

SEPTEMBER 2022

The

# Epistle

First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va. | The Resilient Church!



From  
Pastor  
Walton's  
Desk

Dear First Family,  
Grace and Peace from God our Father!

As the seasons change, I am always filled with excitement. The sense of transition signals a fresh start. As we go into this new Fall season, I am delighted to share some of the great things happening in the life of our church.

As you know, Homecoming is scheduled for September 18th. This will lead into our fall season of ministry which will kick off with our Fall Missions Blitz. The Missions Blitz will be a full week of opportunities to express our care and concern for our friends, neighbors, and also for those who also our community. There will be an opportunity for everyone to engage in this effort. I am asking that all who can take advantage of this chance to be a blessing in this season. Let's go to church, but let's also be the church! You may register for these opportunities at [www.tinyurl.com/fbcvblitz](http://www.tinyurl.com/fbcvblitz).

In addition to our Missions efforts, there will be multiple opportunities for us to learn and grow as a collective community of believers and also on a

**PASTOR**, continued on page 2



## MISSIONS BLITZ Starting September 24!

By Stacey Seay  
Special to *The Epistle*

On Homecoming our challenge is "Let's Go to Church," but on Saturday, Sept. 24 our challenge is "Let's Be the Church!"

Sep. 24 will kick off First Baptist Church of Vienna's Missions Blitz. The blitz will continue throughout the rest of the month and will be our opportunity to share the love of Christ throughout the community.

**MISSION BLITZ**, continued on page 2

## MISSION BLITZ, from page 1

We start off our blitz with a moment of service and preparation. Teams will assemble here at First Baptist to assemble care packages for teachers, unhoused persons, food insecure children and more! Additionally, we will be heading outside the walls to serve. First Baptist will send teams to be a blessing to others at local laundromats and other businesses and to feed the homeless. During the week that follows, our missions blitz will continue with visits to partner schools to bless educators, visits to first responders to provide lunch, and so much more!

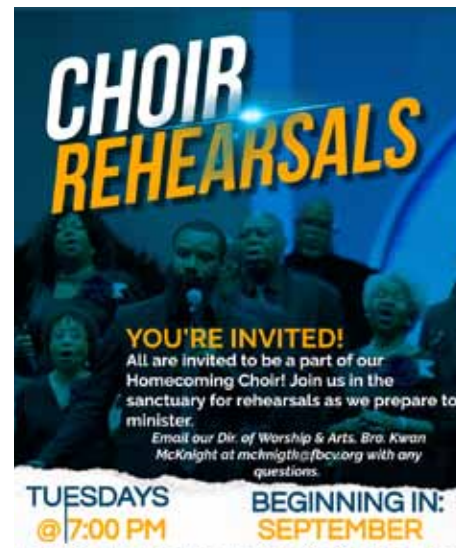
The upcoming Missions Blitz can only be successful if you commit to partner in our efforts. There are a variety of ways in which members of all ages and abilities can serve. There are multiple opportunities over several days to serve. Sign up to learn more about specific opportunities to serve and to sign up for timeslots that work with your schedule. Are you ready for the challenge? Are you ready to be the church?



## PASTOR, from page 1

more individualized basis. Our new midweek series, Marks of a Disciple, will kick off Wednesday, September 21st at 7pm. We will also, have an in-person day time bible study starting on Tuesday, October 4th at 11am. Likewise, Fall Connection Groups will begin the week of Monday, September 25th. There are various studies to help to enhance our spiritual walk. It is my prayer, that the we all find a study that meets our spiritual needs. Registration is open and can be found on the church's website under the Ministries tab.

I am looking forward to all these wonderful opportunities to worship, study, and serve as we continue to keep the vision before us to Empower believers, Evangelize the lost, and Disciple the saved!



## CELEBRATE HOMECOMING

FBCV's Homecoming will be September 18. I am excited that the Reunion choir will minister that day!

Old members, new members, and friends of FBCV will return to the choir loft for an exciting and joyful worship! The Church is planning to host a safe and engaging service that will bring the First Baptist community together to celebrate and reconnect across generations.

I ask for three things from each of you in order to ensure this event is a success.

1) **Join the Reunion Choir**—See rehearsal dates below

2) **Invite an old/new choir member or friend**—ALL are welcome

3) **Make a SHORT 15–30 seconds video** explaining what homecoming is to you.

### Rehearsal Dates:

Tuesday, September 6, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 17, 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 18 we will minister together.

Let's get excited about Homecoming! —Kwan McKnight



# Youth and Young Adult Update

## Greetings FBCV family!

It is my prayer that you have enjoyed a wonderful summer. I also hope you are relaxed, recharged and ready to start a new school year. We have entered into a new school year and we have some exciting things planned for our youth during this year.

It is my prayer that you will consider joining us during the following opportunities that we have during the year. Time seems to fly by faster than ever before, but in reality, time doesn't go

faster at all. Our lives are just busier, and we are more involved than ever in many things that capture our attention. As you prepare to go back to school, I would encourage you to take the time to draw upon the strength only the Lord can provide. Remember this; He is going before you to bless you in many ways because He loves you and desires the best for your life! —*Minister KJ*

## Excellence Academy

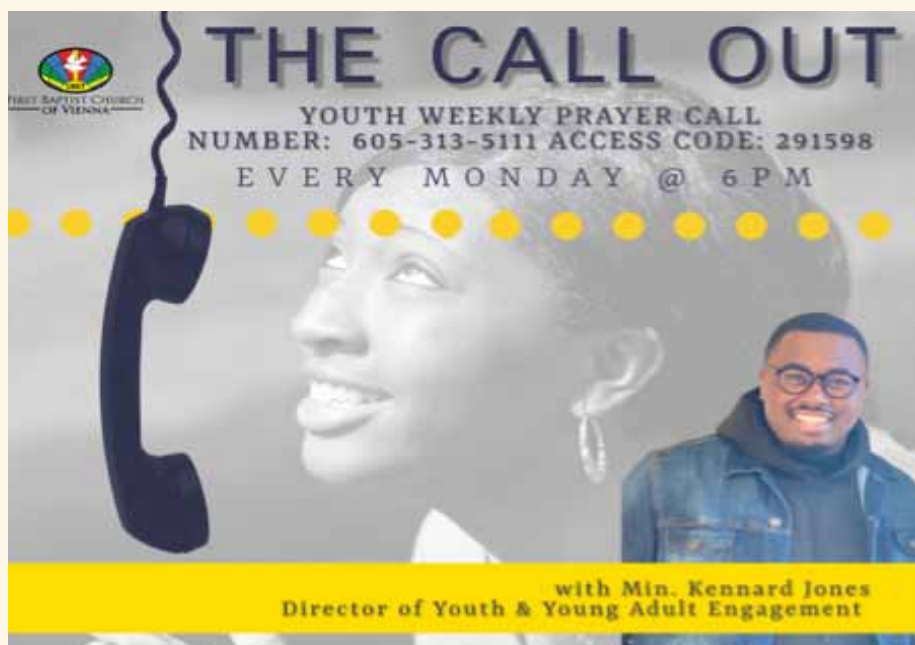
The First Baptist Church of Vienna Excellence Academy provides individualized attention and group assistance for students. Tutors participate in a collaborative training to understand best practices and plan effectively for students. Tutors help to motivate students' participation and engagement in the classroom as well as provide additional support for students that will aid them in the learning experience. Happening at the same time, we also have our Purpose Academy music enrichment program which allows students to utilize their musical gifts and talents through the arts.

Excellence Academy assists students in grades K-6 in identifying strategies to support their learning and enhance their academic performance. Tutoring and music enrichment is conducted in a constructive atmosphere using a variety of learning techniques tailored to each student's individual learning style. Excellence Academy's main goal is to inspire students to become confident, independent learners prepared to meet academic and personal challenges. Excellence Academy happens on Tuesdays at 5 pm. Elementary-aged students will receive academic enrichment, including reading, math, and science tutoring, as well as music enrichment, including instruction on recorder, drum, guitar, or piano, and dinner. Be sure to register at [www.tinyurl.com/fbcvacademy](http://www.tinyurl.com/fbcvacademy).



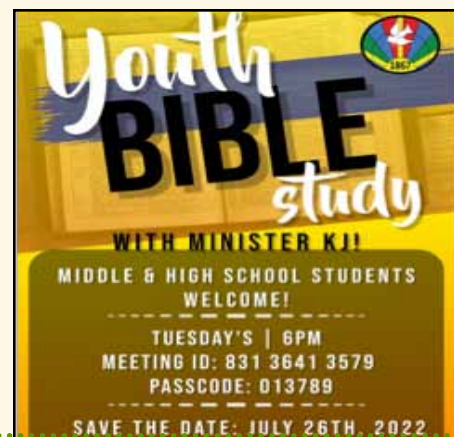
**Excellence ACADEMY**  
Academic Enrichment (K-6)  
\* Math \* Reading \* Science  
Music Enrichment  
\* Recorders \* Guitar \* Drum \* Piano  
Dinner  
\* Provided weekly for all students  
\* Transportation available

JOIN US TUESDAYS @ 5:30 PM  
REGISTER AT: [WWW.TINYURL.COM/FBCVACADEMY](http://WWW.TINYURL.COM/FBCVACADEMY)



**THE CALL OUT**  
YOUTH WEEKLY PRAYER CALL  
NUMBER: 605-313-5111 ACCESS CODE: 291598  
EVERY MONDAY @ 6PM

with Min. Kennard Jones  
Director of Youth & Young Adult Engagement



**Youth BIBLE study**  
WITH MINISTER KJ!  
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME!  
TUESDAY'S | 6PM  
MEETING ID: 831 3641 3579  
PASSCODE: 013789  
SAVE THE DATE: JULY 26TH, 2022

## THE DISCIPLES CORNER...

### Team Building Benefits at FBCV

**S**erving the church and serving God's people are what we are each called to do. Organizing volunteers into teams provides the following benefits for our overall ministry. FBCV provides a variety of ways for individuals to volunteer. As we enter Fall, get ready to select how you will serve. There will be fall festivals, homecoming, church anniversary, trunk or treat, Christmas engagement, Watch-night and a host of opportunity to use your gifts and talents. Here are a few tips to prepare as servant-leaders and church membership:

**BALANCE AND CROSS-TRAINING:** No single volunteer has everything he or she needs, no matter how experienced. For example, you may have some volunteer teachers who possess a wealth of Bible knowledge but lack people skills. With a team approach, volunteers build on each other's strengths. The same with hospitality, a person may be friendly, but a poor communicator. We all need each other to carry the work of the church.

**IMPROVED PLANNING AND FOLLOW-THROUGH:** Business executives and other leaders nearly always surround themselves with strong teams. The leader can then present an idea in a meeting with his or her team and let the team attack it, probe it, and offer suggestions. When the meeting is concluded, the whole team is ready to follow through on the revised—and often improved—plan. Ministry is just as much planning and executing as it is emotions and feelings.

**INCREASED ENERGY:** Team effort multiplies the individual thrust, provides the impact of sheer numerical strength, and supplies power in attacking a single target. When using a team approach, a problem that seemed insurmountable to an individual volunteer can be solved quickly, allowing the individual and other team members to move on with their duties.

**LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** Team participation provides opportunities for potential leaders to try out their skills at leading, planning, and coordinating. Since leadership is largely a matter of helping others accomplish their objectives more effectively than they could by themselves, people who are expected to be leaders will benefit from the team experience. And as leaders develop, your ministry will continue to grow.

Servant-Leaders of each ministry or persons assigned to guide volunteers are ready to have you serve alongside them. We are a resilient church and are looking for resilient members to serve our resilient ministries. Upcoming activity and opportunities will be listed in future Epistles, found on the church Facebook page, on the church website, and sent to your email. Article adapted from Ministry-Team-Building.

—Dr. Jacquie Hood Martin



Fannie “Birdie” Thomas and family for the loss of her daughter Deaconess Jackie “Ladd” Tanks

Alees Coates Richardson and family for the loss of her son, Louin Steven Coates

Anita Young and family for the loss of her husband, FBCV Member Joseph Young

VIRTUAL TEACHING SERIES  
**FALL MIDWEEK**  
MARKS of a DISCIPLE  
Six Measurements for Growth  
Dean Inerra  
ONLINE WED 7PM

**UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA**  
SEPT 29TH 7:00PM  
The SWAP Ministry of FBCV invites you to join them for an informative session with Dr. Gordon as he shares information about Alzheimer's & Dementia.  
Join us on Zoom at:  
[www.tinyurl.com/fbcvswap](http://www.tinyurl.com/fbcvswap)  
Call In: 301-715-8592  
Meeting ID: 894-8447-0326  
WITH: Dr. David Gordon, MD  
Professor of Pathology  
First Baptist Church of Vienna | Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Senior Pastor  
450 Orchard St. NW | Vienna, VA | [www.fbcv.org](http://www.fbcv.org)



## WELCOME BACK TO CAMPUS

**M**any prayers and blessings for a successful Fall 2022 semester. The College Connection Ministry welcomes you Back to Campus (and Welcome to Campus to our newest members).

Welcome to the class of 2026 to the College Connection Ministry

- Calvin Harriott
- Alexis Evans
- Kofi Annan
- Justin Purvis

Congratulations to our seniors, class of 2023

- Dunni Oni
- Dezire Duverglas
- Amaya Thomas
- Dylan Sparks•
- Eric Morgan
- Alyssa Neal

If there is a College Connection freshman not listed above, please contact Arnitra Duckett (arnitrad@mac.com) so we can ensure they are active and included in the College Connection Ministry

Complete the College Connection Scholar Contact Sign-Up—Due September 15

Your First family always wants to hear from and know how you are doing while you are at school. Our goal as a ministry is to keep you connected to your First family through prayer and spiritual guidance. Please complete the Scholar Database linked here: College Connection 2022-2023 Scholar Database to ensure we have the most up-to-date information for and about you. Completion of the contact form (and syllabus submission) serves as the incentive grant application.

Internships and Scholarships are AVAILABLE—APPLY NOW

The following opportunities are now available to eligible college students. Please visit Naval Horizons contest website (<http://navalhorizons.us/>) for more details and information on how to apply.

—Submitted by Jennifer Spriggs

## COLLEGE CONNECTION



**REMINDER:** The College Connection Prayer Circle

The College Connection Ministry is praying for you. During our monthly ministry meeting, College Connection lifts your needs in prayer. College Connection students should submit their prayer requests for the month of September to Benita Parks (benitaparks@verizon.net) by September 10th. Parents are also welcome to submit prayer requests on their child's behalf. We look forward to hearing from and praying for you.

**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** May God's blessings be upon you today and every day. May you be guided by His love for you and find comfort in His care. May you grow to know and love Him more each day. Amen

Happy Birthday to our September Scholar: Siabella Mangum, a rising junior at Virginia State University.

**THE COLLEGE CONNECTION MINISTRY WELCOMES YOU TO OUR NEXT MEETING.** The College Connection Ministry meeting for this month is scheduled for September 20th at 7:00 p.m. We have been meeting virtually. Please send Arnitra Duckett an email (arnitrad@mac.com) to request the contact information for our next meeting.

| PROGRAM TITLE   | TARGET AUDIENCE                               | PROGRAM TYPE                    | APPLICATION CLOSING DATE |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP)   | High school                                   | Paid summer internship          | 01 NOV 2022              |
| Naval Research Enterprise Internship Program (NREIP)  | College (undergraduate and graduate students) | Paid summer internship          | 01 NOV 2022              |
| Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program | College (undergraduate and graduate students) | Scholarship for service program | 01 DEC 2022              |
| National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship program                  | College (graduate students)                   | 3 year fellowship               | 31 OCT 2022              |

## Women's Ministry Gets Back to Eden

On a very warm August 6th afternoon, the women of FBCV gathered on the grounds of the church for the Women's Ministry Garden of Eden Soirée Fellowship. Despite the forecast for inclement weather (which thankfully never materialized), more than 80 ladies of many generations gathered as a ministry for the first time in almost three years to renew acquaintances and re-energize for future service. The parking lot was transformed into a beautifully decorated setting reminiscent of the Garden of Eden paradise. The afternoon began with a welcome by Assistant Servant Leader Sandra Graham; prayer by Rev. Emma Valentine; and scripture read by Dee Dee Walker. Deaconess Patricia Thomas Jackson introduced her daughter, Jamé Jackson, the MC.

FBCV's own Jamé Jackson was the amazing and engaging celebrity MC. She is now a New York-based award-winning fashion and beauty activist, culture commentator, and media personality. Jamé founded the award-winning brand, "TheBlondeMisfit," an online publication focused on promoting diversity and inclusivity in the fashion and beauty industry. As of 2019, TheBlondeMisfit.com was ranked in the top 100 fashion and top 100 beauty sites on the web. Her biggest passion is inspiring others to find their God-given purpose and to liberate others while celebrating their unique identity through it. Jame' that she will be going live on Amazon every Friday at 4 p.m. to share products that she loves and recommends.

Courtney Nero, no stranger to FBCV's Worship and Arts Ministry, delighted the group with inspirational words and saxophone melodies including Kirk Franklin's "Smile" and Richard Smallwood's "Total Praise"—a crowd favorite. He released his first CD, "Make Me Walk" in 2008.

Anointed gospel singer and worship leader Joslyn Henderson, Minister of Worship Arts at Christ City Church in Washington, DC encouraged the group to join in as she ministered in song. Her rendition of "Falling in Love with Jesus" was particularly well received.

Christian comedienne Tanya Lewis had the group laughing out loud. As a former "class clown", Tanya realized her talent to entertain but never acted upon it until God revealed to her that she possessed a gift that would be used to honor Him and impact the lives of others.

The group enjoyed delicious, COVID-conscious "grazing plates" designed by Karen Cathey, which contained tasty small bites, ideal for a hot summer day. Deaconess Marcia Taylor offered the group a fun icebreaker. Nicole Jones facilitated the blessing of several lucky ladies with lovely door prizes, assisted by Sydney Meekins and Sydney McGown.

Women's Ministry Servant Leader MarKay Chichester closed out the program with acknowledgements and opportunities for participation in future ministry efforts. Pastor Walton ended the afternoon with remarks and closing prayer.

The Women's Ministry would like to express appreciation to the Garden of Eden Soirée Planning Committee: Deaconess Armeata Basil, MarKay Chichester, Karen Cathey, Sandra Graham, Nicole Jones, Marcia Taylor, Rev. Emma Valentine, and Stacey Seay. Special thanks are in order for Goldie Harrison of the Hospitality Ministry and Minister of Worship and Arts, Kwan McKnight. The event was possible only through the efforts of an FBCV village, so thanks are due to EVERYONE who touched this event in any way. To God Be the Glory for the Things He Has Done!

—Submitted by Sandra Graham,  
Women's Ministry Assistant Servant Leader



Jamé Jackson









# Fall Series 2022

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



SCAN ME

**FBCV Virtual Connection Groups**

## Topics & Dates:

### Men's Group

#### **Leaning on the Promises for Men**

Men today get pulled in many directions, this study will help you navigate life while remaining rooted in scripture.

Facilitator: Dea. Andre Carpenter | Meets: Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.

### Women's Group

#### **One in a Million**

This study will look at how to conquer your wilderness living, and to claim your God-given inheritance.

Facilitator: Dr. Montrez Nicholson | Meets: Thursdays @ 7 p.m.

### Mixed Adult Group

#### **Hope for the Hurting**

Suffering is part of life. This study will explore ways of facing hurt & pain with a biblical perspective.

Facilitator Min. Rashena Draughn | Meets: Mondays @ 7 p.m.

### Children & Youth Groups

#### **The Quest for Kids (Grades K-6)**

Join us as we go on an expedition for a deeper relationship with God

Facilitators: Deas. Monica Evans & Stacey Seay

Meets: Thursdays @ 6:30 p.m.

#### **The Call to Be Different (Grades 7-12)**

Many attitudes, perspectives, & behaviors do not match that which God would desire us to have. This study will explore what scripture says about our call to be different.

Facilitator Min. Kennard Jones | Meets: Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.



**"The Marriage Ministry"** enjoyed a lovely brunch on Aug. 20. Please keep an eye out for future meetings and activities. We'd love to have you join us next time."

The Marriage Ministry wants to recognize those couples celebrating an anniversary. This month, **Deacon-Charles and Deaconess Armeata Basil** will celebrate 63 years of marriage on September 16. If you would like your anniversary included in future Epistle editions, please email Natalie Ruffin at [natm20@gmail.com](mailto:natm20@gmail.com) with details.



## Money Matters: Joining the Great Resignation?

*Here are four options for what to do  
with your 401(k)*

Quitting a job has never been more popular. In 2021, workers left their jobs to the tune of nearly 4 million per month, the highest rate ever recorded by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. And a survey of nearly 10,000 workers conducted by risk management and advisory company WTW in late 2021 and early 2022 found that 53% of U.S. employees were open to leaving their employers.

If you're joining the Great Resignation, you may need to figure out what to do with the money in your old employer's 401(k) plan. Here are your four basic options.

## 1. Leave it in your old 401(k)

You could leave your money in your old employer's 401(k) if you're happy with your investment choices and the fees are low, provided that the plan rules allow it. Your money stays invested, so earnings will still accrue. But you won't be able to contribute additional funds, so it's important that you open a new retirement account – like an individual retirement account (IRA), a 401(k) with your new employer, or a self-employed retirement plan – to continue saving.

However, many employers will only allow you to stay in their plan if your balance is above \$5,000. If your account has between \$1,000 and \$5,000, your old employer can create an IRA for you and roll over the money on your behalf. Your old employer has to give you ample warning before doing so. The money will be invested in superconservative investments, like money market funds or certificates of deposits (CDs). After account fees, you may actually earn negative returns.

If your balance is less than \$1,000, your plan can simply cut you a check. When that happens, the plan is required by the IRS to automatically withhold 20% of the balance.

The bottom line: Be sure you understand the rules for your old employer's plan, particularly when your balance is less than \$5,000.

## 2. Roll it into an IRA

Another option for your old 401(k) is to roll it over into an IRA. The advantage of doing so is that you can invest your money in virtually whatever stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) you choose.

You'll generally avoid taxes and penalties in doing so – unless you're rolling over a traditional 401(k) account into a Roth IRA. In that event, you'd owe income taxes on the amount you roll over.

Aim for a direct rollover, which is where your plan administrator sends the money directly to your IRA provider. If your old plan sends you a check, 20% of your balance will

be automatically withheld, per IRS rules. But you'll have to deposit the entire balance to avoid penalties.

In other words, if you have a \$50,000 balance and your plan sends the money straight to you, you'll receive \$40,000. But you'll still need to deposit \$50,000 into an IRA or a different retirement plan to avoid hefty taxes and fees.

### 3. Roll it over to a new 401(k)

Another option is to roll over your 401(k) into your new employer's retirement plan, assuming the plan allows it. You'll want to examine the fees and investment options to be sure they're satisfactory. Otherwise, rolling the balance into an IRA or keeping it with your old employer are better options.

As with rolling the balance into an IRA, always ask for a direct rollover. In this case, you'd want your old plan to send the money directly to your new 401(k) provider. Otherwise, you could face a mess of mandatory withholding, taxes, and fines.

## 4. Cash it out

Cashing out your 401(k) is almost always the worst option when you quit your job. Your balance will be subject to the mandatory 20% withholding, plus you'll owe a 10% early withdrawal penalty if you're younger than 55. (Typically, the 10% penalty applies if you withdraw retirement funds before you're 59 1/2, but the IRS makes an exception for workers 55 and up who leave their job for any reason.) If the 20% withholding doesn't cover your tax bill, you could even owe more money come April 15.

An early 401(k) withdrawal is extremely costly. If your marginal tax rate is 22% and you cash out a \$50,000 balance, you'd receive just \$32,500 after taxes and fines.

But the cost is even more jaw-dropping when you factor in lost gains. Let's assume you earn 8% annual returns and cash out 10 years before your planned retirement. That \$50,000 balance would have been worth more than \$107,000 had you never contributed another cent. And remember: You received just \$32,500 on your withdrawal.

Keeping your 401(k) money invested in your old plan or rolling over the balance into an IRA or a new plan can all be good options. But cashing out your 401(k) early is almost never worth the cost.

If you have any questions about managing your 401(k), please feel free to contact your First Baptist Church Federal Credit Union.

—Submitted by Willie Boykin from the article ( *Joining the Great Resignation? Here are 4 options for what to do with your 401(k)* by Robin Hartill, CFP®The Motley Fool)



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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