



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER / 2023

THANK YOU **PASTORS**

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

The day this newsletter was published was National Read a Book Day. Pretty much every day of the year is a designated celebration of something. While celebrating reading a book may not be a top priority, there is one “holiday” coming in the next month that you should know about. Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 8 and October is known as Pastor Appreciation Month.

All four of our pastors work hard to shepherd us well through preaching and teaching, discipleship, prayer, and care and counseling. All of them are also balancing numerous other responsibilities – family, full time

jobs, community involvement, etc. Scripture teaches us that elders who rule well ought to “be considered worthy of double honor” (1 Tim. 5:17) and that we are to “respect...and esteem very highly in love” (1 Thess. 5:12-13) those who labor among us.

Showing appreciation doesn’t have to be big or flashy or expensive. One simple act would be by praying for them (and letting them know you’re praying for them!). Expressing your thanksgiving to God for your pastors and asking him to work in their lives is an excellent expression of appreciation for all that they do. For some ideas of what to pray, check out the prayer

focus on the inside of the newsletter.

Another way to show appreciation is simply by telling them! Write them a note, mail a card, or send them a text or email detailing the ways that God has used them in your life and how you see God working in them. Little expressions like these are so encouraging and they help build up the strength and unity of our local body of Christ at FBC Fairdale.

You don’t have to wait for October 8 to start celebrating, so make sure you take some time in the next month or two to show your pastors how much you appreciate them!

Acknowledge Him: Remembering the Lord in Everyday Moments

Jake Beattie | Pastor

This past Sunday I preached from Nehemiah chapter 4. One of the things I pointed out in the chapter is how Nehemiah acknowledged God as the one who frustrated the plans of the enemy who was seeking to do harm to Nehemiah and the Jews working on the walls of Jerusalem. It would have been easy for Nehemiah to take credit since he was the one who had put people in place around the wall for protection.

It's such an important part of our every day life to be acknowledging God in everything. I quoted Proverbs 3:5-6 which says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." We should be acknowledging God in all our ways.

This summer has been a good one for me and my family. I made it a goal at the beginning of the summer to teach my oldest son to ride his bike without the training wheels. At first it seemed like he was never going to learn. Every time his bike started to lean one way he would panic and put his foot down so as to catch himself and prevent a fall and an injury. He even got to the point of saying he didn't want to ride his bike and wasn't going to try any more. Meanwhile, his sister who is two years younger was wanting to learn to ride without

training wheels because her big brother was. She ended up getting the hang of it really quick and started riding her bike so fast. It was incredible. Her learning so quickly re-energized my son. He was much more willing to practice and get it figured out. Before long, he too was riding his bike all by himself and enjoying it so much.

It was a difficult few weeks working hard on teaching them to ride their bikes, but now that they both are able to ride, they ask me to go riding with them around our neighborhood all the time. They ask to ride on the weekends, they ask to ride after they get home from school, they want to ride their bikes all the time. Just last week we were out in front of our house riding our bikes before the sun went down. We were all smiling and laughing and enjoying the time together and I asked my son, "Aren't you glad you learned to ride your bike?" He replied, "Oh, yeah! I think we are having a bro moment!" He was so thrilled and enjoying life so much in that moment, as was I.

I was thinking that whole time how thankful I am to God for giving me children, and for giving me moments like this with my children. We must always remember that God is a giver of good gifts. Let's be faithful to acknowledge Him in all our ways. When we do, he will make our paths straight.

BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our pastors as we look forward to Pastor Appreciation Month.

- Thank God for the pastors that He has given us. Pray that He would use their different gifts in the life of our church.
- Pray for your pastors' personal holiness - that they would repent and confess their sin and seek to follow the Lord.
- Pray for their leadership - that God would give them wisdom and unity.
- Pray for their family life - that they would prioritize their families and that their families would feel loved and supported by the church.
- Pray that God would keep your pastors healthy - that they would deal with the stress of their positions in a healthy way and that they would get good rest and manage time away from the work of the ministry.

Joined & Held Together: Teamwork in Ministry

Andrew Crawford | Minister of Music

There are so many events at this church that I love and look forward to each year – Homecoming in the fall, Christmas Eve service, Good Friday/Easter in the spring, mission trips in the summer. One of my favorite summer events each year is the college retreat. For the second year in a row, the college ministry group spent the weekend at Nolin Lake as a time of fellowship and studying the scriptures. As I reflect on that weekend, there are so many different things I could write about; but what I chose to write about is something that has been on my mind recently: the importance of teamwork in ministry.

Teamwork allows us to share the workload

Throughout the weekend, Chris Harrod and I split up the teaching session on the “I Am” statements of Jesus, and Jess and Elizabeth led morning devotionals for a total of 9 teaching/devotional times. Often, while one person was teaching, other leaders would be working on other things – preparing food, cleaning up after a meal, planning activities for the day, etc. There is no way one person could do all of that by themselves. Having a team allows us to work together in different capacities to make the ministry work. But in addition to sharing the physical workload, teamwork also allows us to share spiritual workload. Hebrews 3:13 tells us to “exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” As a team, we are to encourage one another and carry each other’s burdens.

Teamwork allows each person to use their gifts and abilities

When I think about teamwork in ministry, it’s more than just sharing the load so that one person doesn’t have to teach 9 times in one weekend – though that is a benefit. But the greater benefit is that God uses each member of a team in a unique way according to their giftings and

according to His plan. I so enjoyed listening to Chris and Elizabeth and Jess teach throughout the weekend – they all have a very different teaching style than me and each of them relate to the students differently. One of the most rewarding aspects of leadership is watching people on your team use their unique gifts and talents and thrive in the positions that they’re placed in. I love our college leadership team and it was so encouraging to watch each of the leaders use their gifts to teach, serve, and disciple students over the course of the college retreat.

The sermon series through Nehemiah has taught our church so much about the value and role of teamwork in God’s kingdom. This is something I believe our church does a very good job of modeling – from the way the elders work together as a team, to each individual ministries, which are supported by teams working together. My prayer is that the church would continue to work together as the body of Christ, as Paul writes in Ephesians 4:15-16:

“speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

