



# The Epistle

JUNE 2026

First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va.

## from the PASTOR

As we enter the month of June, my heart is filled with gratitude and praise to God for His continued faithfulness to our church family. This season gives us many reasons to celebrate, reflect, and move forward together in hope.

First, thank you for your love, prayers, and kindness as we celebrated 12 years of shared ministry together as pastor and people. These years have been marked by God's sustaining grace, powerful worship, transformed lives, and a united commitment to advancing His Kingdom. I am deeply humbled by your support and partnership in ministry. It is an honor to serve alongside such a faithful congregation, and I am excited about what God is yet doing in and through us.

We also rejoice in the continued momentum of our Forward Together journey. This is more than a campaign—it is a declaration of faith. It is our collective commitment to trust God for what is next as we strengthen the ministry of our church for generations to come. Thank you for your prayers, your sacrifice, and your willingness to move boldly into the future God

PASTOR, *continued on pg. 3*

## Women's Ministry Sister Circles

Special to the Epistle  
By Monica Evans

As we continue embracing our church theme, "Reset to Restore," we are excited to introduce our Sister Circles — spaces designed to strengthen fellowship, encourage spiritual growth, and deepen connections among the women of our congregation. These circles provide opportunities for women of all ages and stages of life to come together in faith, friendship, learning, and support. Whether through meaningful conversations, shared meals, creative activities, wellness experiences, Bible study, or mentorship, each Sister Circle is rooted in love, encouragement, and community.

Our prayer is that every woman will find a place to connect, grow, and be refreshed as we journey together in Christ. Through these gatherings, we celebrate the beauty of sisterhood, the wisdom shared across generations, and the power of building one another up in faith. We invite you to explore the Sister Circles below and prayerfully consider joining us as we grow together as sisters linked in love.

**Generations of Grace Sister Circle** fosters meaningful connections across generations through open dialogue, shared experiences, and spiritual growth. Through mentor/mentee relationships such as "wisdom talks," and enriching opportunities like etiquette classes, women are encouraged to pour into one another in a supportive and welcoming environment. Centered on conversations around seasons of life and the importance of first friends/sister friends, this circle nurtures faith, builds lasting relationships, and reflects the spirit of "Reset to Restore."

SISTER CIRCLES, *continued on pg. 3*



# Join the Celebration! Juneteenth Volunteer Rally and Community Celebration



The excitement is building for this year's Juneteenth Celebration, and we need YOU to help make it unforgettable! Our community-wide celebration promises to be bigger, bolder, and more impactful than ever as we honor freedom, heritage, faith, and unity together.

## Volunteer Rally Meeting—Friday, June 6 at 9 a.m.

All volunteers and anyone interested in helping are invited to attend a special Volunteer Rally Breakfast & Working Meeting on Friday, June 6 at 9:00 AM. This gathering will help prepare for both the parade and celebration activities while giving volunteers important information, assignments, and opportunities to serve.

Come enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and the excitement of preparing for one of the largest community celebrations of the summer! Volunteers are essential to making this event successful, welcoming, and meaningful for everyone who attends.

All volunteers are asked to wear the official Juneteenth T-Shirt.

Shirts are available now for \$20 and are selling fast! (See page 10)

## A Celebration You Don't Want to Miss!

This year's Juneteenth Celebration will feature something for the entire family, including:

- An exciting community parade
- An inspiring opening ceremony
- Special recognition of our Grand Marshals, Ms. Willie King and Ms. Joan Mulholland
- A lively fashion show

- Local vendors and community organizations
- Delicious food trucks
- Live entertainment and cultural experiences
- And an expanded Kids Zone packed with fun!

## Kids Zone Highlights

Children and families will enjoy:

- A petting zoo
- A Mobile VR Theme Park experience
- A Mobile Video Game Truck
- Interactive activities
- Games, fun, and much more!

Vendor spotlights will be featured soon on social media, so stay tuned as we highlight the amazing businesses and organizations participating this year.

## Special Thanks to Our 2026 Sponsors

We extend heartfelt appreciation to this year's sponsors for their generous support:

- AARP
- ERM
- Holiday Pest Control
- M&T Bank
- Mercedes-Benz of Chantilly
- Phenomenal Photo Booth
- Premier Health Destinations

We look forward to celebrating with the entire community as we honor history, uplift culture, and create lasting memories together!

## Why Juneteenth Matters

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865 — the day enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas finally learned they were free, more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. It is a celebration of freedom, resilience, faith, culture, and the ongoing pursuit of justice and equality.

Our Juneteenth Parade and Celebration serves as the kickoff to a month-long observance centered around the Liberty Amendments, reflecting on the constitutional changes that helped reshape freedom and citizenship in America.

Together, we celebrate the sacrifices of those who came before us while inspiring future generations to continue walking in freedom, hope, and purpose. —*Stacey Seay*



**JUNE 21**

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**PASTOR**, *continued from page 1*

has prepared for us. The best is still ahead.

June is also a month of celebration for our graduates of all ages and stages: kindergarten, elementary, middle school, high school, college, graduate school, and beyond. We celebrate your hard work, perseverance, and accomplishment. You have reached an important milestone, and we pray God's continued favor over your next chapter. May you walk confidently, knowing that the Lord orders your steps.

This month, we also pause to honor the significance of Juneteenth, a sacred reminder of freedom, resilience, and the enduring strength of our people. As we prepare for our Juneteenth Celebration on June 13th, including our community parade, we give thanks for the progress God has allowed and recommit ourselves to justice, unity, and hope for generations to come. I encourage everyone to come out and celebrate this important day as we reflect on our history and rejoice in our shared future. We will continue celebrating by hosting our first Juneteenth Concert on Friday, June 19th. It is my prayer that you will join us as we celebrate Juneteenth through the arts.

Last but not least, we will celebrate fathers and father figures on Father's Day. I am truly grateful for this opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate men who regularly pour into our ministry and into the lives of those around them.

Join me as I pray God's hand will cover every child, every family, and every activity this summer, and that this be a season of joy, renewal, and divine covering. Church family, let us continue to press forward in faith, unified in purpose and steadfast in love. God has brought us this far, and He will surely lead us forward, together.  
—Pastor Walton

**SISTER CIRCLES**, *continued from page 1*

**Read it and Reap Sister Circle** creates a welcoming space for women to come together in faith, fellowship, and meaningful conversation. As we read and reflect on inspiring books, we share our perspectives, life experiences, and wisdom. Through each gathering, we grow closer to God and to one another, strengthening our bond as sisters linked in love.

**Verse and Virtue Sister Circle** offers a welcoming and supportive space for women to explore the fundamentals of the Bible together. The circle will meet regularly, focusing on scripture reading, straightforward teaching, and group discussion. Questions are encouraged and participation from all members is welcomed, regardless of prior knowledge. The goal is to help women to grow in their faith, gain confidence in understanding biblical teachings, and learn to apply God's Word to their everyday lives.

**Table 2 Testimony Sister Circle** will gather to enjoy tasty food, meaningful fellowship, and spiritual growth. The circle will meet at restaurants or potluck style hosted by a circle member. Through shared meals and guided Bible discussions, participants build connections, encourage one another, and deepen their faith in a relaxed, supportive setting. It's a time to be refreshed spiritually and socially. Circle activities may include play performances and museum visits. Circle members will be responsible for the costs of their meals and outings.

**Prayer, Peace and Power Sister Circle** is designed to support physical movement, mindfulness, and overall well-being in a relaxed, social environment. Join others interested in wellness and fitness activities such as mall walks, nature walks, yoga, meditation (Tai chi), and self-defense sessions. Open to all experience levels—come participate, connect, and support your overall well-being.

**Creative Connections Sister Circle** is for those who Love creating with your hands or want to learn something new? Join us for a fun, creative space focused on sewing, crocheting, quilting, and knitting. Whether you're an experienced sewer or just picking up your first project, this circle is all about sharing skills, sparking inspiration, and enjoying time together while creating something beautiful. Come stitch, relax, and connect!

**Sign Up Genius**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040C44A8A929A75-64275813-fbcv>

# HONORING LIVING LEGACIES: Deaconess Marjorie Duncan and Deaconess Armeata Basil Named Deaconess Emeritae

*On June 7, First Baptist Church of Vienna celebrated the elevation of two extraordinary servants, Deaconess Marjorie Duncan and Deaconess Armeata Basil to the distinguished honor of Deaconess Emeritae. Congratulations to both on an honor so richly deserved!*



*Deaconess Marjorie Duncan*

After nearly four decades of faithful service, leadership, and spiritual devotion, Deaconess Marjorie Duncan is being honored with the distinguished title of Deaconess Emerita. Since her consecration in 1988, she has exemplified an unwavering commitment to the ministry, touching countless lives through her compassion, wisdom, and dedication to the work of the church. This special recognition celebrates not only her years of service, but also the lasting legacy she leaves for future generations of women in ministry.

Marjorie Duncan graced this world with her presence on October 6, 1940, in Vienna, Va. She has spent her entire life in and around First Baptist Church of Vienna (FBCV) and was baptized at the age of 12. She credits her

mother and her Aunt Sadie for greatly influencing her spiritual walk. To this day, she resides in her childhood home, which is less than a mile from First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Mother Duncan has exemplified unwavering commitment to the ministry while also remaining deeply devoted to her family. God blessed her with four children, seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

On September 20, 1983, Deaconess Duncan vividly remembers her spiritual walk changing and taking on a deeper and more powerful life. In evidence of the change, her refrain became “if anybody asks you what’s the matter with me, tell them I’m saved, sanctified, filled with the holy spirit, and I’m running for my life.” In 1988, she was consecrated as a Deaconess and has faithfully served in this ministry ever since. Through the years, she has touched countless lives with her compassion, wisdom, and servant’s heart, becoming a source of encouragement both within the church and in the community.

While at First Baptist Church of Vienna, she served for eight years as Chair of the Deaconess Ministry and served as Chair of the Burden Bearers. She has also been active in the Evangelism Ministry, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting and taught Sunday School. Additionally, she is one of the original members of the renown Spiritual Echoes Choir. Given her love and care for others, her favorite two ministries are the Evangelism and Burden Bearers Ministries.

Deaconess Duncan is active not only inside the church but also loves activities that gets her out into the community. She regularly visits the sick and shut-in, assists church members with errands, and accompanies members to medical appointments. She is a fervent prayer warrior and willingly gives her time and gift to pray with and cover FBCV members, family members, and friends in all seasons of their lives. She has been an overwhelmingly consistent and dependable foot soldier on the mission field, daily ministering to the needs of the community.

A passionate Bible reader, Deaconess Duncan has three favorite verses: Psalm 34 1-9; Psalm 23; and Psalm 27.

Along with reading the Bible in her spare time, she likes word search puzzles and spending time with family and friends. She is also a enthusiastic sports fan who loves the Washington Commanders. As a young lady, she played softball and later was a member of the FBCV bowling team for years. Today she enjoys watching football and baseball.

Deaconess Duncan was recently honored as the 2026 recipient of the CAB Outreach International Ministries, Inc. Community Service—Faithful Service Award. She is also a Life Member and ardent supporter of the NAACP.

Deaconess Duncan’s humble spirit and love for God have made her a trusted confidant and a positive reflection of God’s goodness to all who know her. The world is definitely a better place with her in it, and her First Baptist family is extra blessed to have her.



### *Deaconess Armeata Basil*

**D**eaconess Basil's 35 years of consecrated deaconess ministry—including 20 dedicated years right here at First Baptist Church of Vienna (FBCV)—stands as a monument to selfless dedication, unconditional help, and exemplary Christian character.

Deaconess Basil's story began in the village of St. Louis, Virginia, near Middleburg. Raised by her loving parents, Sadie Grant Wilkins and John Wilkins, she—along with her sister, Catherine, and her brother, John—grew up in a cozy Cape Cod house that their family called home for their entire lives.

In that house full of love, she learned early on that church and education were the cornerstones of a meaningful life.

Her spiritual journey began at the tender age of 12, when she accepted Christ under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Proctor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in St. Louis, VA, and was baptized in a local creek. From that sacred moment of surrender, her commitment never wavered. By age 15, she was already organizing youth choirs. Her life and ministry have ever since been anchored by her beloved hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," reflecting the deep intimacy with God that remains her wellspring.

While her faith was forged in youth, her specific calling to the Deaconess Ministry was revealed in a beautiful season of

shared faith. It was while studying God's Word side-by-side with her husband, Charles, that the Lord spoke directly to her heart. As they delved into scripture together, Deaconess Basil felt a profound desire to learn more deeply and a powerful stirring to touch the lives of people in a more intentional way. This time of study and prayer became the catalyst for a lifetime of official service, transforming her personal devotion into a public calling to shepherd, guide, and love God's people.

In 1991, Deaconess Basil was first seated on the Deaconess Board at First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook in McLean, where she served as President from 2001 to 2006. When she joined the First Baptist Church of Vienna family in October 2006, she seamlessly stepped into fellowship, serving as Vice President of the Deaconess Ministry under three administrations.

True leaders, however, are revealed in times of crisis. When an ill predecessor needed to step down, Deaconess Basil unselfishly assumed the presidency.

Then, during the COVID-19 pandemic—she stood tall. When the world stepped back, Deaconess Basil stepped up. She ensured that the ministry functioned, the members were cared for, and the work of the Lord never ceased.

She served as President of the Women's Ministry, organizing the Greeters Ministry, participating in Evangelism, substituting at the Cornerstone Christian Learning Academy, and assisting with the Hospitality Ministry.

Her denominational impact is equally profound. She has been awarded Life Membership in the Women's Ministry of the Baptist General Association of Virginia—honoring a lifetime of missionary service—and is a two-time recipient of the FBCV Five-Star Ministry Award (2007 and 2021).

Perhaps one of her most lasting contributions is the Bereavement Cards Outreach, which she established within the Deaconess Ministry. Moved by a deep conviction that no grieving family should ever feel invisible, she created a system of tangible, loving care. Long outlasting any single administration, this ministry continues to this day, ensuring families facing heartbreak know they are held by their church.

Beyond the church walls, Deaconess Basil's life is a seamless reflection of her faith. Married to her high school sweetheart, Charles A. Basil Jr., for 66 years, her marriage is a public witness of covenant love. Women throughout the congregation regularly seek her out for wisdom, guidance, and candid insight on nurturing a resilient, joyful marriage.

She was blessed with her beloved sons, Gary and the late Anthony, whose memories she fondly carries in her heart. Today, her legacy of love continues to grow as a grandmother to four, great-grandmother to five, and godmother to eight. Her daily life begins in quiet devotion to God, and that spirit infuses everything she touches—whether she is preparing meals for her family, walking for her health, or lifting up friends over the telephone.

Deaconess Basil has anchored her life and ministry on the promises of Philippians 4:6–7:

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

She has not only merely memorized these words; but she also has lived them, modeled them, and passed them down to us.

## Missions Ministry Updates

### Thank You for Supporting Our Birth Month Mission Celebration

A special thank you to everyone who contributed during our Quarter One Birth Month Celebration! Because of your generosity, First Baptist Church of Vienna was able to make a \$1,000 donation to the United Negro College Fund in support of education and opportunity for future generations.

Although our Quarter Two celebration has already taken place, there is still time to give. This quarter, all birth month gifts are earmarked for the Lott Carey Foreign Missions. Your support helps extend hope, ministry, and outreach beyond our local community and into communities around the world. We invite you to continue partnering with us as we seek to make a meaningful impact.

### Community Partnerships Making a Difference

We are grateful for our growing partnerships with Fidelity, Jennie Dean Lodge, and the Virginia State Association of Elks. Through these collaborations, we have been able to pack additional meal packages for students in our community who face food insecurity.

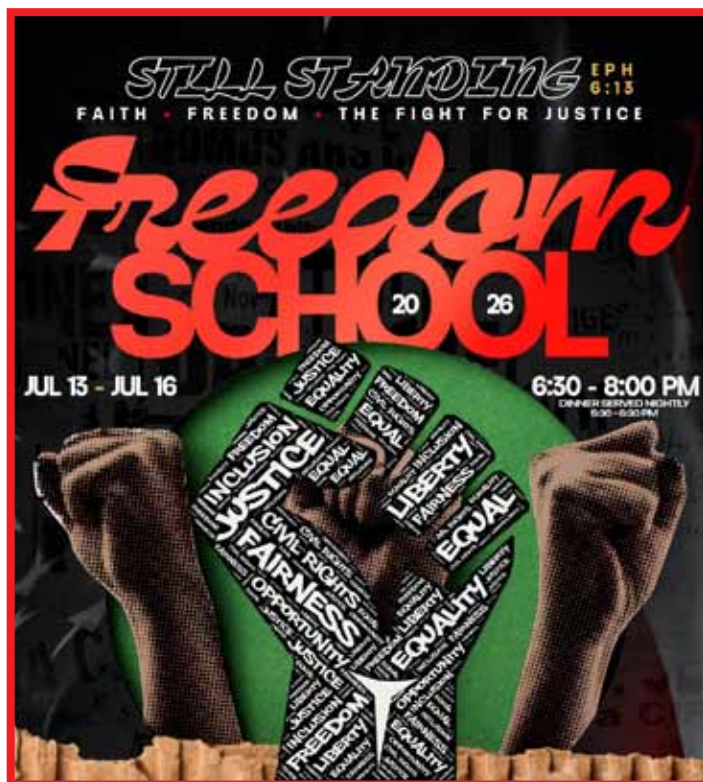
In addition, these organizations recently came together during the State Convention to pack hundreds of toiletry bags that will be distributed to area shelters to support individuals and families in need.

These types of partnerships are always welcome and deeply appreciated. If your organization would like to collaborate on a service project or community initiative, please contact Stacey Seay at [sseay@fbcv.org](mailto:sseay@fbcv.org).

### Christmas in July — Planning Underway

Planning is underway for this year's Christmas in July outreach, and we welcome your ideas, assistance, and participation. Like last year, this year's event will look a little different as we continue working to create an environment that allows those we serve to feel comfortable, respected, and fully engaged as participants in the event.

If you would like to serve on the planning and coordination team for Christmas in July, please email Stacey Seay at [sseay@fbcv.org](mailto:sseay@fbcv.org). We would love to have you help us spread joy and support throughout our community. —*Stacey Seay*



## It's that time again!

Time to get your shirts and get ready for a season full of celebration, service, and connection!

We're excited to offer two special shirts this year: our Annual Church T-Shirt and our Juneteenth Celebration T-Shirt, both designed to help us show up unified and proud at the many events ahead.

Each shirt is available for \$20, but we're offering a special bundle deal to make it even better. Purchase both shirts together for \$30 total—a \$10 savings!

### Order and Pickup Info

You can preorder your shirts today to secure your size and be ready ahead of time. Be on the lookout for upcoming opportunities to pick up your shirts in person before the events.



## FCBV Excellence Academy Celebrates Another Successful Year

The FCBV Excellence Academy will soon be wrapping up its Thursday evening sessions for the 2025–2026 school year. Ten to sixteen have gathered each Thursday evening to receive homework help, academic enrichment, music lessons, encouragement, and a warm dinner to take home to their families.

Each week, students arrive ready to learn, grow, and build relationships with caring adults who are invested in their success. The Excellence Academy continues to provide a welcoming environment where students can thrive.

This ministry would not be possible without the faithful volunteers who generously give their time, talents, and hearts each week. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated tutors who have faithfully worked with students throughout the school year. Their patience, encouragement, and commitment have made a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

A special thank you goes to Teresa Lane, Hugh McIntosh, Kathy Jones, Valerie Bartlow, Michael Calhoun, Dereon Harris, Kimberly Medrano, and Diana Smith-Jackson for their unwavering support and dedication. Their willingness to invest in the next generation has helped students gain confidence, strengthen academic skills, and experience the joy of learning.

We also offer our sincere gratitude to our faithful drivers, Norman Simmons and Rick Taylor, who generously give their time and patience each week transporting students safely to and from their homes. Rain or shine, their reliability and caring spirit ensure that students can participate and benefit from all the program has to offer.

An extra-special thank you goes to our wonderful kitchen staff, Ms. Peggy, Ms. Janet, and Ms. Betty for thoughtfully preparing meals each week. Their kindness and dedication provide more than just dinner; they offer comfort, care, and a tangible expression of love to our students and their families. The meals are eagerly anticipated each Thursday and are a treasured part of the Academy experience.

As we celebrate another successful year, we are also looking ahead with excitement and anticipation. We hope to grow in the coming year so that we can support even more students in our community.

To help make this vision a reality, we are seeking additional tutors for the upcoming school year.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA  
INVITES YOU TO  
**YOUTH & EDUCATION**  
*Sunday*

THEME:  
*A Celebration of*  
**ACHIEVEMENT**

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026  
@ 10AM  
450 ORCHARD ST. NW  
VIENNA, VA, 22180  
www.fbcv.org

Dr. Vernon C. Walton,  
SENIOR PASTOR

Whether helping with homework, providing academic support, teaching new skills, or simply being a positive and caring presence, our volunteers make a difference that extends far beyond the classroom.

No previous tutoring experience is required—just a willingness to serve, encourage, and invest in the lives of young people. Even a small amount of time can have a lasting impact. Many of our volunteers find that they receive just as much encouragement and joy from the students as they give.

For more information about volunteering with The Excellence Academy, please contact Christine Stotts at [cstotts@fbcv.org](mailto:cstotts@fbcv.org).

We look forward to welcoming new tutors to this rewarding program and continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of students and families throughout our community. Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this important ministry. With your support, Excellence Academy can continue to grow, serve, and make a difference—one student at a time. —Christine Stotts

## Strengthening the Cord: Why We Need Each Other

In a world that often tells men to “go it alone” and carry their burdens in silence, scripture offers a radically different—and much healthier—blueprint for life.

Our focus verse for the Men’s Ministry this month comes from Ecclesiastes 4:12:

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

The message here is unmistakable: isolation is dangerous, but community is a fortress.

When a single strand of thread is pulled, it snaps under the slightest tension. But when you weave multiple strands together, you create a cord capable of pulling immense weight without breaking. As Christian men, we are that third strand for one another, with Christ woven into the very center of our brotherhood.

The Men’s Ministry isn’t just about showing up for a meeting; it’s about building the kind of relationship where you know someone has your back when life gets heavy. Whether you are navigating the pressures of family, work, or faith, you don’t have to walk the path alone.

We invite all men of First Baptist Church of Vienna to strengthen each other and join us for our upcoming gatherings. Come out, connect, and help us build a brotherhood that stands strong, no matter what comes our way.

Iron sharpens iron, and brother stands with brother. We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information or to get connected, please contact:

• Sinclair Harris, Men’s Ministry Servant Leader, (202) 285 1127/  
sincora1988@me.com

• Deacon Andre Carpenter, Men’s Ministry Spiritual Advisor,  
(301) 684 0213

## Sending Our SYMPATHY

Diann Weaver and family  
for the loss of  
Deacon Anthony Weaver

Jossie Biggs and  
Deacon Carl Biggs  
for the loss of her mother

Minister Hazel Wynn and family  
for the loss of her  
sister-in-law,  
Barbara Henderson,



### Altar Flowers

DeAlmond “Dee Dee” Carter  
and family in loving memory  
of their mother,  
Esther “Tippy” Carter.

Hoyt Carter to commemorate  
the birthday of his mother  
Cora Carter.

*Compiled by Ceola Allen.*



*Together we are stronger: The FBCV Deacons standing together*

## You Are the Light of the World: It is Your Time to Shine!

When Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-15: *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp-stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”*—did you realize that He was talking about you? He gave each of us who follow Him the honor of being used by Him to bring His light in this world of spiritual darkness. Our identity as believers in Jesus is one of reflecting His light wherever we go.

Sharing with you some empowering words from the first chapter of Babbie Mason’s book, *Each One, Reach One, Everyday Ways You Can Shine God’s Light*, (Reflecting Matthew 5:16):

- “Your testimony is your story of how God’s unconditional, sacrificial love has changed your life. Your testimony is your God-story. It is not meant to be kept a secret. It’s meant to be shared.” (p. 41)

- “Take the message everywhere you go. Your personal God-story is a love story that is unique to you. The problems you’ve endured or the heartbreaks you’ve faced are formative, but they’re not the center attraction. Your God-story is not about your problems. It’s about the answers that Jesus has provided you. Always remember this: Whatever the question is, the answer is Jesus.” (pp. 41-42)

- “Telling others the Jesus-story has always been the main event. Jesus wants everyone to know that they matter to Him. That message deserves to be told. And multitudes are waiting to hear it.” (p. 42)

- “We are all part of the chain of spreading the good news about Jesus.” (p. 44)

- “You see, the Holy Spirit empowers you as a witness. He will give you words to speak at just the precise moment, He will lead others to you who need to know Him. The Holy Spirit will also give you boldness to tell others about Jesus.” (p. 49)

- “Embrace each opportunity to do your part in reaching the world where you live, no matter how small the action or gesture may seem to you. Be faithful to do what God has called you to do. This is where your faith comes in to play as you trust God to do what only He can do. You are making a difference.” (pp. 49-50)

- “Everywhere you go, The Lord orders your steps.” (p. 51)

- “Take a simple step of faith... Be watchful. Be mindful. Be prayerful. Remember this little rhyme, “The only Jesus some people will ever see is the Jesus they see in you and me.” (p. 52)

- “What does understanding that you are the light of the world mean to you?” (p. 54)

The Evangelism Ministry team wholeheartedly invites you to delve into this life-changing book with us in the FBCV library. Books will be provided. The next meeting will be July 11 at 11 a.m. ~*Sylvia Taylor, FBCV Evangelism Ministry*



June is a month that calls us to remember and to celebrate that God has graciously bestowed upon His people. This month, the Worship and Arts Ministry of First Baptist Church of Vienna is honored to center our hearts and our music around one of the most significant occasions in African American history and in the story of human dignity, Juneteenth. As a people of faith, we recognize that the struggle for freedom has always been inseparable from the cry of the human spirit toward God. Freedom is not merely a political achievement it is a spiritual inheritance.

This month, we invite our entire congregation, as well as members of the wider community, friends from other churches, and all who wish to join us, to be part of something truly special.

On the evening of Juneteenth itself, June 19, the Worship and Arts Ministry will present a special Juneteenth Concert in honor of this sacred occasion. This concert is open to everyone INCLUDING long-standing members and new faces alike, and visitors from other churches and the wider community. We believe that music has always been at the heart of the freedom story. From the spirituals sung in the fields to the anthems that carried the Civil Rights Movement, Black sacred music has been a vessel of hope, resilience, and unshakeable faith. We are preparing something meaningful and memorable for this evening, and we would love to see you there.

**MUSIC**, continued on pg. 10

## FBCV Social Justice Ministry: The Intersection of Theology, Equity, and Community Advocacy

Many families in Fairfax County still struggle with housing insecurity, rising food costs, and unequal access to opportunity. While the county is known for strong schools and economic growth, not everyone experiences that prosperity equally. Essential workers, senior citizens, immigrants, and low-income families are increasingly burdened by high rent prices and the growing gap between wages and the cost of living. Social justice requires society to pay attention not only to success stories, but also to those who are quietly struggling to survive.

The issue of affordable housing is more than an economic concern; it is a moral one. When families must choose between paying rent and buying groceries, communities are called to respond with compassion and action. Churches, nonprofits, and local leaders have attempted to meet these needs through food pantries, emergency shelters, and outreach programs. However, charity alone cannot solve systemic inequality. Long-term justice involves advocating for fair housing policies, accessible healthcare, quality education, and living wages.

Theologically, the Bible consistently emphasizes justice, mercy, and care for vulnerable people. Proverbs 31:8-9 states, “*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.*” This passage reminds believers that faith is not only personal but also communal. Christianity teaches that every



person is made in the image of God and therefore possesses dignity and worth regardless of income, race, or social status.

Jesus also modeled social justice through His ministry. He spent time with marginalized people, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and challenged systems that oppressed others. In Matthew 25, Jesus teaches that serving people in need is directly connected to serving Him. This theology challenges modern communities to move beyond comfort and actively pursue fairness and compassion.

Social justice in Fairfax County is not simply about politics; it is about humanity. A healthy society cannot thrive when entire groups are left behind. Faith communities have a unique role in bridging divides by combining spiritual guidance with practical support. Whether through mentorship programs, housing advocacy, food drives, or community partnerships, people of faith can help create a more just and compassionate county.

Ultimately, theology reminds us that justice is not optional. It is an expression of love for one’s neighbor and a reflection of God’s concern for humanity.

—Submitted by FBCV Social Justice Ministry



### MUSIC, *continued from page 9*

Come and celebrate with us as we honor the past, give thanks for the present, and look forward in faith to all that God has yet to do.

We extend an open and heartfelt invitation to the entire congregation to join us in the music for our Juneteenth celebration. You do not need to be a trained singer, you simply need a willing heart. If you have a desire to worship, there is a place for you. Remaining rehearsals are as follows:

- Sat., June 13: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

May this month be one of reflection, celebration, and renewed commitment to the values of justice, love, and freedom that lie at the heart of our faith

—Kwan McKnight

# MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

For more info call 703-938-8525

*All are welcome. join a new ministry today!*

Burden Bearers	M-5pm; T,Th, F-6pm; Su-7:30pm (Conference Call Line)
Feed the Homeless Ministry	4th Monday at 7pm (Virtual)
HANDS Health & Wellness	1st Tuesday at 7pm (Virtual)
Missionary	3rd Monday at 6:30pm (Hybrid)
Nursery	1st Monday at 7pm (Virtual)
Parking Lot	1st Sunday at 8:30am (In-Person)
Parent Nation	1st Thursday at 6:00 pm
Ushers	2nd Thursday Time? (Virtual)
Women's Ministry	3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)
Worship & Arts (rehearsals)	Tuesday Weekly at 7pm (In-Person)
Young Adults	2/6 and 3/6 at 6:30pm; 1st Thursday at 6:30pm (Virtual)
Youth Advisory Council	1st Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)
Evangelism Ministry	1st Sat. at 10 am (in-person + conference call line)

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**CONNECT WITH US!**

- Facebook: First Baptist Church of Vienna
- Instagram: Firstbaptisvienna
- Twitter: fbc\_vienna
- Youtube: First Baptist Church of Vienna

JOIN US FOR  
**MORNING MEDITATION**

7AM MWF JOIN US EACH MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY FOR PRAYER & DEVOTION

CALL-IN: 605-313-5111  
ACCESS CODE: 291598

**PRAYER** changes things.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA DR. VERNON C. WALTON, SR. PASTOR

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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 Orchard St. N.W.,  
Vienna, Virginia 22180  
(703) 938-8525  
www.fbcv.org  
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	7:00 am Prayer Call	11:00 am Mid-day Bible Study	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship	5:30 pm Excellence Academy	7:00 am Prayer Call	9:00 am Juneteenth Rally Meeting
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FORWARD SUNDAY</b> 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	7:00 am Prayer Call	11:00 am Mid-day Bible Study	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship		7:00 am Prayer Call	10:00 am Juneteenth Parade 11:00 am Juneteenth Celebration
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Education Sunday</b> 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	7:00 am Prayer Call	11:00 am Mid-day Bible Study	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship		7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm <b>Juneteenth Concert</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Father's Day</b> 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	7:00 am Prayer Call	11:00 am Mid-day Bible Study	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship		7:00 am Prayer Call	
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>ONE BODY • ONE SPIRIT</b>			
9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	7:00 am Prayer Call	11:00 am Mid-day Bible Study				

June

2026

"I, therefore, the prisoner [of](#) the Lord, [beseech](#) you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **There is one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism;" Ephesians 4:1-5