

MAY 2023

The Flame

FAIRVIEW CHURCH



FROM PASTOR STAN WRIGHT

“Grace to you and peace from him who is and was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

Revelation 1:4-5

I must admit, my leaving hit me hardest the other night at our Administrative Council meeting. Until that moment, though I had read and heard I was leaving, when our council members were all gathered around the table, the reality hit me. I really had no words. I have none now to express what a wonderful and blessed experience it has been to have been your pastor these last three years.

During the unusual time of COVID and through the whole process of disaffiliation, I believe God truly knit our hearts together for His purpose. I have felt your love and support in ministry and I have been truly blessed in your presence. That is why I have selected these two verses out of Revelation for us to ponder. I truly pray for God’s grace and peace to always be with you all. No matter what takes place in the future, if we receive the Grace of the Lord Jesus and walk in His peace, all things will be as they should be. In this passage, we have a promise about *time*. Jesus is the One who *is* and who *was* and who *is to come*. What a promise for us as we go forth into the future. For Fairview, this is a *new birth* and from this new birth I believe God has great plans for this congregation. Each of you are members unto each other and, as followers of Christ, you have been given a new gift of a new church. Just think of the lives you all can touch in the years to come. Jesus, who was with you in the past and is present with you at this moment, will continue to lead you in the future.

So, as my mom always ended conversations as she got a little age on her, “God bless you and I will see you on the other side.” That’s how I feel with you all. Though we may have more things to do, one day I hope to see you all “on the other side.” God bless you all. May the Lord keep you in His will and purpose always.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Stan



KATHERINE LEWIS
DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

May has arrived and our big Spring event is just around the corner. Saturday, May 6th to be exact!

I have been thinking over the past little bit for us as a church. How blessed we really are. We are blessed that Stan stepped in during COVID to lead us and bring us through this disaffiliation journey. We are also blessed to now be on the other side of the journey. We have put great teams together and they are working toward finding us a new leader. I know that this is a time that feels a bit uncertain for us all but now is the time for us to refocus!

I was sitting at my desk the other day thinking about my personal focus in my Christian walk and as I was thinking and looking around my office. I saw something that caught my eye. There are so many things in my office. Lots of knick knacks and items that mean a lot to me. Not necessarily for their monetary value, but many of them for the memory that comes from seeing them. As I was looking, I realized that I had let some of my personal focus stray and get caught up in fear and uncertainty during this disaffiliation process. I thought back to the very beginning and what my prayer was for us at that time. I had prayed that we would not get so bogged down with all that was happening and we would maintain our Vision and Mission.

On my desk sits a pink salt shaker. It is about half full of salt. It was a gift from a friend and I remember what she shared with me. It was the scripture from Matthew 5:13 *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."* Friends, we are a lot like that salt. The only way for us to make a change in the world around us is for us to get out of our shakers (comfort zone) and work for God in the world. I have to admit, many times it would be easier to just stay put, but it is time. Time for us to regain our focus and reclaim our Vision and Mission as Fairview Church. Join me this month as I shake myself out into doing more than ever before!

Here is a list of things that are coming up for us here at Fairview. If you are new here Please see me and let me know how I can help you to get plugged in.

For our Kids:

Sunday School happens each week at 9:45. This is for kids age 3 and up.

Children's Church happens each week during our regular service. Children are dismissed from service during our second hymn and have a bible lesson.

JUMP (a discipleship program for kids in Kindergarten – 5th grade) meets on Sunday Afternoons from 4 -5. We will meet during the month of May on Sunday May 7th and 21st. During this time, we have a bible lesson with a creative response time. We always enjoy our time together!

We have big plans for our Spring Community Day for the kids on May 6th.

We will have a parent meeting during Sunday school on May 7th to decide on our summer activities in the social hall.

For our Youth:

Youth Sunday School meets each week in the youth room at 9:45

Youth group (grade 6-12) meets on Sunday evening in the social hall from 5:15-7:15. In May we will meet on May 7th and May 21st.

Please continue to pray for our Youth Mission team. We are small but excited to go and do great things this Summer, June 11-17.

I am working on finalizing our other Summer mission and fun times. Watch the bulletins for more info!

For our Adults:

Sunday School for adults is from 9:45-10:45. We have 4 adult classes that meet regularly and I would love to help you find one that is just right for you.

Project church Directory is almost done. I'm still missing a few photos and then will move to the final stage. Printing. If you still need to send me a picture You can text it to me at 434.251.6107 or email it to director.fairviewchurch@gmail.com.

LADIES our Monthly Fellowship Meals will be as follows. Wednesday, May 10th we will do lunch at noon and Thursday, May 11th we will do dinner at 6. Our Restaurant this month will be Bricktown on Riverside Drive. Please join us! This is a great time to get to know some of the other ladies of the church.

MEN it is time for us to get you a fellowship time together. I need to find you a leader! Guys, please pray about heading this up. We can talk about the details and I will make sure they get published for you!

For us all:

Don't forget our COMMUNITY SPRING DAY! There will be so many awesome things happening including free Kona Ice, Corn Hole, BINGO, Free Hot Dogs, and an Incredible Kids area! This will be May 6th from 11-2! JOIN US!

We will be hosting our "New to You class" on Sunday May 14th from 9:45-10:45. This will include a facility tour and a time to chat about our current ministries, Sunday School classes and other opportunities available here at Fairview. We also would love to hear your ideas during this time. So if Fairview is new to you, or even if you have been around forever please plan to join us that Sunday. May 14th will Also be our Graduate Sunday. WE will celebrate those graduating from College and high School within our church family.

I am super excited about all the fun things we have going on here at Fairview for all of us to enjoy!

Blessings,

Kate



YOU ARE DISAFFILIATED. WHAT NOW? (Author unknown)

Disaffiliation from a denomination is a long and bumpy road. It is a road few of us wanted to take and most of us hoped we could avoid. Things didn't work out that way.

Disaffiliation is hard. Denominations were not structured to let people out. They are like inter-states with next to no exit ramps but for whatever reasons, your church navigated the exit, stayed the course and you are now out.

The author shares his church's WHAT NOW? Process.

Shift to a "peacetime" administration

Your leadership has been in the trenches. Let those who are wounded roll out of leadership and give them time to heal. Thank them profoundly for their service. Replace them with leaders with hearts of peach who don't have the "smell of smoke." A warring spirit, in the absence of a war, serves no one well. People who have been "fighting" will sometimes tend to continue fighting long after an armistice. You must intentionally usher in a spirit of peace.

Restructure for the long game

If you are joining an existing denomination, this is a piece of cake! Everything essentially is poured from "one jug to the other". If you are going independent, there is some heavy lifting to do. Have an attorney look things over. You need to set up legally, establish faith and order, figure out how to handle ordination and the list goes on and on. No need to reinvent the wheel. Seek the counsel of respected pastors and congregations who are where you hope to be. See if they will "share their stuff" with you. They will help. Don't cut corners. Do the work. Legend says there was a sign on the Oregon Trail that read, "Choose your rut carefully, you will be in for the next 1,000 miles." This is that.

Rebrand

Re-establish your mission and your beliefs. Put things on the table. Make no apologies for where you stand. Be who you are! Preach a new REBRAND series. Next comes the fun part: New logo, new banners, new swag. New invitation cards, new marketing, new swag. New Facebook group. New everything! Have old members join the new church. Invest in some new wineskins! This creates energy!

Cast vision

Share your core values. Preach a CORE series. Let people know who you are and where you stand! It is one thing to "leave Egypt", it is quite another to enter the Promised Land. You successfully made a case for the former, work that hard to establish the latter. Get people excited about your "great about to be"! Be as intentional in making your next step as you were in making your previous one. The people you have in your congregation are united, aligned in mission and ready to go. Leverage that energy and focus on the future! The big idea is, "We are going somewhere exciting, come with us!"

Stabilize

With this all done, catch your breath. You have planted new seeds into the ground, get some downtime and let them germinate. You have been under great stress and strain. You are human. You are drained. Your leaders are drained. People have left. Friends may have been lost. That being said, the healing process I thought would take a year, took only a couple of month.

Find a Tribe

Many of us will land in difference places. That is okay. Finding a tribe is necessary. Just don't get tribal.

Evangelize

Churches must do three things to be vital: 1) Make new Christians 2) Turn new Christians into disciples and 3) Send out disciples to make new Christians. Evangelism has gone "back burner to off the stove entirely" over the past handful of years. No one wants to invite people to the "First Church of Hiss and Spit." It is time to start inviting people to church and equipping your folks to share the Good News!

You now own something more important than a building; you own your narrative.

The mantra at Christ Church is "Biblical Trust in Christian Love." This is our calling card! What is yours? Does the community know what it is? Are they familiar with your "new" church? Once we get control of the narrative, we get to say who we are and it is a powerful ministry tool!

We have experienced renewal and revival "on the other side." These processes served us well. I trust they will be of help to many of you.

You are disaffiliated.

You have set course upon a new future.

There are no excuses.

Be strong and of good courage!

NOTE: We (congregation of Fairview Church) are waiting to decide what to do next. We will become an independent church after May 1, 2023, so we begin a new history.

**1st Sundays:
Worship at
8:30 and 11:00**

Coming up on May 1



Upcoming in June

Father's Day: June 18, 11:00 am

Youth Mission Trip: June 11 - 17, Altoona, PA

MISSIONS UPDATE

Thanks so much to everyone who helped us with our April mission for supplies for the local animal shelters.

Our May mission focus will be a bit different. This month we are asking for your spare change. We will be donating this to Camp Selah for their Forest School camps. One of the things they would like to provide for each student at camp is a foraging bag. A foraging bag will clip on the child's belt or pants and when they find something they want to keep or carry for a while they open up the bag and place it inside. This will be great for each of their little outside explorers to have. they cost around \$15 each and they need a number of them so each participant can have one. So we are asking this month as you have and find spare change that you bring and drop it in the jar beside the tree. Any amount will help. The other need they have is scholarships for Forest School camp. This camp happens on Fridays and the cost is \$15 per student. It would be wonderful if we could help a student who might not be able to afford the extra money to attend.

Also, you can be thinking ahead about our other summer missions. During the month of June, we will be collecting inexpensive shower liners for Camp Rainbow. They will need a bunch of these but please buy inexpensive ones as they will be disposed of after the camp is over. In July we will be collecting School Supplies for the elementary schools our students attend. A list of needed supplies will be available closer to that time.

Thanks again for making our monthly missions a huge success. !



*In His great generosity
He has given to you freely,
bountifully, cheerfully.
-Roy Lessin*

**Don't forget to join us at the
Spring Fling Community Fun Day!**

**Saturday, May 6
from 11am - 2pm**

**Please invite your neighbors and
friends!**

Admission is free!

RoyLessin.com
meetinginthemeadow.com
Photo by Marina Bromley

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
March 26	98	30	\$4,303.00
April 2	22/96	35	\$35,517.00
April 6, Holy Week	50	n/a	n/a
April 9, Easter	136	114	\$10,906.93
April 16	110	41	\$9,389.56
April 23	117	TBD	\$6,796.00

*Denotes views of online worship videos for the first week available for viewing.

Vimeo views are multiplied by 1.5 to account for families watching together.

Average Weekly Giving in April 2023:
\$13,382.50

2023 Budget approved by Admin Board :
\$481,096.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2023:
\$9,273.87

2023 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:
\$9,077.29

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2	Katie Salmon	15	Suzanne Giffen	25	Martha Sue Thompson
6	Bill Shelton		Ann Jennings	27	Beth Smith
9	Stacy Dillion		Neal Morris	30	Vic Brooks
12	Jim Mitchell		Kaitlyn Sage		Tommy Roberts
	Barbara Swanson	17	Beryl Clifton	31	Garrett Franklin
13	Shane Connor	22	Neal Tanner		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1	Forrest & Lynn Burton	18	Mike & Annette Tennant
5	Acie & Wendy Brooks	20	Granger & Kaitlyn Woodard
9	Jason & Angela Broyles	22	Gary & Carrie Jack
10	Jim & Martha Mitchell	27	Brian & Julia Boles
11	Brian & Katie Salmon	31	Steven & Laura Ashworth
12	Joey & Laurie Ann Scarce		

EASTER FUN AT BKK



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF LETTER CARRIERS

Stamp Out Hunger

FOOD DRIVE

TM



Mark Your Calendar!
Saturday, May 13, 2023

Place your non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox to be delivered to God's Storehouse!

For more information, call **434.793.3663** or visit **www.godsstorehouse.org**

Fairview Church
1013 Westover Drive
Danville, Virginia 24541

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DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

STAFF:

REV. STAN WRIGHT, PASTOR

KATHERINE LEWIS, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

DEBBIE DEANE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HEATHER PERRYMAN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DEEDEE DILLARD, PIANIST

SUSAN RATLIFF, DIRECTOR, BECKY'S KIDDIE KOLLEGE

WWW.FAIRVIEWUMCDANVILLE.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/FAIRVIEWCHURCHDANVILLE

PHONE: 434-792-3391

EMAIL: FAIRVIEWUMC@COMCAST.NET



*Fairview is a Christ-centered
welcoming church that loves the community
in undeniable ways.*