

# First Baptist Church

Build, Love, Grow Serve

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**Office Hours:** Monday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (Closed for lunch)      Friday: 9 am– 1:00  
402-721-1265



# AUGUST 2021



Lead Pastor Richard Crooks | Fremont, NE

## August 2021

[Pastor's Notes---\(continued from last month\)](#)



*If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame. The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him. —Proverbs 18:13 & 17*

This month, I would like to continue and conclude last month's topic, discussing logic and the importance of seeking civil and reasonable discourse in our society, where we as Christians have the ability to hear all sides of an issue, and to represent our own beliefs appropriately. Last month I mentioned the need to learn how to resist bullying and to be able to recognize fallacious arguments. At the same time, I think it wise to realize there probably never has been a time when society as a whole was always peaceful and respectful; after all, there were times in history when literal brawls broke out in the House of Representatives, and many an argument has been "settled" by means of a duel or showdown. Still, let us do what we can to contribute toward a positive atmosphere of discussion in our own portions of the society...both in person and online. When Jesus engaged society in his day, even he often used the rules of logic taught by the rabbis. We can, too.

Continuing our discussion then, let us begin with a couple of simple fallacies that are rampant. One is called Ad Populum, or the Appeal to Popular Opinion. This is the old, "everybody says so" argument. Just because most people believe something to be true, doesn't make it so. We simply need to remember that in Columbus's day, most people believed the earth to be flat. Sometimes truth rests with the minority opinion, and sound reasoning, not the numbers of people, are what we need to be our convincing factors. The second is the Hasty Generalization Fallacy. I remember a black pastor friend of mine who was frustrated with the fact that people assumed that because he was black, he always voted for Democrats, as if all black people think exactly the same. I see this not only in politics, but in how people perceive us as Christians. We all know there are some real looney-tunes out there who are highly visible and claim to represent Christ. All too often people see those folks and assume all Christians are dolts. We don't like it when people make such assumptions about us when we know they are not true; we need to be just as careful about making Hasty Generalizations about those with whom we disagree.

Have you ever been asked to participate in a poll or survey, and found yourself frustrated because the answers you were offered didn't fit? Such surveys are usually set up with only two possible answers to questions such as do you prefer this or that, or do you agree or disagree with this statement. And you may not like either answer. There are often logical fallacies that occur in these scenarios. One is called False Dichotomy or Either/Or Fallacy (and False Assumptions Fallacy may also be part of this), in which a question is posed as if there were only two answers. An example we could relate to might be, "Do you believe God loves everybody or do you believe some people are going to go to hell?" Obviously, the Christian faith historically treats both as true, and most

of us would not accept that it can be only one way or the other...we would want a different answer. The fault here also lies in the fact that there is the False Assumption that just because God loves someone, he would not let them choose to reject him or would not punish them for their sins. We know that to be false even from our own experience of punishing our children for bad behaviors, or the times we have chosen to be disobedient to God.

A very similar fallacy is sometimes called the Loaded Question Fallacy. It differs slightly from the False Dichotomy in that the desired outcome is built into the question (again, False Assumptions Fallacy can be a part of this). The classic illustration here is the question "Have you stopped beating your wife?" The built-in outcome is that, no matter how you answer, you will have admitted to beating your wife! And for someone to ask such a question, they may be basing it on the False Assumption that all men beat their wives. Again, this kind of question occurs a lot these days in surveys, polls, political discourse and in the realm of social issues such as racism, defunding the police, etc.

There are only three more I want to bring in, so you are almost to the end...I promise. They are relatively simple. One is called Post Hoc Fallacy (or False Causation). This kind of false argument is based on the premise that because event A occurs AFTER event B, then event A caused event B. In our location, it could be illustrated by someone claiming that the 2019 floods we experienced caused the COVID pandemic. This thinking leads to a lot of silly superstitions, but also avoids deeper thinking about things. For instance, if one claimed that the recent racial unrest/Black Lives Matter concerns were CAUSED by the George Floyd incident, one would be wrong, because while that may have been a gathering point for the protests, the cause has a much longer and deeper history than what occurred up in Minneapolis.

The last two are simple. First is the Argument from Silence. It is invalid to draw conclusions based on lack of evidence. An example could be when science claimed that the atom was the smallest particle because they had never proven anything smaller. Then they discovered protons, electrons and neutrons, and split the atom. Then they were the smallest, until they discovered neutrinos and quarks. We must always allow that there are things we do not yet know. And finally, a common fallacy is called Begging the Question (Circular Reasoning). Simply stated, it is where the conclusion is based on or assumes the premise. An example would be "Smoking cigarettes can kill you because cigarettes are deadly." That statement contains no logical argument, merely an assertion. The argument would be that they are deadly because smoking them destroys lung cells or cause cancer.

Why is this important at all? As you think about what you believe (remember thinking about what you think about?), being able to discern between hyped up arguments and sound reasoning is important. This skill is so needed in our world today, from COVID vaccines to institutional racism to tolerance for everything...not to mention the various assaults on the Christian faith and morals, we need to know why we believe and teach what we do, and that our beliefs stand on solid ground.

\*\*\*\*\*

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. --James 3:17*

Think about it! (P.S. There will be a final exam...it just won't be administered by ME!)



**Purposeful Pause**  
 WAITING ON GOD'S PERFECT TIMING  
 BIBLE READING PLAN & JOURNAL CHALLENGE

1. Isaiah 30:15-26	16. Psalm 25:1-5
2. Psalm 27:7-14	17. Psalm 25:6-12
3. Psalm 130:1-8	18. Psalm 25:13-18
4. Acts 1:1-8	19. Psalm 25:19-22
5. Micah 7:1-7	20. Psalm 31:17-24
6. Psalm 37:1-7	21. Psalm 52:5-9
7. Galatians 5:1-6	22. Psalm 62:1-6
8. Proverbs 8:23-36	23. Psalm 59:1-5
9. Titus 2:11-15	24. Psalm 59:6-10
10. Jude 1:20-25	25. Psalm 59:11-17
11. Isaiah 26:4-9	26. James 1:13-18
12. Isaiah 33:1-6	27. Isaiah 64:1-8
13. Lamentations 3:25-33	28. Psalm 69:1-6
14. Hosea 12:1-6	29. Psalm 69:7-13
15. Romans 8:19-27	30. Psalm 69:29-36
	31. Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
 You believe in God; believe also in me.  
**John 14:1**

**August Bible Puzzle:**

This famous biblical man had a large family, including six daughters. We are told the name of three of the girls, but not the other three. (Interestingly enough, none of names of the sons are known). One of the names is known as the name of a famous aunt. What was that daughter's name? (p.s. thanks to Yvonne Jessen for suggesting this month's puzzle)

**Peoples Puzzle:**

*(Answers provided next month)*

After this member's parents passed away, searching on the internet discovered that there was more to their family history than the parents had told, including the discovery that he/she had 4 sisters and 1 brother he/she never knew about.

**Bible Puzzle July:**

Moses is the one through whom God gave the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), and the other Ten was the Ten plagues that freed Israel from Egypt. The plagues are described in Exodus 7:14--12:32.

**Peoples Puzzle July**

The seamstress who loved sewing and taught her daughters how to sew and embroidery was recently deceased member, Laura Cook.



# Birthdays & Anniversary's

## Senior Residential/ Homebound

	<b>2</b>	Jerry & Roxanne Woodman
Doug Ritthaler	<b>4</b>	
	<b>6</b>	Leonard & Esther Bechtel
	<b>10</b>	Clarence & Trudy Reiss
Jim Peterson	<b>11</b>	
	<b>11</b>	Randy & Sue Rector
Alan Holzerland	<b>13</b>	
Bryan Ritthaler	<b>13</b>	
Jessica Peterson	<b>15</b>	
Avalyn Ward	<b>16</b>	
Nancy Stoltenberg	<b>18</b>	David & Cynthia Christensen
Richard Holmen	<b>18</b>	
	<b>20</b>	Richard & Beverly Holmen
	<b>20</b>	Hank & Amy Schollmeyer
	<b>21</b>	Dale & Sherri Tharp
	<b>25</b>	Alan & Shelly Holzerland
Rick Crytzer	<b>28</b>	
John Mitchell	<b>28</b>	
Sherri Tharp	<b>29</b>	

<b>NYE POINTE</b> 2700 Laverna St, Fremont 402-727-4900 Sharlene Wilkinson # 203
<b>NYE SQUARE APTS</b> 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 Charlie Wild 402-721-2158 # 130
<b>NYE COURT</b> 652 W 21 st Fremont 402-721-9224 Genny Peterson # 213
<b>PROVIDENCE PLACE 749 E 32nd</b> Dona Laten #11
<b>SHALIMAR GARDENS</b> 749 E. 29th St. Fremont, 402-721-1616 Harlan Waugh (402-753-8046) #219



Change of Address

Betty Adams  
655 W 23rd St. #T2  
Fremont NE, 68025



### Memory Lane Café

(Fremont's First Alzheimer's Café)

84 W 6th Street - Inside the Lighthouse



Our Mission is to provide a safe, welcoming social and educational environment for memory-compromised clients, caregivers and family members. Our goals include: making a new social contacts, exchange experiences, access information, enjoy our comfort dog-Katie, and a delicious snack and drink...Best of all its FREE!

Open the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month| 1:30 - 3:30

For questions of Suggestions, Contact Debbie Wolfe - 402-719-0726

August  
Bible Book of  
the Month:  
*Deuteronomy*

American Baptist  
**Women's**  
MINISTRIES

# ABWM

Thursday August 5, 2021  
1:30 p.m. FBC Parlor

## Meetings

*Esther*  
August 9-11:30 am.

*Hannah*  
August 10-1:30 pm.

*Naomi*  
August 26-12:30 pm.

With Special Guest  
Speaker  
Allison Foreman

"I am the VINE you  
are the BRANCHES"  
-John 15:5



## VISION TEAM MONTHLY REPORT JULY 17, 2021

Members present: Pastor Richard, Joel Foreman, June Cardwell, Marcia Hill, Mary Weldon, Eileen Cash, Randy Cash, Don Charleston, and Dorothy Charleston



The meeting was called order by Pastor. He opened with a reference to Revelation 22 referring to unending fruitfulness of life. In the new Heaven the Tree of Life bears fruit continually. Many people shared how God was working in their lives.

Don reported \$23,550 balance in the Paving Fund. He said a bid was approved by the Property committee from Pave the Way company for \$33,000 for concrete. This includes the area from the church building to the fence and East to the sidewalk. Don made a motion to approve \$33,000. Marcia seconded. The vote was unanimous in approval. They would start mid-August. Don made a second motion to approve a bid of \$7500 from Layman Paving of Omaha for asphalt on the parking lot. June seconded that motion and the vote was unanimously in favor. Strict reminders are that **NO SALT** shall be spread on these surfaces!

After reviewing another price for a different copier, they decided to stay with Fremont Office for \$68.88 per month. Don made the motion. Second was by Eileen. Motion carried.

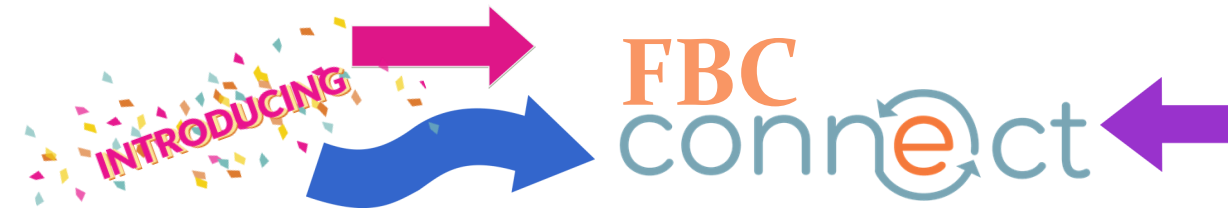
There was a leak in Beltone's office. Rod cleaned around the roof drain and is checking on replacement insulation and ceiling tiles.

Pest Pros has been hired for quarterly service.

Nola continues working on security cameras and setting up streaming for our regular church services.

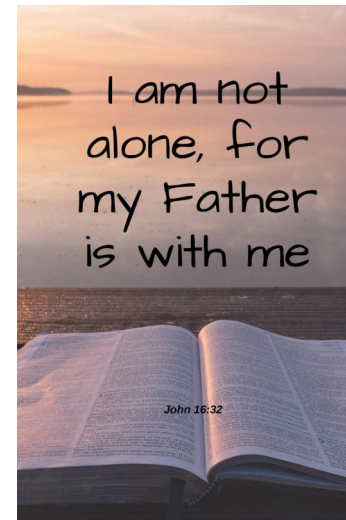
Randy reported balance of \$13,540 in the checking account. \$1,000 is being paid on the complex loan each month. \$5500 is the loan balance.

Randy also reported that the Regular Endowment balance is \$369,586.48. The Youth Endowment is \$61,784.27. Memorial Gifts has \$36,774.10. Expenses



Our prayer chain is undergoing redesign and updating. It will include everyone in the church, but instead of a prayer chain format, we will be recording the prayer message to call or text everyone directly. This will help ensure that people don't get missed, or end up spending hours trying to catch someone on the phone. It will also allow us to be able to alert the congregation when we have special announcements, such as cancellation or change in time of services. **Most people will automatically be signed up to receive messages as a text** (though some have requested a call instead). Some of you may prefer to continue to make personal phone calls in prayer chain format so you can pray together or visit. If you would like to do that, or want to change how you receive the information, please contact the church office.

**\*\*To get a prayer request on FBC Connect contact Mary Weldon, Jill Pochop, and the church office\*\***



Pastor Richard is hoping this fall to start building a network of faith sharing and growth groups to meet at various times and schedules. He believes there is a need for this as we welcome and integrate new folks into our midst. Please pray and consider whether God might want you be involved in this kind of ministry, whether as a participant, hosting, or as a leader. Contact the church office if you are interested or have questions.







Fall is on its way and that means **FBY and Kids Club** will be gathering. We are looking for those individuals that have a passion to serve in youth ministries. We are in need of volunteers to help with this special and unique ministry by spreading the gospel to the youth in our community. Please pray about how you might be able to help. For mor information Contact June Cardwell or Amity in the office, before September.



John C Fremont days is a special time of year. We love being out in the community, giving books and Bibles, sharing God's Love, and selling **HOTDOGS!!** Thank you to everyone for your donations, prayers, and support. We couldn't do it without you.



*Every Knee Shall Bow*



included a new computer, and \$2,345 labor and \$2,791 for parsonage windows from Memorials.

\$650 VBS expense was used from Youth Endowment.

June reported a successful VBS at MMCCC. She said Caleb will be back this Fall for Wednesday evening Youth leadership. They will be working on the Fall activities.

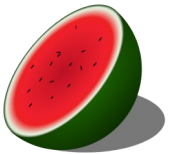
Joel reported a \$700 profit from JC Fremont Days. It will be divided between ABM and ABW. Damaged tent poles from the storm were replaced by Harbor Freight.

Eileen reported ABW honored Laverne Perkins for her many years of serving as church hostess. She received balloons, a bouquet of flowers, and many cards. Thank You, Laverne!

Pastor Richard reminded us of the Region Meeting here in October. He asked for hostess volunteers. He said the Prayer room would be moved to the Sunday School office for more convenient access. He said we need to be thinking of nominations for Fall, and new ways of outreach. He and Nola will be taking a few days off around Labor Day.

There being no further business, Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Charleston, clerk



As we move into fall, we are quickly approaching the time the church leadership teams receives new leaders. As we continue to develop and fine tune our attempt at a new structure, we want to encourage you to prayerfully consider if there is an area God might be wanting you to be more involved. If you have a particular interest, please feel free to discuss the possibilities with the Pastor, Amity at the office, or anyone on the Vision Team. As we serve, God moves!

*Through love serve one another. -Galatians 5:13*





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

# August 2021

## Prayer Emphasis:

Let us pray for all of our American Baptist missionaries, both home and around the globe, who are serving and working faithfully every day in God's name.

**Van Driver**  
**Bob Marsh**

**402-727-5302**

## Cookies

**1 Naomi**  
**8 ABM**  
**15 Hannah**  
**22 Esther**  
**29 Sign-Up Sunday**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1) 9:30: Traditional 11:30 Casual Service  <b>Communion</b>	2)	3) 8:00p Young & Sober	4) 5:30p Zoom Fellowship 7:00p Bible Study 8:00p sober & Crazy	5) 1:30p ABWM with guest speaker Allison Foreman	6)	7) 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a - Men's Breakfast 9:15a - Property Team Meeting
8) 9:30: Traditional 11:30 Casual Service  1:30-3:30 Memory Lane Café	9) 11:30 Esther Circle	10) 1:30 Hannah Circle 8:00p Young & Sober	11) 7:00p Bible Study 8:00p sober & Crazy	12)	13) 10:00a Nye Square Bible Study	14) 9:15a-Personnel 9:30a-Vision Team 8:00a-5:00p Lifeline Screening @ Family Center
15) 9:30: Traditional 11:30 Casual Service	16)	17) 8:00p Young & Sober	18) 5:30p Zoom Fellowship 7:00p Bible Study 8:00p sober & Crazy	19)	20)	21)
22) 9:30: Traditional 11:30 Casual Service  1:30-3:30 Memory Lane Café	23)	24) 8:00p Young & Sober	25) 7:00p Bible Study 8:00p sober & Crazy	26) 12:30 Naomi Circle	27) 10:00a Nye Square Bible Study	28)
29) 9:30: Traditional 11:30 Casual Service  6:00p Brown Bag Fellowship @FBC Family Center 7:00p MOVIE NIGHT	30)	31) 8:00p Young & Sober				