



The HUB

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF INVERNESS

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The HUB

July 2024

FOLLOWING GOD PRAYERFULLY AND PASSIONATELY!

Check Your L.I.S.T.

During 2024, we are reminded to “Check Your L.I.S.T.” in the church.
L.I.S.T. stands for “Love one another, Invest in one another, and Serve one another... Together.”
So, how is your L.I.S.T. going so far?

As we enter the month of July with fireworks and patriotic celebrations, I cannot help but reflect on the word ‘freedom.’ Freedom is defined as ‘the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint; absences of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government; the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.’ Independence Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the freedom we enjoy as a nation. Because of the sacrifices of many brave men and women, we live in freedom in the past and present. I have yet, as a U.S. citizen, to begin the day with concerns that I might be imprisoned for my beliefs, be persecuted for disagreeing with government leaders, or lose a family member to the whims of ungodly rulers. It helps to consider the alternative to living in freedom to appreciate what we have.

The greatest freedom that we enjoy is the freedom we have in Jesus Christ. We were enslaved to our sinful natures, without hope, and without God. “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ” (Eph 2:4-5). By paying the greatest sacrifice of all, Jesus bought our freedom for us.

Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1, “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Jesus did not save us so we could live in bondage. Being released from our prison, it would be foolish to leave the jail and only return voluntarily. Living in freedom in Christ is the daily joy of abiding in the Savior and being free from our lives before Jesus.

If we don’t exercise our rights as citizens, we are not living in freedom as we were liberated to do. It is possible to be free in Christ and still live in bondage to the things of the old life. Rather than enjoy living in the grace of God, we can get trapped in legalistic demands or license to believe we can live against God without consequences.

Live in Freedom! Then, by the grace of God: *Love, Invest, Serve, Together* for others to do the same!

By His Grace!
Pastor Byron

Contact Pastor Byron at byron@fbcinverness.com.

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Worship Ministry



I write a devotional for our Worship Ministry each week (or try to), and I was encouraged to send this one out to a broader audience...

Even though it is written with the Worship Team in mind, it applies to all of us!

HEALING DIVISION THROUGH WORSHIP: Finding Common Ground

Scripture

Psalm 133:1 *"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"*

Devotional

As Lead Worshipers, we are called to bring people together in worship, but we also know that division and conflict can exist within our congregations. Psalm 133:1 reminds us that "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" This verse reminds us that unity is a desirable state, and that it is something that we should strive for within our congregations.

One of the ways we can work towards unity is by addressing division and conflict head on. It's important to acknowledge that division and conflict can exist and that it's okay to talk about it, rather than ignoring it. We should always strive to be a peacemaker, and to find common ground with those who may disagree with us. Another way to work towards unity is by focusing on what unites us, rather than what divides us. In worship, we come together to worship and praise God, and this is something that should bring us together. By focusing on our shared beliefs and values, we can find common ground and work towards healing division.

Worship can also be used as a powerful tool for healing division. By singing songs of praise and worship, we can remind ourselves of our shared beliefs and values, and it can help us to let go of our differences. Additionally, by listening to sermons that focus on love, forgiveness, and unity, we can be reminded of the importance of living in harmony with one another.

As worship leaders, let us strive to create an environment where people can come together in worship, and where division and conflict can be healed. Let us focus on what unites us, rather than what divides us, and let us use worship as a powerful tool for healing division.

Reflection Questions

- How have you experienced division in your worship team or community?
- In what ways can worship be used as a tool for healing division?
- How can you actively work towards unity within your worship team or community?
- In what ways can you model forgiveness and reconciliation in your worship leadership?

Prayer

Dear Lord, as worship leaders, help us to work towards unity within our congregations. Give us wisdom in addressing division and conflict, and help us to focus on what unites us, rather than what divides us. Use worship as a powerful tool for healing division and remind us of the importance of living in harmony with one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Contact Pastor John at john@fbciverness.com

Birthdays

Deets, Warren	7/1	Coburn, Tish	7/16	Wilson, Emmett	7/27
Jordan, Keith	7/2	Johnson, Jim	7/17	Carter, James	7/28
Norris, Cheyanne	7/2	Schaffer, Hailey	7/17	Harris, Marella	7/28
Ross, Athena	7/4	Turner, Jeannine	7/18	Vaughn, Katie	7/29
Saltmarsh, Jim	7/5	Cernich, Jim	7/19	Dileo, Matt	7/30
Hensley, Melanie	7/7	Edens, Ann	7/19	Evers, Gil	7/30
Poore, Jan	7/6	McGahey, Franee	7/19	Jones, Shirley	7/30
Adams, Betty	7/8	Pullen, Brittany	7/19	Mansfield, Kyle	7/30
Jordan, Ken	7/8	Theroux, Joe	7/19	Tong, Randy	7/30
Elliott, Dick	7/9	Van Dong, Lisa	7/19	Cignoni, Sharon	7/31
Kunze, Michael	7/9	Vaughn, Abby	7/19	Gavin, Marge	7/31
Ingram, Shirlee	7/11	Edens, Dave	7/20	Newbould, Donna	7/31
Main, Sybil	7/12	Bruening, Marge	7/23	Osborne, Roger	7/31
Gormsen, Benjamin	7/13	Norrid, Troy	7/23	Shields, Mary	7/31
Dodd, York	7/14	Ramos, Heather	7/25	Williams, Jovanna	7/31
Scriven, Aniyah	7/15	Boese, Tim	7/26		
Clark, Ed	7/16	Perko, Caleb	7/26		

Thank You Note

I got a quilt! I never thought that I would be the recipient of such a wonderful gift. It is beautiful. Thank you ladies. Your talented work and ministry brought me great joy and comfort.
May Jesus Christ be praised to the glory of God the Father!
Kathy Kunze

Grace Christian School



Grace Christian School is accepting applications for Fall for students in 6th—8th grade. If you have any questions go to <https://www.gracechristianinverness.org> or Call or Text 352-586-3517.

**PROSPECTIVE FAMILY INFORMATIONAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 11TH AT 6:30 PM**



We will have a Prayer Walk for VBS on Wednesday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm. There will be no service or other activities.

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th.

Welcome To The Family

New Church Members
Mike & Sherry Locklear
Kyle & Kayla Mansfield
Brylee Ross

Financial Updates

Giving May 2024	
Operating Revenue	\$55,757.40
Operating Expense	\$51,148.66
	\$ 4,608.74

Giving Year to Date 2024	
Operating Revenue	\$354,558.51
Operating Expense	\$343,319.54
	\$ 11,238.97

Memorials & Honors

In Honor of Jerry & Suzanne McFarlin
For: India Mission Trip
From: Liz Cooper

In Memory of Marian Minyard
For: Operation Christmas Child
From: Flo Hayward

In Memory of Jim Smith (Kim Stuart's Father)
For: Operation Christmas Child
From: Flo Hayward
From: JoEllen Allen

In Memory of Chuck Jackson
For: Youth Camp
From: Ray & LaVerne Morrison

In Memory of Ronnie White (Larry White's Brother)
For: Operation Christmas Child
From: Flo Hayward

In Honor of Brian & Rebecca Doy's 6th Anniversary
For: Mailbox Bible Club
From: Ray & LaVerne Morrison

In Honor of Jana Morgan & The Women's Ministry for the lovely tea
For: Mailbox Bible Club
From: Ray & LaVerne Morrison

In Memory of Joseph E. Capo, in what would have been his 100th Birthday on April 23rd
From: Bev Capo & Family
(The name in the June Newsletter was incorrect. I apologize for any confusion due to the error.)

Mission Team



Hello! Namaste! ¡Hola!

Did I catch your attention? Awesome! This is the Mission ministry here at First Baptist! I wanted to update everyone on some awesome things that will be happening in the coming months! We, as a team, after a lot of prayer and discussion are planning some mission trips!

Pastor Byron will be going to India in August! We as a church have an opportunity to sponsor an evangelistic meeting to over 5,000 people while he is there!

There will also be a trip to the Dominican Republic November 29th-December 4th! This trip focuses on helping women and children who have been rescued out of human trafficking circumstances.

These trips seem far out but they will sneak up on us fast! First and foremost, please bathe all these trips in prayer! Pray for those who have a heart to go out. Pray for those who are already out on the field. Pray for the men, women, and children that will be reached from these groups.

I'd also like to thank everyone for their prayers for the Guatemala mission trip! The trip didn't go exactly as the team had thought, but it was all in God's plan! They still very much enjoyed the trip! Their testimonies of the trip are amazing to hear! So thank you again for praying! Keep Push the Rock in prayers! Can't wait to see what God has planned next!

May God's grace and love be on everyone involved!

~Mission Team

Mission Trip To India



MISSION VOICE
NETWORK

Please continue to pray for Pastor Byron's trip to India with the Mission Voice Network in August. He will be part of a small group of Pastors training area home church leaders.

They are raising money to host an open-air Gospel meeting with over 5,000 people attending. The cost is \$14,000 (that is less than \$3 a person for people who may have never heard the Gospel before). If you would like to help with expenses for this opportunity, please designate it on your offering.

Please pray for the safety of Pastor Byron, the other missionaries, and for the Mission Voice Network open-air gospel meeting in India on September 1st. MVN church planters and church members from the surrounding area continue to go daily to prayer walk & pray over the grounds where the evangelistic meeting will be held. A team of prayer warriors will travel to the area 2 weeks prior to the event to fast and pray continuously. A tent will be set up behind the platform and prayer warriors will be praying during the event. The Holy Spirit is sure to reap a harvest of souls for His Kingdom that night. Even now many thousands are fasting & praying for the leadership meetings in Delhi & Chennai. Let us and others join them in prayer.

Children's Ministry

Hello First Baptist Church Family,

Matt, the new Children's Director here! I just want to fill you in on what is going on in Kingdom Kids! And just in case you were wondering or you haven't heard yet... YES! That is the new name for our children's ministry! More specifically, "Kingdom Kids of First Baptist." Simple, yet to the point. And it's a change we are excited about! It really encompasses our vision and goal as a children's ministry, which is to **steward** the children that the **Lord** brings along our path by helping them understand the **nature** of God's Kingdom, the **promises** of Gods kingdom, and the **hope** of God's kingdom.

But before I mention the few things going on in Kingdom Kids, allow me to expound on this **vision** for our children's ministry...

When you think of the things that help you **trust** someone, what do you think of???

Three things come to my mind, as I've just alluded to... You will **trust** someone when you **know** their **character**, when you **know** they will stand by what they **say**, and when you **know** the **good** that will come from being **connected** to them... And it's no different with God and His Kingdom. His **nature**, His **promises**, and the **hope** for what is to come are all things that allow us to **trust** Him. And it's not until we **trust** Him, that we will be settled on living for **His Kingdom**, letting **our will** be sifted and molded by **His will**. It's only when we **trust** Him that we will want to be about our Heavenly Father's business. This is our drive for children's ministry! The real discipleship should be happening in the **home**, but our goal is for **this discipleship, this trust in Jesus** to be evermore solidified in the hearts and minds of our young people when we are **all together** doing what we do as the body of Christ! We read in Luke 2 of a time when Jesus as a kid was accidentally left behind in Jerusalem after the feast of Passover. It was a total of **3 days** that Jesus had been separated from His parents. And out of all the things Jesus could have been doing during that time, all the **distractions** He could have been deterred by, or even the amount of **panic and worry** that could have come over him, we read that when He was found, He was found not worried and panicked, but **secure**... and not distracted, but **focused**... and not alone, but **connected**. And when Jesus was confronted by His parents as to why He was not with them, He said, *"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"*

Wow! There's so much to be said here, but suffice it to say, Jesus... as a kid... set an amazing example of what it is to be a "Kingdom Kid."

He found His identity, security and work in the Kingdom of God!

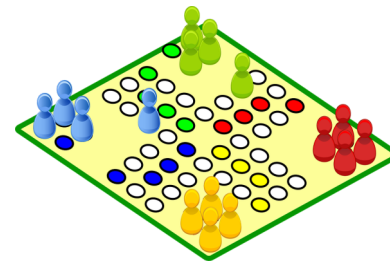
What an example to follow! I pray for our children's ministry. I pray for our church families' homes, that we would be so **IN LOVE** with Jesus and His kingdom that we prioritize our **identity, security** and **work** coming from Him and for Him! AMEN!

So, with this vision in mind, here's what's new in Kingdom Kids of First Baptist!

Mainly, our new format is a children's worship service that is element-driven, just like the adult service. And we will continue with PEACE this week as we go through the FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT!

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Game Day



There will be no Game Day on Tuesday, July 9th due to VBS.

Game Day is the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from Noon to 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite game and lunch. Beverages will be provided. Invite your friends to come with you to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and games. Please contact Jana Morgan at 580-467-6106 with questions.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child



On what biblical principles is Operation Christmas Child based? The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of all nations.

The following verses are foundation to this vision:

- "Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14, ESV).
- "Make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19)
- "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14).
- "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb'" (Rev. 7:9-10)

Join us each Thursday at 12 noon (come when you can and stay as long as you can) as we prepare for our annual Packing Party!

Question: Would you like to have two Packing Parties this year? One during the day and the one at night? This would give the people who don't drive at night the amazing opportunity to pack shoeboxes. Please leave me your comments in the box on the OCC table.

God's Blessings!
Sandy Watson
863-261-3119
sandywatson44@gmail.com

Ministry of Warmth



Greetings from the Ministry of Warmth!

Psalm 100:1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. (NIV)

Come and join us as we knit and crochet items for the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and for local ministries, reaching other with God's love.

We meet every Thursday afternoon 2:00—4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. For more information or questions, please contact Willie Howe at 352-726-1252.

In preparation for VBS, our last day to meet will be June 27th. We will meet again beginning July 18th.

Mailbox Bible Club



ACTIVITY REPORT May 31, 2024

The Mailbox Club ministry continues to enroll new students. All of our students are referred to us by other students or by family and friends of current students. We have the capacity to process more lessons than we currently are processing each month. If any of our church members know of someone who is incarcerated and would like to invite them to study with us, please contact us. All we need is their location and ID number.

We also encourage you to let us know if you have family and friends who are not incarcerated but would like to study with us. We have curriculum for all ages, even children as they are beginning to learn to read.

Our team graded 145 lessons in May. We awarded certificates to 9 students who had completed a lesson series. Two students told us that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior after they joined our club. We currently have 115 active students.

We are not permitted to send our prayer request forms with the lessons, so our prayer team is praying for the requests that may be written on the returning answer sheets.

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Here's what that service looks like in order:

- ⇒ 10:25 START COUNTDOWN - 5:00
- ⇒ WELCOME! (FIRST TIIMERS AND THOSE WHO BROUGHT THEM – TREASURE VAULT AT END!)
- ⇒ Ping Pong Pile Up – bring Bible, remember memory verse, testimony of doing the challenge from previous week, etc. - Fill the container and get special things. Use your ping pong balls early to get small stuff or build up your amount of ping pong balls for BIGGER stuff!
- ⇒ BIRTHDAYS FIRST WEEK OF MONTH – SING “Happy Birthday” AND PRAY FOR B-DAY KIDS
- ⇒ GAME - **Looking for MOST CHRIST LIKE BEHAVIOR**
- ⇒ PRAYER/PRAISE TIME
- ⇒ 2 Leader-Led Praise Songs – TALK THROUGH LYRICS and HAND MOTIONS
- ⇒ Offering: Give to support MISSIONS – GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER; WE GIVE NOT OUT OF COMPULSION BUT AS WE ARE ABLE FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, SUPPORTING HIS KINGDOM!
- ⇒ Transition Song - “Gods True Word”
- ⇒ Leader-Led Sermon by Mr. Matt: OBJECT LESSON! MEMORY VERSE! CHALLENGE!
- ⇒ MEMORY VERSE SONG
- ⇒ 2-3 Testimonies: WHAT HAS GOD BEEN TEACHING YOU? HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE OTHERS AS THEY FOLLOW JESUS? TIME OF SHARING and ENCOURAGEMENT
- ⇒ BUDDY PRAYER TIME - FIND A BUDDY AND PRAY WITH THEM (As Mr. Matt Leads)
- ⇒ CRAFT
- ⇒ **TREASURE VAULT!!!!**
- ⇒ DISMISS

As you can see there's a lot that we pack into our time together! It is broken up into a series of shorter segments to keep attention and to hit on all the things that God says **church should be!** With kids, there is always a need for special attention to the **balance** of obedience and fun. Having 5 boys myself, I like to believe that I understand this balance very well. There's a time for **work**; there's a time for **play**; there's a time for being **goofy**, and there's a time for being **serious**. And there is **beauty in balance!** And what makes balance beautiful is that **balance allows for the right perspective and it allows for us to grow in discernment/ wisdom...** what is good, why it's good, and when it's good! And this **wisdom** is part of the fruit that **ought to be** bore in each of our lives, even at a young age!

I personally love every part of our service, although I might be a little biased! But if I had to pick my favorite part, the moments when I see the light bulb turn on in the kids' eyes, regardless of what segment we are in, are definitely my favorite! For example, the kids understanding that character is built in the times of testing or difficulties, not when we are doing fun stuff... **LIGHT BULB!** The times when kids volunteer to get up and give an encouraging word to their peers... **LIGHT BULB!** The times when they sit with one another and pray for one another, and they enjoy doing it... **LIGHT BULB!** It is so awesome to see the Kingdom Kids love God and love one another in this way!

Even though I purposely make things more fun for these kids, I'm being careful to explain why all that we do as the Body of Christ is **for** Jesus and is meant to **point others to** Jesus! Because it really is all about **HIM!** The fact that we get to enjoy **His goodness** and **His design** for creation, **His design** for the church and relationships throughout all the different contexts of our lives only speaks to how much He loves us and how full of purpose He is! It's all so intertwined!

And We are so excited for all that God is doing in and through our church!

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Continued from Page 5.

Things to look forward to as we continue the transition with Kingdom Kids include:

- SOON TO COME >>>> Sunday 9:00 am - Kingdom Kids PRIMER. TBD
 - ◇ Purpose of **KINGDOM KIDS PRIMER** is to have Christ-centered, character-driven fellowship for kids in a coordinated and fun environment! We as leaders want to be able to love on them, build trust with them and have fun with them! But we also want to help grow their character in a **shoulder-to-shoulder** setting, holding them accountable to **Christ-like behavior!**
 - ◇ FOR ALL KIDS BUT WE HAVE IN MIND ALL THE KIDS THAT HAVE PARENTS WHO GO TO A 9:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
 - ◇ As humble correction and fun-filled fellowship take root, **Kingdom Kids** will development a balanced expectation of **respect** and **excitement** together with God's people!
 - ◇ We want **Kingdom Kids** to have this perspective...
 - ◆ *"Fellowship is Gods good design. It is a gift that I get to take part in when I obey my leaders and respect those around me. Disobedience breaks fellowship, displeases God, and takes away my fun. So, obedience first, fun second!"*
- SOON TO COME >>>> Family Fun Days/Family Picnics TBD
 - ◇ Potentially once a month or once every other month we will have a day for families to simply enjoy fellowship and hangout on church grounds, taking advantage of the amenities!
- SOON TO COME >>>> PICK UP GAMES!!!! PLENTY OF SPORT'S FIELD TO GO AROUND! THINKING ABOUT STARTING WITH ULTIMATE FRISBEE AND SEE WHERE IT GOES!

Once again, I am thankful for all that God is doing and for all the churches support through this transition. May the Lord bless His church from the abundant riches of HIS grace!

For His Kingdom,

Matthew Pullen, Children's Director of Kingdom Kids

Contact Matt Pullen at matt@fbcinverness.com

VBS



Come join us on our Great Jungle Journey!
Start time is at 5:00 pm with a family dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Then it's off to

The Great Jungle Journey:
An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation.

We will cruise through jungle rivers, making stops at seven ports of call along the way—each starting with a C. These represent seven key biblical events—the 7 C's of History.

Register now at www.fbcinverness.com under EVENTS or on the FBC Inverness Facebook page.

Email: childrensministry@fbcinverness.com

There will be a Prayer Walk for VBS on Wednesday, July 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Women's Ministry



How great is our God! Do you know the song?
How great is our God! Sing with me, how great is our God.
And all will see. How great, how great is our God!

As we come together as a church body to worship, we can truly sing His praises. His work through His children at FBI is all for His glory. It is wonderful to watch how He is blessing all ministries within our church. Women's Ministry is no different. He has taught us so much the first half of this year. We've Studied Hebrews. We've learned how to apply God's Word to our lives to be mentally healthy. We've celebrated our Ladies Tea for a second year. And we have donated more than was asked of sheets and mattress protectors for the Royal Family Kids Camp for foster children.

The next half of the year will be just as profitable. Gayle will lead a study entitled Gospel on the Ground by Kristi McKlelland. Women's Ministry will have a new look. We will roll out the new logo in September at our beginning-of-school brunch. You'll want to come to make sure you are in the know – to make sure you are involved using the talents God has given you. Here's a hint. You, my sisters, are very special to our Father, to our church, and especially to the women with whom we come in contact.

The Reflections Conference for Women this year will be held at Lake Yale on October 4-6, 2024. Pam Tebow will be the featured speaker, author of Hope for a Woman's Heart and Ripple Effects. Pam has been married to her husband Bob Tebow since June 12, 1971. They have five children. Probably the most famous child is her son Tim. They were missionaries in Southeast Asia when she contracted amoebic dysentery. She was hospitalized and given large doses of strong antibiotics, unaware she was pregnant at the time. The heavy medications caused significant problems with her pregnancy. They were encouraged to abort the baby for her safety, and because they were concerned the baby could be born with defects. Pam and her husband chose to keep their baby and instead of abortion, turned to God in prayer. It was a difficult pregnancy and Tim Tebow was born malnourished. He now stands at 6'3" and 245 pounds, a testimony to answered prayer.

Come join us for this incredible weekend!

October 4, 5, 6.

Total cost is \$225 for double occupancy. All meals provided.

Please contact Jana Morgan (580-467-6106 or by email womensministry@fbcinverness.com) for more information or to reserve your spot.

We have a limited number of rooms available. Don't delay! Scholarships are available.