



From the Shepherd's Shop...By Rev. Dr. David K. Hinson, Interim Senior Pastor

Thank you for your wonderful response to our "Together in Fellowship and Evangelism" emphasis during April. Many of you are reaching out to your neighbors and friends and inviting them to join us in person to worship at First Baptist Church. This is an incredibly important habit that needs to be nurtured continuously as we look forward to the future.

As an Interim Senior Pastor, each church where I have had the privilege of serving has been distinct. It is always my intention to discover strengths and weaknesses, and to use part of my time to "raise awareness" about what issues need to be addressed before a new pastor is called. When a church has been more healthy than not, such issues may seem few. Yet, occasionally, even minor issues just below the surface may be of great importance.

Not long ago, a layperson from another church remarked to me over the phone: "If a church isn't moving forward, it is going backwards! There is no such thing as staying the same." It is always my hope that "First Baptist Church of Columbus," or a.k.a. "The Castle Church," is always on its guard with missions, ministries, and outreach toward others.

After our months together, if you asked me, David, what are your goals for "The Castle Church of Columbus," a.k.a. The First Baptist Church, I would answer that it is my prayer we would:

1. Stay united through Christian love, worship, and fellowship.
2. Stay focused around the purpose and mission of Jesus Christ to share the Good News of salvation.
3. Stay connected to one another and to Christ, knowing each and every person is important in the Kingdom of God.

These three priorities are realized through praying, participating, and practicing our faith daily. Therefore, whatever the issues we need to address regarding the future of First Baptist Church, know this:

1. Nothing is impossible with God as our guide and leader.
2. No one is beyond God's reach through His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Nothing is able to separate us from the love of God found in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Blessings always, and I will look forward to seeing you in person this Sunday in Worship! Please don't forget to pray daily for the Pastor Search Committee as they continue their work.



SEASON OF THE CHURCH: LENT

APRIL 9TH - MAY 28TH

The Family of Faith

"Join our family faith." That's the sentence we see all around our building, website, and documentation. The result of significant conversations, experimentation, and fact-finding, it's a sentence we have collectively said describes who we are and what we want people to know about us. And that's not without reason!

As I hear conversations in our halls, one of the most frequent sentiments I hear is that we "have a wonderful church family." As we are coming out of April and our "Fellowship and Evangelism" emphasis, we turn now to what is the result of that emphasis as it currently stands over the life of our church. "The Family of Faith" is the result of successful fellowship and evangelism. Each week we in fact provide a kind of family reunion!

Now, I realize that family reunions may not always be the most enjoyable thing for everyone. We all know the jokes about the food, someone's awkward third cousin, that aunt who always pinches your cheeks just a little too hard, but, if we're being honest, how many times do we come to church *expecting* things like that?

Humans are creatures of habit. We are "birds of a feather." We become friends with people similar to us, with the same goals, values, and perspectives. That's not a bad thing. However, it's something to be aware of. As we begin this new emphasis, reflect on our Fellowship and Evangelism month. Who did you meet? Who did you invite to Easter? Who came to Easter? Were they family members? Were they friends? Were they neighbors? Or were they strangers?

Of course, simply by asking these questions, I'm making the assumption that our neighbors are not strangers to us, though I know that's not always the case. The art of being neighborly has been lost and was only exacerbated by the pandemic. Despite our desire and need for community, our habits for over two years isolated us further and further into our own homes and safe/trusted communities - our families and friends. Strangers continue to be seen as a threat. And the news cycles certainly aren't helping that.

This month, I want to challenge that habit. I don't mean to be unsafe. But to ask yourself, "Self, do I see a family member in the eyes of the stranger?" If so, how? Why? If not, ask yourself the same questions.

It's no secret that the Sunday after Easter was not a "high attendance day." It rarely ever is for any church. Yet, there's something interesting about that shift. It makes me wonder if the invitation we have plastered all over the place doing what we intended for it to do, or if it's sitting dormant in hopes that language itself is enough to retain family members.

Plenty of time and money was poured into the branding and language you see around the building now. But money can only do so much. Forgive me if this article feels frank, but these are simply the musings of a worship pastor who took the week after Easter off. Maybe they prompt some thoughts for you, too.

Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Around The Church ...

Annual Work Day

**Saturday, May 6th
from 9:00 am to Noon**

Some of the things that need done:

- Weeds, sidewalks, shrubbery and playground
- Cleaning toys from the nursery
- Replacing air filters
- Washing windows
- Sweeping dirt from the corners of the parking lot
- Trimming shrubs around the church sign
- Cleaning the church sign itself
- Removing dead shrubs



Prayer Shawls

Prayer shawls will be available at the Gathering Place the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month for any who would like to pick one up as an encouragement to someone. For any questions see Judy Alexander.

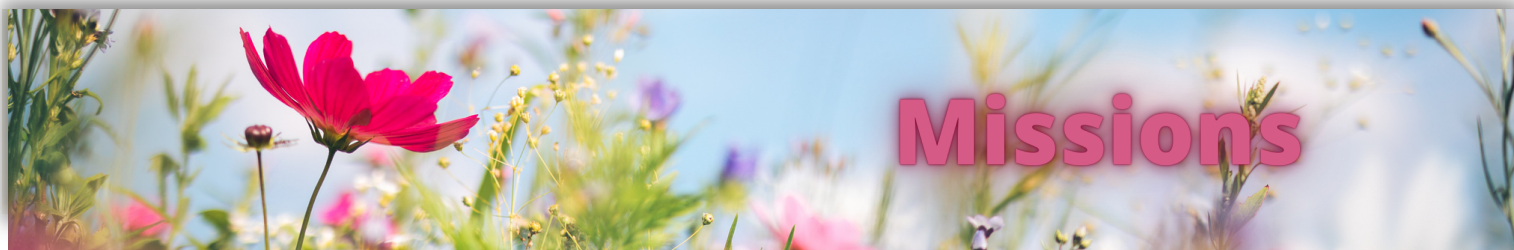
Stuffed With Love

We will continue to collect new stuffed animals for children who visit the ER until the end of May. Simply drop your stuffed animal at the box near the Gathering Place, or drop off at any ATI Physical Therapy office.



Event Planning

If you are planning to use the church fellowship hall or chapel for an event, be sure to call or email Mel at the church office to get it on the calendar. Mel will then provide you with a "Set up" form that will let Frank and the custodians know what to plan for. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



Hygiene Kits

Abigail Circle (of American Baptist Women) is sponsoring a collection of items for Period Packs, a new kit from Church World Service, which will give women and girls the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy, and live with dignity.

We welcome any contributions of the items listed below, or completed kits. These items can be donated thru May 21. A drop box has been placed near the kitchen.

Each kit should be stored in a gallon ziplock bag and contain:

- 2 -2 oz bottles hand sanitizer
- 1 travel pack of Wet ones
- 3 -4 gallon bathroom trash bags
- 10 unscented tampons, (5 regular, 5 super absorbency)
- 10 unscented sanitary napkins (Long super ultra-thin)
- 1 bath size bar of soap in original pkg (3 oz bar or larger--no Ivory or Jergen's soap)
- 1 pkg flushable wipes
- 6 laundry detergent sheets (place sheets in small ziplock bag)



Thank You

John and I want to thank all our Baptist friends for their prayers, calls, cards, and meals. You are reflections of God's love and caring spirit.
Gratefully, Liz

Dear Church Family,
I am deeply grateful for all the prayers and cards, as well as the flowers after my brothers passing. I am blessed to work with such a wonderful church family.
In Christ, Mel

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Beginning this year there will be a *Love Chapel Food Booth at the Bartholomew County Fair*. All proceeds from this project will go directly to Love Chapel's ministries. Volunteers are needed for jobs such as cooks, cashiers, runners, packagers, and cleaners. Our church will host all three shifts on Monday, June 26, from 6:45 a.m. to 9:45 p.m.

If you are willing to help, **please sign up at the Gathering Place before the deadline, May 9**. Job Descriptions will be available along with the sign-up sheets.

Other News...

WALDRON UPDATE

We are approaching the end of our mission project at Waldron and things are looking great! Below are some photos of the finished kitchen areas.



Around The Church

May Birthdays

- 3. ~ Leslie Fields
- 5. ~ Daniella Hernandez, Cliff Putterill
- 6. ~ Bob Rhude
- 7. ~ Janice Stafford
- 8. ~ Nathaniel Hash
- 11. ~ Edmond Browne, Robert Kelley
- 12. ~ Nolan Pickup

- 14. ~ Everett Vogelpohl
- 17. ~ Mollie Adams, Deborah Nelson
- 19. ~ Joyce Briggs
- 21. ~ Bethany Fulkerson
- 25. ~ Linda Mayfield
- 26. ~ Ava Lowman
- 27. ~ Jacob Cash, Piper Flannery
- 29. ~ Sharon Tobias

The Body of Christ Prays For...

Mel Fields and Family, the Family of Grace Marshall, Marcia Battle, Dick & Beth Miller, Joyce Roney, Ramona Harlow & all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

Please be in prayer for the Church during this time of pastoral transition, including our Church Council and FBC Staff.

Looking Ahead to May

- 7 - Communion Worship (9:30 am)
- 15 - Newsletter Deadline
- 16 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
- 23 - Abigail Circle Salad Supper (6 pm)
- 28 - Coffee Fellowship (10:30 am)

Weekly:

Prayer Shawl Group: Tuesdays at 11:00 am
Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
FBC L.I.G.H.T. Women's Bible Study: Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Chapel (*Summer break starts May 25th*)
Men of Faith Bible Study: Fridays at 7 am in Fellowship Hall (*Summer break starts May 19th*)

Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am
(in-person worship & Live Stream)

2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am

Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



Just Press Play

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30
firstbaptistcolumbus.org



Leadership

Pastoral Care Team

May 7 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman
May 14 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher
May 21 - Ron & Peggy Lane
May 28 - Daryl & Don McMath

*Pastor on Call for May: Bill Griffith
(812-314-2415)*

Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman
Second Sunday: Adams
Third Sunday: Fee
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: *Open*

Emergency Responder Schedule

April 30: Lindsay McIntosh
May 7th: Judy Rhude
May 14th : Lindsay McIntosh
May 21st: Joyce Briggs
May 28th: Jean Williams

Coffee Fellowship



There will be a Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, May 28th. Last names I-Q are invited to bring treats to share. (*April 30th Coffee Fellowship is A-H.*)

Children's Sunday School

2-4 Year Olds -

Teachers:

First Sunday: *Open*
Second Sunday: Susan Carter
Third Sunday: Carol Poe
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Helpers:

First Sunday: *Open*
Second Sunday: *Open*
Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley
Fourth Sunday: *Open*
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek
Second Sunday: Linda Reid
Third Sunday: *Open*
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.

Lunch Sign Up

There is a sign up sheet at the Gathering Place for those who would like to take Pastor David Hinson to lunch on Sundays.

Communion



We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, May 7th. For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.