

# First Baptist Church Weekly Newsletter

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**October 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



## **Birthdays this Week**

12<sup>th</sup> Rhonda Cullinan

## **Sunday's Sermon**

**"Hope When Feeling Fragmented"**

John 6:1-21

## **Worship Leader Wanted**

Our church is in need of a new worship leader or weekly piano player for our worship service. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor VanLoon at the church. Thank you

## **ND ABY Youth Convention**

**October 20 – 22**

Registration forms for the ND ABY Youth Convention held by ND ABY on October 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at Camp Bentley can be found on the table in the entry way of the church. There are also copies of the ABY Youth Ministry Policy, and Medical Release Form.

**FOUR12** YOUTH

**October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021**

Middle School (6:30-8:00pm)

High School (8:15-9:15pm)

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."*

## **World Mission Offering**

Throughout the month of October we will be taking the World Mission Offering.

*"We thank you, God of grace, for the resilience of educators and students around the world through this pandemic and pray for you to continue to show up for them in surprising ways"*

## **Preston's Perspective**

In the upcoming weeks, I would like to share with you some ideas that focus on the growth of our church. I really believe that, as a church, we have in place a solid foundation that we can build on and will help us move forward. We are a loving and caring congregation. We welcome others and look for ways to involve them in our fellowship. We have Christ-centered worship services and Bible Study. So let me take some time to share a few more thoughts. What do you imagine the future of our church looking like? Often, what we believe and expect, is what will happen. Our future may very well be what we picture it to be. So, what picture do we have for FBC in one year? In five years? Ten years? What is our "Big picture"?

Next week on October 16, I will celebrate the 38<sup>th</sup> year of my ordination. Sometimes I am amazed when I reminisce on those days and reflect on how God has worked in my life over the years.

To get where I am today, there are things that I have had to change, or do differently, and new behaviors that I have had to begin. In other words, growth happened intentionally. We create the habits necessary to create the future we want. We do this as a church, and we do this individually. When my boys were young, I taught them a sentence with ten two-letter words; "If it is to be, it is up to me."

As a church, the future is before us, but it is up to us. Whatever we may envision it to be, it will take each of us to get there. Let us hold tight to the promise in Jeremiah 29: 11; "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Be safe. Be well. Keep looking forward – with hope!

## **Obituary**

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results, "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth be known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?