



Pastor Matt's Notes

Onward and Upward

I have to begin this month's letter with a word of thanks. As a congregation, you have provided tremendous support in our new start. Our attendance is at post-Covid highs, giving has been very generous, and we have been blessed by outstanding volunteer support. These first couple months, we intentionally kept an inward focus. We had to shore up our foundations, address some procedural issues and, perhaps most importantly, spend time enjoying one another's company.

But no church can last long looking in rather than out - that would be vanity. As we head toward the back half of summer, our focus will shift. Many fellowship opportunities will begin to take on a missional focus. We are making plans to work with and support the homeless, aid our schools, feed the hungry, share the Gospel, and care for the needy in our immediate community. In the first sermon of our series on John, I mentioned that the briefest summary of John's gospel would be something like "abide and go." We are called to live in Christ through study, prayer, worship and fellowship. But we are also called to carry Him with us, to go out into our community bearing witness to His light. The care and enthusiasm you have already shown is key in making these plans successful. We're a month past the summer solstice: as the days grow shorter, we have a duty to let His light shine brightly so that the bellies and the souls of those in need might be fed.

Ministry Updates

Music Ministry



Our church loves to sing! It is such a joy to hear our congregation lifting their hearts and voices every Sunday morning. Over the past several weeks our music ministry team has expanded, and we are thankful for the gifts and service of musicians in our church family. Several people have asked about the revival of our church choir. We are hoping to have the choir back up and running this fall, with the goal of singing a choir anthem once or twice a month. Please contact Walt or Amy Lindberg if you have any interest in serving on the music ministry team (singers, instrumentalists, sound room help, video streaming, etc.) or singing in the choir -- just talk to us on Sunday morning or send an email: waltandamymusic@gmail.com.

AWANA

Awana's purpose is to teach children to know of God's love for them through the Bible and lessons in their handbook. Our club is open to the community at no cost to participants. Handbooks, uniforms, and Bibles are provided at no cost. We meet each Sunday from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome to join.

Parents are always welcome to stay and help out.

For more information please feel free to contact the church or the AWANA Director.

More information is provided on the church website.

Register your children

online: <https://fbccrofton.org/awana>



Verse of the Month

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews. 13:15-16

AUGUST EVENTS

Tuesday, August 9
7:00 pm
Mission & Ministry Meeting

Sunday, August 14
11:00 am
Church Business Meeting

Tuesday, August 16
7:00 pm
Admin Group Meeting

Wednesday, August 17
6:30 pm
Outdoor Worship & Dinner

Friday, August 19
6:00 pm
Prayer Group Meeting

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Sundays

10:00 am Worship Service and Children's Classes
11:00 Fellowship
11:15 Bible Classes for Kids, Teens and Adults

Wednesdays

8:30 am Ladies' Breakfast
9:00 am Men's Breakfast

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, September 4
Back to Church Sunday
10:00 am Breakfast
11:00 am Church Worship

Sunday, September 11
Fall classes begin

Ministry Updates

Children's Corner

Our Children's Ministry

program has been busy this summer! We are excited to share what we are planning moving into the school year as we kick start our next chapter as FBCC Kids! Beginning September 11th, we will offer a Sunday School class at 10am for 3rd to 5th grade students. Our 3rd to 5th grade class will join the K-2nd grade class journeying through the New Testament. On the same Sunday, we will begin a new 8-week class at 11am for children in grades kindergarten to 5th grade called Move: Active Games for Active Faith.



Missions Ministry



What Happened?

- **VBS**

Our 35 volunteers ministered to 52 kids. Five children wanted to know about Jesus and one wants to be baptized.

- **Food Collected**

VBS kids collected 448 food items that were donated to the Crofton Food Bank.

What's Next?

- **Teacher Gift Bags**

We will be collecting snacks to make gift bags for the teachers of the Crofton Elementary schools. Stay tuned for details how you can help bless a teacher.

- **The Light House Dinners**

We will be serving dinner once a month at The Light House, a shelter for the homeless in Annapolis. We will need food prepared and then people to serve. Watch for a date to help with this ministry.

- **Operation Christmas Child**

Buy and donate some school supplies now while they are on sale. We will be packing boxes in November. Crayons, colored pencils, pencils & sharpener, pads of paper, watercolors, pencil box, erasers, glue stick, tape, stickers--any school supply that will fit in a shoe box.

- **Crofton Caring Food Bank**

Donate food and will take it to the food bank each week. Volunteer to help at the food bank.

Meet the McHales



John and Megan McHale came to First Baptist in 2016. They met at Frostburg State in 2010. After college, John joined the Coast Guard and Megan started working as a childcare director. While they were physically apart, they would talk through devotional books together over the phone to stay spiritually connected.

John's orders brought him back to Maryland in 2016, and they got married. They knew they wanted to have a church home where they could grow together and raise their children well. Pastor Bob's down-to-earth personality was part of what drew them to FBC. Megan says that they felt comfortable right away. "We felt like it's always been home." They soon learned that John's great-aunt, Pat Kraft, also attends First Baptist.

Now they have two girls, Quinn (3) and Clare (1). During the pandemic, they loved attending the outdoor services. Quinn is quite at home at First Baptist, confident in her Sunday School routines. John remains in the Coast Guard, and Megan continues to work part-time as a customer relations manager for an early childhood center. This summer the girls had a lot of fun on vacation, especially in the pool!

At home, John and Megan work through a marriage journal together weekly. The journal contains Scripture along with questions to build each other up (like, "What is something I can do for you this week? How can I pray for you?"). They say it helps them connect and refocus. They also are instilling spiritual habits with their girls, including regular readings from a Bible story book. Quinn is learning how to pray by practicing at mealtime and bedtime. It's so sweet to hear her say all the things she is thankful for!

SERMONS FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

August 7

Lazarus

John 11:17-44

August 14

Anointing the Feet

John 12:1-11

August 21

The King Comes

John 12:12-19

August 28

Washing Feet

John 13:1-19



August

3-Carter Chalgren

3-Wolfgang Friend

3-Grace McLaughlin

10-Rob Sharo

13-Daria Delizio

14-Jim Overmier

16-Richard Hickman

19-Katie McLaughlin

21-Larry Hackley

24-David Wheeler

26-Maxine Windhausen

27-Kevin Rhoads

30-George Rodman IV

Are we missing your birthday? Then fill out a Contact Form so we celebrate you, too! Use a paper Contact Form or log into our website. (fbccrofton.org)



- Workers to update the classrooms: painting, cleaning, organizing
- Two people to teach the 10:00 K-2 class once a month on Sundays
- Volunteers for the Missions and Ministry Committee
- Helpers for AWANA
- Teachers for the teen class--once a month
- A new church Treasurer

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