

THE BRIDGE

A FAMILY NEWSLETTER FOR FBC FRANKLINTON

JUNE 2021

THANKFUL FOR FATHERS

DR. CODY WARREN

FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO ANGER, BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD.- EPHESIANS 6:4

What do you treasure most in this life? Perhaps time with your family. You might treasure certain hobbies. You may even treasure specific friendships. We should not treasure anything more than our relationship with Christ. I treasure my relationship with my wife next. Then I treasure the set of relationships I have with my children. I love being a dad. I love playing sports with my kids. I love wrestling with them and, yes, even playing with barbie dolls. I love being a dad!

We are so blessed to have fathers who fear God. Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. In chapter five, he addressed the relationship between husbands and wives. In chapter six, he encouraged the relationship between parents and children. Specifically, in verse four, Paul instructed fathers in two ways:

Do not provoke your children to anger. The word provoke means to “irritate.” Paul instructed fathers not to say or do anything that would cause their children to become angry or bitter. Fathers, we are responsible for the children that God has given us. The things we say to our children will build them up or tear them down. How we treat our children will help them with self-confidence or shatter their self-worth. Fathers, be careful how you treat your children.

Instruct your children in the Lord. Instead of provoking children to anger, fathers are to be instructing their children in the Word of God. How can our children know their self-worth? Teach them that God made them in His image. How can our children know how they should love God and others? Teach them in the Word of God and through your own faithfulness. Fathers, you are the spiritual leaders in the home. Step up to the plate and lead.

I am so thankful for my father. I am thankful that God placed him in my life to lead and guide me. I am thankful for other fathers who have helped me along the way in life. If you have had a godly father in your life, be sure to thank them. If you are a father, pray and ask God to help you lead your family in the discipline of the Lord.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY UPDATE

**REV. JOEY MILLER,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PASTORAL CARE**

Saluting our Faithful Fathers

A son honors his father...– Malachi 1:6

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY – James Hewitt told the story of how when he grew up, they often went on visits through the hills to see his grandmother. One night a thick fog settled over the hilly countryside before they started home. James grew scared of the weather and the danger it posed. He asked if they should drive in such conditions. His mother gently said, "Don't worry. Your father knows the way." His dad had walked that road as a boy, had ridden it many times when dating James' mother, and had made the weekly trip as an adult to visit his parents. We salute our fathers for their faith and courage to lead our families. And we thank God that when we cannot see the road of life plainly and feel like we need direction, we can lean on our fathers and trust our fathers to help us find the way. And don't forget – when we as fathers can't see the road of life and feel that we are losing our sense of direction, we are comforted by the fact that our Heavenly Father knows the way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Beginning Sunday, June 6, all our Sunday School classes will return to meeting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Thanks to all of you who have sacrificed to help us through the COVID venture. Please reach out and encourage fellow class members to be a part of your 9:30 Sunday School class.

JUNE SAM LUNCHEON – Our June luncheon will be at Middendorf's on June 11. We will leave the church at 10:00 a.m. and travel by bus. Those wishing to go in their cars can caravan with us. Masks are welcomed. Please sign up or call the church office to register. So that we may adequately plan, June 6 is the deadline for registration.

SUMMER OUTINGS – Look for news of more summer outings being planned by our SAM Team.

CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE – The Celebrator's Conference in Pigeon Forge is a fun conference for Senior Adults featuring great music, comedy, and the preaching of Dr. David Jeremiah. The dates are October 11-14. See Bro. Joey for more information or to register.

May the joy of Jesus bless your day,
Bro. Joey

WORSHIP PASTOR MINISTRY UPDATE

CALEB DYKES, WORSHIP PASTOR

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ!

Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

What an extremely beautiful and powerful assertion for us to make. These words, however, are very challenging for any Christian to sing honestly. For us to truly sing this phrase with all honesty and commitment, we have to assert that Christ is indeed better than all we have ever known and experienced. By saying this, we are saying that no gift, relationship, talent, or experience could ever amount to the joy that we experience in knowing Christ. Philippians 3:7-8 says, "Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." The apostle Paul understood what it meant to count everything of this world as loss in comparison to knowing Christ. He was wealthy, accomplished, recognized for his accomplishments, of the religious elite, seemingly zealous for God. He recognized that these accolades were mere filthy rags in the light of Christ. The question that we must ask ourselves is: are we willing to count all of our luxuries, gain, success, and accomplishments as worthless compared to the worth of knowing Christ?

I want to highlight three specific ways singing this type of song is helpful to us as a church:

1. It challenges us to love Christ more than anything else. Idolatry is something that all too often rises up in each of us.
2. It reminds us of the commitment that we have to Christ. He loved us enough to go to the cross on our behalf. We, in turn, owe him our entire lives.
3. It serves in helping us to remind one another to love Christ more and more each day. To, just as Christ commanded, deny ourselves and take up our crosses and follow him.
(Matt. 16:24-26)

Praise God that our salvation isn't dependent on anything that we've done! Praise God that we, as Christians, are defined by the atoning work of Christ on the cross. What a joy it is to sing, "Hallelujah! All I have is Christ! Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!"

I want to take a moment to inform you of a few exciting things coming up in our Worship Ministry! **Senior Singers** will resume **Monday, June 21st at 9:00 am**, and **Hand Bells** will resume **Wednesday, August 18th at 4:00 pm**. I am so excited to be able to get these groups back together! *(There is something special in the works for both of these kick-off rehearsals, so I hope to see you there!)*

Church family, it is my joy to continue to serve you!
Know I am praying for you!

In Christ,
Bro. Caleb Dykes

FBC KIDS MINISTRY UPDATE

KELLY MC ELVEEN, PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

June is shaping up to be an incredibly busy month, so let's get straight to the dates and information you need to know.

URGENT NEEDS – Wee Worship & VBS

Wee Worship is seeking new leaders for our ministry time during the 10:45 am service. Wee Worship will only be available on Sundays that we have a Wee Worship leader. To be a Wee Worship leader, please email me at fbc.playschool@gmail.com.

As of today's date, Wee Worship will only be offered on the first Sunday of each month because we do not have enough volunteers. Please prayerfully consider how you can serve.

We are dramatically short on our leaders for Vacation Bible School. We are seeking PreK and Kindergarten leaders and various track-time leaders. Hours and prep work for each vary. Please check out the VBS display boards in the Family Life Center to see what positions are still needed and email me with any questions fbc.playschool@gmail.com.

Friday, June 4th at 12 noon: Deadline to sign up and pay for the June 8th I Love Tuesday event

The cost is expected to be \$30.

Sunday, June 6th at 5 pm, Preschool Dept. Room B: PlaySchool Committee Meeting

Sunday, June 6th at 7 pm, Fireside Room:

CentriKid Parent Meeting 1

Wednesday, June 9th at 7 pm, Fireside Room:

CentriKid Parent Meeting 2

If your child is attending CentriKid later this summer, you'll want to make every effort to attend one of these meetings. It is not necessary to bring your camper with you. Here are a few helpful things to have on hand: *your child's \$75 deposit if you have not yet paid it, an ink pen, and your child's health insurance card.* CentriKid forms will be on hand, and I will make every effort to have a notary at each meeting. We will be discussing camp, what to bring, what not to bring, the cost, and fundraisers.

Monday, June 7th:

Destination Dig VBS Registration Begins

Look for the VBS tab on our fbcfranklin.org website!

Classes for completed PK4-completed 6th grade!

Tuesday, June 8th: *I Love Tuesdays in Baton Rouge!*

Sign your child up in the office to reserve their spot on this fantastic field trip! We'll be going to the Baton Rouge Zoo, picnicking at LSU (and saying a quick hello to everyone's favorite Tiger!), and going to the newly reopened Knock Knock Museum. The cost is expected to be approximately \$30 per person (including chaperones), and spots are strictly limited. Each child will need a Student Emergency Card and a picnic lunch. There is a sign-up form in the office. It is necessary to pay at the time you sign-up. Children that have not yet completed 1st grade must have their own chaperone. All participants will be expected to follow any mask guidelines of the locations we visit.

Wednesday, June 9 that 5:45 pm: *The Gospel Project Midweek Begins*

Throughout the summer, FBC Kids will be trying out LifeWay's new The Gospel Project for Kids Midweek curriculum. We will begin each week in the gym for a quick supper and head to classes at 6 pm.

Thursday, June 10th at 4 pm: *VBS Supply Lists* are due If you are a teacher, decorator, or a track-time leader, be sure to get your supply lists turned in. To stay within budget, all orderings MUST be done through Mrs. Kelly fbc.playschool@gmail.com. As a reminder, we do not order similarly themed/knock-off craft kits from bulk sites like Oriental Trading.

Wednesday, June 16th at 4 pm: *Deadline to register for Father's Day Baby & Child Dedication*

If you would like to be a part of the Father's Day Dedication Service, please let me know by today.

Friday, June 18th at 12 noon: *Deadline to sign up and pay for the June 22nd I Love Tuesday event*

The cost is expected to be \$30.

Sunday, June 20th: Father's Day

– No Wee Worship – Baby & Child Dedication

As a reminder, Wee Worship is not available on holiday Sundays (Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas) or on major event Sundays (VBS Sunday, Washington Parish Free Fair Sunday).

Tuesday, June 22nd:

I Love Tuesdays in Brand New Places!

FBC Kids will be heading to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to check out the new Mississippi Aquarium in Gulfport! The cost is expected to be approximately \$30 per person (including chaperones), and spots are strictly limited. Each child will need a Student Emergency Card and a picnic lunch. There is a sign-up form in the office. It is necessary to pay at the time you sign-up. *Children that have not yet completed 1st grade must have their own chaperone. All participants will be expected to follow any mask guidelines of the locations we visit.*

Friday, June 25th at 12 noon: *Deadline to turn in CentriKid Spaghetti Dinner Tickets*

Sunday, June 27th from 10:30 am until 12 noon, Family Life Center: *CentriKid Spaghetti Dinners*

The cost is \$10 per plate, and each plate pays for nearly 3 hours of camp for one child. Help support one of the nearly 40 campers attending CentriKid camp this summer!

July 5th-9th from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm:

Destination Dig VBS at FBC

Join us on an expedition to unearth the truth about Jesus! *For I know the plans I have for you* – this is the Lord's declaration – "plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. You will call to me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.

-Jeremiah 29:13

Classes for children that have completed PK4-completed 6th grade – register on the VBS link on our fbcfranklin.org website beginning Monday, June 7th.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

REV. CODY THOMAS,

STUDENT PASTOR

Parent Connection – Intentional Communication

"My dear brothers take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." – James 1:19

Recently I was talking with a good friend about raising children. He told me of a practice he does every night with his daughter that I have since tried to implement. Every night before the child goes to sleep, sit and talk with the child about anything they want to talk about. If they don't have anything specific to talk about, as the parent, ask a few questions about their day. The goal is to open up the lines of communication because communication within the parent-child relationship is vitally important. Consistently talking with a child will bridge the gap between parent and child.

We as parents have to be intentional and consistent to bridge the communication gap so that our children will trust us and share with us what is on their hearts.

Here are a few suggestions to be more intentional with your communication with your child. Whatever has happened in the past and whatever age your child is, these suggestions will help bridge the communication gap.

1. Good Communication Needs Time

My friend that I mentioned above, his approach is to have consistent, intentional times with his young daughter so that when she becomes a teenager, the bridge of communication is already established. We have to understand that good communication takes time and energy; it doesn't happen overnight. Find a time when cell phones and other distractions can be put away, and you can ask your child questions. Few examples: right before bed, breakfast, on the way to school, at the dinner table, after dinner. Find a time, be consistent, be intentional. A wise parent will make time for intentional individual conversations.

2. Good Communication Requires Listening

Good communication is not learning how to express your thoughts. Good communication is learning how to draw out the thoughts of another person. Your children need to know that you are listening. The more we listen, the more we care. The more our children know we care, the more they are willing to open up to us. Sometimes the best conversations are when our words are very little. "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." Proverbs 18:2. Find a consistent time to be intentional and then listen. A wise parent will learn to listen.

If feelings of inadequacy creep up in your life, then it's a perfect time to better depend on the Lord. Let us be who God has called us to be, all for His glory.

Questions to Ponder:

1. What is a time I can set aside for intentional conversation with my child?

2. What steps do I need to take in order to be a better listener?

 **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**
950 SELF STREET
FRANKLINTON, LA 70438

LET'S
"DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS"
PSALM 96:3

BY PACKING
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD
SHOE BOXES



1

PICK UP YOUR PRE-FOLDED SHOE BOXES AT THE CHURCH

Thanks to a generous donation, you will find a filled pencil pack inside to get you started on packing your shoe box.

2

FOLLOW THE GUIDE INSIDE FOR SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT TO PACK

Do Not Include Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

3

REGISTER ONLINE TO TRACK YOUR BOX OR JUST ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR \$9

Registering online allows you to follow the box and see what country it is shipped to. Enclosing a check in the envelope provided is GREAT as well. You only need to do one or the other though.

4

RETURN YOUR FILLED SHOE BOX(ES) TO THE CHURCH BY THE END OF JUNE!

This is early, but let's get started because our church wants to pack and send 1000 shoe boxes this year! Imagine how many children and families we can introduce to our savior with that many shoe box gifts.

5

BEGIN PRAYING

Please begin praying for this ministry as well as the children and families that will receive this boxes. Pray for the Lord to do amazing things through this ministry.

LET'S SEE HOW CLOSE WE CAN GET TO OUR GOAL!!

