

The Lamplighter

First Baptist Church of North East

September 2020

Newsletter

Vol. 52 No. 1

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are still in the middle of the Covid-19 Crisis, but we are in the process of reopening. Many of you have been able to safely worship with us on Sunday mornings, as well as Wednesday nights. There is truly something special about being together in person. And absence has only made it all the better and sweeter. So many have been working hard, to make it the best it can be. The Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center staff also continues to safely serve our community as well. We are now allowed to have 55 of our 84 children back in our facility. We have a long way to go, but we are on this journey together. I know it has been hard on everyone, but thanks so much for your faithfulness and gracious understanding with all the changes.



No doubt, the next few months will bring us closer to normal; I hope. We will continue to modify our protocols in accord with Gov. Hogan's executive orders and requests. As Christians we are citizens of the USA as well God's kingdom. Jesus told us to "render unto Caesar," so we are trying to do our best to comply.

So far we have not felt comfortable with restarting Sunday School or the children's and youth group ministries. Vacation Bible School and Youth Camp have been canceled this summer, sad to say. As the situation in our state improves, as it seems to be doing, we will be able to reinstate these various essential activities. Please be patient as we are treading on difficult and unknown territory.

I encourage myself knowing that God is still in control and none of this has caught Him by surprise. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). I wonder **how** God will work out good, but not whether or not He will. Paul told the Philippians that all the problems that he was unjustly experiencing had "really served to advance the gospel" (Phil. 1:12). (continued on page 2)

—STAYING— CONNECTED

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The Lamplighter

Published 10 times a year.

An electronic version of our newsletter is available on our website as a pdf file and may be emailed to you upon request. It will be emailed to you instead of a mailed, printed copy.

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Ryan Wagner

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays	
2	Eunice Veasey
3	Grace Cann
3	Everett Goins
5	John Carr
5	Tom Shores
6	Nancy Hudler
6	Vincent Marvel
7	Alice Marvel
10	Ruby Perry
17	Charles Hodanics
17	Christopher Johnson-Aremu
18	Bob Brown
18	Abigail Mears
20	Kevin Barker
21	Eliana Moyer
23	Duane Combs
26	Chrissy Hilaman
29	Kyleigh Lotman

September Anniversaries	
3	Ray & Brenda Sommers - 60th
8	Sonny & Sara Hayes
15	Craig & Tina Hudler
19	Charles & Camille Hodanics
23	Andrew & Chrissy Norton
24	Thomas & Brenda Beman

October *Lamplighter* articles are due no later than Sun, Sept 20th. Please email articles to fbcne@verizon.net or see Jess Wagner.

(Pastor's Letter, continued from page 1)

It may well be that God is accomplishing things in this crisis that otherwise would not have happened. I believe that. Paul said, "Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice" (Phil. 1:18). If he could rejoice while unjustly imprisoned and chained for preaching the gospel, we can rejoice in this crisis too. God is working.

We have not been able to have monthly business meetings, but the deacons have continued to meet and serve. We have organized our church membership so that each deacon has a specific responsibility to about 15 families. They should have contacted you by now, so you know that they are your primary contact. Of course, you can and should feel free to call me or Pastor Dan as well. It is just another way to do.

We have not tried to form the nominating committee yet this year. So many things have had to be put on hold, so we implore all of you who have responsibilities within the church to just continue to serve. If you cannot, please let me know. We will try to reinstate various functions of the church as the situation warrants it. Our youth associate, Tim Bayer and his family, have gone to The Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. We are so happy for him to be able to pursue this next step in preparation for ministry. We will miss you Brother Tim and promise to pray for you. I hope to stay in contact and have him back to preach sometime.

I have been preaching through the book of Philippians this summer. I hope you all have been able to participate with us, either in person or online. If not, we are providing CDs to anyone who requests it. Paul ends this prison epistle with a thank you to the Philippians for their generous offering to support the Lord's work. He says, "You sent me aid again and again when I was in need. Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account." (4:16-17). In a similar fashion let me thank all of you who have been able and willing

(continued on page 5)

LOVE IN A SHOE BOX

This year, 2020, has certainly been a challenging year. It is so different than the world we are accustom to. As far as Operation Christmas Child is concerned, we are committed to collecting shoe boxes and trying to stay as normal as possible. Each shoe box gift becomes a tangible expression of God’s love for a child in real need.

National Collection Week will be November 16 - November 23. We would like you to have your shoe boxes here by Sunday, November 15th for a special time of prayer and dedication. First Baptist Church of North East will continue to be a drop-off location for this area. Precautions will be taken, to keep staff and volunteers safe.

We invite you to be a part of this heartwarming ministry. As you pack you shoe box(es), do it with love and prayers. Sending a shoe box is participating in the Great Commission. You are taking the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Mark 16:15.) We also encourage you to include a personalized note and perhaps a photo in your shoe box(es).

We will soon have pre-printed, cardboard and plastic shoe boxes available, or you may use a shoe box of your own. If you do use your own, we encourage you to giftwrap it; wrapping the bottom and the lid separately. Also, plastic shoe boxes, of good (flexible) quality may be used. The brochures, which give you the information you should need, should also be here soon. These include the labels to be taped to the lid of your box, and an envelop for your check for shipping charges. The charge for each box is still \$9 per box. If you are doing more than one box, you can write one check for the full amount. Place the check(s) in the envelop provided (or one of your own envelopes) and place it on the top of your filled shoe box, just under the lid. If you wish (and many of us are doing this), you can pay the shipping online and print out your labels, to be taped to the lid of your shoe box. Each label has a bar code. After the boxes have been processed, you will receive an email telling you where you box(es) have been sent.



Just a reminder, the age groups are as follows:

BOYS - 2-4	GIRLS - 2-4
5-9	5-9
10-14	10-14

(FYI: Boys 10-14 is one of the least packed for age groups.)

If you are interested in volunteering during Collection Week, the times are as follows:

- ♦ Monday, November 16 - Saturday, November 21: 9am to 4pm
- ♦ Sunday, November 22: 1pm to 3pm
- ♦ Monday, November 23: 8am to 12pm

This will complete the first step of sending the love of Jesus all over the world. From here, the boxes will be processed at the processing center in Baltimore. Some members have taken part in this step, and have been so blessed by it.

(continued on page 4)

(Shoe box, continued from pg 3)

From Baltimore, the shoe boxes will be distributed to many different countries, where OCC works with national Christians, to distribute the shoeboxes into their towns and villages. Some of these areas are extremely remote, and it will be the first time the children have heard about Jesus.

It is exciting to learn how God is using these shoe boxes to demonstrate His love to the children and their families. Many lives have been changed because of them, and to know that we can have a part is so humbling.

After a child receives a shoe box, there is a follow-up. They are taught twelve lessons titled “The Greatest Journey,” about Jesus and how to share the good news. More than a million teachers world-wide have been trained to lead The Greatest Journey, in their communities.

Join us then, in packing shoe boxes!!

Written by Nancy Hudler



Attention Shoe Box Packers!

Recently, my cousin who does beautiful woodwork, carved and donated around 100 wooden vehicles to Operation Christmas Child. They are available to anyone who would like to pack on in their shoe box. There are cars, trucks, planes, and a few train engines. If you are interested in packing one in your shoebox, please contact me (Nancy Hudler) and we can make arrangements.



Let brotherly love continue.

Hebrews 13:1, ESV

During times like these where there seems to be division around every corner, please remember that we are all sons and daughters of our heavenly Father. We are sisters & brothers in Christ. We need to love each other as Christ loves us... unconditionally. We should not fight, but rather have abundant grace and mercy for one another.

Trusting God to Lead the Way

Summer is quickly coming to an end here at JLMCC. It has been a challenge trying to incorporate Covid-19 guidelines while providing an environment where the children can have fun and enjoy their summer. Social distancing, constant disinfecting, and masks have become part of our day to day routine. The staff did a great job bringing the fun to each day and the children have been having a great time. JLMCC only had to shut down once for four days due to a "runny nose and cough". After a Covid-19 test it was found to be a false alarm. Praise Jesus for negative test results! We are praying that is the only time we have to close our doors due to Covid-19.

Beginning on September 1, JLMCC is about to do a new thing. Due to Cecil County Public Schools deciding that children will not be physically returning to school, JLMCC will now become "school" for our twenty-eight school-age children. Our teachers are gearing up for Virtual Learning! We will be facilitating Virtual Learning for two classrooms of fourteen children each. Along with our usual Bible lessons there will now be math classes, science classes, reading, social studies, art, and music. This will all be done online with the help of Chromebooks and Google Classroom. The teachers are decorating their classrooms to reflect their new purpose, learning! Don't worry. We will still be bringing the fun! Lots of games and play time will still be happening each and every day!

We would ask that you keep out staff, the children, and their families in prayer. Pray that the teachers can find patience and confidence to tackle this overwhelming challenge! Pray that the children will begin to understand the new role JLMCC will be playing and that they focus and cooperate with the new expectations. And pray for the parents, who will be doing part of the Virtual Learning at home, after work, and Dinner, and BATHS, Oh My! It makes me tired just thinking about it!

This has been a year of new things, firsts, and never before! Face masks, virtual learning, social distancing, quarantine, screenings, and.... the list is too overwhelming to complete! I am so glad that we serve a God who already knows what we need, has a plan, and is working it all out ahead of us! THAT is what gives us the ability to rise to this challenge. We will NOT be doing it alone! God goes before us, paving the way! Clearing the path! Calming the storm! So, bring on the new school year! We are trusting God to provide ALL of what we need!

In His Service,

Sandy Jackson

Director, Jesus Loves Me Childcare Center

Planning the Budget

**Finance Committee Meeting
scheduled for Sat. Sept. 19th
@ 10am, to start discussing
the 2021 Budget.**

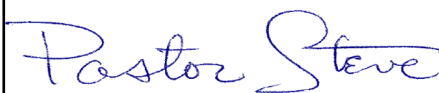
**ATTN church leaders: If you
have any input for the 2021
budget, please contact Kathy
Gray. Thank you.**

(Pastor's Letter, cont. from pg 2)

to continue your faithful giving to the Lord's work throughout this crisis. We are behind our budget, but all bills and salaries have been paid! Praise the Lord.

Paul called their giving "a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Then he said that familiar verse, that which I'm sure all of you know, "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (4:19). No one of us knows exactly what is ahead, but we can know our God will provide our needs. Praise His holy name.

Your brother in Christ,



Dr. Stephen Hokuf





Please join us in prayer, for the upcoming school year.

Gracious Heavenly Father,

As the 2020/2021 school year begins, we pray for our administrators, teachers, support staff, virtual learning facilitators, students and parents. Please help them all have grace with one another, peace in knowing that You are in control, and health and safety not only from the virus, but also the emotional toll that many have experienced as a result.

All these things we pray in Your name. Amen.

First Baptist Church of North East
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES/EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE: At this time, the Sun 10:30am service & Wed 6:30pm Bible study are the only services that are active. We will update our website as other services start to resume.

Sunday

8:30am	WORSHIP
9:20am	Breakfast <i>(1st Sun, monthly)</i>
9:30am	📖 Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30am	WORSHIP/Children's Worship

Tuesday

6pm	🎵 Praise & Worship Team Practice
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Wednesday

6:30pm	Kids' Klub
6:30pm	Youth
6:30-7:30pm	📖 Prayer/Bible Study
	BUSINESS Mtg <i>(2nd Wed—after Prayer Mtg)</i>

Thursday

10am	Fold Lamplighter <i>(Last Thurs of the month)</i>
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Budget/Attendance Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly
Average as of 8/23/2020
(34 weeks): **\$3,494**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,820**

Budget Status: **-\$11,093**

Maintenance/Building
Repairs Fund: **\$3,645**

PARKING LOT FUND:

Received to date: **\$43,550**
Church goal: **\$47,745**

Average morning worship
attendance: **N/A**

