

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

February 2019

First Baptist Family,

Time flies, doesn't it. By the time of this publication, I'll have been your pastor for nearly a month. In the past few weeks, Clary and I have slowly developed a routine., and Isaac and Sara Lyn have adjusted nicely to the move.

Bristol is not just a place we live, but more and more, it is becoming our home. We're finding our favorite new restaurants, shops, and stores, and are learning the shortcuts to avoid the trains. I've been busy trying to meet everyone, and all of you have been extremely welcoming. It has been my pleasure getting to know you and cultivate new friendships. I look forward to getting to know all of you even better in the coming months.

As I look forward, I can't help but notice that Lent is rapidly approaching. It starts early in March this year. After consulting with the Worship Team, the staff is working on putting together an Ash Wednesday service for Wednesday, March 6.

I hope that you'll join us for a service that will officially kick off our Lenten season.

As you know, Lent is often considered to be a season of self-sacrifice. People frequently give something up for Lent. I wonder, however, if Lent can't be approached differently. Rather than

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giving something up, I wonder if we can't start something new to strengthen our relationship with God. I wonder if the same spirit of friendship you have extended to me and my family can serve as a model for how we approach the Lenten journey.

This Lenten season I want to encourage all of you to view our journey as a gift, as a sacred season in which we look to improve our friendship with God together. The past few weeks have been a joy, and I'm looking forward to many more.

Grace and Peace,

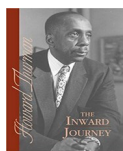
Kris

2019 FBC Lent Schedule

Tuesday, March 5	Pancake Supper 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.
1 st Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 10	"Give Back" Deuteronomy 26:1-11
2 nd Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 17	"Unencumbered Allegiances" Philippians 3:17-41
3 rd Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 24	"Bearing Fruit" Luke 13:1-9
4 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 31	"The Parable of the Loving Father" Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
5 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, April 7	"Pressing On" Philippians 3:4b-14
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday Easter Cantata: "Victor's Crown"
Thursday, April 18	Maundy Thursday Service 6-7 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Tenebrae Service 6 p.m.



The Inward Journey by Howard Thurman, 1899 - 1981, African-American author, philosopher, educator, theologian, and Civil Rights leader is a new addition to our library. This book contains meditations that address the deepest needs and aspirations of the human spirit. Themes include: The Quest for Meaning, The Quest for Understanding, The Quest for Fulfillment; The Quest for Love, The Quest for Peace, The Quest for God, and Psalm 139.

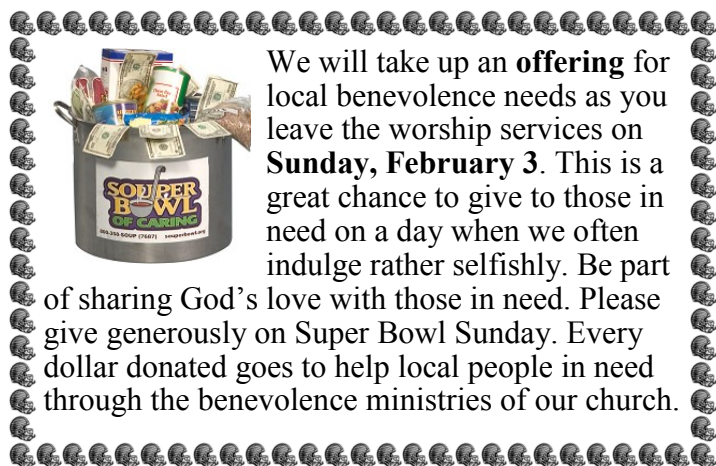


A book of fiction, *Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League* by Jonathan Odell set in pre-Civil Rights Mississippi, is the story of two women forced to spend time together who find they have more in common than they thought. Together they turn their town of Delphi on its head. It's the story of a town, a people, and a culture on the verge of a great change that begins with small things, like unexpected friendship.



Save the Date! April 5-6

Start your spring cleaning early! Our youth are sponsoring a church-wide yard sale in April to raise money for this year's mission trip, camp, and summer activities. You can call and arrange for pick-up on March 16 or 23. You may also drop off donations yourself any Friday in March between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Let's make this one the biggest sale yet!



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 help local people in need through the benevolence ministries of our church.



First Monday

On Friday, March 15, we will travel to Chuckey, Tennessee, for lunch at the famous Farmer's Daughter Restaurant. The Farmer's Daughter serves family-style meals. Their food is always fresh, local and in-season. The Farmer's Daughter selects their foods from local farms or the North Carolina Farmers Market. We will leave the church at 10 a.m. Call the church office to sign-up. We would love to have you join us!

BabySitting Course

Monday, February 18
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Ages 12 & up

Rosser Hall

Contact the church office to sign up.

Lunch will be provided



YOUTH FUNDRAISER



Spaghetti Dinner & Cake Auction
February 10, following worship service, in Rosser Hall.

Cost: Donation Only! Funds raised will go towards youth camp and the youth mission trip.

Youth News

Hey, youth and youth parents! Just to update you on some current youth information. Sunday, February 3, following church worship service we will have a brief youth parent meeting to discuss the spring and summer events, fundraisers, and opportunities for our student ministry! Please plan to attend! If you cannot be there, let Ben know so he can follow up with you on the plans.

Put these dates on your calendar! Youth Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser Sunday February 10, Youth/Adult Mission trip June (date TBA), Youth Camp "University" July 22-27.

Youth Summer Camp - "University 2019" July 22-27 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Registration Information: Thanks to our FBC youth budget, and the cost offsetting events we have already held, each student need only to pay a \$50 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 University. (FBC never wants a youth to be restricted from participation because of financial commitments.)
To Register for Camp: Registration is open now until February 28 with a \$50 deposit. After February 28 the cost of registration goes up \$35 to include a late fee.



During the 2019 season of Lent, we will include our children and youth as Acolytes in the morning worship services. All children and youth in Grades 4-12 are encouraged to take this opportunity to serve our church and be involved in the worship. Two orientation meetings for participants will be held in the sanctuary. These are Wednesday, February 27, at 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, March 3, following worship service. Both meetings will be held in the sanctuary. Please contact Tabettha Palumbo at tabetha@fbcbristol.org or call the church office if your child or youth is interested in participating.



As I reflect upon our special Christmas services, I am very pleased with all of our programs. Many of you have shared compliments with me and our choir members. Thanks to Angie and Jackie for directing and accompanying the Sanctuary Choir. Thanks, also, to the string ensemble and the East Tennessee State Chorale. It was truly a program to remember. In addition, the Children's Christmas Play was wonderful and well-attended. Thank you to all the children and youth who made this program such a great success.

The Sanctuary Choir has started planning for the new year, and we would like to welcome Clary Aaron as our newest member of the choir. You are encouraged to join us as we begin work on the Easter cantata titled Victor's Crown. To assist with learning our vocal parts, we have vocal part CDs available to you if you wish to rehearse at your leisure. Join us, be part of this group, make new friends, and enjoy the fellowship.

In Christ,
Eric

First Baptist Church has been privileged to have Dennis Thomas as Church Sexton for 5 years. He has kept the church in pristine condition inside and out. Dennis will be retiring from his duties at the end of January. All the best to Dennis and his family! His dedication and many contributions to our church are greatly appreciated.

If you or anyone you know is interested in fulfilling the obligations of our building custodian, please contact the church office, 276-669-8191, for an application.

In Christ,

Brad Talbert
Personnel Committee, Chairperson

Monthly Information

Budgeted Income	\$ 36,746.00
Actual Income	\$ 44,010.00
Actual Expenses	\$ 32,321.00
Monthly Gain/(Loss)	\$ 11,689.00
General Operating Fund	\$ 157,962.00

Our Staff

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

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Assistant Minister of Music

Mrs. Jackie Burnette
Mrs. Tabetha Palumbo
Ms. Kay LaSpina
Ms. Terri Thomas

Pianist
Children's Director
Sexton
Financial Secretary



Church Phone : 276.669.8191

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

FBC Pastor Weekend Call Schedule:

February 2-3: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
February 9-10: Rev. Ben Ondrak 423-217-8934 (Cell)
February 16-17: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
February 23-24: Mr. Eric Hicks 423-534-8188 (Cell)



Ushers for the Month of February

Head Usher: Dennis Hare (423)-534-2080
Joanne Barbour & Susan Barnes
Tripp Crockett & Nic Crockett
Drew & Amy Talbert

Greeters:

Jim & Linda Pruner

Deacon of the Week for February

February 3 - Jeff Burnette
February 10 - Bob Love
February 17 - Eldon Wilson
February 24 - Mary Amburn-Bowman