

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Newsletter

JUNE - 2024

DID YOU EVER WONDER?

Since the newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month, it is a good time to answer the question: Who fixes communion and how do they fill all of those little cups without spilling a drop?

This month we want to focus on one task that the Deacons perform and that is the fixing of communion on the first Sunday of every month. Two members of the Board of Deacons meet early on Sunday morning to prepare communion. The bread is pre-cut into cubes and put into airtight containers to make filling the bread plates easier on that Sunday morning. (Insider information: the bread is usually Hawaiian rolls cut up into cubes.)



The cups, of course, are filled with grape juice. The real trick is how those little cups are filled. In the picture above, you will see the secret tool. It is a funnel-like apparatus with a plunger on top that when pushed down opens a little sealed area on the bottom. That allows for the juice to fill the communion cup very neatly without spilling a drop! After all trays are filled, the communion table is taken to the sanctuary, set up to be ready for the celebration of communion during our service. This is one task that the Deacons are privileged to prepare for our church. This is just an example of a simple task that we see every month but might not know just how it happens. Thanks to the Board of Deacons for preparing this every month.

Kevin and Beth Thompson

Added historical fact. Long before dishwashers were common the communion cups used to be glass and had to be hand washed (by mom) and dried (by my sister and I) when my dad was a Deacon. The plastic cups are a great improvement!

Kevin

NEWS AND EVENTS

Summer is here! School is out! Our community garden plot, #4, is planted. Please join us in praying that it grows well and that people are blessed with what it produces.

Thank you to Jane Kleyla and Missy Swanson for using their gardening skills.

Speaking of prayer, please start praying for the Back To School Rally. It will be held on Monday, July 29th. Watch for ways to serve and support this outreach.

May God bless your summer,

Gerry Cloncs



Church Brochures

An idea out of the Board of Deacons has turned into a church brochure that is now available on the visitors' center. It was mentioned that we have a lot of people coming into the church building for funerals and other community events such as the High School Baccalaureate. The purpose of this brochure is to show, primarily using pictures, an overview of our church in hopes of inviting someone to visit or at least check out our website where more detailed information can be found. Studies show that people who are looking for a church will check out printed information, websites, and online services before ever attending in person on a

Pick one up, see if you can recognize yourself or someone you know in any of the pictures and then give it to a friend. In fact, pick up several and give out to several friends! Special thanks to Pastor Eric for taking the rough draft and turning it into a polished finished product.

Kevin Thompson
Chairman, Board of Deacons

An Open Letter to my First Baptist Brothers:

Close to 25 years ago, I had a yearning to fellowship with men of God. I had heard about Coffee Cup Evangelism and thought that was a pretty good approach. The coffee cup part fit hand in glove with the newly opened coffee bar in Gaither Family Resource Center. So, I invited Mike Adams, Greg Goins, Don McClead and Hugh Phipps to join me one morning. Over a good cup of coffee, we shared our love for Jesus, where we were in our individual journeys and how good God was to each of us and our families. We also shared our needs and prayer requests. This became a weekly event that very quickly grew to become important to us. We invited others and we multiplied quickly. One day Gloria said to me, “why don’t you move your men back to the Common Place?” “After all, that room is exactly why Bill and I opened it, with that very purpose in mind.”

That’s where we are today, my brothers. I would like to invite you to join us on any Wednesday morning in the Common Place in the rear of the Alexandria Bakery. We are running 30-35 men every meeting. The fellas start gathering around 6:30 am and there is free coffee. Most guys wander up front and get a donut or two and come back to the room to fellowship. The meeting officially starts at 7 am and we have you out by 8 am. Some of the guys go for the meeting after the meeting for breakfast at Blueberry Hill. In that hour we have spirit filled singing led by Woody Wright often with testimonies, we field prayer requests and concerns, and then a brief devotional by one of our men. Often, that devotional is usually one of our guys just simply telling their story about Jesus in their life. Every man in that room has a story to tell. This is a place where it can be told freely and with no recrimination or judgement.

I have attached some statements from our guys about what the Wednesday Morning Men’s Coffee Cup Fellowship means to them.

I realize that the time slot won’t fit many. But if you yearn to have fellowship with like minded brothers that have walked similar walks, I invite you to come check us out. I have heard that sleep is highly overrated anyway!

Questions? Call me at 765-620-5913. I hope to see you walk in the door one morning. I don’t think you will leave the same man as you came in.

With brotherly love,
Mike Owens

“Men’s meeting for me is a cave I can return to after battling the world where like-minded men gather around a communal fire to share and strengthen their spirits.”

"I enjoy the fellowship and knowing that the other men are there because they come expecting a blessing. We look forward to being together, supporting each other, and sharing our testimonies and stories of our life."

"For me our time of fellowship and worship on Wednesday morning is an important part of my walk with Christ. To hear other men's testimony of what Christ is doing and has done in their lives and knowing that we are all in this together and we share the same struggles and triumphs in this life and that we are not alone because we strengthen each other every week to have a closer walk with Christ is a blessing."

"I can't think of a better place to be on Wednesday morning than to be with so many God loving friends. It's something I wouldn't want to miss every week. I need the group."

"The Alexandria Wednesday Morning Men's Coffee Cup Fellowship was a Godsend for me. When I moved to Alexandria 21 years ago, I knew very few folks in Alexandria. When I joined the group, I not only found dozens of new friends, but also a band of brothers who believe in the power of prayer and were not afraid to use it! I can't imagine my life without this powerful combination of brothers, prayer partners, ministry opportunities and pure joy."

"Though somewhat a stranger from Frankton and Anderson, I love the fellowship and stories of all the men who have different backgrounds including different denominations. It also is like getting a spiritual boost in the middle of the week through the great worship, humor, prayer and the "BAND OF BROTHERS" atmosphere."

"God has provided our group with so much Grace. Every Wednesday I get to see and hear all God is doing in our lives. What better way to share in fellowship than with a group of loving brothers who truly care."

"After being part of this group the past couple of years, it made me wish I had been invited many years sooner. This Men's group has been a blessing to me and I hate when I have to miss or cannot attend. It is always good being around other men following Christ!"

"In a society that's pushed the lie of toxic masculinity for almost thirty-years, it's more important than ever to not only come together and encourage one another in what it means to walk upright as a man, Biblically - in all it's challenges and rewards - but we also recognize more than ever the importance of mentorship as the torch is generationally passed. Whether it be examples of Moses and his father-in-law, Jethro, Eli and Samual, Paul and Timothy, Jesus and His disciples, or the many Psalms and Proverbs that encourage us to pass on a testimony by example to those who follow for God's glory, the Bible makes it clear that coming together in Jesus' name is a necessary component of our Great Commission."

"As a Timothy that was in need of a Paul or two, I've found the Wednesday Morning Men's group filled with more than an excellent group of righteous examples. Additionally, they have shown me the importance of finding a Timothy or two of my own to whom I may serve accordingly by understanding that the Body of Christ is a living family."

Tuesday, June 4th at Noon we will have a pitch-in at the home of Linda Nelson. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert. Linda's address is 877 E 1000 N, Alexandria.

You are invited to attend a FREE men's event on June 8th! See info below.

MADE FRESH DAILY

ALEXANDRIA BAKERY
SINCE 1951

COFFEE • COOKIES • DONUTS

**Wednesdays
6:45 - 8:00 a.m.**

*Alexandria
Wednesday Morning
Men's Coffee Cup
Fellowship*

Save the date!
Dennis Swanberg

**Saturday June 8
Coffee and Donuts at 8:30
Free!**

**FREE MEN'S RALLY
CHESTERFIELD COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF GOD 10 A.M.
BRING A FRIEND!**

BREAKFAST BIBLE with BULL

Attention FBC Kids!

Summer Camp season is upon us! If you would like to send your child to church camp this year, here are a few camps that are available. Please keep in mind that if you're a regular attender of First Baptist Church, 50% of your child's camp fee will be covered by the church. See Jill Thomas to fill out the required form.

Indian Creek Baptist Camp - Located in Bedford, IN
Visit www.campindiancreek.com to register.

Grades	Sessions <small>Dates and prices subject to change</small>	Dates
Kindergarten- 1st	FIRST TIMERS - \$100	June 2nd - 3rd
1st - 2nd	EXPLORER - \$215	June - 9th - 11th
2nd - 3rd	DISCOVERY - \$230	June 12th - 15th
10th - 2024 Grads	SENIOR HIGH - \$350	June 16th - 22nd
4th-6th Girls Only	GIRLS CAMP \$250	June 22nd - 26th
4th-6th Boys Only	BOYS CAMP - \$250	June 26th - 30th
6th-8th	CHALLENGE - \$350	July 14th - 20th
7th-9th	FOCUS - \$350	July 20th - 26th
16yrs + <small>(mild to moderate special needs)</small>	SPECIAL PERSONS - \$225	July 28th - 31st

Friendship ABY Camp - Located in Springville, IN and Spencer, IN
See Eric Prophet for a registration form.

2024 Camp Dates and Locations:

Primary: Grade 3-5

McCormick's Creek SP.

June 3-7

Junior: Grade 6-8

Camp Olivet.

June 17-21

Senior: Grade 9-12

Camp Olivet.

June 10-14

THE THIRD TUESDAY TABLE

The Deaconesses of First Baptist Church are hosting community dinners!
These are held on the Third Tuesday of each month. **EVERYONE IS INVITED.**

This month's dinner will be **June 18th from 5:00pm-6:00pm.**
Menu is Sloppy Joes, Pasta Salad, Chips, and Fruit.

Dine in only - no carry outs.

Cedar Point



Impact is heading to Cedar Point
and Kalahari Resort June 19-20th!



Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! Make a Splash this summer by volunteering to help (Sunday June 23rd-Thursaday June27th, 6:-8:30pm). There are lots of ways to be involved. Sign up with Jill Thomas or Elida Stillwell. You may call the church office at (765)-724-2457 or email alexfbcsecretary@gmail.com.

To sign your child up for VBS, please click [HERE](#).



Fifth Sunday Pitch-in and Game Day!

Sunday, June 30th after worship will be a pitch-in lunch hosted by the Sewing Ladies. Everyone is invited! Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert and enjoy a time of food and fellowship! Stay afterward for a Family Game Day and enjoy some board games, card games, volleyball, basketball, and more!

Pastor Michael's Spring Reading List

I try to update everyone on what I'm reading and what my thoughts are on the books. Some are winners, some are not. I read books which are not only Christian books, but secular as well. Most are recommended from friends or blogs I read. Many of the books have been checked out from the Alexandria library. Occasionally, I will buy a book, but I'm trying to let go of many books as well.



AND don't forget the number 1 book to read is always the Bible! I'm enjoying my time reading the Bible this year, as my focus has been on journaling through the New Testament, which I am now on my 3rd go around. My hope is to read the N.T. 6 times this year.

Here is my list from the Spring - - -

1. When the Cheering Stopped: The Last Years of Woodrow Wilson. By Gene Smith. 2018

Gene Smith is an excellent writer. If you enjoy history, this may be for you. This book chronicles the stunning decline in Woodrow Wilson's fortunes after World War I. Wilson went from hero to recluse, suffered a stroke and his wife basically ran the country for 2 years.

2. The Eye of the Storm: Living Spiritually in the Real World. By Kenneth Leech. 1992

I struggled with this book. It was hard to get into. So, my impressions were not great. I was excited to read it, but disappointed in the end.

3. The Attention Merchants: The Epic Scramble to Get Inside Our Heads. By Tim Wu. 2016

This was a fascinating book in which Wu wrote about the start of advertising in newspapers and the constant barrage of information and marketing we face.

4. The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise. Robert Cardinal Sarah. 2017

The book is about the need for silence in a busy and noisy world. When we can become silent, we have a better opportunity to hear the voice of God.

5. Same as Ever: A Guide to What Never Changes. By Morgan Housel. 2023

Housel invites us to identify many things that never, ever change. He tells stories about how we see an unchanging world, and by taking a backwards look, we see what is true. It's a different book, but an easy read with many engaging stories.

6. The Good and Beautiful God. By James Bryan Smith. 2009

This was a very good book. Smith tries to dispel many of the ways we have false ideas about the way God works, and then fleshes out what the truth is. This book is part of a series of books by Smith.

7. Bushido: The Samurai Code of Japan. By Inazo Nitobe. 2019 (revised and edited)

This was originally written in 1905. This is considered the most influential book written on the Japanese "Way of the Warrior" (that's what Samurai means). This book details the moral code of the Samurai way of living and the virtues every Samurai warrior abides by. Worth reading as well.

If you have any books you would recommend, please pass the titles on to me. Thanks and enjoy reading!!

Pastor Michael

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

6:30pm: Bible Study
6:30pm: High Point (K-3rd), Crew 456 (4th-6th), Impact (7th-12th)



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