

SEPTEMBER 2023

The Epistle

First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va. | "Fruit Bearing Disciples"



From
Pastor
Walton's
Desk

School is back in session, and summer is quickly coming to an end. We will celebrate our Homecoming on Sunday, September 10th, and officially kick off our fall season of ministry. Throughout the year we have been intentional in our focus on the five practices of a fruitful congregation and it is my prayer that we will close out 2023 with a continued focus on passionate worship, intentional faith development, radical hospitality, extravagant giving, and risk-taking mission and service. To accomplish this, I need each of you to join me in committing to being prayerful, participatory, and present.

Corporate prayer is a vital part of our ministry. Not only is prayer a vital part of our worship, but praying together allows us to seek God in unity. In addition to noonday prayer each Monday – Friday, you can join me at 7:00 A.M. on Wednesday mornings or join Minister KJ on Monday evenings at 7:30 P.M. for family prayer time. Indeed, prayer is the foundation of our worship and I pray that you will minimally commit to being a part of one of these opportunities.

PASTOR, continued on page 2

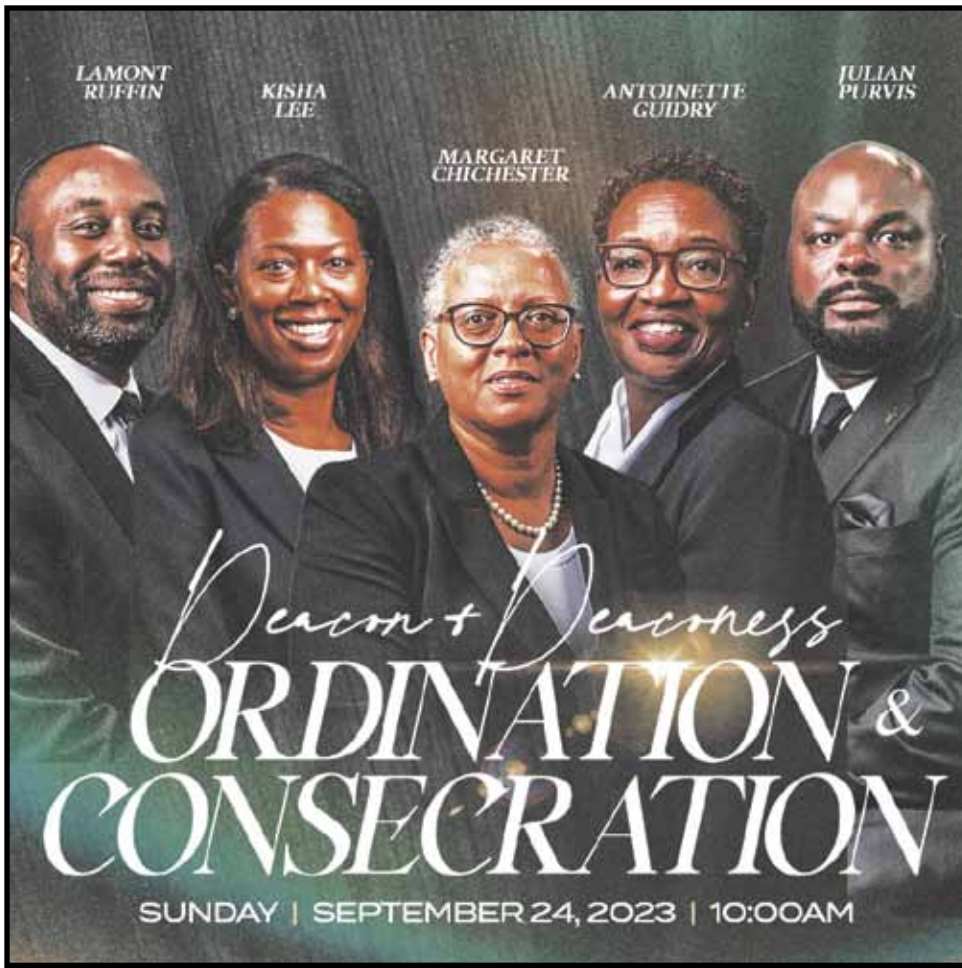
Embracing a Season of Renewal and Collaboration

By Kwan McKnight
Special to the Epistle

As the warm embrace of summer gently transitions into the crisp and colorful hues of autumn, our spirits are refreshed and our hearts are rejuvenated, ready to embark on a new season of ministry. The past few months have been a time of rest, reflection, and revival, allowing us to recharge and re-focus on our mission to spread love, joy, and inspiration through worship and the arts. As we gear up for this exciting new season, we extend a heartfelt invita-

WORSHIP AND ARTS, continued on page 5





PASTOR, continued ofrom page 1

In addition to our ongoing Christian Education opportunities, I am personally inviting you to join me for mid-week worship. We will begin our study on Developing a Servant's Heart on Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 P.M. In-person mid-day bible study will start on Tuesday, September 19th at 11:00 A.M., and we will begin a study of the Gospel of John. Finally, I want to encourage each of you to sign up for our next session of Connection Groups. We will once again be offering space to delve more deeply into our five practices in a small group setting. I'm especially appealing to all those in leadership and those who desire to grow deeper and further in their faith journey to take advantage of these opportunities.

We not only need you to participate in our virtual opportunities, but we also need your presence. I hope to see each of you at our Homecoming Worship service and look forward to our time of fellowship together. It is my prayer that you will consider this the beginning of your fall season of ministry, as well, and that you will commit to being prayerful, participatory, and present in this season of ministry.

Serving Leaders Meeting

Our next is not limited to servant leaders and officers, but rather, anyone who desires to serve in ministry is encouraged to be in attendance. This Serving Leaders Meeting is a great opportunity to not only hear from Pastor Walton as he shares the vision for this season of ministry, but also to learn about upcoming church-wide initiatives in greater depth and to determine where you can jump in with your unique gifts and skills. We hope each of you will join us for this important time of sharing.



College Connection

WELCOME BACK to our returning College Connection Scholars and **WELCOME** to the College Connection class of 2026.

ATTENTION all College Connection Scholars and Parents...we want to hear from you. Please complete the College Connection database at <https://forms.gle/ydgggrQE2A2Yfjd-p1A>

All responses are due by **September 30**.

Are you a part of the College Connection Group Me? If you are a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, or 1st Year Graduate Student, join our FBCV College Connection GroupMe: https://groupme.com/join_group/90794491/kDQlsjbE

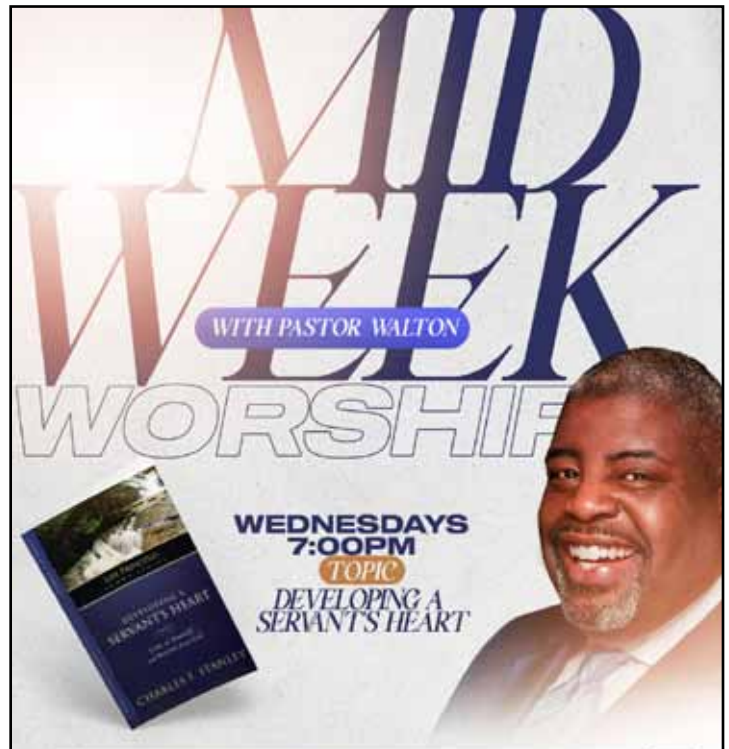
Happiest of Happy and Blessed of Blessed Birthday to the following College Connection Scholars:

AUGUST:

Alexis Evans and Stephen Wilson


SEPTEMBER:

Siabella Bates and Calvin Harriott



Fall Series 2023

Let's Talk About It:
The Five Practices



SCAN ME

First Baptist Church of Vienna
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Sr. Pastor
Scan the QR or Register at:
www.tinyurl.com/fbcvgroups

Extravagant Giving

Fruit bearing disciples give of their resources to bless others. Join this group and discuss the principle of Extravagant Giving.
Facilitator: Dea. Willie Boykin | Meets: Mondays @ 7 p.m.

Radical Hospitality

Fruit bearing disciples extend love and offer Christ! This group will offer in-depth discussion about radical hospitality
Facilitator/Meeting Time: TBD.

Intentional Faith Development

Fruit bearing disciples are committed to learning and developing their faith. This group will explore and discuss faith development.
Facilitator Chrisina Hamilton | Meets: Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

Risk Taking Mission & Service

Fruit bearing disciples seek to meet the needs of others. This group will talk about our call to missions and social justice.
Facilitator: Stacey Seay | Meets: Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Young Adults: Revolution

Young Adult (18-35) study of Josiah. Participants will study the five practices & explore ways Josiah serves as a model for millennials.
Facilitator: Minister Kennard Jones | Meets: Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

Children & Youth

Elementary students will continue their study of Kingdom Heroes & focus on one of the five practices each week!
Facilitator: Deas. Monica Evans | Meets: Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.

Middle & High School students will continue their discussion of 3 Circles & focus on one of the five practices each week!
Meets Mondays @ 7:30 p.m.



The family of FBCV Member
Lemuel C. McKenney

Saundra Boyd and family
for the loss of her sister,
Pamela Boyd Duke

Linda Smith and family
for the loss of her mother,
Bertha Logan

Mia Smith and family
for the loss of her brother,
Freddie Jerome Smith

Mike Smith and family
for the loss of his mother,
Poltha Lee Smith



Altar Flowers

AUGUST

Harriet Carter and daughter
Jennifer in loving memory of their
father and grandfather,
Harry Carter

Bob and Ceola Allen
and Tremayne Bunaugh to
commemorate the 74th birthday
of her sister and Tremayne's
mother, Alva Bunaugh

SEPTEMBER

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

—Compiled by Ceola Allen

Missions & Outreach Update

Fall is here and there is much for us to do to carry out risk-taking missions throughout our community! Our monthly food distributions will resume in just a couple of weeks. The remaining 2023 dates for distributions are:

September 16

October 21

November 4

December 16

The sorting and bag packing for these distributions will take place on the Thursday before these dates.

In addition, we will resume our delivery of weekend food packages for students in need at our area schools. We will hold several packaging events for the weekend packs. In addition to packaging the snack bags, we also have a critical need for volunteers to assist with delivery to the local schools we support.

Our next community outreach event will be our annual Trunk or Treat which will be held on Tuesday, October 31st. Ministries, businesses, community groups, families, and individuals are all invited to host trunks during this annual event. Ministry leads are encouraged to begin brainstorming theme ideas for the trunk(s) they will host. Pastor asks that each ministry host at least one trunk at this event that has become a community staple and that allows us to share the love of Jesus with our neighbors.

Looking ahead, our “season of giving” is just around the corner! Our church-wide goal is to expand our impact during the holiday season. As a result, we have not only increased the number of Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas Blessing Boxes to 300 each, but we will also resume our in-person Thanksgiving Dinner for the first time since before the pandemic shut-down. Our special Thanksgiving Basket distribution day will be Saturday, November 18 and our Thanksgiving Dinner will be on Saturday, November 25. —Stacey Seay

Marriage Ministry Moment

It's inevitable that every married couple will have disagreements during the course of their lives together. It's normal and does not have to be damaging to your relationship. The key is finding ways to disagree without fighting. Yes it can be challenging, but with some effort it can be done and is worth it. Check out four tips below that can help you get started.

1. Seek to understand your spouse's point of view during a disagreement
2. Stay on one topic and resist bringing up other unresolved disputes
3. Simply put, no name calling - Ever
4. Apologize and take responsibility for your words and actions

Help us celebrate and wish a very happy anniversary to these couples!

Donnie and Belinda McNealey—September 3

Charles and Armeata Basil—September 16

If you would like to join our Marriage Ministry email list to receive information, please send your name and email address to Natalie at natm20@gmail.com. —Natalie and Lamont Ruffin

WORSHIP AND ARTS,

continued from page 1

tion to all those who share our passion to join us in our journey of faith and creativity.

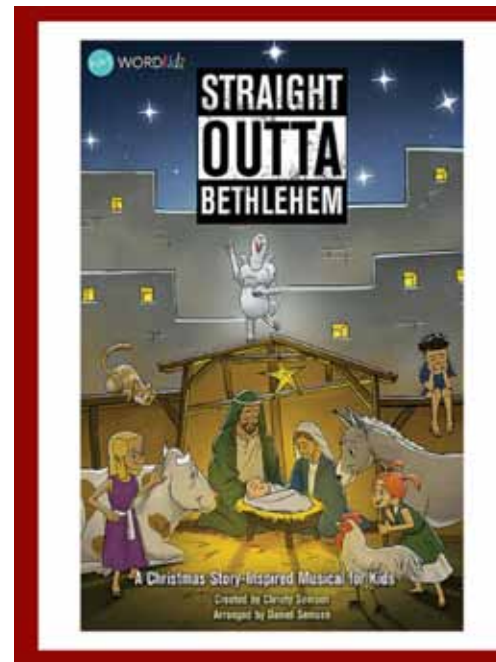
CALLING ALL HEARTS TO SERVE

As we step into this new season, our focus shifts to building a stronger and more vibrant community of worship and arts enthusiasts. We recognize that our ministry is only as impactful as the collective effort of those who contribute their time, talents, and hearts to it. The choir, a harmonious centerpiece of our worship, is making a triumphant return, and we are thrilled to invite each and every one of you to be a part of it. Yes, you – the one reading this very message. Your voice, your spirit, and your passion matter, and we would be honored to have you join us.

EXPLORING MINISTRIES IN WORSHIP & ARTS

Within the realm of Worship and Arts, there is a vast array of opportunities waiting for eager hands and willing hearts. Whether you find solace in the melody of music, the grace of dance, or the technical mastery of audio and video production, there's a space for you here. Our community thrives on diversity and the unique talents that each individual brings. Here are just a few of the ministries seeking volunteers:

- **Choirs:** Lift your voice in harmony with others and create a transcen-



dent musical experience that touches hearts and souls.

- **Audio and Video:** Behind every powerful worship experience is a team dedicated to creating the perfect audio and visual atmosphere. Whether you have a knack for sound engineering or a passion for video production, your skills are invaluable.

- **Dance:** Movement has the power to express what words cannot. If you have a passion for dance, your graceful expressions can add a new dimension to our worship.

- **Musicians:** Whether you play the piano, guitar, violin, or any other instrument, your melodies can help create an atmosphere of praise and worship that resonates deeply.

- **Flags:** Flag bearers bring an element of visual worship that adds a touch of beauty and symbolism to our gatherings.

UNITED IN WORSHIP AND SERVICE

It's often said that when we serve, we are at our best. When we worship together, our spirits are lifted. But when we combine worship and service, something truly remarkable happens. We become agents of change, of

The image is a red poster for a casting call. At the top, there is a small circular logo with a nativity scene. Below it, the text reads 'CASTING CALL' in large, bold, white letters, followed by 'SEPTEMBER 16TH' and '10:00 AM' in slightly smaller white letters. Below that, it says 'CHOIR ROOM @ FBCV' and 'CALLING ACTORS, DANCERS, & SINGERS OF ALL AGES!'. Further down, it mentions 'OUR CHRISTMAS EVE PRODUCTION OF STRAIGHT OUTTA BETHLEHEM: THE NEXT GENERATION IS LOOKING FOR CAST & CREW MEMBERS!'. At the bottom, it provides the contact information 'FOR MORE INFORMATION: SSEAY@FBCV'.

inspiration, and of love. By choosing a ministry that resonates with your heart and investing your time and talents, you become an integral part of a community that seeks to make a positive impact, both within our walls and beyond.

JOIN US!

So, as the leaves begin to change and the air grows crisper, we extend an open invitation to you. Let this season be a time of not just preparation, but also of active involvement. Let it be a time of embracing your passions, sharing your talents, and creating something beautiful together. The curtain is rising on a new chapter of ministry, and we can't wait to see what we can achieve when we work and worship side by side.

Let your voice be heard, your steps be danced, your melodies be played, and your heart be filled with the joy of service. Join us on this journey of faith, creativity, and community. Together, let's make this season one of profound impact and transformation.

Welcome to a new season of ministry – let's embark on it together!





Bo Harris Opens New Studio Space

You see him moving around the sanctuary taking photographs during worship services, but Bo Harris celebrated another milestone on July 7 when he celebrated the opening of a studio space for his business, **Visual Access Studios**.

During the studio blessing, Harris shared the seemingly long and at times difficult journey of moving from his in-home studio to securing studio space.

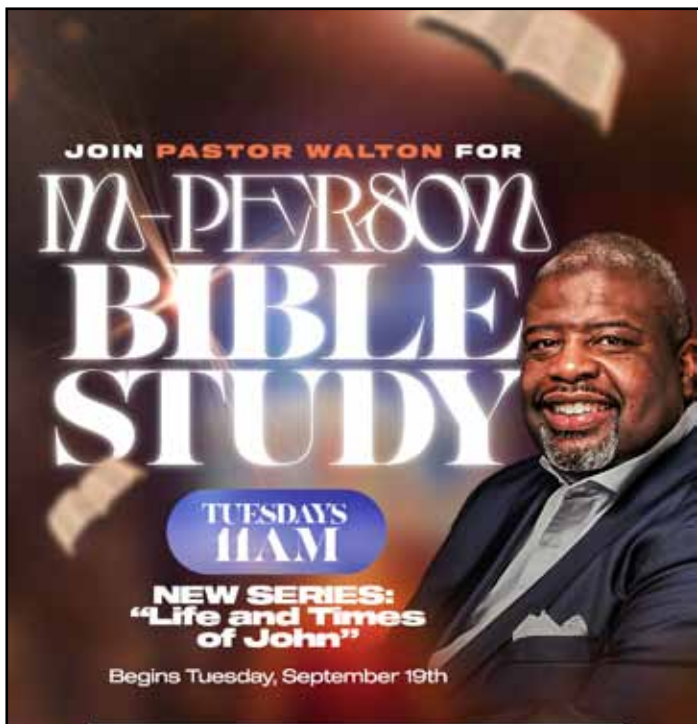
He stressed how the support of Pastor Walton and his First Baptist family helped him stay encouraged throughout the ups and downs of the process.

Most importantly, he stressed how important it was to pause, bring together his family and friends to thank God for his journey, and to have Pastor Walton lead a prayer of blessing over the new studio space.
—*Stacey Seay*



Join The Evangelism Ministry

The Evangelism Ministry would like to increase the ministry team with additional members. Anyone who has a desire to join the team in sharing the Gospel with those who don't know Jesus as their Lord & Savior, please contact Sylvia Taylor, Servant Leader of FBCV Evangelism Ministry. Her email address is: stheartsong@gmail.com.



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

MINISTRY UPDATE

WELCOME, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS, TO AN EXCITING FALL SEASON!

Greetings to all the vibrant and enthusiastic young individuals! We trust that your summer was filled with joy, adventure, and cherished moments. As the leaves start to change and the air becomes crisp, we are thrilled to usher in the upcoming fall season with a lineup of exceptional events that are bound to elevate your experiences.

REFLECTING ON SUMMER AND EMBRACING FALL

Before we dive into the exciting details of what's ahead, let's take a moment to look back at the memories we've created during the summer months. From sunny days to starry nights, each moment has added to the tapestry of our lives. As we bid adieu to summer, let's carry the warmth of those days into the upcoming season.

AN INVITATION TO EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

We are delighted to introduce the Excellence Academy—a platform designed to nurture your curiosity and thirst for knowledge. Whether you're eager to delve into new subjects, refine your skills, or explore your passions, the Excellence Academy offers a range of thought-provoking courses and workshops. This fall, embark on a journey of intellectual growth and discovery that will enrich your mind and broaden your horizons.

FORGE CONNECTIONS WITH YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT CONNECTION GROUPS

Life is a journey best enjoyed in the company of like-minded individuals who inspire and understand you. Our Youth and Young Adult Connection Groups provide the perfect setting to build lasting relationships, share experiences, and support one another. Engage in meaningful conversations, explore shared interests, and create memories that will linger long after the season is over.

JOIN US ON THIS ADVENTURE

As the days grow shorter and the nights become cozier, we invite you to be a part of the incredible journey that this fall season promises. Whether you're passionate about expanding your knowledge through the Excellence Academy or seeking connections in our vibrant youth and young adult community, there's something for everyone.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Participating is simple! Connect with us on [website/social media platform] to stay updated on event schedules, registration details, and exciting announcements. Mark your calendars and get ready to embark on a season filled with growth, camaraderie, and unforgettable experiences.

IN CONCLUSION

The fall season is a canvas waiting to be painted with new stories, friendships, and accomplishments. We're thrilled to have you with us, and we look forward to sharing this wonderful journey together. As we step into this season of change, let's embrace the opportunities it brings and create moments that will shape our lives for years to come. Here's to a fall season brimming with excellence, connections, and cherished memories. See you soon!



Excellence ACADEMY
Academic Enrichment (K-6)

*Math *Reading *Science

Music Enrichment
*Recorders *Guitar *Drum *Piano
*Arts & STEM Enrichment Activities

Dinner
* Provided weekly for all students
* Transportation available

Starts September 21st!

JOIN US ON THURSDAYS @ 5:30 PM
REGISTER AT: WWW.TINYURL.COM/FBCVACADEMY23

Free!

703 938 8525 www.fbcv.org
First Baptist Church of Vienna | Dr. Vernon C. Wilton, Sr. Pastor
450 Orchard St. NW | Vienna, VA

Excellence Academy

We are excited about the launch of another year of Excellence Academy. The FBCV Excellence Academy not only provides high quality academic support for students, but also offers music (guitar, piano, and percussion) and arts enrichment. Students attending the sessions are also provided with dinner each week. The program is open to elementary students and is offered at no-charge.

Due to increased interest from our partner schools and community partners, we are in need of additional tutors and support staff. Please reach out to Min. KJ at kjones@fbcv.org

If you know of a child interested in participating in Excellence Academy they can sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/fbcvexcellence2324>
—Stacey Seay



2020 FALL VIRTUAL

TUTORING for EXCELLENCE Program

TUTORS NEEDED

Our tutoring program will begin September 21st and we need you! Volunteer opportunities include: tutors, hospitality, bus support, hall monitors and more!

For more information & to sign up email: kjones@fbcv.org

1867



Follow us on Instagram
Search "FBCVYM"

Youth Update
Scan QR Code to stay connected and in contact with the Youth Ministry.

Min KJ Info
Be sure to stay connected with Min KJ at kjones@fbcv.org or on Instagram at [i.am.kennard](https://www.instagram.com/i.am.kennard)

ONLINE
www.fbcv.org

"Stay connected to the Youth and Young Adult Ministry"

"Christmas in July" Highlights



Money Matters: 4 Tips for Mastering Your Finances

1. TAKE INVENTORY OF YOUR FINANCES

Money management is about more than making the math work out. It's about adjusting your mindset, too.

Take a mental inventory of your current position.

- Are you consistently overspending?
- Do you have enough saved up to survive an unexpected expense?
- Do you live paycheck to paycheck?
- Do you feel overwhelmed by financial jargon?

Be honest with yourself about where your weaknesses lie. You might've made some missteps in the past, but you don't have to continue on that path. Here's how to manage your money now, while preparing for the future.

2. BUILD A MONEY MANAGEMENT BLUEPRINT

Start with a budget

If you're not sure how to budget, start by choosing a system that you'll stick with. We like the 50/30/20 budget plan, which allocates 50% of your income for needs, 30% for wants and 20% for savings and debt repayment.

Track your spending

By tracking expenses, you can see exactly where your money is going. It may inspire you to stop spending so much in a certain category or adjust your spending habits so they better align with your goals.

3. FIND WAYS TO SAVE

As you pay more attention to your finances, you'll likely find opportunities to save by tweaking daily habits, negotiating bills payments resulting in making long-term changes to your spending habits. Ideally, over time, saving money will become part of your lifestyle.

Use designated accounts for spending and savings

One way to make money management easier is to keep money designated for bills and budgeted expenses separate from your emergency fund. This will reduce the temptation to dip into it for nonemergencies. Saving for a house, vacation or new car? Stash those funds in separate accounts so you can see progress toward each goal.

Make a plan to pay off debt

A strategic approach to debt repayment will help you reach the debt-free finish line faster. A recommend approach is tackling your most expensive debt — the accounts with the highest interest rates — first, while making minimum payments on the rest. Then, work your way down through any lower-interest rate debt until it is all paid off.

Develop good credit habits

Your credit can determine whether you're able to get loans and the rates you pay on them, as well as many other aspects of your financial life. A credit check may be part of

getting a cell phone plan, apartment or car insurance.

To stay on top of your score, focus on the two biggest factors that influence it: payment history and credit utilization (how much of your credit limits you're using). Aim to pay everything on time, because just one missed payment can hurt your score, and use less than 30% of your credit limits on each card and overall.

Invest in your financial future

Set money aside now, in a 401(k) or IRA, and let compound interest work its magic. The ultimate goal is long-term financial freedom and stability.

Money management goes beyond spending less than you make. A true sign of financial prowess is saving enough to live comfortably in the long term as well as the short term.

You can achieve this in four steps:

Step 1: Save

Start socking away extra money to build an emergency fund. Ideally, you should have six months' worth of living expenses at your disposal in case the unthinkable happens. If that seems too ambitious, start small. A \$500 reserve is a great first goal.

Step 2: Invest

Invest extra money for your future. Set yourself up for retirement by contributing to a 401(k). If your company offers a match, contribute enough to get the maximum.

Step 3: Pay off debt

Whether it's a loan or a looming credit card bill, you probably have some debt obligations. Always make at least the minimum monthly payments so you don't suffer credit score damage due to a late payment. If you have extra money for bills, pay down the high-interest debt first.

Step 4: Repeat

Keep building up that emergency fund, investing for retirement and knocking down debt.

4. BE PERSISTENT

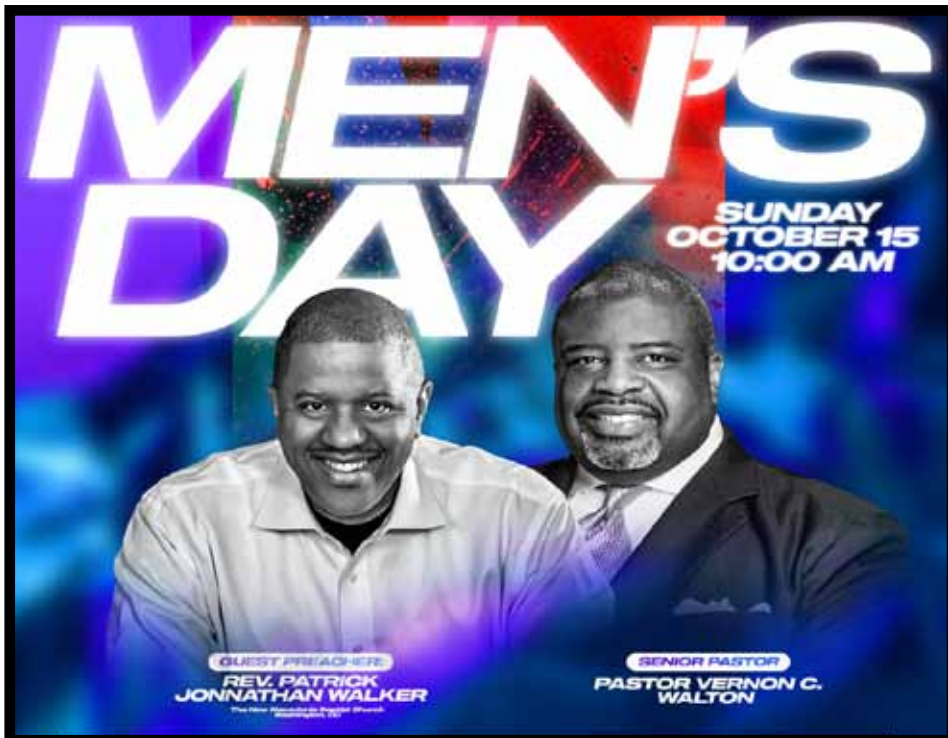
Despite their good intentions, many people fall off the financial bandwagon. Sticking to a budget that's too restrictive can be suffocating. Navigating investment jargon can be confusing. But don't get discouraged.

You didn't get in the financial position you're in overnight, and you won't get out of it overnight, either. Give yourself time to learn and grow. With hard work and dedication, you can manage your money with confidence.

If you need support or have questions about developing or working your money management plan, feel free to contact your First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union.

—Submitted by Willie Boykin based on an article in *Nerd-Wallet* edited by Courtney Neidel titled: "Money Management: 4 Tips for Mastering Your Finances," dated May 14, 2021

COMING IN OCTOBER



MEN'S DAY

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 15
10:00 AM

GUEST PREACHER:
REV. PATRICK JONNATHAN WALKER
The New Apostolic Church

SENIOR PASTOR:
PASTOR VERNON C. WALTON



HOPE, HEALING & WHOLENESS
OCT 13+14

2023 MEN'S

"THE RECOVERY ROOM"

JOINT RETREAT

Kwame KILPATRICK
MOVEMENTAL MENTORS

Dr. Chandra L. WILLIAMS
UNITED METHODIST BAPTIST CHURCH
HILLSBORO, NC

tinyurl.com/recoveryroom23

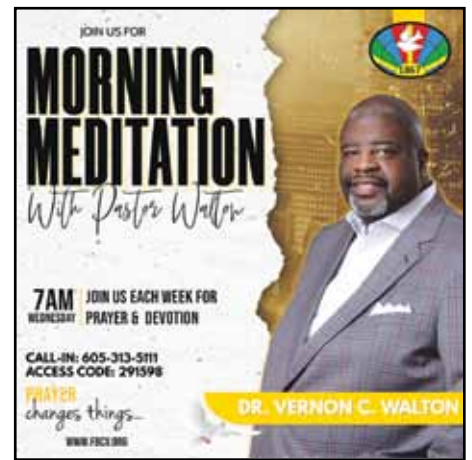
Registration: \$55

HOTEL INFORMATION
Courtyard Dunn Loring Fairfax
2722 Gallows Road Vienna, Virginia 22180
\$153 (king)/\$163 (double) - Rate includes Breakfast
Book Your Room by 9/15 at: tinyurl.com/fbcvroomblock23

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Sr. Pastor

Land of Promise
Dr. James King, Sr. Pastor

Cedar Street Baptist Church of God
Dr. Anthony Chandler, Sr. Pastor



JOIN US FOR
MORNING MEDITATION
With Pastor Walton

7AM WEDNESDAY
JOIN US EACH WEEK FOR PRAYER & DEVOTION

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

PRAYER
changes things
www.fbcv.org

DR. VERNON C. WALTON



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

DAILY NOON DAY
Devotion

MON-FRI

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



CONNECT WITH US!

Facebook First Baptist Church of Vienna

Instagram Firstbaptistvienna

Twitter fbc_vienna

Youtube First Baptist Church of Vienna



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

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
				12:00 pm Prayer Call	12:00 pm Prayer Call	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Back to School Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer	12:00 pm Prayer Call	12:00 pm Prayer Call	12:00 pm Prayer Call	12:00 pm Prayer Call	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Homecoming Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer	12:00 pm Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-week Worship Resumes	12:00 pm Prayer Call 5:30 Excellence Academy Begins	12:00 pm Prayer Call	Food Distribution 10:00 am Casting Call: Straight Outta Bethlehem
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer	11:00 am In-Person Bible Study 12:00 pm Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-week Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 5:30 Excellence Academy	12:00 pm Prayer Call	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Ordination & Consecration 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer	11:00 am In-Person Bible Study 12:00 pm Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-week Worship	12:00 pm Prayer Call 5:30 Excellence Academy	12:00 pm Prayer Call	9:00 am Serving Leaders Meeting

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. - John 15:5