



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER / 2023



This month, our church will be celebrating our 107th anniversary. Every year, we mark this occasion with Homecoming Sunday. It is always such a meaningful time to reflect on how God has worked in our church over the last year, as well as how he has worked through our church in the Fairdale community for the last century. We have a number of special events planned for our Homecoming celebration that you will not want to miss.

To kick off the weekend, we will be hosting a fundraiser meal for Re:Center Ministries. Re:Center is a local homeless ministry that our church partners with in a number of ways. Program participants will be preparing and serving a meal on Saturday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m. The cost is donation only. There will be a number of other activities that night including live music, bonfire, and hayrides around Fairdale.



Sunday morning, our Homecoming celebration will continue with our gathered worship service. We will sing, pray, give, and thank God for his faithfulness to our church. Our guest preacher will be Drew Krutza. Drew served on staff at our church between 2008 and 2010 and

now serves as the Pastor of Worship and College Ministry at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

After the service, we will continue our celebration with a meal and fellowship. Lunch will be served in the basement and everyone is encouraged to bring a dessert to share. There will be various outdoor activities for kids and adults, board games, and the Food Pantry building and History Room will be open for viewing.

Homecoming weekend is always a wonderful time of remembering and celebrating God's work in our church. It is also the perfect opportunity to spend time with those who have been a part of our church in the past, reconnect with our church family, and get to know new faces. We hope that everyone will make it a priority to be a part of this special weekend at FBC Fairdale!

# God's Witness to Us, Our Witness About God

**Josh Wamble | Pastor**

I had never heard of a church having a Homecoming celebration until I moved to Louisville in 2005, but I like the idea. Already this year, thinking about Homecoming has gotten me thinking about two specific things.

First, I have been thinking about God's witness to us. There was a time when no one in this part of Kentucky had ever even heard the name of Jesus much less the gospel message of how God provided salvation through his life, death, and resurrection. At some point in the past, the first believer/missionary arrived in this area and the message of the gospel began to spread. People began to believe, and churches began to be organized. For the last 107 years God has had a witness to himself in our community. The Bible has been consistently preached, the community has been consistently served in various ways, and God has continued to bless these efforts and save people through the proclamation of the gospel! We do not deserve any of this. It is only due to God's continued faithfulness to his people here.

Secondly, I have been thinking about our witness about God. In 2020, there were almost 10,000 people living in the 40118 zip code. I wonder how many of them are following Jesus - how many of them are part of a faithful church. I wonder how many of them have heard a clear explanation of the gospel. I also think about people in other parts of the world where the name of Jesus is still not known - where there is no consistent witness to the gospel. There are parts of the

world where there are zero or very few believers and no churches. There are other parts of the world where churches do exist, but they are not healthy - where missionaries have taken the gospel and started churches but have not stayed long enough to bring those churches to maturity so false teaching has come in and the gospel message has been distorted.

As I have been thinking about these two things - God's witness to us and our witness about God - it has struck me that God seems to be putting our church in a very strategic position. Over the last several years, he has been opening opportunities to us to be a witness to those in our own community especially through our relationships with the local schools and with our Food Pantry. He also seems to be beginning to open more and more opportunities for our church to have an impact on people literally all around the world. We are seeing more and more people coming to our church from other places - Venezuela, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ecuador, Honduras, Haiti, and other places! Right now, there are 6 families in our church who are either already actively serving as missionaries or in the process of becoming missionaries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe!

It is awesome to think that God had this plan for us all the way back in 1916! God has been faithful to our church for 107 years now. Let's pray and serve and preach and love and work to be faithful to Him!

## BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our Senior Adults.

- Thank God for the many senior adult church members who have served and continue to serve our church so faithfully. Pray that God would strengthen them as they labor for him.
- Pray for those who are widows/widowers. Pray that they would be comforted and that our church would care for them well.
- Pray for those that are shut in or have difficulty attending church. Pray that they would feel our church's love and care and that God would help them to continue serving him from home.
- Pray that God would use senior adults in the life of our church. Pray that they would be willing to share their wisdom, disciple the younger generation, work and serve as they are able, and be an example of steadfast godliness to their church family.

# Next to Him: Senior Adult Ministry Kickoff

**Ken Miller | Church Member**

A pastor friend of mine once asked his congregation a very sobering question, “What value do we really place in our older generation?” The Word of God is very plain about this matter. We are to honor their person, trust their experiences, and receive their wisdom with gladness. Leviticus 19:32 makes clear that the people of God were to “stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man.” Proverbs 16:31 teaches that “gray hair is a crown of glory gained in a righteous life” that should be our example of right living. Psalm 92:14 declares that the righteous “still bear fruit in old age...” And Job 12:12 says, “Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.” Someone once said that the older generation has trod the path we now walk, finding all the potholes we want and need to avoid. As we see, honoring our seniors is important to the Lord. It benefits our personal spiritual growth and the church’s overall health.

Our church is very diligent in honoring our older generation with many expressions of love, acceptance, and fellowship. For this, we are truly grateful. Toward the end of October, the church will also be extending its honor toward our seniors by launching a new ministry called “Next to Him” which will minister specifically to

those 55 and older. Be sure to watch for more details in the bulletin, emails, and announcement slides concerning dates, times, events, needs, and ministry leadership. This ministry will include outings/trips, regular times of fellowship, and opportunities to serve. For those in this senior age group, you’re invited to join us!

The basic mission for our senior ministry is found in Hebrews 10:19-25:

*“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

The first meeting of the “Next to Him” senior adult ministry will be Monday, October 30 at the church from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. A lunch will be served. Please bring a favorite dish to share. A guest speaker will share a short devotion and Becki McBroom will provide attendees with information, schedules, and opportunities with the ministry. Make plans to attend this exciting kickoff event!