



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

September 2021

First Baptist Family,

One of my favorite mantras is “Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.” A mentor shared that phrase with me many years ago, and I’ve found it to be especially helpful for ministry. You see, I’m a planner. I like to plan things out well in advance, but over the years I’ve learned that ministry doesn’t always work like that. In a moment’s notice you can find all your plans just going out the window. So, when I had an office with a marker board in it, I wrote that phrase down because I needed it as a visual reminder whenever I got put out or frustrated.

All those years ago, I never would have imagined just how flexible I and all of us would have to be right now. As you might imagine, it’s currently hard to plan much of anything. The increasing number of COVID cases has caused all our plans and hopes for a “normal” fall to go out the window. It feels like we’re calling audibles left and right, and to be honest, I still find it incredibly frustrating. But God calls us to be the church even when our plans don’t come to fruition; God calls to be the church even when we get frustrated and have to call an audible. And that’s what we’re doing.

Consequently, September is going to be a busy month even if it doesn’t like we initially planned it. We’re still being the hands and feet of Christ to this community and this world. We’re still worshipping God and learning in new and creative ways. And we’re still giving people the opportunity to love the LORD their God with all of their heart, their soul, their strength, and their mind.

We’re going to be doing all of this in several ways this month. First, we’re going to have another **food drop-off for the Blessings Box on Sunday, September 5 from 3-5 PM**. This is being organized by the Missions Team, and I want to encourage you to bring some canned goods for hungry people in this community. Beginning on Sunday, September 5, you’ll also start hearing more about BGAV’s Alma Hunt Virginia State

Missions Offering. **Beginning Wednesday, September 8 at 6 PM, we’ll resume our Wednesday Bible Study. People can either meet in person in Rosser Hall or join us via Zoom.** Like you’ve seen mentioned elsewhere, we will not be serving meals initially. The Board of Administration and Board of Deacons will revisit Wednesday Night Meals at a later date. **Our First Baptist Book Club discussions are going to be starting shortly after Labor Day as well. You’ll see more information including books, facilitators, days, and times very soon.**

On Sunday, September 12, Darin and Brooke Aldridge are going to lead us in worship for our Rhythm & Roots Sunday. Then the very next day, Monday, September 13 at 7 PM, we’ll host Dr. Vincent Bacote for his lecture “Christian Reflections on 9/11.” Dr. Bacote’s lecture is part of the King Institute for Faith and Culture lecture series, which we’re happy to host again this year. **Finally, on Sunday, September 26, we’ll have a special worship service along with our church-wide picnic.** The picnic is going to be on the church grounds rather than at Steele Creek Park, so we’re going to have worship outside that morning as well. **Because the service will be more informal than a typical Sunday morning, I encourage you to come already dressed for the picnic and to bring a lawn chair with you.** We’ll have tents set up for people to sit under during worship and afterwards you won’t have to go anywhere to enjoy a delicious meal of BBQ, baked beans, slaw, and dessert. The month of September looks very different than we initially planned, but by being flexible we’re still seeing God’s goodness and God’s guidance throughout the process. I hope that you’ll join us for as many of these events as you can. I think you’ll be glad that you did. Even when I’m forced to be more flexible than I’d initially like, it remains a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,
Kris

September 5-19, 2021
ALMA HUNT OFFERING
for Virginia Missions

“You will be my witnesses,” says Jesus to his disciples as recorded in Acts 1:8. This command continues to echo throughout the ages, as the Christian community grapples with sharing Christ in a rapidly changing world landscape. As Virginia Baptists, we bind ourselves together to proclaim Christ nonetheless!

**YOU
WILL BE MY
WITNESSES**
 Acts 1:8

September 5, 2021, through September 19, 2021, we join in giving to the Alma Hunt Offering which allows us to meet human needs together in Virginia and of the ends of the earth. This offering also undergirds the hands-on involvement ministries of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.

BLESSING BOX
DRIVE-BY FOOD DROP OFF
Sunday, September 5, 2021
3:00-5:00 p.m.



Supplies are Low 😞



**Please NO
Perishable Items or
sugary items.
It attracts
UNWANTED GUESTS!**



**Canned Foods
Drinks
Snacks**

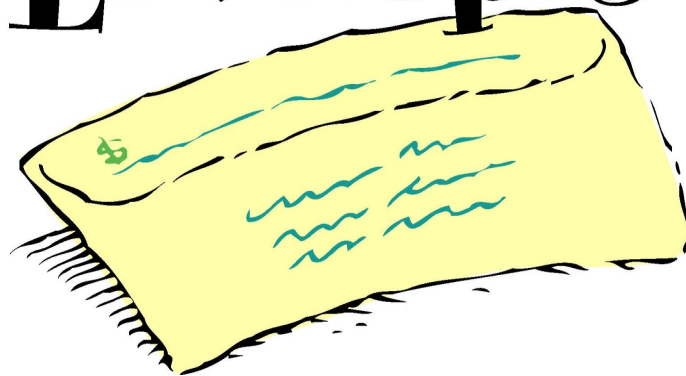


Library Lines
 September 2021

Church staff and I were pleasantly surprised and pleased when a book arrived at the church for our library from Rand Forder, pastor of First Baptist Bristol, 1990 - 2001. The book, *When Flesh Becomes Words: a 50-Year Journey of Writing in Ministry*, was, according to Rand, composed during his COVID-period self-quarantine. It is drawn from articles of his that had appeared in First Baptist Bristol's "First Word," in the Deacon Magazine of the SBC Sunday School Board, and in the Life & Work Sunday School Commentary of the Religious Herald. The book is divided into five sections and the 50 chapters within are devotional in content; they are short, concise, and seasoned with stories from his ministerial experiences. FBC readers will find much to treasure in this book.

~May Tabor

Offering Envelopes



**The finance office will be ordering
 the boxed offering envelopes
 for giving in 2022.**

**If you wish to have your
 name removed from the
 list to receive a box, please contact
 the church office by
 September 17, 2021.**



Notes From Leigh...

Psalm 96:1-3 says, “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples”.

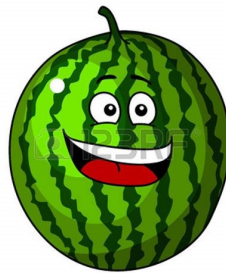
That, my friends, is exactly what we are doing when we lift our voices together on Sunday mornings! We are learning and singing new songs – whether they are praise songs or hymns. Jackie has commented on multiple occasions that I have introduced her to hymns she did not know.

Singing together is a powerful way to express our praise and gratitude to our Savior; a way to bring him honor. Singing may not be your “thing”, but the scriptures tell us over and over again to “lift our voice”. So, when I invite you to stand and sing during worship, I hope you will join in and consider it an act of worship to our Savior and King.

I would like to express my thanks to Rose and Jerry Sorrell for sharing their lovely home with the choir for our picnic. The weather was perfect, the food was fantastic, and the fellowship was second to none!

If you’re looking for a place to serve, grow, fellowship, and “plug in” consider joining the choir! Everyone is welcome!

Blessings, Leigh



Choir Picnic 2021



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



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 You can also find us on
 Facebook.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street
 Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for September

Sept.05, 2021	Jennifer Rouse
Sept.12, 2021	Steve Talbert
Sept. 19, 2021	Harry Scanlan
Sept. 26, 2021	Wallace Elliott

FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

Sept. 04 & 05: Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795
 Sept. 11 & 12: Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934
 Sept. 18 & 19: Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795
 Sept. 25 & 26: Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934