



He hath made every thing
beautiful in his time
— Ecclesiastes 3:11

 OWENTON FIRST BAPTIST

"To be found faithful as God's People."

The First Family

MARCH 2023

FROM YOUR PASTOR

EQUIPPED

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head-Christ- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth to the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

This passage in Ephesians 4:11-16 reminds of the role that pastors and teachers play in the life of the church as *equipping* agents. Note with me the first area, **Equipped to Discern**: The believer individually and believers corporately should be equipped to discern between truth and error. I John 4:1 states that we are to “test the spirits whether they are of God or not.” The believers in Berea, Acts 17:10-11, were esteemed because they “searched the scriptures daily to find whether these things were true or not.”

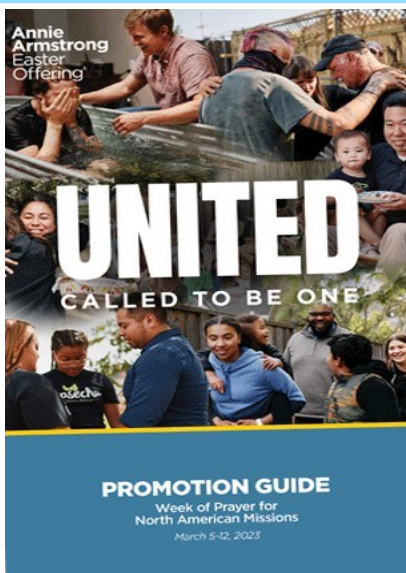
It is never wrong to examine teachings, methods, and movements that claim to be of God or claim to represent the Faith. Our standard is the written Word of God. It is wise and honorable to God to determine if things line up with His Word. This is not being judgmental or cynical but discerning. This requires examining what is said, written, and practiced. The ability to do this in a spirit of love requires equipping. There are many equipping avenues available in our local church. On Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday gatherings you will find good foundational teaching. You must make the choice to place yourself under these sound teaching moments. They will develop you to discern among things espoused in the “religious” and “secular” world. These moments will benefit you regardless of your spiritual age or biological age.

Pray for your equippers and support them with your presence. Especially pray for the equippers because there is nothing more discouraging than preparing a proper meal for the family of God and few show up to the table. It is discouraging to the equippers when everything else takes precedence over the gathering around the study of truth. It is heartbreaking to the equipper to see many that are weak, sickly, and deceived spiritually when the nourishment is available to bring wholeness. It is frustrating to the equipper when folks suggest a sermon or series on a subject that had just been laboriously prepared and delivered on a Sunday or Wednesday and they were MIA. Determine to place yourself in a position where you will be equipped. Next month we will examine the second emphasis found in this passage concerning the matter of Equipped!

Blessings,
Bro. Brad



Join us for a wedding
shower for
Alli Gill and Ross Ford
March 19 at 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
theknot.com/2023thefords



Join us for a Baby Shower
for Maddie Humphries
and Baby Colt
March 5 at 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Registered at Amazon and
Babylist

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Greetings Church Family,

Increasingly warmer days give me serious SPRING fever! I love the first days of opening windows and noticing the trees beginning to show off their fresh green leaves. This imagery and one of my favorite passages of scripture are what inspired what will be the name of our Kid's Ministry at FBC!

You will begin to see ROOTED kid's ministry listed in various places and on t-shirts that will be available for purchase very soon! I encourage everyone to grab one as a conversation starter for the new things going on with the kiddos here at FBC even if you aren't actively helping out...yet! I also want all the kids to eventually have their own, so if you don't want one for yourself but would like to donate toward the purchase of a t-shirt for a child who can't afford it or for future giveaways of ROOTED "swag" there will be an option for that on the order form as well.

Back to ROOTED! Jeremiah 17 gives a stern warning regarding the sin of Judah. The dire consequences are clearly outlined. However, as always, we have choice.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

My deepest desire for our kids is that we will be planting seeds in all that we do so they will be as this tree planted by the water, strongly rooted, growing tall and always knowing who they are in Christ. The heat and the drought will inevitably come, but we as a church have a responsibility to grow up these little ones with such faith that their leaves always remain green!

To that end, beginning March 5th the age range for Children's Church will be expanding to include 5th graders. I absolutely believe that this age group is old enough to sit in church and it is my prayer that more and more of our children will be in attendance during all services so they can benefit from corporate worship with their church family. However, the reality is Sunday morning is the only opportunity for a kid-centered Gospel presentation for many of our kiddos. If your child of any age is asking thought provoking questions after hearing Bro. Brad's sermon and you feel that is the best place for them, please do what you know is best for your child. We will also be dividing these ages so that there can be more age appropriate and intentional teaching times for each group. The younger group (Sprouts) will be preschool-1st graders while the older group (Seedlings) will be grades 2-5. I am humbled and overwhelmed by the willingness of so many to step up and invest in our kids.

There are many upcoming events and changes in the works. This is an exciting time! Chuck and Susan do a great job of getting information out through all our means of communication, so stay tuned!

Thank you to all who are joining me in my excitement for the coming year! May the fruits of our labor be evidenced in the little lives with which we've been entrusted!

Grateful,
Kiley

MUSIC AND MEDIA MINISTRY

TRUST AND OBEY....FOR THERE'S NO OTHER WAY

Woah! I can't tell if February went by that fast or if all the wind we've experienced lately caused March to arrive quicker! Either way, spring is officially on it's way!!

I love the Book of Psalms. It doesn't matter how many times I read through it, I always find something new or I find a psalm that becomes my new favorite. Psalm 62 has become one of those favorites. This psalm is focused on trusting God alone, something that, I think, is hard for us at times...probably more times than we care to admit, right?

I know that there are times that I find myself trusting in my own power and my own abilities, instead of giving it to God and trusting that He will take care of it. I have to take a step back, take a deep breath, and remember scripture like this psalm, to be able to give it all to Christ, and to trust that no matter the problem He is Lord and there is no problem big enough that He can't handle.

Next, I want to encourage you to start inviting others to our Easter Services on Sunday, April 9. We will have our Early Service and Sunday School time like normal, then we'll gather together for our Coffee House & Donuts at 10:30am, then at 11:00am, The First Baptist Worship Choir will be presenting our cantata, *King of Kings*. This is a wonderful musical full of well known and well loved hymns and praise songs, coupled alongside some great narration that will be presented by our two narrators, Ken & Mary Ann Hanson. Start inviting your friends, family, and neighbors now!

Lastly, I wanted to say thank you to First Baptist and to you, my church family. You have made these past ten years wonderful. I am truly blessed to be a part of this great congregation and to be part of this community. Thank you, again

Soli Deo Gloria,

Bro. Chuck

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello church family!

It has been another busy and exciting month for Main Street Youth. First, we want to give a huge thank you for all that attended the Valentine's Banquet and made donations. These funds are put to good use for youth camps and other youth functions and we really appreciate the support! We had a great turn out for the banquet although the set up was a little different this year because of the Super Bowl being that night. After the banquet, the youth enjoyed a time of fellowship watching the Super Bowl in the youth room. I think I was the only one rooting for the Chiefs so it was a good night for me!

After lots of interest from the youth, we began our spring Bible study this month. We meet on Sunday nights at 6:30. I have been leading the boys in a study called Kingdom Men Rising and Alli has been leading the girls in a study called Seamless. The youth really seem to be enjoying it and it is a great time for us to get to know our students better. Although we are now a couple weeks into the 8 week study, we still encourage any students grades 7-12 to join us!

Last month at Wednesday night gatherings, I have been focusing on talking with students individually about their faith walks and salvation. In order to serve the students best in my role, I need to understand their struggles and their current relationship with the Lord. We watched the Christian movie, *Woodlawn*, while I pulled students aside to have intentional conversations with them. This is something I plan to do about once a year and I feel that it has been beneficial already!

We have a huge praise this month! I had the honor of baptizing one of our youth, Morgan O'Brien! Please be in continual prayer for the youth group and that these students will grow in their faith through our Sunday and Wednesday night services and that they will spread God's Word in the community and at school!

This month, we are looking forward to Winter Jam on Saturday, March 18th. This is a night of worship at Freedom Hall in Louisville where there will be speakers and Christian singers such as We the Kingdom, Jeremy Camp, Anne Wilson, and Andy Mineo. We would love to take a big group to this so please let your middle and high school students know! As of right now, all of the spots for our Crossings camp this summer are filled! We will announce if any more spots become available.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." -Romans 1:16

Blessings,
Ross Ford

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Teamkid	2	3	4
5 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 2:00 p.m. Maddie's Baby Shower 4:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Deacons	6 Conservative Baptist Network Gathering 7:00 p.m. Dessert Fellowship to Follow 6:30 p.m. Volleyball	7	8 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 5:30 p.m. Trustees 6:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service/Business Meeting 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 Teamkid	9	10	11 Spring Forward
12 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Outreach 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	13	14	15 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Teamkid	16	17	18
19 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 2:00 p.m. Shower for Ross and Alli 4:00 p.m. Outreach 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	20	21	22 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:00 p.m. Family Night 6:45 p.m. Activities	23	24	25
26 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Morning Services 10:00-11:00 a.m. Sunday School 4:00 p.m. Outreach 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Evening Service	27	28 Meeting the Needs 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 6:00-8:00 p.m.	29 10:00 a.m. Manna in the Morning 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service 6:30 p.m. Main Street Youth 6:30 p.m. Teamkid	30	31	1



3/1 Brock Ward	3/9 Dean Johns	3/23 Rae Gina Beatty
3/2 Preston Forsee Tim Redmon Charley Thornton	3/12 David Bowling Danny Cobb Sheila Miller	Charles McCoy Jennifer Power
3/3 Andrew Banks Hatcher Smith	3/13 Stacey Perkins	3/24 Pacey Harvey
3/4 David Cobb Melinda Green Todd Marston Jackson O'Banion Kamden Stephens	3/16 Guy Cobb	3/25 Kelly Cammack Quinton Miller
3/6 Billy Riddle	3/18 Joy Roberts	3/26 Allison Craigmyle
3/7 Kyle Patterson Leah Patterson Lye Natalie Smith Catherine Webster	3/19 Terri Mears Danny Perkins	3/27 Alex Cobb Bobby Kemper
3/8 Greyson Beatty Adam Stowe	3/20 Paul Chitwood Maison Hedger	3/28 Noah Cammack
	3/21 Christy Colee Brandon Stephens	3/29 Brad Banks Mary Ann Hanson John Lilly
	3/22 Brian Forsee Landon Marston Melody Stafford	3/30 Madelin Shelton

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH STAFF

BRAD BANKS — PASTOR

CHUCK HARRIS — WORSHIP & MEDIA PASTOR

ROSS FORD—YOUTH PASTOR

KILEY BLAIR—DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUSAN STOWE — MINISTRY ASSISTANT

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

3/5: Kevin and Gabi Welsh
3/12: Rae Gina and Meleah Beatty
3/19: Heidi Williams
3/26: Becky Shryock

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sprouts (pre-K-1st grade)

3/5: Lindsay G. Smith and Jodie Glacken
3/12: Jessi and Chris Williams
3/19: Josh and Lindsay Smith
3/26: Brian and Kelsey Gognat

Seedlings (2nd-5th grade)

3/5: Krissy Locker
3/12: Brian Blair
3/19: Allison Craigmyle
3/26: Gail Forsee

Memorials

Jim Miller—Lloyd and Lana Vannarsdall, Ronnie and Joy Roberts

Harold Wainscott—Tim and Sherry Craigmyle, Todd and Lesa Marston, Dave and Susan Stowe

Sue Carolyn Redmon—Sandra Stafford, Randy Bishop, Gary and Pat Gibson, Betty Bishop, Paula Satterwhite, Mike and Barbara Ramsey, Dave and Susan Stowe, Lloyd and Lana Vannarsdall, Donna McDonald, Ronnie and Joy Roberts

Return Service Requested

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