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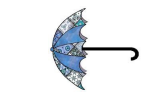


Current Office Hours: Monday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. - 1pm



There is no better way to spend a week of your summer than SUMMER CAMP @ Camp Moses Merrill. Campers of all ages enjoy fun activities, making new friends, and growing in faith. Get away this summer and come to Camp Moses Merrill.

First Baptist Church Of Fremont Build, Love, Grow, Serve
APRIL 2023



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Youth Pastor Luke Chavanne | Fremont, NE

PASTOR'S NOTES

"And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?"
--2 Corinthians 11:28-29



This first Chimes after my Sabbatical, I wanted to respond to some of the questions people have asked about it and whether it had been a good experience. One day, an individual showed me a Facebook (I think) post they had seen and printed off that talked about the lives and stresses of pastors. Having worked in other professions, I am aware that a number of the things listed happen in other careers as well, though some are unique to the pastorate, especially the fact that pastors are engaged in spiritual matters of eternal significance. When I saw the post that was handed to me, I thought perhaps the best way to answer some of those questions would be to share the post, even though I don't know the writer or anything about him, nor do I have official permission to share it. It really contains a lot of truth, though I might emphasize some different thoughts if I was the one writing it, and I might add some different conclusions, but I decided to share it with you as is (except, there were some grammatical errors or typos, and since it is going to be in our Chimes, I have made some corrections in parenthesis leaving the original in place).

Tim Cox, Jr.

"According to recent studies...4,000-5,000 pastors quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life (lives). Most don't even quit because of financial reasons. Pastors quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion.

Until you're a pastor you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on your heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a person's absents (person's absence) or distance. Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message—how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis. Being told you need to be better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better. Pastors invest their whole life into people and yet people will turn their backs on their pastor at the first sign of a storm, usually without a conversation. Pastors stand in the middle of disputes. Pastors stand in the middle of gossip. Pastors council (counsel) broken marriages. Pastors comfort those who have suffered loss. Pastors navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their (his/her) faith. They long for spiritual break-

throughs. Your pastor craves the very best for you. All of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship(s) with God. Pastors see the posts. Pastors hear the whispers. Pastors endure the negativity. Pastors are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Pastors pour out and pour out—rarely being poured into.



What keeps a pastor going? You. You—the person who is genuinely hungry. You—the person who worships with passion and freedom. You—the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus. You—the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ. You—the one who walks through the door for the first time because you’re in search of peace, hope, and community.

Pray for your pastor. Serve with your pastor. Talk with your pastor. Encourage your pastor. They are human. They need you more than you think.

So what did the Sabbatical accomplish? It gave me a break from many of the things listed above, and an opportunity to do some particular focus on my own spiritual, mental, physical and emotional needs while passing those of the congregation to others, notably my substitute, Fred Daugherty, to whom I am very grateful. This was especially meaningful after the various challenges we have faced during the years I have been pastor here. It is my experience that the load of the spiritual welfare of the church and the congregation is carried by pastors in a unique way, although to some degree in tandem with other church leaders. I am still processing all that I experienced during those weeks, because there was just so much...so much I did, so much God did, so many experiences with family and friends...it was a very rich experience. Some of what I have experienced I simply am not able to put into words, and some I will be sharing in a variety of ways. Out of it all, I find that there has been a honing of the ministry ahead of me here with all of you as we move into the next chapter of the life of First Baptist; you will see various pieces of that honing surface over the coming weeks, months and years.

At a few of the churches I visited, when I mentioned to the pastor that I was on Sabbatical, he would share how much a previous Sabbatical had meant to him and helped him, or how much they longed to have one. One pastor indicated he had only had one in all his years of ministry, and since a friend of mine goes to that church, I plan to pass that comment on and suggest I might be time to offer him another opportunity.

So let me close this by saying, ‘Thank you,’ for this precious gift you gave, and your willingness to work with me and with Fred to make it happen. I was told this is the first time our church has ever done this. In the years to come, I hope for all who come after me, that this will not be the last time you provide such a great opportunity.

It’s good to be back,



PASTOR'S EASTER NOTE:

I can’t let this Chimes go out without including at least a couple of comments and reminders about Easter. You might remember this section of 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Happy Anniversary!

29th Tom & Jessica Peterson 402-719-5408

Happy Birthday!

Kelsi Anderson	402-727-0740	03
Kelly Regier		03
Paul Foreman	402-719-4316	07
Tom Scott	402-525-6937	08
Cindi Dodd	402-727-7228	12
Dorothy Charleston	402-720-5238	14
Everett Moerker	402-721-4290	17
Mike Raasch	402-727-6854	22
Allie Hansen	402-720-9867	30



Our Friends Away from Home

NYE SQUARE APTS

650 W 21st St. Fremont	402-721-9224	
Dalton Benson	402-721-7717	#126
Wes Howe	402-721-4163	#133
Joan Sorensen	402-830-6519	#178

SHALIMAR GARDENS

749 E. 29th St. Fremont	402-721-1616	
Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046)		#219

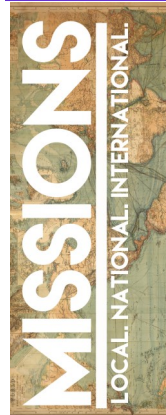
Edgewood Vista

2910 Clarkson St. Fremont	402-753-8800	
Mary Ann Paulger		#7
Paul Denny		



NYE SQUARE

655 W 23rd St. Fremont	402-721-9224	
Esther and Leonard Bechtel		#601



John C. Fremont Days is fast approaching!! As many of you are aware, one of our ministries is to hand out FREE books. We are currently in need of Gently Used or New **Christian** Books, Bibles, and especially Children's Bibles. All donations can be brought to the office. Thanks in advance!!!



Bible Puzzle*

Jesus said that anyone who puts his hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God. What Old Testament character ought to have listened to that advice? And, what two nations of people came into existence because that person did NOT heed the advice?

People's Puzzle*

This church member is pictured twice in the high school yearbook's senior photos—once as him/herself, and as part of a prank, a second time disguised as an imaginary student..

Answers Next Month*





This past month we were able to have our spring youth retreat! It was an incredible opportunity for our youth group to continue growing in their faith and understanding without fear of not having the finances thanks to your support with our fundraiser! Each one of the kids talked about what an excellent opportunity the youth retreat was as a get away and how impactful it was to be immersed in a Christian community. We had a student from our own youth group rededicate their life, we had multiple students from other groups rededicate their lives, and we had a student feel a call to ministry which was an incredible thing to be a part of! We thank you for your support and help in all that we do! We are getting ready this month for a lock in and our Easter Egg fundraiser! We would love your continued support and can't thank you enough for the lives you have changed with your support!!! Luke Chavanne



Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

In some of the writings of C.S. Lewis I have been reading, he mentions how the resurrection of Christ to new life is embedded in creation itself in so many ways. Outside my house as I write this, we have blooming the first crocus of the year. I think spring-time is the perfect time for the celebration of the resurrection, because in nature all around us we are witnessing a sort of resurrection taking place every day as the barren trees bud out and the flower bulbs send up shoots through the dry mulch, and brown grass begins to show green coloring at the base. Paul says the events of Holy Week and especially the resurrection are of "first importance." We are in the midst of remembering and celebrating the most important teaching of the Christian faith, and the most important event in all of history! In his book, The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel recounts an interview in which the theologian explains to Lee that this passage makes clear that the teaching about Jesus's death, burial and resurrection go back to the very roots of the church, back to the very beginning, and that when Paul and others were writing about it, witnesses were still around who had seen it themselves! The theologian also points out that not only these witnesses, but also many of those who opposed Jesus were also still alive as our New Testament was being written, and if what was being taught was not true, there would have been ample opportunity to prove that Jesus did NOT do the miracles, or produce the body and demonstrate that he did NOT rise from the dead....but they didn't, and they couldn't. I encourage you to take part in as many of our Holy Week activities as you can (schedule is in Chimes as well as Palm Sunday insert), and every time you see a flower blooming or a tree budding, thank God for resurrection...the resurrection of Jesus so long ago, and the resurrection all we believers will one day experience leading us into the eternal kingdom of God! --Richard

2023 Women's Bible Study FBC Fremont

Date	Woman
January 20	Hagar
February 25	Deborah
March 25	Huldah
April 29	Priscilla
May 20	Jezebel
(1 week earlier due to Memorial Day)	
June 24	Anna
July 29	Naomi
August 26	Abigail
September 30	Martha
October 30	Elizabeth

Pick Up your study guide from the church office or at any service

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
JEAN E. SYSWERDA
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

Last Saturday of each month
January - October
9:30 a.m.
FBC Fremont
Church Parlor



PRAYER TOURS! What is a prayer tour? This April we are embarking upon a new adventure of prayer for our community. It is super simple! Each time we gather for a Prayer Tour, all who participate will gather into a church van and we will be slowly driving through a selected neighborhood while we pray for the people who live there (it's okay if you don't like to pray out loud, you can pray silently).

"Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Matthew 18:19-20 esv

Vision Team Meeting: March 11, 2023

The meeting was attended by Joel Foreman, Betty Laughlin, John Mitchell, Marcia Hill, Eileen Cash, Randy Cash and Dorothy Charleston. Marcia opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.



Randy reported \$8,968.18 in the bank balance. The first of March it was down to \$3,300 so money from the Latens was used. No draw from the Endowment was made for the Sabbatical. Pastor Fred Daugherty was paid \$5,200 and Pastor Richard was paid \$2,200. Randy made a motion to draw \$7,500 from the Endowment. Marcia seconded and the vote on the motion passed.

\$230 was paid for 3rd floor repairs. \$1400 for a water heater and repairs in the Beacon and other maintenance in the Beacon is needed. \$4000 will be taken from the Memorials for those bills. Randy made a motion for that. Joel seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor.

4 monthly missionary checks to the State office have not been set up yet. The next round of Laten money will be used for that at the end of March.

Betty Laughlin reported cards are being sent by the Caring Ministry.

Marcia reported the Bingo Night was a huge success. Approximately 100 attended, including many parents. She thanked all who helped.

ABW- Eileen reported March 2 the program on Kodiak was most interesting. Jane Gangwish was our presenter. Barns made by Nola were eye catching centerpieces. Plans are in the making for J.C. Fremont Days. Eileen explained all of the available outreach activities and the choices we can make to help.

ABMen -Joel reported the men will serve Easter Breakfast on April 9. The men are paying for the memorial stone for our church which will be laid at Camp Moses Merrill. That cost will be \$195.

John Mitchell reported that Hank is contacting a smaller snow removal/yard maintenance company for an estimate. A monitor is up in the back of the sanctuary. Two televisions have been donated. The signage for the elevator will be helpful. The leak on the 3rd floor roof and cracks on the west wall of the addition have caused the sheeting to pull away from the building. McGinnis was here to make an estimate for repairs. The electric heater in the Family center has been repaired. The Beacon driveway and the east entrance to the Family Center are going to be repaired.

April Reading Plan



Day 1- 1 Corinthians 3: 9; 16-17
Day 2- 1 Corinthians 6: 17, 19-20
Day 3- 1 Corinthians 12: 27-31
Day 4- 1 John 4: 4, 16
Day 5- 1 John 5: 4, 11-12, 18
Day 6- 1 Peter 1: 3-5
Day 7- 2 Timothy 1: 7, 9-10

Day 15- Ephesians 4: 4-7; 32
Day 16- Ephesians 5: 17-20
Day 17- Galatians 3: 13-14
Day 18- Hebrews 2: 11; 4: 16
Day 19- James 4: 7
Day 20- John 1: 12-13
Day 21- John 15: 1-5, 15-16

Day 8- 2 Corinthians 1: 21-22
Day 9- 2 Corinthians 5: 17, 20-21
Day 10- Colossians 1: 13-14; 1:22
Day 11- Colossians 2: 7-10; 3: 3
Day 12- Ephesians 1: 1-4
Day 13- Ephesians 1: 5-10
Day 14- Ephesians 2: 8-10, 18

Day 22- Matthew 5: 13-16
Day 23- Philippians 3: 20-21
Day 24- Philippians 4: 6; 13, 19
Day 25- Revelation 1: 5-6; 12: 11
Day 26- Romans 5: 1-5; 11
Day 27- Romans 8: 1-4
Day 28- Romans 8: 11-14

Day 29- Romans 8: 15-17
Day 30- Romans 8: 28-32



“The prime need of the church is not men of money nor men of brains, but men of prayer.” E.M. Bounds

COMING SOON
ZOOM
BIBLE STUDY

NO ABW MEETING THIS MONTH

Monthly Meetings

April 10th - 11:00 am

Esther Circle

April 11th - 1:30 pm

Hannah Circle @ Arby's

April 27th - 12:30 pm

Naomi Circle

Ladies Day Out

April 22, 2023

9:45 am - Meet @ Church

- * Tour in Arlington
- * Lunch in Nickerson

If you are able please consider donating \$3 towards the cost of fuel.

Bible Book of the Month:
Jeremiah

American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

I ASKED GOD TO HELP ME GROW,

AND IT
STARTED TO
RAIN.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:5



Marcia reported that Luke will preach on the 19th and Pastor Richard will return on the 26th.



There being no further business Eileen closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Dorothy Charleston, Clerk

UPDATE: A congregational vote was held on March 19th to move the endowment funds to the American Baptist Foundation. It was passed with one "no" vote at the first service. The second service was unanimous with all "yes" votes.

PRAYER ROOM
WITH Pastor Richard

The First Saturday of the Month | 10:30-11:30 a.m.
The Third Wednesday of the Month | 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Whether you are in need of prayer, or are praying for those in need,

Pastor Richard invites you to *pray* with him.

NO appointment needed!

Thank You!

Thank you for all you thoughts and prayers after my sister Merri's passing. We can not thank you all enough got helping my nieces in this way. It meant a lot to them and our family.
Dale and Sherri Tharp



Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

PRAYER ROOM with PASTOR

Starting in April you will note on the church calendar certain times designated as "Prayer Room with Pastor" During that hour long time, Pastor will be at the church in the prayer room, and he invites you to come join in praying for our church, our community, and our nation. He also offers it as an opportunity for you to come requesting prayer, and those of us who are gathered will pray for YOU and the needs you are facing in life. Don't worry if you are a person who doesn't like to pray out loud, nobody is going to force you to do that....but come and join us in seeking God in the Prayer Room

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts." -- Zechariah 4:6b esv



APRIL 2023

It's always a good idea to verify times and places, Thanks!

Prayer Emphasis
**School Board,
 Teachers,
 Administration,
 Custodians, and all
 School Affiliates**

Go to God
 BE THE
GLORY

Cookies & Coffee
2 - Hannah
9 - Esther
16 - Mike Raasch
23 - Naomi
30 - ABM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. <i>-Psalm 37:4</i></p>						
<p>1 7am - ABM Bible Study 8am - ABM Breakfast 9am - Property Team</p> <p>10:30am - Prayer Room with Pastor</p>						
<p>2 Communion Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:30 - Traditional Service 11 am - Casual Service 5:30 Brown Bag Fellowship 6pm - The Chosen</p>	<p>3 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>5 9:30a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:30 - The Chosen NO FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>6 Maundy Thursday</p> <p>7pm - Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>7 Good Friday</p> <p>9am - Men's Coffee 12:15 - Good Friday Service 6:30 - The Chosen</p>	<p>8 8:50a - Personnel 9:30a - Vision Team 11:30 - Prayer Tour</p>
<p>9 Easter</p> <p>7am - Sunrise Service 8:30 - Pancake Breakfast 9:30 - Traditional Service 10:00- Pancake Breakfast 11 am - Casual Service</p>	<p>10 9am - Men's Coffee 11am - Esther Circle 7pm - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>11 1:30 Hannah Circle @ Arby's 7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>12 9:30a- Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15 pm - Meal 7pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>13 5:30 - Mat Weaving</p>	<p>14 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>15</p>
					FBYouth LOCK - IN	
<p>16 9:30 - Traditional Service 11 am - Casual Service</p> <p>5:30 Brown Bag Fellowship 6pm - Movie Night</p>	<p>17 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>19 9:30a - Women's Coffee 4:30pm - Prayer Room with Pastor 6:15 pm - Meal 7pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9am - Men's Coffee 6pm - Brown Bag Fun and Fellowship</p>	<p>22 9:45a Ladies Day Out</p>
<p>23 9:30 - Traditional Service 11 am - Casual Service</p>	<p>24 9am - Men's Coffee 7pm - Woodcarvers</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7pm - AA Meeting</p>	<p>26 9:30a - Women's Coffee</p> <p>6:15 pm - Meal 7pm - FBKids FBYouth 7pm - Bible Study</p>	<p>27 12:30 - Naomi Circle 5:30 - Mat Weaving</p>	<p>28 9am - Men's Coffee</p>	<p>29 9:30 - ABW Bible Study</p>
<p>30 9:30 - Traditional Service 11 am - Casual Service</p>						

