

# THE LIGHT

September 2022 Newsletter

*Our Mission: Drawing our communities and world into a deeper relationship with God.*

## Nagaland at the Crossroad of Opportunity

On Sunday, July 17 we had the privilege to learn about Northeast Christian University from Dr. Akheto Sema, General Secretary of the Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India. NECU is located in Nagaland, one of the eight states of India. Northeast Christian University (NECU) offers departments in education, health, social work, liberal and fine arts as well as several more study disciplines.

Northeast India is at the crossroads of economic, cultural and religious opportunity. It will be India's new frontier as the bridge between the two most populous nations on earth, China and India.

American Baptists have a long and rich history in the preaching of the Gospel in Northeast India. NECU is an extension of our missionaries involvement started in the early 1800s. As American Baptists we have the opportunity to support the Christian leaders of the future who will touch so many lives in this region.



# SMILES A PLENTY AT LUTHER RICE ABW MINISTRIES RALLY

Scholarship Recipient Jordan Fritz spoke about the her college support system which included cards and gifts from American Baptist women;

Men joined the women for a delicious salad supper;

Installation of new officers included Jan Sipe as incoming Luther Rice ABW Ministries President;

Laughter, learning and love filled the evening;

Emerson Webster of FBC won a beautiful door prize of a tea set in basket.

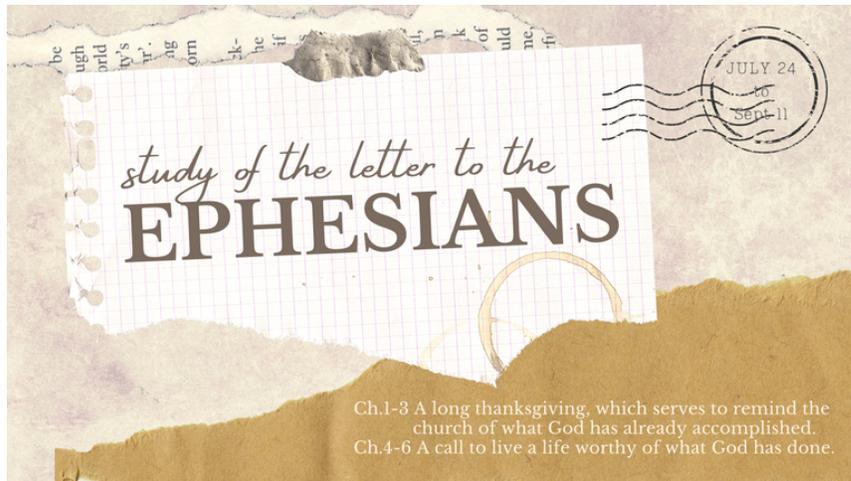


## Local Women Attend National American Baptist Conference

“Let the Walls Fall Down” was the theme for the national AB Women’s Ministries conference, July 22-24, 2022 in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Mona Huggins and Claire Bolton traveled together to be a part of this hybrid experience. About 65 women met in person in King of Prussia while others joined online. At the same time the ABGIRLS national gathering met. The two groups worshipped together.

Mona found the conference to be personally enlightening with exceptional speakers and pianist. The conferees participated in packing bags for victims of human trafficking.

## SERMON SERIES



July 24 - Ephesians 1:1-23

July 31 - Ephesians 2:1-10

Aug. 7 - Ephesians 2:11-22

Aug. 14 - Ephesians 3:1-21

Aug. 21 - Ephesians 4:1-16

Aug. 28 - Ephesians 4:17-5:14

Sept. 4 - Ephesians 5:15-6:9

Sept. 11 - Ephesians 6:10-24



8/9 - ABW General Meeting at 6:00pm

8/10 - Family Fun Night 5:30pm

8/27 - Bethel Golf Tournament

9/14 - Family Fun Night 5:30pm

# Featured Members



## PAUL WOOD

INTERVIEW BY EMERSON WEBSTER

Paul is FBCO Mission Pastor. He was born June 20, 1953. He has been with this church for 20 years. His parents were missionaries, and he continues to go on missions around the world. His passion for missions comes from his upbringing as a missionary kid in northeast India and service as a short term missionary in Cambodian refugee camps during the early 80s.

Paul did drama from elementary school through college. He has gone to the Philippines twice, and goes to the Murrow Indian Children's Shelter. He has lived in India, Thailand, Singapore, Nebraska, and California.

Paul met his wife Morna, while working in the refugee camp and they married in 1982. They have two grown children, James and Camilla and a sweet dog named Maxie. They frequently go to Germany to see their first grandson, Leon.

Along with missions, Paul coordinates the café, works on the AV Team and cleans. He used to be an electrical engineer at Black + Veatch. Paul enjoys yardwork, remodeling and baking bread and other goodies. Paul enjoys 60s and 70s music, including Jim Croce, John Denver, and The Mamas & The Papas. Something most people don't know about him? He got his private pilot's license at sixteen, though he doesn't fly anymore. He likes going to the mountains for vacation, but also goes to the beach for Morna's sake.



## GAYA FREIDMAN

From California and places in between, Gaya has settled in Olathe and feels at home. If curious, who might be seen setting with her at church service, it very likely is her mother who recently moved to town.

At one point Gaya enjoyed counted cross stitch. Her vision changed and so did her interest. She has learned an art called diamond painting. She has donated her work to the annual bazaar. She can get involved watching TV and likes shows that are of the paranormal, anything Harry Potter, and online games. New Kids on the Block are on her hit list.

Gaya finds making people laugh and seeing them happy is rewarding. She relies on Jesus for all of her needs and enjoys the wisdom she finds in Bible Study. Gaya has studied sign language and plans to practice by using it. When not cuddling with her cat Lela Jane, named after her two grandmothers, Gaya likes to shop. She likes to cook, but her apartment isn't handicap accessible so she is limited. Her favorite food is seafood, she loves chocolate and only fresh coconut. This people person's favorite color is purple. Her smile is contagious and one would never know she has a pet peeve. Due to her handicap she sometimes feels people look down on her. Never under estimate this gal, she's a wonderful witness.



## CONNOR SCHROEDER

In a few short weeks Connor will become an official Jayhawk when he moves into GSP on the campus of the University of Kansas. Lawrence will not be new to Connor, he basically grew up to middle school age there. The family moved to Olathe and where attended middle school and was ready for high school. At an early age he was aware that math came easily for him.

With math skills in hand Connor elected to test into and enroll in the 21st Century Engineering program. While at Olathe Northwest, Conner participated in robotics, their team won in many competitions and were off to State. His interest took him to private lessons and into Advanced Orchestra, where he played the violin. FBC has been fortunate to have him play with the worship team, which when he comes home on week-ends plans to continue. Connor hopes to be involved in orchestra on campus.

Connor is excited to get into the world of computers at the college level where he will be challenged more. Computer Science classes are definitely what he is excited to take. Connor is very focused but he does enjoy watching shows on Netflix. He likes hiking through State parks and enjoy nature. One game he really likes is Rhythm Platform, possibly because it ties in with the mind set that goes with playing the violin.

## Church Finances June 2022

Revenue \$35,255  
Expenses \$22,934 = +\$12,321.00

Capital Fund - \$16,828.76  
Loan Payable \$25,043.14  
General Operating Account \$176,457.74

Brazilian Grand \$2,450.00  
Reshaping Grant - \$3,350.00  
Grand Pads \$1,945.00  
PS Grant 1 - \$4,363.95  
PS Grant 2 - \$27,000.00

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

## July Diaconate Meeting Highlights

- Gardner property sold
- Quarterly Business meeting scheduled for Aug 7
- Fall Ministry Kickoff Sept. 18
- Merge Street RV moved to StarFish non-profit organization

## ONLINE CHURCH

We encourage everyone to join in on Sunday around 10:15 AM for online worship to chat with our church family.

Go to [fbcolathe.org](http://fbcolathe.org) or Scan this QR code.



## CHURCH INFORMATION

Phone: 913-764-7088  
Email: [fbcoffice@fbcolathe.org](mailto:fbcoffice@fbcolathe.org)  
[www.fbcolathe.org](http://www.fbcolathe.org)

Church Office Hours  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays  
9:00 am - Noon

If you would like to submit news for the newsletter, please send to :  
[Communications@fbcolathe.org](mailto:Communications@fbcolathe.org)

## Hearing Assist

We have recently installed a hearing assist system at FBC. It works using an app on your phone that connects through bluetooth to your own hearing aids. Anyone interested can contact Will Cross or John Holmes for assistance.

## A NOTE FROM PASTOR REED

Dear Church,

In our February newsletter I called on the wise words of Curly from the Movie City Slickers to say that we needed to find our "one thing". In that newsletter I suggested that as a faith community our, "one thing," is expressed in our mission statement, "drawing our communities and world into a deeper relationship with God." I further communicated that we were entering a process to cast a vision for what FBC Olathe would look like in 2027.

In our March newsletter I encouraged you to trust the process. Along the way we have tracked our progress – sharing our Mission and Core Values. Completing these two steps represented two thirds of our primary goals. The the last step, finalizing our Visioning documents, will be completed by the end of August. I want to thank you for engaging in the process. I also want to acknowledge how much prayer, thoughts, conversation, and time your Diaconate has given. If you have a minute, I invite you to join me in thanking them.

In our next newsletter I will share our vision with you. On September 18th we will have a kickoff Sunday. This day will represent the beginning of a journey we will all take to live into the vision that God has given us. As we get closer to that day, we will share more about what to exactly what to expect. Kelsey, the kids, and I are beyond blessed to be on this journey with you. Personally, I am energized and excited to see what God is going to do.

Thank you for joining me on the journey.

Blessings, Pastor Reed Webster