

THE BRIDGE

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I have written many times in this column about how important congregational singing is in our worship. It is one of the major ways the congregation actively participates in the worship service. Though we have excellent congregational singing, I still see many individuals not participating and that grieves me. The number one reason I am given for individuals not singing is they don't feel like they have a good voice. I can understand that reasoning, though I believe it is flawed. The Creator whom we worship is the one who gave that voice and desires it to be used to praise Him.

With the arrival of grandchildren, our home is once again adorned with artwork. Our soon to be 4 year old granddaughters love to draw, color, and paint pictures for us. Though for their age their art is very good, you will not find it hanging in a museum. But I would not trade it for any art anywhere, because this art was made especially for me out of love. It is priceless art and we proudly display it in a prominent place in our Family Room. It brings me joy every time I look at it.

I believe God views our offerings the same way. No one sings perfectly. But ALL of us can offer our best

knowing God hears it as glorious music offered out of love. If you are worried about what your neighbor thinks about how you sing, don't! I'm reminded of a humorous story I heard many years ago about a young child who was asked to pray at meal time. The child obliged but the prayer wasn't audible to those around the table. The parent said "We can't hear you," to which the child replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

I wish I could say that no one around you will make a face, or even perhaps make a rude comment, but what I can tell you with certainty is the One who gave you the voice will love to hear your offering of praise. Make it a New Year's resolution to joyfully sing to the Lord! I believe you will be glad you did!

It seems we have been in a time of transition for some time. This year was no exception and we welcomed Dr. Felton as our pastor. We begin 2020 with the anticipation of filling two critical positions on our staff. I am excited about the possibility of what God has in store for us. You have been amazing during this long season of transition and we have continued our plethora of ministries without interruption. Continue to pray, continue to sing, continue to Connect, Grow, and Serve! The best is yet to come! Happy New Year!

-Richard

THE BRIDGE

January 2019

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In Memoriam

Glendolyn Hughes
December 9, 2019



INCLEMENT WEATHER

We carefully watch winter weather as it affects Wednesday night activities and driving after dark. If Wednesday night activities need to be cancelled, the decision will be made by noon of that day. An announcement will be posted on Facebook in addition to notifying LEX Channel 18 and our local radio station, 104.9. If Sunday worship ever needs to be cancelled, you will be alerted in the same manner.



During our annual Town Hall meeting in October, we talked about communications goals for 2020. We want to focus on 1) connecting with people who need help and 2) connecting with people who can be helpers.

Reaching our goals will be an ongoing process, but we are excited to announce our first endeavor toward connecting our congregation with our community:

FACES OF FBC

In January, you will find questionnaires in your Sunday school classrooms and on church entrance tables. Males, females, adults, and children of all ages are encouraged to complete a form and return it to the church office. We want Frankfort to know about the diverse and unique membership of people in our church and what FBC means to you. Your love and story of First Baptist Church will be shared on our social media sites throughout 2020!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Office Closed NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES	2 9:00 am ROMEOs 6:00 pm Deacons' Meeting	3	4
5 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship; Deacon Ordination Service	6	7	8 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities	9 9:00 am ROMEOs ▲	10	11
12 9:45 am FBC Breakfast Club 10:50 am Worship 4:00 pm Enneagram Meeting	13	14	15 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting	16 9:00 am ROMEOs	17	18
19 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship 4:00 pm Genesis 1-11, Part 2 6:30 pm Youth Game Night	20	21	22 12:00 pm Book Study	23 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities 6:15 pm BUSINESS MEETING	24 9:00 am ROMEOs	25 6:30 pm Church-Wide Trivia Night 9:00 am Clinic Deacons' Retreat
26 9:45 am Bible Study 10:50 am Worship 4:00 pm Book Study	27	28	29 12:00 pm Book Study	30 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Activities	31 9:00 am ROMEOs 10:00 am Sisters in Grace	



The Barnabas Group

And the survey says...

Thank you to everyone who filled out a survey to let me know your interest in events for The Barnabas Group (TBG), and thank you for making suggestions not on the list. According to the survey, your number one choice, by far, is the train ride on the Bluegrass Railway. Other top choices: Lunch at Claudia Sanders, Lunch at Boone Tavern, Cathedral Basilica tour and lunch in Covington, Lunch at Our Best, Stephen Foster Story in Bardstown, a Louisville Bats baseball game, and Derby Dinner Playhouse. We will also have

Christmas in July at my house again.

There will be no activity for TBG in January. Stay in, stay warm, stay safe, and stay healthy. I will take this month to get a start on booking our activities for 2020, so that I can get you a Calendar of Events for your refrigerator door.

I'm looking forward to doing all of these fun things with TBG this year. 2020 will be a great adventure.

-Mona
TheBarnabasGroupFBC@gmail.com
859-948-1238



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

FBC BREAKFAST CLUB
January 12, 9:30 a.m.

All adults, whether currently enrolled in Sunday School or not, are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for breakfast as we reveal our 2020 theme, recognize our Ministry Team members, and provide a preview of upcoming opportunities for spiritual growth.

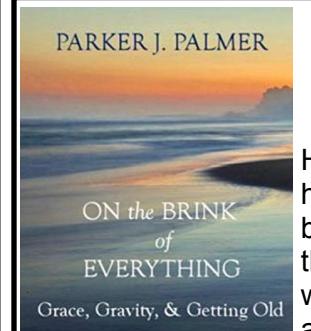
9:30 a.m. - Big Breakfast
10:00 a.m. - Bible Study and Fellowship: Some will dismiss to their regular Sunday School classes while others remain for fellowship and devotion.

ENNEAGRAM MEETING FOR ALL
January 12, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

This meeting is for those who are experienced with the Enneagram and for those beginners who might be interested in learning more about it. A panel of each of the different Enneagram numbers will share how their numbers affect their faith, relationships, and life. Then we will have a planning session about future possibilities for an experienced group meeting regularly and a new comers group holding an introductory class.

GENESIS 1-11, PART TWO
January 19, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

We continue our examination of how disobedience and humanity's thirst for independence and autonomy results in chaos and disorder in society by studying Cain, Noah, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel. Attendance for Part One is not necessary to participate in Part Two of this look at Genesis 1-11, led by Rick White. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you are coming.



PARKER J. PALMER
ON the BRINK of EVERYTHING
Grace, Gravity, & Getting Old

BOOK STUDY
"On the Brink of Everything"

Have you ever thought, "I wish I had known that sooner," or maybe, "Am I writing a good story in the way I live?" Every day, whether we are 5 or 75, we are aging. Every step along the way we are writing our story. Join us for a seven week book study of *On the Brink of Everything: Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old* by Parker Palmer. Palmer shares his thoughts through essays and poems on how we can write our story and how no matter our age we can and should be engaged. Dwight Lovan will facilitate one group, meeting Tuesdays at noon, and beginning January 21. Erica Galyon will facilitate the second group, meeting Sundays at 4:00 p.m., and beginning January 26. Cost of the book is \$13. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office by Wednesday, January 15, to register.



NATIVITY DISPLAY
December 29

If you have a favorite nativity you would like to display for our members to view, bring it Sunday, December 29, and set it up in the Sanctuary before Sunday School or between Sunday School and worship (a Sunday School class meets in the Sanctuary). We will have display tables in front of the platform with index cards so you may print your name and a brief description of its significance to you. You may then take your nativity home after worship.

Online Giving is one of the easiest ways to tithe regularly, even when you can't be present on a Sunday. Visit us at fbcfrankfort.org, and click the GIVE button to enroll for 2020!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Thanks for Recycled Supplies

We want to thank our church family for their generosity in providing recycled items for the Children's Ministry. These resources will be a wonderful blessing for our children as we go through the next year.

Warming Hands and Hearts Mission Project

Thank you to our church family for donations of scarves, hats, and gloves/mittens for the Mission Frankfort Clothes Closet. These items will be a huge blessing to adults, teens, and children during the upcoming winter.

Living Nativity Animal Costumes Needed

Looking forward to next December, the children would like to expand our collection of animal costumes for the living nativity. If you have a child or young adult who has outgrown or just lost interest in an animal costume, we would really appreciate you donating those to the Children's Ministry.

-Jenny



»FROM THE Senior Pastor»

Chris Rice is one of my favorite artists. Here is a sample of one of my all-time favorite songs:

"Bring your peace into our violence

Bid our hungry souls be filled

Word now breaking heaven's silence

Welcome to our world, welcome to our world

Fragile fingers sent to heal us

Tender brow prepared for thorn

Tiny heart whose blood will save us

Unto us is born, unto us is born"

I hope you will take a moment to wonder at the Nativity. Simply read the story or find a manger scene and just marvel at God's intervention. To be sure, we did not deserve the Gift. It was not earned by any stretch. The Love of God was stronger, deeper and wider than any separation our sin could cause. Whatever your struggle, sin or heart-ache may be, this is a season that celebrates hope being brought to the most desperate of situations – light being brought to the darkest of places – joy being discovered in the most improbable setting – and love given freely to those who deserved it least. Through the Christ child, God said loud and clear that humanity will not be abandoned. This is the Good News! God loves us! Through Jesus, God has made a Way not only for eternal life, but abundant life here on earth. Through Jesus, God has given us One to follow so we can know we are on the right track. Through Jesus, we are reconciled to God and called to the ministry of reconciliation. Through Jesus, we can know whatever we face cannot take away the hope, peace, joy and love we find at Christmas. If all else fails, this Good News will not – because 'IT IS FINISHED!' The battle has been won. (And you thought you only got sermons on Sunday!!!!)

What will the New Year hold for First Baptist Church? So much will be determined by our individual and collective commitments to Jesus and our family of faith. Our successes, triumphs, ministries, mission endeavors and growth will largely hinge on what each of us resolve to do or not do regarding our faith. I pray we will take time to consider what role(s) we will need to dedicate ourselves to in order for us to be healthy and thriving in 2020. Thank you for joining me in our efforts to make stronger CONNECTIONS with God and one another, to GROW close to God and one another and to SERVE God, one another and our community in the coming year.

In Christ,
Keith

Youth Ministry

Hello, church family!

It's my personal hope and prayer that your Christmas holiday is restful and relaxing.

I'd like to thank those of you who graciously took the time to fill a stocking for the Salvation Army. I'm blown away by the immediate response and how you went above and beyond to meet the needs of others. I'd also like to extend a huge thanks to Emma and Karen Rhorer for heading this project! You two are amazing in more ways than one!

For the upcoming month, the youth will be having a game night hosted by Peggy Williams on Sunday, January 19, 6:30-8:00 pm. This will be a time for us to relax, enjoy each other's company, and take a brief break from school.

FBC Youth are hosting a CHURCH-WIDE TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER, Friday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 pm. We'll be collecting donations for the Emma Quire Mission Center (items needed will be posted in January). People who would like to participate can create a group of 3-4 (preferably a mix of younger and older folks). If you're coming as an individual, we'll put you in a group. Your group will earn points for answering questions correctly. The group with the most points wins a trophy created by the youth. Light refreshments will be provided throughout the night. Invite your friends and family and create your group today!

Peace be with you,
Rev. Marcus J. Pernell