

AUGUST 2023



From Pastor Reed

This summer I asked ministry leaders to go through the Refine process. During this process, we look at how God has been using our ministries to accomplish our Mission, Core Values, and Vision. To celebrate what has worked and to adjust what we can do better. As we have gone through the process, one of the words that kept coming up for me is clarity. We need to make sure we are clear in everything we do and everything we offer.

One area where people seemed to be particularly unclear is the difference between our Equip Class, D Groups and J Groups. This is of vital importance because each these reflect opportunities to learn and grow in community, but they are all a bit different. Let me explain.

According to the online Merriam-Webster's dictionary, the word equip means to furnish for service or action by appropriate provisioning. Our Equip classes are meant to furnish you to live the life that God is calling you to in relationship to Him, your family, friends, community, and world. The thing is, each of us is at a different spot in our lives. We need to be equipped in ways that are appropriate for the leg of the journey we are on.

Considering this, our Equip classes are not necessarily meant to be a place where you park for the duration of your journey. They are meant to be limited duration stops on your journey for education and growth. Each class an opportunity to grow. For example, we will start this fall with three adult classes. Janice Crumly will be teaching a 14-week class on the armor of God. Dick and Jan Sipe will be leading a six-week class to help you brush up on and apply your learnings from the Sent Conference. Charles White will be leading a third class, topic and length TBA. *Continued on page 2*

SAVE THE DATE

- 8/13 - Prayer & Praise
- 9/10 - FBC Stillwell, Christian Comedians
- 9/20 - Prayer & Praise
- 10/14 - Fall Bazaar

Featured Members



RICK HOLLAND

Rick was born in Holton, Kansas, where his parents owned restaurants before buying the Hotel Olathe. Hollywood came to town when scenes for a famous movie were shot at the hotel.

Rick had a 35-year career with the Hallmark Card Company. Once he retired, he played more golf, delved into a favorite wood working hobby of making pen and pencil sets. He works on projects at FBCO with his buddy Charles White. Painting the lines for a large church parking lot brings some humorous memories. Whether an usher or diaconate member, Rick is willing to serve.

The father of two children, three grands, and one great-grand just arrived. Rick enjoys traveling and often travels to California where he gets to be grandpa. This steak and potatoes man likes to use his grill when the weather permits. He never turns down one of Carolyn's yummy desserts.

Rick enjoyed cars. His favorite Corvette took him and a friend on a road trip to the western US. Then they decided to travel to Hawaii. After meeting a woman on the plane, they were offered some work, a place to sleep and food.

Rick gives full credit to his wife for his faith that was developed in their marriage. Looking back, Rick, at age four, was accidentally hit in the head by a golf club. The doctors didn't know if he would survive the injury. God had plans for him and is very grateful. God has been very good to him.



CAROLYN IBACH

Carolyn grew up in Arkansas City, Kansas. She met and fell in love with her high school sweetheart. They married as the Vietnam war was raging. Jim and his brother-in-law were the first two married men to be drafted. Carolyn remained in her hometown while her husband left for training with the Army.

Carolyn had worked in the computer field, and she eventually became a computer programmer. Her skills led her to becoming part owner of a company that out-sourced technology.

Carolyn was a busy mother of two daughters. She moved to Paola nearly four years ago to be close to her only grandson. He has been an athlete all his life and Carolyn hasn't missed an event. This crafter is always ahead of the ball when it comes to being prepared for the Annual FBC Bazaar. She has chaired the event numerous times. She is Co-President of the GALS of the ABWM, and serves in the Luther Rice Association.

Carolyn's guilty pleasures are sweets and her Baby Car. Carolyn not only likes to bake but is very good at sharing her delicious delights. Baby Car is her fifth Volkswagen Bug and perhaps her favorite.

Carolyn attended First Baptist of Ark City, where she was baptized. Interestingly, Reverend Doctor G.R. Gross was her pastor before he came to serve at FBCO.



AARON KUETCHE

BY EMERSON WEBSTER

Aaron and his family have been at First Baptist Church of Olathe for over six years. His parents are Bernard and Jeanne, and he has a brother and a sister. They don't have any pets at the moment.

Aaron's favorite memory is when he learned to ride a bike. Like a lot of us, he loves a good macaroni and cheese casserole. He likes pop music the best. He really likes to play Blox Fruits, a digital game. Aaron likes manga and fantasy books, and he really likes to watch soccer. When he has the opportunity, he likes to play soccer outside as well.

His favorite season is spring because he enjoys the weather. Aaron is heading into seventh grade and his favorite subject is math — he also plays volleyball for the school team.

He lived in Yaounde, Cameroon in Africa, but currently lives here in Olathe, Kansas. Aaron has served First Baptist Church working on the facility grounds, decorating our church last year for Christmas, and hopes to help again this year.

FBCO Library

The FBCO library has been open now for about a year. In between Equip classes and Church in the lobby, you will see Maya and Lisa Newkirk at the library cart. If anyone would like to volunteer at the library, please contact Lisa Newkirk at Novemberbutterfly2006@gmail.com . They would like to extend their thanks to everyone who has donated books, and would ask for continued support especially for the teens section. The library ministry and cart were the vision of 11th grader Maya Newkirk. She remembered her former church had a similar opportunity. Maya believes the library builds relationships among the congregation and makes books available to some who may not have access to the variety of books offered in our church library. People are meeting new friends of all ages at the library cart. Maya developed a QR code to streamline checking out books. The adult Equip classes have donated study books at the completion of their series so others will have the opportunity to use them. Thanks, Maya, for sharing your passion for books with our church family.



Maya and Lisa Newkirk

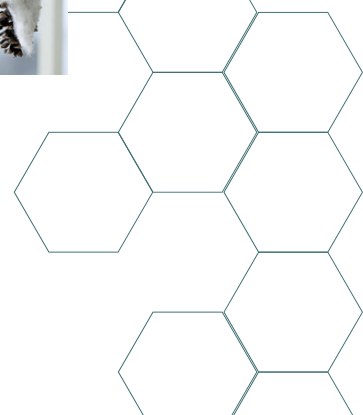
Directory Updates

We are working on a new church directory. Please contact the office or complete a connect card to update your address and phone number.

Fall Bazaar

Fall Bazaar will be October 14th. That is just around the corner. We are calling all crafters, woodworkers, bakers, decorators and more to donate their creations to be sold to raise money. This is one of our biggest fund raisers. Please come join us for food and fun.

Setup will be on Friday, October 13th.



June 2023 Finances

Checking \$337,018.21
Wells Fargo - Gen - \$488,261.61
Wells Fargo - Legacy - \$285,853.09
Brazilian Grant \$2,450.00
Reshaping \$0
PS Grant 2 \$114,867.27
Capital \$34,638.76

Expenses \$32,112.00
Revenue \$19,080 = -\$13,032.

Thank you to everyone who continues to tithe. Contact Deb Ruse, Treasurer, (913) 206 6342 if you have any questions.

July Diaconate Highlights

- Cluster event, Sept. 10, FBC Stillwell, Christian Comedians;
- Children and Youth ministry have the kids engaged;
- Our staff is gifted and has blessed us;
- Center of Grace serves 140 "to go" boxes which meets the needs of the community.

Making Domes for Global Servants



From Pastor Reed cont'd

As all of the classes are announced I would encourage you to prayerfully consider which topic best touches what you need for this leg of the journey. These new classes will begin on Sep. 10.

Not only do we need to continuously be equipped, but we also need to intentionally join in the process of being and making Disciples. Our D(isciple) and J(ourney) groups seek to help you do that. The process of discipleship happens when we chose to walk with Jesus everyday, empowered by the Spirit, within the context of Christian Community, living on mission. Our D and J groups are both paths of Discipleship. They just do it differently. In both types of groups, we share life, study Scripture, and Pray and both groups are led by facilitators.

At this point you may be wondering what are the differences? They differ in a few ways:

- In D groups, men and women meet at the same time.
- In J groups, women and men meet separately.
- Ideally, D Groups meet for about an hour every week. Although, this can be flexible. J Group meetings tend to be longer, but they only meet every other week.
- D groups are larger, we like to have between 6-14 people. J Groups are smaller - ideally, they have 3-5 members.
- D groups do a group Bible study, our current group takes a deeper dive into the sermon text for the week. J Group members are given tools to study Scripture at home, develop a quiet time, and share what the Lord has been teaching them.
- D groups tend to be open to allow people to join at points throughout the year. J groups are closed, and we ask for a ten month commitment.

I hope I have brought some clarity to the differences between Equip, D groups, and J Groups. If you would like to join a D group, they currently meet Wednesday morning at 10:00 at the church. If you would like to be part of a D group, but are unable to make it on Wednesdays let me know, and we will work with Dick and Jan Sipe to get a group set up. If you are interested in starting a new J group let me know and we will work with George Boutwell to get a new one going. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Blessings, Pastor Reed