

April 1, 2018

Dear Graduating Seniors/Parents of Seniors,

Wow, can you believe graduation is right around the corner?! The day that seemed would never get here is suddenly approaching so fast that you are doing your best to take it all in. We hope and pray, as this chapter of your life nears a close and a new chapter suddenly opens, that you will embrace the Lord all the more and lean on Him throughout your lives.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (NKJV) Whether you are leaving the comforts of home and going off to a new school or job, or whether you are staying close and taking classes or a job locally, life is about to give you numerous opportunities to "trust the Lord!" Challenges, temptations, roadblocks, you name it; life is getting ready to happen, like it or not. But with the difficulties of life also come the rewards of hard work, study, and overcoming difficult circumstances. The point is, whether in good or bad times, trust the Lord and honor Him with your lives.

As a church, we want to express our support and pride in your accomplishment by acknowledging each of you in several ways during **SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY, May 20th**.

8:45am - Meet in the Lower Auditorium for Senior Breakfast held in your honor

9:15am - Graduate Testimonies/Parent Comments, and Slideshow

10:00am - Dismissed to the morning service

10:15am - Graduates Processional and Recognition

11:30am - Graduate and Family Pictures

Each graduate will have a table assigned to them for the breakfast. As we eat, Seniors and/or parents of seniors will be encouraged to voluntarily share their heart about this special day and how the Lord has brought you to this moment. Then we will go upstairs to instruct the graduates on their entry into the service. During the service, graduates will be introduced, receive their Bible, and be prayed over. After the service we will have take a few moments to snap some photos of the graduating class together. Families are welcome and encouraged to take photos with you as well.

PREPARATIONS:

As we prepare, there are a few things we need from you to make this day happen. *First*, please **RSVP no later than Sunday, May 6th**, to let us know you will be attending. Also, let us know how many of your family will be attending so we can prepare enough seating and food for breakfast. (see card)

Second, we need **10-20 pictures** showing a progression in age (birth to current) and your Senior picture. If you have digital copies, please email those to timpenney@firstplainview.com or drop them by the church office on a thumb drive. If you do not have digital copies of these, we can scan them and return them to you. You can bring those to the church office. We need all pictures **by Sunday, May 6th**, as well.

Third, have your graduate bring their gown (no cap) and any honors tassels/cords. You will wear your gowns during the morning service, but not the breakfast. We will reserve a place for the graduating class in the front/center pews and ask that your families stand as you are acknowledged.

Also, in keeping with our prayers that you will honor God with your lives, we will be gifting you with a Bible imprinted with your name. We could think of no better gift than that of God's Holy Word. The **enclosed postcard** has a place for you to write out exactly how you want your name to appear on the Bible. The postcard has postage on it so all you have to do is drop it in the mail!

OVER

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Something new we added last year are **gift baskets** (a full-on laundry basket) to be placed with the graduates tri-fold displays along with a card that passersby can sign/write encouraging notes on. *We provide the basket and card.* There will be a suggested list of items that our members can purchase and place in each student's baskets. The baskets will be presented to the graduates at the Senior breakfast! Just our way of getting soon-to-be college students started off on the right foot.

The **tri-folds** are a long standing tradition that parents and seniors put together. They will be displayed on the same table as the gift basket so folks will have a better idea/reminder of who they are giving to. If you have any questions about how to do them or where they'll be placed, any of our committee members or myself will be glad to assist you. Essentially it is a small "memory wall" of any photos or mementos you would like to display. The tri-fold boards can be purchased at places like Walmart or Hobby Lobby. The tables with tri-folds, baskets, and cards will be displayed on the first floor of the Education Building beginning **May 6th**, so **we need your tri-folds** by that Sunday morning.

Lastly, **Seniors, please fill out the enclosed Graduate Profile sheet** to help us give the congregation an idea of what the future holds for you. These will be read while you come forward and receive your Bible during the service. Simply **bring the form with you that morning** and turn it in to Tim.

I know that's a lot of information so if you need any help at all please do not hesitate to call or email me. On behalf of First Baptist, thank you for letting us participate as a church with you at this very special time in your lives! We look forward to honoring you on this very special day! We know God has great things in store for those who love Him!

Praying His blessings on you now and forevermore,



GRADUATING SENIOR PROFILE

NAME: _____

“The son/daughter of...” (parents names) _____

GROUPS/ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN/AWARDS

(write on back if more room needed):

COLLEGE OR VOCATION: _____

LOCATION OF COLLEGE/VOCATION: _____

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE: (WRITE IT OUT)

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU AFTER GRADUATION?

Thank you for filling this out. Please return it to Tim when you
gather for breakfast on the 20th.

Remember to bring your gowns and cords!

