



THE LIGHT

January 2022 Newsletter

NOTE FROM PASTOR REED

Happy New Year! This time of year is so important – it is often when we reflect on the good and beautiful gifts God has given us, reminisce about those we have lost, and make resolutions about how we are going to change in the year to come. We make these resolutions with good intentions, but often we fail to live into the changes long enough to sustain them long term. If you have ever consistently attended the gym, you know that January is the busiest month of the year. During this time the once mostly empty gym becomes so busy that waiting for machines becomes the norm. It can be frustrating. Fortunately, those new bodies disappear slowly and are mostly gone by the end of February and life at the gym returns to normal.

Perhaps what is needed is not a resolution about changing a habit or two, but reflecting on, recalibrating, and then commitment to live out our core conviction. Our core conviction is the thing that we will serve above everything. I want to say that my core conviction is Jesus. The purpose of my life is to make much of Jesus and to help others to do the same. I would be lying if I said I did this perfectly, but He is what I come back to when I fail. He is the one who picks me up, helps me refocus, and sets me back on the right path.

I find that Church life can often feel like a series of New Year's Resolutions. We get excited about a new ministry, direction, or pastor and begin to dedicate ourselves to a ministry only to grow tired and weary. Our life together then is characterized by fits and starts. Success followed by apathy and ultimately never really getting anywhere.

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2021 *First Baptist year in review!*

Murrow mission trip



Bethel

Serving & Fellowship

1st Wednesday
Brazilian Tailgate
Grace
Bethel
Murrow
Youth Work Days
Silver Saints
Gingerbread Bash
Pop Up Sunday
D-Groups

Silver Saint delivers



Youth Work
Days



Tailgating with Brazilian Church



Welcomed the
Webster Family

Fall
Bazaar



1st Wednesday



*This has been a wonderful year for us. Cheers to
good health and a Happy New Year!!*

Featured Members



VIVIAN JURGENS

Vivian was born and raised in Olathe. She started attending FBC at ages five. Her older brothers would pull her to church in a little red wagon. On July 12, 1935, she and her friends in the all girl Sunday School class were baptized.

She married and moved away. After the loss of her husband in an accident, she returned home where she had the support of her family. As a young widow she felt she never would have made it without the church.

Vivian held nearly every office in the church, except the preacher. Where ever there was a need she would step up. Whether it was Sunday School Superintendent, baking communion bread, singing in the choir, or cooking for church dinners. Besides all of her work at FBC she worked at KCP&L for 40 years.

She likes to read but she found more pleasure in using her time to make something she could use or give. Embroidering was a favorite and crocheting another. She likes to watch western movies as she likes to observe the history of the hardships of the settlers.

After she remarried, her and her husband went to China to visit a school that FBC sponsored, then traveled to Japan to visit Baptist missionaries.

Thank you Vivian for your servanthood and sharing God through your witness.



SHERYL RADEK

Sheryl is a native of the Windy City. She has called Olathe her home since 1996. Sheryl likes to travel and finds that her travel time is spent driving back to Chicago to visit her mother or on the road to Maryland where her brother lives. Fortunately her job is one that allows her to work remote and that includes extended time with family.

Through the years at FBC, Sheryl has been involved in children's activities as well as working with the teens. She works and shops at the Annual Bazaar. The bazaar means fellowship to her and this year it was great. Sheryl was involved in serving the homeless by preparing food.

Sheryl has always enjoyed the art of putting puzzle together. She ordered five 1,000 piece advanced puzzles and last year being homebound put each of them together by herself in three months. She entertains herself by playing BINGO. Sheryl likes to swim and practices YOGA either in a class or at home, finding it a good way to unwind and refresh.

Sheryl professes that green is her favorite color and there's never a carbohydrate she doesn't like. Ask her where to go for the best pizza and she's quick to answer, Gino's in Chicago of course. "That's where I'm from!"



EMILY SONSTHAGEN

Emily will soon complete graduate studies in Speech Language Pathology at the University of Kansas. Anxious to see where she will her degree will take her, she is sure it will be working with children as they have a special place in her heart.

Before attending KU, Emily attended Olathe South playing in the orchestra, now shares her cello with her brother Zach. She was a dancer and enjoyed the opportunities being a OSHS Golden Girl afforded her.

Emily has many interests outside of her studies. She loves to bake and cook. She finds baking bread to be a favorite activity, especially the step where one punches the dough. Anything Oreo enhanced would be a favorite for her. Emily calls herself an outdoorsy kind of gal, as she likes to explore nature.

The musical Mamma Mia has given Emily the desire to visit Greece one day. Until then, a trip to the mountains or even better the ocean will do.

If curious ask her more about the ocean, she would add that her favorite animal would be the sting ray. She likes to swim with them.

CHURCH FINANCES NOVEMBER 2021

General Operations \$126,784.67
Capital \$12,933.02
Loan Balance \$41,213.35

Revenue \$27,219
Expenses \$29,43.00 = -\$2,194.00

Grand Pad \$5,425.00, Brazilian Grant \$2,450,
Reshaping Grant \$5,000, Preschool Grant \$30,000

Though we had more expenses this month than revenue, it was a good month. November had additional expenses with moving expenses for Pastor Reed and meeting some budgeted items for the year. The first month in the negative for 2021.

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

Report of Business Meeting

- 2022 Budget set at \$353,500.00. Motion to approve the budget was carried.
- Review of nominated 2022 Diaconate voting members. Motion to approve 2022 Diaconate was approved.
- Don Newbanks suggested that the Endowment be dissolved and funds used for other things. Motion to put together an Endowment research committee to research how to use the funds was approved.

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
or Scan this QR code.

WORSHIP



CHURCH INFORMATION

Phone: 913-764-7088
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If you would like to submit news for the newsletter, please send to : Communications@fbcolathe.org



Thank you for the wonderful celebration of my 100th birthday. I was so surprised to look out my front and back windows to see large signs with my name, many cards came all week, and then the parade came with car horns honking as they drove by the house. Everyone got out of their cars and sang Happy Birthday. FBC friends you are so special to me and you made my day.

Norma Payne

NOTE FROM PASTOR REED CONTINUED

Part of the way that we can guard against this is to make sure that we are all focused on the same core conviction, share the same core values, and are driven by the same vision. In the next six months your Diaconate will undergo a process to help clarify our core conviction (mission), identify and define core values, and set a vision for what we believe the church will look like in the next five years.

I truly believe that prayer is the foundation for any good endeavor and everything worthwhile is sustained by it. I want to invite you to begin praying for this process. Along the way we will ask you to pray for specific things. Now, you can simply pray that our hearts, minds, and ears would be open to the Spirit's voice. For this process to be effective it will rely on your participation when asked. Each of your voices matter, so please use them – you can share your thoughts at any point along the road to myself or Keith Laws. We will also provide opportunities to give specific input.

Blessings,

Pastor Reed Webster