

First Baptist Church of Oakville
6741 Telegraph Road,
St. Louis, MO, 63129



JOHN'S JOTS



October is finally here!
 This is my favorite time of year—cool air, colorful trees, the sights and smells of home. Fall suggests a time to slow down, to fold and put away the “busy things” of our lives, and to reflect on *whence we came*, and to look around. Enjoy the view!

What a great blessing last weekend was!!
 We met Josh & Colleen Taylor and their precious children. We spent time together, talked together, and prayed together—all the while, seeking a sense of God’s Will. After hearing Josh preach from God’s Word, we voted to call Josh Taylor as the next Pastor of First Baptist Church. I believe we did what God was leading us to do—and Josh accepted the call because that’s what God was leading him to do. **Praise God from whom all blessings flow.** Last weekend was truly a blessing.

Next Sunday, October 3rd, we will pause to observe **Minister Appreciation Sunday.** This is not a tradition that I began, but one I certainly enjoy! God’s calling to be a minister is a High and Holy one. Among the ministers at FBCO are our Church staff—John Gorse, Nancy Stanley, Rich Townsend, and Ronda & Steve Brown. Take a moment to let these precious co-laborers know that you love them, appreciate them, and pray for them, as I do. After all, they have to work with me!!

October is Operation Christmas Child time. Linda Downs is once again leading us in this charity outreach emphasis. The familiar green and red boxes are available once again. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ and the joy of Christmas with children around the world. Thank you!

Thank you, also, for your support of the Missouri Mission Offering. There are multiple ways to share the Gospel with others. Giving a mission offering is one of those ways. In doing so, you support our Baptist witness for Christ in many ways across the state of Missouri.


Another way we share our witness is by sharing with others. Monday, October 11th, is our **American Red Cross blood drive.** Through the years, God has blessed our Church with many who are willing to **roll up their sleeves** and do what needs to be done. Our WMU blood drive is one more good opportunity to **roll up your sleeve!** I hope you will.

First Baptist Church of Oakville first met on October 25th, 1959, when a group of eighty-two people gathered at the home of Buel and Helen Clendinen to talk about organizing a new church. Sunday, October 24th, we will thank God for guiding and blessing FBCO for 62 years. In this season of Harvest, we are reminded of the bounty of all of God’s blessings on FBCO, and the faces on so many of those blessings.

Each month, through John’s Jots, I have tried to share important news of our Church with you. By my count, this last one is number 175! I will always be grateful for the privilege of page 1 in the newsletter, to Nancy for producing and distributing it, and to the others who have contributed to it through the years. For the blessing of knowing and loving you, the honor of sharing God’s Word with you, of caring for you and praying for you, and for the great privilege of being your Pastor—**THANK YOU!**

God Bless,
Pastor John

First Baptist Church of Oakville * St. Louis, MO, 63129, * 314 846-8511 * www.firstbco.net



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Lois Durbin.....	1
Kyle Berghold.....	4
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Jeff Bennett, Phoebe Vandiver.....	8
Carol Bennett.....	10
Debra Hahn.....	12
Jackie Williams.....	13
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Tim Schellhase.....	20
Bob Chapman.....	21
Harve Cornish, Jerry Smith, Norma McCloud.....	22
Larry Barker.....	24
Louise Sommers.....	26
Joan Boxx.....	28
Jerry Williams.....	29

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

Coming In October

Building and Grounds Meeting.....	2
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Church Council Meeting (5:00 pm).....	3
P.E.P. Club.....	7
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GWEN'S Gallery

NEW LIBRARY HOURS!!

*The library is now open from 8:45 each Sunday morning until 10:05 am.
Please come by and Check it out!*

Endless Mercy by Tracie Peterson

Madysen Powell has always been a generous and forgiving nature. But when her father, long believed dead, appears in Nome, Alaska, the only feelings she can muster are bitterness and anger. Though her sisters have a similar struggle, Madysen finds herself falling out of rhythm with them in other ways. She is restless and dreams of performing her music around the world. The arrival of a traveling show could prove just the chance she needs, and the manager promises more than she ever imagined.

Daniel Beaufort arrives in Nome searching for his own answers after the gold rush leaves him with only empty pockets. Still angry about the death of his loved ones, he longs to start fresh but doesn't have high hopes until he ends up helping at the Powell dairy making cheese—where he is immediately drawn to the beautiful redhead with big dreams.

Caught up in their hopes for the future, the sisters and their farm become vulnerable. Can they face their past hurts and present deceptions in time to save their dreams and mend the fractures in their family?

Watch For The Whirlwinds by Noel Barton

My whirlwind didn't last long, but it cooled me off a bit and dried my sweating face. Anything that offered relief from the parching, hot sun out in the cotton field was appreciated. I had never been in the midst of a whirlwind before, but from then on I made it a practice to look long and hard for one that might be headed in my direction. I was later to learn there were many kinds of whirlwinds. Some refresh you, some almost sucked the life out of you.

--Excerpt Chapter Five



Operation Christmas Child

Shoeboxes are available and FREE.
Please take one, pack it, and send it
with love and prayers to a child who
needs to know God's love.
Contact Linda Downs for information.

Kidz Praise . . . Children In Action

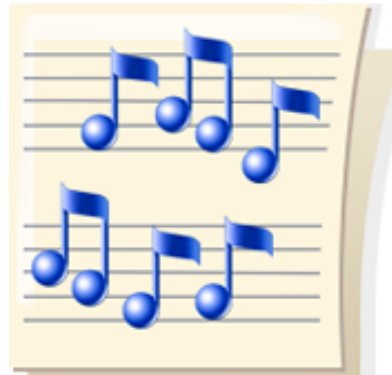
This October, Kids' Praise will be learning some very important lessons. We will learn about salvation while carving a pumpkin. Carman will be reminding us that we have nothing to fear with God on our side. We will, also, be snacking on candy while we get better acquainted with a few Bible verses. Candy wrappers will be the focus when we talk about sin towards the beginning of the month. Of course, we will also be reading some of the "scarier" stories from the Bible such as Ezekiel and the bones. It will prove to be an interesting month. I look forward to learning about God's love with the kiddos.

We praise God by loving one another, and we show that love through RESPECT.

Cyndi Harmon



A Note from Minister of Worship John Gorse



Greetings everyone,

It's truly an exciting time in our church history as we look forward with anticipation for what God has in store for FBCO as we will be embracing a new pastor to lead and shepherd us in our ministry to Oakville and the surrounding communities and beyond with our online streaming capabilities. It comes with some element of anxiety as we realize we have to embrace change and that is not always an easy thing and to some it can be quite difficult. As you all know, Pastor John will be retiring as Senior Pastor of FBCO at the end of this month. I would like to take some time to reflect on Pastor John's ministry here at FBCO and share some personal thoughts on a few of the many accomplishments through the last 15 years.

First of all it is very hard to wrap my head around that it has been 15 years and that the time has went by so quickly. About 10 years ago or so, I went to Pastor John with the idea I had for many years of forming a Praise band for the services that would include guitar, and bass and drums and maybe violin and other instruments. Some Pastors might have hesitated at this type of change, especially with drums and violin, but he encouraged me to bring it before the Church Council and proceed from there. The unique aspect to this endeavor was that when I brought the idea to the Church Council it was in mind that this was a ministry where we would reach out and potentially unchurched folks would be welcome to be part of the band and play in the services. I thank Pastor John and FBCO for being open and allowing the formation of the Holy Ghost Praise Band Ministry. I think the whole church was in awe as Nicole Kovaluk played the first notes of Ancient Words on violin as we ushered in the Praise Band era.

We have had dozens of people be a part of the Praise Band through the years playing guitars electric and acoustic, bass guitar, ukulele, piano, organ, electronic keyboards, violin, trumpet, trombone, flute, oboe, euphonium, drums (electric and acoustic) congas and cajon and shakers to name a few, along with many vocalist with ages ranging from mid teens to over 80 and it continues to be a vital part of our services. I remember talking to Brenda Hessel one time where she said of the Sunday evening services that it had too much Mr. Wood. What she meant was there were too many empty pews as we often had only 8 to 12 people attend and her desire was to have more come for the services. Not long after that during the January Bible Book Study (which I think was in February) Pastor John decided we would meet in the Activities Area for the book study and the church would provide meals for those Sundays. Instead of 10 or so people we had probably 40 to 50 each week. It was so successful that it was decided to keep the Sunday evening services in that room and continue bringing in food (especially chocolate chip cookies) and it has been a most enjoyable time of fellowship and *Koinonia* (a Greek Word) for FBCO and an outreach to many others, that their churches no longer have Sunday Evening Services, that through the years have joined us.

Also we have had the wonderful blessing of all 3 of Pastor John and Brenda's daughters Kathy, DeNae and Becky sing solos for services. Becky has also sang with the Pioneer Harvesters at our Fall Festival. Throughout the last 15 years, Pastor John many times would let me know what topic the sermon for the next Sunday was to help coordinate the music but more often than not I was unaware. I am truly amazed at how many times that the music flow fit the sermon topic or a certain song resonated with the sermon knowing all along it was not my ability to pick any songs and I give the Holy Spirit full credit for this happening. What a wonderful blessing God has allowed Pastor John and I to experience. I am so thankful for the wise counsel and many conversations I have had through the time Pastor John has been at FBCO. I feel we have had a very special and close relationship in ministry through these years and I thank God for this. I wish Pastor John and Barb God's richest blessings in the coming years with his retirement as Senior Pastor at FBCO. Words cannot adequately describe all my feelings but I am truly honored to have served with Pastor John.

Please remember that choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and we need more members as we prepare for the Christmas Cantata.

John Gorse