



1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

January 2019

First Baptist Family,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful Christmas. The past few weeks have been a bit of a blur for me. Clary and I have taken our children to visit family in Georgia and South Carolina, have experienced moving during the Christmas season, and dealt with a sick child (thankfully, Sara Lyn is now much better). The whole ordeal has been exhausting. We've felt like the people who need a vacation after their vacation, but I know that the same is true for all of you. You've been busy attending Christmas functions, gone to visit family and friends or hosted them at your home, and generally been consumed with all the busyness that comes with the holiday season. Now that Christmas Day is over and a new year has begun, we're all feeling the costs that go with gift giving, the financial costs, the time costs, the physical costs. Children have gone back to school, adults have returned to work, and if we aren't careful, what was holiday joy can turn into winter melancholy.

It's around this time every year, when things return to normal, that I like to re-read a poem by Howard Thurman entitled "The Work of Christmas." He writes,

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

While I'm tired from the past few weeks, I'm also excited. I'm excited to be your new pastor, and I'm excited to do this work of Christmas with you! Clary and I are thrilled to be here in Bristol. We look forward to getting to know all of you better and to serving alongside you. Thurman's poem reminds us that there is a lot of Christmas work to do, and I feel privileged to be able to do it with you.

Grace and Peace,

Kris



TO ALL 2018 BOARD AND TEAM CHAIRS

I would like to remind you as a Board or Team Chair that according to our Church's By-Laws you are requested to give a summary of your group's activities during the past year at the first Quarterly Business Meeting of the new year. The report can be either written or oral. If the report is written, please give a copy to Terri by Thursday, January 17, so she can make copies for the membership. The information you share will be helpful in keeping the membership informed of what is happening in our church. Our business meeting will be held Sunday, January 20, immediately following the morning worship service. This will be a luncheon meeting. The cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, or a maximum of \$15 per family. Thanks for your service to our church during this past year.
Gene Eller, Church Moderator



Anyone who has been collecting the Campbell's product labels, please turn them into Beverly, or the church office. We will be mailing these soon.



On Sunday, January 27, we will ordain Mary Amburn-Bowman, Jeff Burnette, and Preston McMurray as deacons of our church. We will also be installing Wally Elliott, Bob Love, Tom Makres, Steve Talbert, and Roberta Yowell. We hope that you will attend this special time of affirmation.



Cap the Gap for Foster Care, Inc. gratefully appreciates your support of our Christmas project for the year 2018. Your donation of gifts helped brighten the holiday season for Sullivan County foster children. We could not do this project without you!



We will take up an offering for local benevolence needs as you leave the worship services on **Sunday, February 3**. This is a great chance to give to those in need on a day when we often indulge rather selfishly. Be part of sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. Every dollar donated goes to helping local people in need through the benevolence ministries of our church.



Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and it's all small stuff by Richard Carlson, Ph.D. was recently donated to our library by Eldon Wilson. This little book shows you how to keep from letting the little things in life drive you crazy. In thoughtful and insightful language, the author reveals ways to calm down in the midst of your incredibly hurried, stress-filled life. Carlson, who is a stress consultant in private practice, shows the reader how to put things in perspective by making the small changes he suggests in a gentle and supportive manner. One of the chapters is titled, "Make Peace with Imperfection."

A historical novel, ***Into the Free*** by Julie Cantrell, is set in Depression-era (1920-1940) Mississippi. Millie who has an abusive father and a "nothing" mama struggles to find a place where she belongs so she turns to the Gypsies who caravan through town each spring. These travelers lead Mille to a key that unlocks generations of family secrets. Mille fights to trust God whom she feels has abandoned her. Can she finally find her way into the free?

Hearing Assistance!

You can hear every word of the sermon directly from the microphone. No more missed phrases. The sound from the speaker goes directly to YOU without getting lost in the air of the large room. This is possible by using an FM receiver - a small hand-held device with a headset or earbuds. You can check out one of the receivers to use during the worship service and return it at the end. To use one of the church units, just tell one of the ushers. For more information, talk to Marilyn Butler.



Art at First Baptist Bristol

Three bulletin boards in the hallway which lead to the CLC area are now featuring artwork done by some of our people. Recent displays included art from Jim Pruner, Ava Barger, and Briana Freeman. Drop by to see displays by children, youth, and adults, and let Marilyn Butler know if you will be willing to coordinate these displays or to have some of your work featured.

YOUTH.....Start thinking SUMMER!!

Camp Unidiversity 2019 dates are July 22-27. So, mark your calendars and start planning. We are currently working on the location and dates of this year's mission trip. Stay tuned for more information.



The Children's Christmas Play was held on Sunday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. in the FBC Sanctuary. The weather and previous



cancellation didn't stop the children and youth from delivering the message of Jesus Christ's Birth through their performance of The Power of the KING!! We are so

proud of all the children and youth for all of their hard work! Thank you to everyone who joined us to witness this wonderful event and for their help and support during the Children's



Christmas Play. A special thank you to Ben & Alex Ondrak for lighting, Terri Thomas for props and stage management, Mark Fuller for sound, Linda Pruner for costumes, and Jennifer & Elizabeth Rouse for the design of the State Street Sign.



~Tabetha & Jackie

Update on Emergency Operations Policy

The Board of Administration has approved the following update to the policy on cancellation of church activities during inclement weather. When a question of cancellation arises due to inclement weather, the Senior Pastor will cancel First Baptist Bristol operations for that day if **Bristol Tennessee City Schools** have canceled operations. When a church activity takes place after school hours, on a weekend, or during the summer, the Senior Pastor will contact the Weather Team if there is a question of cancellation due to inclement weather.

CBF Hurricane Disaster Response

Two recent hurricanes have caused extensive damage in both Florida and the Carolinas. In October, Hurricane Michael caused coastal flooding and massive wind damage throughout much of northwest Florida. Recovery of property and other assets is expected to take years.

In cooperation with CBF Florida, CBF Disaster Response is coordinating recovery efforts in two Florida Panhandle locations: coastal Port St. Joe and the inland Marianna/Jackson County area.

Then in the aftermath of historic flooding caused by Hurricane Florence in the eastern Carolinas, CBF Disaster Response personnel are assessing the damage and engaging in specific communities which were hit the hardest. One such location is Trenton, N.C., a rural community where more than 90 percent of homes, businesses, and churches were damaged.

If you would like to contribute directly to recovery efforts being made by CBF disaster teams, you can send donations to Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, PO Box 102972, Atlanta, GA 30368-2972, and include "Hurricane Florence response," or "Hurricane Michael response" in the memo line.



The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a Christian network that helps people put their faith into action through ministry, global missions, and a broad community of support. We are the collaboration of individuals, churches, and partners that work together to spread the hope of Jesus Christ.

The Offering for Global Missions provides support to about 125 field personnel who minister in more than 30 countries on five continents. These commissioned ministers stand with and among the poorest of the poor in locations across the United States and around the world. They are sharing the love of Jesus Christ through communities and networks that emerge from God-given passions. **The 2018-2019 offering focus is *You Can Change the World! One Community At A Time*.** 100 percent of your gift helps sustain the long-term presence of CBF field personnel around the world. This means that you help care for refugees around the world, welcome refugees to the U.S., and show love to people who need help.

Our Staff

Rev. Kris Aaron
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Mr. Eric D. Hicks
Mrs. Angie Hicks
Ms. Jackie Crum

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Assistant Minister of Music
Pianist

Mrs. Tabetha Palumbo
Ms. Kay LaSpina
Mrs. Marcine Robinette
Mr. Dennis Thomas
Ms. Terri Thomas

Children's Director
Sexton
Parrish Nurse
Sexton
Financial Secretary



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Ushers for the Month of January

Head Usher: Robert Bruce (276) 466-8591

Michael & Kim Warren

Nancy Hyde

Steve Talbert

Nell Campbell

Greeters:

Ernie & Linda Sprouse

Deacon of the Week for January

January 6 - Mike Browder

January 13 - Jennifer Rouse

January 20 - David Hicks

January 27 - Eldon Wilson