

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

September 2019

First Baptist Family,

September is going to be a busy month! Before I describe everything we'll be doing in September, however, I'd like to reflect briefly on our summer. This summer has been productive. We had a great week of Vacation Bible School for both children and adults. Our children also had fellowship trips to Kiln Time downtown and to the aquarium in Gatlinburg. Our youth had memorable and spiritually forming experiences on their mission trip and week at camp, respectively. We've started a new college ministry, are putting the finishing touches on our new nursery, and now we have a new Interim Minister of Music in Rev. Leigh Clark. She is off to a wonderful start, and I'd encourage you to meet her if you haven't already. We concluded August with a wonderful ecumenical service in which there were 135 worshippers and over \$2,000 was raised for the Bristol Food Pantry. If you weren't able to make it, you missed a real treat. Like I said, this summer has been productive, but I'm looking forward to an even more productive Fall and that

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productivity will
begin in September.

I'm going to be
preaching a sermon
series the first

three weeks of the month that looks at the church's rich tradition, its' predictable present, and what I believe is its' promising future. I hope that this series will celebrate the church's 160th anniversary by recognizing our past, acknowledging current trends in church attendance across the country, and looking forward to what I believe God is calling us to do in the future.

First Baptist Bristol has done good and faithful ministry for 160 years, and God willing, we will continue to do good and faithful ministry for the next 160 years! We cannot do that, however, if we focus solely on our rich tradition and do not plan and prepare for the promising future God has for us.

Over the course of the sermon series, you'll hear some of the dreams we as a staff have for the church for the next ten years. The plan is to work towards turning those dreams into goals in 2020. On Sunday, September 22, we'll have our Rhythm & Roots concert in worship, and we'll also be joined by Terry Maples, Field Coordinator for CBF of Virginia. Terry will lead a joint Sunday School class that morning in the chapel and then in worship briefly tell us more about the good work that CBF of Virginia is doing around the state. On Sunday, September 29, beloved former pastor Bill Tuck will be joining us. Bill will be preaching in worship that morning, and he will also be sharing more about our Baptist history and heritage. Bill literally wrote the book on Baptist history, so I can think of no one better to lead such a discussion for this congregation. And on the evening of the 29th, we're going to have our church-wide Fall Festival. All in all, it's shaping up to be a great month! I would encourage you to make church attendance even more of a priority than it normally is because you're not going to want to miss any of the things we have planned. There's a great spirit and great energy in the church right now, and it's just what we need as we enter a time of harvest. Let's take the momentum we've built and use it to move forward together in faith!

Grace and Peace,
Kris

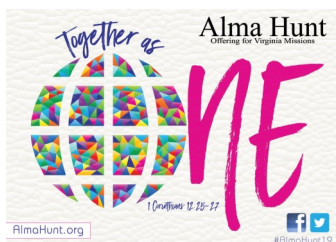
Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, September 29

Rosser Hall and outside area

Inflatables, Hot dogs, Balloon animals, Prizes, Two cake walks (one for children, one for adults).

Sponsored by the Membership Team and the Children's Committee. Invite all your friends!



The annual offering for Virginia missions was named for Alma Hunt (1909-2008), a native Virginian who was known worldwide for her missions service and her unswerving dedication to the cause of Christ. The offering

provides funding for special ministries, outreach projects, and initiatives not funded through regular streams of giving.

We invite you to give to the Alma Hunt Offering – joining your gifts with those of many other Virginia Baptists as we work “Together as One” – sharing the love of Christ across the Commonwealth and with the whole world.

Ministry Team

Much of the work of our church depends on volunteers like you who serve on various teams. These include teams such as the Mission, Worship, Discipleship, Membership, and Ministry teams. This month the Ministry Team will begin the process of filling positions on the teams and boards for the 2020-2022 term.

When you are contacted, please prayerfully consider and accept the opportunity to serve. If there is a team or board you are particularly interested in, please contact any member of the Ministry Team.

Take Five!

(With apologies to your grocery store’s promotion). Think of five friends or neighbors and invite them to church.

First Monday Trips

Join us for a fun trip each month. Dates for this quarter are:

September 9 - Ridgewood Barbecue

Leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy barbecue and sides.

October 7 - Asheville Farmer’s Market and the Moose Cafe Restaurant.

November 4 - Farmers’ Daughter & Amish Store



Bowling Team

FBC’s bowling team is recruiting new members! Join us to bowl on Thursday nights, beginning September 5. You don’t have to be an expert, and you don’t have to bowl every week. Contact Tim Hiss at 423-878-4467 or Terri in the church office.

Parents’ Night Out

On September 7, parents will have the opportunity to **enjoy an evening without childcare responsibilities.** Parents’ Night Out is for children ages birth through sixth grade. Your children can join us for an evening with food, a movie, games, and crafts. Drop the children off between 5 and 5:30 p.m. Pick them up from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Registration is \$5 per child, or \$10 maximum per family. Complete a registration form and a medical release in the office or online.



Approximately an hour a day is all that is required to help fill soup containers at the Soup Kitchen. Our church is providing two people each weekday during the month of September, and a sign-up sheet is now available. See

Louise Crusenberry.

Notes from Leigh...

Let me begin by thanking the church for the warm welcome that Mark and I have received at FBC Bristol. We are excited to serve alongside all of you! I would especially like to thank Kris, Ben, Terri, and Jackie for taking the time to “show me the ropes.”

FBC is blessed with a rich, musical tradition. I have enjoyed learning about those who have gone before me, and I hope to continue to lead in a way that will honor all the work they have done.

The Sanctuary Choir is filled with strong voices and a loving spirit. And, Jackie, is a true blessing! She is exceptionally talented and, more importantly, she is an encourager with strong faith. I believe the choir is an integral part of worship – not only during the music special but also through the singing of hymns and just by their presence.

This fall, our Sanctuary Choir is going to be working on some new anthems for worship. We are also going to be working on a Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 15, during the 11 o’clock worship service.

I invite you to consider becoming a part of the Sanctuary Choir. We rehearse each Wednesday at 7 pm. If you aren’t sure you can commit to every week, maybe you would consider joining us for the Christmas program. Beginning September 11, we will spend the first 30 minutes of rehearsal on Sunday morning worship and the final 30 minutes of rehearsal preparing for the Christmas program.

Please see me or feel free to contact me if you would like more information about the choir!

Again, thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Blessings,

Leigh (leigh@fbcbristol.org or 276.219.4301)

My Journey of Faith

By Trish Doran

I grew up in a Baptist Church. My mom was a Sunday School teacher, and she sang in the choir. My dad, though, never would go to church with us.

When I was thirteen, we joined the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. Six years later and about to be baptized into that organization, I met Leroy (my husband). He reintroduced me to the Baptist faith. It didn't take me long to realize what was missing in my life.

That empty hole was finally filled when I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart and life. The burden was overwhelming to try to figure out things on my own. I remember the night I collapsed and prayed the prayer as a sinner and invited him into my life. As he promised, he has never left my side and has led me and my family to the wonderful church we now serve him in.

First Baptist Church Notice

Invitation to Bid No. 2019-001

In accordance with Financial Policies of First Baptist Church, all repairs and improvements of \$2,500 or greater require three competitive bids. Prior to advertising the bid to reputable contractors, notice must be provided to Church members so that they have an opportunity to either personally submit bids, if qualified to complete the project, or contact individuals they may know who may be qualified to complete the project. The church will be accepting bids for the removal and disposal of existing gutters and downspouts on the Goodson Street side of the Educational Building and then install new aluminum seamless gutters and aluminum downspouts.

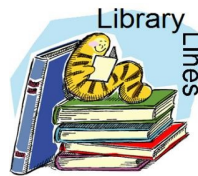
The details of the requirements are available in the finance office. All bids must be received no later than Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

First Baptist Church Notice

Invitation to Bid No. 2019-002

In accordance with Financial Policies of First Baptist Church, all repairs and improvements of \$2,500 or greater require three competitive bids. Prior to advertising the bid to reputable contractors, notice must be provided to Church members so that they have an opportunity to either personally submit bids, if qualified to complete the project, or contact individuals they may know who may be qualified to complete the project. The church will be accepting bids to provide and install a new roof on the front canopy (Breezeway) and install a watertight seal on the "eyebrow" of the front canopy. The details of the requirements are available in the finance office.

All bids must be received no later than Wednesday, September 11, 2019.



Library Lines

The following are some thoughts from the article, *Terry Mattingly on Religion*, in the June 22, 2019, issue of the Bristol Herald Courier. Mat-

tingly's comments were taken from Karen Swallow Prior's book, "On Reading Well." Prior wrote a meditation about patience and suffering after being hit by a bus. As a part of that meditation, she wrote, "Great books soak deep into readers, providing wisdom and strength during life's twist and turns." She concludes that in an age of noise, confusion, and intolerance, it's more important than ever for families and congregations to help believers learn to enjoy and absorb great stories from great books. She goes on to state, "Christianity is a religion of THE book; careful readers can learn—one word at a time how to be logical and critical thinkers; and reading great fiction "allows us to enter the minds of characters who are quite different from us, allowing us to expand our ability to understand and empathize with other points of view." You are invited to browse our library's collection of great books!

Save These Dates

Attention All YOUTH!

Mission Impossible You Tube Challenge

Sunday, September 1, 5—9 p.m.

Meet at FBC to play games and challenges. Then eat and take a trip to the training session. Bring friends and \$10. <https://kingssportaxehouse.com/>

Parents' Night Out—September 7

See article on page 2.

Family Fellowship Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, October 26—27.

Trip to a maze on Saturday; Pumpkin carving on Sunday, 3-5 p.m. Bring the entire family!

Fall Youth Retreat

November 15-17, Pigeon Forge

Registration is open. See Ben Ondrak.

Family Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas production will be December 8, followed by the annual Christmas dinner. Rehearsals begin this week on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. during Children's Church on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers Needed!

Rhythm and Roots is coming September 20-22! You can help us park cars to raise money for the youth fund. We need help on Friday afternoon from 2-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday afternoon 12 noon - 4 p.m. Please let Ben know if you can help.

Our Staff

Rev. Kris Aaron
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Mrs. Jackie Burnette
Rev. Leigh Clark

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Pianist
Interim Minister of Music

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

Sexton
Sexton
Parish Nurse
Financial Secretary



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Fax: 276.669.5082

E-mail: info@fbcbristol.org

Website: www.fbcbristol.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1 Virginia Street
P.O. Box 116
Bristol, VA 24203

September FBC Minister On Call Schedule:

August 31– Sept.1: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
September 7-8: Rev. Ben Ondrak 423-217-8934 (Cell)
September 14-15: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
September 21-22: Rev. Ben Ondrak 423-217-8934 (Cell)
September 28-29: Ms. Terri Thomas 423-963-7576 (Cell)

Ushers for the Month of September

Head Usher: Harry Scanlan
Ushers: Jamie and Karen Barger,
Tripp Crockett, Nick Crockett, Dean Cloyd
Greeters: Eldon and Linda Wilson

Deacon of the Week for September

September 1—Mary Amburn-Bowman
September 9—David Hicks
September 15—Jeff Burnette
September 22—Wallace Elliott
September 29—Bob Love