



**American Red Cross  
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

**REMEMBER:**  
**MONDAY, January 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 2:00 — 6:00 pm  
 Our Church Activity Center  
*Give the gift of life*



**A Prayer for the New Year . . .**

*Father, as we face another new year, help us resolve to pray continually, live faithfully, and love deeply. Whatever comes, we know that Your grace is sufficient and Your love is steadfast. You have a plan and a purpose for each one of us, and no less for First Baptist Church of Oakville. Thank You for all Your blessings. We praise You for Your amazing grace. Help us to serve effectively for Your glory in the New Year. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



**JOHN'S JOTS**

*Our Christmas celebration* was truly a blessing again this year. *Christmas Is Calling* was the theme of our 2020 Advent observance. And with everything that has happened in 2020, our world needs to be called to a JOY that overcomes sadness, a HOPE that transcends despair, and a LOVE that overwhelms hate. In addition, our Christmas Eve service was a very meaningful way to pause and celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, for the first time ever, we were able to broadcast the Christmas Eve service online—more people saw that service than ever before. I pray your own Christmas celebration was joyous and blessed.

Please continue to pray for the ministry of First Baptist Church to grow and reach more people with the message of salvation. And I pray that you will continue giving as faithfully to support that ministry as you have in 2020. I am excited for the prospects of next year once the threat of Covid-19 is finally laid to rest. I praise the Lord for your faithful giving throughout this year, and I **THANK YOU** for your generous giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

*A Special Business Meeting* is scheduled for Sunday evening, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Along with the new budget that was mailed to you, I included a *Proposal for Pastoral Succession*, in which I announced my intention to retire by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. My hope is that we will discern God's leadership and draft a plan in that meeting to create a Pastor Search Committee, and set a path to guide us through 2021 and the search for a new pastor for FBCO. Please plan to participate in that very important discussion on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, the New Year gives us an a time to reflect on this past year, with its blessings and its challenges, its joys and its sorrows. I am grateful for your prayers, your encouragement, and your support through this pandemic and through my personal struggles. This new year will be marked by major changes in our Church, in our ministry and in our world. By God's grace, we have survived the struggles and challenges of 2020. And with God's help, we will embrace and celebrate the changes that are ahead. Thank you again for being God's people at First Baptist Church of Oakville, and letting me serve God with you.

*Pastor John*

*Sunday morning, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, our worship* will include the Lord's Supper. That observance coincides with *Epiphany*, (twelve nights after Christmas) marking the arrival of the Magi who brought gifts to the newborn Christ child. Many Christians around the world wait until Epiphany to exchange gifts. Our observance of Communion reminds us, as Paul said to the Church at Corinth, *Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.*

*We have a wonderful Church family*, and your spirit of giving is evident this year. You have proven faithful in giving to meet needs several times. Jim Boxx reports that our budget giving has exceeded our budget needs again this year, and we have received for *Lottie Moon* \$2195 to date.

*Recently, I mailed our 2021 budget* to you. Please call Nancy in the Church office if you did not receive a copy. The Budget expresses the ministry vision of our Church in the language of \$\$\$.

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

**January Calendar**

Happy New Year.....	1
Church Council Meeting...(3:30 pm)....	3
Deacon's Meeting.....(5:00 pm).....	3
W.M.U. Meeting.....	9
Special Business Meeting..(6:00 pm)..	10
Building and Grounds Meeting.....	12
Red Cross Blood Drive.....	18

Live stream on our Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBCO/#>  
 FBCO YouTube Channel  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm5fCxZ6gPI4gE-lls1RDvA>  
 Citylink live stream and archive  
<http://www.citylinktv.com/channel/baptist-church-of-oakville/>



**January Birthdays**

Zach Vandiver.....	1
Brenden Southards Jr.....	6
Jean Parshall.....	8
George Crafton.....	10
Mary Fitzreider, Dewayne Robbins.....	11
Genevieve Southards.....	12
Brayden Boxx, Corey Williamson.....	15
Tim O'Shea.....	17
Cliff Caldwell.....	21
Judy White.....	27
Brenden Southards.....	29

*God Bless You  
on Your Birthday!*

## GWEN'S Gallery

### *Two Reasons to Run* by Colleen Coble

In *Two Reasons to Run*, Jane Hardy is the police chief in Pelican Harbor, a small town on the Alabama coast. She's finally starting to settle into life as the parent of a teenager, after recently being reunited with Will—the 15-year-old son she thought had died during childbirth.

Documentary filmmaker Reid Dixon is Will's father. Once "married" to Jane by the cult both of their families were part of, they'd lost touch after escaping from the group. Until recently. Right now, their relationship is strained, at best Jane is angry and humiliated that Reid didn't tell her about Will sooner—and that she'd started to develop renewed feelings for him before the truth came to light.

Shortly after contacting Reid, Pelican Harbor resident Keith McDonald disappears from the huge oil platform he works on in Mobile Bay known as "Zeus." His e-mail has informed the documentarian of an alarming conversation Keith overheard concerning a plot to sabotage the platform. After getting clearance, Dixon starts working on a new series that will explore Zeus's day-to-day operations and share with the public all the safety improvements that the oil company says make another Deepwater Horizon disaster impossible.

Could it be that solving this mystery, protecting the Alabama coast from an oily apocalypse, and ensuring their son's safety is just the kind of common ground this quirky couple needs to put them back together?

### *Airborne* by DiAnn Mills

FBI Special Agent Heather Lawrence is airborne, on her way to a well-deserved vacation during which she plans to sort out the shambles of her life. But shortly into the flight, she's awakened by screams and thrown into the role of caretaker as passengers around her fall victim to an unknown pathogen.

Heather unwillingly suspects her estranged husband—Dr. Chad Lawrence, and international expert on viruses. Quarantined with other survivors on Adam's Island off the coast of New York, she teams up with Chad's friend, Dr. Jordan Radcom of the Center for Disease Control, to try to smoke out those involved. He soon discovers her secrets—Chad left her, demanding a divorce, and she's pregnant.

Trying to set aside feelings of guilt that she could be the motive for this attack, Heather focuses on gathering intel on a host of potential assassins—Braden Taversty, who tried to hijack the plane when the emergency landing was ordered; disgruntled Parker and Sonya Karey, who point suspicion at Chad; and even Thomas Powell, the too-good-to-be-true software mogul who's offered to fund research for a cure. But time is against them? As the death count continues to rise, will the killer—and an antidote—be found?



## John's Notes



Greetings Everyone,

2020 has been quite a year. What started out with such promise and possibility soon turned into full-time fighting a pandemic like the world had not been seen in 100 yrs. It changed how we look (masks), how we work, how we interact with others, how we dine, how we celebrate, family events and even how we worship.

Through it all, I believe many have realized the importance of family and have strengthened those bonds, along with a realization that God and our dependence on Him needs to be put at the top of our priorities. 20/20 has long been how we are evaluated our eyesight in the medical world and we are given a lens to correct our eyesight if we are lacking. Perhaps 2020 is the year that God used for the world's eyesight and priorities to be corrected and focus on Him rather than selfish pursuits. Isaiah 43:18-19 states: ***See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.***

Dallas Jenkins, the son of *Left Behind* series co-author Jerry Jenkins, uses these verses from Isaiah to base his tv series entitled *The Chosen*, the first-ever-multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus, and it was created outside of the Hollywood system. *The Chosen* allows people to see Jesus through the eyes of those that knew him. It is the #1 highest crowd-funded project of all-time at \$10 million from over 19,000 people. It has been translated into 50 languages and counting. It is completely free to watch on The Chosen App that connects directly to streaming devices with no fee or subscription necessary and generates income for future seasons when viewers choose to "pay it forward" after viewing, to allow others to watch for free. It is truly an amazing series and it takes God's gift to the world, Jesus, and lifts Him up, as prophesied throughout the Old Testament. God is doing a new thing indeed!

That is true at FBCO also. Through the faithful giving of our members and donations given in memory of cherished members, along with special funds donated for A/V and music upgrades, we have transformed the technology area of our church. A new state of the art projector enhances our in person services. 3 new rotating cameras connect to a control box that allows a professional production of live streaming video to those watching on Facebook Live, YouTube Live and our Church website. Relocating our sound control into the sanctuary with a new 48 channel Behringer WING digital board will allow a better mix for those in the sanctuary and those watching and listening online. We also now have a new IMAC computer that enhances the versatility and capabilities of Powerpoint and videos shown in the services. GOD IS DOING A NEW THING! These are very exciting times for FBCO as we attempt to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the World. A true heartfelt thanks to all that have contributed and have allowed for these many new improvements, and thanks to God for His faithfulness in sustaining all of us. May 2021 be all that God envisions for us.

May God Continue to Bless Abundantly and I LOVE YOU ALL,

*John Gorse*

## Kidz Kollege



**Happy New Year to all!!**

**We are praying that Kidz Kollege can resume in 2021!!**

*Ed & Pauline Maness*

## *Kidz Praise . . .*

Happy New Year!

Kids' Praise will be continuing to work on Bible skills. We will be memorizing key passage locations like the creation and the Ten Commandments.

We will also be learning new verses and the divisions of the Old Testament.

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

*Cyndi Harmon*

## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

to Jim Boxx, John Gorse, Tony Pezzo, Ronda & Steve Brown, Francis Lavall, and Jim Hessel for all the work to upgrade our audio and video equipment. Together, those upgrades provide the tools for a better quality broadcast of our Worship services, and a more effective ministry to scores of people who have been watching. Take a moment to say thank you when you see these folks. Their collective expertise is a valuable resource to our church and a blessing from God for our ministry.