



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DAYTON COURIER

First Baptist Church of Dayton • 111 W. Monument Avenue • Dayton OH 45402
(937) 222-4691 • Email: fbcd@fbcd Dayton.org • Website: www.fbcd Dayton.org

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Volume 90, Issue 1

Life Cycles and Churches

By Pastor Kent Berghuis

Often I reminisce about what it was like to be young. Playing sports, getting an education, dating, and spending time with friends. Life was lived looking forward, with a world of potential before me. Now, I think too often of aches and pains in my body. I think of friends and family that have come and gone. Past accomplishments and failures often come to mind and seem to define my internal narrative. I still have plenty of life to live—but looking back has more weight than it did when I was younger.

This week Angie’s daughter, Jenna, flew away for her next adventure. After five years as a student-athlete at Otterbein University, she now begins a masters program in Sport Coaching at Cardiff University in Wales. And the real hook is that she can continue playing basketball there in the Women’s British Basketball League. Quite a fun prospect for a young adult! But it can bring tears of separation sadness to a parent at the same time.

This illustrates the different stages of our life’s cycle. We move from birth through childhood and adolescence to maturity, then we may go through an empty nest to old age and death. Not everyone reaches every stage, but this cycle is our common expectation.

So, too, churches go through their own life cycles. Church leader George Bullard (www.transformingthechurch.org) has described churches using this analogy to the stages of human life. A church is usually born through a vision and plan that pulls people together. Ministries are created that grow and multiply the church’s relationships and ways of working together. When a church is mature there are significant structures in place to align and maintain these ministries. Over time, the vision may grow more dim and the alignment of the ministries may become unclear. The structures can become almost an end unto themselves. Eventually the structures may collapse and a church might close.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Halloween/Harvest Party	2
BYF Gatherings in October	2
Garden Report	3
ABC USA World Mission Offering	3
For Your Cards and Prayers	4
Preservation of Light Campaign	Insert
Photos from Recent Events	Insert

We can recall that one of St. Paul’s favorite metaphors for the church is “the body of Christ.” The Spirit makes us alive to incarnate Christ on the earth today. Even though we are different individuals, as members of the body we are all connected. So we should not be surprised that our “body” will go through different stages of life—and that’s ok. But as part of that great universal body that is the Church, there is a lifegiving potential to outlive the generations of human life. As a living body the church is not merely an organization, but it is also an organism.

Churches don’t have to be organisms that age and die. It is also possible to intervene and restart stages of growth and forward progress. Even people can find reinvigorated stages of joy later in life. As an organization a church can find renewal through leadership and fresh vision. It may require new ways of thinking and releasing our tendency to cling to the past. In fact, the best way to honor our history will be to recapture for our own time the kind of vision that has made the church effective before.

I wonder what life stage you might think our church is living in? What steps can we take to discover fresh vision and not become captive to our wonderful history and many past effective ministries? Let’s continue to contemplate these important questions for our life together as a body—because a church is both organization and organism. We are alive together—let’s continue to seek the Spirit’s mind for the renewal of our life together, too.

--Pastor Kent



FBC Halloween/Harvest Party

Sunday, Oct. 29 @ 11:30am
FOOD – CANDY – GAMES – COSTUMES
ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Board of Christian Education is hosting a Halloween/Harvest Party for everyone on Sunday, October 29 starting shortly after morning worship at 11:30am. We will gather in the fellowship hall for food, and then head outdoors (weather permitting) for fun and games and s'mores.

Trunk or Treat

We have also decided to once again include a Trunk or Treat component to our usual party games, where we welcomed folks to decorate their cars/trunks and pass out candy to our kids as they paraded through the parking lot. There is a red clipboard with a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for those who plan to participate in the Trunk or Treat.

Costume Contest

All are invited to come dressed in/put on their Halloween costumes/fall attire as we celebrate the new season with food, games and fellowship! And there will be prizes for best costumes in the following categories:

- Best Fall attire
- Best home-made
- Silliest/Funniest
- Most Creative/Original
- Best Group (two or more people comprising a group – e.g., Avengers, TMNT, etc.)
- Best Retro

RSVPs are always helpful, and we encourage you to do so using the yellow cards in the pews on Sunday or by email or phone (fbc@fbcd Dayton.org / 937-222-4691).

NOTE: There will not be Sunday School or Second Hour activities for children and youth at the 11:30am time, BUT there WILL be Adult Sunday School offering on the Alternatives to Violence Project led by Rev. Joe Henry in the Chapel. Those attending his class are all welcome to join the party at any time afterwards.



BYF Gatherings in October

Our Baptist Youth Fellowship continues to gather on the second and fourth Sundays of each month (unless otherwise noted). And so, in the month of October we are going to meet on **October 8 & 22**. Here are the current plans we have in mind:

October 8 - BYF On-The-Road – We are going to take a roadtrip to Springfield to worship with the First Baptist Church of Springfield, one of our association churches and Pastor Jason’s home church. He will be preaching for Pastor Adam while he is away, and after worship we will make our way over to Young’s Jersey Dairy in Yellow Springs for lunch and games together (they have a corn maze, mini golf, etc.). We will meet up at the church at 8:45am, leave at 9am, and return by 3pm for pickup.

All youth grades 6-12 are welcome, and we will cover any costs with our BYF Fund. Friends are welcome, too, but all youth need to have turned in a completed and signed BYF Medical-Transportation form in order to participate. Forms are located on the table outside the church office, and can be requested by email from Pastor Jason (jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org).

October 22 – BYF Gathering at FBCD – We will have one of our usual gatherings on this day meeting in the upstairs dining hall for lunch after Sunday School (12:15pm). We’ll spend the rest of our time enjoying fun and fellowship, maybe even preparing some games for the upcoming Halloween/Harvest Party. Pickup will be at 2:30pm.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer with our BYF sometime, or host lunch or a gathering, please speak with Pastor Jason. And RSVP’s are not required, but certainly helpful for planning purposes. Just email or text Pastor Jason to give him a heads up, 937-631-3579 or jalspaugh@fbcd Dayton.org.

	Budget	Received	YTD Budget	YTD Received
Loose Offerings	75.00	111.00	600.00	1298.00
Pledges	19650.42	12954.00	157203.34	156488.00
Non-pledged Contributions	3666.67	3201.67	29333.34	29033.36

Garden Report

Signs of September



Sunflowers, Super Blue Moon and dwindling harvests: all signs of September. This has been a great year for the garden and I will share a season report next month. Towards the end of August and beginning of September we began to see the sunflowers blooming in the garden and it has been a feast festival for the critters. Raccoons and squirrels ran the top of the fence line to bury their teeth in the mammoth sunflower heads as the seeds began to form. Jason and I caught one having brunch one Sunday morning but we were too slow with the camera. Birds were content to snap up those kernels that fell to the ground. On August 30 we witnessed the rare event of a Super Blue Moon. The next one comes around in 14 years so remind me and I'll write a column about it. Harvests of the last of the tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, kale and green beans continue for another week or two perhaps. With mild weather we may have some October carrots. *We plant, God grows!*

Farmer/Pastor Dave



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October Celebrants

- 3 Gerald Busch, Rose Peacock
- 4 Lee Tyson
- 8 Ted Greenwood
- 9 Mary Herbert
- 10 Lucas Owens
- 11 Marley Leach
- 12 Arthur Merkle, Roy Vice
- 13 Karen Johnson
- 15 Ed Wingham
- 20 Marcie Bogan
- 21 Tonya Mitchell
- 24 Don Brown
- 27 David Coggins, Erin Taylor Dewett
- 29 Janet Landis
- 30 Stephanie (Lee) Stripe
- 31 Mike Rasco



(Is your birthday not listed? Please contact the church office and update our records.)

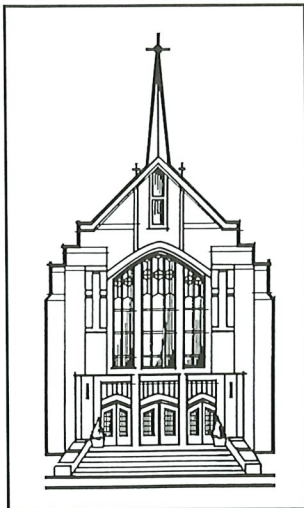
AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

International Ministries



October Offering

World Mission Offering (WMO) gifts are used for mission program support (global servant, international partner, and other ministry support), for development costs and administrative support. As the body of Christ, we respond together to the needs around the world—when everyone contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expenses. WMO gifts support global servants with training and pastoral care, enable us to address crises when they arise, and so much more. Giving generously in October will help our global servants continue their important work in the world.



First Baptist Church of Dayton *Courier* (USPS 193/500). Published monthly by the First Baptist Church of Dayton, 111 W. Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402. Periodicals postage paid at Dayton, OH. *Postmaster: Send address changes to First Baptist Church of Dayton Courier, 111 W. Monument Avenue, Dayton, OH 45402.*

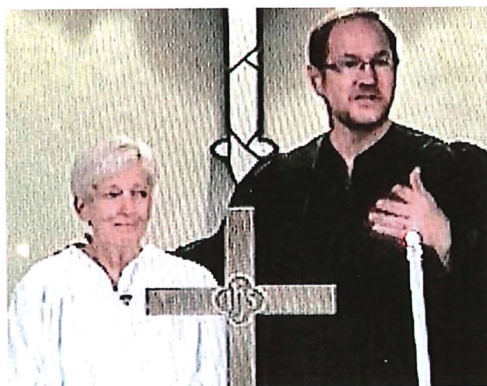


Welcome New Member

On Sunday, September 10, 2023 the Right Hand of Fellowship was received by:

Debbie Smith

*Debbie joined by Baptism.
Her faith partner is Linda Thomson.*



For Our Cards and Prayers



Glen Babb	Gene & Mary K Lee
Gerald Busch	Arthur Merkle
Florida Dixon	Carolyn Mowry
Jim Earnest	Nash Family
Luke Earnest	Mary Ann Paloncy
Neil Earnest	Susan Parent
Lavanda Ferguson	Ed Rhodes
Greenwood Family	Judy Smith
Harrell Family	Anne Veghte
Tim Holmen	Harold West
Ray Landis	Dorothy Williams
Lasley Family	

Military Duty:

Sebastian Ewald, Sunny Ewald, Brittany Kalbfleisch, Will Radachi, Andy Wilson

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERINGS

Queer Theology

Led by Rev. Jeffrey Perkins

Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm

September 24 – October 15 in 1st Floor Chapel

This fall we will have a four-part series on Queer Theology led by the Rev. Jeffrey Perkins. This class will focus on:

- Contextual Theology – What is your worldview?
- The Genesis of Queer Theology – Cause and Effect
- Application and Obstacles in Queer Theology
- Moving Forward: Redemption and Relevance

Jeff received his Bachelors of Science in English and Religion from the University of the Cumberland in Williamsburg, Kentucky. His Masters in Divinity degree was acquired from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. While in seminary, Jeff was a proctor for and taught in the absence of his lead professor on the subjects of systematic theology and reformation theology. After graduation from Southeastern, Jeff was lead pastor for 6-years in the U.S. For 4-years Jeff served as a church-planting missionary in the former East German state of Saxony-Anhalt, using sports as a platform for engaging Neo-Nazi youth in Christianity. Following Jeff's work overseas he worked as a high school teacher, stock broker/investment advisor, and currently serves as a clinical hospital chaplain. Jeff is married to Michael Wadham and together they have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren residing in Tennessee and North Carolina. Jeff is manager of pastoral care services for UHealth. He is thrilled to be a member of FBC Dayton and is active in the missions committee and choir.

Alternatives to Violence Intro

Led by Rev. Joe Henry

October 22 & 29 @ 11:30am-12:15pm in 1st Floor Chapel

Rev. Joe Henry will offer some introductory information on the Alternatives to Violence Project, and the upcoming workshop that he will be offering on Nov. 4-5 at First Baptist. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn ways of engaging conflict in our personal and public lives, and we encourage you to learn more in these introductory sessions, and consider attending the workshop.

Sermon Talkbacks

First Sundays @ 11:30am-12:15pm (beginning Nov. 5)

1st Floor - Sanctuary

The Board of Christian Education has heard the desire among some to have opportunities for congregants to converse with the pastors about their sermons in an open forum. This has often been called a "sermon talkback." And so, we have decided to give this a try, offering such talkbacks on the first Sunday of the month in the Sanctuary. What better place to talk about the sermon than in the space in which it was delivered? The first talkback will then take place on All Saints Sunday, November 5 with Pastor Kent. We hope you'll join us and share the questions, insights, challenges, etc. that the sermon may have left you with.

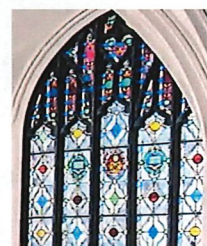
“Preservation of Light” Campaign

To Preserve the Stained-Glass Windows of First Baptist Church of Dayton

On any given sunshiny day you can sit in our beautiful sanctuary and observe the incredible colors of light from our stained-glass windows bounding off the walls. Such a beautiful gift that our forefathers and God have provided for us.

The thought that went into the creation of these windows back in 1913 must have been an ingenious stroke of wisdom to their creator. The preservation of these windows has been daunting and costly through the years for the First Baptist Church congregation members. The torch of light has now passed to our congregation to maintain the glow of God’s light through these beautiful and historic windows. Just in time to help celebrate our 200th anniversary, we are announcing “The Preservation of Light” campaign, a campaign with a goal of \$450,000 to help preserve and maintain these windows for the future. This campaign will stretch over a four-year period. With the help of possible grants and your faithful gifts, we will be able to reach our goal and restore the stained-glass windows of First Baptist Church of Dayton to their greatest beauty.

First Baptist Church has not earned her reputation as one of Ohio’s historical buildings and most progressive churches for learning and loving God with all mind and heart by accident. Since our modest beginning in 1824, we have been a leader in the Dayton area. The maintenance required to keep First Baptist Church beautiful, historical, and strong is extensive, and we intend to raise the money to allow our beautiful and historic campus to remain one of Dayton’s finest. There are multiple ways for you to support “The Preservation of Light” campaign for the First Baptist Church of Dayton. As you pray, fully consider how you are going to help. Please accept our gratitude and thanks in advance.



Per Building Diagram (13 ft. x 18 ft.)

- The existing protective covering will be removed.
- Re-cement the stained-glass window on the exterior surface.
- Reduce bulged section(s): 3 (at top of the left 3 large lancets)
- Install new steel structural support braces: 3
- Remove loose paint on the outer surface of the millwork. Apply both a primer coat and finish coat of Sherwin-Williams Duration.
- The Klear-Flo™ protective covering system will be installed utilizing a special perimeter frame.
- Glazing bars will be bent to follow the major lines of the framing, thus preserving the exterior appearance of the architecture.
- Windows shall be covered with our exclusive Klear-Flo protective covering system utilizing ¼” acrylic.

Questions? Please contact Bob Kerr at rkerr160@aol.com or call 937-388-8048.

Be part of this important and historic time for the First Baptist Church of Dayton! You will come together with all our members and friends for the beauty of First Baptist Church. We invite you to make a meaningful contribution as you consider the place of First Baptist Church in your life and the life of your family.

MY CONTRIBUTION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

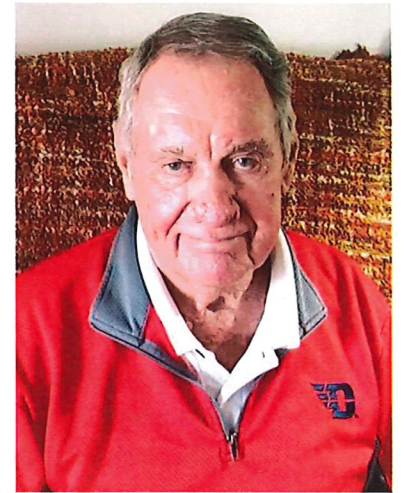
EMAIL and/or PHONE _____

I pledge \$_____ over the next four years for the “Preservation of Light” Campaign for First Baptist Church of Downtown Dayton.

Gough's gathering for Ed & Laura Rhodes



Happy 90th Bill Harrell

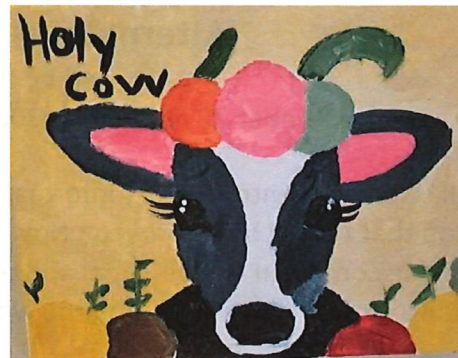


Let My People Go

Pastor David Coggins

Peggy and I had a most delightful visit recently with Lavanda Ferguson in the Astoria Health & Rehab Center in Germantown. She was in great spirits and is recovering well from a recent fall. She misses church and the choir so she enjoys getting the weekly bulletin. This past week had some additional music including one hymn, "When Israel was in Egypt's Land." She decided her arm was healed enough to go down to the common area and try to play it on the old piano there. Lavanda has "perfect pitch" so it was agonizing for her to plunk out the tune on the out-of-tune piano and sing to the other residents. She said about the third time she was singing the refrain "Go Down Moses, way down in Egypt's land, tell old Pharaoh, Let my people go!", the residents in wheelchairs started wheeling themselves around and out of the room saying, "We're going! We're going." Lavanda's roommate says she's a hoot. Hoot or not, we love her all the same.

Pictures: Lavanda holding a gift from Linda and Don Brown, a new bunny. Her latest art work *Holy Cow!*



In a recent visit with Tim Holmen he sends his thanks to everyone for their cards and prayers during his surgery, recovery and continuing rehab.

Picture: Tim getting ready for another physical therapy session.



Photos from the recent Janet Lasley Legacy Garden "Before Tour and Volunteer Days"

