



125 Sedgefield Street  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

October 2021

First Baptist Family,

It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. Both the summer and the fall feel like they flew by, and now here we are in November. Not only will we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, but Advent begins in November, too. That means that Christmas will be here before we know it. We are rapidly approaching a time in which everyone's calendars fill up with purchasing gifts, decorating homes, traveling and spending time with friends and family, etc. Because we're all about to enter such a busy season, I think it's important for us to slow down a little first. It's important for us to rest and to look back on the year because in doing so, we'll see how God has guided us. We'll see all we've done as a church in the past year, which can be easy to forget. And when we look back, we can find all sorts of reasons to be thankful. So, as you rest and practice thankfulness, I want to remind you of some of the things we've done as a congregation this year.

We've resumed in-person Sunday School, in-person worship, and in-person Wednesday night Bible Study. During the Lenten season, we had Lent-in-a-bag. Our long-range planning team has been busy working, and we hope to show you the fruits of their work by Thanksgiving. We've added the "minutes" to worship, so people receive at least once a month an update on the missions, ministries, stewardship, and discipleship efforts of the church. We've had missionaries join us on Wednesday nights as guest speakers. We had a homemade ice cream contest in conjunction with one of our fellowship events. We had Vacation Bible School and fellowship events for children. Our Youth, in addition to local mission projects, went on a mission trip and went to camp. We've had drive-in movies and picnics. We've had choir cookouts and Rhythm and Roots Sunday. We've been blessed by guest musicians and hosted lecturers from King University's lecture series. And we've started and are wrapping up several book clubs. It has been a busy, productive year, even though things looked different than we anticipated.

Several of you have heard me say this before, but it's a hard time to do church right now. People are anxious because of the ongoing pandemic and the uncertainty it brings. People are also seemingly mad about everything, and they bring that fear and anger with them to church. When you factor in the fact that people don't go to church like they used to, it's almost enough to make you depressed. But when we look back over the past year, we can see God's goodness. We can see the ways in which God has blessed us. We can see the ways in which God has provided for us. And we can see the ways we've been given the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ to others. All of that should make us thankful. All of that should reduce any anxiety we may feel because it reminds us that God is still in control and that God is still in the blessing business. So, I want to encourage you to slow down, be mindful of what God is doing around you and what God has done in the recent past for this church. I want to encourage you to remain thankful. Remember who God is and what God has done because then you can't help but be thankful. You also can't help but be excited about our future despite the fact that things remain uncertain. God is still in charge, my dear brothers and sisters, so remain hopeful and remain thankful. I know that you'll be glad if you do.

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

Grace and Peace,  
Kris

# BLESSING BOX

The blessing box has been moved to the corner of the parking lot at the intersection of State Street and Washington Street.

The challenge now is to make sure that the food in Rosser is put in the Box on a regular basis. If you are in the church for any reason, take a few extra minutes and put some items in the box. This is a church-wide ministry and requires the participation of many members.

Thank you to all who have been regularly donating time and food.

~The Mission Team

## LIBRARY LINES

November 2021

***Power Thoughts: 12 Strategies to Win the Battle of the Mind*** by bestselling author Joyce Meyer was donated to our FBC Library by Trish Doran. Following her *Battlefield of the Mind*, Meyer brings us to the next level in overcoming negative thinking. She takes her groundbreaking principles a step further, showing readers how they can learn to think in line with God's word and, in this way, positively affect every area of their lives. Meyers' assertion is that "Positive thinking facilitates positive results in our lives."

## 2022 COMMITMENT SUNDAY REPORT

On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you for your participation in the Commitment Sunday events. During worship on Sunday, October 24, 2021 a combination of pledges and consistent giving patterns totaled \$375,582. The Finance Committee will now begin the 2022 budget process as we at First Baptist continue to remain faithful to the many ministries we support both locally and globally.



**Thanks  
for Your  
Support!**

## RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED!

Adult Sunday School classes welcome you! Enjoy an in-depth Bible study led by a former missionary who lived in the Bible land, get a feel for traditions of the area, and gain an understanding of the life of Christ in the class led by Gene Eller. Examine life applications of the Bible study as members respond to skillful, incisive questions and narratives posed by Tom Makres in the Chris Price Sunday School class. Ladies, make new friends and grow spiritually in the Hannah class led by four ladies. Look forward to another Sunday School opportunity led by Scott and Stephanie Boyles in the coming months.

## THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK HAS BEEN REWRITTEN

Thanks to the hard work of Marilyn Butler, Debbie Gwaltney, and Roberta Yowell, the employee handbook has been re-written and approved by the Personnel Committee. It is pending final approval by the Board of Administration. This handbook will be brought before the church for a congregational vote in December. You will be able to pick up a copy in the church office shortly.

**On October 17, we welcomed  
new members into FBC.**

***Leigh and Dan Gleib***





Thank you Eldon Wilson for the pictures!





## 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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**Website:** [www.fbcbristol.org](http://www.fbcbristol.org)  
 You can also find us on  
 Facebook.



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street  
 Bristol, VA 24201

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary during the Christmas season, please fill in the information below and return it to the church office. The cost of each poinsettia is \$15.



In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

**Sponsored By The Chancel Committee**

#### FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

Nov. 06 & 07:	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
Nov. 13 & 14:	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
Nov. 20 & 21:	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
Nov. 27 & 28:	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934

#### Deacon of the Week for November

November 07, 2021	Tom Makres
November 14, 2021	Terri Cook
November 21, 2021	Bob Love
November 28, 2021	Mark Fuller