

BRIDGING THE GAP

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you. James 4:10



A Letter From Pastor Andy

It has been my privilege to be part of the Mission Council for the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). The Mission Council had their annual meeting on April 28 and I wanted to share some things we went over.

Our executive director, Wayne Faison, had each member evaluate the effectiveness of the BGAV on a scale of one to ten, with one being least effective and ten being most effective. He had us do the same evaluation on our church using the same scale. When the data was tabulated, the average effectiveness of the BGAV was rated at a 5.6 while the churches were rated at 5.7. Interestingly enough, the folks that gave the BGAV a higher rating, gave their church the lower rating, and vice versa. While the numbers are not great, it does show that the mission council is not using rose colored glasses to view the state of ministry in Virginia.

The question is: What are we going to do about it? We heard from the Mission Impact Team. Their take is that the old “build it and they will come” model is no longer working to attract people to the church. Instead, it is the development of relationships with people in the community.

One way this is being accomplished is through a new(ish) initiative called “Fresh Expressions”. One tenet of their ministry is the “Dinner Church”. Dinner church is relatively simple. The church opens its doors to the community for a free dinner. Since it is not seen as a “church service” by community members, more people are willing to darken the doors.

We also heard from the Disaster Relief group. A new initiative for tiny homes has just been implemented. This project will be great to help people in our community that lose their homes to fire or flooding.

Thank you all for supporting the mission of FBC St Paul and the BGAV!



Church Calendar

May

- 03: FBC Hosts Eastside High Baccalaureate Ceremony @3pm
- 05: Food Truck
- 07: National day of Prayer
- 10: Mothers day
- 13: WMU Meeting 6:30
- 18: VBS Training for Crew Leaders and Volunteers 6:30
- 19: Business Meeting 6:30
- 24: Last Day to Register for FUGE Camp! Two spots for Boys in grades 7-12 are available
- 25: Memorial Day

June

- 01-04: VBS 6pm-9pm
- 02: Food Truck
- 02: Deacon Meeting 6:30
- 05: VBS Pool Party 6-9pm
- 10: WMU Meeting 6:30
- 13-17: FUGE Camp
- 21: Fathers Day

Building & Grounds

- We installed a new in ear monitor for the contemporary worship leader. So far it has been very helpful.
- Our lighting technician is designing a stage lighting proposal for us. This lighting will ensure that the livestream looks as vibrant on the screen as it does in person. In today's age of internet presence, we have to consider both the in house participants and the at home participants. Like I like to say, Covid turned us all into televangelists!
- The decision has been made to move the administration offices up to the parsonage. We will begin moving after Vacation Bible School. The library will be moved to the old administration office, and the clothing closet will move to the library's location. This will allow for an expansion of the fellowship hall and allows the food bank to stay in its current location.
- There is always room for one more. If you want to help, please let Larry or me know!

Scripture of the Month

*A man's heart plans his way,
but the LORD determines his steps.
-Proverbs 16:9*



Graduations are coming up!

If you would like to highlight a graduating senior during the worship service in June, please send a photo, graduating info, plans for the next chapter, and a life verse to:

danaia.wood@stpaulfirstbaptist.com.

Hangout is on a Break!

Our last Bible study is May 17 from 5-7. After that we will take a summer break until our End of Summer Pool Party on Aug 2.

We look forward to our MFUGE with 13 students from our church and Eastside's FCS group. Please pray for their hearts to be open and their minds ready to be transformed during camp!

They will be given a mission project in Asheville, NC. This is the first time our Hangout will be on Mission! Our goal is to raise enough funds for all students to attend without paying.

Our dessert auctions and spaghetti dinner raised enough to cover nine spots.

Our final fundraiser is SPONSOR A CAMP SPOT.

It costs \$350 for a person to attend camp.

If you would like to contribute to FUGE, please mark your giving "Funding FUGE" on an envelope and leave in the offering plate. Anyone who cannot attend church, but wants to give can contact Dania Wood for information. Thank you for loving our teens!!

Upcoming Hangout Events:

May 31 - VBS Prep Party

June 13-17: FUGE Camp

Aug 2 Pool party 6-9



KID'S CORNER

Babies-6th grade

VBS 2026 Mark Your Calendars!

June 1-5

6:00-9:00pm

Grades PreK-5th grade



Wednesday Night Kid's Club

As we wrap up our school year in Kid's club, we are excited to share the wonderful themes from our Simply Loved Bible studies!

We have learned:

- God helps us to be brave
- God guides us

We look forward to VBS where we will take an adventure with God's word into the Rainforest!

Hopefully, there will be many new friends to explore with us!

Children's Church &

Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	Children's Church	Nursery	Pre-K
May 3	9am-Ann 11am-Terri	9am-Melissa 10am-Melissa	9am-Cindy 10am-Cindy
May 10	9am-Wanda 11am-Alana	9am-Vickie 10am-Ann	9am-Kelli 10am-Kelli
May 17	9am-Terri 11am-Terri	9am-Vickie 10am-Wanda	9am-Cindy 10am-Cindy
May 24	9am-Alana 11am-Alana	9am-Melissa 10am-Melissa	9am-Cindy 10am-Cindy
May 31	9am-Dania 11am-Dania	9am-Terri 10am-Alana	9:00-Kelli 10am-Kelli



ALWAYS ON MISSION

FBC FOOD BANK

Anytime there are donations of canned food, they can be left in the fellowship hall. Please mark donations "Food Bank." There are also Donation boxes in the coffee room.

Our Food Bank loves canned veggies, pasta, peanut butter, and canned meats!

When can you volunteer?

The Food Bank is open on the 1st/3rd Tuesday's 9-11:00.



The truck deliveries usually come the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30am



MARCH MISSIONARIES

Please keep these missionaries in your prayers as they reach the lost all over the world

Michael and Alicia Grigsby
-Phoenix, AZ

Samuel and Emily Copeland
-Chicago, IL

Luke and Karin Bylsma
-Salt Lake City, UT

Greg and Grace Gibson
-Chantilly, VA

Simon and Kristen Jackson
-Bettondorf, IA

WMU: WOMEN ON MISSION

FBC women meet monthly in the 1st Wed of the month at 5:30. We have a time of prayer, a devotion, and discuss mission opportunities in the area. Please consider joining us!

MAY OCC DONATIONS:



WASH CLOTHS,
CHILDRENS SOCKS,
S, M, L CHILDRENS
T-SHIRTS, SMALL
TOYS FOR BOYS AND
GIRLS, SMALL
STUFFED ANIMALS

YOU CAN LEAVE DONATIONS IN THE RED OCC BOXES IN THE COFFEE ROOM OR VESTIBULE.



ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING THIS MONTH!

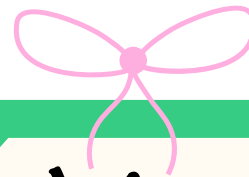
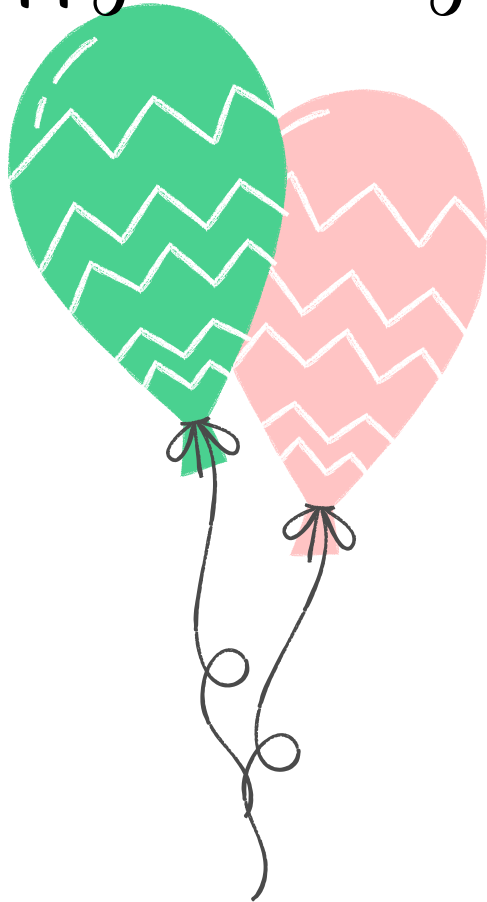
MAY

OUR GOAL THIS YEAR IS
1500.00
PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS
OFFERING AND ALL IT DOES TO
REACH UNSAVED PEOPLE
THROUGH ITS MISSIONARIES
HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

*"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."*

Matthew 28:19 NLT

Happy Birthday!!



MAY

- 13- Jeff Cook
- 15- Christy Church
- 17-Ann Worley
- 23-Dustin Blackson
- 29-Charlotte Gross
- 30-Jordan Summers
- 31-Glenna McReynolds
- 31-Ellen Stewart Maloney



FBC Weekly Opportunities:

Sunday 5:00: Choir practice

Sunday 5:00 Youth "Hangout" 6th-12th grade

Monday 1:00 Yoga with Glenna -Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 9:00 Food bank (1st & 3rd Tue of the month)

Wednesday 6:30 Bible Study & Bible Club K-5th grade(Aug-May)

May Children's Volunteers



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May 3	9am-Ann 11am-Terri	9am-Melissa 10am-Melissa	9am-Cindy 10am-Cindy
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