

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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April 23, 2024



Dessert Auction & Pasta Dinner

Sunday, April 28, 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall

Calling all bakers and fancy dessert makers! This special event that helps our youth and children go to camp is back! Please bring a dessert to auction to benefit our students ages 3rd through 12th grade who are participating in summer activities such as camps/retreats. Everyone come out and support our youth and enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship.

Mother's Day Noisy Offering

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12, and we will be collecting our Noisy Offering during our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, which goes to the Children's Home every year. We love our noisy change, but quiet money is good too!



REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

When I first started in full-time ministry, I was a youth minister. (Truth be told, my plan was to remain a youth minister, but that's not the way the calling went.) This was down in Coastal Georgia and I wriggled my way into a peer group because I needed it. We would gather together every so often and just talk about ministry. That's part of what I needed. I needed a group of people who did what I did, knew the unique struggles of that work, and maybe had another perspective on the task.

When I was first called to be a pastor in a small farming community in South Georgia, I did the same. I met with two other Methodist pastors in my community and every once in a while 2 other CBF pastors within an hour's drive. But I needed that community and camaraderie, especially as someone new to the task of preaching weekly and being the final word in every room of the church house. That's what it meant to be a preacher down there.

When I came to Oak Ridge, it was so different. I was invited to a peer group within my first month or two. I found a group of pastors all here in Oak Ridge, all within 15 minutes of each other. I was also invited to a local CBF pastors group that met at Central Baptist Church Bearden. Both of those groups were lively, thriving groups and in both cases I found not only people who shared a job description with me but people who actually think about life and ministry pretty close to the ways that I do. I have far more in common with the members of both of these groups than in the others I had previously. And that has made a tremendous difference in my outlook and longevity in ministry. I have friends elsewhere who are hurting and limping in ministry. Sometimes I wonder if that would have been me if I didn't have the connections that I do here in this place - people who understand and approach life and ministry the ways that I do.

To that end, I want to invite you to something that I'm helping to arrange this year. Every year, the Tennessee CBF has what's called a General Assembly. It's a peer group for Baptists who look like us from all across the state of Tennessee. This year, we're gathering at Central Baptist Church Bearden on September 20-21. It's local! I'd like to invite you to come and connect with other people who approach life and ministry in much the same way that we do here at FBC. I want you to do that because I know the difference those connections can make. I'll share more with you as we get a little closer, but for now put it on your calendar and make an intention to connect.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

*"And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in"*

This has to be one of Christendom's favorite hymns of all time. It is in fact so popular and so familiar and so frequently sung that its depth and profound content can be elusive.

One thing that stands out about this hymn for me is the spontaneous bursting forth in song described in the refrain. The writer (and singer) goes on about the awesome realization of what God has made and what God has done and the ultimate reaction is for the soul to sing, "How great Thou art!" What an appropriate and fulfilling reaction!

Creation sparks the first flame. It is said that Carl Boberg, who wrote the Swedish poem on which this hymn is based, penned these words after experiencing a thunderstorm. I resonate with that for, since childhood, I have found a profound sense of awe and amazement at the power of storms and the realization that the power on display in a dramatic storm - that same power is behind God's love for us.

The worlds thy hands have made, the stars, rolling thunder, woods and forest glades, birds, brook, gentle breeze. Says the songwriter, "when I see and experience these wonders, my very soul bursts forth in a song about 'how great you are.'"

And in that alone there is plenty of hymn. But Boberg goes further. Much further. Creation is its own awesomeness. But then, "when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in." Talk about astonishing awesomeness! It is almost beyond comprehension.

And finally, the singer/writer takes hold of God's ultimate offering: Christ coming to take me home. It all provokes the same profound response: my proclamation of how great thou art! In view of all that God has done and what He has in store, the outpouring of praise is unstoppable.

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" *by Carl Boberg*

In Christ, *Tim*

LIBRARY LINES

In a recent sermon, Rory spoke of the healing that can come through participating in a 12-step program. There are more than 30 programs that are based on the set of guiding principles originally developed by Alcoholics Anonymous for recovery from addictive, compulsive, or other behavioral problems. The library has a copy of *Alcoholics Anonymous*, "The Big Book," as it is called, and the call number for this invaluable resource is 362.293 Alc.

MAY FBCFBC

On Monday, May 6, our church's book club will be discussing *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. Linda Williamson will lead our discussion of this book, which tells of the disastrous fire that burned for more than seven hours in the Los Angeles Public Library. This took place on April 29, 1986. By the time the fire was extinguished, it had consumed *four hundred thousand books* and damaged seven hundred thousand more. The author chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role libraries play in our lives. Orlean reflects on her own experiences in libraries and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, an actor long suspected of setting that fire. Along the way, she introduces us to an unforgettable cast of characters from libraries past and present. This story by a master journalist reminds us that, perhaps especially in the digital age, libraries are more necessary than ever. You are invited to join us at 12:30 in the library for the discussion of this book. Contact Dianne May at diannemaylibrary@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

May Fellowship Table

The next Fellowship Table is Friday, May 10, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone in our community is invited but tickets are \$5 each and should preferably be purchased in advance and will be sold immediately before and after Worship Service April 28th & May 5th. The main entrée will be pork chops. Come as early as 11:30 a.m. and enjoy fellowship around hors d'oeuvres, although serving of the meal will not begin until 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Stoutland at (812) 774-5151 (text allowed) or rutherfordjanice91@yahoo.com.

Calling All Graduates!

Do you have a graduating senior in your family? Now is your chance to share that news with your First Baptist Church Family. Simply email any information about your graduate to the church at fbcoffice@fbcoakridge.org or call the church office at (865) 483-4615. Please include the student's full name, his/her connection to First Baptist, when and from what school he/she is graduating, and any other important information. We will publish the graduates' names in the June 6th First Light.

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Diane Williams. Robert May. Jim Gibson. Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Johelen Stephenson. Liane Aldridge (Mary Jane Williams' daughter). Kaye Wimberly (Lois Scott's neighbor). Katie Vogel (Johelen Stephenson's friend). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Barbara Pruett (Karen McCall's friend). Larry Carter. Ray Roach (Tim Bounds' brother-in-law). Stephen Bethinger (Anna King's nephew). Jackie Laney's dad, Barney. Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Diane Ray's friend, Donna. Mark Ebeler (friend of Carol O'Shaughnessy). Tammy Lee (Kay Smith's sister). Adrian Flory. Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Kay Smith. Michael Turnbull (Lela Moore's brother-in-law). Roy Smith (Carl Smith's father). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Frances Darnell (Diane Qualls' mother). Richard Evans. Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew). Debra & Mark Belvin's neighbor. Mary Jane Williams. Ginger Tevault (Ginny Bowers' friend). Lynn Satterfield (Gary Giles' sister).



Meetings: Council & Committee

FINANCE MEETING

Sunday, May 5, 2:00 p.m./RM. 105

TRUSTEE MEETING

Monday, May 6, 7:00 p.m./RM. 105

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m./RM 105

DEACONS MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 3:30 p.m./RM 105

Children's Ministry

VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Nursery 11:00 a.m. FUN DAY - Gigi Naeve

Children's Church FUN DAY - Gigi Naeve

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Nursery 11:00 a.m. . Ginny Bowers & Meghan Bowers

Children's Church Brenda Story & Karen McCall

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Tedi Newman & Angie Walls

Children's Church Lela Moore & Susan Williams

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:00 PM Personnel Mtg./RM. 105 5:30 PM [ORCBand /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	3 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym]	4 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
5 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship & Communion 2:00 PM Finance Mtg./RM.105 3:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL.	6 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:30 PM FBCFBC/Library 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] 7:00 PM Trustee Mtg./RM. 105 ~FIRST LIGHT~	7 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] 7:00 PM -9:00 PM [Y.P.'s Theater Rehearsal/FH]	8 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCBand /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	10 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:00 PM Fellowship Table	11 9:00 AM [Ecumenical Storehouse Pickup] 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
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19 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM Church Council Mtg./RM.105 3:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 3:30 PM Deacons Meeting/RM.105 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL. <div>[OSU Rowing Team-gym]</div>	20 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Library Mtg. 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] ~FIRST LIGHT~	21 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] 7:00 PM -9:00 PM [Y.P.'s Theater Rehearsal/FH]	22 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCBand /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	24 9:00 AM -11:30 AM [Pickleball/gym]	25 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
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