**VOLUME 11 ISSUE 4** 

**APRIL 2015** 

# The First Word

Glorifying God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ motivated by a love for God and a love for others.

Happy Easter!
April 5

Fresh Encounter
Meal & Prayer Service

Empowered to Connect
Simulcast
April 10 - 11

Catalyst Parent's Meeting
April 12

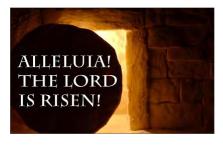
PLACE Class April 12, 19 & 26

> FX Live! April 17

Parent/Child Dedication
April 19

Men's Retreat April 24 - 26





# From Pastor Jeff

As we continue to move toward full devotion to Jesus Christ in our lives personally, we talk about **5 Personal Practices**. These practices are easy to remember with the acrostic, **G.R.A.C.E.** 

### The 5 Personal Practices are:

<u>Grow through personal spiritual growth habits</u>
<u>Right place of service</u>
<u>Attend weekly worship</u>
<u>Connect to a healthy small group</u>
<u>Engage in the Great Commission</u>

To make these practices practical and applicable, the following questions may help us as we seek to build these practices into our lives.

# How will I Grow through personal spiritual growth habits?

- How am I going to fill my mind with God's truth?
- How am I going to pray?
- How am I going to fast?
- How am I going to give of my resources for kingdom causes?

# How will I find my Right place of service?

- How am I currently serving?
- How will I go about finding my right place of service?
- Who does God want to touch through my life and ministry?

# How will I prioritize weekly worship?

- How will I worship personally?
- How will I prepare myself to give myself more completely to God in the context of corporate worship?

#### How will I Connect with others in a healthy small group?

- Who am I connected to right now?
- What is my next step to get connected?
- Does God want me to be a leader of a small group?

# **How will I Engage in the Great Commission?**

- Who am I praying for that doesn't know Christ?
- With whom does Christ want me to share the gospel?
- How will I share Christ with those around me?
- How will I impact the nations? Praying? Giving? Going?
- Who will I pour my life into that will be able to pour their lives into the lives of others?

This month as we celebrate Easter and all that Christ has done for us, it is a good time to reflect on not only His grace toward us, but our growth in Christ-likeness through His grace. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18, ESV) May the questions above be a tool for our continued growth in Christ!



# CHILDRen's Ministry

LIKE us on Facebook @firstbaptist.childrensministry



# Questions or Comments??

Contact FBC: 547-2051

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It's almost here! Friday night FX Live! will present *Conflict Kitchen* Friday, April 17.

Is peace possible? Come find out during our high-energy worship time!

Check out our new and improved format that will include a family meal prior to the worship experience! Join us for pizza in the Fellowship Hall from 6-7 p.m., then head over to the Worship Center for an exciting FX Live! event! Don't forget to stop by our photo booth in the Worship Center lobby with your family and friends!

Bring a friend to our FX Live! event and you will be entered to win a special prize! This will truly be an exciting Family eXperience you don't want to miss!!!

Childcare provided for 2's and under. Deadline to register for childcare is Sunday, April 12. Sign up online or in the church office.

# First Step Class

This one-time class is offered approximately every other month. It is designed for children ages 7 & up (who have already made a salvation decision) and is an FBCFM prerequisite to baptism. Content includes discussion, teaching, Q & A on salvation and baptism. At least one parent should attend with each child. Children are not automatically added to the class list ... it is the responsibility of the parent to sign up each child.

# Next Opportunity:

Sunday, June 28, 11:00 a.m.

Please call the church office (547-2051) or email Natalie (nsavader@fbcfm.com) by Thursday, 6/25 if your child plans to attend ... there is a sign-up minimum of three children.

# Vacation Bible School 2015

Journey Off The Map Unknown to Us. Known to Him. Isaiah 30:21

**June 7-11** 



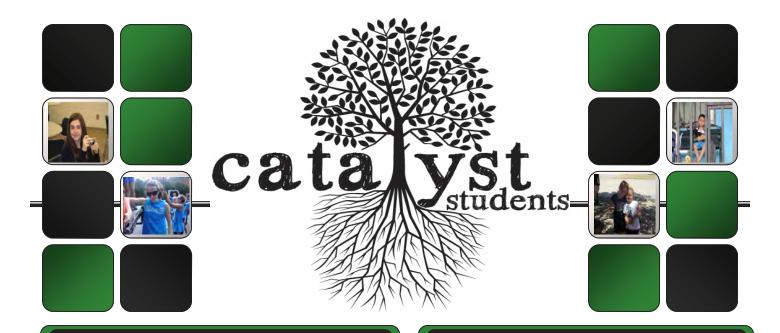
# Parent-Child Dedication

Sunday, April 19 All 3 Services

Please visit the website or call Natalie in the church office for more information and to participate.

Sign-up deadline is Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (firm).

\*\*Parent/Child Dedication Class\*\*
required for *all* parent participants will be on
Sunday, April 12 @ 11:00 a.m.



# **Student Life Camp**

Sign-ups for Student Life Camp are underway. We are going back to Lee University this year June 30-July 4. The cost for only one student in a family is \$260.00; the cost for two or more students in a family is \$240 per student. That means there is a \$20.00 savings per student if you have multiple students in the same family. Adam Robinson is the camp speaker and Unhindered is leading worship. We will have a camp info meeting on Sunday, April 12, following the 11:00 a.m. 180 session. At the meeting a \$50.00 deposit is due for each student to secure a spot for them to go to camp. There is a limited number of spots available—at this writing we only have 32 spots left.

# **College Visits**

Kylie and Johnny are heading to the universities for college visits Monday, April 6-Wednesday, April 8. Check the Catalyst College Facebook page for times and places.

# **Connect Group Night**

Our last Sunday Night Live and High School D Group meeting is Sunday, April 26. We will meet at the Walking Park from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for the night.

# 6:17

Wednesday, April 29, is the last 6:17 for this semester. We will resume in the fall.

# **High School Girls Conference**

We are having a *girls-only* retreat May 15-17. All girls 9th-12th grade can participate. The cost is \$60.00 per person and includes everything. This is a "bring a friend for free" event. Sign up in 180.



# Adult Ministries

# Experience It!

# **Upcoming Events in April**

April 5 – Easter

April 8 – Fresh Encounter prayer service & meal

April 10-11 – *Empowered to Connect* Simulcast

April 12 – Start Here

April 19 – Overflow Volunteer Orientation

April 24-26 – Men's Retreat (Hickory Knob)



# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual FBC Men's Retreat April 24 - 26

Hickory Knob Resort State Park

- Bring your lost or unchurched friends, neighbors, co-workers!
- \$175/man for golfers, \$160/man for skeet shooting & \$120/man for fishermen. After April 5, prices increase \$10.
- 3 days & 2 nights (meals and transportation provided).



1. Call FBC office: 547-2051

2. Sign up in the church lobby on Sunday morning by April 20.







# **Empowered to Connect Simulcast at First Baptist**

Friday, April 10, 2015 & Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. / Room 202-WC

Equipping you to bring hope and healing to adopted and foster children.

The *Empowered to Connect* Simulcast is a two-day conference for adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders and professionals designed to help them connect with children from hard places in order to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be.

Free admission, lunch and childcare Friday and Saturday (if you register by April 6!) Please call 803-547-2051 to register. \*One workbook per family is recommended and may be purchased for \$6 on site. For more general simulcast information please visit: <a href="mailto:showhope.org/be-hope/equipping-families/etc/">showhope.org/be-hope/equipping-families/etc/</a>



# Music ~ Celebrators ~ Media

Do you enjoy singing? Have you ever thought you might like to play a handbell? Were you in the chorus or band in school and/or college and have wondered how you could use this gift in service at FBCFM? We are especially fortunate to have some opportunities that you may or may not be aware of. Below are opportunities we have to offer:

- \* The Adult Worship Choir sings most Sundays at the 8:15 worship service throughout the year and is a major part of Easter and Christmas worship celebrations. We have singers of all ages-high school through senior adults. Rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights.
- \* Seasonal Singers sing at special presentations with the Adult Worship Choir such as Easter and Christmas. Rehearsals are 8:15-8:45 p.m. on Wednesday nights.
- \* The Handbell Choir meets every Wednesday evening from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the old choir room. You must be able to read music to participate in this group that loves to play at the 8:15 worship service, the Candlelight service and various community venues.
- \* The Celebrator Choir meets on Mondays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Worship Center choir room. This group enjoys singing at various community venues. This choir also sings on Sunday mornings a few times a year. This group is comprised mostly of adults who have retired and enjoy singing.
- \* If you are interested in learning more about these music opportunities, contact Diane in the church office.
- \* April 5 Easter Sunday

# CELEBRATORS' (Senior Adult) News

\* April 22: Luncheon. Wallace Nix with Chosen Children's Ministry will be our guest speaker. \* Please note that this is the fourth Wednesday of the month.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Sunday, May 3: Senior Recognition Banquet from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall with entertainment provided by Matt Tollison and meal catered by Essie's Catering. Tickets are \$10.00/person; there is no cost for those 80 years and older. (This replaces the regular Wednesday luncheon for May.)
- Friday, June 12: NarroWay's production of Samson. Show begins at 6:30 p.m. (no dinner).
- \* June 17: Luncheon. Cookout and games.
- \* July 15: Luncheon. Sing along.
- September 15 & 16: Celebration Jubilee...more details to come

# Media News

#### Audio & Media Needs

~ Training will be provided for those willing to serve in the areas of audio, ProPresenter and camera. Contact Tim Gale (tim@tmgale.com), Bryan Trotter (btrotter@fbcfm.com) or Diane Dulin (ddulin@fbcfm.com).

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!!

# WORSHIP ARTS by Bryan Trotter An Appetite for More of God By Aaron Williams www.worshipleader.com

The human appetite is a powerful thing. In fact, there aren't many things that control our behavior much more than our appetite. I mean, just take a few seconds and think about the last time that you were really hungry. When we are hungry food quickly becomes the most important thing to us. We'll do just about anything to satisfy our ravenous cravings. We've even created a word to describe the person who's unfulfilled appetite is causing them emotional distress. . . we call them "hangry".

Hangry – When you are so hungry that your lack of food causes you to become angry, frustrated or both (Urban Dictionary).

Ultimately, we know that our appetite for food is a good thing. Without it we wouldn't know when to pause our daily activities to eat. And consequently, because our intake of food is directly related to our energy level, if we fail to eat on a regular basis we'll lack the energy to live our lives. Simply put, *our appetite is meant to lead us to the source of our energy.* 

This is not only true for our physical lives, but also for our spiritual lives as well. In the opening lines of Psalm 42, the Psalmist writes, "As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God." The Psalmist is using a metaphor to describe the inner appetite he has for God. Even better, he is correlating his spiritual appetite to a physical one that we all experience, thirst. In essence, he's saying that he has an inner longing for the living God and the nearest thing he can relate it to is thirsting for water.

We all have a spiritual appetite given to us by God. Augustine says it this way, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Here Augustine is speaking of the longing of every human heart. There is a void, a restlessness in our hearts that we all seek to fill. In Augustine's estimation, of which I agree, that longing can only be fulfilled by our Creator.

While Augustine is referring to the general void every one of us experiences, there is also a desire that is more specific than a general longing for "something more." Once a person is saved through faith in the work of Jesus Christ, that person is awakened to new life. Scripture says that person is a "new creation," the old has gone and the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17). This moment of awakening, known as regeneration, is the inception of an eternal relationship with God. It's also the inception of an appetite for something new. Through the Holy Spirit, we are given new desires, a new appetite for God and things of God (wisdom, righteousness, and devotion) (Titus 2:12). Often times, however, we have a twisted view of our salvation. Instead of viewing our salvation as an ongoing exploration, we see it as a stationary event that we can look back on. Life with Jesus was never meant to be viewed or lived this way. Instead, life in Christ is meant to be a "glorious pursuit, the heart's happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead." God is prompting us to pursue Him and to ultimately find our delight in Him (Psalm 37:4).

This is precisely why God gives us a spiritual appetite, to cause us to seek our well-being in Him. **Just like our physical** appetite leads us to the source of our energy, food, our spiritual appetite is meant to lead us to the Source of all vitality, **God himself.** So when we feel like the Psalmist and our souls are thirsting for more, longing for something deeper, we must learn to recognize that this very longing is a God-given provision to us. In the same way that He gave us hunger and thirst for food and water, He also gives us an appetite for more of His presence. If we are to live a vibrant spiritual life, filled with energy, strength, and health, we must regularly seek the God who alone can satisfy our desires.

#### Psalm 145:6 "You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing."

In closing, I want to give one practical step that each of us can take to see our spiritual desires lead us closer to God. When it comes to eating, our appetite is most helpful to our health when we respond to it with consistent and steady nutrition. Prolonged periods without food, inconsistency in our choices, and/or overindulgence can dramatically affect our appetite. Similarly, consistency in seeking God is crucial to our spiritual life. In Psalm 105:4 David wrote "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually." In many other cases, David wrote about seeking the Lord in the morning, throughout the day, in the evening, and in his bed at night. It seems to me that David knew the importance of continually trying to live in the strength and presence that our Lord provides. This continual seeking will look different for each of us. The point is not to create some equation that we live within that produces God's presence for us. Instead, I suggest taking some time to think about how to invite God into everything that you do. Make sure not to skip even the most mundane things in your life like housework, paying bills, exercising, an even sleeping. Once you've taken time to think about it, do it. Ask God to be a part of everything that you are doing. Tell Him that you want to abide in Him and live out of His strength not your own. And then do your best to be conscious of His involvement on a day to day basis.

I've heard it said, 'Our lives are formed by the habits in which we live." Let's together work to create spiritual rhythms in our lives that help us rely on God for everything that we are doing. He designed it that way.

# created for connection

# Here are some easy ways to connect in ministry and community:



Life Groups are relational environments of 8-12 people who meet on a regular basis with the purpose of growing closer together and growing closer to God. Our goal is that each person in the group takes one step closer to becoming like Christ as a result of interacting with God's Word and each

other. Community is a vital part of life. God designed us this way. You don't want to miss out on this life-changing opportunity! If you are interested in joining a Life Group, you can sign up in the Worship Center lobby or online at www.fbcfm.com.



It is the goal of our Host Team to provide a 5-star experience to every guest, regular attender, and member by creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere through a simple and smooth process. We do everything from shaking hands to straightening up bathrooms. We want everyone who attends FBCFM on a Sunday morning to know that we are glad they are here and we prepared for their visit. We want to free them up to connect with God and others.



In 2013 alone, we had 540 First Time Guests. It is vital that we help all of them connect to our church family. If we don't help them bridge the gap from guest to connected attendee, they might never experience all that God is doing here at FBCFM. Our Link Team is designed to be a personal connection to help guests get plugged in to the life of FBCFM. The Link Team helps guests discover not just the *programs* of

FBCFM, but the *people* of our church family. If this kind of thing gets you excited, please shoot me an email or indicate the Link Team as an area of service on your Connect Card.

# IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

# Welcome New Members



Derrick & Alyssa Pruitt



**Joseph Cardullo** 



Karen Milstead



John & Lucy Brown

# Welcome to the Family Class Sunday, May 3 ~ 9:30 am.-1:30 p.m.

This class is a foundational entry point into the life of the First Baptist family and is designed to introduce you to our beliefs, practices, mission, values and our structure. If you have been visiting First Baptist or if you have joined recently, this class will give you more information as you seek God's leadership in your life. To register please contact Karen Morrow in the church office (kmorrow@fbcfm.com) by Sunday, April 26. The class includes the teaching session and a Jim N' Nick's catered lunch (children and students of those attending will receive lunch as well).

# April Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

- 1. 11:00 Connect Group Leaders
- 2. High School D-Group Leaders
- 3. Prayer Service Volunteers for First World
- 4. Volunteers for the Tiniest VBSers
- 5. Link Team

More information about these positions is on the church's website and in the Worship Center lobby.

# **Congratulations To:**

Ben & Neely Potts on the birth of their son, Jake Jeffrey, on February 27.

Bill & Rita Cater on the birth of their granddaughter, Josette Rose Cater, on February 25. Parents are Will & Kelsey Cater.

Faye McCraven on the birth of her great-grandson, Josiah Solomon Key, on March 5. Grandparents are Greg & Julie Dry. Parents are Dillon & Kimberly Key.

Articles for the May First Word are due in the church office by April 21.

# In Sympathy

Our fellowship of faith extends the deepest love and sympathy to the following who have lost loved ones during the past month:

Rob Davis on the loss of his grandfather
Eddie Smith on the loss of his grandfather
The family of Betty Boatwright
The family of Frankie Campbell
Sue Carter on the loss of her mother
Faye Blackwell on the loss of her mother
Virginia Cornish on the loss of her step-mother

# **Fresh Encounter Prayer Service**

Plan to join us for a Fresh Encounter prayer service on Wednesday, April 8.

We will have a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. and then a special time of corporate prayer in the Worship Center at 6:30 p.m. Meal tickets can be purchased at the Registration Center for \$3.

# <u>April Deacons</u>

Sunday, April 5 ~ David McWilliam & Brad Chatham

Sunday, April 12 ~ Michael Wright & Jeff Collins

Sunday, April 19 ~ Cam Johnson & Larry Ashworth

Sunday, April 26 ~ Scott Mingonet & Scott Motsinger

## Regular Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. ~ Blended Worship

9:30 & 11:00 a.m. ~ Contemporary Worship/ABF and Serving Opportunities

6:00 p.m. ~ Catalyst Sunday Night Live

# Regular Wednesday Schedule

6:17 p.m. - Catalyst Worship/Classes

7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir/Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

# APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			I 6:30 Prayer Meeting	2 8:30 Prayer Meeting	3 Good Friday Church Office Closed	4	
			5:15 Handbell Rehearsal	8:00 AA	7:00 NA		
		Fort Mill Schools Spring Break ~ March 30 - April 3					
5 Easter Sunday  No Evening Activities	6 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Mission Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	7 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study and ESL Classes 6:30 SM Supervision Class 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	8 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:30 Fresh Encounter Meal 6:00 GLOW to Attention Home 6:17 Catalyst Worship/Classes 6:30 Fresh Encounter Service 7:30 Camp KidJam Meeting	9 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	10 10:00 Empowered to Connect Seminar 9:30 MOPS 10:00 Celebrator Committee Meeting 7:00 NA	11 10:00 Empowered to Connect Seminar 5:00 Wedding	
12 9:30 PLACE Class 9:30 Link Team Orientation 11:00 Start Here Class 11:00 Parent/Child Dedication Class 12:30 Catalyst Camp Meeting 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live	13 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:25 Celebrator Choir Trip	9:30 Ladies' Bible Study and ESL Classes 10:30 Priscilla Group 7:00 First Ladies—Titus Two 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	15 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:17 Catalyst Worship/Classes 6:30 FX Live! Practice	16 10:00 Stitches Group 8:00 AA	6:00 FX Live! 7:00 NA	18 Nicaragua Mission Team Departs 9:00 OCC Team Meeting	
19 Parent/Child Dedication in all three services 9:30 PLACE Class 11:00 Overflow Volunteer Orientation 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live	20 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Mission Prayer Group 9:25 Celebrator Choir Trip 7:00 MOPS Triad Meeting	21 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study and ESL Classes 6:00 Stephen Leader Meeting 6:30 SM Supervision Class 6:30 Student Bible Study 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	22 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:30 Celebrator Lunch 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:17 Catalyst Worship/Classes	23 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	24 9:30 MOPS Men's Retrea 7:00 NA	25 Nicaragua Mission Team Returns t ~ 24th - 26th	
26 9:30 PLACE Class 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:00 Connect Group Night	27 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	28 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study and ESL Classes 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	29 6:30 Prayer Meeting  5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:17 Catalyst Worship/Classes	30 8:30 Prayer Meeting 2:00 Celebrator Leadership Meeting  8:00 AA			



# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through February 28, 2015

We are celebrating God's faithfulness through His stewards within the First Baptist Family! We are so thankful for the many folks who week by week honor God with the first fruits of all that God has entrusted to them. Your continued faithfulness is making an eternal difference! Here's a quick financial snapshot through February 28, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>		2	<u>2014</u>	
Budget Income	\$ \$	406,982.02 298,556.93	\$ \$	397,545.66 361,063.21	
Budget Spending	\$	370,789.61	\$	370,082.55	

Balance on Building Loan 2/28/2015 \$40,156.45

You can monitor your year-to-date gifts by going to the church website and clicking on "member login." Follow the instructions for creating a username/password if you don't have one.

Contact Karen in the church office if you need assistance.



#### The First Word

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# Church Staff

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Shannon Ford, Executive Pastor/Minister of Adults
Johnny Caruso, Minister of Students
Kylie McDonald, Assoc. Minister of Students
Matthew Cavin, Minister of Life Groups/Assimilation
Bryan Trotter, Minister of Contemporary Music/Worship Arts
Joy Canupp, Minister of Children/Preschool/Volunteer Min. Director
Ralph Riley, Minister of Pastoral Care
Karen Morrow, Office Mgr./Pastor's Admin. Assistant
Angie Hayman, Media/Adults/Assimilation-Ministry Assistant
Diane Dulin, Worship/Outreach/Youth-Ministry Assistant
Natalie Savader, Children's Ministry-Ministry Assistant
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