

MANNA

JULY 2022



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY



NOTES FROM THE TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

RUSTY ELLISON

Summer has obviously arrived with the last couple of weeks of sweltering heat. As I write this, the forecast is for mostly mid-90s for the next two weeks. If this continues, we will all be ready for fall sooner rather than later.

I have so much enjoyed being with you all for the last two- and one-half months. It is a joy to see you all and continue getting to know you. However, the knowing is made more difficult with my part-time schedule with availability on Sundays and Mondays. Relationships take time, and you all with busy summers and me with church and Crossings there's just not much time left. So we make the best of it together, and I pray that you'll continue to be patient with me for what I just am not able to do with our arrangement, as well as the places you'd like for me to be that I simply cannot make work.

I urge you to continue to pray for your Pastor Search Committee. I told Sarah Cunningham this week your search committee is the strongest I have ever had the pleasure of working alongside. I know for certain that your team is prayerfully and diligently pursuing the man God already has to come shepherd this church.

This will be my last Manna before Jon Kyle and family make the cross-country trek to Southern California where JK will attend Masters Seminary. I will have another chance publicly to thank the Allreds, but this is my only opportunity in writing. JK has done a great job here ministering to a generation of students that is increasingly subject to stressors previous generations have not faced.

I read the results of a study this week that said almost one half of today's kids are being raised by adults who feel concerned and even fearful for their children's futures. 79% of adults agree with the following statement: "I am fearful of the future world we are leaving for today's youth." The leading concerns are:

- 1) Social media or smartphone addiction (69%)
- 2) Mental health issues (61%)
- 3) School shootings (57%)
- 4) Alcohol/drug abuse (56%)

You may or may not agree with the top four, but my point is this: we are at a moment/season in the life of this country where it has never been more evident that we need to allocate significant resources to reach kids and older students. JK has invested his ministry life toward that end, and we owe a debt of gratitude to JK for his efforts to meaningfully disciple our young people. JK, Jamie, and family, we are truly thankful that God brought your family to First Baptist Murray. We will diligently pray for you in your transition and believe God will use you in marvelous ways as you re-establish your home in SoCal.

I hope you all are enjoying and finding fresh application in your life as we journey through *Experiencing God* together. I still believe it's amazing that we have more than 200 of our people working and praying together through the study.

So congregation, I know it's summer, I realize it's a busy time for families, but be here when you can, and I sincerely hope to see you this Sunday with a Bible in your hand and the love of Christ in your heart.

Blessings,
Rusty

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

JASON ELLERBROOK



Church Family,

As we begin the process of electing a Student Pastor Search Committee, join me in praying for God's timing and God's person to be evident. There is no more significant ministry than helping families with students follow Christ. I have attached the timeline below. We need every member to be involved in prayerfully submitting nominations and electing this important committee. Let's do this together!

This timeline will allow our church to elect the Student Pastor Search Committee by the end of July. This committee's initial role will be to organize and get feedback from parents, families, and the church. The feedback they get via surveys, listening sessions and conversations will help determine how they move forward in the search process.

Concerning the Contemporary Worship Leader position – pray for the Personnel Committee as they are reviewing job descriptions and determining best next steps to address that position. Our church represents a variety of ages and preferences, and we will continue to be a church that worships through a variety of musical styles in worship.

God has a great plan for FBC Murray and is bringing new staff members and new lay members together to serve Him for such a time as this. He is doing a new thing!

Student Pastor Search Committee - Timeline and Plans:

- **July 10 (Sun)** - Nomination forms to be handed out and received back from members to nominate up to five (5) church members each. Absentee nomination forms will be available in the church office Monday, June 27-Thursday, July 7. Nominations are closed after the AM service on July 10.
- **July 11-12 (Mon & Tue)** - Church Staff to determine if nominees are qualified to serve based upon Bylaws (membership, age, and marriage to another nominee).
- **July 12 (Tue)** - Staff will give final list of qualified nominees listed by last name to the Chairman of Deacons and the Chair of Committee on Committees. These leaders or their designees will reach out to each person nominated and qualified to inform them of their nomination and to inquire of their willingness to serve if elected.
- **July 14 (Thu)** - Church Office will be provided information about the nominees' willingness or desire to not be considered so that the final ballot can be constructed. Final info must be provided to Church Office no later than noon, Thursday, July 14.
- **July 17 (Sun)** – List of approved and willing nominees (listed in random order by last name) will be presented to the church following the compilation of the list.
- **July 18 (Mon)** – Letter and email is sent to all church members with list of approved and willing nominees to serve as Student Pastor Search Committee members for consideration. Absentee ballots may be picked up from the church office July 18-21 and deposited there upon completion.
- **July 21 (Thu)** - List of approved and willing nominees will be included in the Thursday Update.
- **July 24 (Sun)** - Ballot forms to be handed out and received back from members to select five (5) Student Pastor Search Committee members.

The Deacons and Committee on Committees will assist in counting ballots after services on July 24.

The five (5) nominated candidates receiving the highest number of votes will constitute the members of the Student Pastor Search Committee. The nominated candidates receiving the 6th and 7th highest number of votes will serve as alternate committee members as needed.

At this point, the Student Pastor Search Committee will elect a chair, vice-chair, and secretary and discuss the search process going forward.

Jason



NOTES FROM MATURE ADLTS GROWING IN CHRIST (SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY)

BOYD SMITH

Hello M.A.G.I.C. Friends!

At the time I wrote this article, the calendar says today is the first day of summer. With the heat we have already had, I think it's already been summer for several weeks now. I hope you are staying cool, which means you are staying inside. I want to thank those of you who helped with VBS in any way. I know quite a few of you helped with the meals (which is no small feat in itself). Before long, we will start back up with our monthly M.A.G.I.C. meetings. While the fall schedule is already planned, I want to get feedback from you as we plan for 2023 because we have to turn in our budget in September. I'll have a questionnaire for you to fill out in the near future.

Until then, continue to stay faithful and enjoy a "funny" from Mikey's Funny: "A wife says to her husband one weekend morning, 'We've got such a clever dog. He brings in the daily newspapers every morning.' Her husband replied, 'Well, lots of dogs can do that.' The wife responded, 'But we've never subscribed to any papers!'"

Boyd

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

MIKE ROSE



Hello Friends!

You no doubt have noticed that we have combined worship for the summer, and we are working on adding new singers and instrumentalists! If you are interested in singing with the choir, we want to talk with you! There are many folks who have been apprehensive about joining the choir, since they worshipped in the 11:00 am service. This summer gives you an excellent opportunity to join your voice with ours as we work together to enhance the worship experience for everyone at our new combined time of 10:00 am. Why not think about joining us for the remainder of the summer...I know you will get a blessing out of this experience, and God will receive glory on Sunday mornings! We rehearse downstairs on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm.

If you play an instrument which you feel would be helpful... be that a guitar, trumpet, trombone, keyboard (or anything else you feel might enhance worship), please let Michael or me know, and we'd be happy to talk this over with you. It takes a myriad of folks with various talents to be able to make our worship services inter-generational. I am excited about what God is doing at FBC, and would love to plug you into our music ministry. Just let me know what you are thinking, and we'll do our best to work with you!

Thank you so much for working with us and giving us a few weeks to make this experience work. I am happy to be working alongside Michael as we plan worship experiences which further the cause of Christ and give Glory and Honor to Him!

Hope to see you Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am!

Blessings,

Mike

NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



It is time to think about First Loves Murray (FLM)! Each year, through your generosity, we are able to sponsor 50 local school children and provide new clothes for them at the beginning of the new school year! Because of the growing need in our community, we would love to **DOUBLE** the number of students we sponsor this year! Previously we have sponsored 25 students from Calloway County Schools and 25 students from Murray Independent Schools. This year, we would love to sponsor 50 children from each school system totalling 100 children!

What is new for FLM in 2022:

Because of the rising costs of all items, we are going to raise the sponsorship costs of teenagers to \$150 (previously \$125) and elementary students to \$125 (previously \$100).

Students will be able to shop with their families at Burkes and Shoe Sensation any time 8/1-8/3.

Please be praying about how you can support First Loves Murray and how many children the Lord is calling you to sponsor. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing the love of Christ to our community. You can begin making pledges the first week of July. There will be FLM designated envelopes in the Welcome Center.



July 11-15
9:00 am-1:00 pm
Family Life Center

\$10 per child,
\$20 max per
family

Gaga ball,
9 square in the air,
dodgeball, and
more!

Sign up at
fbcmurray.org/events!



NOTES FROM STUDENT MINISTRY

JON KYLE ALLRED

Hello everyone! Student Ministry is pumped about a few things.

One, SUMMER HANGS! On June 22 and June 29, the students gathered for a time of Bible study, food, and games. They were well attended and the students enjoyed being together!

Two, CAMP AT CROSSINGS! We all love summer camp and the opportunities it brings each year. The time to get away from our routines, play exciting games, hear impactful sermons, engage in powerful worship, and eat great food - is something we love about youth ministry! Please pray for us. We are going July 3-7.

Finally, MEGA REC CAMP! Students will have the opportunity on July 11-15 to assist coaches and engage children with the Gospel.

All things good. The Lord is faithful and working. Keep praying for us!



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

Story time will be held in the library each Thursday during July. Times are:

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. for ages 2 – PreK with parent
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for K – 2nd grade
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for 3rd grade – 5th grade

The younger groups will hear a story and make a craft each week. The 3rd – 5th graders will be reading the chapter book *Riding the Wind* by Calla Scott. This adventure book, written by a 12-year-old girl, will be enjoyed by both boys and girls alike! Participants will need to have their own copy of the book which can be ordered from Amazon. An e-version is also available if you choose to read on an electronic device. Children do not have to be signed up to attend story time.

The author of the month for July is fiction writer James Scott Bell. Bell is a former trial lawyer who writes Christian thriller novels. His books will be on display through July 31.

LET'S PLAY PICKLEBALL



**FBC MURRAY
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
301 S. 4TH ST., MURRAY KY**



SENIOR ADULTS: MONDAYS | 9:00-11:00 AM

ADVANCED PLAYERS: MONDAYS | 6:00 PM

BEGINNER/NOVICE PLAYERS: TUESDAYS | 6:00 PM | BEGINNING JULY 19

all players must be 18+ years old

If you are interested in helping
plan the

10th annual International Cookout
(held in August), join us for a
meeting on July 6 at 1:00 pm in
Room AE310 at FBC.

Contact Paula Alcott at 270-293-2903
if you have any questions.

**INTERESTED IN
INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRY?**



July Prayer Guide

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

July 1

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 | Pray that as Rusty Ellison leads the church through the study of *Experiencing God*, his preaching would not be based upon persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of His power at work in us all, that our faith would not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

July 2

John 17:3 | Pray that we as the members of First Baptist Church would come to know God and Jesus Christ personally and experientially as we study the Word and teachings together.

July 3

Genesis 22:8; Exodus 3:14 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee and congregation will come to know God as Abraham did, that He is Jehovah-Jireh. May we experience God in this way as the only One who can provide the right man at the right time and that He is everything we need.

July 4

John 5:17,19-20 | Let us be filled with praise and thanksgiving that God is always at work and knows what He is doing. May the Pastor Search Committee release the responsibility of this task unto the Father who loves them and will show them great and mighty works.

July 5

Philippians 2:3-8 | Pray that the coming pastor will have the same attitude and mindset of Christ who took the form of a servant and has humbled himself before the Lord, living in full obedience to God.

July 6

John 15:5 | Pray that the staff and church members will purposefully and deliberately remain in Christ as we study *Experiencing God*, producing much fruit for the advancement of God's Kingdom agenda through First Baptist Church.

July 7

John 12:26 | Give thanks for our staff to have a servant's heart and follow the Lord as they serve in their varied ministries.

July 8

Amos 3:7 | Pray for the Pastor Search Committee to understand God's ways so they will recognize where He is working as He reveals to them His plans.

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

July 9

Numbers 12:6-8 | Pray that the Lord will dispatch His messenger and His word to the future pastor who will reveal to him what He is about to do as the Lord invites him to join Him in this new place of ministry.

July 10

Acts 4:13 | Pray that as the coming pastor meets with the Pastor Search Committee, he will realize they have been moving with Jesus.

July 11

Exodus 4:10-12 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee and the ministerial staff will come to the place where they believe God can do everything He has said He would do.

July 12

James 5:17-18 | Pray for the Lord to place before us a pastor, an ordinary man, who has entered into an intimate relationship with God and will allow the Lord to accomplish extraordinary things through a vital and fervent prayer life.

July 13

Isaiah 6:8 | Pray that the coming pastor will hear the Lord asking for one whom He can send to us, and that his response will be to say, as did Isaiah, "Here I am. Send me, use me for Your glory!"

July 14

Exodus 33:15-16 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will see where God is working and not run ahead of Him but follow in His steps.

July 15

Genesis 6:9 | Pray that the pastor to come will be one who lives a God-centered life and has a record of living a righteous and blameless life.

July 16

Genesis 6:22 | May the DNA of every member of FBC be to know and do the will of God in all things.

July 17

Colossians 1:18 | Pray we as the Body of Christ will acknowledge Christ as the Head of the Church and that in obeying Him, Christ will receive the glory and credit. May He alone have first place in everything.

July 18

Hebrews 3:19 | Pray that unbelief will not hold any of us back from entering into God's activity in our personal lives or in the church.

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

July 19

Philippians 2:13 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will not depend upon themselves but will adjust their lives and beliefs to what God is telling them He is about to do.

July 20

Exodus 3:11; 4:1 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will be ready when God reveals Himself to them and invites them to adjust their lives, their thoughts, and their plans to His agenda. May God's invitation to join Him leave them changed forever to accomplish the works He has prepared for them to do in this season.

July 21

Isaiah 55:8 | Pray that the Lord will give the Pastor Search Committee, the staff, and Rusty Ellison grace to reorient their lives according to His purposes and to see His perspective as He reveals His thoughts to them.

July 22

Revelation 3:7 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will stand and wait for Jesus to open the doors they cannot open and to close the doors they should not open as they seek Him through prayer, through the Word, and through godly counsel, not through circumstances alone.

July 23

Jeremiah 33:3 | May the church and the Pastor Search Committee call upon the Lord and see Him answer, showing us great and incomprehensible things that display a work that could only be explained as an act of God.

July 24

John 14:26 | Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach the church through the leadership of Rusty Ellison all things needed to prepare us for this new season.

July 25

John 16:13-14 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will allow the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth through the revelation of His Word to them individually and corporately.

July 26

John 10:4,14 | Pray that the staff will be assured that the Good Shepherd knows them and that they can discern His voice leading them during this time of preparation.

July 27

Hebrews 1:1 | Pray that the Pastor Search Committee will see how the Lord uses Scripture to confirm in their hearts when it is a word from God revealing Himself to them.

A Prayer Guide for the Pastor Search Committee, the process, and the people of FBC

July 28

John 14:21 | Pray that the staff will learn to depend on God alone, guarding and nurturing their relationship to Him as of utmost importance.

July 29

Genesis 12:1 | Pray that the coming pastor will know God is speaking to him concerning what He is about to do, and that this chosen man will be totally yielded and willing to adjust his life to God, immediately following what God has spoken into his spirit.

July 30

Malachi 1:2 | Pray that the coming pastor will never look at his life and circumstances and question God's love for him, recognizing that every encounter with God is an expression of His love for him and his family.

July 31

Mark 12:30 | Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring each of us into a wholehearted love relationship with God.

MEET THE CHURCH MEMBER Stoya Hastings



We are the Hastings! We love to have fun, are big-hearted, and you can usually hear us coming. Dustin and Stoya joined FBC in the fall of 2010. Dustin is a Customer Service Representative at First Financial Bank and I am the art teacher at Murray Elementary School. Elias is 9, Lily Rae is 6, and Tobiah is 2. We have been so blessed by this church and were especially supported throughout the adoption process of our youngest from South Korea. Dustin is a deacon at FBC and has sung with the worship team. We have both helped lead and host small groups at church and in our home. We love to serve in the Children's Ministry and have helped with the nursery, VBS, Upward Basketball, and special events. God blessed us recently with finding a new home that has more space for our family. While we are so thankful, it has been a stressful time for us. The verses I try to focus on are Philippians 4:6-7, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

-Stoya Hastings

Reception for Jon Kyle Allred

Sunday, July 17

6:00-7:30 pm

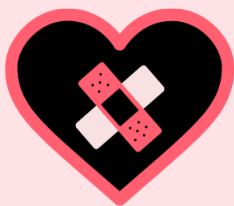
Welcome Center of Main Building

There will be a basket in the Welcome Center for you to drop off cards for the Allred family as they faithfully follow the Lord to southern California.



Blessing Box

This month's items are pop tarts and peanut butter! Items can be dropped off in the basket by the banner. Sunday school classes and families are invited to sign up to adopt the Blessing Box in Riviera Courts. Sign up at fbcmurray.org!



BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, July 13

5:00-8:30 pm | Family Life Center

Sign up in the Welcome Center or contact the church office at 270-753-1854.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Powell joined by Baptism on Sunday, May 29.

Christopher Powell joined by Statement of Faith on Sunday, May 29.

Emma Abah joined by Letter on Sunday, June 5.

RADIO/TV

Our 10:00 am worship service is aired at 11:00 am on WAAJ-FM 89.7. Our services are also broadcast on Thursday at 8:00 pm on Murray Electric System's channel 15.

CHURCH INFORMATION

FINANCES (AS OF MAY 31, 2022)

\$ 606,386.00	Budgeted as of 05/31/2022
\$ 581,544.43	Budget Receipts as of 05/31/2022
\$ 575,542.91	Budget Expenditures as of 05/31/2022
\$ 161,702.00	WMO 2022 Goal
\$ 33,648.19	WMO Receipts as of 05/31/2022

MEMORIALS

Library

The book, *Riding the Wind*, by Calla Scott has been given to the FBC Library in memory of Maxine Abbott and Bess Kerlick.

Financial

A contribution to the 2022 Budget in support of the Senior Adult Ministry has been received in honor of Boyd & Wanda Smith.

VAN DRIVER

The van driver for the month of July is Ken Ashlock. If you would like a ride to Sunday School (8:45 am) or the worship service (10:00 am), contact Ken at 270-227-1835.

ATTENDANCE

	10:00 am Service
May 29	284
June 5	331
June 12	338
June 19	354
June 26	273



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