Series

October 1, 2017

Sermon Title: "You Are What You Eat"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

October 8, 2017

Sermon Title: "When Tragedy Strikes"

Scripture: Psalm 46:1-11

October 15, 2017

Sermon Title: "Will the Real You, Please Stand Up"

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:7

October 22, 2017

Sermon Title: "Fear in Life's Battles"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:7-12, 15-18

October 29, 2017

Sermon Title: "The Miracle of Freedom"

Scripture: John 11:39-44

ADAM HANNON (New Address)

**5531 Center Hill Church Rd
Loganville, GA 30052**

STRANGE BIBLE STORIES!

By Pastor Dennis Felder



What would happen if you were chopping down a tree with an axe and the axe head accidentally flung off its handle and fell into the deep lake? To make

matters worse, you had borrowed the axe from a friend. The only way that you could retrieve it, would be to wade in the water, hold your breath, take a deep dive, and blindly search in the murky water. Although you may do this over and over again, there is no guarantee that you would ever find it. However, if you were Elisha, it would be an easy task to accomplish.

The story I shared above is a true event that occurred in the Old Testament. The story is recorded in **2 Kings 6:4-7**, which reads, "And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. 'Oh no, my lord!' he cried out. 'It was borrowed!' The man of God asked, 'Where did it fall?' When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. 'Lift it out,' he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it."

What is the lesson that we can learn from this strange Bible story? God cares about the little things in our lives and can use them to display His awesome power!

PUMPKIN GIVEAWAY

By Pastor Dennis Felder



On Saturday, October 21st from 10am-1pm, USBC will be having our 2nd annual **Pumpkin Give-A-Way**. Not only will we be giving pumpkins away to children in our community, we

will also be having kid activities to help enjoy the festive time of fall. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this festive party, please let the church know by signing up.

USBC NEWS
Upper Seneca Baptist Church
23401 Davis Mill Rd.
Germantown, MD 20876



God's Plan Of Salvation

Trust Jesus Christ today! Here's what you must do:

1. Admit you are a sinner.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:23)

2. Be willing to turn from sin (repent).

Jesus said: "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:5)

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you, was buried, and rose from the dead.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

4. Through prayer, invite Jesus into your life to become your personal Savior.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

What to pray:

Dear God, I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ shed His **precious blood** and died for my sin. I am willing to turn from sin. I now invite Christ to come into my heart and life as my personal Savior.

Next Newsletter Deadline
October 22, 2017

Editor's Note:

Included in this newsletter is the **USBC Church Birthday Calendar** showing the dates of birthdays of our church family, but we don't always have the information to include. So, if we miss YOUR date, we are sorry! Why not fill out a connect card and place it in the offering plate with your name and birthday noted so that it can be included in our calendar.

Also, if you have something to be included in the newsletter, an announcement, an article, a cartoon....we are always looking for information and new ideas!

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COFFEE SHOP

By Pastor Dennis Felder



USBC is excited to announce that we are going into the coffee business. This Fall, the church will be creating and building a special coffee bar in the lobby/foyer. The coffee bar will provide coffee, juice, and refreshments for all church attendees on Sunday mornings. The coffee bar will be appropriately named the **HISTORY CAFÉ**.

Although, the **HISTORY CAFÉ** will be modern and up-to-date with equipment and furnishings, it will also reflect the history of USBC. Throughout the **HISTORY CAFÉ**, there will be mementos and historical artifacts on display to celebrate the wonderful history of USBC. As one sips on their beverage and nibbles on their Danish, they can be reminded of the commitment that so many have made to make USBC a lasting presence in our community.

However, for the **HISTORY CAFÉ** to become a reality, USBC needs your support. First, I encourage you to lift this new endeavor up in prayer. This specialized café will afford us a wonderful opportunity to have important fellowship with one another and with our guests that God brings to our church. Second, I ask that you volunteer to be a special greeter in the café and to help keep it well stocked with coffee, juice, and refreshments. Lastly, I am asking that you help financially.

To renovate the church lobby/foyer to make the **HISTORY CAFÉ** a reality, it will take sacrificial giving. The projected cost to make these meaningful and needed additions will be about \$10,000. At first, this figure may be, sort of a sticker shock. However, let me share with you about how God is already providing for such an endeavor.

First, God has already put in place an outside donor that will be making a substantial contribution to help fund the coffee shop. Second, there is another person, who will equally match every gift that is given. For example, if you give \$100, the matching donor will put an additional \$100 toward your contribution. In other words, your gift of \$100 immediately turns into a \$200 donation. So remember, any gift you give, large or small, will be doubled. You see, God is already at work, but we must all step up and do our part financially.

Now, the big question that I am often asked is, “*Why do we need a coffee shop?*” First, the coffee shop is about meeting the needs of others. For me, I do not drink coffee and you may be in the same boat. But if you look around, coffee is enjoyed by many and the coffee shop will allow us to provide this need. Second, our church desires to reach the younger generation and young families. In our current society, coffee has been the drink of choice for this group. By having a coffee shop opened on Sunday morning, we will have more opportunities to connect with these groups. Third, it is important that a church be proactive in reaching its community with creative ministries. Many churches are adding coffee shops to connect with a new generation and they have been successful in accomplishing this purpose. Fourth, in building a coffee shop, it gives us a sense of accomplishment as we see new changes taking place in our church. It is exciting to witness, in seeing our church doing something different, fresh, and new. Fifth, the coffee shop will not only allow us to engage with new people, it will also provide us an opportunity to socialize with our church family. It is vital that the church provide a regular opportunity for us to fellowship and to get to know each other on a meaningful level. Sixth, it will allow us to make a future investment in the kingdom of God. Our goal is to leave a visible and lasting foundation for future leaders of our church. The vision and sacrifice that we invest in today, will create a mindset for future church leaders to dream the impossible and to step out on faith and to cease the opportunity to make our church relevant for the future.

If you feel that God is leading you to invest in this amazing opportunity, please designate your special offering to the coffee shop. However, I also stress the fact that this special offering should be above and beyond your regular tithe.

SUPER SENIOR LUNCH

By Lana Felder



The *Super Seniors* of USBC met at *IHop* in Germantown on Tuesday, September 12th. We had 12 in attendance and enjoyed our time together so much! We prayed together, laughed together, and of course ate together!

It is always a joy to gather together in Christian fellowship. Laney and I have become honorary members of the *Super Seniors* too. Please consider joining us for the next luncheon – always the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Look for details in the bulletin as to the specific restaurant for the meal. I guarantee you will be blessed!

CHURCH YARD SALE

By Pastor Dennis Felder

YARD SALE

On October 7th, USBC will be having its annual yard sale. The yard sale will take place at the church between 8am and 12pm. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church no later than October 6th. If you need someone to pick up your donated items, please contact the church so that we can schedule a time to pick them up at your home.

Also, we will be setting up for the yard sale on Friday evening, October 6th at 6pm. If you have time to volunteer to help for either Friday or Saturday, please sign up.

DAMASCUS COMMUNITY FAIR

By Lana Felder



On September 8th, 9th, and 10th, USBC set up a booth for the first time at the Damascus Community Fair. The fair was open from 9 am to 9 pm on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th, and from 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday the 10th. In case you were not able to be in church on the 10th, we still held our services and opened our booth at 1 pm.

Our booth was staffed by many church members throughout the weekend. We had a table with baskets of toys, tracts, New Testaments, and other material for fair goers to pick up free of charge. We also had slips of paper for people to sign up to win a \$100 gift card from Walmart.

One of main attractions at our booth was a large prayer wall. We had markers and invited people to write a prayer request or praise on the board so that our church could pray for them. We had many, many people stop and write down requests. Some were simply a name, many asked for prayer for the hurricane victims, but others were very detailed.

On Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, the USBC praise team sang praise songs which was a blessing to many people who were attending the fair.

This booth was a wonderful outreach and ministry opportunity. We were able to meet many members of the local community and share the gospel with them. We are planning to do it again next year, so prepare in advance to help with this outreach.

