


# June



## The Discovery

**JUNE 2022**



### Contemporary Worship & Production

God's Glory is our highest goal in worship ministry. Contemporary worship and production teams tie into the church's mission to connect people with Jesus Christ and the community of faith in several vital ways, some obvious and some less so. In the obvious sense, Sunday mornings are the most common ways we connect as a church family. All of the musicians, singers, and techs work hard to prepare services that are beautiful, fun, engaging, and worshipful. From song selection to lighting to facilitating our live stream, our team strives create an environment where we can all lay our burdens down, gather as brothers and sisters, and praise God for His grace and goodness.

As the Pastor over this area, I am proud to say that we have some amazing people serving. One of the less obvious ways that this ministry ties into our church's vision is to be community within the larger community of the church. Our volunteers find a fun caring group of people to share their lives with — people who are passionate and fun. Our team is supportive and encouraging with each other as we all come from different levels of experience, but all have

one heart to see Christ magnified! You couldn't ask for better. I'll try not to gush but it's true! I think the worship ministry is a great place for folks with a creative bent to make friends and use their gifts in the service of our Savior. Most importantly, when we come together, whether it is for rehearsals or Sunday service, we aim the gratitude in our hearts and the efforts of our hands toward the praise and glory of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings. Come explore faith and creativity with us. Reach out and find community!

Dan Gaudinier,  
Minister of Contemporary Worship

### Financial Snapshot



As of April 30, 2022, tithes, offerings, and other income for the year totaled \$944,559 towards our 2022 budget of \$3,000,005. Our expenses through the end of April totaled \$930,045 leaving a balance of \$57,442 of revenue over income.

Please visit us at [DiscoverFBC.org/give](https://DiscoverFBC.org/give) to learn about the various ways to financially support the on-going ministries and mission activities of the church.



## Dear Church,

One of the great figures in biblical history, Solomon, says it best when he remarks, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18). While these words from the wise king are roughly three thousand years old, they are as true today as they were at their origin. When a group of people are united around a common goal, then incredible things can happen. Sharing a collective vision allows a group of people to focus their energy and resources around achieving their mission.

When I arrived at the First Baptist Church of Augusta in 2017, one of the first things I realized is that we lacked a shared vision. Don’t get me wrong, our church was doing incredible things in so many different areas. But one key element missing from our church was a guiding vision for all our ministry initiatives. If we were going to be the best church that we could possibly be, then I knew that we had to spend significant time and energy working to identify the one thing that would guide our work as a church for the future.

After months of prayer, reflection, and learning from our people, in August of 2019 we made our new vision statement public.

**“Our vision is to connect people to Jesus Christ and this community of faith.”**

While I say that it is new, I believe that, in fact, we were simply returning to the best of our tradition and finding our roots once again in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Some of you are thinking this statement seems so simple. Of course, this is what a church should be doing in the world! However, by making this statement explicit as the guiding principle of our church, then we are able to ask a simple question as we consider how and why our church does the work that it is called to do. This one sentence gives us the ability to filter and focus our energy. If something doesn’t connect people to Jesus Christ and our community of faith, we should not invest our time and energy. If it does, then we dig in with all our hearts!

What happened next was nothing short of incredible. We have seen an influx of guests in our church that walk away each week knowing that we want to see them connect with us and with Jesus. I watched as significant numbers of people took their next step in faith and become more fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that it is in part because we agree on what we are called to do in the city of Augusta and beyond.

In this edition of the Discovery, I want to remind you of our vision and also let you hear from each of our staff members about how each of their ministry areas is made stronger by “connecting people to Jesus Christ and this community of faith.”

*Grace and Peace,*  
Will Dyer, Senior Pastor



## Ministry to Preschoolers & Children

Ministry to Preschoolers and Children hits our vision at the uttermost core as these are formative years during which the basis for a life with Christ is established. These ministry opportunities happen through weekly programming, events and developing relationships with children and their families. These ministries do not happen with simply one or two individuals but through a whole host of leaders from within our church.

One addition over the past few years that has specifically targeted the church’s mission is the addition of children’s worship programming. Children’s worship provides a space for children to find community with one another as they learn about faith and experience God together. This time is also an intentional opportunity to provide an engaging activity for children while their parents are attending worship allowing them to fully engage in the worship hour. The Orange curriculum recently adopted by the Preschool, Children’s and Weekday Programs is an innovative and engaging curriculum which carries the same Biblical truths through each ministry area, providing additional resources for parents during the week.

In addition to nurturing and teaching children in their faith, we are also making an intentional effort to minister to parents and families. Through targeted invitation, we are making a strong effort to invite our FBC Weekday families to be a part of the larger FBC family. As a significant percentage of those families do not have a local church family, we hope that FBC can be a place they might call home. As I shift into my new role with the specific task of ministering to preschoolers and their families, I hope to continue looking for ways to connect our Weekday ministry to the larger mission of the church. I also look forward to ways we may continue to actively seek out ministry with young families by providing additional small group discipleship and fellowship connection opportunities for this group within our church and beyond.

Martha Kate Hall,  
Director of Weekday Education



## A Hope for Our Student Ministry

Given our current interim in Student ministry, I wanted to include some reflection about the youth ministry area—while helping understand how the model of Student ministry applies to many aspects of church life.

Candidly, one of the disappointments of our Student ministry in recent years has been the “all too soon” transition of student ministers. Ultimately, it is understood transition is going to happen. But shorter tenures have caused a lack of development of an over-arching philosophy of Student ministry that extends beyond the time of any one minister. In other words, in our current search process we have told candidates, “Come in and work with parents, students, and leaders to develop a philosophy that will carry us forward in times of transition.” This is much better than asking a candidate to “bring your philosophy of ministry and impose it onto our context.”

To live into the church’s vision, the Student ministry must first be an inviting and exciting place. We need laughter and joy to be present, so that youth will want to stick around. And the excitement becomes so obvious that our students want to invite their friends. I can hear many of you already leaning into the tension we face—you didn’t mention Jesus or the Bible...

Friends, if our Student ministry and, for that matter, the larger church—aren’t places filled with joy and enthusiasm that welcomes those outside the faith, then people simply won’t stay around for more.

Once you create a place where relationships can be developed, you then move on to helping youth understand the importance of their relationship with Christ. And particularly for students, you begin to give them the tools needed to face a world that is intensely against their faith. Within their first semester of college, kids will face the deconstructing of their faith (may happen before that). So are we giving them the tools necessary to reconstruct their faith in a way that declares Christ as their focus in life?

In this next season of Student ministry, I hope and pray we are living into the vision to connect students with Christ while giving them the ability to articulate an answer to the question, “Why Jesus?”

Jim Walls,  
Associate Pastor



## Senior Adult Ministry

As I look to the future and my new role as Minister to Senior Adults and Missions, I am excited to live into our mission statement. I am excited to be intentional with all that is planned so that our ministry together lives and thrives within our desire to “Connect people with Jesus Christ and our faith community.” Hebrews 10:24-25 says, “And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” I want our members and neighbors who are 55 years and older to know that their presence here at FBC Augusta and their growth in their relationship with Jesus, is our most important work. I look forward to beginning again our day trips to foster new friendships, our visits to our members who live in assisted living across the CSRA, starting new adventures with new ideas through our Advisory committee, and connecting with our entire family of faith intergenerationally through special events. I look forward to spending time with small groups and with each of you individually, building and strengthening our connection.

Another way we can strengthen our connection with Jesus is to serve our neighbors and to bring his love to our community with our own hearts, hands, and feet. Through serving we can grow in our own personal relationship with God and “provoke one another to love and good deeds...” We have continued through the pandemic to do good deeds through our Benevolence Ministry. Our Benevolence Co-Directors, Terrie Bennett and Lisa Jones, continued caring for our neighbors financially for 2 years, and we have reopened the Food Pantry in full force as of April 15th, 2022 serving and connecting with our neighbors in need. As I learn and meet all of our mission partners around the CSRA I look forward to the invitation to join God in the good work already being done. I am most excited to keep a listening ear and heart to where God needs us to make a new connection.

Melissa Willis,  
Minister to Senior Adults & Missions



## Music Ministry

This past year has given the Music ministry at First Baptist a fresh start. With the ability to be able to sing once again in worship, we've had a few new members join us to share their gifts for worship. We've also had some say goodbye and retire from the ministry to give way to others.

With COVID changing around our schedules, we tried a new meeting time for our children's music ministry on Sunday evenings. Our hope was that it would allow for some more time for kids to fellowship and make things easier on parents. Our goals did not quite get met, so we will resume our Wednesday evening choir schedule starting in the fall. I look forward to seeing more faces at the meals on Wednesdays before we all scatter to our different areas for growth.

Our youth choir has come a long way over the last year and participated in the Youth Choir Festival that was held here this past spring. We look forward to another this coming year as well. Later in the summer, the youth choir and other youth members will be participating in youth mission work in Huntsville, Alabama. We will be working with Lincoln Village and singing at local assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Our adult choir hosted our first Christmas at First since the beginning of COVID and we really had a lot of fun! We look forward to what 2022 has in store for us and how we can aid in worship throughout the rest of the year.

Music is a really powerful device that helps us move into a "sacred space" with God. Using our musical gifts (whether well-established or just beginning) improves our worship and improves our overall vision to connect others with Christ. I hope you will consider becoming part of the Music ministry in 2022!

Ryan Heritage, Minister of Music

## Sunday

MORNING SCHEDULE

- 9:00AM—Contemporary Worship
- 10:00AM—Bible Study
- 11:00AM—Traditional Worship



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH OF AUGUSTA

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