

MAY 2023

The

Epistle

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



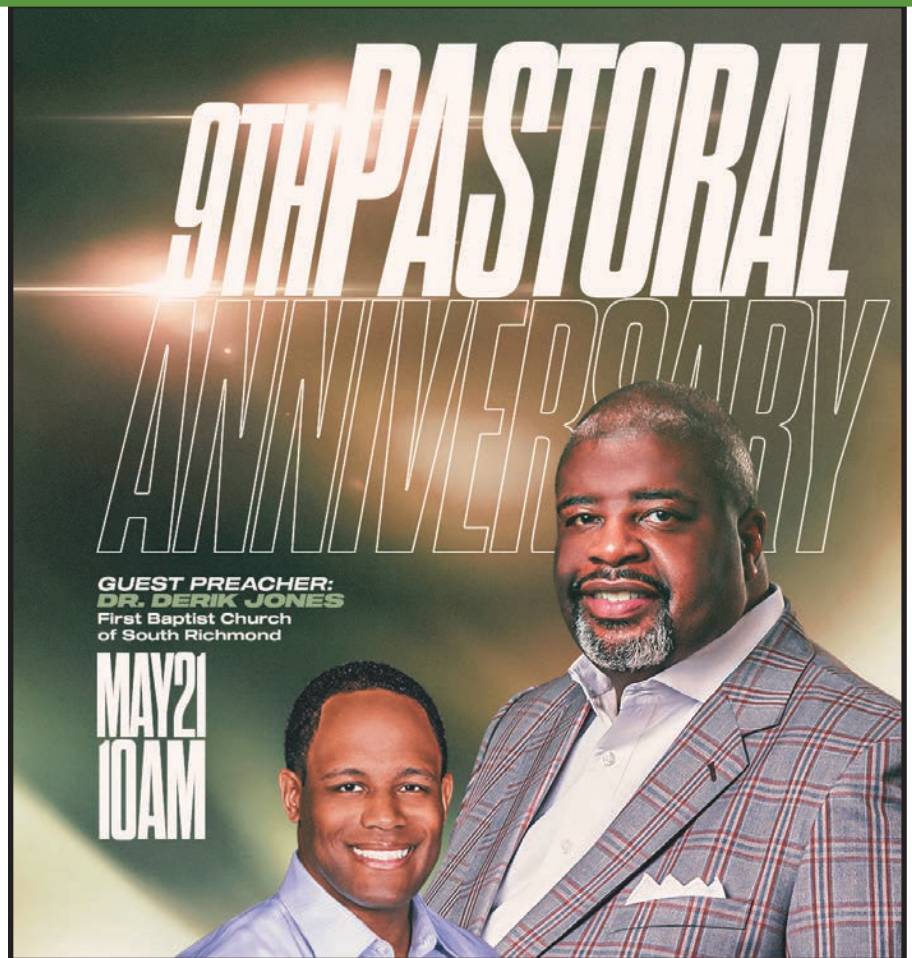
From
Pastor
Walton's
Desk

Grace and peace from God our Father!

With each month I am always excited about the chance for new possibilities and anticipating the ways that God can use us. This month, in particular, I am humbled and grateful to be able to celebrate 9 years together as Pastor and people. This has been an incredible journey and I am in eager anticipation of what God will do next.

As we move forward in the year and closer to the summer months, we move forward with the vision of being "Fruitful Disciples" at the forefront. It is my prayer and hope that we do not simply talk about being fruitful, but that we would actively engage in ministry that is fruitful. As we continue to live out the vision, the church is preparing to go outside, but we cannot do it without your help. Ministry does not get done without volunteers. In the life of our church, having members who consistently serve is critical to the work we do in our community. As believers, it is our responsibility to be of service to our neighbors and friends, particularly if we want to be

PASTOR, continued on page 2



Congregation Fuels Success of Operation Ignite

By Rick Taylor
Epistle Staff Writer

FBCV members were the spark behind Operation Ignite. The pledge campaign to replace the church's boiler raised about \$57,000—enough to fix it and get a start on other repair projects.

"We'd like to thank the congregation for their support for this and for our future projects," said Monroe Neal, Jr., of the Trustee Ministry's Finance Committee.

The boiler began malfunctioning shortly after FBCV began hybrid services and stopped working around September, he explained.

OPERATION IGNITE, continued on page 2



OPERATION IGNITE, continued from page 1

Pastor Vernon C. Walton kicked off Operation Ignite last November with the goal of having it operable in time for FBCV's 155th anniversary. The church's line of credit was used to pay for the boiler.

Neal said the cost was about \$50,000. Pledges to Operation Ignite reached that by January and the church paid back the line of credit for that amount in March.

The FBCV Building Fund is separate from Operation Ignite and is for long-term maintenance. There wasn't enough in it for replacing the boiler, Neal said.

Meanwhile, he added the remaining Operation Ignite funds are earmarked for roof repairs.

PASTOR, continued from page 1

a powerful force for change and share the gospel message. Our upcoming outreach opportunities are moments where we can do just that.

This month, Viva Vienna is back, and we will have a presence there the entire weekend. We will need volunteers to ensure that we have adequate coverage, and I am asking that you consider being a part of this great event. Not only is this an opportunity to share with the community, it is also an opportunity to fellowship a body of believers. Before we get too busy with our summer plans, I want to encourage each of us to challenge ourselves to engage more in the work we are doing, and there is no better time to start than right now! By serving others and our community, we contribute to the greater good and make a positive impact and are living examples of Christ's love for all. I look forward to how God will use us this month and beyond!

Seasons of Grief Workshop

Rev. Caffie Risher has been a valuable resource to our congregation through her Seasons of Grief Workshops. On April 20, her topic which was previously scheduled to focus on the grieving process of those who are experiencing the loss of their spouse, was postponed to next month. The April workshop, instead, focused on How Men and Women Grieve Differently, and how they may also have some common ways to cope with grief. Her workshop information included: styles of grieving; biological, historical, and social influences; and role problems associated with grief.

The three phases of grieving for men and women are:

- Phase one: Retreating
- Phase two: Working through
- Phase three: Resolving

Rev. Risher will conclude her workshop series on Thursday, May 18. Her focus will be Helping those who are grieving the loss of their spouse.

The FBCV Stephen Ministry is pleased to sponsor Seasons of Grief Workshops and encourage all interested persons to attend.

Access information: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvseasons

Meeting ID 838 3956 5207 Passcode: 082446.

To contact the Stephen Ministry, call Stephen Leaders Ann Devoe (571-261-5088) and Pat Jackson (757-935-5562).

—Sylvia Taylor

Missions Updates

We delivered an average of 500 weekend meal packs to our partner schools this past month. These packs include kid-friendly meal options and include breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack and drink items that help ensure that food insecure students have weekend meal options. Additionally, our monthly distribution of fresh produce is continuing to ensure that families have access to fresh and healthy foods. Last month we donated over 500 bags and ran out of food in record time. As always, we need your support to help make these opportunities possible and look forward to you joining us on Thursday, May 11 to help sort and prepare bags for distribution and again on Saturday, May 13 to assist in packing and distribution.

Our commitment to meeting needs extends beyond just providing food. We partner with Reston Strong to assist them in ensuring that persons without permanent housing have tents to protect them from the elements. This year alone we have provided nearly two dozen tents to support these efforts.



Juneteenth is Fast Approaching!

Our annual Juneteenth Celebration is just over a month away! Once again, the Town of Vienna will be one of the partners for this event. We will host vendors, food trucks, and community organizations as part of this annual event. We need all who can to support this community outreach event by volunteering to serve. There are a variety of areas where you can assist and you can review them prior to signing up at: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvjuneteenth23 We also need you to help spread the word that both vendor applications and sponsorship opportunities are available. Please encourage those who may be interested in participating to visit our church website for more information and to complete the application.

FRUIT BEARING DISCIPLES SERVE:

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT | WWW.TINYURL.COM/FBCVSERVES
VIVA VIENNA | WWW.TINYURL.COM/VIVAFBCV
JUNETEENTH | WWW.TINYURL.COM/FBCVJUNETEENTH23

Excavating Our Roots

Register and join Pastor Walton and Pastor Austin Almaguer of Vienna Baptist Church for a unique opportunity to discuss Vienna's rich history! On Saturday, June 3rd the pastors will join Sister Sylvia Taylor and Sister Gloria Runyon as they lead us on the African American Historic Sites Tour that spotlights the African American contribution to the Vienna community. After the tour, participants will have a time of lunch, fellowship, and discussion about how we must maintain our commitment to social justice even as we celebrate our history. Seating is limited so sign up today at: www.tinyurl.com/viennatourtalk

60th Anniversary of the Letter From the Birmingham Jail

We hosted a celebration of the 60th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Letter from the Birmingham Jail with faith leaders from throughout the area on Sunday, April 16, 2022. King's letter challenged white moderates to take a firm stand and to use their voices to speak to social justice issues of the time. Unfortunately, as the speakers on the program noted, 60 years later, we face many of the same challenges in our communities today. Mrs. Willie Pearl Mackey King was among the very special guests of the day. Mrs. King (no relation to Dr. King) relayed her experience piecing together and transcribing King's letter from the scraps of notes King was writing from the jail. Finally, all in attendance were called to action, specifically as it relates to the death of Timothy Johnson, who was shot and killed by police. We were all encouraged to hold our elected officials accountable and to demand police reform.

—Articles submitted by Stacey Seay



Youth and Young Adult Update

A new month is here and with it comes a new opportunity for your youth and young adults to make a difference – in their homes, schools, and in their community. They need our encouragement and prayers to help them push through the obstacles around them and become the person God wants them to be. Here's some AMAZING opportunities coming up that will help you as a parent, challenge our youth and young adults, and I hope encourage both of you as you journey this new month together.

SIGN UP TO BE A YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER

We are so thankful for your presence at First Baptist Church of Vienna. As you know, our church values offering meaningful times of outreach and fellowship. As our church grows and we welcome many youth and children to the ministry, we desire to build a team of faithful volunteers to serve and who will share our vision, heart and values. If you are interested in becoming a youth ministry volunteer, please contact me at kjones@fbcv.org. It's exciting to see people begin to grow in their faith as they reach out to be a blessing to others! I look forward to hearing from you!

CALLING ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Most of you are in the final exam periods, getting ready to graduate- WHOOT WHOOT! It is time for our end of the year check-in. Join me and Sis. Arnitra Duckett via Zoom so we can connect and check in with you. This will also be a wonderful time for you to meet and dialogue with other college students!

Topic: College Connection Meeting

Time: May 9, 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84173698486?pwd=S2pUMnpZa095aVJQakdSMDA0ckpUZz09>



The Last Day for **EXCELLENCE ACADEMY** is May 11! We want to give a HUGE shout out to our Tutors, hospitality staff, volunteers, and parents who have helped to



make this program a success. We could not have done it without you! Again, we thank you and pray God's richest blessings upon your life.

THE CALL OUT PRAYER CALL begins at 7:30 p.m.. Be sure to have your prayer journal during our devotional time. This is going to allow us to journey together during our prayer call. If you do not have a prayer journal, you can still join the prayer call!

The **SUMMER CAMP** offers students the chance to study singing, dancing and acting while rehearsing for a theatrical production. Students will also enjoy theater games, arts & crafts, and much more. We are in need of summer camp counselors! If you have a passion working with students and the arts, or know someone who is interested in being a summer camp counselor. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at kjones@fbcv.org. Be sure to register now at www.tinyurl.com/fbcvcamp2023!

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Youth and Young Adult Ministry Calendar

- May 9: College Connection via Zoom at 7 p.m.
- May 11: Last Day of Excellence Academy
- May 18: Young Adult Check-In via Zoom at 7 p.m.
- CLA Classes Every Sunday @9:00am via Zoom
- THE CALL OUT: Youth Prayer Call at 7:30 p.m. (Every Monday)
- *Youth and Children Connection Groups starts May 23 at 7 p.m. (Every Tuesday)



Lenora Barnes and family
for the loss of her son, Kobie Ellis
Aliyah Cotton for the loss of her
grandfather, Ulyssess Cotton
Patricia Boyd for the loss of her
brother Bruce Alexander



Ceola Allen, Danny and Alfred Bunaugh, grandchildren and great grandchildren to commemorate the 117th birthday of their father and grandfather George Bunaugh.

—Compiled by Ceola Allen

Join Our Staff

The *Epistle* newsletter staff works with the church office to produce the newsletter many of you see each month.

We are a small staff and we need additional members. A good knowledge of English and Microsoft Word is needed for proofreading and editing.

Our strongest need is for experienced writers and reporters for activities in the church. It is very important that articles are professional and correct.

This is a good opportunity for our Virtual Villagers; in fact, one of our members is a Virtual Villager. All of our communications are online since COVID.

Interested! Please email Anita Morton at anitamj1@verizon.net or contact the church office at 703-938-8525.

Shawn Purvis to Be Honored as STEM for Her's Woman of the Year 2023

Shawn Purvis serves as President and CEO of QinetiQ US, part of QinetiQ Group PLC. As CEO of QinetiQ US, Shawn is responsible for the complete operations of the business while transforming QinetiQ US into a world class provider of innovative defense and security solutions.

Over the course of Shawn's 25+ years of P&L responsibilities, she has led billion-dollar organizations in the areas of defense, intelligence and cyber security technical solutions in support of the warfighter and intelligence customers both domestic and global, achieving organic revenue growth and margin improvement year over year. Ms. Purvis has in-depth skills in driving strategy, policy, corporate strategic campaigns and financial/non-financial goals across the company. She actively participates in corporate governance in areas of risks, benefits, cyber and policies and engagements with the Board of Directors.

Ms. Purvis' prior roles include serving as corporate vice president (CVP), President of Enterprise Services (ES); CVP, Chief Information Officer (CIO) and as a sector vice president and general manager for Northrop Grumman's former Information Systems' cyber division, and vice president for the integrated intelligence systems (IIS) business unit respectively. A leader in these roles, she was responsible for all aspects of the business strategy, growth, customer relationships and program execution - delivering global full-spectrum cyber and security and technology solutions to intelligence, defense and civilian customers. Prior to joining Northrop Grumman, Ms. Purvis held management positions at SAIC and Lockheed Martin.

Ms. Purvis earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from Hampton University and a master's degree in information systems from George Mason University. She attended the Executive Program at Darden School of Business: University of Virginia and earned a certificate from the Accelerated Management Program at Yale School of Management. Ms. Purvis was selected for the 2020 cohort for Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) Women's Global leadership Program.

Ms. Purvis previously served on the boards of Technology Business Management (TBM), the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, Northern Virginia Family Services Council and the Board of Visitors for George Mason University. She currently serves as on the Board of Trustees for Dodge and Cox. In 2019 she was named to the Black Enterprise™, Most Powerful Women in Corporate America. In 2020 she received the 2020 Distinguished Black Alumni Award from the George Mason Black Alumni Chapter and the Alumni of the year award from the College of Engineering and Computing in 2021. She is a WASH 100 award recipient from Executive Mosaic for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

—Reprinted from stemforher.org, Submitted by Rick Taylor



Music Ministry

Can you imagine life without music? It's something we get exposed to from childhood through adulthood. For most of us it started from the sounds of lullabies from our mothers. Without it, life as we know it would be immensely boring as it goes beyond the sound itself and to our soul. We used music to change our moods, battle depression, express joy, etc.

After we celebrate the amazingness of motherhood, let's join together in voices as we celebrate Pastor and People, and the Power of Pentecost.

Monday, May 8: Pastor Anniversary and Pentecost Sunday (Zoom Rehearsal)

Saturday, May 13: Pastor Anniversary and Pentecost Sunday (In person Rehearsal)

Tuesday, May 16: Pastor Anniversary and Pentecost Sunday (In person)

Saturday, May 20: Pastor Anniversary and Pentecost Sunday (In person)

Tuesday, May 23: Pentecost Sunday (In person)

Saturday, May 27: Pentecost Sunday (In person)
—Kwan McKnight

Connection Groups

Our next round of Connection Groups will allow us to dig in to deeper conversation about our churchwide theme: Fruit Bearing Disciples. This session's groups will last five weeks and begin the week of May 22nd. There will be courses on each of the five practices: Extravagant Generosity, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, Passionate Worship, and Radical Hospitality. Sign-up and join us!



FBCV Trustee Running in NYC Marathon

For FBCV Trustee Rick Taylor, running is a moving experience.

He will be running in The TCS New York City Marathon on November 5, his seventh at the 26.2-mile distance. For him, it's a labor of love.

"Running is the one sport I can do," he said. "It doesn't take a lot of talent. You just go at your pace."

His six marathons were in his hometown of Detroit (2011), Richmond (2013), Atlanta (2014), Washington (2015 and 2019) and Baltimore (2016).

Taylor got into running in high school.

"I went out for the track team, but three of the guys were fast. They ended up in the NFL," he said. "I couldn't keep up with them, I went out for cross country instead."

He was last in those two cross-country meets, but it didn't deter him.

"It was relaxing and I got to see some sights," he said.

Taylor got back into running until a few years after joining FBCV in 1997. The church participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and a van driver was needed.

"I got there and walked the first event," he said. "But I saw people running it, too. I was a lot heavier at the time and said I can run and benefit those who were suffering with cancer."

Taylor's New York marathon quest is sponsored by Imerman Angels, a non-profit group whose mission is to provide comfort and understanding for all cancer fighters, survivors, previvors and caregivers through a personalized one-on-one connection with someone who has been there. The charity paid his entry fee, but he must raise \$3,200 by October 31 to participate.

"No question, it sounds like a lot of money, but if you can't qualify by time, this guarantees an entry. That's the way charity bibs work," he explained.

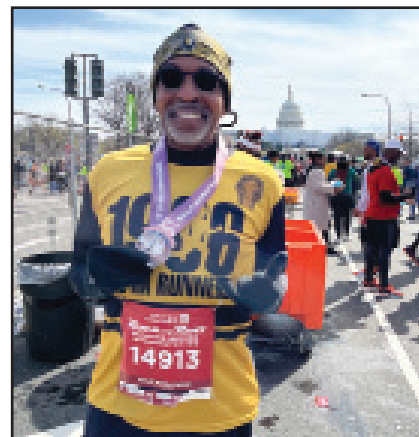
Taylor is about \$1,000 off from his goal and is looking for support.

"Everything helps," he added. "I've had several \$10 donations. It's whatever you feel like giving."

To donate go to: <https://imermanangels.donordrive.com>

Taylor added that those who want to write checks can write them to him and put "Imerman Angles" in the subject line. He will deposit funds into the Angels account online. But he added that they cannot receive a tax deduction.

—Submitted by Ann Marie Williams, Epistle Staff Writer



Money Matters: Debt Consolidation

What is Debt Consolidation?

Debt Consolidation is the process of taking out a new loan to pay off one or more unsecured loans you already have. Debt Consolidation lets you bundle your existing loans into a single monthly payment, may offer you a lower interest rate, or let you pay off your debt with an alternative method or length that may be more convenient for you.

Is a Debt Consolidation Personal Loan the right option for me?

If you have multiple unsecured loans that you would like to swap for a single monthly payment or if your current loan's interest rate is too high, you may benefit from taking out a Debt Consolidation Personal Loan. Debt consolidation gives you the opportunity to potentially save hundreds of dollars with a lower interest rate and can make payments more convenient for you-- with a single, automated monthly payment.

How the Personal Loan Consolidation Process Works at First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union

Not sure how the whole consolidation personal loan process works? Perhaps you're still even wondering what a personal loan is and which types of personal loans First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union offers. Well, you'll be happy to know that our friendly Personal Loan Experts are here to answer any questions you may have about the process, your loan, or anything else you can think of! But we've made our process so simple and transparent that we don't think you'll be left with any questions to ask. Working with us is a breeze, and applying for one of our loans requires little effort on your part.

For more information about taking out a loan with us, please feel free to contact your First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union so that we can assist you in making good decisions about your money management goals and objectives.

—Submitted by Willie Boykin



FIRST BAPTISTCHURCH

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

May

Fruit Bearing Disciples

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	2 12:00 pm Prayer Call	3 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call	4 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Therapeutic Thursday - Health	5 12:00 pm Prayer Call	6
7 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	8 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	9 12:00 pm Prayer Call	10 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship Resumes	11 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Therapeutic Thursday – Mental Health	12 12:00 pm Prayer Call	13 Food Distribution
14 Mother's Day 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	15 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer	16 12:00 pm Prayer Call	17 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship	18 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Therapeutic Thursday - Grief	19 12:00 pm Prayer Call	20
21 Pastor's Anniversary 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	22 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer I Connection Groups Begin	23 12:00 pm Prayer Call	24 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship	25 12:00 pm Prayer Call	26 12:00 pm Prayer Call	27 VIVA Vienna!
28 Pentecost 8:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship VIVA Vienna!	29 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out: Youth Prayer VIVA Vienna!	30 12:00 pm Prayer Call	31 7:00 am Prayer Call 12:00 pm Prayer Call 7:00 pm Mid-Week Worship			

“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