

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

alexfbc.com



# Newsletter

JULY - 2023

## A Note from the Youth Pastor

My family got the opportunity to visit my brother and his family in Atlanta this past weekend. We were hoping to be able to attend their new church while we were there, and on Sunday we got our wish.

Andy Stanley's church has a satellite campus called Decatur City Church. We were impressed before we even pulled into the parking lot. There were police directing traffic and a volunteer parking attendant right at the entrance making sure we knew where to go. Once we walked inside, we were instantly greeted by multiple ushers with smiling faces. They helped us check our family in, gave us a welcome gift, and assisted us in dropping our kids off at their various classes.

The music in the service was uplifting, and the message was interesting and timely. After worship, they asked everyone to join them in their youth room for a free Waffle House brunch. I thought to myself, "surely this is a special occasion or something." As if reading my thoughts, my brother informed me "they're always doing something like this, almost every week. This week I guess it's Waffle House."

As I sat down to write this, I received an email from Decatur City Church thanking me for having my family spend our Sunday with them, pointing me toward resources their church offers, and asking us to reach out if there's anything they can ever do for us.

I share this with you because based on that experience, if I was looking for a church to attend, I would look no further than that one. As a first time visitor, I felt loved, appreciated, and safe. The many ushers and volunteers that we encountered were genuine, helpful, and excited. There was a vibrancy to the place.

So, my question about First Baptist Church is this: If I was to walk into FBC for the first time, what would make it so irresistible that I wouldn't want to go anywhere else? What are we doing that shows our genuine love for our community and those who step foot through our doors? Are we putting on a smile? Are we lending a helping hand? Are we here to serve? Obviously, we are not a large church with seemingly unlimited resources, so I am not asking us to compare ourselves to Andy Stanley, or Rick Warren, or anyone else, but I would like us to think within our context. Who are we? Where are we? What are we doing?

I am asking you, as you consider our church, to be thinking about how and why we do what we do. If our goal is to spread the love of Christ to a world that desperately needs it, how can we put our best foot forward? Do our guests feel welcome? What can we do to make their experience memorable? Where are you serving? With what ministry are you helping? Remember, when we serve others, we are serving Jesus.

Please feel free to share any ideas you have with the marketing team or with Pastor Michael. We would love to work together with you to make First Baptist Church the best that it can possibly be!

Eric Prophet - Youth Pastor

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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# Back to School Rally

Monday, July 24th from 5-7pm

**First Baptist Church  
2107 S Park Ave  
Alexandria, IN**



The Mission Team is working with other local churches to prepare for this year's Back to School Rally!

You can participate by:

- Praying
- Donating (Please designate as Back to School Rally)
- Buying Supplies
- Volunteering
- Baking cookies

Contact Gerry Cloncs or any other team member if you have questions.

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# 4-H FAIR

First Baptist Church is going to have a booth at this year's 4-H Fair! We will have music, giveaways, popcorn, face-painting, and more. WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please let Eric Prophet or Andy Nichols know if you can help us one evening during the week of July 16-22. We would love to have you!



## Attention All Children!

**July 9** - Brian and Jennifer Dickey will host a lunch and pool party at their home after morning worship. Jill Thomas will have directions for where to take your children.

**July 28** - Family Movie Night from 6:00-9:30pm. We'll have dinner, games, and a movie. Kids of all ages are welcome to come with their families!

## S.A.L.T. Society

S.A.L.T. Society will have a pitch in at the church on **Tuesday, July 18th at Noon**

Last month, the S.A.L.T. Society took a road trip to the Candles Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana. They had great discussions on the trip and learned a great deal about what the Jews experienced during the war. Here are some photos from their trip!





## 4th of July Parade

We had a great time walking in the parade! Thank you to everyone who donated candy for this event, and also to all who participated!









Community  
**POOL  
PARTY**



First Baptist Church is sponsoring a free pool party at the Alex City Pool for you and yours on **Tuesday, July 25th from 7:00-9:00pm!**



Phil Prophet and the trustees have been extra busy the last few months! They installed new lighting in the Family Life Center and the youth room that will save the church in energy costs. They also turn on and off instantly, which is a major improvement!

The trustess also installed new toilets in the entire church where there were still originals from 1992. Thank you, trustees, for all that you do to keep the church building and property in good shape!

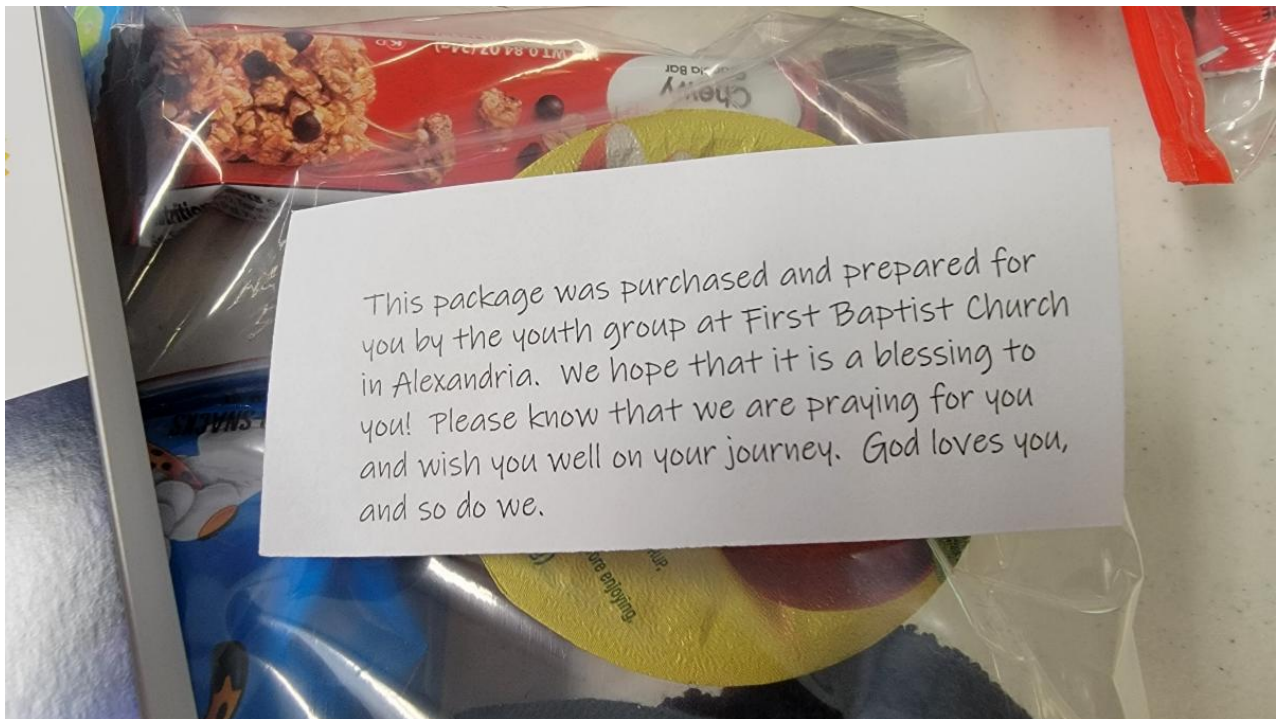
**Packages for Prisoners**



Impact purchased items to put into care packages for 100 men incarcerated in Madison County. We included some snacks, socks, and a book titled "An Anchor for the Soul." Thank you to these three young ladies who helped out and to Pastor Michael for providing the books!







## SERVICES



### **Sunday**

10:30am: Worship Celebration

### **Tuesday**

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch  
S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

### **Wednesday**

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **Just for Show**

An increasing number of antique leather-bound books are being purchased for their covers and not their content. Interior designers buy them by the linear yard and use them to create a warm, old-world atmosphere in the homes of affluent clients. Of prime importance is whether they match a room's decor. One wealthy businessman purchased 13,000 antique books he will never read just to create a library look in his renovated home. Those books are just for show.

Focusing on outward appearances can be a pleasing way to decorate a house, but it's a dangerous way to live. Jesus reprimanded many religious leaders of His day because they did not practice what they preached. They were addicted to receiving praise and feeling self-important. Instead of opening the kingdom of heaven to people, they shut the door in their faces. Jesus said of them, "Everything they do is for show" (Matt 23:5).

The Lord calls us to be people of inner substance, not just outward appearance. We are to demonstrate the reality of His presence in us by an attitude of humility. "The greatest among you must be a servant" (v.11).

In living for Jesus, our content is far more important than our cover. We are here for more than show.

*Lord, please help me to keep my motives pure. I desire that all my words and every action be a reflection of a heart and mind renewed by you. I want your love to shine*



from me.

If God controls you on the inside,  
you'll be genuine on the outside.

From Our Daily Bread



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