

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

October 2018

Stewardship Principles at Work in First Baptist Bristol in 2018

October is the month when we take a concentrated look at stewardship and pledge a percentage of our income to our church's budget. For this reason, it is fitting to remember some principles of "stewardship."

1. Psalm 24 states that "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." In other words, God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf.
2. We have responsibilities. God has entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns. As his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well.
3. We are accountable. One day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.
4. The Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the master's will with the master's resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next. In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul writes, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

How do we apply these general "principles" of stewardship to the work of the Kingdom of God at First Baptist Bristol?

1. We don't view stewardship as merely a way to pay our bills. Rather, we see financial contributions as a way to help our people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting the church's mission with a percentage of our incomes. In other words, as givers, we "need" to give for our own spiritual development.
2. When we give to our church's budget, we are embracing stewardship to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to minister to our neighbors through numerous ministries. In recent months, we have become acutely aware of our need to increase our focus on reaching outside our church circle to tell our neighbors about the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ. In order to do this and to enlist a pastor who will lead in this effort, we need financial resources. By giving back a portion of all that God has blessed us with, our church will be able to continue to reach our community.

Our Finance Committee will soon announce plans for our Stewardship Sunday. Let's participate with enthusiasm!

Tom Makres,
Finance and Stewardship Chair



Sunday, October 28

**GAMES
CAKE WALK**

4-6 p.m.

Rosser Hall

**PRIZES
CHILI COOK OFF**

CALLING ALL COOKS!

This year we will be having a chili cook off and our annual cake walk. We need chili and cakes. Anyone wishing to participate in the Chili Cook Off, please contact the church office at 276-669-8191 to put your name on the list.



Beginning Wednesday, October 3, the Wednesday night service schedule will be changing. The ADHOC committee is working to make Wednesday nights more family friendly. Please make note of the new schedule for Wednesday nights.

- 5:30 p.m. Prayer & Music**
- 6 p.m. Dinner**
- 6:30 Bible Study**
- 7 p.m. Small Group Study**
(Crafts, First Aid, Health & Nutrition, etc.)



Our Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 21, after the morning worship service when there will be a luncheon provided. According to our church's by-laws, chairs of teams and boards are asked to give a quarterly report of the group's activities. The report can be either written or oral. If the report is written, please give a copy to the church office so copies can be made for the membership. If at all possible, please submit the report no later than October 19. The information you share will be helpful in keeping the membership informed of what is happening in our church.



Congratulations to Haley Fuller Bright and Chad Bright who are expecting twins in December (or earlier). The Shower Team has set up a basket in the church office where you may drop off gift cards to Target, cash, or gifts for the Brights. Gift Cards for purchasing diapers and other baby supplies are always appreciated. Since they want to wait until the babies are born to learn the genders, we do not know whether they will need pink or blue supplies.



Stewardship Sunday

October 21, 2018



The Sanctuary Choir has just started rehearsing the Christmas cantata. The title of the cantata is "Peace Has Come." I would like to encourage any person interested in participating in the rehearsals and performance of the Christmas cantata to join us each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. We will offer you fun, fellowship, and an enjoyable time as we come together and learn our parts for the cantata. If you are unable to attend each rehearsal, that is ok. I will have rehearsal CD's available to anyone who would like to take one and play it in your automobile or at your home. The part that you will be singing is the vocal part on a rehearsal CD. It just makes learning the cantata fun and easy to learn on your own. We have 12 weeks until we present it, so we hope to see you very soon.

Parents, Jackie and I are meeting with the children during morning worship. Please plan on allowing your son or daughter to join us as we begin on Christmas music for the kids as well.

In Christ,
Eric

Thank You!

Dear Congregation,

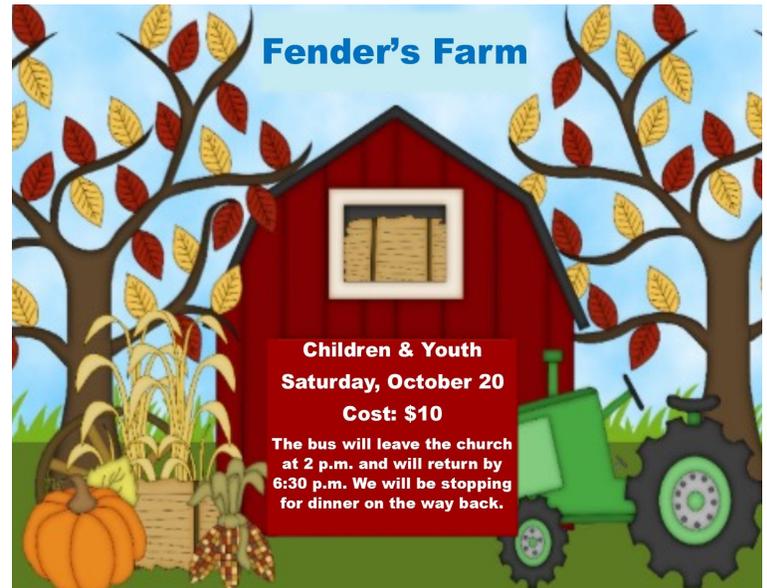
Thank you so much for your donations to the Hospice House family kitchen. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our staff, families, patients, and volunteers!

~Blessings,
Wellmont Hospice



Thank you to all who participated in the Pray For Me Campaign for our children. Our campaign ran from March to September and it was a great success! Everyone did a great job praying for their prayer buddies! I look forward to beginning a new Pray For Me Campaign in January. I ask that you please continue to pray for our children and that you will participate again in January. Again, thank you for making our first ever Pray For Me Campaign a success!!

In Christ,
Tabetha Palumbo



Historical fiction does more than entertain, it provides insight into a period of time we may not have experienced. There are lessons to be learned from the lives and times of the characters. Our newest book of historical fiction is **Together Forever** by Jody Hedlund, book number two in her Orphan Train series. Determined to find her lost sister, Marianne takes a job as a placing agent with the Children's Aid Society in 1858 New York. She not only hopes to offer children a better life, she hopes to discover if Sophie had left on an orphan train so they can be reunited. Enter charming Andrew, fellow agent, who has a hidden secret from the past that may upend their work and change one of their lives forever.

Your library has a large selection of nonfiction materials that offer thoughts on issues of current interest. Our shelves hold the latest concordances to enhance Bible study and works by respected Christians like Jimmy Carter and Billy Graham that inspire and strengthen faith. The Children's Room holds a treasure trove of the latest picture books that hold appeal for our preschoolers and elementary schoolers.



Operation Christmas Child

This year we are doing things a little differently. We will not be filling boxes but instead we will be sending money in an envelope to Samaritan's Purse to be used to help with rebuilding lives in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and the Carolinas. Members were mailed a letter and envelopes earmarked for Samaritan's Purse. We will be collecting these donations thru Sunday, October 28.

Our Staff

Dr. Walter Draughon
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Mr. Eric D. Hicks
Mrs. Angie Hicks
Mrs. Jackie T. Burnette

Interim Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Assistant Minister of Music
Pianist

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

Children's Director
Parish Nurse
Sexton
Sexton
Financial Secretary



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Bristol, VA 24203

Capital Campaign June 2016 - June 2019

Campaign as of September 2018

Pledged Amount	\$	246,914.00
Pledge Gifts Received	\$	176,734.00
Pledge Balance	\$	70,180.00

Ushers for the Month of October

Head Usher: Harry Scanlan (423)-878-4208
Wally & Stephanie Elliott
Jamie & Karen Barger
Leroy Doran

Greeters:

Bob and Betty Jones

Deacon of the Week for October

October 7 - Chris White
October 14 - Leroy Doran
October 21 - Eldon Wilson
October 28 - Mike Browder