



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY / 2023

## SUMMER DATES

**YOUTH CAMP**

**JUNE 12 - 16**

**ECUADOR MISSION TRIP**

**JUNE 29 - JULY 7**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 9 - 13**

**KIDS CAMP**

**JULY 28 - 31**

The days are getting longer, grass and trees are green again, and many kids (and teachers!) are counting down the days until summer break. For most people, summer is a chance to slow down, enjoy a more relaxed pace, and maybe take a vacation. Our church even intentionally takes Sunday evenings off in July. Despite everything being a bit more “chill” in the summer, we do have a few activities and events we are looking forward to as a church.

Kicking off the summer activities, we will be sending our youth to camp the second week of June. Each year, we send more and more students to camp, and we are excited about another record breaking year! Our students have a blast and grow in their relationships with one another, their leaders, and with God. Pray

for Garth and the leaders going and pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of our teenagers while they are at camp.

Not long after the youth return from camp, a team of twenty-five people from all age groups will be traveling to Ecuador to serve alongside Steve and Carol Thompson at Camp Chacaco. We are eager to resume this trip after many years of not being able to go. Continue to pray for the logistics, those traveling, and those already working to spread the Gospel in Ecuador.

In July, we are looking forward to some fun stuff for our kids ministry. First up - Vacation Bible School! VBS is always a great time for our church to enjoy the fellowship of working hard together while blessing our kids

and our community. Be on the lookout for more information about how you can serve and be praying that God would use the fun and teaching of VBS to reveal the truth of the Gospel to kids in our church and community.

To wrap up the summer, our kids will be heading to camp as well. Again, this is a time of fun, relationship building, and growth for our older elementary kids. Pray for Pastor Matt and the leaders and that God would use camp to bring our kids closer to Him.

Summer is almost here and we hope that you will support as many of these activities as you can - financially, through prayer, or through service. We look forward to seeing how God will grow the people in our church through these next few months.

# At Many Times and In Many Ways: A God Who Speaks

**Jake Beattie | Pastor**

It's exciting to get a card in the mail. It's particularly exciting when it's not your birthday or some other special occasion. Over the years I've been serving at FBC Fairdale I have received my fair share of cards which have come at random times as a way of encouragement. It never fails to encourage me, knowing that someone was thinking of me and went out of their way to let me know by communicating with me directly.

In the same way, God communicates with us. The Bible teaches that God has spoken to us. This is a crucial part of our understanding of God and who He is. We learn that our God is a speaking God from the very opening page of the Bible when we read Genesis 1:3, *"And God said..."* Throughout the rest of Genesis 1, we see that phrase repeated with each day of creation. Hebrews 1 also tells us that our God is a speaking God. Hebrews begins by telling us that long ago God spoke at many different times and in many different ways to our fathers and the way He spoke to them was through prophets. But Hebrews also then tells us that in these last days, God has spoken to us through his Son.

It's important we notice a distinction between the way God spoke "long ago" and "in these last days." "Long ago" is referring to a previous era. That is how God used to speak to his people. But now, he has spoken to us through his Son. Why did God speak to his people differently during these two different times?

God is making a big deal about his Son. God's Son is so incredibly important. God's Son is the one the whole Old Testament is looking toward. God's Son is the one the whole New Testament is looking to. God's Son is the one we all need to have our eyes fixed on. Because God's Son is so important, so essential, so beautiful, so loving, so gracious, so merciful, He is the one God speaks through. We must fix our attention on Him.

How incredible it is to know that God has spoken to us through His Son. Since that is true, it is so important for us to listen to what the Son says. What the Son has said to us is recorded for us in the Bible. I'm fairly confident we all own or have access to a Bible. Do not take for granted the availability we have to hear Jesus speak to us. This is how we know of salvation through Jesus. He has revealed it to us through His word that has been recorded in Scripture.

If we want to be a strong church, we must root our lives in what the Son has told us. Jesus says at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, *"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."* But He also says right after that, *"And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."*

Don't be foolish and ignore the words of the Son. Read your Bible, hear the words of the Son, and obey them.

## BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for the women in our church.

Pray that:

- they would know Jesus as Lord and that they would be growing to be more like Him.
- they would grow in their understanding and knowledge of God's word.
- that they would grow in their prayer life and dependence on God.
- our church would equip women to do the work of the ministry.
- women who are married would love their husbands.
- women who are mothers would care for and disciple their children
- women who are mourning would be comforted.
- all women would "have strength to comprehend...the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ." (Eph. 3:18-19)

# Work and Recovery: New Life from a Garden Plot

**Andrew Crawford | Minister of Music**

Most of you know me as the Music Minister here at FBC Fairdale, but I spend most of my time working as the Director of the Life Change:Recovery program at Re:Center Ministries. Re:Center Ministries is an organization that works with homeless and hurting people in the Louisville and Southern Indiana area. The Life Change program at Re:Center is a 3-15 month program that targets the root causes of addiction, chronic homelessness, and life dominating sins from a gospel centered approach. Beginning in the early spring, Re:Center Ministries launched a new job skills and work therapy portion of its programming in partnership with FBC Fairdale. The men in the Life Change program have the opportunity to tend to a 1 acre garden located in the field behind the church. During this time, we teach job skills, a practical theology of work, and work as a form of therapy.

The Bible provides a clear mandate for human beings to engage in work. In Genesis 2, God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). This commandment not only provides a basis for human beings to engage in productive labor but also gives insight into the fundamental purpose of work.

Through our work, we have the opportunity to exercise our creativity, stewardship, and service to others, all of which are blessings from God and outworkings of the Christian life. Additionally, the Bible teaches that work is not only a means of creativity and stewardship, but also a way to honor God. Colossians 3:23-24 states, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving



the Lord Christ.” This verse teaches us that our work should be done with excellence and with a heart of service, as we are ultimately working for God and not for human masters.



Ultimately, as Christians everything we do, whether in word or deed, flows from our salvation in Christ and the good works that he has prepared for us in Him (Ephesians 2:10). Our work should be a reflection of the ultimate work that Christ has done in salvation.

In the life of an addict, work is often used as a short sighted means to a destructive end. In the recovery process, it is important to reframe that perspective of work, and instill the disciplines of work ethic, patience, and preparation that are necessary in gardening. Moreover, gardening/farming is one of the most rewarding forms of work, as the laborer is able to see the progress of their work, and enjoy the fruits of their labor. As a church, please pray for the lives of the men in Re:Center’s Life Change program. Please also pray for the men in our church who preach chapel at Re:Center twice per month, and for Josh Wamble, who teaches a class at Re:Center every week. The mission of Re:Center Ministries is to reconcile homeless and hurting men and women to God through the power of Jesus Christ, and that is accomplished in partnership with the local church.