



A News Publication of Fairfax Baptist Church

fairfaxbaptistchurch.org

March 2022

“Shining
the
Light”



Pastor
Andy
Braams

It has been said that all good things must come to an end. Well, that may be true for “good things” but it is not true for “God things.” God is eternal, and so are the “things” He has purposed.

Of course, our understanding of those how those “things” fit together are very incomplete. Therefore, we see “things” ending, whereas God sees them as a pause or a break or some other idea – at least on the “things” He has purposed.

This edition of the newsletter is the last one that I will write. It is the last one Susan will prepare. By the time you read this newsletter, we will be at two weeks or less in our time of living in Fairfax. So, is this the end?

Well, it depends on whether you see our time in Fairfax as a “good thing” or a “God thing.” If it is merely “good” then when we walk out of the church for the final time and get in our car to drive to Jeff City, our service with you, our time with you, our relationship with you will have concluded. That is, the end will have indeed come.

(cont. on p. 2)

“Shining the Light” (cont.)

by Pastor Andy Braams

However, if you see our time in Fairfax as a “God thing” then who knows what might happen in the future. That is not to suggest that the Braams will be back to serve or live in Fairfax. But it does mean that our time together is simply a pause – perhaps for a season in this life, or perhaps the reunion will wait until we experience eternity together.

What are we to do in the meantime? Well, first, by “we”, I mean the Braams and Fairfax Baptist Church. Our paths are diverging, but again, that does not mean that they will not cross again at some point in the future.

So, what are we to do? Well, we are to be beacons of light. We are to shine the light. We have been able to do that together for nearly eleven years, and now we get to do it apart. You know what makes that great? A little light can shine in a dark place and be seen for many miles. If more light is added to that original light, then the light will shine brighter in that space, but it does not necessarily expand its overall reach.

But if the light is spread out, then when the impact of one light begins to grow dim in what is a distant point for that light, another light can pick up from that point and extend what could have been darkness to an even further point.

Think about a room where you live. You have one light for one room, but that light eventually is not bright enough to shine around a corner, down a hall, etc. So, you add another light in the next room, then another in the next room, and when all the lights are lit, if the lights are properly placed, then the light shines continuously throughout the house.

(cont. on p. 3)

“Shining the Light” (cont.)

by Pastor Andy Braams

Well, God brought our lights together in May 2011. Now, He is spacing those lights out to cover more territory. Sure, many other Christians are shining their light in between Fairfax and Jefferson City, but they don't have our connection. Our connection is unique, and I feel it is strong. Therefore, God is using that connection for His glory in a new way, in a new area, for now.

Over the past year, a common question that has been asked (and discussed, particularly on Sunday nights) has been What If? That question was meant to stir us to something better. I believe that question still has a great deal of relevance, but I believe the question that is on everyone's mind is now, What's next?

Susan will tell you that I say that phrase a lot. And, in some ways, what is next for the Braams is settled – a new path for me, and a new place to live for us. But much more is unsettled as we need to find a new home, a new church, new friends, etc.

Likewise, Fairfax Baptist Church has a series of questions as to “What's next?” – and that idea specifically includes the question of “Who's next?” as it relates to a pastor.

But if you recall last month's newsletter, I mentioned that what has been must continue to be – for all of us. Both the Braams and the people of Fairfax Baptist Church must continue to Exalt the Savior, to Equip the Saint, and to Evangelize the Sinner. To exalt is to have faith. To equip is to show love. To evangelize is to share hope. Those items are what is next. And those items are a huge part of What if...? What if we do those things? What if we don't?

(cont. on p. 4)

“Shining the Light” (cont.)

by Pastor Andy Braams

To exalt, equip, and evangelize has been a part of this church's DNA since the late 1990s at least (when the previous constitution and bylaws were established). My guess is that those aspects have been foundational for this church since it was founded in July of 1884. Yes, I helped make the ideas more memorable with the format that has been part of our mission since 2011, but those ideas were important for the church long before the Braams ever arrived in Fairfax.

So, to continue the legacy of sharing our faith, sharing His love, and sharing the hope of Jesus is paramount to understanding what is next. It is how the Braams and Fairfax Baptist will continue to shine the light in the months and years to come. And it is how we can all be Unsung Heroes. Remember, all it takes is for each of us to do a little extra to move from ordinary to extraordinary.

I close this last article with a couple of final thoughts. First, that exalting must be to exalt God. He is the Hero, not us. In a book I read recently, this idea was expressed by the acrostic EGO. We can Exalt God Only or we can Edge God Out. Those who want the glory will allow their own ego to edge God out. But those that want to glorify God by what we do will (learn to) Exalt God Only.

I want my EGO to be about exalting God. I want to let my light shine for God's glory. And I want to live by faith. So, until we meet again, let me encourage all of us, with my final words to live and lead by faith, represented here by an acrostic I recently created:

Faith Requires Action (Obedience)

Action Requires Intentionality (Not Just Good Intentions)

Intentionality Includes Teaching (Great Commission)

Teaching Brings Hope (through the Gospel)

Hope Increases Faith (Making more disciples leading others to begin this faith cycle)

Give: fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/give	Church Blog: fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/blog	E-Mail: fairfaxmobaptistchurch@gmail.com
	YouTube: Search Fairfax Baptist Fairfax MO	FB: facebook.com/fairfaxmobaptistchurch

OPPORTUNITIES

- If you would like to **give online** (securely), go to fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/give.
- Our **calendar of events** can be found on our website at fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/events.

“TO KNOW CHRIST...” (EXALT/EQUIP)



- Join us on **Sunday mornings** for **Sunday School (9:15 am)** and **Morning Worship Service (10:30 am)**. SS will be focused on **1 and 2 Thessalonians**.
- On **Sunday evenings (6:00 pm)**, we have been studying, *“Kingdom Heroes,”* as recorded by **Tony Evans**. It is not too late to join.
- The **Community Prayer Gathering** has seen a dip this winter, but we are still meeting on **Wednesday evenings**, at **6:00 pm**. For the month of **March**, the meetings will be in the **Baptist Church Fellowship Hall**, except on March 9, due to the First Quarter Business Meeting.



Our **First Quarter Business Meeting** will be **Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00 pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE)**.

Sunday, March 13, will be the last day for the Braams.

(cont. on p. 6)

OPPORTUNITIES (CONT.)

“...AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN” (EQUIP/EVANGELIZE)

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Our church **delivers Meals on Wheels in Fairfax on Tuesdays** and we are in **need of volunteers** to be added to the **rotation**. Delivery duties involve 1) **picking up the previous day’s empty coolers at City Hall just after 10:30 am**, 2) **picking up the food at the Tarkio Nutrition Center between 10:45 am and 11:00 am**, 3) **delivering the food in Fairfax and checking on each recipient**, then 4) **returning the empty coolers back to City Hall, which is usually around 11:45 am**. If you would be able to help, please **contact Jennifer Scarbrough** to be added to the rotation.



Who is it that God is asking you to pray for to help that person realize their need for a Savior or their need to resubmit their life to Him?

The Food Pantry does need additional supplies as the number of families seeking assistance is **increasing**. If you can provide any of the following items this (or any) month, it is **greatly appreciated**. The **RED CANVAS WAGON** is behind the Soundbooth.



MARCH

canned tomatoes, rotel tomatoes, sugar, toothpaste

NO CEREAL NEEDED

NO PASTA NEEDED

Give: fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/give	Church Blog: fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/blog	E-Mail: fairfaxmobaptistchurch@gmail.com
	YouTube: Search Fairfax Baptist Fairfax MO	FB: facebook.com/fairfaxmobaptistchurch

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES

- **9:15 am, Sunday School (All Adult Classes Meet in Sanctuary)**
- **10:30 am, Worship Service** (Sanctuary)
- **6:00 pm, Adult Bible Study** (Fellowship Hall)

REGULAR WEEKDAY SERVICES

- **Weds @ 5:30 pm, Community Youth Group** (7th-12th Grade, Fall/Winter/Spring, Lighthouse)
- **Weds @ 6:00 pm, Community Prayer Gathering** (@ Park in Spring/Summer/Fall; @ Churches in Winter)
- **Thus @ 3:00 pm, God Squad** (K-3rd Grade, Fall/Spring, Main Building)
- **Thus @ 5:30 pm, Community Root Group** (4th-6th Grade, Fall/Winter/Spring, Lighthouse)

UPCOMING EVENTS

For full details on upcoming events, please visit our website at: fairfaxbaptistchurch.org/events.

Weds in March:

- **6:00 pm, Community Prayer Gathering** (Baptist Church Fellowship Hall)

Sun, March 6:

- **NO Sunday Evening Bible Study**

Wed, March 9:

- **6:00 pm, First Quarter Business Meeting** (Sanctuary – **NOTE TIME CHANGE**)
- **NO Community Prayer Gathering**

Wed, March 30:

- **5:15 pm, Deacon Meeting** (Golden Circle Classroom)

Wed, April 6:

- **7:00 pm, Church Council** (Fellowship Hall)