



First Foundations

VOLUME 19 ♦ ISSUE 4
FEBRUARY 17, 2017

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, RALEIGH, NC

FOUNDED IN 1812

Church Conference

Wednesday, February 22
6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28
5:30-7:30 p.m.
\$5 per person
\$20 max per family

Sign up in advance on Sundays and Wednesdays in the Lewis Building Lobby. Come enjoy a night of jazz music, Mardi Gras crafts, games, and design-your-own pancakes with tons of topping options!



Food and Faith

February 22

Pasta Bar
Bread
Salad
Dessert

March 1

Meatball and Sausage Casserole
Buttered Noodles
Garden Salad
Crusty Bread
Dessert

Ash Wednesday Service on March 1

As a Baptist congregation that follows the Christian year, we allow the Jesus story to shape our lives throughout the year and we allow a sacred calendar to shape worship. By doing so we are borrowing from other Christian traditions, while making them our own. To begin the season of Lent we will have an Ash Wednesday service, providing an opportunity to deepen our journey of faith, strengthen our ties to other believers, and root our practices in a long and sacred history. The service will be held on March 1 at 6:30 p.m. and will include congregational singing, prayers of confession and assurance, and a brief homily. The central act of worship will be the imposition of ashes in the shape of a cross, as we speak these words, "From dust you have come, and to dust you will return." These ashes (created by burning the palm fronds from last year's

Palm Sunday service) offer a sign of our mortality and penance, a confession of our frailty and need for God. Our willingness to receive them demonstrates our commitment to self-examination as well as our openness to God's grace.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. (please make a reservation by noon on Monday, February 27). Preschool missions and music classes will follow the regular Wednesday evening schedule. Elementary-age children will gather with Lynn Lingafelt at 5:45 p.m. for a time of preparation prior to joining their parents for the service. Children's Bells will meet at the usual time of 4:30 p.m.

Our Ash Wednesday service provides sacred space in which to begin a season of spiritual renewal. All are invited to participate in this special service as we allow our faces to get dirty as we long for cleansing in our hearts. ■

Last Call to Register for Churchwide Retreat

At the writing of this reminder, we have about thirty beds left for our churchwide, intergenerational retreat at Caswell, April 21-23. Reserve one for YOU no later than March 5! Here's a recap of helpful details: Our theme is "The Family of God;" we'll explore what it means to be church family through small group Bible study, crafts,

recreation, devotional time, and worship. Sleeping arrangements available now are bunks in single-gendered bunk rooms. Cost is \$70/person for the weekend (this includes two nights and four meals) OR \$25/person for meals if you choose to spend overnights off campus. To sign up contact Lynn Lingafelt at llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org by March 5. ■

CBF General Assembly

March 31 and April 1
First Baptist Church, Hickory

To register or for information, visit www.cbfnc.org.

as you go

From the Pastor

This is not an easy time to be a preacher. In truth, it is probably not an easy time to be in any profession, but preaching is the one I know pretty well after 35 years of trying to fulfill this sacred calling with the guidance of the Holy Spirit (and it is a calling, not just a profession, which depends upon the Spirit's leadership). It has never been an easy calling, nor should it be, but in this time, it is burdensome.

The basic task is to connect the sacred truths of scripture with the challenges of everyday life, the word of God with the people of God in a given time and place. This involves a prayerful discernment of the text and the people, a thoughtful assessment of things like timing and vehicles of communication, as well as a consideration of the impact of any given word (though if the word is God's, this is more God's business than ours).

All of this is challenging in any time and place, but preaching in our culture in this time is beyond challenging. There is a yearning for messages that lift us up, but much biblical truth challenges us in ways that tear us down first. There is a desire for messages that bring people together, but what some people want is diametrically opposed to what other people want. In churches like ours, there is a common assumption that the church should never be political, but not only are people thinking about and affected by political realities, much of the Bible is political, including the life and ministry of Jesus. Added to all of this is the basic reality that often the one message we sense God calling us to proclaim more than any other is the one message many people do not want to hear. So, what is a preacher to do?

I say all of this not to beg for sympathy or to complain about our church. We are more supportive of ministers in general and preachers specifically than

PASTOR—continued on page 4

Vespers Service Reflection

Recently Trey Davis invited me to come to a new tradition at FBC called "5th Sunday Vespers." He said it was "right up my alley," but I knew Trey was at least partially in charge of the event, so I considered he might be a little biased. I asked another friend in the church who had been to the first Vespers what she thought, and she reported it was an amazing experience that made her cry throughout its entirety. She, though, was one of those sweet mothers in church you might see crying at the small things. Despite their dispositions and my own, I took their advice and went to Vespers.

The service really began as soon as I walked in and looked around. I was first excited to see a sanctuary with a good-sized, recognizable crowd; grandparents and their children and their children's children perfectly compact and distributed within the first few rows of the first level of the sanctuary. I also recognized a feature of worship from my youth retreat experiences: interactive stations that would allow for worship and reflection. I looked at the worship bulletin and saw that these stations correlated with individual emotions: "fear," "frustration," "learning," "joy," "comfort," "trust," and "anticipation." Mary Alice played the piano and we sang "Spirit of the Living God" without the comfort of an accompanying practiced choir. We began apprehensively and progressed towards

a confident communion. We received instructions to visit each station on our own – participating in the activities after reading the printed reflection provided – before returning to the pews within the next hour.

I think I might always remember first going to confront "Fear" with a good friend. I then visited each emotion alone, in my own introversion. However, I was arriving before, after, or at the same time as others; and in doing so we were all together interconnected in the same sanctuary. Going through an independently-led worship experience at the same time as other church members allowed for an especially honest and adventurous emotional experience in a faithfully supportive community, which for me meant encountering the feeling I always want to get in that sanctuary. After the service ended and most had left, I returned to the wailing wall of "Frustration" where I knelt to pray, and I wept. I experienced a vulnerable and expressive church: one that is not just grateful but frustrated, not just cheerful but sad, not just faithful but searching. And, through all of it, one of people who are there for one another. I strongly encourage everyone to at least try the next Vespers service, although I might be a little biased, because it came about for me at just the right time, and it made me cry at the small things.

— Blair Houtz

Gifts Received

We gratefully acknowledge these gifts received in January 2017.

Bus Pick-up Service Fund

In Memory of:
Kathryn Cunningham

Church Maintenance Endowment Fund

In Memory of:
Dolores M. Frazier

Capital Repair & Replacement Fund

In Memory of:
A.J. Blackwell

General Fund

In Memory of:
Kathryn Cunningham

Honduras Fund

In Honor of:
Jim & Margaret Clary

Library Fund

In Memory of:
Kathryn Cunningham

Mike Morris Fellowship Fund

In Memory of:
Kathryn Cunningham

Music Ministry Fund

In Memory of:
Dolores M. Frazier

Your Green Fabric to Represent Church Family

Have you turned in a piece of fabric for our project to make a new set of green stoles for Ordinary Time? We want these to reflect our whole church family, so we hope everyone will contribute something! Here are some frequently asked questions we have received:

What color green do you want? Any green; no really any shade of green. Dark, light, mint, kelly, grass, olive, emerald, lime, jade.... The more variety we receive, the more beautiful our stoles will be!

What kind of fabric? Anything! Silk, cotton, nylon, polyester.... Muslin, satin, canvas, netting.... Take a look at the fabric already received in the bin near the elevator on the first floor for ideas.

Can the fabric have a pattern or color besides green? Yes! As long as the fabric looks green when you squint your eyes and look at it, it will work.

But what if I don't have any fabric? Do you have an old tie? A t-shirt? A napkin? A pillowcase? A ribbon? Even if the item you have has a stain on one part, we only need a small portion, so submit it anyway! It's also okay to purchase fabric. Craft stores, fabric shops, and even Walmart usually sell small, pre-cut pieces of fabric (usually fat quarters which are square-shaped quarter yards of fabric).

What will you do with the fabric? We plan to cut the fabric into small pieces, assemble those into strips, and then piece them together to make patchwork stoles reflecting our congregation, a body made from many parts.

Please drop off your donations in the marked collection drawer in the Lewis Lobby by March 31. We look forward to seeing all the beautiful variety of colors and textures you submit!

— Mary Hauser and Holly Ivel

Centerpoint

Centering Your Week & Your Life in Christ

March 8, 15, & 22 – Common Text Study: The Binding of Isaac/Ishmael

We are excited to welcome three guests from our community to lead us in this study. On March 8 we will hear a Jewish perspective on the familiar story from Eric Solomon, Rabbi at Beth Meyer Synagogue. Next, Dr. Jason Staples, Lecturer at NCSU and Duke Divinity School, will share a Christian viewpoint on March 15. Finally, on March 22, Fatma Tuba Kaya of the Institute of Islamic and Turkish Studies in Cary will offer a Muslim interpretation. Please invite a friend to attend this important series. ■

Welcome New Members

Divine and Erika Kumah joined by Statement on February 5.

Among Our Family

Sympathy to Alan Kinsey on the February 4 death of his mother, Nell Kinsey; to Gaston Perry on the February 8 death of his wife, Agnes Perry; and to the family of Anne Matthis, who died on February 9.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 19

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service/S
Children's Worship/224
Japanese Worship/227
- 12:15 pm Deacons' Meeting/FH
- 4:00 pm Youth Bells/307
- 5:00 pm Youth Choir/310
- 6:00 pm Youth Group/FH

Monday, February 20

- 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
- 11:00 am Sisters in Grace/CR

Tuesday, February 21

- 7:30 am Men's Bible Study/Metro Productions
 - 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
 - 10:00 am Ministerial Staff Meeting/CR
 - 10:30 am WMU Group 2/Springmoor
 - 6:00 pm Theology on Tap/Raleigh Times
 - 6:30 pm HS Bible Study/Yexas' home
- Wednesday, February 22
- 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
 - 10:00 am Clothing Ministry
 - 3:45 pm Works in Progress/P
 - 4:30 pm Children's Bells/307
 - 5:00 pm Meal Served/FH
 - 5:45 pm Announcements and Prayer Time
 - Missions and Music
 - Evening Bells/307
 - Backpack Buddies Packing/301
 - Common Grounds/110
 - 6:15 pm Church Conference/FH
 - 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/310

Thursday, February 23

- 7:30 am Band of Brothers/CR
- 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
- 10:30 am Thirty-Niners/FH
- 11:00 am Library Committee/L
- 1:00 pm Clothing Ministry
- 3:00 pm Backpack Buddies delivery

Sunday, February 26

- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship Service/S
Japanese Worship/227
- 4:00 pm Youth Bells/307
- 5:00 pm Youth Choir/310
- 6:00 pm Youth Group/FH

Monday, February 27

- 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
- 11:00 am Sisters in Grace/CR

Tuesday, February 28

- 7:30 am Men's Bible Study/Metro Productions
- 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
- 10:00 am Ministerial Staff Meeting/CR
- 10:30 am WMU Group 2/Springmoor
- 5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/FH

WEEK—continued on page 4

First Baptist Church
 99 North Salisbury Street
 Raleigh, NC 27603

Church office: 919-832-4485
Facsimile: 919-832-6726
E-mail: firstbaptist@fbcraleigh.org
Web site: www.fbcraleigh.org
Facebook: First Baptist Church Raleigh

STAFF

Ministers
All members of the church
Denise Arnold
Pastor's Administrative Assistant
Lin Carter
Christian Education/Outreach
Christopher Chapman
Pastor
Trey Davis
Youth/College
J. Daniel Day
Pastor Emeritus
Julie Gilbert
Food Services
Wayne Hager
Church Administrator
Donna G. Jolly
Organist
Lynn Lingafelt
Children
Deborah Mastrodonato
Staff Administrative Assistant
Rodney Mobley
Lead Custodian
Daniel Ray
Youth/College
Mary Alice Seals
Music/Senior Adults
Jimmy Thompson
Custodian

Bible Verses for Daily Use

From *Reflections Adult Devotional Guide*, Smyth & Helwys

Fri 2/17 - Acts 4:18-22	Sat 2/25 - Psalm 20
Sat 2/18 - Psalm 19	Sun 2/26 - Luke 9:28-36
Sun 2/19 - Luke 7:36-43	Mon 2/27 - Luke 9:37-42a
Mon 2/20 - Luke 7:44-47	Tues 2/28 - Luke 9:43b-45
Tue 2/21 - Luke 7:44-50	Wed 3/1 - Luke 9:51-56
Wed 2/22 - Psalm 130:3-6	Th 3/2 - Luke 9:57-62
Th 2/23 - Matthew 18:21-35	Fri 3/3 - Psalm 36:5-10
Fri 2/24 - Colossians 3:12-17	

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Raleigh, NC
 Permit No. 1056

Return Service Requested

The Record We Wrote

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Current Week Revenue	\$16,221.63
Month-to-Date Revenue	\$16,221.63
Year-to-Date Revenue (as of 2/05/17)	\$96,984.42
Month-to-Date Expenses	\$9,118.09
Year-to-Date Expenses (as 2/07/17)	\$129,668.62
Global Missions Offering	\$15,701.98

Deacon on Call

February 19-25
 Hayden James

February 26-March 4
 Ebele Saint-Louis

PASTOR—continued from page 2

the vast majority of churches I know. I say this to underscore the nature of the challenge, to assure you that I take all of this very seriously, and to ask for your help.

The freedom of the pulpit is critical to the life of any church, but this freedom must be accompanied by the freedom of the pew. What gives preachers the boldness to proclaim our discernment of God's intent is the assurance that we are not alone in this venture, that you are seeking to discern God's intent with us. At times, there may be disagreement, but if that disagreement is bathed in mutual love and driven by a desire to get it right, we will sharpen each other's views and increase the possibility that our shared discernment of Divine intent may actually be something close to Divine intent.

There is much happening around us today that must be addressed from a Christian perspective. Though the issues are challenging, and we may not always agree upon how to respond, burying our heads in the sand is not an option. As Christ enters this world for us, Christ sends us into the world to share and embody a message of love and compassion. May God continue to guide us as we seek to be faithful to our calling! **CC**

WEEK—continued from page 3

Wednesday, March 1

9:30 am Weekday Preschool
 10:00 am Clothing Ministry
 3:45 pm Works in Progress/P
 4:30 pm Children's Bells/307
 5:00 pm Meal Served/FH
 WMU Group 6/108
 5:45 pm Announcements and Prayer Time
 Missions and Music for Preschoolers
 Evening Bells/307
 Backpack Buddies Packing/301
 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service/S
 7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir/310

Thursday, March 2

7:30 am Band of Brothers/CR
 9:30 am Weekday Preschool
 10:30 am Thirty-Niners/FH
 11:00 am Library Committee/L
 1:00 pm Clothing Ministry

Friday, March 3

10:00 am Japanese-American Cultural Exchange/Governor's Mansion
 Youth Choir Festival by the Sea (returning 3/5)

Sunday, March 5

8:00 am RA Car Race/FH
 9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Worship Service/S
 Japanese Worship/227