

First News



Let There Be Lights!!!

We made it! It was a little over two years ago that the lights in our sanctuary went down for the weekend. We found ourselves worshipping like the saints of old as we managed a morning of worship amid the darkness, broken up by a few temporary lights.

Even before that time, our sanctuary technology team, A-Team, Stewardship Committee, and staff had been planning for necessary replacements and upgrades. This week, these plans and preparations have emerged into reality with the start of the complete renovation of our sanctuary lighting systems. From now until September 30, the sanctuary will be a work zone as workers prepare, install, and upgrade the lighting. Please stay out of the sanctuary during these two



Grands with Grands at Yates Elementary School

Our Yates Action Team hosted its 5th annual "Grands with Grands" event at Yates Elementary School on Friday, September 11th. More than 180 students and their grandparents came together to enjoy a special breakfast in celebration of Grandparents Day. Thank you to Karon Garcia, Georgia Mann, and Ruth Sabo for baking the delicious Pillsbury Grands cinnamon rolls, and to Brenda Head for helping serve our guests. Our team also graciously provided coffee, milk, and water for everyone to enjoy. Yates Principal Ramirez and all of the families in attendance were very appreciative of the event. It was a great success and wonderful to see so

weeks. We do not want anyone inadvertently injured during the lighting renovation.

At this time, we are planning on worshipping in the sanctuary on September 20 and 27; however, we have contingency plans in place if we have to worship elsewhere due to the project progress. Please watch your email, church social media accounts, and building signage for any Sunday morning updates.

As we celebrate these necessary lighting updates, it is a good time for us to remember our *Shine the Light* campaign. *Shine the Light* began in March as a way for us to replace the funds we are using to install our new sanctuary lighting. We set an ambitious number for this one-year campaign: \$250,000. This number includes the full cost of the lighting renovation, extra funds for unexpected cost overruns, and \$25,000 for our commitment to our community. If you recall, we promised that 10% of all *Shine the Light* funds will be given to serve in our community. This is a reminder to our congregation that even when we take care of our building, we must have our eyes and hearts on our neighbors.

If you have already contributed to our *Shine the Light* campaign, THANK YOU! Your generosity has helped us start strong! If you have not had the opportunity to give, or if you would like to give another gift, please do so! You may send your gift to the church office, drop it in the offering box, give through our app or website, or use online bill pay through your bank. Please mark your gift for Shine the Light. Don't forget: we are accepting *Shine the Light* gifts through March of 2027.

As we celebrate the new lights in our sanctuary, let's remember to *Shine the Light* together!

Pastor Randy

many generations coming together to
create lasting memories!



Doing PORT Differently This Year

As many of you already know, PORT is a homeless shelter for people in the City of Newport News in need of a safe and warm place to stay overnight throughout the cold winter months. FBCNN has been helping host PORT for one week every winter for more than two decades. After much prayer and discussions with FBCNN staff and our Mission Team, we have decided that beginning this winter we will assist with PORT by providing dinner and breakfast five times throughout the season, but no longer be a shelter location. There are several reasons this decision was made and here are the two key ones.

First, space is becoming more of an issue each year. Due to the increase in the cost of living and other factors, the number of homeless people in our area continues to grow, and the percentage of females has been rising substantially over the past few



years. Our fellowship hall and parlor can no longer comfortably fit the number of male and female guests in each space respectively. Occasionally an overflow site at another church would be opened, but last year when we reached a record number of guests, the site was unavailable and everyone had to sleep in tight quarters without having adequate pathways to get up to go to the restroom during the night, or allow room for those with walkers to maneuver around the sleeping mats.

Second, security is a larger issue than before. Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the number and volatility of altercations throughout the week, and there is not always an adequate amount of security to handle all of it. This puts our staff, volunteers, and the PORT guests at risk. In addition, debris left around our building and playground makes it unsafe for our children and preschoolers to play outside.

In addition to providing dinners and breakfasts, we will do clothing drives for items such as coats, hats, gloves, socks, and underwear, and deliver them to the location where PORT is being held. If you have any questions, feel free to email Nikki at nikki@fbcnn.org. Thank you for your continued support and taking care of our neighbors in 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 every other Tuesday at 6:15pm 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](#).



Sound Team Needs You!

We are looking for a few people who are willing to run sound for our 8:30 or 11am service. No experience is needed and training is provided.

Additional News from FBCNN

Upcoming Events

September 14 - Sanctuary Lighting Installation begins (see article above for more information)

September 17 - Red Cross Blood Drive in Payne Fellowship Hall 1-6pm, [click here to sign up to donate](#)

September 18 - PIBNN Youth Worship Night at 6pm, outside in front of the sanctuary; come by to enjoy an evening filled with praise and worship

September 20 - Library Open House; come out and check out the new location of our Church Library, located on the corner across from the preschool foyer (see article above for more information)

Widows' Luncheon
September 22 at Noon
Al Fresco (11710 Jefferson Avenue)

RSVP to Sue Swain [\(757\)595-1717](tel:(757)595-1717) or
Mary Ann Hutchinson [\(757\)876-1224](tel:(757)876-1224)

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.

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, September 20 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 September 13th.

September 13

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