

# ARCATA FIRST BAPTIST NEWSLETTER



## May, 2024 · Summer Quarter

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### A WORD FROM PASTOR D



With every new season in our calendar year there are expectations. For Spring it is the expectation of new life. Fall is met with the expectation of change as the air gets cooler and the leaves change their colors. It is also a time of thanksgiving. Winter season brings the expectation of coldness to the air and can

represent perseverance and adversity. It also represents light and celebration.

For Summer there is the expectation of warmth, adventure, and growth. As we think of the word expectation, which is our theme word for 2024, we are entering into the summer season of our calendar year. As we do may we experience the warmth of God's love, the adventure and excitement of walking with Him, and a surge of growth in our relationship with Jesus.

May it also be a season of rest. And that's what I want to encourage us to experience over these next few months. Rest. Rest from our struggles. Rest from our worries. Rest from our fears. Rest from our tears. Rest from the things that weigh us down.

The Psalmist writes, "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret" Psalm 37:7 Some of us have carried burdens for way too long and it's time that we lay those burdens down. Accept the Psalmist invitation to rest in the Lord.

Jesus said, "Come unto Me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

May both the Sun and the Son shine upon us during this season.



### **NIGER MINISTRY**

We were blessed in early March to gather together to celebrate our past, present and future ministry to the people of Niger. This work began over 25 years ago with the desire to provide humanitarian aid, as well as advance God's kingdom in Niger through relationship building, discipleship, church planting and similar kingdom works.

This ministry is an ongoing testimony of God's glory and faithfulness that He has demonstrated in one of the neediest and poorest nations on earth. Much thanks to the many people who participated with the preparation, presentation and panel discussion that followed. It was a great day of rejoicing!

Truly, AFBC is being a light to the nations!



### **STAFF HIGHLIGHT: Michael Baggot**

*“How long have you attended AFBC?”*

I've attended AFBC for 41 years. I was invited to attend by Chris Stanton, who was a prominent member of the church, and was in

one of my classes at HSU. I came from Orange County in Southern California in 1973 to attend what was then called Humboldt State University. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Industrial Arts and went on to get a Master of Arts degree in Industrial Education. I also got a secondary and primary teaching credential.

*“What was your career prior to becoming the AFBC Facilities Manager and how long did you work there?”*

One of my biggest testimonies was how I ended up teaching at Ferndale High School. Shortly after I finished college, I came back to the Lord, started attending AFBC, got baptized, and was really trying to follow the Lord to the best of my ability. During college I had established a business in my shop. I built houses, drew house plans, built cabinets, furniture, custom doors, and windows. God very clearly told me to let my shop go. I thought for sure, after finishing my master's degree that the Lord was leading me into teaching at College of the Redwoods. Nope. He, without a doubt in my mind, placed me at Ferndale High School. I taught for 30 years, ministering to and building strategic relationships with hundreds of kids.

*“How long have you served as the AFBC Facilities Manager?”*

I've served as the AFBC Facilities Manager for seven years now, but I've actually been serving in some capacity, unofficially, as long as I have attended AFBC. I have also served as an elder and the Director of Men's Ministry at the church.

*“What is your favorite part of your job?”*

My favorite part of serving as Facilities Manager is the quiet service to my Lord behind-the-scenes. I can't tell you how meaningful and rich it is to be working at Church, looking at what God has provided for us, and praising His name. While I work, I pray for the people, the buildings, the grounds, those who went before us, standing in awe of



what God has done for this church over the last hundred years.

### COME TO THE WATER



"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, Brothers, what shall we do?

And Peter said, Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:37-38

AFBC was thrilled to see three people enter the waters baptism the first part of this year. Twelve-year-old Kendal was baptized by her grandmother, Shirley Atkins in February. When asked why she wanted to be baptized Kendal said, "Because I want to be a forever child of God." Out of the mouth of babes!

Then, on Palm Sunday, two young adults, Viktor and Nyla (Cal Poly Humboldt) were also water baptized. Both Nyla and Viktor read the historic Apostles Creed as their confession of faith, as our Director of College and Career Ministries, Daniel Gent, baptized them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



If you are interested in being water baptized, please talk to Pastor D or Daniel.

### WOMEN'S TEA SPRING EVENT



In March we had a wonderful gathering of about 60 women come together up in the Lighthouse Room for what was called "A Royal Tea". Beautifully decorated tables with accompanying, "Mom's everyday dishes and cups" as well as beautiful flowers adorned each table.

The theme for the day was based upon Psalm 45 which was read by Linda McGuire. Lexi Jiang, who is trained in opera, opened up the event with her rendition of Amazing Grace.

Karen Campbell shared a testimony and was followed by Nicole Cloutier (college student) who gave the ladies a wonderful presentation on the etiquette of drinking tea.

The entire event was a smashing success which included guests, college students, young marrieds and seniors. Much thanks to Patricia Gent who headed up the event which is becoming a favorite with the ladies of the church.

### CHURCH PICNIC



After an uplifting church service on Resurrection Day about 50 of us headed out to Patrick's Point (Sue Meg Village) in Trinidad for a great time of food and fellowship. The weather was fantastic and there were newborns to seniors present for this festive occasion. The college / career group had our biggest turnout with a number of new faces represented. Even a family from Arbuckle CA who were up here for Cal Poly Humboldt orientation day joined us as one of the daughters plans to enroll for the Fall semester.

A football and frisbee also made their appearance, children played some games, and

fun was had by all. Lots of discussion took place and everyone had their fill of the tasty food that a number of people brought. AFBC for the win!

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of Arcata First Baptist gathered on April 20th in the Lighthouse Room for a wonderful breakfast prepared by the skilled hands of Kevin Yokoyama and David Duran.

After a great time of fellowshiping over plates filled with sausages, scrambled eggs, and plenty of coffee (sipped with proper etiquette, of course!) the 21 men in attendance were informed on the vital topic of church safety by John Packer, retired Cal Poly Humboldt police officer.

This was the first breakfast the men's ministry had gathered for in some time, and judging by the positive comments afterwards, the men can expect gatherings of this nature to become regular events.



### SOLID ROCK/GENT FAMILY SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Daniel Gent here,

As you may recall, Claire and I lived two years in the Kurdish region of Iraq. This summer we plan to go back to visit the friends and ministries with which we developed connections. We also plan to visit the

Silva family in Kosovo. We'll be accompanied by our children and Patricia Gent, and for portions of the trip we'll be joined by Paul Stiles, Jessica Day, and Jackson Wysock from Solid Rock.

### **Kurdish Iraq**

The Kurdish region of Iraq has been self-governing since the first gulf war (Saddam Hussein, George Bush Sr. Era). It has a sizable Christian minority, which grew as the chaos in Iraq proper led to internal displacement. The city we will be visiting, Erbil, had a population of approximately 50 thousand at the time of the first gulf war, but was pushed close to two million at the height of ISIS power. Since the start of self-government, a number of churches and schools have been started. We plan to meet with students, both Christian and Muslim, and friends from our time there.

- Classical School of the Medes, the school in which I taught for two years, is around 25 years old.

- The Hive, a newly planted elementary school primarily started for families ministering through the international church.

- Erbil International Baptist Church, the church we attended during our stay in Iraq.

### **Kosovo**

Kosovo was granted self-government in the presidency of Bill Clinton. It is a Muslim majority country in the Slavic region of Europe. While it is not currently a member of NATO or the EU it hopes to join both. Jenny and Jordan Silva (Jenny is Claire's sister) have been living in Kosovo for the past several years reaching out to local university students. God has opened an effective door of ministry here, and the Silva's are in the process of planting a church.

### **Prayer Points**

Both Kosovo and Kurdish Iraq are on the periphery of wider conflicts (Iran-Israel & Russia-Ukraine). Pray that the church in these regions would walk wisely in assurance of being held in His hand.

Both Kosovo and Kurdish Iraq are Muslim majority but uniquely open to the gospel. Pray that the witness of the church would be effective and turn many to righteousness.

Both Kosovo and Kurdish Iraq are increasingly coming under the pressure of wester cultural immorality. Current culture is not terribly different than the US in the 70-80s. Pray that the church would stand against porn, divorce, hook-up culture, and all the derivatives that inevitably follow from these.

Pray the harvest which is plentiful would be met with abundant laborers.