

The Beacon

a monthly ONLINE publication of New Boston's First Baptist Church

June 2025

Volume 1 Issue 4



Welcome Summer! June is here and with it brings one of the busiest times at FBC! VBS, CentriKid Camp and Student Life camp.

The first week in June is the best time to be a kid! VBS for me brings back fond memories of Bible School when I was much, much younger. I remember Bible stories, crafts (macaroni covered cigar boxes spray painted gold and grape KoolAid and cookies!). LOL For our kids these days, its so much more and I know they will enjoy, learn about Jesus and remember the fun times as they grow older.

Then its on to CentriKid camp in Sherman. I know those who have been before are looking forward to the adventure again this year. And the newbies are anticipating a good time and more learning about Jesus.

We appreciate all those who work so hard to make these two events the success they are every year. It takes dedication, a love for children and lots of patience.

Student Life camp starts in June and ends in July. They are going to Glorietta, NM. It's a long trip going there followed by camp, then a long trip home. I know everyone is excited to be going and also know they will come back talking about the wonderful time they had there but also with a greater love of the Lord.

So enjoy June and all its events, those mentioned above and any others happening this month. Can't wait to see what July brings to us here at FBC!!

Paula

Inside this issue

Dr. Hunter	2
Youth Ministry	2
Music Ministry	3
Abundant Life/King's Table ...	3
Future Events.....	4
Operation Christmas Child	4
King's Kids	4
Member Spotlight	5
Kingdom Builders	6

Special points of interest

- Calendar of Events

Pastoral Ministries

Dr. Patrick Hunter



One of my favorite seasons of the year is summer. A time of the year when the grass grows, when family travel plans come together, and all kinds of cool activities occur at our church and within our families. Yet there is a part of summer

within our fellowship I never look forward to, the inevitable (a least so it seems) decline in attendance and giving. As we see the pace of life shift, don't forget to put in your own effort to be faithful to the Lord through our

church so you can continue to grow in grace.

Thankfully, with the advent of on-line services, we can "show up" either virtually when away on Sunday or "make-up" missed services by accessing our worship service library. These can be easily found by logging in to our church website (www.fbcnewboston.com) and clicking on the link called **YOUTUBE**. There you will find both live (on Sunday) and archived services for the past several months.

While you are on line, you can also return to the Lord your tithe, as well as give an offering. This is found from the home page at **GIVE ON LINE**. There you can give to the Budget to support the work of the overall church, make special donations to causes over and above your regular giving, and support mission offerings.

Summer does not have to be a time when we let our spiritual development wane, but can see God lead us to greater places with the Lord. I plan to continue the series Family Matters until Father's Day followed by a short series tentatively called "Meals with Jesus" where we will consider the importance of connection with others in life. Hope to see you each week, or at least be seen by you on line.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:25 am Worship Team Rehearsal

9:45 am Bible Study Groups

11:00 am Worship in the Morning

Monday

4:30 pm Bible Drill

Tuesday

6:00 pm Men's Bible Study

Wednesday

6:00 am Men's Bible Study

4:30 pm Children's Handbells

5:15 pm Fellowship Supper

5:45 pm Kids Worship Arts

Adult Handbells

6:15 pm Youth

6:30 pm KBAM

Mission Friends

Abundant Life

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Other activities added as needed weekly/monthly.

Youth Ministry

FBC Youth is gearing up for a fun, Christ-filled summer season! Our month of May has been all about our graduating seniors, with Senior Sunday, Baccalaureate, and Graduation. In June, the youth will be serving in various roles for Vacation Bible School and beginning to prepare for church camp. We will leave New Boston June 30th to head towards Glorietta, NM for StudentLife Camp, where students will spend the week growing closer to Christ and each other through July 6th. Summer will also have a handful of "normal" Wednesday night services: June 11, June 18, June 25 (Mandatory Camp Meeting), and July 9. Our services will start at 6:30 and go to 7:30, with no meal provided. For regular updates, please see the FBC New Boston Facebook Group, or join our GroupMe if you are a youth/parent. We would love you to come join us! Please contact me with questions about FBC Youth Summer.

Aaron Skinner, Student Minister

Music Ministry

Summer is here and the people of God are busy doing Kingdom work!

One of the newer ministries at FBC is our Youth Ensemble. This group voted to name themselves “**Steadfast**” at their last rehearsal. This name comes from Psalm 108:1. “My with heart is **steadfast**, O God; I will sing, I will sing praises, with all my soul”.

Here is what they have coming up....

Saturday May 31st from 10am-12noon: CARWASH. Please support them as they are raising money for their mission trip on June 18-22nd. This trip includes singing/serving at the following places:

ELEVATE BRANSON Food
Bank and Food Distribution Ministries
Baptist Retirement Home
Friendly Baptist Church
Silver Dollar City
Botkinburg Baptist Church
Uptown Café
The Legends

Please be in prayer for this group (9 Students) as they are preparing now to share their testimony, witness to others about Christ and share through singing.

XYZ is having a luncheon on June 18th at 11am! Please join us as Mike Powell comes to lead us in song and as he shares with us about his ministry!

June 26th, (10:30am) we are scheduled to sing at Autumn Wind and enjoy the fellowship of our friends and fellow church members there!

June 29th is our Patriotic Service! Please make plans to join us for this special service as we celebrate our nation that God has blessed so richly!

I pray you have a wonderful month of June serving the Lord!

Blessings, Chris

WOW ... 
our Second Chapter
Ministry for widows, others, and widowers

Well, the inauguration of our ministry was an amazing success! Thank you to all that gathered for some great food and fellowship. We got to know each other a little better through stories and our daily walk with the Lord. We will take a short break, as summertime is upon us. Enjoy this time with family and friends but know if you need anything we are only a call or text away. Our ministry team members include Bro. Patrick Hunter, Frank and Janet Buchanan, David and Linda Daniel, and Craig and Julie Spears. Our prayer for you is that God bless, keep you safe, and healthy.



Abundant Life/King's Table

Join us for our Adult Special Needs Ministry.

Sunday School:

ABUNDANT LIFE

Sunday School Class

Fellowship, Bible Study, Singing

The King's Table will meet on the following Tuesdays in June:

June 3rd

June 17th

We meet in Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

We have devotionals, Games, Crafts and Fellowship.

Please call our church office for more information, if you know of a prospect for either group.

Future Events



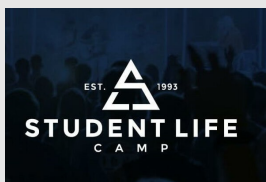
VBS

Jun. 2nd-Jun. 6th



Centri Kid Camp

Jun. 23rd -Jun. 27th



Student Life Camp

Jun. 30th-Jul. 6th

Operation Christmas Child

We have learned so much serving in this ministry. We feel we are on the missionary field, sending out the Gospel of Jesus through our shoeboxes. Many of our church family have joined us in this mission work. One of the ways to help is through your donations. Like everything we do in church, "we have always done it that way," is an ever true statement. Never thought I would hear myself say it, but I did! OCC is not on the church budget and we survive by designated donations. Did you know when we donate to a designated fund, it should be a

separate check made out to FBC New Boston, designating too OCC ?? ALL designated funds go into a different bank and account than the General fund. Therefore, to simplify for the office and the ones counting on Sunday, please issue a separate check when donating to Operation Christmas Child and make sure you reflect OCC in your memo field

Thank you all for your continued Support.

SHOEBOX
LADIES



King's Kids Happenings-K-6th

*A King's Kids Interview by **Shiloh Hennigan:**
A 6th grader!*



Something you've learned in KK about the Bible - **There is always something new to learn from it**

Something you've learned in KK about Jesus - **He died for our sins and is our Lord AND Savior**

Favorite KK Ministry? **VBS**

Favorite VBS Memory? **Times in Music and Rec**

Favorite Mission Project? **OCC**

Favorite thing about Bible Drill? **Getting to more about God**

Favorite memory from Centrikid? **OMC(Organized Mass Chaos Games)**

I feel **excited** when I come to KK activities
I've been a KK for **7** years

Favorite KK snack - **Goldfish**

Favorite KK trip - **Water Park**

Favorite Bible Verse - **God saw all that He had made and it was very good indeed. Evening came and then morning; the 6th day. Genesis 1:31**

Recent New Member



Stacey Jones

Who will you invite to become part of God's family here at First Baptist?



Peggy Dear is our member in the spotlight this month. She was born on Merrill Street here in New Boston and has lived here all her life except for two years spent in Virginia and Ohio. She was baptized at the age of 12 at FBC New Boston, went to school in NB and attended Texarkana College taking real estate classes to get her real estate license.

Marshall, her husband, was born in Houston and moved to New Boston in 1968. All us old-timers remember Marshall when he worked at First National Bank. Peggy said, "Since his death last year she still enjoys playing games and the piano but most of my enjoyment comes from spending time with my family. My closeness to God and my family has been my source of strength and comfort."

The joy of her life is her four children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She said, "When Marshall was alive we enjoyed doing things as a couple; playing games (bridge, dominoes, etc.) and going to sporting events to watch the kids and grandkids."

She still remembers the feelings she had when she was saved at a spring revival so many years ago. "The feeling

I had that night were unforgettable. I wish I could experience that every day. When I was living in other places, I attended different churches, but FBC New Boston has always been home."

She said, "Since I'm an 'old lady of the church', I am not as active as I should be, but as a younger member, I was more active. Among other things, I taught Bible School for 3 year olds for 20 years! Teaching or working with 3 years old was like military-I needed to retire after 20 years. LOL"

She related a story of how much this church means to her. At age 6 she had a terrible bicycle accident resulting in a fractured skull. Emergency surgery was performed on a Sunday morning; the Sunday she was supposed to receive a pin for Perfect Attendance. The pastor, Bro. Malone and Wimpy McCoy showed up at the hospital and pinned the pin on her hospital gown before surgery. She said, "Words can never express how very special that act of kindness meant to me! There is nothing like the many memories I have about my church and my church family."

Peggy has been a member of FBC longer than anyone. (Not the oldest, just the longest member.) Thank you for being willing to be our member in the spotlight for the Beacon.

If anyone would like to be in the member spotlight, or would like to suggest someone, please let me know. Contact the church office or send me an email. (paula@fbcnewboston.com.) Paula

Member Spotlight



If I were to describe what it's like to parent a child with special needs to someone unfamiliar with the experience, I would say this: it's not the worst thing in the world—but it is a profoundly challenging and deeply meaningful journey. Parenting a child with unique needs means loving someone who often experiences the world differently and may not always be understood by others. It also means navigating environments—schools, churches, public spaces—where their differences might not be fully welcomed or supported.

This journey can be isolating, not because these children lack value or ability, but because the systems around them often aren't designed with their needs in mind. And when families feel excluded or judged, it affects not only their participation in community life but also their spiritual well-being.

Children with special needs may react to situations in ways that appear unexpected to those who aren't familiar with their world. They may communicate differently, have sensory sensitivities, or require additional support in social settings. But make no mistake—these children are incredibly capable, insightful, and full of purpose. Time and time again, they reveal the character of Christ in ways that are humbling and inspiring.

That's why love, acceptance, and intentional support are essential—not only because the path can be hard, but because every family deserves to be surrounded by a loving, supportive community of faith.

You may wonder: Why do we need a separate ministry for children with special needs? Why not just include them in what we already do?

Here are a few powerful reasons:

90% of U.S. churches do not currently offer a special needs ministry.

90% of marriages involving a child with special needs end in divorce by the time the child turns 18.

The special needs community makes up around 20% of the population. An estimated 80–90% of individuals with special needs do not attend church. The main reasons? A lack of accommodation, fear of rejection, and past negative experiences. This is more than a gap, it is an opportunity for the Church to lead with compassion, inclusion, and purpose. Jesus didn't shy away from people who were different or difficult to understand. He moved toward them with compassion. He called us to do the same—to go into all the world, not just the comfortable corners. Every child, whether they are neurotypical or have special needs, reflects the image of God. Their value is not based on their ability to conform to expectations but on their identity as beloved children of God. Our churches should reflect this truth in word and action.

A strong special needs ministry doesn't separate—it bridges. It creates space for families to worship together, with dignity and joy. It gives caregivers a moment to breathe. It allows every child to know they are seen, loved, and part of God's story.

So when you meet one of our Kingdom Builder kids, look beyond the momentary behaviors or challenges. Ask God to help you see the heart of that child—the gifts, the spirit, and the purpose God has placed within them. Whether you're raising a neurotypical child or one with special needs, you have something to give—and something to gain—by being part of this ministry. You might be surprised just how much these children can teach all of us about grace, perseverance, and the boundless love of our Heavenly Father. We are always looking for more helpers and hope to start some activities on Wednesday nights in the fall. If you are interested in helping with our special needs ministry, please reach out to the church office, Mark, or Felicia Jones.



**Next Lord's
Supper:
August 3rd**