

JULY/AUGUST 2023

The Epistle

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



From
Pastor
Walton's
Desk

*Grace and Peace from God
our Father!*

As we transition from spring to enjoy the warmth and beauty of the summer season, I'm reminded of our shared spiritual journey. Summer is the ideal time of growth and flourishing in nature, and I am excited about how our community of faith continues to help grow the kingdom of God and be a blessing to others. We are able to do that because of your continued commitment and generosity.

This summer, it is my sincere hope and prayer that we are committed to our responsibility to tithe. It is the tithe that provides resources to this house of God. We are reminded in Malachi to bring all the tithes and offering into the storehouse so that there is provision in God's house. Giving is an inherent aspect of our faith, a natural outpouring of gratitude as God continually provides for us. I also pray that you are able to see the tithe at work here in your local church. As we live out our practices as a fruitful

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ACT Month—Make the Commitment

by Stacey Seay
Special to *The Epistle*

We have spent the last month in prayer and preparation for All Christians Tithe (ACT) month and now it is time to make the commitment. A few minutes watching the news or a trip to the grocery store quickly remind us of our changing economy and the impact of inflation. ACT month is a time when we can be reminded that we must put our full faith in God. Pastor Brian Kluth put it this way:

"We are living in a world where the walls of our economy are cracking because they are on shaky ground. We need to return to rebuilding our lives on the foundation of God's Word.

In the early chapters of the book of Nehemiah, God used Nehemiah to rebuild the broken down walls of people's faith. He called them to put God first in their lives, their finances, and their generosity. As part of this call, he asked them to sign a spiritual covenant—"We are making a solemn promise and putting it in writing"-to indicate their desire to honor God afresh in their lives. Haggai was also used by God to help people 'consider their ways' and give God first place in their lives."

Now it is our turn to make a personal promise to God. Starting on Sunday, July 2nd each of us is challenged to complete our ACTs/Reach Commitment Card. Copies of the Commitment Card are available online and at the church.

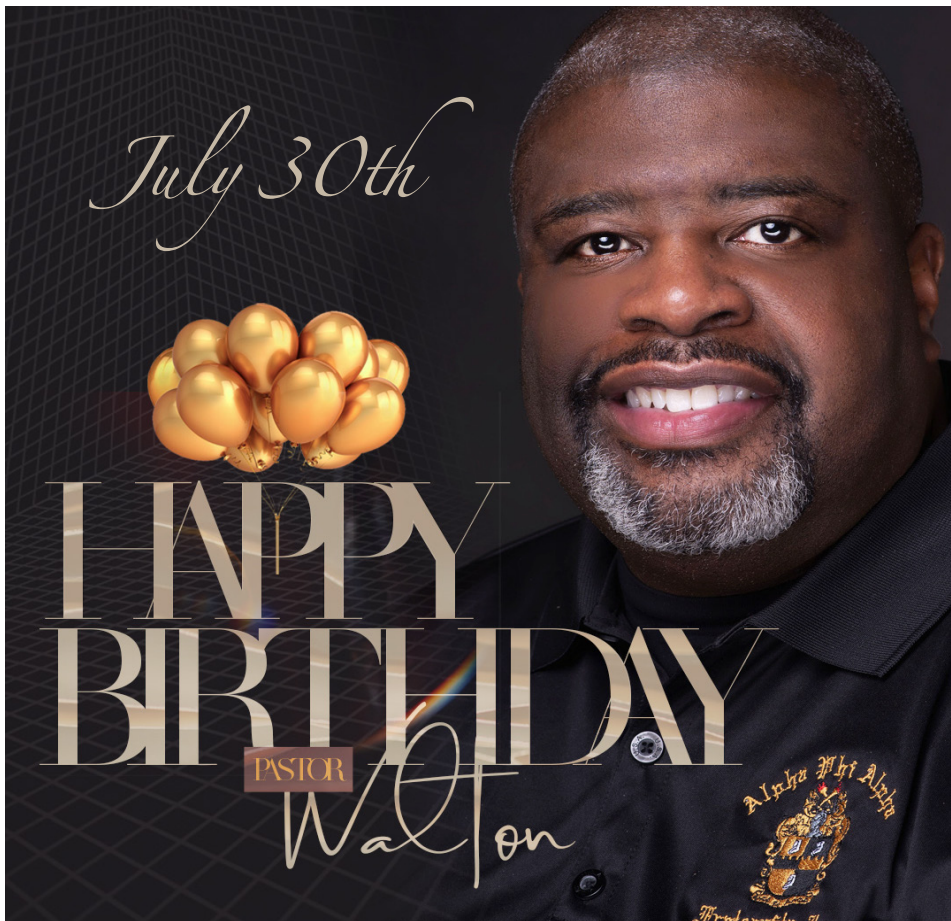
Christmas in July

by Stacey Seay
Special to *The Epistle*

Christmas in July is back and will take place on Sunday, July 30. As in year's past, we will invite guests from throughout the area to join us for worship and to join us for a cook-out and games. In addition, we will be providing free haircuts, manicures and massages as well as free clothing and shoes for men, women, and children. This is a wonderful opportunity to put each of our five practices to work!

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congregation by exuding and engaging in extravagant generosity, we witness the fruit through our summer camp scholarship opportunities and our mission focused Christmas in July service. They are small ways in which we see the fruit of our labor.

As we continue through the year, let us not forget that giving is not only about monetary contribution, but also an investment of time, talents, and resources. Generosity, in all its forms, profoundly impacts our church and broader community. I want to encourage all of us to volunteer during our Christmas in July event. There are several areas in which you can volunteer and there will be a series of planning meetings to ensure that we are operating to the best of our potential to be a blessing to those in our community who need it most.

In acting upon God's call for stewardship in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, remembering that, "Whoever sows generously will also reap generously," we've seen remarkable fruits from your gracious giving and have witnessed increased spiritual growth, community outreach expanding, children being educated in the ways of the Lord, and numerous missions being supported both locally and globally. These are the fruits of your faithfulness already evident amongst us. They are the tangible outcome of our collective commitment and dedication.

Finally, as you travel this summer and enjoy time with friends and family, let us be mindful that our tithing is not just a summer commitment, but a continuous act of dedication reflecting the steadfastness of our faith. We have multiple ways to give through mail, Cash App, and Giveli-fy as well as opportunities for you to engage in worship virtually. Again, thank you for your kindness and generosity. Have a safe and blessed summer!

ALL CHRISTIANS TITHE MONTH

A.C.T. MONTH

First Baptist Church of Vienna Members are called to tithe (or give above the tithe) during the month of July!

ONLINE GIVING {  \$fbcvorchard  tinyurl.com/fbcvgive



Hamepatti (Patsy) Ramroop and family for the loss of her sister

Her services will take place at a future date, but Sis. Ramroop appreciates our love and support.

Services for
William (Bill) Spriggs

We previously announced the passing of church member, William Spriggs. The family held a service in his honor in Michigan. There will be a local service in his honor at Howard University:

Cramton Auditorium
2455 6th St. NW
Washington, DC
Saturday, July 8
Doors Open 10:15 a.m.
Program: 11 a.m.

BIKER SUNDAY

Sunday, July 9th is Biker Sunday at First Baptist. In addition to inviting motorcycle clubs and riders, we want to celebrate riders of anything on wheels! Tricycle riders, bicycle riders, motorcyclists are all encouraged to join us as we celebrate bikers. There will be a time of fellowship after worship that will include a mid-season bike blessing for those who wish to take part and refreshments will be served. If your club plans to join us for worship, please let us know by emailing Min. Rashena Draughn at rdraughn@fbcv.org because we want to recognize you.



Altar Flowers

Aleese Coates-Richardson,
Helen Carter and their children
to commemorate the birthday of
their mother and grandmother,
Idelia Smith

—Compiled by Ceola Allen

CHRISTMAS IN JULY, continued from page 1

As you are aware, July is a first ACTs/Reach month, Our Reach giving will support the purchase of socks and undergarments for all genders and ages, school supplies, toiletries, feminine hygiene products and more.

The planning meetings for our upcoming Christmas in July have passed, but it is not too late for you to sign up to serve! There are a number of ways you can get involved:

1. **Commit to ACTs/Reach Month**—our giving is what makes Christmas in July possible!

2. **Donate clothing and shoes**—Please ensure that the items you donate are in good condition and clean. Also keep in mind that practical items are what is most needed. For example, work appropriate clothing and shoes are helpful, special occasion attire and shoes are not. Many of the guests we will be serving are housing insecure and may have limited storage, so donations of in-season clothing are preferred. Clothing can be dropped off at designated areas near the entrances of the church.

3. **Save the Dates**—We will sort, organize, and set up for Christmas in July on Saturday, July 22 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and again on Saturday, July 29 beginning at 9 a.m.

4. **Sign Up to Serve**—Sign up to let us know you will be available to assist on sort days and to serve on Christmas in July. Christmas in July is a huge undertaking with lots of moving parts, we need all hands to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

Sign Up at:

www.tinyurl.com/fbcvjulychristmas



MINISTRY UPDATE

School is out but the young adults are back in session. With the arrival of the summer season, we are excited to announce the return of our young adult ministry.

Our ministry caters to adults ages 18 to 40. Please share our information with any young persons in your network, as we invite others to join and grow with our ministry.

To receive the most up to date information, sign-up to receive notifications via email or text.


July will mark the start of new programming and a new invitation to join in community. Summer events will focus on four key areas:

- Bible study with young adult relevant topics.
- Social and Networking Events
- Enrichment
- Opportunities to serve the church and our local community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FBCV Young Adult Ministry


JULY 11	THE SPOT BIBLE STUDY 7PM @ MAGNOLIA DESSERT BAR & COFFEE
JULY 23	YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM
JULY 23	BOWLING AND NETWORKING 12PM@ BOWLERO TYSONS
JULY 30	CHRISTMAS IN JULY COMMUNITY SERVICE



FBCV Young Adult Ministry

BOWLING

Meet up

SUNDAY 23 JULY 12:30PM		FOOD AVAILABLE FREE
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Bowlero Tysons Corner, 2001 International Dr Suite 1695G, McLean, VA 22102

SCAN ME



JOIN OUR MINISTRY

Use the QR to register for upcoming events and join our ministry. This will also enable you to receive information and reminders for upcoming events.

Summer Camp

Our first session of summer camp for 2023 culminated with a spectacular closing program the spotlighted all the hard work our young campers and their instructors did over the two-week session. Our young campers had the opportunity to explore various aspects of the arts and were introduced to African Americans who excelled in the arts such as Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Ella Fitzgerald, and Alvin Ailey.

Sydney Meekins, a rising senior and church member, developed a performing arts curriculum as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award requirements. Each day, she and her team, which also included church member, Jahlil Greene, worked with our campers to introduce campers to basic theater principals and rehearsed the play that was performed at the closing ceremony.

George Mason student and familiar face from the FBCV Praise Team, Jaelin Mitchell, was the camp’s music instruc-

tor. Alexis Evans, a rising sophomore at North Carolina Central University served as the dance instructor.

We’ve been blessed with having seen or heard Sydney, Jaelin, and Alexis share their gifts through worship opportunities at First Baptist. Pastor Walton noted during his closing remarks: “It is indeed an honor to see young people, many of whom were at one time campers themselves, to share their passion for their craft by returning to the program as teachers.”

Our next Breathing Storytellers Summer Camp Session will begin on Monday July 17th and will run for the last two weeks of July. If you haven’t already done so, please share information about our summer camp with all the parents you know and encourage them to register their elementary aged children for this rich cultural and educational experience. To pre-register: <https://tinyurl.com/fbcvcamp2023>



Missions Moment

We are constantly leveraging our relationships and building partnerships to get quality food at great pricing to meet many needs. This week, a crew of volunteers helped us receive nine pallets of food for our food distribution programs. This high-quality food is an invaluable resource for our community.

We've shared about how there has been an increased need for food in our community. This increase is the result of higher prices and reductions in government programs such as SNAP. In an effort to address this growing need, we added an additional food distribution date on Saturday, July 8th. We need help preparing the food bags on Thursday and assisting with the distribution on Saturday.

There have been many requests for more evening shifts and so for the month of July, we will have both a daytime and evening timeslots. Making use of the sign up assists us with planning and helps us ensure that we have adequate support. Please take a moment to sign up for either (or both) shifts by using the link: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvfoodinjuly
—Stacey Seay

First Baptist Church of Vienna

MONTHLY DRIVE-THROUGH FOOD GIVEAWAY

FRESH PRODUCE / PANTRY STAPLES / MORE!

★★★★★

- FRESH - FREE - HEALTHY -

at: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

NEW DATE ADDED: SATURDAY, JULY 8th

OPENS 9 AM -12 PM
(While supplies last!)

450 ORCHARD ST. NW; VIENNA, VA / WWW.FBCV.ORG



How to Give Yourself a Midyear Financial

Without regular maintenance, financial plans tend to fall apart. Relief benefits are changing, market conditions are evolving and plans made six months ago might not make much sense today if any major life events have since occurred. Enter the midyear financial checkup. A midyear financial checkup is an opportunity to review the progress you've made toward goals set at the start of the year and make plans for the remaining months of the year. It's an organizational tool as well as a chance for individuals and families to reflect and adapt as needed. Life events such as a death in the family, a marriage, the birth of a child or grandchild or a job change can trigger tax and financial implications that need to be addressed before the year's up.

Below are details that most of our membership will likely encounter:

Evaluate Your Budget. Those without a budget should start their midyear financial checkup by creating one. Those with an existing budget can review which areas came in under budget and which exceeded planned expenditures, as well as how any income changes may affect their budget going forward. A strong budget includes a plan to create or maintain an emergency fund – particularly in the wake of a year that left many facing sudden job loss and financial uncertainties resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

Plug the Leaks in Your Budget. If during this budget review you uncover any unnecessary expenses, like excessive shopping, unnecessary subscriptions or other recurring fees, now is the time to eliminate them. "Review your budget to understand your essential living expenses, and look for opportunities to reduce your financial risk, such as paying off credit card debt or eliminate or reduce lifestyle expenses that may be hard to maintain in a cash crunch (e.g., memberships/subscriptions, shopping habits, dining out, etc.)

Manage and Prioritize Debts. During your midyear checkup, review and create a plan for debt repayment. "If you don't have a payment strategy in place, now is a great time to start. First, you should incorporate paying down debt into your monthly budget to ensure you're allocating money each month to paying it off—how much you allocate is dependent on your approach to paying down debt," Rosenberg says. Two common options for debt repayment are the snowball method, which involves paying off the smallest debts in their entirety first, and the avalanche method, in which individuals pay off accounts with the highest interest rate first.

Inspect Your Credit Report. To open a business, buy a home or open a new credit card, oftentimes a good credit score will come in handy. One great financial habit to establish is the midyear credit report check. Look for signs of identity theft or anything that seems amiss using the [free annualcreditreport.com](https://annualcreditreport.com) website. Tidy Up Your Taxes Planning can go a long way when it comes to taxes, particularly after a year of Internal Revenue Service delays. This process includes keeping and maintaining records of any tax-deductible expenses, which could include out-of-pocket medical expenses, mortgage interest and charitable contributions.

Update Your Estate Plan. Estate planning attorneys typically suggest clients review and update their documents every five years or so, or if they have experienced certain life events, such as a death, birth or marriage. Documents to review include a will, guardianship directives for those with minor children, an advanced health care directive and powers of attorney. Hopefully this information will assist you as you conduct your six-month financial checkup.

This information provided is from an article by Emma Kerr, Titled: "How to give yourself a midyear financial checkup" August 5, 2021 for US News. Submitted by Willie Boykin



FIRST BAPTISTCHURCH

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Vienna, Virginia 22180
(703) 938-8525 • www.fbcv.org
Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor

July

All Christians Tithe/Reach Month

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Communion Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	3	4 Fourth of July	5	6 Food Sorting Day	7	8 9:00 am Food Distribution
9 Biker Sunday 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	10	11 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	12	13	14	15
16 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	17 Summer Camp Session 2	18 Summer Camp Session 2	19 Summer Camp Session 2	20 Summer Camp Session 2	21 Summer Camp Session 2	22 9:00 am Christmas in July Preparation
23 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship 12:30 Marriage Min. Young Adult Outing	24 Summer Camp Session 2	25 Summer Camp Session 2	26 Summer Camp Session 2	27 Summer Camp Session 2	28 Summer Camp Session 2	29 9:00 am Christmas in July Preparation
30 Christmas in July Pastor Walton's Birthday 10:00 am Worship	31					

"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