



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MARTINSVILLE, VA  
*Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope*

# FBC Reflections



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FBC in 2023

## A NEW SEASON

We've entered a new season of weather with some of the most vibrant leaves I've seen in years, and we've also entered a new season of ministry together at First Baptist Church.

We are beginning a new church year at the end of November with the season of Advent, with renewed energy from the many ReShape initiatives we have implemented, including the sharing of our Associate Pastor for Music & Worship (and soon Associate Pastor for Families) with our sister church, Chatham Heights Baptist Church.

I can't imagine a more fitting way to celebrate this new season together than to look back at the many ministry events that have shaped us in the last quarter. Take a look inside, enjoy the beauty of a church family coming together to serve God and love our neighbors!

*By: Libby Grammer*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Christina Kinzer 10/31/2021



Taylor Robertson 1/30/2022



Merle & Joe Prince 4/24/2022



Erica & Marcus James 5/1/2022



Beth Kotchish 9/18/2022



Imogene McMillan 9/25/2022



# Music & Worship



## CELEBRATING IN SONG TOGETHER



Choir Cantata Kickoff Party—Readthrough Session

It is a fantastic time to be part of the music ministry of FBC Martinsville, and I am very pleased to share with you about what we have been doing.

The choir has been growing in number, both through the addition of new singers, and by the return of singers who have been out for a while.

We are also blessed with several singers who are joining with the FBC and CHBC Sanctuary Choirs to present (this Dec 18<sup>th</sup>) the Joseph M. Martin Cantata "A Celebration of Carols". The Cantata is a Lessons



and Carols format and mixes beautiful choral music, spoken reflections upon scripture, and a lush accompaniment that Baxter plays beautifully. The two choirs have been enjoying singing together in joint cantata rehearsals since our Cantata kick-off party on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Part specific practice CDs and Cantata books were handed out to all singers at the party and I'm pleased with how the music is coming together.



It is wonderful being back to singing anthems together after all the missed music throughout COVID. I am proud of the hard work and beautiful singing the Sanctuary choir does each Sunday in worship and Thursday in rehearsal.

I am enjoying the energy and joyfulness of our ELC and afterschool students and appreciate the chance to work with them each week in our music time and in chapel.

I look forward to my first Advent and Christmas here at FBC and the joyous music we will make together in the weeks and months ahead.

By: David Cameron



# Missions



## GIVING AND DOING

FBC has been hard at work for the Kingdom of God! The missions committee and WMU have been busy spreading the love of Christ through many missions' projects. The generosity of the FBC congregation has made these missions opportunities possible.

Through your generosity, FBC met our goal for the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions. We raised \$2,200. Together with many other Virginia Baptists our gifts help share the love of Christ across the Commonwealth of Virginia and with the whole world.



For October, WMU sponsored a churchwide mission opportunity with the Henry County Baptist Association to donate snacks and cookies for the hospitality tent at the fall race.

FBC also worked the Grace Network Pumpkin Patch to raise funds for our mission partner Grace Network.

At the end of October, FBC and our sister Church, Chatham Heights Baptist Church, hosted a Harvest Fest for children and families in our community. Activities included games, crafts, trunk n' treat, and live music. The missions committee contributed over \$1,000 towards this mission outreach project. We thank all the volunteers who helped make this community outreach mission's project a success.

In October, the missions committee contributed \$200 to the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry for

the annual Celebration Banquet, a fundraiser event for the Jail ministry. The Missions committee also contributed \$1,000 to the Good News Jail & Prison Ministry to be used as needed as it continues to bring hope to the incarcerated.

We continue to support missions in our community: In November, we will host a COVID Vaccine Clinic/Health Fair in our parking lot with the WMU Virginia, Baptist Nursing Fellowship, and Martinsville-Henry County Coalition for Health and Wellness. We will also be filling food boxes at the Henry County Food Pantry, sponsoring the "Fall" into Winter Fest Uptown, and more!

Purchase a new FBC t-shirt with our new tagline "Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope" for a suggested \$10 donation to missions opportunities and wear it to missions events! These shirts can be picked up in the church office.

*By: Missions Committee*



# FBC Young Families



## FAMILY MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

Our Young Adult Small Group, Journey, held a potluck fellowship dinner at the pastor's house, enjoying the company of friends and eating a shared meal together.

Journey Small Group also got into the church bus and traveled to Sinkland Farms for the Pumpkin Festival to enjoy some fall festivities together.

But by far our largest ministry and outreach event was our Harvest Fest, shared with our sister church, Chatham Heights Baptist Church, on Halloween weekend.

We had a great turnout and met lots of people from our community, while offering a safe place to trick-or-treat, play fun games, take photos, listen to live music, and eat dinner at food trucks.

*By: Children & Youth Committee*

Young Families Sinkland Farms Trip



Crafts at Harvest Fest



Trunk-or-Treat at Harvest Fest



Music at Harvest Fest



Ring Toss at Harvest Fest



Food Trucks at Harvest Fest



"Walk the Plank" Game at Harvest Fest



Harvest Fest



Small Group Fellowship





## FBC CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



“We have dedicated children to God and their church family, taught our children about God in Sunday School, and shared their lively spirits with our congregation. What better holy energy could there be?”

- Libby Grammer





# First Baptist Church Early Learning Center



## SUMMER & FALL AT FBC ELC



Pre-K3 at Splash Park

The Early Learning Center had a busy and fun Summer! Days were filled with exciting activities such as

Splash Day, KONA Ice, and weekly Chapel.

The children learned about Jesus and mastered several new songs. Our School Age Summer Camp "Destination Dig," was a summer long Vacation Bible School. This year we had 28 children participating.

September and October kicked off our Fall season with fieldtrips to the pumpkin patch. The Martinsville Fire Department came with their trucks and taught the children about fire safety. Most everyone got to spray water with a real fire hose. The month ended with trick-or-treating and parties.

*By: Beth Kotchish, ELC Director*



Toddler Class on Fire Prevention Day



Pre-K4 Student Spraying Fire Hose



Infant Class at Grace Network Pumpkin Patch



Pre-K3 Class Trick-or-Treating at FBC



# Our Libraries



## STAYING BUSY WITH BOOKS!

The McCabe Library staff has been very busy for the last year or so trying to bring the various library parts McCabe, Kesler, and Hewett into to a more 21<sup>st</sup> century likeness. Barcoding all items doesn't sound exactly exciting, and it isn't. But we have kept plugging away because it rather "straightens everything up!" Come and take a look in a few more weeks, and you will see what we look like now.

We have kept up with the various displays around FBC. We always like decorating. We hope you have seen the "READ A BANNED BOOK" display in the narthex. Every year we celebrate BANNED BOOK WEEK. People are always surprised to see that one of their favorites was banned. We gets lots of question like, "Why was that booked banned?" It is certainly a puzzle. The reasons stated seem so silly! Hope you had chance to read some of the so-called reasons.

Our next big event is CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK in November. There will be book gifts for the children of ELC and the Before/After Schoolers.

For those who have not been in lately, here are a few pictures of the display cases.



Banned Book Display



Peace in the World Display

The Library was also present at our Harvest Fest, handing out gently used books to children of all ages.



Harvest Fest



Read A Spell Display

By: Dottie Lewis, FBC Librarian





## JOIN US ON THE WAY

FBC is following The Way of Jesus together in 2023, and that requires commitment, sacrifice, and heaping amounts of love. *Can you be a part of our mission with God?*

Pledge your support by signing a pledge card and committing yourself spiritually and financially with our church's mission for the coming year. Need a card? Contact Kaylee White in the church

office and receive one by mail or in-person.

*Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope.*

These words are actions that require much of us. Live out faith in action, be the kind of love God wants to share with humanity, and speak hope to a world in need.

Let's follow The Way of Jesus together with our whole hearts, minds, and souls as we share in the life of faith as a church family.

Come alongside us in 2023 as we commit ourselves to a new year of ministry together.

I'm right here with you, pledging my own support and time to God's work among us. I believe in what God is doing at First Baptist Church, and I know God will change lives through our ministries for years to come.

*In Christ,  
Libby*

Rev. Dr. Libby M. Grammer  
Senior Pastor

Rev. David Cameron  
Associate Pastor for Music & Worship

Baxter Jennings  
Organist

Mary Taylor  
Administrative Assistant

Kaylee White  
Financial Secretary

Beth Kotchish  
ELC Director

Kenny Smith  
Support Staff

Pete Compton  
Maintenance Technician