

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

April 2019

First Baptist Family,

It's hard to believe that it's already April. Our Lenten journey will soon be drawing to a close. Beginning Sunday, April 14, we will kick off our Holy Week activities. That Palm Sunday children will wave palm branches, and our choir will perform the cantata that they've been working on so diligently. On Thursday, April 18, we'll have our traditional drop in Maundy Thursday service. And on Friday, April 19, we'll have a Good Friday Tenebrae service. I hope that you'll be able to join us for all of them. I think you'll find each of them to be meaningful, and I think that they will prepare all of us for a wonderful Easter Sunday. On Sunday, April 21, we will be having a joint Easter sunrise service with First Presbyterian Church at 7 a.m. at Easthill Cemetery. FPC has graciously invited us to join them for refreshments at 8 AM after the service. Later that morning at 11 AM, we will have our traditional Easter service complete with the flowering cross out front. All in all, it's shaping up to be a beautiful week as we conclude our Lenten journey, move to the cross, and finally arrive at the empty tomb to celebrate resurrection together.

As we complete this journey, I'd like to share with you a poem by Christina Rossetti. Entitled "Good Friday," the poem describes Rossetti's struggle to feel close to Christ during this particularly holy time of year. Rossetti points out that there's a difference between knowing and feeling. It is one thing to know that Christ died for you, but that is different from feeling the weight of Jesus' sacrifice and being moved by it. Just as Moses struck a rock in the Old Testament and water poured out

and gave life to people, Rossetti wants Christ to smite a rock so that it will nourish and inspire her to have a deeper faith. Whether you are like those who weep and are moved or like the rock described at the end, I pray that ultimately this season will nourish you and inspire you to grow deeper in your faith.

Grace and Peace,
Kris



Am I stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?

Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;

Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.

Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.



Sanctuary Choir will present the Easter cantata "Victor's Crown" on Palm Sunday, April 14, during the 11:00 worship service. Invite your family, neighbors and friends to the music presentation.

The Children's Choir will sing during the worship service on Easter Sunday.



On Thursday, April 18, you are invited to come into our sanctuary any time between 6 and 7 p.m., to receive silent communion. Many people come and sit for a few moments in silence before coming to the table to receive the bread and cup.



Join us on Friday, April 19, for a Tenebrae Service at 6 p.m. This is a unique and moving worship experience that will enable us to reflect on the significance of Jesus' death. We will remember, through scripture and music, the events that transpired leading to Jesus' betrayal, denial, and death. The distinguishing feature of the service is the extinguishing of lighted candles and ends with darkness and silence.



Flowering of the Cross . .

Please join us for our annual Flowering of the Cross on Easter Sunday, April 21. The cross will be located on the front steps of the church. Please bring some of your favorite spring flowers from your garden to decorate the cross which symbolizes Jesus' resurrection. Pictures will be taken during the Sunday School hour. If you forget your flowers, the church will have some available for your family.



Easter, April 21

Sunrise Service East Hill Cemetery

Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.

Flowering of the Cross

Worship - 11 a.m.

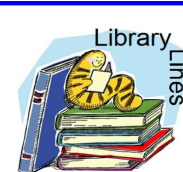
Art Wall Display

Thanks to everyone who has displayed art on the art wall between the breezeway entrance and the CLC area. This helps us to get acquainted with you. Karen Barger has agreed to coordinate the art wall beginning May 1. She will welcome your participation. Please contact her at 423-366-2213.



In 2019 CBF needs your help to wage peace in a war-torn world. Your Cooperative Baptist Fellowship field personnel serve sacrificially in 30 countries around the globe to bring the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed to people who bear

God's image but nevertheless remain forsaken or forgotten. They cultivate beloved community, bear witness to Jesus Christ, and seek transformational development. You can help wage peace by giving to the **Offering for Global Missions** or to the **Lottie Moon Offering**.



A thought-provoking new book on our **Kindle Paperwhite** is **Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church**, by Rachel Held Evans who shares her story about

leaving and finding the church again in a new way. Arranged in seven sections corresponding to the seven sacraments (baptism, confession, holy orders, communion, confirmation, anointing of the sick, marriage), she chronicles the various glories and pains of growing up in a conservative/fundamentalist evangelical tradition and offers an apologetic of sorts for leaving(?) for the mainline when the incongruities of the former proved too great. According to the stats, millennials are apparently leaving the church. Evans's own story of departure and return aims to articulate some of the millennial experience to a confused church: their doubt that won't be satisfied with easy answers; their fear of exclusion; their burnout from the culture wars and the marriage of evangelicalism with conservative politics; their fatigue once the strobe lights, hip music, and gimmicky youth games that didn't distract them from their burning questions. Evans also aims to point the way to a Christianity—a church—with arms open wide enough to draw them back, just as it has drawn her—questions, struggles, and all.



Bring a Friend to Sunday Breakfast Sunday, April 7, 2019

This is a great opportunity to introduce others to First Baptist Bristol. Complimentary breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. in Rosser Hall, followed by an all adult Sunday School class in the Joann Feazell Chapel led by Kris Aaron at 9:45 a.m. Hosted by the Membership Team assisting Chef Harry. Special activities are in the planning for our children and youth. Don't miss it.

Youth News

Youth Summer Camp - "Unidiversity 2019" July 22-27 in Maryville, TN. Registration Information: Thanks to our FBC youth budget, and the cost-offsetting events we have already held, each student need only to pay a \$85 registration fee and another \$125 balance as long as they participate in eight hours of church service to members of the community. Set up your church service through Ben in the church office any time between now and camp. If anyone needs to help with the registration or balance payment, this can be worked out. Just let Ben know! If a student chooses to not work eight hours of church service to offset their cost of camp, they will be responsible for paying the \$365 cost of camp to Unidiversity. (FBC never wants a youth to be restricted from participation because of financial commitments.)

Youth Mission Trip June 16-23: We will be traveling to North Charleston, SC, to help the Metanoia Ministry. They work with inner-city families to get them set up in new or refurbished housing. They also run programs for inner city kids. They have a wonderful volunteer house in which we will be staying. To register and reserve your spot, a registration fee of \$75 and a medical release form for 2019 must be turned in by May 20, 2019. There are limited spots available, so be sure to sign up ASAP!



On Sunday, April 28, our youth will be leading us in worship. Please support our youth as they serve the Lord and seek to encourage us.



Our youth are sponsoring a church-wide yard sale April 5-6 to raise money for this year's mission trip, camp, and summer activities. Let's make this one the biggest sale yet!



FIRST MONDAY

Please join us on Friday, April 12, for our monthly outing. We will visit the Kingsport Carousel, the Carvers Room, and have lunch at Riverfront Seafood Restaurant. The bus will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the church. Contact the church office to sign up. Make plans to attend and have a great time.



VBS 2019

JUNE 3-7

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

ALL AGES: BABIES - ADULTS



Children's Easter egg hunt



Saturday, April 13 from 2-4 p.m.

For babies thru 5th grade

Activities include: egg hunt with prizes, games, egg decorating, crafts, music, snacks



Our **Quarterly Business Meeting** will be held on Sunday, April 28, after the morning worship service. 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. Please submit the report no later than April 25. The information you share will be helpful in keeping the membership informed of what is happening in our church.



If you would like to place an Easter Hydrangea in the sanctuary during the Easter season, please fill in the information below and return it to the church office. Cost: \$15.

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Our Staff

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

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

Ms. Kay LaSpina
Mrs. Marcine Robinette
Mr. Jim Herzog
Ms. Terri Thomas

Sexton
Parish Nurse
Sexton
Financial Secretary



Church Phone : 276.669.8191

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E-mail: info@fbcbristol.org

Website: www.fbcbristol.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

FBC Minister On Call Schedule:

April 6-7: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
April 13-14: Rev. Ben Ondrak 423-217-8934 (Cell)
April 20-21: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
April 27-28: Mr. Eric Hicks 423-534-8188 (Cell)

Ushers for the Month of April

Head Usher: Wally Elliott (423) 646-7281

Stephanie, Jackson, & Turner Elliott

Virginia Hiss

Charles Roop

Greeters:

Matt & Tammy Chandler

Deacon of the Week for April

April 7 - Preston McMurray

April 14 - Jerry Sorrell

April 21 - Mike Browder

April 28 - Roberta Yowell