

First News & Notes

August-September 2026



Wanted - A Few Encouragers

“Let usencourage one another.” Hebrews 10:24-25

We are to encourage our brothers and sisters in their walk with the Lord and take time to notice the positive things they’re doing and encourage them in their work for Jesus. We’re to be in the “building up” business, not the “tearing down” business. Encouragement is fundamental to the Christian faith. We need this when we need a lift spiritually.

How important it is to be an encourager! The late Billy Graham is reported to have said, “one of the greatest needs among believers today, is the ministry of encouragement.”

The writer mentions two areas for encouragement in Hebrews 10:24 - love and good deeds.

That’s what encouragement is all about. That’s a ministry for every Christian...something we can do this week. How?

First, start every day by saying an encouraging word to each member of your family.

Second, before you say a word of criticism, say a prayer for the person you are criticizing.

Third, when you feel the slightest urge to encourage someone, do it! Put aside your work, get up from your desk and pick up the phone, write a note, send a text, pat someone on the back or say a kind word to lift someone’s spirits.

Here is the most encouraging fact I know about the ministry of encouragement: the more you encourage others, the more *you* are encouraged.

Encouragement is not something that perishes in the using. It increases by giving it away. Like the miracle of the loaves and fishes, the more you give, the more you receive. By giving encouragement to a fellow traveller, the spigot of God’s blessings is opened to you. So, far from running out, before long you are running over with God’s blessings.

The story is told of a second-grade boy who was trying out for a part in the school play. When the day came for the auditions, his mother took him to school and waited for him to come out.

She was nervous because she knew he couldn’t sing, couldn’t act, couldn’t dance, and couldn’t memorize very well. She was surprised when he came out after 45 minutes with a big smile on his face. “How did it go, honey?”

“It was great, Mum. Guess what? I’ve been chosen to clap and cheer.”

In truth, that could be said of all of us. We’ve all been chosen by God to clap and cheer for our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. They need to hear it, and we need to do it.

~ Pastor Alex



AUGUST

8—Jim Willis
10—Lee Parke
14—Harald Rust
24—Norm McAuslan
31—Alex Craig



Bev & Earle—August 20

SEPTEMBER

2—Judy Baker
2—Sharon McGrail
9—Bill Baker
14—Earle Woolaver
18—Wanda Pratt
20—Millie White
30—Ken Girard



Be sure to stay after the service for Fellowship!

A great time to catch up with one another while
enjoying some delightful nibbles!

Sunday, August 30 & Sunday, September 27



Summer Park Services

August 2: St Andrew's—Music from J Breen Family

August 9: First Baptist—Music from Elizabeth and Debbie

August 16: St Paul's—Music TBA

August 23: First Baptist —Music from 'The Sisters'



Bring a lawn chair and join us!

Freewill offering

An Invitation to Baptism

~ Pastor Alex

I'm delighted to share that we are looking forward to celebrating a baptismal service here at First Baptist Church in the near future.

Baptism is a very special step in the life of a believer. It is a public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ and an act of obedience to His command: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* — Matthew 28:19

With that in mind, I want to extend a personal invitation to anyone in our congregation who has trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour but has never followed Him in believer's baptism by immersion.

Perhaps you have thought about baptism for some time. Perhaps you have questions about what baptism means, whether you are ready, or what is involved. There is absolutely no pressure or obligation. I would simply be very happy to sit down with you, answer your questions, look together at what the Bible teaches, and help you prayerfully consider this important step in your walk with Christ.

If the Lord has been speaking to your heart about baptism, please speak with me personally.

This may be the very opportunity God is giving you to take that next step of faith and obedience.

"Those who accepted his message were baptized." — Acts 2:41

Our Seniors' Lunch & Hymn Sing Returns!



Thursday, September 17

NOON—Fellowship Hall

Freewill donation

Why not bring a friend?

Everyone's welcome!

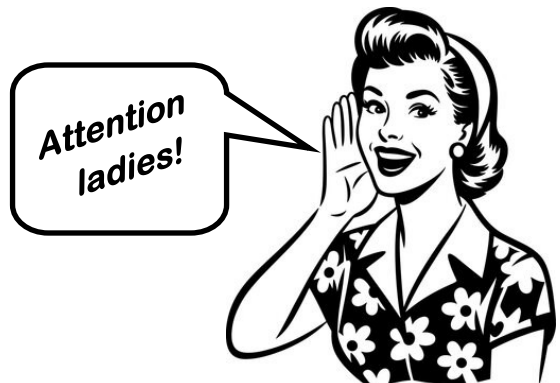
Our Ladies Bible Study resumes September 23!

We will be delving into

The Lamb of God: Seeing Jesus in Exodus,
Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

by Nancy Guthrie.

See Sara for more details and a copy of the book.



*Please pray for our upcoming Bible camp, August 10-14,
that young ears will hear the message of Jesus's love and
that the seeds that will be planted will grow into faith.*

Pray also for the leaders and volunteers.



CEF® is a Bible-centered, interdenominational, worldwide organization, composed of born-again believers whose purpose and mission are to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, disciple them in the Word of God, and establish them in a Bible-believing church for Christian living.

Last year, through several youth ministries, over 29.2 million children around the world heard the Good News — some of them from our own community thru last summer's Bible camp here at our church!

Sometimes the Lord calms the storm;
sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child.



Something to think about.....

What if you woke up today with only the things that you thanked God for yesterday?

Some people have only three reasons for attending church
--when they are HATCHED, MATCHED and DISPATCHED.

Prevent truth decay. Read your Bible every day.

A Bend in the Road



*When we feel we have nothing left to give
And we are sure that the "song has ended"--
When our day seems over and the shadows fall
And the darkness of night has descended,
Where can we go to find the strength
To valiantly keep on trying,
Where can we find the hand that will dry
The tears that the heart is crying--
There's but one place to go and that is to God
And, dropping all pretense and pride,
We can pour out our problem without restraint
And gain strength with Him at our side--
And together we stand at life's crossroads
And view what we think is the end,
But God has a much bigger vision
And he tells us it's only a bend--
For the road goes on and is smoother,
And the "pause in the song" is a "rest,"
And the part that's unsung and unfinished
Is the sweetest and richest and best.
So rest and relax and grow stronger,
Let go and let God share your load,
Your work is not finished or ended,
You've just come to "a bend in the road."*

~ Helen Steiner Rice

A Box of Buttons



My husband gave me a box of used buttons. I see so many things when I look at them.

First and foremost, I think of my sweetheart who thought of me when he came across them. He knew I'd love them. He knew I'd be as proud of them, as if they were silver or gold. They were a wonderful surprise and I've already spent a great amount of time looking over them. I could never pick one favorite. Each one is beautiful in its own way.

I think about what the clothes must have looked like from which they came. No doubt, some from women's dresses, baby clothes, and men's shirts. Where did they go, what did they see? Did the lady wearing these buttons stand in front of a wood cook stove 3 times a day? Did a little one take her first steps in a dress adorned with those? Someone took the time to remove them from their garments before disposing of them.

Some of these buttons are so old, they started to crumble when handled. Some are as strong as when they were made. Some are worn and scratched. Others are shiny and bright. Many are soiled and need a little TLC. Some are still carrying the thread that attached them to the garment.

This got me to thinking. Aren't we a lot like these buttons? All so very different. Some of us needing just a little TLC so we can shine again. Others looking bright as a new dime. Some are bound by threads we just can't seem to get free from. Oh, but God! He can cut those threads away. Like an old button, He can clean us up and give us purpose again. He sees the beauty in each individual, no matter the flaws. I'm thankful for His grace and love because I fall short every day. I'm glad to know He loves me, just as I am."



– *Christie Launius Poole*

Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

MISSIONFEST 2026

"Taking the Gospel to the Heart of Africa"

This year, Missionfest will focus on 4 distinct but related areas.

- 1) Supporting a couple from Africa, new to CBM, and presently preparing at Laval University. They plan to serve God in Togo in French-speaking west Africa. The goal for this initiative is \$12,000.
- 2) Pastor Psamuel Bib from Egerton Street Baptist Church in London to support church planting and discipleship in Lagos, Nigeria. Goal: \$6,000.
- 3) Pastor Washington Martin from Tanzania, to fund theological training in Mwanza, Tanzania. Goal: \$6,000.
- 4) Pastor Eric Campbell of Arkona Baptist Church to support a sports component of current church work in Mzuzu, Malawi. Goal: \$6,000.



The church presently known as Egerton Street Baptist will be uniting with another ministry also led by Pastor Bib and will be renamed Oasis Life Church in September. This combined congregation will host the Missionfest wrap-up on Saturday, November 7.

Harald will be sharing more Missionfest details in the weeks to come.



God makes stepping stones
out of stumbling blocks.

PESSIMIST: glass half empty

OPTIMIST: glass half full

PSALMIST: "My cup runneth over..."

~Psalm 23:5



Raspberry Crumble for Two

Ingredients:

1 1/2 cups of fresh or frozen berries
2 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp corn starch
Squeeze of lemon juice

Crumble Mixture

4 tbsp melted butter
1/2 cup old fashioned rolled oats
1/2 cup all purpose flour
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 tsp baking powder

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Gently mix up the berry mixture. Mix up the crumble in a separate bowl.
3. Press about two-thirds of the crumble into the bottom of two 4-inch ramekins. Bake for 5 minutes to set the crust (more for a firmer crust).
4. Pour the berry filling over the crusts. Sprinkle the remaining crumble on top of each ramekin. Bake for 7-10 more minutes, until the fruit layer is bubbling and crumble is golden brown.
5. Cool for ten minutes. Enjoy with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream!

TIP: frozen raspberries or mixed berries work great for a really jammy, juicy fruit layer. If using frozen berries, thaw them first— just run them under warm water. Fresh raspberries and blueberries also work well because they kind of burst and release their juices a bit while baking. Fresh strawberries also work, it's recommended that chopping and slightly mashing them will give you better results.



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.

— James Dent

