



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

August 2021

First Baptist Family,

It's been a good, full summer. It feels as though June and July flew by, and now we're already in August. School is starting back, and things are beginning to go back to "normal," though even that means something a little different now. So, as we transition from summer to fall, there are a few upcoming events I'd like to tell you more about. **The first events are both on Sunday, August 8.** That Sunday will be our Youth Sunday. **Our teenagers will lead us in worship on Sunday, August 8, and they'll share some of their experiences from both their mission trip and from camp.** As all of you know, the youth mission trip and camp are arguably the two biggest and most impactful events our students have each year, so I know that you'll want to hear how God was at work through those events and how God is continuing to work in the lives of our young people. **Also on Sunday, August 8, our choir will have some fellowship time as Jerry and Rose Sorrell have graciously agreed to host the Choir Cook-Out at their home after worship. Then on Wednesday, August 11, we'll have our Fall Kick-Off, where we'll kick off our Wednesday evening and fall programming.** We'll have a church-wide cook-out that night. It will be a time of fellowship and an opportunity to learn more about what our various ministries will be doing beginning this Fall. **Then the next week, on Wednesday, August 18, we'll return to our "normal" Wednesday night activities, which will include supper in Rosser Hall.**

While I don't want to steal the thunder from our children's and youth ministries and announce what they'll be doing quite yet, I do want to update you on what the adults will be doing in Wednesday Night Bible Study. Since our students will all be returning to school in August, I figure it's time for our adults to do the same. **Beginning on Wednesday, August 18, we're going to start a Bible Study series I'm calling FBC University or FBC-U for short. For the Fall, we're going to explore Theology 101.** We'll begin by looking at some basic theological concepts like God, Scripture, Sin, and Salvation. Then, we'll shift gears a bit and explore how various heresies forced the early church to better define what orthodoxy actually is. In case you're interested in some further reading, the sources used for this study will be *Basics of Theology* by Michael McCullar and *The Gospel According to Heretics: Discovering Orthodoxy Through Early Christological Conflicts* by David Wilhite.

(If you don't know what all of that means, don't worry! We'll cover it all soon). I'll be co-facilitating Theology 101 with Mark Clark. Once we get to the various heresies that plagued the early church, Mark will briefly guide us through the historical events that led to those theological conflicts. Then in the Spring, we'll continue with our FBC-U theme, and we'll have two course offerings. Mark has graciously agreed to facilitate a discussion on some aspects of Church History, and I will be leading a New Testament 101 study. You'll hear more about that in the upcoming months.

Also in August, we'll begin something called First Baptist Book Club. This is a great way to get involved in some discipleship efforts at the church, particularly if you can't make it on Wednesday nights. And because these groups will meet in a variety of locations on different days at different times, it makes it easier to invite friends to come with you. Because of all the moving parts, details are still being finalized, but they will be coming soon. Therefore, I ask that you please pay attention to the announcements in our weekly e-news and in our worship bulletins. You will see it there first.

Lots of exciting things are happening at First Baptist Bristol, and now is the perfect time to get involved if you haven't been previously or if you've gotten out of the habit lately. Like I say every week, things aren't the same when you aren't here. Your presence is a gift, and it's a gift we've sorely missed since the beginning of the pandemic. Whether it's Sunday School, FBC-U on Wednesday nights, or one of the book club discussions, I hope that you can find a place to plug in and get more involved. You'll be glad that you did.

As always, it is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,
Kris

MISSION

FBC is responsible for providing meals for patients' families and restocking the kitchen for Hospice

Aug. 1 -14.

Please contact Nell Campbell
(423-534-6101 or 423-764-491)

if you would like to help with a meal.

The expense of restocking depends upon donations. If you decide to contribute to this fund, please indicate Hospice on your envelope.

SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY:

Instead of capping soup; we now have a different mission and a different schedule.

First Baptist is currently scheduled for one day per month (**the second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.**) to pack bags of food for delivery.

Five people are needed each 2nd Tuesday. Anyone able and willing to assist in this effort, please call Carolyn Harris at 423-652-1818 to volunteer or for more information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request
August 10 is the next scheduled day.

Family Promise News...

We have happy news to share! Family Promise of Bristol is moving forward to provide care for families in our community who are in danger of living without homes. We ask for your prayers, and for any tangible support you can give us to help people during this difficult time as we still struggle with the ramifications of the pandemic and its effects on family life.

Our good news is that Family Promise has received a \$529,000 Emergency Solutions Grant from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency with funds to help with **Prevention of Homelessness and Outreach**. It's part of the COVID relief program, and allows Family Promise to hire a Case Manager to work with folks who are at risk of homelessness by helping with payments of back rent or finding housing if they are to be evicted. The outreach includes reaching people who are homeless and referring them to programs that can help them, particularly for TN residents, to ARCH, Appalachian Coalition for Homelessness, who has Rapid ReHousing dollars. Our funds are not for housing those who are homeless but those who are at risk of homelessness. The Outreach includes helping folks who are street homeless to access other resources. This is a TN grant; FP works with partners--particularly the EnVision Center and the United Way of Bristol, for referring Virginia folks and vice versa.

We have three folks working on the program and intend to hire another. Sam Ferguson is our case manager, Larissa Copley is an Americorps worker through ARCH, and Karen George is the Program Monitor, also doing HMIS, Homeless Management System, which is required by the ESG CV2 grant. They are a great team and are making a difference in people's lives already!

Like and Follow Family Promise of Bristol on FaceBook and look at the website for more information <http://www.familypromiseofbristol.org>. Come visit on Friday July 16 from 2 to 5 for our Open House with Bristol's Promise. We love our offices and location! See the invitation below.

Family Promise and others continue to work on finding a location for Community Day Center Services. There have been many barriers and challenges for different sites. We will send an update soon.

The Board Members of Family Promise hope that your congregation will continue to pray for those people who are homeless or in danger of being without a permanent place to live, to pray for the establishment of day center facilities, to pray that God calls persons to serve and that you will learn more about Family Promise initiatives as our community opens up and recovers from the restraints imposed by the pandemic. Representatives from Family Promise would be glad to come speak with you about how you and your congregation can join again in our mission to alleviate and prevent homelessness.

Grace and peace to you, and please feel free to contact Family Promise with any questions you may have.

Blessings,

Dottie Havlik
President, Board of Directors
Family Promise of Bristol
423-956-6747

Member News!

Bob and Evelyn Barrett were welcomed into membership at FBC on June 27.



Max Steven Shelton was welcomed into membership at FBC on June 27, and he was baptized on July 11.



Thank you to everyone that donated food/drinks for the Blessing Box!

Thank you all so much for all the prayers and the weekly cards. They were such a bright spot through Everything!

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Roberts*

Youth News

Youth Mission Trip:



FBC Youth Ministry YOUTH CAMP:



SING UNTO THE LORD!

Notes From Leigh...

Where has the summer gone? It seems that time just goes by so quickly. I remember my parents telling me not to "wish my life away" because one day I would want it to slow down. I understand the truth of that advice now more than ever! And, while I don't believe it is healthy to live in regret, I do have some regrets of moments that I failed to be "fully, present" in conversations, relationships, etc.

I am trying to do better because what I do today, what I do here and now, matters. When I am looking down the road to the next thing, I am missing what is happening right now - this is true in my personal life and also in my spiritual life. Sometimes I get so focused on what I'm gonna do for God, that I miss what He is wanting to do for me and through me today.

We can fall into this habit as a church as well. Yes, we need to vision and plan for tomorrow and next year, but we can't lose sight of the Holy Spirit moving right now in our congregation. For example - new members joined the church and a young person came to know Christ as Lord and Savior. We have also resumed in-person activities - youth, mission trips, VBS, worship. We've welcomed many visitors during worship and we have had some wonderful fellowship time. God is at work here and now! I pray that we will savor the moments and develop our relationship and allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us.

On August 8, our choir and their families will have a time of fellowship at the home of Jerry and Rose Sorrell. We will meet at 1:00 in the parking lot to ride the bus/caravan to their home. If you are interested in being a part of the music ministry at FBB, I would encourage you to join us for this event. It will be an opportunity to fellowship and discover more about the ministry and the people who faithfully participate. See me or any choir member for more information.


Blessings, Leigh

First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron.....Senior Pastor
 Rev. Ben Ondrak.....Associate Pastor
 Rev. Leigh Clark.....Minister of Music
 Mrs. Jackie Burnette.....Pianist

Ms. Kaitlyn Courtney.....Sexton
 Mr. Dennis Thomas.....Sexton
 Mrs. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse
 Ms. Terri Thomas Church Administrator
 and Financial Secretary
 Ms. Niki Judy..... Administrative Assistant



Contact Information:
Church Phone: (276)669-8191
Fax: (276)669-5082
Hours: info@fbcbristol.org
Website: www.fbcbristol.org
 You can also find us on
 Facebook. 



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street
 Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for August

Aug. 1, 2021	Mike Browder
Aug. 8, 2021	Nelson Gwaltney
Aug. 15, 2021	Harry Scanlan
Aug. 22, 2021	Brad Talbert
Aug. 29, 2021	Mike Warren

FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

July 31-Aug.1:	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
Aug. 7-8:	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
Aug. 14-15:	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
Aug. 21-22	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
Aug. 28-29	Terri Thomas	(423) 963-7576