

First News



Celebrate the Goodness of God

This Sunday, August 23 at 4:00 pm, we will have a service of celebration honoring the 20th anniversary of the Hispanic congregation of the First Baptist Church of Newport News. I hope you will consider attending this special service, even if your Spanish language skills are rudimentary or non-existent. Praise and thanksgiving transcend human linguistics, and we have so much to thank God for as a church family.

The continued perseverance and growth of our Hispanic congregation is a testimony to God's faithfulness and the tireless work of our Hispanic members and leaders. Though our Hispanic congregation has existed for twenty years, only two members have been part of the congregation for its entire existence: Juan and Monica Garcia. The transitory nature of Hispanic peoples in the US means that Juan and Monica have continuously and faithfully rebuilt



Back to School Breakfast for Teachers at Yates

Our Yates Action Team hosted its annual Back to School Breakfast for the teachers and staff at Yates Elementary on Thursday, August 13, which was the teachers' first

the congregation many times over the past twenty years. They have baptized new members into our church, developed new leaders, and started new ministries. When members moved to find new jobs, live closer to family, relocate to other countries, or to fulfill their military obligations, Juan, Monica, and the Hispanic congregation lay leaders worked to rebuild a renewed congregation. In the face of the transitory nature of Hispanic ministry, regular church issues, limited resources, and misunderstandings Hispanics face in the United States, our Hispanic congregation persists in loving the Hispanic peoples of our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Hispanic congregation is unique in so many ways, but its diversity stands out as one of its most exceptional qualities. Many Hispanic congregations in the US are made up of primarily one people group, but our congregation is a tapestry of the Hispanic world. Members of our Hispanic congregation hail from Ecuador, Bolivia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, México, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Perú, Columbia, and Venezuela. While non-Hispanics often consider all Hispanics the same, they come from very different cultures and carry unique perspectives. Building a church out of so many distinct cultural groups is a significant challenge that requires patient leadership and deep commitment from the people. It speaks so well of Pastor Juan, and of our Hispanic members that they embrace their diversity as a strength while

day back for the new school year. Thank you to Karon Garcia for helping organize this wonderful event. We are also so grateful to Sharon Hertzler, Melita Breeden, Ruth Sabo, and Brenda Head for serving this special breakfast and helping us kick off the new school year. Thank you to everyone who helps support this ministry. Principal Ramirez, the teachers, and staff were very appreciative. We are thankful for the opportunity to encourage and bless the Yates Elementary staff as they begin another school year!



Last Summer Youth Group Tonight

Attention all current youth and rising 6th graders...tonight, August 19th, is our very last summer youth group meeting! As we continue to learn about the life of Christ, get to know one another more, and prepare for the school year we are welcoming all of our rising 6th graders to join us during a time of fellowship and fun as we end this summer together! We are going to miss all of our recent graduates as they start to move

pressing forward in doing God's mission.

Our Hispanic members bless our congregation in so many ways. They give generously with their tithes and offerings. Hispanic children and youth fill our youth and children's ministries with energy, love, and joy. Our Hispanic members are congregational leaders in mission. Often, they are the first church members responding to significant needs including organizing a rapid, immediate response to the recent earthquake in Colombia (see pictures and the article below). Finally, they inspire us when we worship together as a whole congregation four times per year.

Most important, our Hispanic congregation reminds us that the Kingdom of God is open to everyone equally, without judgment, prejudice, or favoritism. When we connect with people who are different from us, serve alongside them, and listen to their stories, we grow more in loving like Jesus, and we experience a small foretaste of the wonder of heaven, where all who embrace God live together in the wonder of God's love, mercy, and grace.

I hope you will join us at 4:00 pm this Sunday to embrace a small piece of God's kingdom. Thank you to our Hispanic congregation for your faithfulness and perseverance over these twenty years. We are with you!

Pastor Randy

into college life but are also excited to help prepare our next graduating class into a season of growth, challenges, and next step conversations. Yay, Class of 2027! We will be meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 in the youth room upstairs. We also want to thank all of our wonderful families and students for coming this summer. We have had so much fun together. Thank you all for such a great summer! Come and bring your potatoes as it is National Potato Day on Wednesday and we look forward to seeing you all there!



Back to School Celebration

Join us as we kick off the start of the new school year and Wednesday night activities September 2nd from 5 to 7:30pm. Our Men's Bible Study group will be smoking and grilling some delicious barbecue. There will also be inflatables, bubbles, and games, including a kickball game for all ages! Come out and enjoy the fun!



This Past Week: Helping Colombia in a Time of Need

This past week, the Hispanic congregation had the opportunity to show God's love and compassion by helping families in Colombia



Shine The Light Update

We have reached more than 11% of our goal! Donations are still coming in to help us cover the costs of necessary upgrades for the lighting system in our sanctuary and shine the light of Jesus out in our community. Please keep prayerfully considering what you can give so that we can all "Shine The Light" of Jesus inside and outside.

The components for this project have come in and installation will begin on September 29th with a projected completion date of October 9th. Details about potential impacts to Sunday worship services on October 4th will come as we get closer to the start date.

who were affected by the recent earthquake.

Martha and Leonardo, who lead the Mission Ministry in our Hispanic congregation and are originally from Colombia, coordinated the shipment of 37 boxes of much needed supplies, which were able to be sent to Colombia at no cost.

We are incredibly thankful to all the families and churches who generously donated toiletries, food, clothing, and other essential items. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of people who are facing a very difficult time.

We continue to pray and ask God to bring healing and comfort to those who lost loved ones, strength to those who are hurting, and restoration and provision for those who have lost their homes.

What a beautiful reminder that the church can be the hands and feet of Jesus, serving others in times of need.



Tutoring Sessions at FBCNN

"Spark Sessions" is tutoring for elementary school kids that was started by Natalia Garcia and one of her friends. This group currently meets periodically throughout the summer and will meet on Tuesdays at 6pm in Room 100 throughout the school year. If you know of someone who this might benefit, you can register by scanning the QR code above or [clicking here](https://forms.gle/uZquhPLrLbJbbSd58A).

Additional News from FBCNN

Upcoming Events

August 23 - 20th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service for our Hispanic congregation at 4pm (see article above for more information)

August 24 - Newport News Public Schools and several other local

Support the Mission Through Your RMD Contributions

As you plan your financial giving this year, we invite you to consider directing your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account to support the ministries of First Baptist Church.

school systems will return to school. Please be in prayer for the teachers, students, and staff at our local schools as they begin a new school year.

August 30 - Promotion Sunday; Kindergartners will start attending Children's Sunday Bible Study and K-motion on Wednesdays, and Sixth Graders will start attending Youth Sunday Bible Study and Youth Worship on Wednesdays

September 2 - Wednesday Night Activities Resume (see article above for more information)

If you are age 73 or older and have a traditional IRA, you are required to withdraw a minimum amount each year from your RMD. By making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to the church, you can fulfill your RMD requirement while reducing your taxable income. It is a meaningful and tax-efficient way to support the church's mission.

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

Donate

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, August 23 at 8:30 and 11am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

The Sunday worship services are streamed directly to our [website](#) and can be accessed by clicking on **Upcoming Live Stream** tab located on the home page. If you miss a service, you can click on **Sermon Library** in the **Resources** tab to select the service you missed. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent on top.)

The following is a list of weekly events. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnn youth.

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
- 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Bible Study

12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal

6:30 p.m. K-Motion & Youth

6:30 p.m. Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Click on the button below to watch the 8:30am and 11am worship service from August 16th.

August 16

Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, rshepley@fbcnn.org

Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics, jgarcia@fbcnn.org

Lesley Spitzer, Associate Pastor Worship and Creative Arts, lsplitzer@fbcnn.org

Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator, monica@fbcnn.org

Sharon Hertzler, Director of Children and Preschool Ministry, shertzler@fbcnn.org

John Irving, Director of Choral Ministry, jirving@fbcnn.org

Clara Prillaman, Ministerial Intern, cprillaman@fbcnn.org

Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, nikki@fbcnn.org

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, preschool@fbcnn.org

Church Office: 757-930-0911



First Baptist Church Newport News | fbcnn.org
12716 Warwick Boulevard | Newport News, VA 23606 US