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August 2021



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

*The Vision
Proclaiming the
good news*

A **u** **g** **u** **s** **t**

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School

10:45 a.m. in-person & online morning worship.

Children's Church upstairs in children's department at 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Jeremy Shannon
Pastor Cell phone: 859-536-2250
jshannon@fbcftthomas.com

Miriam Fuller
Worship Leader
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mfuller@fbcftthomas.com

Kaitlyn Runion
Children's Minister
Cell phone: 859-279-8924
krunion@fbcftthomas.com

April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Administrative Assistant
Debbie Mershon
859-441-8884
office@fbcftthomas.com



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Greetings, church family!

The month of August has a different feeling than it has in many years for the Shannon family. It is back to school time and in just a few weeks Crosley will start kindergarten. As you can imagine, we feel a range of emotions. As I thought back to when FBC first called our family to serve, Crosley was still an only child and not even 2 years old. Her vocabulary was limited and you had to be around her to know that certain words like “momo” really meant that she wanted a drink of water. To hear her talking today it is hard to believe how quickly time can pass. I can't help but be grateful for so many of you that have loved my entire family as we have had the privilege of serving together.

Just as I have seen such dramatic growth in my daughter, I suspect that looking back on the last 3.5 years we will see that we have all grown in many ways. We are wiser and through our shared experiences of both joy and grief we can point to a God who remains faithful.

And now we find ourselves entering another potential growth opportunity for the church and for the community around us. As I write this letter, there is growing concern about a new variant of the virus. I dread having to have discussions about safety regulations and I dread the potential implications of how these talks present a chance to divide us in the world. I hope that it is passing, but I also know that there will be many people with real concerns. Perhaps you do not feel comfortable coming back to worship yet. That is okay.

What I take comfort in over the potential threat of a new challenge is that this time around I believe we are more informed and better equipped for what it means to be a church when things don't look as we might hope. We now have a better idea of how to host a worship service online. We have learned about proper sanitation in our buildings. We have been encouraged to think outside the box.

I share all of this not to announce any major changes in how we worship as of the time of writing this article. We will continue to monitor the situation. What I hope we can do is make concerted efforts to pray for all who continue to be affected by this virus. I pray that we will have a desire to live out God's command for our lives and that we would trust in God's provision in taking care of God's church. Sending my daughter to kindergarten would be tougher if I thought she was not ready to face the challenge or if I thought she still lacked the knowledge to succeed. In the same way, I believe we are ready to face what lies ahead. Better days are coming. I believe it. Do you?

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Worship Leader

It's the end of July as I write this article for August... It's not Christmas in July but I did meet with other music directors of some of the churches to see what we can do for a Christmas program. We have decided that we want to do a large Christmas caroling event. Our choirs will have three (3) songs to perform, along with scripture and congregational singing. It should be a fun night for everyone. The plan is to do this on the second Sunday of December, as we have always done, December 12th at 6 PM. So, you have plenty of time to mark it down and make sure you can come.

Whether you are in person for worship or on-line, I hope you are able to worship God with us each week. I'm looking forward to Jeremy's sermon series about worship. There are many elements to worship, but I believe we will be looking at prayer, music and God's Word...

I hope you have had a good month and I look forward to being with you in August. God bless you!

Sunday is coming, see you then!

Mirm

Update on Secretary search...

Jeremy, Susan Meyer, Lori Maines and I form the search committee. We will be meeting on Monday, August 2nd at 6 PM to look over resumes and talk about interviews. I hope that within two (2) weeks after that we will make a decision and have a new hire for this ministry position. Debbie has served us *SO very well* over these years and she will be greatly missed in the office. I'm so glad my friend is not leaving us, just the position.

Please remember when we do hire this new person, it will be a challenge for them to get to know all of us, even though we are small in number. Be an encourager when you call or stop in! Looking forward to moving forward!

Mirm

From Our Children's Minister

Dear church family,

In July our kids finished *Better Than Gold*, a series about how God's Word is our treasure. We've since started a series called *Parables* about the stories that Jesus told to help us understand God and the kingdom of Heaven.

Last month we also hosted a craft booth for the Fort Thomas Farmer's Market. I'd like to thank Bob Peelman, Jenni Shannon, and Jeremy Runion for joining us and making so many kids and families feel welcome.

School will be starting for many of our kids this month. Some of them will be new kindergarteners and Owen will be starting middle school this year! This is a great opportunity to be praying for all the kids to have powerful experiences and be a blessing to their new school communities. These transitions can be exciting and they can be challenging, so let's cover them in prayer for whatever lies ahead of them and encourage them that God will be with them as they move forward.

In love,

Kaitlyn Runion

Children's Minister

Holy Spirit Parish Pantry

In July you donated 145 Boxes of Hamburger Helper & 31 miscellaneous items.

Way to go! Thank you so much for your generous hearts and being so willing to help those who are in much need.

In August we are being asked to make donations of gravy in glass jars.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach ministry.



“Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”



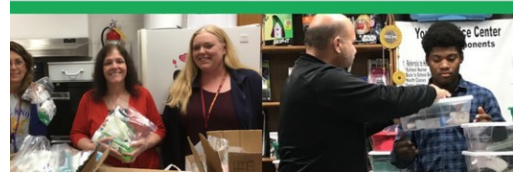
The church was custom built by Jesus, and we are all works in progress.

We do not expect people to get their sin in order before attending church any more than a hospital expects people to get healed before they show up.



2021 Summer Missions Offering

Olive Branch Ministries



Our summer mission offering 2021 is going to Olive Branch Ministries which is a CBF Mission run by a CBF field personnel, Scarlett Jasper.

They do lots of work in South Eastern Kentucky in some of the poorest counties in our country. There are so very many things they do to help them have a better life. I would not be able to list them all here but they do make a huge difference.

Our goal is \$500.00 but my prayer is that we can surpass our goal. Thank you for always being willing to support missions.

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to tell you all how much you mean to me and what a honor it has been for me to work in the office for you these past almost 12 years. I have loved working for First Baptist Church. I think part of the reason I have loved it so much is that I feel I am working for the people that I feel truly are part of my family.

From the moment I set foot through those double glass doors by the parking lot, I truly felt at home. I did not understand how that could be. I did not know you and had no clue what the church would be like, but I still felt it. I know now that was God telling me this is where I belong. (a God moment) Even though we have tried different churches, this is the one that God has always meant for our family to attend. This church family helped us raise our 4 kids and one of our grandchildren. Thank you!

I now feel that it is time for me to retire. It is time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life. I have no doubt that I will miss being in the office and doing things for you, but I 100% feel that it is time for me to step down. My last day in the office will be on Thursday, September 2nd. I will still be in church to wear all the other hats I wear here so I will not be gone, just absent from the office. I ask that you love the new person as much as you have loved me and I know that she/he will do great.

Thanks for everything!
Debbie

I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism. Act 10:34

PREJUDICE AND FORGIVENESS

After hearing a message about correcting injustice, a church member approached the pastor weeping, asking for forgiveness and confessing that he hadn't voted in favor of calling the black minister to be pastor of their church because of his own prejudice. "I really need you to forgive me. I don't want the junk of prejudice and racism spilling over into my kids' lives. I didn't vote for you, and I was wrong." His tears and confession were met with the tears and forgiveness of the minister. A week later, the entire church rejoiced upon hearing the man's testimony of how God had worked in his heart.

Even Peter, a disciple of Jesus and a chief leader in the early church, had to be corrected because of his ill-conceived notions about non-Jewish people. Eating and drinking with the gentiles (who were considered unclean), was a violation of social and religious protocol. Peter said, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile" (Acts 10:28). It took nothing less than the supernatural activity of God (vv. 9-23) to convince him that he "should not call anyone impure or unclean" (v. 28).

Through the preaching of Scripture, the conviction of the Spirit, and life experiences, God continues to work in human hearts to correct our misguided perspectives about others. He helps us to see that "God does not show favoritism" (v.34).

AURTHUR JACKSON

What experiences or people has God used to help you see that He doesn't show favoritism? What are the things in your life that may have blinded you to His acceptance of all people?

Dear God, search my heart and show me where I need to change.

Do you feel that the best of your life is yet to come? It has nothing to do with your age, where you have been or where you plan to go. Please read below. Your best is absolutely yet to come.

The Best is Yet to Come

by James Banks

Are the best days of your life in front of you? Our outlook on life- and our answer to that question- can change with time. When we're younger, we look ahead. Once we've grown older, we yearn for the past. But when we walk with God, whatever our age, the best is yet to come!

Over the course of his long life, Moses witnessed the amazing things God did, many of which happened when he was no longer young. Moses was 80 years old when he confronted Pharaoh and saw God miraculously set His people free from slavery (Exodus 3-13). Moses saw the Red Sea part, saw manna fall from heaven, and even spoke with God "face to face"

Moses lived expectantly, looking ahead to what God would do (Hebrews 11: 24-27). Even when he was 120 years old, he understood that his life with God was just getting started and that he would never see an end to God's greatness and love.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMASKIDS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

PRESCHOOL

8/1
Dakota Guilkey
Jerod Guilkey

8/8
Debbie Mershon
Kaitlyn Runion

8/15
April Ayers
Kim Beagle

8/22
Susan Meyer
Amy Shannon

8/29
Debbie Mershon
Kaitlyn Runion

ELEMENTARY

8/1
Walter Mershon

8/8
Lori Orne

8/15
Kaitlyn Runion

8/22
Kaitlyn Runion

8/29
Lori Orne

Kids Volunteers Needed

*Someday, your name will be hailed
as the one who changed a life. This
is why everything you do in
children's ministry everyday
matters — a lot!*

Happy Anniversary

8/5

Jerod & Dakota Guilkey

8/12

Shawn & Kathy Lang

THE BRIGHT SPOT

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11



GOD Loves YOU



DEACON
MINISTRY

TELLERS

8/1

Bill Klopp

8/8

Lori Orne

8/15

Harry Weitkamp

8/22

Walter Mershon

8/29

Bill Klopp

8/1

**Kim Beagle
Barb Musick
Bob Peelman**

8/8

**Kim Beagle
Bill Eckerle**

8/15

**Lori Maines
Walter Mershon**

8/22

**Kim Beagle
Barb Musick**

8/29

**Walter Mershon
Debbie Mershon**



8/6

Tina Weitkamp

8/8

Bob Draper

8/13

Thelma Boehne

8/19

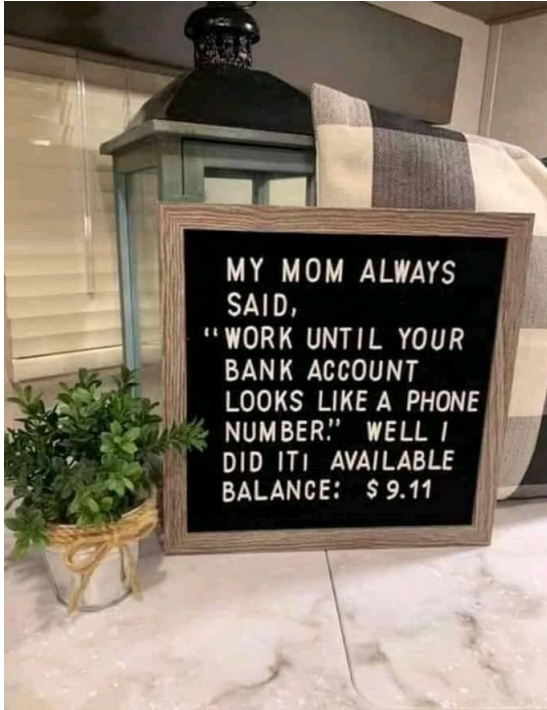
Fay Hailes

8/23

Cindy Stricker

MusePrintables

A JOYFUL HEART IS GOOD MEDICINE...



As a kid, did you ever knock on people's doors and run away before they could answer? Well, guess what...we are hiring



Every family has secrets until a Sunday School teacher asks a group of kids if they have any prayer requests.



*Brain cells, hair cells, and skin cells all die constantly, but stinkin **FAT CELLS** must have accepted Jesus as their Savior because they seem to have **ETERNAL LIFE!** 😂*

When we're young, we sneak out of our house to go to parties.

When we're old, we sneak out of parties to go home.



I asked my daughter to give me the phone book. She laughed at me, called me a dinosaur and lent me her iPhone.

So the spider is dead, the iPhone is broken and my daughter is furious!