

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2016

The First Word

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

Midweek Connection Begins

January 6

First Step Class

January 10

UpRising Weekend

January 15-17

Church Office Closed

January 18

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
FORT MILL



ONECRY

A Nationwide Call For Spiritual Awakening

www.OneCry.com

Churchwide Conference February 21-24, 2016 Fort Mill First Baptist Church

OneCry, the conference, is a 4-day event for our entire church family with age appropriate elements for every member of your family. It's filled with a worshipful, prayerful, challenging call for God's people to TURN, PRAY and UNITE for spiritual awakening. The preaching, music and creative elements are based on themes found in the movement's Declaration of National Spiritual Emergency (www.OneCry.com/join).

This event helps people of all ages walk through the process of personal humility and surrender to God, motivates them to pray earnestly in faith for His presence and power and engages them in the hope of Christ-centered revival. It is designed to help churches re-ignite their passion for Christ, engage in fervent revival prayer, encourage unity and reconciliation and look forward with expectation toward God's supernatural work.

We are excited to be hosting this conference that God has been using all over the country here at First Baptist Church Fort Mill! I want to ask you to do three things in preparation for this powerful event:

1. **Prioritize these dates on your family's calendar.** Set them aside now and make a commitment to be at every part of the conference you possibly can—Sunday morning and Sunday through Wednesday evenings.
2. **Prayerfully prepare your heart for these days.** Ask God to do a work in your life in preparation for these days. Ask God to move powerfully among us during these days.
3. **Encourage others to join you for this special time of seeking God together!** Your invitation and encouragement may be catalytic in God moving mightily in someone else's life.

We are prayerfully anticipating a mighty movement of God during these days—plan now to be a part of what God is doing among us!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIKE us on Facebook @firstbaptist.childrensministry



Questions or Comments??

Contact FBC: 547-2051

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jcanupp@fbcfm.com

Amy Armeni

Children's Ministry Assistant
CM Teaching Teams, CM Safety/Security, CM Facilities
aarmeni@fbcfm.com

Neely Potts

Children's Ministry Assistant
CM Large Group Teams, *FX Live!* Team, Wed. Nights, CM Midweek & Welcome Teams
npotts@fbcfm.com

Marsha Jones

Children's Ministry Assistant
Mother's Morning Out/Moppets/General Paid Childcare
mjones@fbcfm.com

First Step Class

FBC's new Christian class for kids & at least one parent

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 a prerequisite to baptism. Content includes discussion, teaching, Q & A on salvation and baptism.

Ideally BOTH, but 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, January 10, 11:00 a.m.

Please call the church office (547-2051) or email Natalie (nsavader@fbcfm.com)
by Thursday, January 7 to reserve a spot in the next class.
There needs to be a minimum of 3 children to have the class.

Tie-Dyed Lanyard Volunteers

There are some extra special appreciation efforts planned just for YOU in February ... you'll receive all of the details soon. Don't miss out!!!

Vacation Bible School 2016

June 5-9

Submerged

Jesus sees. Jesus knows.
Jesus saves.
Psalm 139:23-24



Midweek Connection: Options for Kids

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:45 p.m.

January 6-March 23

First Serve

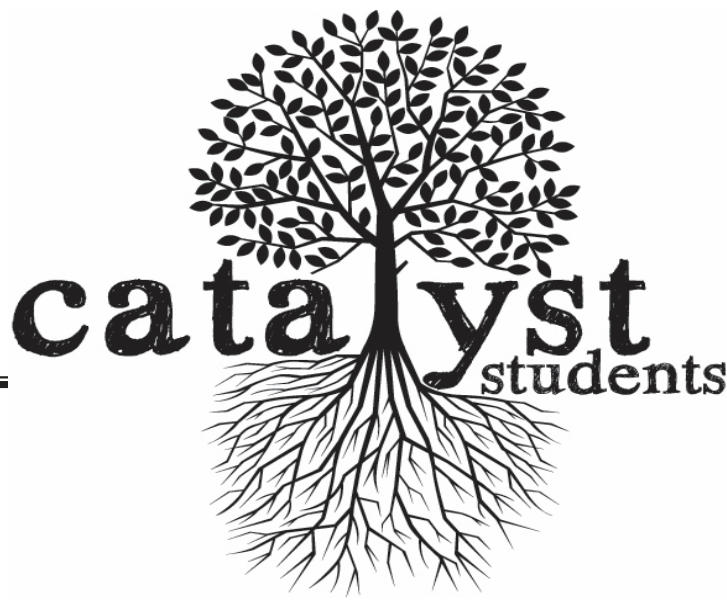
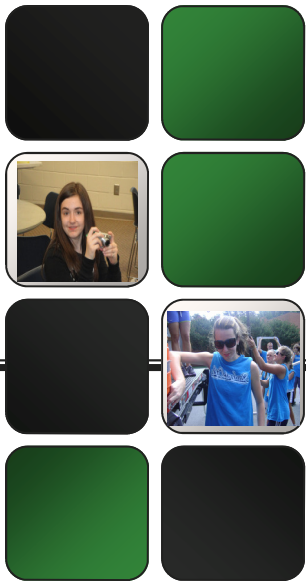
First Serve is listed as an adult class option, but it is also *open to children (K-5th) if they are attending with at least one parent*. This "class" gives all FBCers an opportunity to do hands-on ministry projects each Wednesday night. Folks must sign up by January 3. There is a one-time suggested donation of \$10/family to off-set the cost of the projects.



Infant—5th Graders of parents attending a mid-week class

Children who do not attend *First Serve* with a parent will be in classes on First World & Uptown Halls on Wednesday nights. The projects, Bible stories, activities, music and crafts are TBD based on sign ups that end on January 3. NOTE: Volunteers needed for these rooms!!





UpRising Weekend "Survivor"

UpRising weekend is January 15-17. Shannon Powell is the guest speaker. The cost is \$70.00 per student in a family and \$55.00 for each additional student in the same family. Remember, if you bring your friends and they are unchurched or non-believers, they attend at no cost. Sign-up is already underway in 180 or on the Student Ministry window. Parents, if your student is coming late or leaving on Saturday to attend another event we must have a release form filled out for them. The forms can be picked up from Johnny in 180, in the student ministry office or from Diane Dulin during the week.

11:00 connect Group Leader

We are looking for a couple of Connect Group leaders for Sunday mornings. If you would be interested contact Johnny.

Sunday Night Live

We will resume Sunday Night Live on Sunday, January 24.
6:00 Snack Supper
6:30 Middle School Bible Study
7:30 Middle School dismissed

High School D-Groups

High School D-Groups start back on Sunday, January 10, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., unless you have been notified otherwise by your leaders. Students meet in homes except the 9th grade boys which meet at the church. For information and directions to the homes see Johnny.

Middle School D-Groups

Middle School D-Groups will resume Wednesday, January 6. We meet in the drive-thru circle at 6:15 p.m. and head upstairs above the big lobby at 6:30 p.m. Groups conclude at 7:45 p.m. Their meeting times coincide with the adult Midweek Connection classes on Wednesdays.





Adult Ministries

Experience It!

Upcoming Events in January

Jan 1 — Church Office closed
 Jan 6 — Midweek Connection classes start
 Jan 8 — MOPS

Jan 15-17 — UpRising (Students)
 Jan 18 — Church Office closed (MLK)
 Jan 20 — Celebrators' Luncheon



Wednesday Morning Bible Study (January 6)

You are invited to a weekly Bible study that meets each Wednesday morning.

2 Corinthians (Wednesday: 10:00-11:30 in the WC-113A—Teacher: Lynn Sain)

☛ The study does not meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month because of the Celebrators' Luncheon.



Sanctity of Life Sunday - January 17, 2016

The scripture teaches that human life is sacred. The intrinsic value of human life comes from the creator of life, God. The fundamental right to life recognizes that we are created in the image of God and are called to defend, protect and value innocent human life.

“For you formed my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13

A Call to Action

1. Pray for God to intervene
2. Vote for pro-life candidates
3. Contact your government representatives
4. Support abortion alternatives
5. Be an example of purity
6. Become adoptive parents



January 6 – March 23, 2016

- 1) Christian Beliefs: Part 2 (11 Weeks / Cost \$5) – *Shannon Ford*
- 2) 1 Peter Precept Study (Part 2) – Ladies' Study (11 Weeks / Cost \$11) – *Trish Caruso*
- 3) Spiritual Warfare: Biblical Truth for Victory (9 Weeks / Cost \$8) – *Steve Adams*
- 4) Marriage 101 (8 Weeks / Cost \$7) – *Bart & Pam Nicholson*
- 5) Financial Peace University (9 Weeks / Cost \$45 per couple) – *Larry Ashworth & Andy Jones*
- 6) A Survey of Spiritual Beliefs with Emphasis on Islam (11 Weeks / Cost \$5) – *Garrett Eckert*
- 7) GriefShare (11 Weeks / Cost \$8) – *Charles Payton*
- 8) First Serve (11 Weeks / Suggested donation \$10/family) – *Neely Potts*



Music ~ Media



This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9-12

Music News

The role of music in the church is much the same as it was when King David organized a choir of singers thousands of years ago - to glorify God and assist the congregation in worshipping Him. Please check out the ministry opportunities listed below.

- * **The 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-youth through senior adults. Rehearsals are 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights.
- * **Seasonal Singers:** sing at special presentations with the Worship Choir such as Easter and Christmas. Rehearsals are 8:15-9:00 p.m. on Wednesday nights. (If childcare is needed for worship choir practice, whether choir member or seasonal singer, you must let Diane Dulin know by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday via email at ddulin@fbcfm.com for the current week.)
- * **The Handbell Choir:** meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the old choir room. You must be able to read music to participate in this group. The Handbell Choir performs at some of the 8:15 worship services, the Candlelight service and various community venues.
- * **The Celebrator Choir:** meets on Mondays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. September through early May. This group enjoys singing at various community venues and also sings on Sunday mornings a few times a year. This group is comprised mostly of adults who have retired and enjoy singing. ***The choir resumes on January 18.***

If you are interested in learning more about these music opportunities, contact Diane in the church office.

* Celebrate Easter

January 22 & 23: Winter Choir Retreat to prepare for the Easter music. The retreat will be held at the church. If you are not part of the choir and are interested in singing in the Easter program, please contact Alice or Diane at the church to find out more about being a "seasonal singer."

Schedule: Friday, January 22, 6:00 p.m.- 6:50 p.m. dinner; 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. rehearsal

Saturday, January 23, 9:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. rehearsal

At this retreat, you will learn at least 75% of the songs. Childcare is available, 5th grade and under, upon request by contacting Diane Dulin at the church office. Deadline to register for childcare is January 15 at noon.

- * March 20 - Palm Sunday
- * March 27 - Easter Sunday

Celebrators' Choir News

- * Resumes on January 18.
- * Trip to Valdese FBC in NC in April.
- * Potential trip to SC Baptist Retirement Home; date to be determined.

Media News

~ 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).



His Mission, My Place!

Wow, what a packed first month for Donna and me! The FBC Family has been great to welcome us and make us feel a part of this fellowship. We continue to give thanks for you all and for the grace that you have extended to us.

I have been busy trying to get up to speed on all the great things going on here. It has been and continues to be a blessing to hear of all the wonderful ways this Family is engaged in serving and sharing the Love of Christ! I give thanks for the spiritual fruit that is a result of your labors.

I will begin to regularly share and highlight some of many avenues of service that are open to us. Also, I want to open the door to the many opportunities and needs all around us right “across the street and around the world.” Look for more to be shared and celebrated over the next few months.

As followers of Christ and a local body of Believers, I believe we have a responsibility as we go about our lives to share the good news of the Gospel helping people as we go. We base our belief on Scripture: The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, and the Great Commandment found in Matthew 22:37-39 are primary examples. Also, we serve using Christ as our example, Luke 10:27.

Would you simply say, “Here am I send me,” and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit? We believe that all Christians are missionaries sent out by the local church as salt and light to a dark and scared world. We are to be “in the world, not of the world.”

Let me close with a recent story from friends in South Asia in the city where Kylie is serving. We are a part of this through our prayers and our gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering:

“Over the past twelve months it has been a joy to share the Good News with over 5,000 new people in our city alongside our national ministry partners, orientation participants and volunteers. It has been through the women's health outreach, prayer walking while looking for houses of peace and sharing with those with whom we cross paths that many people learned about Jesus for the first time this year. Out of those who heard the Gospel, just over 500 accepted Christ as their Savior and made him Lord of their lives. Another 850 people are actively participating in seeker Bible Studies. There are also now 72 groups that meet weekly that are working toward becoming churches. Through these outreaches and Bible studies over 2,000 Bibles have been distributed in the local language.” – IMB missionaries



Stay tuned for exciting things in January and know that my door is always open.

Brett Freemon
bfreemon@fbcfm.com
Minister of Evangelism and Missions
First Baptist Church Fort Mill

WORSHIP

ARTS

by Bryan Trotter

Defining Worship, Part 1

Bob Kauflin

www.worshipmatters.com

Dutch humanist Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536) once said “Every definition is dangerous.” That may explain why when we try to define a word simply and precisely we often end up missing significant aspects of the word we’re defining. Attempts at explaining worship as “love,” or “intimacy” or “relationship” say something true, but end up leaving out more than they contribute to our understanding of worship.

In spite of Erasmus’ warning, over the years I’ve come across numerous definitions of “worship” that have caused me to think about worship more biblically.

Harold Best, in his book [Music Through the Eyes of Faith](#) defines worship in the broadest sense as “acknowledging that someone or something else is greater – worth more – and by consequence, to be obeyed, feared and adored... Worship is the sign that in giving myself completely to someone or something, I want to be mastered by it.” (pg. 143)

We want to be mastered by the objects of our worship. And indeed we are. We worship whatever rules our time, energy, thoughts, longings and choices. *“Those who make them [idols] become like them; so do all who trust in them.”* (Psalm 115:8, ESV)

A definition of worship that I appreciate for its simplicity and clarity is by Warren Wiersbe who writes: Worship is the believer’s response of all that they are – mind, emotions, will, body – to what God is and says and does. (Warren Wiersbe, *Real Worship*, p. 26)

I’ve used that definition, or something similar, when I want to accent that worship can’t be half-hearted and is all about God’s character, words and acts.

David Peterson unpacks what at first blush is a more sterile, but nevertheless insightful, definition:

“Worship of the living and true God is essentially an engagement with Him on the terms that He proposes and in the way that He alone makes possible.” (*Engaging with God*, pg. 20)

Peterson’s definition highlights God’s initiative, authority and enabling power in our worship.

Dr. Dan Block, who until recently was a Professor of Old Testament at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, defines true worship as “reverential human acts of submission and homage before the divine Sovereign, in response to his gracious revelation of himself and in accordance with his will.” (from Dr. Block’s [For the Glory of God](#), course notes)

This is the first definition that specifically mentions what many of the biblical words for worship imply – submission and homage.

Well, this post is already longer than I anticipated. But, here’s one more from William Temple’s (1881-1944) *Readings in St. John’s Gospel*.

“Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His Beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin.”

Amen.

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Welcome New Members



**Brett & Donna
Freemon**



**Casey & Devan
Eanes**



Elaine Dicenso



**Rich & Amanda
Allsbrook**



Living Right

“I must be living right!” You may have spoken those words in the midst of a very good day. What does it mean to “live right?” Peter lays it out for us: “As servants of God, live as free people, honor everyone” (1 Peter 2:16-17 NRSV). Those involved in Stephen Ministry, our congregation’s one-to-one caregiving ministry, do just that. They serve God and respect others by providing Christian care. Is this a way you want to serve the Lord? If so, contact one of our Stephen Leaders below:

Jerry Lape, 704-219-1626 Carolyn Lape, 704-989-0284
Sam Treadaway, 803-802-3025 Tony Bishop, 803-548-4109
Ken Terry, 727-512-0920 Bill Tumlin, 803-554-2530
Karen Morrow, 803-547-2051

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



January Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. One Cry Ministry Team
2. VBS Family Event Team
3. Host Team Greeters
4. Children’s Ministry On-Call Volunteers
5. Children’s Ministry Handyman Team

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



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Articles for the February *First Word* are due in the church office by January 18.

In Sympathy

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

Lynn Sain on the loss of her brother-in-law
Buddy & Pat Connor on the loss of their nephew
The family of Hugh Mullis
The family of Wanda Burnsed
Terry Boatwright on the loss of his aunt



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. ~ Sunday Night Live (begins Jan 24)

Regular Wednesday Schedule

5:15 p.m.—Midweek Meal (begins Jan 6)
6:15 p.m.—Midweek Classes (begins Jan 6)
6:17 p.m.—Middle School D Groups (begins Jan 6)
7:30 p.m.—Adult Choir/Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 7:00 NA	2
3 4:00 Deacons' Meeting	4 6:30 Men's Prayer Group	5 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	6 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Middle School D Groups	7 8:30 Prayer Meeting 6:00 MOPS Set-up 8:00 AA	8 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA	9
10 11:00 First Step Class 6:30 High School D Groups	11 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 HOA Meeting	12 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 10:30 Priscilla Group 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	13 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Middle School D Groups	14 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	15 Catalyst UpRising Weekend 15-17	16
17 11:00 Overflow Orientation 6:30 High School D Groups	18 <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:00 Celebrators' Choir <i>Church Office Closed</i>	19 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	20 11:30 Celebrator's Lunch 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Middle School D Groups	21 8:30 Prayer Meeting 6:00 MOPS Set-up 8:00 AA	22 9:30 MOPS 5:00 Choir Retreat 7:00 NA	23 9:00 Choir Retreat
24 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:30 High School D Groups	25 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:00 Celebrators' Choir	26 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	27 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Middle School D Groups	28 8:30 Prayer Meeting 2:00 Celebrators' Program Committee Meeting 8:00 AA	29 9:00 Art Exhibit Set-up 7:00 NA	30
31 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:30 High School D Groups						

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through November 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 November 30, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 2,238,401.11	\$ 2,186,501.13
Budget Income	\$ 2,078,786.76	\$ 2,143,534.87
Budget Spending	\$ 2,000,415.91	\$ 2,105,579.34

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.

2015 Year-End Contributions

All contributions received in the church office by December 31 will be included in the 2015 contribution statements. Gifts that are **mailed** must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. Any gift postmarked after December 31 will be posted as a 2016 gift. *2015 Contribution statements will be sent via email by the end of January 2016. If you would like a paper copy of your statement please contact Fran in the church office.*



The First Word

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