

Pastor's Message

The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth



I have been watching some of the impeachment hearings regarding President Donald Trump. If you have been watching I am not sure if you're seeing what I am seeing. I am seeing there are some people who could care less about knowing the truth. It appears to me as long as the outcome is the way they desire it to be, the truth has no relevance in the justice system.

However, I guess it shouldn't be that surprising to me because when I think about how the justice system for years closed her eyes to all men being equal. The system which allowed slavery, racism, and discrimination to run like a rabid creature in our society. Well since we're talking about truth the justice system is still closing her eyes to racism and discrimination in some instances today. So, I shouldn't be surprised. Of course, when the majority Senate voted not to allow additional witnesses to testify, I wasn't surprised.

I saw an article which stated 'The Young and the Restless viewing rating was higher than the viewing for the impeachment hearings' during the same hour. Go figure! Perhaps there is another perspective here and that is even when the truth is obvious there are those that have no intention on allowing it to make a difference. Their intention is not to acknowledge right but to win even if it's by ignoring the truth.

Nevertheless, as Christians even when the truth doesn't matter to anyone else it should always matter to us. We should never want to ignore the truth of the word of God in order for us to have our own way. We shouldn't ignore the truth when it pertains to justice for all even when the majority choose to ignore it.

We should be as First Lady Lisa Johnson says "truth seekers." Even when we see untruth appearing to be the order of the day don't be discouraged to not speak out. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr often quoted a line from James Russell Lowell's poem This Present Crisis, "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne." Yet that scaffold sways the future."

So, the good news is truth shall prevail. As long as we know the truth for ourselves and are willing to stand and take action on it, we can never be bound. Jesus said it best in John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." So, remember we have been liberated as people of God to stand boldly to tell "*The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth.*"

Be blessed,

Pastor Pernell J. Johnson

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In addition to our regular features this newsletter includes the following special articles:

- Black History Month
- Women's History Month
- Did you know? Pulpit Scarves
- Mark Your Calendar.....Black Nativity Play

FBCM: A Church Blessed to be a Blessing!



Spotlight on Youth Ministry

The youth of FBCM are very goal oriented and heavily engaged in church, school, community and family activities throughout the year. Although they are active in many pursuits, they serve in many roles at FBCM – youth choir, ushers, worship leader, presenters, sound room engineers, etc.



With new officers in place for 2020, the youth are currently planning activities for the year. The following individuals will lead the Youth Ministry for 2020: President Mr. Jeremiah Johnson, Vice-President Mrs. Kim Allen, Secretary Miss Deja Williams and Treasurer Ms. Gwen Byrd. Miss Talyah Rawls will serve as the Youth Ministry Advocates President.

During the month of December, the Youth Ministry participated in the following special FBCM events:

- The Angel Tree project, Advent and The Christmas play. The Youth Ministry sponsored the Angel Tree project which provided approximately 35 Christmas gifts consisting of clothes and toys to the children of two Midlothian families. The children receiving the gifts attend J. B. Watkins Elementary School.
- During Advent, the youth served as presenters for the Advent ceremony during morning worship on the second Sunday of December.
- The Christmas play, “The Nativity” featured many of the FBCM youth as actors. In addition, Jeremiah Johnson served as worship leader for this special morning service as well as a member of the play’s planning committee.

Honors and Recognitions

Congratulations to *Mr. Garnett P. Taylor* on retiring from the Virginia Department of Taxation. His retirement was effective September 1, 2019 after 33 years of service.



Best wishes and congratulations to *Dr. Lyndzy Jones* and Alian Duroseau on their recent marriage. They exchanged vows on Friday, November 1 at the John Marshall Hotel in downtown Richmond. Lyndzy is the daughter of Ms. Jennifer P. Jones and the couple resides in Landover, MD.

Deja Williams was recognized by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors on September 25, 2019 in recognition of her attaining the Girl Scouts Gold Award.





2020 Theme: *African Americans and the Vote*

Black History Month was founded as Negro History Week in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, known as the “Father of Black History.” The timing was chosen to include the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976 the celebration was expanded to a month-long observance.

This year’s theme highlights the centennial of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote and the sesquicentennial which gave black men the right to vote in 1870. This theme also focuses on the ongoing struggle of black men and black women for the right to vote.

For more information on Black History Month and this year’s theme: <https://asalh.org/about-us/our-history> and <https://asalh.org/asalh>



2020 Theme: *Valiant Women of the Vote*

Women’s History Month began as a local Women’s History Week celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The timing was chosen to correspond with International Women’s Day which is

observed annually on March 8.

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women’s History Week and in 1997 Congress passed a law designating March as Women’s History Month.

In line with the centennial of the women’s suffrage movement which ended with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 giving women the right to vote this year’s theme recognizes women who fought for suffrage rights and those who continue to fight for voting rights for all. For more information on Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day: <https://www.womenshistory.org/> and <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>.

The meaning of the colors of pulpit scarves



- White - Used to mark joyful holidays and key points in Christ’s life
- Purple – Symbol of the sovereignty of Christ
- Black - Traditional color of mourning
- Red – Symbol of Christ’s death on the cross
- Green - Symbolizes a time of growth in the Christian faith



1 Peter 1:5-7

... make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

In case you missed it.....

SEPTEMBER



The Gospel Truth Singers Celebrates Another Year

During the morning service on September 15, the Gospel Truth Singers celebrated their 48th anniversary. “The Gospel Truth is a contemporary, harmonic and spiritual group, which started spreading the message of the Lord through song in September 1971”. The dedicated musicians for this choir, that sings every third Sunday of the month, are Mrs. Palma Pettis and Ms. Amanda Edlow.

Street Named for Fallen Soldier – Major Charles A. Ransom



On Friday, Sept. 27, Chesterfield County dedicated the bus loop at Midlothian High School in honor of **Maj. Charles A. Ransom**. The dedication ceremony for the loop, named Charles A. Ransom Way, featured county administrators, Leslie Haley, Chairwoman of the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors and Javaid Siddiqi, Vice-Chairman of the Chesterfield School Board as speakers along with family, retired high school staff and the Midlothian High School chorus.



Maj. Ransom, a 1997 graduate of Midlothian High School and Virginia Military Institute, was killed on April 27, 2011, in Kabul, Afghanistan, while participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. The United States Air Force officer received many awards and honors, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal.

Maj. Ransom was an active member of FBCM and the son of Deacon Willie and MarySue Ransom.

Women’s Choir Celebrates Anniversary

The FBCM Women’s choir which was established to perform every fifth Sunday during the year, celebrated its eighth anniversary on the fifth Sunday of September during the morning worship service. Rev. Marvin Mitchell served as the guest preacher for the service and the choir’s history was delivered by Ms. Amoy McDonald, worship leader for the day.



OCTOBER

The Women's Empowerment Prayer Breakfast Inspiring Women

The women of FBCM and the community embraced and encouraged to power of prayer at the Women's Empowerment Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, October 12. The program, "Food for the Soul" featured guest speakers who provided inspiring messages on prayer, praise and worship that included spiritual wisdom to nurture the participants.

The following individuals were speakers for the morning: Minister Ashley Williams, Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, Evangelist Susan Moody, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Mrs. Clementine Smith and Ms. Lynell Johnson, First Baptist Church of Midlothian. The morning began with a lavish breakfast prepared by the Culinary Ministry and ended with participants overflowing with spiritual food for the soul.



The Midlothian Community Tours FBCM

This year on October 19, as part of the Midlothian Village Day Festival, First Baptist Church opened its doors to the community. Following the Festival Parade, tours of the church and presentations regarding its historical significance in the county were provided by Ms. Audrey Ross, Church Historian. The four tour groups that visited by trolley explored the FBCM history room to observe the church artifacts.



NOVEMBER

Walking for Breast Cancer

The Women's Ministry supported the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer National Partners Program by participating in their walk on November 9 at Regency Square. The walk raises awareness and funds to save lives from breast cancer. Although this was a rain date, the event was well attended by many churches, businesses, and families who championed this worthy cause.

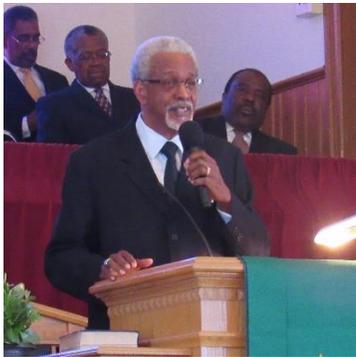


Veteran's Day Observance

FBCM observed Veteran's Day during morning service on November 10. This year to honor the courage, devotion, patriotism and sacrifice of veterans, Col. Kevin McKelvy, USA, (Ret.) presented a Veteran's Day message to the congregation. Col. McKelvy shared his spiritual journey while in the military. He also shared several bible verses that he used to gather strength to carry him through adverse times and verses that illustrated biblical warriors. At the end of his message, Col. McKelvy shared "the power of theatre to honor veterans" by quoting from a part of William Shakespeare's Henry V on "band of brothers".



Col. McKelvy is the son of Mrs. Marleen McKelvy, who introduced him as the speaker for the morning. Refreshments were served following the service.



Men's Day – "Godly Men Matter"

FBCM celebrated Men's Day on November 24 during morning worship service with the theme "Godly Men Matter". For this special Sunday service, Xavian Bagley served as worship leader and the preacher for the day was Rev. Roscoe Jones. Rev. Jones, the former pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church, has spent 32 years in ministry. He is a retired employee of DuPont and the founder of Tri-City Brothers of Christ. The title of Rev. Jones' sermon was "Maximizing Manhood" and the biblical text was Romans 12:6-8.

DECEMBER

Seniors Gather for Holiday Luncheon

To celebrate the holiday season, the Seniors Ministry hosted its annual senior's Christmas luncheon at Capital Ale in Midlothian on December 16. This year 31 FBCM seniors and their guests enjoyed a buffet lunch with many delicious food options. The attendees also enjoyed the tremendous fellowship by bringing in the Christmas season with holiday songs and games.





Presenting “The Nativity”

To celebrate the birth of Christ, “The Nativity”, a Christmas play, was presented during the FBCM fourth Sunday morning worship service. The play incorporated music, acting and hints of our morning service traditions into this special program. “The Nativity” cast consisted of the following FBCM members:

- **Mary** – First Lady Lisa Johnson
- **Joseph** – Rev. Pernell J. Johnson
- **Elizabeth** – Amoy McDonald
- **Shepherds** – Xavian Bagley, Leon Coleman, Glennis Short
- **Angels** – Sarryah Bowers, Veronica Etheridge, Jalynn Draper
- **Narrators** – Michael Jones, Tracey Rawls, Shirley Smith

The FBCM Male Choir provided music for the play. The Christmas play committee consisted of Cheryl Edlow, Gwen Byrd, Emma Kelly and Jeremiah Johnson.



Celebration of Advent

During the month of December, FBCM observed Advent with the lighting of candles each Sunday. Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "coming." Jesus is coming, and Advent is intended to be a season of preparation for His arrival. In addition to members of the Youth Ministry, families leading the candle ceremony were The Draper Family (James and Tresa), The Rainey Family (Don, Terri, DJ, and Anisha) and the Brooks Family (Althea and Kelly).



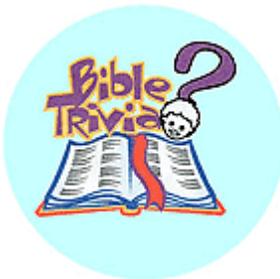
Sunday School Union Scholarships

Jeremiah and Lynell Johnson were among the recipients of the 2019 Levi O. Johnson Scholarships presented by the Chesterfield County and Vicinity Sunday School Union. The presentations were made at the 5th Sunday Fellowship Service on December 29, 2019 at Mt Nebo Baptist Church.



FBCM Brings in the New Year

FBCM joined with Mt. Nebo and Bethlehem Baptist Church to bring in 2020 in worship. The service was hosted by Mt. Nebo with Rev. Pernell J. Johnson delivering the sermon and providing the music for the evening. The service was well attended, and Mt. Nebo served dinner following the service.



1. What instrument did David play? Bonus question: Name the king he played it for.
2. What did King Solomon ask God to give him? Was it prosperity, a new barn for his grain, fame or wisdom?
3. Name one of the five books in the Bible that contain only one chapter. Choose from 1 John, Titus, Habakkuk or Obadiah.
4. God told Moses not to come any closer to the burning bush until he did what? Was it listen to an angel, take off his sandals, acknowledge God as the One True God or sacrifice his son Isaac?
5. In Revelation, Jesus says: "Do not be afraid. I am the ____ and the ____." Is it the First and the Last, the Way and the Truth, the Life and the Truth or the Lion and the Lamb?
6. "The _____ of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools." Are the blanks the true sayings, quiet words, harsh rebukes or silent prayers?

Answers to Trivia Questions will be published in the church bulletin on February 16.



It's here.....



We are now signed up with Givelify, the mobile giving app for places of worship and charities. Download the app and participate in anytime, anywhere giving to First Baptist Church of Midlothian. It's easy, fast and secure! For questions regarding Givelify the Church Treasurer.

SAVE THE DATE

February

Black History Month

- 1 – Church Anniversary Reception
- 2 – 174th Church Anniversary
- 9 – Men Who Cook
- 21 – Movie Night
- TBA - Marriage and Singles Seminar (Women's Min.)

March

Women's History Month

- 1 – Women's Ministry Meeting
- 7 – Children and Youth Workers' Conference (BGC)
- 13 – Christian Education Ministry Meeting
- 14 – VUU Church Leadership Conference (BGC)
- 27 – Midlothian Idol (Ladies Usher Brd.)
- 29 – Women's Day
- 29 – 5th Sunday Fellowship (Sunday School Union - Mt. Olive Int'l Ministries)

April

- 3-4 – BGC Young Adult Weekend
- 5 – Women's Ministry Meeting
- 10 – Good Friday
- 12 – Easter Sunday
- TBA - Tea and Fashion Show (Women's Min.)
- TBA - Church Meeting

Mark Your Calendar.....



The Women's Ministry is sponsoring a trip to see the Langston Hughes play "Black Nativity" at the The Barn Theatre in Greensboro, NC on Saturday, November 7, 2020. See any member of the Women's Ministry for details on how to reserve your seat.



Health Wise

The best way to look after your heart is with a healthy lifestyle.



- ✓ Be smoke-free - Being smoke free is one of the best things you can do to protect your heart.
- ✓ Manage your blood cholesterol - Cholesterol is a fatty substance carried in your blood. Your body needs cholesterol to be healthy, but an imbalance of cholesterol in your blood can lead to a heart attack or stroke.
- ✓ Manage your blood pressure - Blood pressure isn't usually something you can feel. If it's too high, it needs to be treated.
- ✓ Manage diabetes - It's important to manage your diabetes to help prevent a heart attack or stroke.
- ✓ Be physically active - Regular, moderate physical activity is great for your heart health. It's never too late to start and get the benefits. It's also important to sit less during your day and break up your sitting time.
- ✓ Achieve and maintain a healthy weight - Maintaining a healthy weight can reduce the risk of heart disease and other health problems. It can help to know your body mass index and waist measurements and what these means.
- ✓ Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods - Eating a varied diet of healthy foods can help with your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.
 - There are also specific changes you can make to your diet to help prevent heart disease:
 - ❖ Eat less salt: Reducing your salt intake is good for your blood pressure.
 - ❖ Replace unhealthy fats with healthy fats: Replacing saturated and trans fats with unsaturated fats can reduce your risk of heart disease.
 - ❖ Limit alcohol
- ✓ Look after your mental health
 - We know that there can be a greater risk of heart disease for people who have depression, are socially isolated or do not have good social support. Having a good social life with family and friends can help.
 - Depression is more than feeling sad or low. If you feel depressed for more than two weeks, talk to your doctor, a family member or someone you know well.

American Heart Foundation