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## The EMPTY SEAT Seating Capacity of Heaven

You know how when you walk into a restaurant or small building you see these signs that read, *"seating capacity 123"*, or whatever the number? I was looking at one the other day thinking: "I wonder what the seating capacity of heaven is?" Now, I know these signs are about fire safety issues and have nothing to do with living space. However, they do speak of expected or planned quantity of people. I mean, you don't see signs reading how many people "can't" be seated in a particular room! My point is no restaurant owner seeks to stay well under that seating capacity number. If his seating capacity is 220, he seeks to fill EVERY SEAT.

The seating capacity of heaven may have been on the mind of the Apostle Peter when he said of the Lord in **2 Peter 3:9**, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that <u>all should come to repentance.</u>" Now I don't know what the seating capacity of heaven is, but sounds to me like God is seeking to fill every seat. The Lord's focus appears to be toward His "NOT WILLING THAT ANY should* perish..." or to my point, that NO SEAT BE EMPTY.

I would love to encourage each of our churches in Little River Baptist Association to focus our thoughts and prayers in 2020, on every empty seat. In your Sunday School class, youth & children groups, choirs, and YES, most certainly, our Sanctuaries. Let's look at every empty chair, empty space in our pews, as belonging to someone who is not here yet. We must see every empty seat as a place that represents a <u>"lost opportunity.</u>" Until someone is in that empty seat, it is NOT meeting its designed purpose.

In Christ Service, Bro. Bobby Sellers



JANUARY 2020 Edition

## — HAPPY NEW YEAR —



The Kentucky Baptist Convention and Baptist Health appreciate all you do to serve the Lord and His church, and we would consider it a privilege to minister to you at Shepherding 2020. Drawing inspiration from the Apostle Paul who reminded elders in Act 20 to keep watch over their flocks and themselves, Shepherding is designed to provide a special time where ministers and their spouses can relax, recharge and return home renewed.

Made possible through funding from **Baptist Health** and the **Cooperative Program**.





## 2020 Mission Board Schedule

January 6 Canton BC, 6 p.m. meal

**February 3** Hurricane BC, 6 p.m. meal

March 9 New Hope, 6 p.m. meal

April 20, Semi-Annual Meeting Oak Grove BC, 7:00 p.m.

May 4 Ponderosa BC, 6 p.m. meal

**June 1** Rocky Ridge BC, 6 p.m. meal

July 6 Cadiz BC, 6 p.m. meal

August 3 Locust Grove BC, 6 p.m. meal

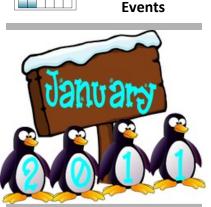
**September 14** Wallonia BC, 6 p.m. meal

**October 18**, Annual Meeting Cadiz BC, 6 p.m. meal

**November** No Mission Board

**December 7** Baptist Center, 7:00 p.m.





Calendar

Of

New Year's Day 1/1/20 (Office Closed)

Mission Board Meeting 1/6/20, 6:00 p.m. meal Canton Baptist Church

Choir Practice 1/13/20, 6:00 p.m.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 1/19/20

Martin Luther King Day 1/20/20 (Office Closed)

Shepherding Conference Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2020 Marriot Griffin Gate Lexington



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER Regular Church Special 73.20 Bethany Blue Spring 1,637.35 0 Buffalo Cadiz 0 1,051.26 250.00 Canton Cerulean 424.00 Delmont Donaldson Creek 907.49 East Cadiz 715.80 Hurricane 400.00 Liberty Point 623.19 Locust Grove 623.00 Maple Grove 400.00 New Hope 273.59 New Jerusalem 0 New Light 0 Oak Grove 0 Ponderosa 440.40 Rock Front 0 358.00 Rocky Ridge South Union 132.85 Wallonia 200.00 Misc. Income 1,000.00 65.00 315.00 Total 9,260.13 9,575.13 Interest NOW Acc. 4.64 250.00 Deaf Ministry Community Thanksgiving Meal 65.00 Subtotals 9,264.77 315.00 \$9,579.77 Total income Monthly expense \$14,118.77 **Regular Fund** Beginning Balance \$35,053.89 Interest Received 4.64 Gifts 9,325.13 Trans- Contingency Fund Trans-OMC Trans- Building Maintenance Fund Trans-Associational Mission Project Expense Checks Written -13,213.08



\$31.170.58

**Ending Balance** 

Treasurer: Louise Fuller 12/25/19

Pam Mitchell- 1/3 Linda Cannon– 1/14 Daniel Colley– 1/19