

Walking Through an Open Door!



Since 1997, there has been a sewer assessment fee that has been accruing interest on both parcels that FBC owns. These fees were not required if we were not hooked up to the city sewer. However, only existing buildings, at the time it was put in, were exempt from hooking into the sewer, so we chose not to pay that fee. We paid the fee for the smaller parcel when we built the Outreach Building, but we left the bigger parcel alone, which continued to accrue interest. Presently, the fee stands just shy of \$80,000. Yes,

that is a lot, but it is a big piece of land. Additionally, we did not act on it early in the game and it has accrued quite a bit of interest. The city has offered to lower that fee to \$60,000 if we were to pay it in one lump sum by September 2020. We saw this as an open door. We communicated to our church last year that we were making it a priority to pay this off. Our goal was to budget money to take care of it over the course of five years or so. This past year we had budgeted \$17,000 to go towards paying this down, and were committed to do so in future budgets until it was paid. However, the city's offer is generous and our leadership are unanimously in favor of taking care of this sooner rather than later. At our last business meeting we voted to pay this assessment fee by the end of January 2020. There are several reasons why we feel we need to pay this fee off and do it quickly:

- There is no other place on our property to build except for on the bigger parcel. Building is inevitable, so it only makes sense to take care of this now then for it to continue to accrue interest.
- With a strong Harvest Ingathering, we will have the money to pay it off without hurting the ministry of FBC.
- The city has made a generous offer in terms of what we should owe. They lowered the fee by nearly \$20,000. We believe taking care of this quickly is wise.
- This is truly the last "debt" that we owe. We will have no other obligation to the city. We believe paying this is the right thing to do at this point.

So on November 24th, we will be collecting the Harvest Ingathering Offering to go toward this last financial obligation we have hanging over our heads. Be praying about how much you can give toward this project.

[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

Throughout September and October, Jesus has called each of us to a deeper love for those who do not know him. This call is not new. Jesus gives to all of his disciples. It is a call to follow him in giving up our lives in order that others may experience the kingdom of God. This is a command to love others in the name of Jesus so that they too may come to love Jesus.

That has been the essence our Reach series. This series culminated in our missions conference, which was a powerful reminder of the gospel-ministry going on around the world. I thought I would share with you some of my thoughts from the conference, especially because I thought there was so much to learn from ministry around the world and apply it here to our lives in Lowell.



First, love requires that we meet people's needs. A couple of the missionaries at the conference are specifically involved in meeting the physical needs of the sick and the poor. Of course, this is a theme we see throughout Scripture in God's people. This reflects the character of God. Jesus healed the sick, fed the poor, gave sight to the blind, and cast out demons. Through those actions, he gave people a taste of the kingdom of God. When we meet the physical needs of others, we prove our love for them. Then, they will trust us enough to listen to our good news.

Second, the fire of the good news is best shared at the hearth of hospitality. Many of the missionaries regularly show non-Christians hospitality. Sharing a meal together gave others the chance to taste gospel-motivated generosity. Honest conversation gave others the chance to see gospel-centered relationships. This too reflects the ministry of Jesus, who so often ministered in homes, around a meal, through everyday conversation. We often talk about giving to missions. What if we gave our homes for God's mission, not by selling them but by using them to show non-Christians hospitality?

Third, evangelism, especially in our culture, takes time. One missionary explained that in the Czech Republic it typically required at least two years of in-depth conversation for someone to believe in Christ, if they believed at all. This is important for us to hear for two reasons. First, we often want things to happen, and happen now. Second, like Czech culture, our culture is also secular and atheistic. Although Czech culture is much more secular and atheistic (and for many different reasons), our culture is increasing distancing itself from God and certainly from institutional religion. Christianity is no longer a shared cultural reality. It will take time and dozens of conversations to share Jesus with others. Therefore, we must be patient and persistent in our evangelism.

So how can we reach non-Christians in Lowell? The same way it's done around the world: by caring for other people's physical needs, by showing generous and loving hospitality, and by devoting our time to meaningful conversation.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

November is a great time of year to pause and remember all that we have and to recognize that it all comes from God. This month, at the Faith @ Home Center we have several tools for you to use at home, to help your kids understand gratitude.

We have three "recipe cards" with activities to do together, to help remind your family of all that we have to be thankful for.

There is also a Family Take Away with a Bible passage to read each week of November. On the back side of the Family Take Away, you will find an additional family activity for your family to use, to bless a child.

Our church has participated in Operation Christmas Child for many years, and has been able to be a blessing to many children. Operation Christmas Child, allows a family to fill a shoebox with items that a child would enjoy or need. I have listed some ideas here on this page. Once you have filled your shoebox with special items, bring it here to church during the collection times along with \$9 to help pay for shipping.

The box will be sent overseas to a child in need. The child will hear the good news of the gospel and receive their shoebox. What a great opportunity to share with others not only about the gospel, but also to help brighten a child's day with some small gifts.

Some ideas of items to put in the shoebox:

(these boxes will be going to children in underprivileged areas of the world - keep that in mind as you pack your box)

Crayons, Coloring books, Flip-Flops, T-shirts, Ball, bar of soap (no liquids), bracelet, bandana, pencils and pens, pencil sharpener, travel size games, hacky sack, hat, small stuffed animal, small craft items, socks, plastic cup (nothing made of glass), backpack, jump rope, socks, finger puppets, washcloth, hair ties, hair brush or comb



FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church,

I am so grateful for all of the students who are a part of FBC's Student Ministry. They are such a blessing and a joy to be around. During the month of October, we learned about the 6th and 8th commandments: Do not murder, and Do not steal (or as some students paraphrased, "No stabby stabby" and "No take-y take-y." Hey, if they remember it, I'm good with it...). But in addition to learning about the 10 Commandments, we also had lots of fun. I've included some pictures from our small group competition game, in which groups competed over who could form group yoga poses the fastest.

I want to remind parents that during the month of November we plan to teach and discuss sexuality from a Christian perspective. This will be the focus (via the seventh commandment) in youth group on Monday nights. We will also be discussing this topic with the high schoolers during Life Group time. I especially want to remind parents that I will be hosting a discussion during the Life Group hour on this topic for any parents of our middle schoolers or high schoolers. We will meet in Room 15 every Sunday during November.



MISSIONARY CORNER



Ron and Chris Self have served in Buenos Aires Argentina since 1980. This is a recent picture of their family showing Andrew and his wife, Romina who are pastoring a church in Buenos Aires, their daughter Susan who lives in Florida and is active in Keystone Bible Church in Odessa and Mark and Anahi and their daughter Sophia who are serving the Lord in Buenos Aires. On November 2-3, their church in Don Torcuato will celebrate its 36th anniversary as a church with a banquet on Saturday night and special services on Sunday. They expect many visitors to come and ask for prayer for the salvation of their unsaved guests.

On November 4 they plan to host a tour of Israel in

Spanish for their people and pastors. God has put together a group of 42 from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Mexico, Spain, and 10 Spanish-speakers from the United States. Seventeen of the group are Spanish-speaking pastors, three are pastors wives and one is a national missionary lady. "Knowing how a trip of this kind helps any believer to better understand the Word of God, we believe that this tour will be of immense value for these pastors, and for their congregations, for many years to come." Please pray for all of them as they tour Israel from November 4 through November 15.

Pastor Jon's Trip to Thailand



I would like to talk about a bit about my time in Thailand. I had the blessing of being Tim and Laura Compton's guest for the week. I got to see first hand how they being Christ's witnesses to the Thai people. Over the last several months, they have been transitioning from working through the Clay Center primarily utilizing sports to build relationships with the Thai people, to ministering to a variety of people in Thailand in several ways. Tim and Laura have established relationships with several college students and have been discipling

those who are believers. They have opened up their hearts and home to several young ladies who are over often and our bringing their friends who are not yet believers. Tim also has an outreach through coaching basketball at the Christian School, of which many Thai students attend, though they are not followers of Jesus. The Thai people are almost exclusively Buddhist. The pictures above are of a Buddhist wat (temple) in Chaing Rai and a view of the countryside from inside that temple. Buddhism is a part of the Thai identity, so reaching the Thai people requires relationships and time. Frankly, Tim and Laura are the right people on the field. They have a huge heart for the Thai people and build relationships naturally. Pray for them as they continue to build relationships with the Thai people and walk through open doors that the Lord gives them. Pray that they may grasp the language better and better. Tim is fairly fluent, but has the goal of being fluent enough to confidently teach the Scriptures in the Thai language by the end of their upcoming furlough.

Building and Grounds

Hello from Building and Grounds!



It's that time of year when we enjoy an outdoor and indoor season all at the same time. Welcome to fall! With the fluctuating temperatures also comes a multitude of clothing left behind. Please make sure to check the lost and found in both buildings. Items only stay one month before being donated. If you are missing a Bible please consult the coat rack between the bathrooms.



With the cooler weather more time seems to be spent inside our buildings enjoying great programs and good fellowship. When you are finished using an area please take a moment to move tables and chairs to their original configuration and pick up any trash that might have been left behind. This makes it nicer for the next group to enjoy our facilities, as well as frees up a little more time for me to complete building maintenance.

If you enjoy accomplishing small woodworking projects I have a great opportunity for you. Intrigued? That's wonderful! Come see me and I'll fill you in on the details. I promise you that it's not anything difficult, it just simply fills a need that we currently have. It would even be something to accomplish with a child, grandchild, or just someone you need to be intentional with.

Thank you for your partnership in providing wonderful facilities and a great environment to worship and glorify God.

Sincerely,

Russ Race – Building and Grounds



November Memory Verse

16 The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. **17** The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. **18** Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, **19** that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 33:16-19(ESV)

November Reading Plan

Week 1

Starting on Nov. 4

Day 1: Psalm 8
Day 2: Psalm 19
Day 3: Psalm 33
Day 4: Psalm 104
Day 5: Psalm 135

Week 2

Starting on Nov. 11

Day 1: Psalm 16
Day 2: Psalm 62
Day 3: Psalm 63
Day 4: Psalm 91
Day 5: Psalm 121

Week 3

Starting on Nov. 18

Day 1: Psalm 33
Day 2: Psalm 66
Day 3: Psalm 106
Day 4: Psalm 111
Day 5: Psalm 138

Week 4

Starting on Nov. 25

Day 1: Luke 1
Day 2: Luke 2
Day 3: Luke 3
Day 4: Luke 4
Day 5: Luke 5

Birthdays and Anniversaries November 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Birthdays	
Abbot Kastanek	11/01	Willow Crammer	11/12	Pastor Jon Pickens	11/26
Wendy Pham	11/01	Dave Deans	11/13	Gabriel Thomas	11/26
Rose Postema (MK)	11/01	Aiden Kastanek	11/13	Becca Kalee	11/27
Micah Farmer (MK)	11/02	Ashley Neeley	11/14	Steve Nauta	11/28
James Vandermeulen	11/02	Spencer May	11/16	J.J. Swain	11/28
Levi Kooistra	11/03	Kile Mitchell	11/16	*Tim Compton	11/29
Alex Pasquale	11/03	Geri Conner Wells	11/17	Anniversaries	
Sheila Lemmen	11/04	Carrie Thomas	11/17		
JoAnne Schreur	11/04	Cheryl Haines	11/18		
Becky Wieland	11/04	*Rev. Eric Hassack	11/18		
Bev Taylor	11/05	Kitty Johnson	11/19		
Judie Green	11/06	Monica Pasquale	11/19		
John Sinning	11/06	Roger Onan	11/22		
Terry Tarchala	11/06	Naomi Benjamin	11/23		
Missy Koistra	11/10	Dale Reed	11/23		
Alayna Sullivan	11/10	Pam Kinnucan	11/24		
Amy Bolkcom	11/11	Dick Beach	11/25	* Missionary	

FBC Calendar: November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					10:00am Ladies Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am: Fall Festival
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am: Morning Service 3:00pm: Domino Promise Open House 4:00pm: Christmas Musical Choir Practice	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 5:30pm Family Matters Team 7:00pm Children's Ministry Team		7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Rake-N-Run
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am: Morning Service 2:00pm: Bridal Shower for Kennedy Mitchell 2:30pm: Nursing Home Ministry 4:00pm: Christmas Musical Choir Practice	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study 6 pm Tae Kwon Do	9:00am: Men's Bible Study 6:15 pm Awana	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am MOPS 7:00pm: Admin. Deacon Meeting 7:00pm: Mercy Deacon Meeting	10:00am Ladies Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball 10:30 am Domino Promise Sewing
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am: Morning Service 4:00pm: Christmas Musical Choir Practice	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 9:30am: Ladies' Bible Study 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	6:15 pm Awana	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am Prime Time 6:30pm: Coffee Break		7:00am: Basketball 9:00am: Evangelism Workshop
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am: Morning Service 4:00pm: Christmas Musical Choir Practice	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am Basketball 6pm Tae Kwon Do 6:30pm: Elder Bd Mtg.	9:00am: Men's Bible Study 6:15 pm Awana	Happy Thanksgiving		7:00am: Basketball