

The Lamplighter



First Baptist Church of North East

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 9

JUNE 2021

Weekly Services & Group Meetings

Sunday

8:30a: Worship Service

9:30a: Sunday School/Bible Study (classes available for Preschool through Adult)

10:30a: Worship Service & Children's Worship

5:30p-7:30p: Youth (grades 6 through 12)

Wednesday

6:30p: Kids' Klub

6:30p: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Monthly Business Meeting immediately to follow, 2nd Wed. of each month)

Thursday

10a: Ladies' Prayer Circle

From the Pastor's Desk...

Dear church family,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today. Our dear brother and friend, Rev. Phil Meekins, went home to his eternal reward this past week. He had been in the hospital for 2 weeks with complications from Covid-19. Hundreds of us had been praying for him, along with people from all over the internet and the country. Let us all be praying now for his family and church.

Phil had been coming to our church since 1999. He rededicated his life to Jesus at his mother's funeral. He was never the same man once he made that commitment. For over a decade he served in our church as a Sunday School teacher and youth director. He also became a Trustee and then a Deacon. I think he was willing to do anything God led him do. It was 2011 when we ordained him to the gospel ministry and sent him out to start a new church.

In the last 10 years, with the help of God Almighty, he has been faithful to that charge. Today, the church known as *New Beginnings*, is a vibrant witness in our whole community. My hope and prayer is that those in that body of believers will continue that work which has only just begun. Let us all remember to pray for his wife, Karen, and his children and grandchildren as well. They will surely be grieving his untimely death for a long time to come.

God knows what is best and we can trust Him to see them all through this difficult and confusing time. It can be a wakeup call for each one of us. Moses' prayer in Psalm 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. None of us knows how long our days on earth will be,

(Pastor's Letter, continued on page 2)



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chris Johnson
- 2 David Bibey
Cheryl Marvel
- 3 Richard Culver
Karen Jackson
- 4 Peter Keyes, Sr.
- 5 Stephanie Jones
- 8 Tina Hudler
- 11 Ethan Bayer
- 13 Chandis Johnson
- 14 Vincent Sklodowski
- 17 Addison Hokuf
- 18 John Cavanagh
Eula Harrington
- 24 James Area
- 27 Beverly Poff
- 28 Laura (Hokuf) Moyer
Anmarie Walsh
- 29 Edward Hobson
Isabella Reeder

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ron & Mary K. Parks
Ralph, III & Eunice Veasey
- 5 Daniel & Mary Mohler
- 7 Jack & Ruth (Mash) Pusey
- 8 Daniel & Carol Neall
- 10 Kurt & Erica Hudler
- 12 Charlie & Gail Hook
- 14 Eric & Sandy Jackson
- 16 John & Mille Bee Cavanagh
- 17 Dale & Stephanie Jones
- 20 Brad & Chrissy Grant
- 24 Jim & Marsha Hall

(Pastor's Letter, continued from page 1) so we should live with an urgency that keeps us faithful to God every day of our life. Someday each one of us will stand before the Supreme Judge of the universe to give an account of the things we have done, whether good or bad (2 Cor. 5:10). That, to me is one of the most sobering realities in the whole of Scripture. If you are a born-again believer in Christ, you do not have to fear condemnation, but you will have to give an account. More than anything else I want to hear Jesus say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord." (Matt. 25:23).

Let us all recommit ourselves to do all that God calls us to do, for as long as He leaves us here on this earth. May we, like Paul, be able to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." (2 Tim. 4:7).

God bless you all,

Your brother in Christ Jesus our Lord,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pastor Steve'.

Pastor Steve



Associate Pastor Dan Mohler & his wife Mary, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 5th. Happy Anniversary to the two of you & wishes for many more years to come.

Fifty Years

All I can say after fifty years of marriage is that I have been the luckiest man alive. You have been a wonderful wife. How is it that we have been married fifty years, when you don't even look fifty? I don't know about you, but I am ready for another fifty. How about you?

When I told you on the beach, in Hawaii, that I wanted you all for myself, I had no idea how you would enrich and fulfill my life.

We have seen the beaches of Hawaii, the sands of the Middle East, the forests of Alaska and the mountains of the Rockies; time to set sail for our next adventure.

Now where are those passports?

(Associate Pastor Dan Mohler)



Don't Miss the Joy

It's been a while since I have written an article for the *Lamplighter*. There have been a variety of emotions that could be used to describe the last few months. Let me give you a visual of our last few months at JLMCC. Imagine someone tells you that you are going to take a ride on a roller coaster, even though you have a strong dislike for roller coasters. They are NOT in your comfort zone! As you wait in line, you eventually approach the coaster with nervous anticipation and excitement. We all need to challenge ourselves to step out of our comfort zones from time to time, so you convince yourself to get on the ride. The attendant comes and buckles you in. This action brings you right to the doorway of fear and doubt. How am I going to survive this? Why did I agree to do this?! And the ride hasn't even left the loading station yet! All of a sudden, you are moving and it's now too late to get off! All you can do is ride it out. And PRAY! And somehow along the way, even though you are scared and feel completely out of control of your situation, the wind begins to blow across your face and you find moments of joy. Pure, exhilarating, JOY! It's like Jesus is right in the seat next to you!

It's in THAT moment that you realize that even in what seems to be one of the scariest times you have ever been through, God sees fit to bring joy into the middle of it. And in doing this, He also reminds you that He was right there with you the WHOLE time! (continued on page 4)

The First Annual

GOLF FORE LIFE TOURNAMENT

June 21, 2021
Starting at 9AM

Chesapeake Bay Golf Club
128 Karen Drive
Rising Sun, MD

For registration and sponsorship, visit this website:
<https://events.golfstatus.com/event/a83190ac-1cd0-4436-9f42-dd52f9a7c4a8/details/registration-details>



SCAN ME

Golfers:
\$400 Team
\$100 Single Golfer

Sponsorship:
\$100 Hole Sponsorship
\$250 Beverage Cart Sponsorship
\$500 Scorecard Sponsorship

We know what Dad wants
for Father's Day this year!

All proceeds go directly to the Cecil
County Pregnancy and Resource Center



Please join us in celebrating our graduates! Congratulations Class of 2021!

College Graduates

- *Brooke Bare, Cecil College School of Nursing
- *Anna Hokuf, Towson University
- *Morgan Sommers, Elizabethtown College

High School Graduates

- *Anthony Barber, Tri-State Christian Academy
- *Kayla Lewis, Elkton High School
- *Lilly Mears, North East High School
- *Delaney Sommers, Patterson Mill High School
- *Sabrina VanVoorhis, Providence Christian Academy
- *James Veasey, North East High School



(Don't Miss the Joy, continued from page 3) The joy can show up in a variety of ways. It could be an unexpected visit from a distant family member, a favorite song on the radio, lunch with your son or daughter, a nest of birds hatching in your tree, or a much-needed laugh session with a dear friend.

And THAT is what we have experienced here at JLMCC! God brought the JOY! Our enrollment has not recovered as quickly as we had hoped, and resources were getting uncomfortably low. We trimmed our expenses, cut staff hours where we could, and PRAYED that God would provide! And He did!! In HIS perfect timing! I was made aware of a childcare grant being offered through MSDE back in the middle of March 2021. I, along with Kathy Gray, got all the required paperwork together and I submitted the application at the end of March. And we waited..... Just last week we received a grant check in the mail that was for more than I had expected or hoped it would be! I was so overwhelmed that I actually giggled out loud and teared up, all at the same time! I know it may sound silly, but I kind of pictured God giggling with me when He saw my reaction. After all, the Bible tells us that He delights in us! *"For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory."* (Psalm 149:4.)

This money will supply our needs as our enrollment grows and we continue our mission to bring Jesus to the families of our community! God is SO good! Just what we needed, right when we needed it most! It's not the money that brings me joy. It's the idea that God knows exactly what we need, when we need it! And that gives me pure JOY to see how He continues to provide, even in the moments when we are surrounded by anticipation, fear, and doubt.

Be sure to look around you for the Joy that only God can provide! It's there! You don't want to miss it!

Blessings to ALL!

Sandy Jackson



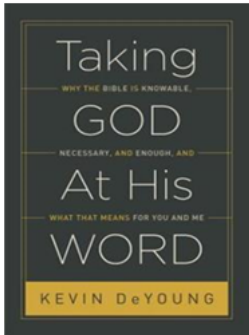
I want to encourage my youth (and any adults) to join me this summer in reading a few books. These selections are designed to both grow you spiritually, and provide you with some tools to help and encourage you in your Christian walk. Our first book, Kevin DeYoung's *Taking God At His Word* is a great book for any age, but well-suited for younger readers.

Taking God at His Word tackles difficult questions like 'how do we trust the Bible completely?' and 'Is God's Word sufficient for our seemingly complicated lives?' You will not be disappointed by this book. It is one of my most favorite books.

In Christ, Pastor James

2021 Young Adult Summer Reading List: Book #1

Taking God at His Word
By Kevin DeYoung



You can order on Amazon for \$6.00, or see me if you want to borrow a copy



sun	mon	tues	wed	Thurs	Fri	sat
30 NO YOUTH	31	1	2 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub	3	4	5 8a-9:30a: Men's Breakfast & Bible Study followed by Deacon's Mtg in Education wing.
6 5:30p: Youth	7	8	9 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study & Business Meeting 6:30p: Kids Klub	10	11	12
13 5:30p: Youth	14	15	16 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub	17	18	19
20 FATHER'S DAY July/August 2021 Lamplighter articles due! NO YOUTH	21	22	23 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub	24	25	26
27 James Area is preaching. 5:30p: Youth	28	29	30 6:30p: Prayer/Bible Study 6:30p: Kids Klub	1	2	3

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." **Ephesians 6:4**

SAY YES!!!

Date: Sunday, August 1 to
Thursday, August 5

Time: 6 to 8:30pm.

Registering those entering
Kindergarten in the fall, to
those that have completed
6th grade.



TO VBS!!!

Please visit our website to
register. Pre-registration is
highly recommended and
appreciated. www.fbcne.org
Call 410-287-6247 or email
fbcne@verizon.net, with
any questions.



First Baptist Church of North East
206 Mechanics Valley Road
North East, MD 21901

★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ Non-Profit Org. ★
★ U.S. Postage ★
★ PAID ★
★ North East, MD ★
★ 21901 ★
★ Permit No. 19 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Baby Bottle

Boomerang Campaign

Our baby bottle drive is
coming to completion this
month. Please return all filled
(and unfilled) baby bottles by
Sunday, June 20th. All
monies collected in the
bottles will go directly to the
Cecil County Pregnancy and
Resource Center.

July/August 2021
Lamplighter articles are
due no later than Sunday,
June 20th. Please email
articles to Jess Wagner @
fbcne@verizon.net.

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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Dr. Stephen D. Hokuf, Pastor
Dan Mohler, Associate Pastor
James Area, Youth Pastor

Jess Wagner,
Editor/Ministry Assistant

Budget Analysis

Budget/General Fund Weekly
Average as of 4/25/2021

(17 weeks): **\$3,413**

Needed Weekly: **\$3,897**

Budget Status: **-\$6,594**

Maintenance/Building Repairs
Fund: **\$4,150**

Building Fund for New Garage:

Received to date: **\$660**

Church goal: **TBD**

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Received (closed): **\$1,980**

Church Goal: **\$1,400**

To give online, please visit
www.fbcne.org/give/