

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

July 2019

First Baptist Family,

Summer is quickly flying by. The month of June seemed to pass in a blur, and I'm sure that July will do the same. Consequently, there are a few things I want to bring to your attention. First, you'll notice that we are including some church members' testimonies in First Word. Last month, you read the testimony of Virginia Hiss. While we won't have these in the newsletter every month, the idea is for people to be able to hear from one another about how God is working in the lives of others in our church. I hope that you find these testimonies as uplifting and inspiring as I do. They might even make you more willing to share your own story. I hope they also encourage you to invite someone to church because these testimonies not only serve as a powerful witness to what God is doing in the lives of other church members, they point out what God is doing in and through this local congregation. And that is inspiring.

Speaking of inspiring, that is the perfect word to describe CBF's General Assembly. The second thing I want to bring to your attention is what happened in Birmingham, AL, at the annual meeting. The tenure of Suzii Paynter, the previous Executive Coordinator of CBF, was celebrated, and the tenure of Paul Baxley, the new Executive Coordinator, publicly kicked off. The entire meeting was inspiring, hope-filled, and challenging. I would like to share more with you in person about my own experiences, but in the meantime, I would encourage you to read one of the several articles about it at www.baptistnews.com.

Third, I want to challenge all of you to continue to be faithful in your attendance and in your giving during these summer months. It is somewhat of a cliché for a church newsletter to include such appeals, but it became that way for a reason. We need you, and things aren't the same when you aren't here. Your tithe also makes the missions and ministries of this church possible. We all need time away to rest and recharge our batteries, but God continues to call us to be faithful during those times, too.

Finally, I want to share with you information most of you already know. While this has already been sent out via email, I know that some church members don't get email. Eric and Angie Hicks have resigned from First Baptist Bristol. You can find my email to the congregation elsewhere in First Word. I hope that you will join me in praying for them and their future endeavors.

Grace and Peace,
Kris

Art Wall

Featured artists for this month are Jeannie Fuller, Jane Eller, Braden Talbert, and Bettie Ruth Baughman. Stroll down the hall heading to the preschool wing, and enjoy the work of these talented people.

Family Breakfast, July 7

The membership team invites you to the quarterly Family Breakfast in Rosser Hall on Sunday, July 7, from 9 – 9:45 a.m. Breakfast will include Hardees biscuits, Blackbird Bakery pastries, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. Following breakfast, Kris Aaron will be teaching Sunday School in the Chapel for all adults.

Terrific Tuesdays

All children are invited to be a part of our Terrific Tuesdays in July. The plans for each are below. The cost of each is \$15.

July 9: Meet at the church at 9 a.m.

We'll watch a movie, go to Kil'n Time, have a picnic in Anderson Park, and finish off the day with games at the church. (Weather permitting, there will be water games, so bring a towel, sunscreen, and clothes that can get wet.) Pick up at the church at 4:30 p.m.



July 30: Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. to travel to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies. We'll eat lunch at the Aquarium. Children may want to bring a little extra money for snacks or gift shop. We'll arrive back at the church at 4:30 p.m.

Youth Summer Camp - "Unidiversity 2019,"

July 22-27, in Maryville, TN. Registration Information: Thanks to our FBC youth budget, and the fundraising events we held, you need to pay only an \$85 registration fee and another \$125 balance as long as you 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 help with the registration or balance payment, talk to Ben! If you choose to not work eight hours of church service to offset your cost of camp, you will be responsible for paying the \$365 cost of camp to Unidiversity.

Hospice House Meals

FBC is responsible for Ballad Health Hospice needs August 1 - 15. We provide meals for the families and restock the pantry with food and paper goods. Monetary donations can be made to the church for the supplies, and Lu Ann Crockett will shop for the supplies. Nell Campbell who is coordinating the meals, will be contacting volunteers during July.



Christmas in July – Communities in Schools is conducting their annual Christmas in July program. With the help of local individuals and groups, Bristol Virginia Public School students in need will receive new school clothes

for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. There are two ways to sponsor (1) Shop for clothes, spending \$50-\$75 per student or (2) Sponsor a student by making a donation of \$75. Make checks to FBC Bristol designated for Christmas in July. Drop off clothes at the church by July 14. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Betty Jones, 276-669-7504



Our Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21, after the morning worship service when there will be a

luncheon provided. 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 by July 17 so copies can be made for the membership. The information you share will be helpful in keeping everyone informed.

Kitchen Committee News

The kitchen will be closed for cleaning for six weeks (July 1 - August 20). During this time, Wednesday night dinners will be brought in by the following groups:

July 3 - no dinner

July 10 - Staff

July 17 - Brad Talbert's SS class

July 24 - TBA

July 31 - Tom Parker's SS class

August 7 - Gene Eller's SS class

August 14 - Hannah SS class & Kitchen Shower

August 21 - Fall schedule kickoff

In-depth cleaning will be done, and guidelines for kitchen usage will be posted. At the end of the cleaning, everyone will have a chance to participate in a kitchen shower to fill in gaps in kitchen needs. .

My Walk of Faith

I cannot remember a time in my life that I did not attend a "Bible-Believing" church with my family on a weekly basis. I was fortunate to have been raised by parents, and influenced by grandparents, who were Christians and had a personal relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

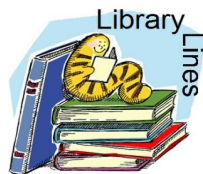
Thus, at the age of 11, I felt the Holy Spirit of God "tugging" at my heart to accept Jesus, God's Son, as my Lord and Savior. In the living room of our home, with the guidance of our church pastor and my mother using God's Word, I repented of my sin, and by God's Grace and faith, I asked Jesus to come into my life. I attended King College where I met my wife, Jane, also a strong Believer in Christ. After graduation, we married, and I began a teaching and administrative career with the Bristol, VA, School System. With our eight year old daughter, Karen, Jane and I answered God's Call in 1974 to go as Southern Baptist educational missionaries to the Middle East (Jordan and Israel) for 19 years. In 1993, we successfully turned God's work in the Nazareth Baptist School over to the Israeli Arab Baptists of the Galilee. We returned to America where I finished my educational career in the Bristol, VA, School System, retiring 13 years ago as Principal of Stonewall Jackson Elementary School.

---Gene Eller

Library Lines

Readers who love Karen Kingsbury and the Baxter Family Series, will enjoy ***Love Story***. Kingsbury begins with love notes to her own family members in the Foreword. She presents a Baxter family tree and a review--The Baxter Family: Yesterday and Today. The story begins with John's reliving his and Elizabeth's long ago love story for his grandson Cole's heritage project. The tale touches the entire family and helps Cole understand his own beginnings. At the same time, a family friend is working through his own complicated relationship when a chance sighting changes his plans and his heart.

If you prefer non-fiction, there are many titles on a wide variety of subjects. Some are on display; others can be located via online search by author, title, or subject.



Forder Anniversary

Elizabeth Forder Lipstock, daughter of Rand & Ann Forder, has contacted the church. For those of you who knew Reverend & Mrs. Forder during their years of service here at First Baptist, the information from Elizabeth is below.

"My parents will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on July 26. For this special occasion, they wanted to celebrate as a family that week up in Ocean City, NJ, where we grew up going each summer with my dad's parents. Since we cannot have a huge party for Mom and Dad up in New Jersey, Brad and I are reaching out to special friends and relatives, those who have meant so much to my parents over the years, to see if anyone would like to send a special card or note or a memory of them. We will compile and give them this information at the anniversary dinner we are planning for the 26th. We're calling it a Trip Down Memory Lane, and we would very much like for friends from First Baptist to be included.

If you would like to send a card, note, or funny story, etc., please feel free to send it to me at the following address. Elizabeth Lipstock, 2931 River Hills Lane, Midlothian, VA 23113. Thank you for helping to make this is a special occasion for them."

Letter to Church

I am writing to inform you that Eric and Angie Hicks have resigned from First Baptist Bristol. I know that this may come as a shock and that many of you will have questions. I understand that and want to answer as many of your questions as possible. It is, however, a general best practice guideline for churches, and truthfully, all organizations, to not engage in public discussion on personnel matters regardless of the surrounding circumstances, be they positive or negative. And that is a guideline I believe we should follow.

We all appreciate Eric and Angie for their years of service. I know that you will join me in wishing them well in their future endeavors. While transitions can be anxious and difficult for all parties, I would ask for all of you to pray for Eric and Angie as they continue to seek God's will in their lives. I would also ask that you pray for First Baptist Bristol as we begin to search for the person(s) God may be calling us to hire in the future. While this is a time of uncertainty, I am excited for what I believe God has in store for our future, and I am thankful that I get to do life together with you as your pastor.

Grace and Peace, Kris

Our Staff

Rev. Kris Aaron
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Ms. Jackie Crum

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Pianist

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

Sexton
Parish Nurse
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 Minister On Call Schedule

July 6-7:	Rev. Kris Aaron	803-225-0795 (Cell)
July 13-14:	Rev. Ben Ondrak	423-217-8934 (Cell)
July 20-21:	Rev. Kris Aaron	803-225-0795 (Cell)
July 27-28:	Rev. Kris Aaron	803-225-0795 (Cell)

Ushers for the Month of July

Head Usher: Matt Chandler

Ushers: Greg and Lana Stubbs, Richard Bowman,
Tammy, Hannah, and Abbie Chandler

Greeters: Freda Watson and Leroy Doran

Deacon of the Week for July

July 7 - Preston McMurray

July 14 - Steve Talbert

July 21 - Leroy Doran

July 28 - Roberta Yowell