### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRFIELD

VOLUME 31. ISSUE 10 SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

# THE CHRONICLE





A prayer for Our Young Adults

Heavenly Father, we come to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ praying for our Young Adults. We pray for their salvation, and that they develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We pray that they follow Him and seek to be more like Him each day. Help them to live in such a Christlike manner that they will be an example for others.

We pray that you give them guidance and direction in every decision they make. We pray that they will trust in you with all their hearts and lean not to their own understanding; acknowledge you in all their ways and you will direct their path. Reveal to them the spiritual gifts you have placed within them and show them how to use these gifts to your glory. May they be obedient to your word to "Seek the

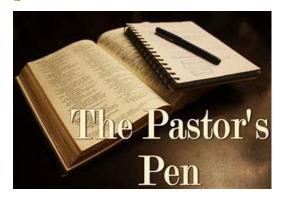
kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. (NLT)"

Help them to choose Godly associates, knowing that "bad company corrupts good character." Give them a hunger for your Word. Help them to hide your Word in their hearts that they may not sin against you. Help them to be doers of your word and not hearers only.

We pray that you give them a servant's heart that they will be willing to be of service to others. We pray that they will become a vital part of our church family and the community. These and all other blessings we pray in Jesus' name.

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Amen.



Young Adult Ministry Month

I think many in the church will agree that, by and large, we have a "young adult problem." What's the problem, you ask? Well, young adults are not coming to our churches.

There are all sorts of methods out there to get young people into coming to church. Many church leaders have made strides in adding to a body of work on attracting young people. Some of the material is really good — material that recognizes the world of 2024 is vastly different than the world of 1952 or even 1982. Other material is just plain bad — material that tries to bait-andswitch young people into church by selling a notion of volunteerism or bland ideal community while conveniently forgetting to mention the name of Jesus because it doesn't play well for focus groups. While there's no real clear answer on how to get young people into church, I think we can all agree on this simple fact: We've got a major deficit of young people actively involved in the local churches.

What are we at First Baptist Church Fairfield doing about this young adult problem?

Let me cut to the chase and say what we should NOT try to do: If we want to "solve" the problem of young people not being active in church, we are going to fail from the outset. This is not a problem we can solve in isolation. So if we bought the latest material on how to magically attract young people after following 5 easy steps, take it back right now. Instead of solving our problems, let's try to look at them in new ways — maybe even as opportunities to learn.

#### **Translation is Key**

What we need is for the church to become a place of translation — not just interpretation. What's the difference? Interpretation simply means that a church tells you what to believe and how to behave. But we must take the work of trans-

lation seriously, it will also create ways to live out those beliefs and morals in community. When this happens, the church becomes less rigidly judgmental of others and more serious about the need we all have for redeeming and sustaining grace.

Let me offer a story to illustrate:

I heard another heart-breaking story from a young adult who refuses to go to church. It seems that she was marginally involved in a local church — some months were better than others for attendance. But she volunteered in the ministry some and helped with Vacation Bible School because she didn't really know what to think about church attendance yet she knew it was important for her daughter. She started dating a young man who was a member of the church soon after she started attending.

But a few months into her tenure in the church it started. It seems a few of the members — some younger and some old enough to be her mother — caught wind of her "past life." They began spreading stories around the church about her and her new relationship — much of which was nowhere near to being true. But truth is relative when perception shapes so much of how we think. It wasn't long before a whole section of the church had heard these stories and it got back to the young woman and her new boyfriend.

Needless to say, they refuse to go back to that church and I fear they're done with church altogether after that incident.

One of the reasons we in the church won't ever solve our issue with young adults is that we think it's really their problem. They want to come to church and be with us, they just don't know it yet. So we need to invest in all sorts of attractional methods to help them realize this deep longing. Churches and we are not perfect — nor should we ever think they will be — but as long as church people do mean things to people who are a little different, don't be surprised when no young people want to attend our church. This girl bears the burden of not wholeheartedly investing in the church. But that's a process for many people, old and young alike. However, she's not at fault

ly investing in the church. But that's a process for many people, old and young alike. However, she's not at fault for the fact that some people decided her past was too risqué for their taste and decided to spread rumors about it.

A community who takes the work of translation — living out the gospel, putting hands and feet on the love of God, etc. — might not have been so quick to judge someone who was a little different. A community of translators knows how hard it is to actually live the morals and beliefs they profess.

(continued on next page)

### THE PASTOR'S PEN (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)...

Young Adult Ministry is crucial in the church for several reasons:

- 1. Spiritual Growth: This ministry provides young adults with opportunities for spiritual development, helping them establish a deeper relationship with God through study, worship, and fellowship.
- 2. Community Building: It fosters a sense of belonging and community among young adults, countering feelings of isolation that can be prevalent in this life stage. Building relationships with peers can strengthen their faith and support systems.
- 3. Leadership Development: Young adults are often in formative years where they begin to take on leadership roles. A dedicated ministry can help cultivate their skills and encourage them to take active roles in the church.
- 4. Relevance and Engagement: Addressing the unique challenges and questions young adults face today—such as career pressures, relationships, and faith—ensures that the church remains relevant to their lives.
- 5. Service and Outreach: Young adults often have energy and passion for social justice and community service. Engaging them in ministry can lead to impactful outreach programs and initiatives that benefit the wider community.
- 6. Intergenerational Connections: This ministry can create opportunities for young adults to connect with older generations, fostering mentorship and shared experiences, which can enrich the church as a whole.
- 7. Retention of Members: Engaging young adults can help in retaining them as active members in the church, reducing the tendency for this demographic to drift away from organized faith communities during their transition to adulthood.

If we want young people in our church, we must go where they are. Learn what they do. Strike up a relationship and trust the Holy Spirit enough to let us know when it's time to invite them to church. In the meantime, we must make sure our church is a place that worries about doing justice, loving kind-

ness, and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8). After all, that's all disciples can hope to do. Overall, Young Adult Ministry plays a pivotal role in nurturing the next generation of church leaders and believers, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable church community. Let us pray diligently for this new ministry in First Baptist Church Fairfield that is called L.I.F.E. as we celebrate them throughout the month of September.

Grace and Peace, Victor Sinclair Lewis, Pastor



REV. VICTOR SINCLAIR LEWIS, SR., PASTOR, TEACHER

### THINK ON THESE THINGS...

# The extraordinary amid the ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passersby for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!

### Goals for your church



Pastor and professor Howard Clinebell Jr. described the ideal local church as one that strives to become "a healing, growthstimulating, redemptive organism." Each congregation, he wrote, should work to develop "a dynamic climate of mutual con-

cern which gradually seeps into and saturates the whole fellowship."

How can your church body meet those goals? For starters, compare your mission, ministry, outreach and attitudes to the early church.

The New Testament reveals that a fellowship of believers should engage in these activities together: worshiping (Acts 2:46-47), studying (Acts 2:42), witnessing (Acts 2:44-47; 3:9), serving (Acts 6:1-6; 20:35), loving (Hebrews 10:24), praying (Acts 1:14; 12:12), cooperating (Acts 1:11-14; 2:1; 4:23) and suffering for the sake of the gospel (Hebrews 10:32-34; Philippians 1:29).

In addition, Jesus calls New Testament believers to live joyfully (Acts 2:46; 5:40-41; 13:50-52; 16:25), courageously (Acts 4:13; 4:29; 15:26), powerfully (1 Corinthians 4:20), enthusiastically (Acts 2:43-47) and generously (Acts 2:45; 2 Corinthians 9:10-12). May the Holy Spirit equip us to heal, grow and mutually edify one another!



Reprinted from September 2024 edition

### THINKING OUT LOUD

#### "EXPIRED"

#### "You are more than a Conqueror through Christ Jesus"

I attended several funerals this past summer, some were elderly, very ill and some quite unexpectantly. Each had a purpose to their lives.

I do not like to hear people use the term "He's expired" when referring to a dead person. It sounds like old sour milk that you throw out once it expires. A human life is far more valuable than old milk. It's not something that ever expires. You are valuable to God and much more valuable than old milk. You don't expire.

Let's look at the top ten billionaires since 2016. They are:

Jeff Bezos \$108.9 billion (founder of Amazon)

Bill Gates \$91.9 billion (founder of Microsoft)

Warren Buffett \$90.1 billion (stocks, bonds and oil)

Amancio Ortega \$75.8 billion

Mark Zuckerberg \$72 billion (Founder of Facebook)

Bernard Arnault \$68.7 billion

Carlos Slim Helu \$67.6 billion

Charles and David Koch (tied with \$60 billion owners of Koch Industries)

Alice Walton \$46 billion (heiress to Walmart)

Elon Musk (an undetermined amount, owner of the former Twitter)

Now perhaps your name did not appear. But you are just as important as any of these wealthy people. In God's sight you are rich. You need to see yourself as God does. You are not junk. You are important to God, so you are important.

This is an election year, and many people feel that there will be a terrible upset at the polls. But do you know that God brought you through the last four years and He will continue to do it if you continue to believe in Him.

Don't sell yourself short. You are important, you are in a position to help someone else see themselves as important. Don't blow it. God wants you to prosper, but you've got to want it. **You will not expire!** Sure, one day you will die, if you are not raptured away, but you will never expire. You live in one of the richest countries in the world. Know your heritage.

Our country was named the "United States of America" because 13 colonies became the first thirteen states. We are supposed to be united. We may not always agree, we can agree to disagree without being disagreeable. Remember, you are valuable, you will not **EXPIRE!** 

By: Sis. HELEN P. SMITH SEPTEMBER 2024



### SICK AND SHUT-IN MEMBERS

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FAIRFIELD

Sick and Shut In Listing - September, 2024

Sis. Hattie Aikerson 5295 Cedar Creek Drive Bessemer, AL 35022

Sis. Martha Bennett 732 60th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Eloise Bunkley 2215 Broughton Sprgs Rd. Southside, AL 35907

Sis. Kimberly Caldwell 2752 20th Place Ensley Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. Virginia Chandle 2325 15th Street West Ensley Birmingham, AL 35208

**Sis. LaSondra Chavers** 1033 Grand Oaks Road Fairfield, AL 35064

**Bro. Erskine Copeland** 49 Freda Jane Lane Birmingham, AL 35215

Sis. LaTonya Cox P. O. Box 734 McCalla, AL 35111

Sis. Dorothy Delaine 5601 Court I Birmingham, AL 35208

Sis. Alquina Dickey 1400 Lexington St. Birmingham, AL 35224

Sis. Dorothy Dickey 1400 Lexington St. Birmingham, AL 35224 **Bro. William Evans** 312 59th Street Fairfield AL 35064

Sis. Essie Flanagan 724 Vaughn Circle Birmingham, AL 35235

Sis. Eunice Goldsmith 101—57th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Bama S. Gray 528 53rd Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Gracie M. Guerry Cherry Hill Healthcare Ctr. 1250 Jeff Germany Pkwy Birmingham, AL 35214

Sis. Vertis K. Jimerson 281 Forest Road Hueytown, AL 35023

Sis. Lillian Jones 1363 Rock Creek Lane Pleasant Grove, AL 35127

Sis. Carlean McClure 837 60th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Elaine Meeks 321 Jerry D. Coleman St. Fairfield, AL 35064

**Bro. Henry Moton** 2801 Snavely Avenue SW Birmingham, AL 35211

Sis. Mary Ravizee 609 Jerry D. Coleman St. Fairfield, AL 35064 **Bro. Elliott Ryce, Sr.** 500 10th Street, Pratt City Birmingham, AL 35214

Sis. Lois Scott 841 60th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Eva Turner 501 54th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Flora L. Waller 427 64th Street Fairfield, AL 35064

**Rev. Alex Washington** 7405 White Oak Road Fairfield, AL 35064

Sis. Katie Lee Watts 241 Nabir Court Tracy, CA 95377

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

#### **September: Suicide Prevention**

September is suicide prevention awareness month. Suicide is the act of intentionally causing one's own death. A suicide attempt is when someone harms themselves with the intent to end their life but does not die as a result.

In 2022, suicide was responsible for 49,476 deaths in the U.S., which is about one death every 11

minutes. It is a leading cause of death among people aged 10-41.

#### Warning signs for suicide include:

- Behavioral Changes: Withdrawal from friends and family, giving away possessions, and drastic mood swings.
- Verbal Cues: Talking about wanting to die, feeling hopeless, or being a burden to others.
- Physical Symptoms: Changes in eating or sleeping habits, increased use of alcohol or drugs.

#### **Suicide Myths**

There are several myths about suicide that can contribute to misunderstanding and stigma. Here are some common ones:

*Myth 1*: People who talk about suicide won't really do it.

**Fact:** Many people who are suicidal give warnings or talk about their intentions. It's important to take any talk of suicide seriously and offer support.

Myth 2: Suicide happens without warning.

Fact: There are often warning signs, such as changes in behavior, mood, or talking about feeling hopeless. Recognizing these signs can help in providing timely intervention.

**Myth 3:** Once someone decides to die by suicide, nothing can stop them.

**Fact:** Suicidal thoughts can be temporary. With the right support and treatment, people can recover and find reasons to live.

**Myth 4:** Only people with mental illnesses are suicidal.

*Fact:* While mental illness is a significant

risk factor, not everyone who is suicidal has a diagnosed mental illness. Various factors, including life events and stress, can contribute to sui-



cidal thoughts.

**Myth 5:** Talking about suicide will give someone the idea.

Fact: Openly discussing suicide can actually reduce the risk by allowing individuals to share their feelings and seek help. It shows that you care and are willing to listen.

**Myth 6:** People who attempt suicide are just seeking attention.

*Fact:* Suicide attempts are often a cry for help. They indicate severe distress and should be taken seriously, regardless of the perceived intent.

**Myth 7:** Suicidal people are always de pressed.

**Fact:** While depression is a common factor, people experiencing other emotions like anxiety, anger, or even relief can also be at risk.

Myth 8: Once a person is suicidal, they will



(continued on page 10)

### **FOREIGN MISSION**

National Baptist USA Incorporated 2024

First Baptist Church, Fairfield Sis. Helen P. Smith, Chairman Foreign Mission Board



The National Baptist USA, INC. serves eight African countries and three Islands. Foreign Mission is still a priority at our Church. Our focus today is on Malawi.

Malawi, officially the Republic of Malawi, is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa. It is bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and surrounded by Mozambique on the east, south and southwest. Malawi spans over 118,484 km<sup>2</sup> (45,747 square mi) and has an estimated population of 18,143,217 (as of Malawi is primarily a Christian July 2018). country, with a significant Muslim minority. Government surveys indicate that 87% of the country is Christian, with a minority 11.6% Islamic population. The largest Christian groups in Malawi are the Roman Catholic Church, of which 19% of Malawians are adherents, and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) to which 18% belong. The CCAP is the largest Protestant denomination in Malawi with 1.3 million members.

Other religious groups within the country include Jehovah's Witnesses (over 95,000), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with just over 2,000 members in the country at the end of 2015, Rastafarians, Hindus, Baha'is, (0.2%) and

around 300 Jews. Atheists make up around 4% of the population, although this number may include people who practice traditional African religions that do not have any gods.

Thanks to each of you, The National Baptist Convention expanded its outreach to Malawi in 2012 and has been very instrumental in assisting our mission partners with resources necessary to make much-needed upgrades to the Willie Layton Maternity Hospital's medical technology, and continuing to share the "Good News of Jesus Christ" as a sound foundation to allow all to be partakers of the gift of salvation.

Please continue to support Foreign Mission with your donations in 2024. Our goal is to raise \$10,000. We can do this with each member simply donating \$25.00 every fifth Sunday. By the end of the year, you will have donated \$100.00. Let's continue to give.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORSHIP



#### **VYOU'VE GOT TALENT**

Just as many TV game shows are full of talent, so is the church. God has given all of us spiritual gifts, special talents that we can use to serve Him. When we all come together to use our gifts for the Lord, God can bless our community and our world through the church!

The You've Got Talent Curriculum, will teach our children and youth what spiritual gifts are and how we should use them for the Lord.

All individuals between the ages 3 and 18 are encouraged to join us during the month of September on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for Children and Youth Church in the Fellowship Hall.

During the bible lesson period, our children and youth will be separated into age groups as follows .

• Beginners 3-5

• Primary 6-8

• Juniors 9-11

• Intermediates 12-14

• Seniors 15 and older

Children and Youth Church will be held on

the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays in September. September's Schedule is listed below:

1st Sunday - Children and Youth Church

2nd Sunday - Angelics and Ambassadors Worship Through Song

**3rd Sunday - Chuck Nevett Usher Board** 

Children 12 and under meet in Usher room at 9:45

Children and Youth Church

4th Sunday - Children and Youth Church 5th Sunday - Children and Youth Church

Sis. Lori Ryce-McCray

Children and Youth Church Coordinator

Hearing, Heeding, and Heralding the Word of God John 10:27

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS (continued from page 7)

always be suicidal.

*Fact:* Many people who have experienced suicidal thoughts or attempts go on to lead fulfilling lives. With appropriate support and treatment, the risk can be significantly reduced.

Understanding these myths and the facts behind them can help in providing better support and reducing the stigma around suicide. If you or someone you know is struggling, don't hesitate to reach out for professional help.

Submitted by Maxine Starks







































Photos by Cynthia Ryce





Photos by Eva Epps



































Photos by Cynthia Ryce

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **WEEKLY**

Sunday (s) 9:00am Sunday School (In person)

10:00am Morning Worship (in person and

Facebook Live, YouTube)

10:am Children's Worship-1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th

Monday (s) 6:00 pm Laymen's Study Conference Call

1-425-436-6349

**Access Code 788-1875** 

Wednesday (s) Bible Study (551) 258 -6609. No access code.

6:00 pm

**Thursday (s)** Prayer Ministry Conference Call

6:15 pm. 1 978 990 5000 Access Code 297873

## The Chronicle

is published monthly by

### **First Baptist Church**

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#### **Deadline for copy:**

The 15th of each month prior to the edition in which the article will appear. For example, articles for October should be submitted by September 15. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

### September

1 8:00am Baptism Service 10:00 am White –Out Sunday and Lord's Supper Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Application following 10:00 worship

2 Church Office Closed

2-5 National Baptist Conference 143rd Session Baltimore Md

11 Senior Ministry—Nicki's West Restaurant
In Person Bible Study 6:00pm First Baptist Church Outreach Building 326 60th street

15 Back To Church Sunday and Young Adult Sunday

28 Sister Strut-Breast Cancer Awareness Fund Raiser— Legion Field 7:00 am

29 Football Sunday—Wear College, University and NFL Apparel

**Foreign Mission Sunday** 

Peace Baptist 5th Sunday Institute for Children and Youth—3:00 pm

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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6:15 pm. 1 978 990 5000 Access Code 297873

#### **October**

- 1 Fall revival 6:30 pm with guests Dr. Quinton Hammond And Antioch Church Pratt City
- 2 Fall revival 6:30 pm with guests Dr. Timothy Woods and Hopewell MB Church
- 3 Fall revival 6:30 pm with guests Rev. Thomas Rogers and New Bethlehem MB Church
- 6 Baptism and Lord's Supper Laymen's Day Observance
- 11 Senior Ministry Road Trip—Montgomery: Legacy Museum and Riverboat Cruise—7:00 am
- 19 Breast Cancer Survivor Shades of Pink Brunch 11:00 am
- 20 Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday—Wear Pink
- Foreign Mission Rally Sunday Celebration—Wear Ethnic Attire—Rev. Dr. Tyree Anderson-First Baptist Church, Ensley Guest Minister
- Hallelujah Night (Gym); Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot) 5:30 pm



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Put the words in order on the spaces below to complete the Bible verse. Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV).

am and be believes bread comes + in whoever of o me me never to never the go life hungry

**WORD LIST** 

John 6:35, NIV

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Phone: 205 785 4143 Fax: 205 785 8900 E-mail: FBCFairfield59@att.net

**CHURCH THEME:** "GROWING TOGETHER"

**JOHN 15: 1-5** 

The Chronicle