



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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If you don't know, April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. Many nonprofits and organizations around the world depend on volunteer support to fully function. The church is no different - only a small percentage of those who work in our church are paid for their labor. So much of the week in and week out ministry of our church is done by those who are volunteering their time and energy. For our Easter Egg Hunt, we had around 75 volunteers; our Food Pantry runs with about 20 people working every week. The nursery ministry requires about 50 volunteers a month, and there are countless other ways our church works hard - kids and youth ministry, Sunday school, meals, VBS, music and media, se-

curity, committees, and more.

However, it is important to remember that the work that we do for our church is much more than merely volunteering. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul compares the church to a physical body, reminding his readers that everyone who is in Christ plays an important role in the functioning of the whole - "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (v. 26). In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul again refers to the church as a body, telling us that those who do the work of the ministry are doing so for "building up of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:12) and that "each part...working properly, makes the body grow so that it

builds itself up in love" (Eph. 4:16). Our labor within the church is ultimately for building up the body of Christ - expanding the reach of the gospel and strengthening and encouraging those who are in Christ to the glory of our Savior.

So thank you - for the work and many hours you put into serving our church, and ultimately serving the Lord through these various ministries.

*"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."*

1 Corinthians 15:58

# Wandering from the Truth

**Matt McBroom | Pastor**

When our kids were younger, we used to make regular trips to the Bass Pro store in Clarksville, IN. Most of our trips concluded uneventfully after we had climbed on the boats, played some games, and bought peach rings for the drive home. On one occasion, however, Cooper decided to make the trip a bit more interesting by wandering away from the family and getting lost. While the rest of us stopped in the toy section, Cooper continued to wander further and further away. It wasn't long before we realized that he was gone. Liz and I searched frantically, but when we did not immediately find him, we notified a store worker. Fortunately, he was found a couple minutes later.

I don't believe that Cooper intended to get lost when we went into the store. Liz and I had given him instructions to stay with us. He knew what he was supposed to do, but he got distracted by all the things around him, and the next thing he knew, he was lost. When I think back on it now, I am immediately thankful that he was found safely and was returned to us. I can also see it as an example of how people wander away from the truth of God's Word. Over the past several years there have unfortunately been several examples of Christian musicians, authors, and preachers who once professed faith in Christ, only to later make life choices and take positions on issues that completely contradict the

truths found in Scripture, some choosing to openly renounce their faith.

When we see these things, it is difficult for us to understand. How could someone who wrote such an awesome book, preached such amazing sermons, or sang such moving songs, now not believe what they previously wrote, preached, and sang about? While there may be a lot of different "reasons" given, the simple answer is that they are wandering away from the truth. They started out well, but due to the influence of the world and the sinfulness of the flesh, they wandered further and further away from the truth. Sometimes these people are seeking to fit in and impress others in the world. Sometimes they are seeking to fulfill sinful desires. Always, they are exchanging the truth of God for a lie and the distance from the truth causes their sinful hearts to become callused and hard.

This isn't just an issue facing high profile or famous Christians. We all know people who have professed faith in Christ and attended church faithfully for a time, only to eventually wander away. This is something that should bother us deeply. This is something that should motivate us to pray for them and to reach out to them and personally encourage them. It may be that they did not intend to wander away and that hearing from you may be the thing that helps them find their way back.

## BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS

This month, let us pray for our community - Fairdale, Louisville, and all the areas where we live and work.

Pray that:

- our good works in the community would glorify God.
- we would live with integrity as representatives of Jesus.
- we would look for ways to serve and love our neighbors and community.
- God would grant opportunities to share the gospel with those around us.
- we would be faithful to share about the faith and hope that we have.
- the Holy Spirit would be working in hearts, preparing people to respond in faith.
- our church would be diligent to disciple new believers.

# Pray, Connect, Support: How to Serve our Students

**Garth Farmer | Minister of Youth**

**W**hat an incredible year 2024 is shaping up to be for our church. As you all may have heard, our student ministry has been experiencing a lot of growth and momentum. We have lots of students in regular attendance during Sunday school and on Wednesday nights, and we are once again on pace to take a record number of students to summer camp. God is at work in our church and in our student ministry. Our student ministry team takes this responsibility seriously. Our prayer is that we would be found faithful and good stewards of all that God is entrusting us with. With all of this in mind I thought it might be helpful to share with you all a couple of the ways that our church can serve our students and student ministry.

## **Pray**

I say this regularly, but I am so grateful that our church places such a great emphasis on prayer. Our Wednesday evenings are committed to prayer, we pray for 24 hours twice a year, and our services are filled with multiple points of prayer. We are a praying church and I praise God for that. I would like to challenge us though with specifically praying for our students with great regularity. We all know the unique challenges that come during the middle school and high school ages. We must be dedicated to praying for the students under our care. Let's pray for the families that we know are seeking to parent their students well. Let's pray for the students we know by name! That God would work in their hearts and draw them to himself.

## **Make Connections**

Our church is quickly becoming full with people 18 years old or younger. I believe that it's crucial that we continue to find ways to be connected to one another. It's incredibly difficult for us to care for and be invested in people that we don't know. As our student ministry grows this can become an increasingly difficult task, but I

would challenge us to continue to step out and make connections with one another. These connections don't have to carry the weight of being a great mentorship (although they certainly can!). Simply knowing the names of our students and some of the various things they are involved in goes a long way. Our students will feel greatly cared for by a church that seeks to be connected to them.

## **Show your support**

Our church does a great job of supporting our student ministry! But may we continue to do so. As our student ministry grows the need for people to serve and support it grows along with it. Support can come in various forms. It can come in the form of service through discipleship and chaperoning, it can come in the form of giving to the events that we seek to plan for our students, or it can come in the form of encouragement given. I love our church and have felt supported so many times through the years. My prayer is that as our ministry grows the support of our church will grow with it!

In Psalm 71:17-18, David says this,

*"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."*

David learned much about God when he was young and he was passionate about proclaiming the greatness of his God to the next generation. May this be us! As always I'm so grateful for our church and looking forward to how God will work in us and our student ministry in the rest of the year.