

1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

June 2018

Preparing For Our Future

In July, Dr. Draughon plans to help us prepare for our next pastor. Last Sunday he alluded to the need for our church to move into offense - to major on the most important thing. In a previous writing, he said, "The New Testament clearly asserts that the local church has one major *raison d'être* (reason for being). On Ascension Day, Jesus said to his followers, 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' Acts 1:8. Therefore, THE mission of FBC Bristol is to bear true and faithful witness to Jesus as Lord in the Bristol marketplace." He continued by saying that issues such as church governance, structure, worship style, programming, personnel, finance, and ethics, to name only a few, are important ONLY as they impact the church's ability to carry out its MISSION.

In the life cycle of churches, when churches are just beginning, new Christians eagerly tell their friends and relatives about what Jesus has done for them. Members lead others to experience the life-saving love of Jesus. Just as the woman in Mark 5, individual members openly express faith in Jesus and are spiritually healed. As years go by, church members may become complacent, the church begins to focus on defense. Rules are made to "protect and preserve" the church's traditions. Recently, one of our pastor friends remarked that a sign of an unhealthy church is that members are more concerned with rules than with love.

**Sometimes, we forget
that Jesus taught us to
focus on love, inclusion,
and care for our
neighbors.**

A diagram of the life cycle of a church is an upside down "U" with the plateau at the top. In the beginning, the church grows rapidly. After that, membership declines as future generations forget the founding principles of the church. This is much like a family-owned business which, passed down from grandfather to father, to son, etc., becomes weaker because it has lost its focus and energy. There is no specific time for this to occur.

A few years ago we were members of a new church which rapidly grew from 13 families to 400 members in about four years. When some families were transferred out of town and the remaining members forgot their original mission, the church was forced to close up shop. This happened over less than ten years. In other situations, churches have lived much longer. The major key is remembering the "main thing."

Dr. Draughon has consulted with many other churches, and he will share his observations about how churches can regain their "first love" and their mission to spread the love of Jesus. We look forward to his messages in July. Plan to be here for these messages and let's fill the pews to hear how God is leading us to reach our neighbors.

-Marilyn Butler



Low Country Boil Fundraiser

Celebrating the Youth at FBC and the upcoming Joanne Feazell Reunion.

Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at 5:30 p.m.

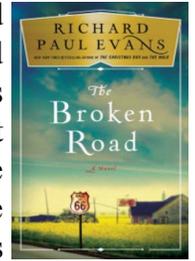
Walter Draughon will bring our message during prayer meeting

Reservations are needed by Friday, June 8, and can be made through the church office.

The proceeds will go toward the Joann Feazell Reunion Weekend.



The Broken Road, Book One in the Broken Road Series by Richard Paul Evans, is a book of redemption and grace and the power of second chances. Chicago celebrity Charles James can't shake the nightmare that wakes him up each night. By day, he wonders why he is so unhappy when he has all he ever wanted. When he learns that one of his customers has committed suicide because of financial ruin, Charles is shaken. The cracks in his façade deepen causing him to question everything—all his life choices. Then a twist of fate changes everything. Charles is granted something remarkable: he is given a second chance.



Steele Creek Park Shelter G

Sunday evening, July 8, 6 to 8 p.m.!!

Activities for all ages!

Live music by Anthony Mangrum

Meat and drinks provided by the church. Bring your favorite salad, dessert, or side item.



Hello and thank you, FBC Family, for your support and enthusiasm surrounding the impending birth of "Tiny" Davies! As I write, Rhys and I have reached the 39th week of our wait for parenthood. It has been a fun

journey together, and the uplifting response from you encourages us.

Thank you to the Sanctuary Choir (in particular, Joyce Crocket, Sarah Parker and Marilyn Butler) for organizing a baby shower! Seeing and speaking with you via video chat was extra special. Thank you, too, to Ben Ondrak for setting up the video connection, everyone who provided food and beverage, and, of course, all that could attend! It was wonderful to see my parents showered with so much love and attention! Rhys and I have decided to put your generous gifts to "Tiny" in a savings account for use when we are home and for us to build up in the future.

We are no closer to a name or feeling prepared for what is to come, but we are comforted in the support on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Thank you for keeping our family members and us in your prayers as we wait to share news of "Tiny's" arrival.

Deidre Yowell Davies

First Baptist Church Notice

Invitation to Bid No. 2018-002

In accordance with Financial Policies of First Baptist Church, all repairs and improvements of \$2,500 or greater require three competitive bids. Prior to advertising the bid to reputable contractors, notice must be provided to church members so that they have an opportunity to either personally submit bids, if qualified to complete the project, or contact individuals they may know who may be qualified to complete the project.

The church will be accepting bids for a *comprehensive window replacement* in the education wing. The details of the requirements are available in the finance office.

All bids must be received no later than June 15, 2018



Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the rock of our Salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:1-2

As we enter into the summer season, I would like to encourage any member to come and be a part of our Sanctuary Choir. We certainly could use your voice, and you would love the fellowship as well. Come and join our rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00.

Our Children's Choir will be learning new music for summer as well. Jackie and I will be introducing these new tunes in just a couple of weeks. We will give them a CD to take home so they can practice on their own time as well. We are looking forward to the children presenting these songs in worship during the summer season.

In Christ,
Eric



TERRIFIC TUESDAYS

Terrific Tuesdays - One Tuesday in June and two in July, children are invited to be a part of Terrific Tuesdays which includes games, sports, swimming, and learning of God's love for us and how to share it! Tuesday, June 12 & July 10, will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Cost for children K-5th grade is \$10 for each Tuesday with early registration before June 8 and \$15 after this date. This includes lunch, snacks, activities, tickets, and transportation.

Our preschool program will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, June 12 and July 10. The preschool children are invited to join us for the afternoon activities; however, if your preschooler is attending the afternoon activity on July 10, there must be a parent available to attend with them for liability purposes due to this being a swim activity. On July 31, all preschool - 5th graders will be visiting the Ripley's Aquarium in Gatlinburg, TN. We will be leaving at 8 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m. (There is a \$10 charge per child if attending the afternoon activities and the Aquarium). Please register by June 8.

Terrific Tuesday Schedule

- June 12 - Creation Kingdom Zoo - Gate City, VA
- July 10 - Kingsport Aquatic Center - Kingsport, TN
- July 31 - Ripley's Aquarium - Gatlinburg, TN

Call or visit the office to register during regular business hours. You can download the forms on the church website, www.fbcbristol.org. If there are spots available on a given Terrific Tuesday event after registration, then a late registration will be accepted with a cost of \$15. Youth may register as junior counselors for the same fee. ***If a booster seat is required, parents will need to leave one at the church.**

JOANN FEAZELL
CHOIR REUNION
 SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2018
 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 BRISTOL, VA

ALL CRIB CHOIRS - YOUTH TOURING CHOIRS FOR 45 YEARS

CONTINUE TO WATCH THE FBC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING SCHEDULES, RESERVATIONS, PARKING, AND LODGING.

Youth News

Youth Mission Trip - Mission to North Charleston, SC, June 20-27. We will be helping the Metanoia Ministry. They work with inner city families to get them set up in new or refurbished housing. They also run programs for inner city kids. They have a wonderful volunteer house in which we stay. Total cost is \$75 per person. Please contact Ben for availability.

Youth Summer Camp - "Unidiversity 2018" July 23-28 at University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Late registration is now in affect, please contact Ben for availability.

Our Staff

Dr. Walter Draughon
 Rev. Ben Ondrak
 Mrs. Tabetha Palumbo
 Mr. Eric D. Hicks
 Mrs. Angie Hicks

Interim Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Children's Director
 Minister of Music
 Assistant Minister of Music

Ms. Jackie Crum
 Ms. Kay LaSpina
 Ms. Marcine Robinette
 Mr. Dennis Thomas
 Ms. Terri Thomas

Pianist
 Sexton
 Parish Nurse
 Sexton
 Financial Secretary



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

1 Virginia Street
 P.O. Box 116
 Bristol, VA 24203

May 2018 Financial Report

Capital Campaign

Budgeted Income	\$	36,125.00
Actual Income	\$	40,361.00
Actual Expenses	\$	32,194.00
Monthly Gain/(Loss)	\$	8,167.00

Year-To-Date for 2018

Budgeted Income	\$	188,655.00
Actual Income	\$	189,942.00
Actual Expenses	\$	166,662.00
YTD Gain/(Loss)	\$	23,280.00

Account Balances

General Fund	\$	147,848.00
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Ushers for the Month of June

Head Usher: Bob Jones (276) 669-7504

Eric & Jennifer Rouse
 Dave & Rachel Wilson
 Leroy Doran

Greeters:

Jim & Linda Pruner

Deacon of the Week for

June 3 - Eldon Wilson
 June 10 - Tim Hiss
 June 17 - Chris White
 June 24 - Nelson Gwaltney