



First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va.

SEPTEMBER 2026

The Epistle

from the PASTOR

Together Again: Finishing Strong

As summer begins to give way to fall, I find myself deeply grateful. During the month of August, I was blessed with an opportunity to step away from much of the regular rhythm of ministry for a season of rest and renewal. I am thankful for that gift, but I am equally thankful for you. Thank you for your faithfulness throughout the summer and thank you for the grace you extended to me as I took some needed time to rest.

Now, fall is here, and it is time for us to come back together. We begin by pouring into our children, youth, families, and educators through our Back to School Bash. We will surround them with encouragement, prayer, and the reminder that their church family is walking with them throughout the school year.

Then we will gather for one of the special moments in the life of our church, Homecoming Weekend. Homecoming is about more than returning to a building. It is an opportunity to remember where God has brought us from, reconnect with one another, and give thanks. Homecoming is a wonderful time to come home. Bring your family. Invite a friend.

PASTOR, continued on pg. 2



COME HOME FOR Homecoming Weekend!

By Stacey Seay

Homecoming is more than a Sunday—it's a weekend to reconnect, make new memories, celebrate our story, and enjoy time together! This year, we're kicking things off early and filling the weekend with opportunities for every generation to join in.

Friday, Sept. 18: Outdoor Movie Night and Games

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join us for an evening outside! We'll have games, a movie, and plenty of time to laugh, relax, and enjoy being together. Children, youth, adults, longtime members, new members, friends, and guests are all invited.

HOMECOMING, continued on page 3

A New Season for Young Adult Ministry

Grace and Peace, First Baptist Family! I am overjoyed because, not only does this month bring in my favorite natural season, it will also bring in a new spiritual season in the life of our church. While I am not new to the First family, I am grateful and excited to begin serving our church in a new capacity as the Director of Young Adult Engagement. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving FBCV in the Worship and Arts and Women's Ministry, as well as on staff previously as Executive Assistant to Pastor Walton. Each of those experiences has shaped my love for this church and deepened my commitment to the work God has called us to do together.

As I step into this new role, I am especially excited about the opportunity to serve, build with, and shepherd the young adults of FBCV and our surrounding community. My hope is that our Young Adult Ministry will be a space where young adults can deepen their relationship with God, ask meaningful questions, build authentic community, discover their gifts, and find opportunities to serve and lead.

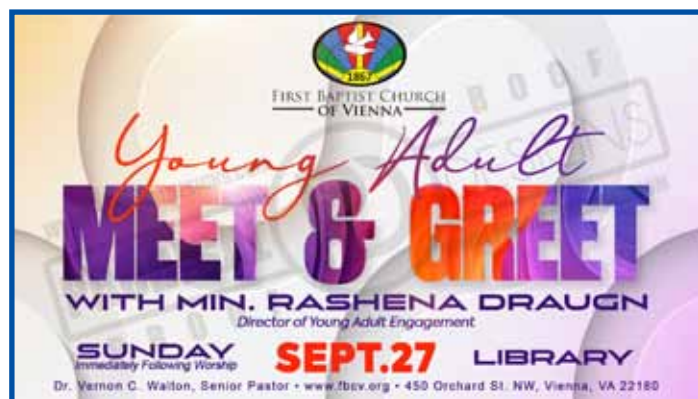
And, thankfully, we are getting started this fall!

On Sept. 27, I will host our first Young Adult Meet and Greet. This will be an opportunity for us to connect, get to know one another, hear more about the vision for the Young Adult Ministry, and—most importantly—for me to listen. I want to hear directly from our Young Adults about their needs, issues they may be navigating, and what they hope this ministry can become.

Beginning this fall, we will also commence monthly Bible studies. This will be time set aside to explore Scripture together and talk honestly about what it means to live out our faith in our everyday lives. In November, we will come together for a Friendsgiving and Game Night, giving us another opportunity to eat, laugh, and fellowship as a church family.

These gatherings are only the beginning. I truly believe God has something meaningful in store for

YOUNG ADULTS, *continued on page 5*



Still Forward Together

On Sunday, Sept. 20, we will celebrate the people, prayers, sacrifices, and faith that have shaped FBCV across generations. We are blessed today because people before us believed enough in the future of this church to invest in something they might never fully see. That makes Homecoming a fitting day for our next Forward Sunday.

Forward Together is about our responsibility to the generations that will come after us. Just as we inherited a church strengthened by the faithfulness of others, we have an opportunity to strengthen FBCV for those who will worship, serve, learn, and grow here in the years ahead.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a Forward Together commitment and to those who faithfully give toward that commitment. On Homecoming Sunday, we will share an update on our giving and celebrate the progress we have made together.

STILL FORWARD, *continued on next page*

PASTOR, *continued from page 1*

Reach out to someone you have not seen lately and encourage them to join you. Let us fill the sanctuary not simply with people, but with worship, gratitude, fellowship, and expectation for what God will do next.

Homecoming will also be our next Forward Sunday. As we celebrate our history, we will also look toward our future. We honor those who sacrificed, served, prayed, and gave so that we could inherit the ministry we enjoy today, and we accept our responsibility to faithfully prepare the way for those who will come after us.

So as summer ends and our fall rhythm begins, I invite you to come back, reconnect, and reengage. Worship with us. Celebrate Homecoming with us. Continue moving Forward Together with us. Return to Bible study. Join a Connection Group. Find your place in ministry. Invite someone to church. Check on someone you have not seen. Pray for your church and for one another.

There is still good work ahead of us. There are people to reach, young people to encourage, neighbors to serve, disciples to make, relationships to strengthen, and ministry to accomplish. None of us is called to do all of it, and none of us is called to do it alone. But every one of us has a part.

God has been faithful to us through another summer. Now let's finish the year strong. Let's finish it faithful. And let's finish it together.

With gratitude and great expectation, Pastor Walton

Black Agenda Summit: From Conversation to Action on September 12

What are the most pressing issues facing Black communities in Northern Virginia? What can we do together to address them? The Black Agenda Summit is an invitation to learn together, speak openly, build relationships, and help shape a shared agenda for the future. This day-long community engagement and civic empowerment event will bring together residents, community leaders, advocates, and stakeholders for meaningful conversation focused on issues affecting our communities today.

Come early and join us for a continental breakfast from 8–8:45 a.m., with the Summit beginning promptly at 9 a.m. Throughout the day, participants will hear from knowledgeable voices, share their own experiences, connect with others, and participate in interactive sessions. Conversations will address critical areas including education, health, political action, criminal justice, budget and public resources, economic development, and homeownership.

But the goal is not simply to talk about the challenges. Together, we will identify community priorities, explore practical strategies, strengthen relationships, and consider how we can work collectively to advance equity and opportunity throughout Northern Virginia. The day will conclude by focusing on next steps and continued engagement—moving from conversation to action.

Whether you are already engaged in this work or simply want to learn more about the issues affecting our community, we invite you to take your seat at the table. Registration is required. Register today and invite someone to join you! Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/bcas2026>



HOMEcoming, *continued from page 1*

Saturday, Sept. 19: NMAAHC Museum Trip

We're heading to Washington, D.C. for an afternoon at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Our museum entry time is 1 p.m., and the bus will leave the church at 11:30 a.m.. Sign up for church transportation or meet us at the museum. Space on the bus is limited, so register early!

Sign up for museum trip here: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvhem.

Sunday, Sept. 20: Homecoming Worship and Dinner

We'll bring the weekend home with worship as we give thanks for where God has brought us, celebrate the people who have been part of our journey, and look with expectation toward what is still ahead. Don't rush off after worship, we're gathering around the table for Homecoming worship and dinner and more time together.

Whether you've been here for decades, recently joined us, haven't been around in a while, or simply want to spend the weekend with us, there's a place for you at Homecoming! Reach out to someone you haven't seen lately, invite your family and friends, and make plans to be part of the entire weekend.



STILL FORWARD, *continued from page 2*

If you have not yet made a commitment, there is still time to be part of Forward Together. Commitment cards are available at the church, and we invite every household to prayerfully consider making a commitment. If you have already pledged, our Forward Sunday is another opportunity to continue making progress toward your commitment.

Every gift matters. Every commitment helps. And every step forward brings us closer to what we believe God is calling us to accomplish together.

As we celebrate Homecoming, let us do more than remember what others built for us. Let us ask what we are willing to build for those who come next.

Grow With Us This Fall!

September marks the start of Pastor Walton's new sermon series, "Forward: Faith for What's Next." Go deeper throughout the week with additional devotional content designed to help you reflect on Sunday's message and put your faith into practice. **Scan the QR code on the flyer on page two** to sign up and receive the weekly devotionals by email.

Fall is a season for new beginnings and a great time to recommit us to growing in God's Word. This September and October, we are offering several opportunities to learn, ask questions, deepen our faith, and grow together. Whether you prefer daytime or evening study, online or in person, there is a place for you!

Jesus Changes Everything Book Talk — Sept. 16

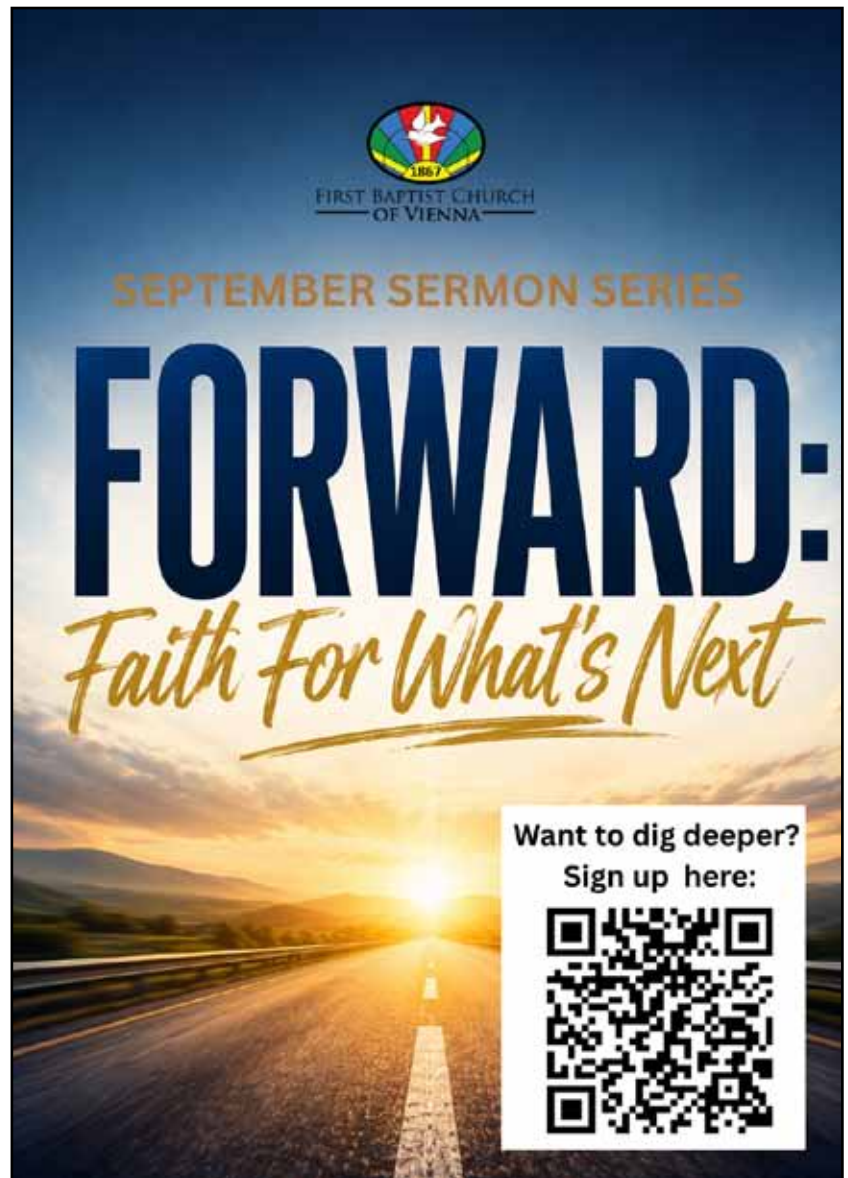
Did you join us for our summer read, *Jesus Changes Everything*? Now it's time to talk about it! Join us Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. on Zoom for a conversation about the book, what challenged us, what encouraged us, and what it means to allow Jesus to change the way we live. Even if you didn't finish every page, come join the conversation!

Mid-Day Bible Study Returns — Sept. 22

Our Mid-Day Bible Study returns Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 11 a.m. in person with a new study, *The God Who Restores: Lessons from the Book of Joel*. Together, we'll journey through this powerful Old Testament book and discover what Joel teaches us about returning to God, responding to difficult seasons, and trusting the God who is able to restore.

Midweek Worship & Study Returns — Sept. 23

Join us Wednesday, Sept. 23 on Zoom as Midweek Worship and Study resumes our journey through *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*. We'll continue exploring what it means to become disciples whose spiritual lives are being transformed beneath the surface and not simply doing more for God, but allowing God to do deeper work in us.



Connection Groups Are Coming!

Beginning the week of Oct. 3, Connection Groups will return with opportunities for all ages to grow in faith and in relationship with one another. This fall, our Children and Youth Connection Groups will have a new rhythm designed to help our young people stay connected while also creating opportunities to build relationships in person. Groups will include virtual gatherings along with special in-person experiences during Children's Church where children and youth can learn, talk, fellowship, and grow together. We know family schedules are full, so this approach gives our young people greater flexibility without losing the importance of being together. More information about this fall's groups, studies, schedules, and registration is coming soon, so be on the lookout and make plans to connect! —*Stacey Seay*

Sending Our SYMPATHY

John Montgomery and family
for the loss of his wife
FBCV Member,
Alma Montgomery
Deaconess Pat Jackson
and family for the loss of her
sister, Audrey Ragland



Altar Flowers

Deaconess Margie Duncan
and daughters Linda, Adrian
and Andrea to commemorate the
67th birthday of her son and
their brother, Bryan Duncan.

Ceola Allen, Danny and
Alfred Bunaugh, grand
children and great-grand
children in loving memory of
their grandfather and great-
grandfather, Charles Beneau.

Compiled by Ceola Allen.

YOUNG ADULTS,

continued from page 2

the young adults of First Baptist,
and I look forward to seeing how
God blesses our time together.

To our young adults: there is a
place for you here. Whether you've
been at First Baptist your whole
life, away at college, recently found
your way back to church, or still
figuring out what faith and church
mean for you, I look forward to
connecting with each of you. There
is much more to come. Let's move
forward together!

—Min. Rashena Draughn

TURN UP YOUR LIGHT

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

This article reflects the fourth chapter of Babbie Mason's book, *Each One Reach One, Reflecting Matthew 5:16*. You will notice that the words, **so shine**, are highlighted. This is because they have a big meaning. "So," a two-letter word, means: "to a great extent, very much, extremely." Another Bible verse that highlights this word is John 3:16 which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

As we know, Jesus loved us to the extent that He sacrificed His life for us when He was crucified on the cross for our sins. How do we respond to this great love that He demonstrates for us? Does our response to His love overwhelm us with such gratitude that we seek to be ready to let our lights shine for Him to the greatest degree wherever we go? Read this compelling quote of Babbie Mason: "If you and I really believe the gospel is true, then we will be moved to do everything we can with everything we have to reach people with the gospel. The world around us is growing darker with each day. Shining His light is one way to share that lifesaving message with the world. You don't have to go very far to find someone who is lost without Christ, hurting from loneliness, a victim of hunger, or suffering from sickness and disease. People and pain are constant companions. Because shining the light is all about introducing people to the saving power of Jesus, we should have a sense of urgency, motivated by the love of God, to do everything within our power to bring people to Him." (pp. 98-99)

Do you remember who shared the gospel with you? You and I are part of a progressive chain. The person who shared the gospel with you was told by someone else, and now we must pass this news on to others!

The Evangelism Ministry has a deep desire to empower our church family to develop sharing the gospel of Jesus as a way of life. In answer to prayer, God introduced us to author Babbie Mason, award winning song writer and gospel singer, and her extraordinary book, mentioned above. We could not keep this inspiring book to ourselves, so it was approved to extend an invitation to FBCV members to share in this book study with us on the first Saturdays of each month in the church library at 11 a.m. We hope that the Evangelism Ministry articles in *The Epistle* since February have caught your attention and have whet your appetite to know more. All church members are invited to join in this study as we learn and grow together. Books will be provided. Your presence is requested!

—Sylvia Taylor, Evangelism Ministry



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment?
Worship God.

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



Christmas Musical: Away in a Mango!

Christmas may be a few months away, but we're already getting ready for this year's Christmas Musical! On Sunday, Dec. 20, we will present *Away in a Mango*, a fun, tropical Christmas adventure that reminds us that the greatest gift of Christmas is Jesus.

Calling All Children and Youth!

We want everyone to have an opportunity to be part of the production! Our Christmas Musical Casting Call and Participation Sign-Up is now open through Sunday, Sept. 27. Whether you enjoy acting, singing, being part of the ensemble, set design, or simply want to join the fun, there is a place for you! Speaking and featured roles will be assigned after the sign-up period, and rehearsal materials and schedules will be provided to participating families.

Ready to join us? Sign up at tinyurl.com/fbcv-mango by Sept. 27 to be considered for a featured or speaking role.

For more information, email: sseay@fbcv.org

Men of First Baptist/ Servant Brotherhood

Greetings and peace be with you and your families. I hope you are having a wonderful summer filled with joy, happiness and some time to relax. As Fall quickly approaches, I ask that you put the following events on your calendar:

Sept. 6: Oak Shade Baptist Church Homecoming. Please join our Pastor to help celebrate the Oak Shade Church Homecoming on Sept 6 at 2 p.m. Oak Shade Baptist Church is located at 3287 Old Catlett Rd, Catlett, Va.

Sept. 18–20: FBCV Homecoming Service will be a full weekend of activities with a movie night Friday and a museum trip Saturday. Details will be sent out on our church social media and website.

Sept. 26: College (HBCU) Football Game Day and Fish Fry, Saturday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. Home of Deacon Julian Purvis 5888 Waterloo Bridge Circle, Haymarket VA 2016.

TBD October: Health Awareness Month is coming in October. We will work in collaboration with the FBCV Women's Ministry. Details to follow.

October 23–24: Men's Weekend/Retreat will be held at the Cedar Street Baptist Church of Richmond Virginia. We will be joined by the Men of Iron from the Land of Promise Church. FBCV Men will return Saturday afternoon and hold our annual Men's Day Sunday, Oct. 25. Hotels and transportation details to follow.

Oct. 31: Trunk or Treat will be held in the FBCV Parking area. Setup and events begin at noon.

Nov. 7: Men's Breakfast, Saturday, Nov. 7 at 8 a.m. at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill located at 10801 Bulloch Drive, Manassas Va.

November 14: We will honor Veteran's Day with a special event at First Baptist. Details to follow.

December 6: FBCV Anniversary

TBD November or December: FBCV Men's Wings and a Word.

An RSVP Link will be sent out via email for those who have provided Deacon Purvis with your contact information. You will get a text message as well.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement of all the men of First Baptist. Let's make the Fall a season to remember. And of course, if you can't make them all, don't miss them all!

—*Sinclair Harris, Men's Ministry Servant Leader*

Introducing Our Director of Dance Ministry

It is with great joy and a grateful heart that we introduce to you our official Director of Dance, Alexis Evans. Alexis steps into this role carrying a lifetime of training, a deep love for worship, and a clear calling to lead our Dance Ministry into a new season of purpose and growth.

Movement has long been a language of worship in Scripture, and Alexis carries that truth with conviction. She believes that dance can communicate what words sometimes cannot, and she brings both artistry and spiritual sensitivity to everything she leads. We are confident that under her direction, our Dance Ministry will continue to glorify God and encourage our congregation in fresh and powerful ways. Please join in welcoming Alexis warmly into this role and in praying for her as she steps into this new chapter of ministry leadership.



More about Alexis Evans

Alexis Evans is a graduate of North Carolina Central University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Dance, graduating magna cum laude. She has been dancing for over 16 years and has a deep passion for using dance as a form of worship and ministry. Throughout her dance journey, Alexis has trained in various styles and has had the opportunity to perform, teach, choreograph, and serve through dance ministry. Her love for dance and her faith have always been closely connected, allowing her to glorify God and encourage others.

Alexis has been involved in church ministry from a young age and currently serves through dance ministry where she believes movement can communicate what words sometimes cannot. She is passionate about faith, the arts, mental health, and using her God-given gifts to serve others. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Old Dominion University and is excited to continue growing both personally and spiritually while answering God's call to serve.
—Kwan McKnight

Thank You, FBCV!

Before we move too far into the fall, we want to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who helped make **Christmas in July** a success. We welcomed and served more than 150 guests from our community. Families and individuals received clothing and school supplies, children and adults were treated to free haircuts, and guests of all ages helped create our community mural. It was a full day of fellowship, generosity, and service.

None of it would have been possible without you. Thank you to everyone who donated, organized, sorted, set up, cleaned up, welcomed guests, distributed items, and stepped in wherever help was needed. Your time and your willingness to serve allowed us to extend the love of Christ beyond the walls of our sanctuary in very practical ways.

A special word of thanks goes to our Transportation Ministry. They were asked to move a lot of people with limited resources, and they rose to the challenge.

Christmas in July reminded us of what happens when we bring our gifts and resources together. Thanks, for showing up and serving well!—Stacey Seay



Help Us Make Excellence Academy a Success! Excellence Academy launches this October, and we need tutors and support volunteers who are ready to invest in our students and help them thrive. There's a place for you to serve! Contact Deaconess-in-Training Christine Stotts at cstotts@fbcv.org to learn more and get involved.



FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF VIENNA

Youth 2026

MINISTRY

FALL / WINTER CALENDAR

Fun. Faith. Fellowship. Friends.
LET'S GROW TOGETHER AND MAKE MEMORIES!

SEPTEMBER

- 13** **BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**
Games, food, fun and friends!
Bring a friend and win prizes!
- 18** **HOMECOMING MOVIE NIGHT (FAMILY)**
A night at the movies for the whole family!
- 19** **FBCV MUSEUM VISIT (FAMILY)**
Explore our history. Honor our legacy.



OCTOBER

- 3** **CHILDREN AND YOUTH CONNECTION GROUPS BEGIN**
Join a group, build friendships, and grow in faith!
- 10** **NACHO AVERAGE GAME NIGHT**
Games, laughs, and a taco bar!
- 31** **TRUNK OR TREAT**



NOVEMBER

- 7** **HARVEST HANG OUT**
Cox Farms or similar with rides, corn mazes, and more!
- 8** **CREATIVITY IN WORSHIP**
We will use our gifts to express our worship in many ways.



DECEMBER

- 5** **COCOA WITH SANTA**
- 12** **YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL**
- 20** **WORSHIP THROUGH ARTS**



YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Mark your calendar and come ready to make a joyful noise!



- September 12
- October 10
- November 7
- December 12

DANCE MINISTRY

WILL MINISTER ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAYS:



- September 20 — Homecoming Sunday
- October 18 — Pink & Purple Sunday
- November 22 — Seasoned Saints Sunday
- December 6 — Church Anniversary
- December 20 — Worship Through Arts Day

REHEARSALS TWICE A WEEK

TUESDAYS
Virtual

SATURDAYS
In-Person

Specific rehearsal times will be shared soon!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH CONNECTION GROUPS

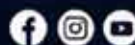
**BEGINNING
OCTOBER 3**

Find your people.
Grow in faith.
Make a difference.



Don't Miss Out!

• Invite a Friend.
• Get Plugged In. | fbcv.org



Stay Connected!

✝ DR. VERNON C. WALTON, SR. | PASTOR

We're Back! Fall Youth Ministry Kicks Off September 13

School is back—and FBCV Youth Ministry is gearing up for a great fall!

We're kicking things off with our Back to School Bash on Sunday, Sept. 13. Come ready for food, games, fun, fellowship, and prayer as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year and pray for our students, teachers, schools, and families.

But there's one more thing: don't come alone!

TAKE THE BRING-A-FRIEND CHALLENGE!

Invite a friend or teacher to worship and bring them with you to the Bash! We'll have special prizes for bringing friends, so start inviting now. Your friend doesn't have to already be connected to FBCV we want our neighbors to know that this is a place where we can bring their friends, and everyone can feel welcome.

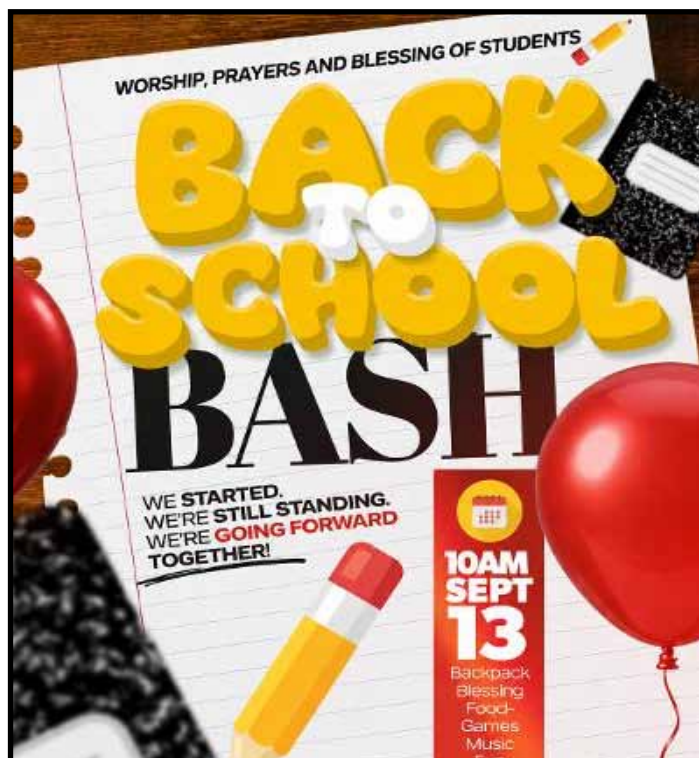
This fall, we're looking forward to growing together, worshipping together, serving together, and having fun together. From Homecoming activities to game night, Trunk or Treat, our Harvest Hangout, and more, there will be plenty of opportunities to connect.

WE NEED YOU!

A full calendar also means we need plenty of adults willing to help make these experiences possible. We are looking for volunteers to serve throughout our fall Children and Youth Ministry activities, beginning with the Back to School Bash. You don't have to volunteer for everything. Choose an activity, give a few hours, and help us create great experiences for our children and youth.

Check out the Children and Youth Fall Calendar included in this newsletter, save the dates, and decide where you can join us either as a participant or a volunteer!

You can sign up to serve here: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvallyouth26



A-B-C... Get Ready for Trunk or Treat!

This year, we're putting a new twist on one of our favorite fall traditions! Join us for Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 31, from 12:00–3:00 PM as we bring the ABCs to life throughout our parking lot.

Here's the idea: participating trunks will choose a letter of the alphabet and build their decorations around a Bible story, person, place, or idea connected to that letter. Think A for Ark, D for Daniel, J for Jonah, and plenty of room for creativity in between! Our goal is a colorful, fun-filled experience that children and families will enjoy as they travel from A to Z.

Our ministry leaders will receive additional information about selecting letters and preparing ministry trunks, but ministries won't be the only ones participating. Members and families are invited to decorate a trunk too! Pick a letter, get creative, gather some candy, and join the fun. Letters will be available for pickup so you'll have a great starting point for your trunk.

Not ready to decorate a trunk? We still need plenty of helping hands! Volunteers will be needed throughout the day to help us welcome our community and make the event a success.

You can sign up to serve or commit to a trunk at tinyurl.com/fbcvtot26. For more information, email sseay@fbcv.org.

FBCV Member Blanche Dudley Writes Inspiring New Book

Blanche Dudley's book is dedicated to military families and their sacrifices, and seeks to encourage teens and preteens of the power of faith, kindness, and friendship. Below she answers questions about her book.

1. How did you get into writing and what inspired you to write this book?

I actually started writing stories when I was about five or six years old. When I would finish a little book, I didn't want the story to end, so I would try to continue the action. In this book I wanted to remind teens and pre-teens of the power of faith, kindness, and friendship.

2. Can you tell us more about who the book is written for?

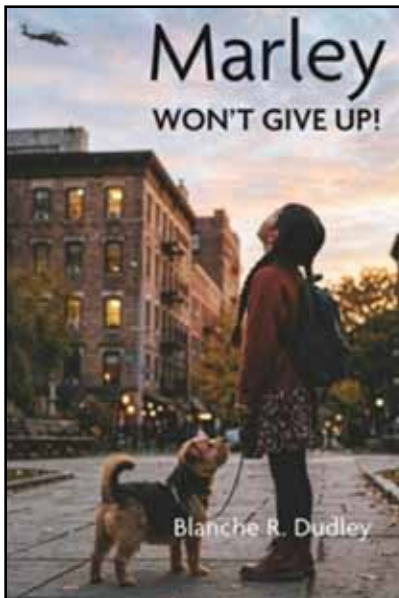
The pre-teen and teen years can come with quite a few challenges for some children as they grapple with friendships and sometimes bullying; with new intellectual, physical, and emotional realities; and always in the background is the home or family environment. I tried to make MARLEY, the main character, relatable to any kid facing these challenges. This book is for them.

3. What message do you hope readers take away from the book?

I hope the main takeaway is that faith, true friendship, and love can help when dealing with tough situations. If we hold on and believe, what we dream of or want to happen may well be possible.

4. What challenges do the characters face that today's teens can relate to?

There are several relatable challenges here. MARLEY has



to deal with bullying. She tries to respond to her classmates' meanness "by using her brains and not her fists"; she has to navigate the loneliness, and sometimes awkwardness of having an "absent parent"; and she is still working through her grief over the loss of an older sister. Most of all, she wants her mother safely back with her.

5. Why is this book especially important right now?

I think the themes explored here are pretty timeless: bullying; the importance of friendship and of being kind; and the pain of losing a family member. All of these are important now and will likely remain so in every generation or societal period. My primary goal was to write an interesting book that kids would enjoy reading as much as I enjoyed some of the memorable books that I read as a youngster.

I especially wanted to write about bullying because it's painful to see people being hurt. My website at blanchedudley.com addresses bullying more fully and offers resources.

6. What keeps you motivated to serve young people?

I really hate to see people hurt each other. I hope my books will remind boys and girls why it's

important to be kind. I also love nurturing the talent and gifts each child brings to the world. Sometimes they have to overcome a number of obstacles, but the important thing is that they don't give up. I want to reinforce that.

7. How can schools, churches, libraries, and youth organizations use this book?

Just having copies available in places where teens and pre-teens gather is a good start. If they can pick up a copy and begin to read, maybe a theme will resonate with them—or they might just enjoy the story's plot with its twists and turns, and even a bit of comedy. Whatever way that these organizations can give access to the book—by donating copies or stocking it in their libraries—is helpful and encourages reading. Finally, organizing reading circles and book discussions is always meaningful.

8. Where can people purchase the book?

Using Amazon.com is an easy way to buy individual copies. For special orders or larger quantities, please send an email to dudley.blanche@gmail.com.

9. If one young person who feels overlooked or discouraged reads your book, what do you hope they believe about themselves?

I hope they believe that they should hold fast to their dreams, keep believing, and remember that they never walk alone.

10. How can people support your mission beyond buying the book?

To quote Princess Diana: "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day, someone might do the same for you." We have to take care of each other.

Please visit my website at www.blanchedudley.com.

MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

For more info call 703-938-8525

All are welcome. join a new ministry today!

Burden Bearers
Feed the Homeless Ministry
HANDS Health & Wellness
Missionary
Nursery
Parking Lot
Parent Nation
Ushers
Women's Ministry
Worship & Arts (rehearsals)
Young Adults
Youth Advisory Council
Evangelism Ministry

M-5pm; T,Th, F-6pm; Su-7:30pm
(Conference Call Line)

4th Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 7pm (Virtual)

3rd Monday at 6:30pm (Hybrid)

1st Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Sunday at 8:30am (In-Person)

1st Thursday at 6:00 pm

2nd Thursday Time? (Virtual)

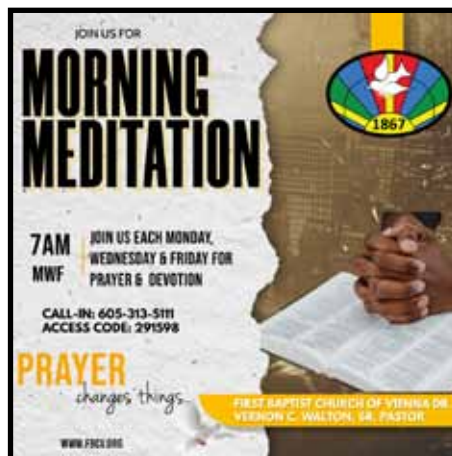
3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

Tuesday Weekly at 7pm (In-Person)

2/6 and 3/6 at 6:30pm; 1st Thursday at
6:30pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

1st Saturday at 11 am (In-Person at FBCV)
(and Conference Call Line)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 Orchard St. N.W.,
Vienna, Virginia 22180
(703) 938-8525

www.fbcv.org

Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor

September 2026							SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
									1	2	3	4	5
6	9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	7 Labor Day 7:00 am Prayer Call	8	9	7:00 am Prayer Call	10	11	12					
13	Back to School Bash 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	14 7:00 am Prayer Call	15	16	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 Jesus Changes Everything Book Talk	17	18	19					
20	Homecoming 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship Youth Church	21 7:00 am Prayer Call	22 11:00 am Mid- day Bible Study	23	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid- Week Worship	24	25	26					
27	9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship Youth Church Young Adult Meeting	28 7:00 am Prayer Call	29 11:00 am Mid- day Bible Study	30	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid- Week Worship	ONE BODY • ONE SPIRIT							

“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; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;” Ephesians 4:1-5