

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 7

JULY 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.*

## **Summer Camps & Missions**

**Student Life Camp**  
June 29-July 4

**Victory Sports (VSO)  
(Lancaster & Buford, SC)**  
July 6-10

**Belize**  
July 6-11

**VSO (Fort Mill)**  
July 13-17

**Camp KidJam**  
July 15-18

**Jamaica**  
July 25-August 1

**VSO (St. George, SC)**  
July 26-31



## **Religious Freedom Is Not Freedom From Ridicule**

### **By Russell Moore**

Over the last few years, we've seen an unprecedented and nasty turn in American culture against basic religious freedoms, freedoms that once were at the bedrock of the American consensus. In the years to come, we will be called upon to advocate for religious liberty and soul freedom for everyone, over and against a government and a media culture hostile to the very idea.

Religious liberty matters because religious liberty is an issue of worship. The state is given the power of the sword to coercively act against threats to public order and justice (Romans 13:1-7). The state does not have the power of the sword to regulate what is owed to God (Mark 12:17). What God requires is not forced or feigned worship but that which flows from an open and pure conscience (1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 9:14). A state that forces a person to act against conscience is a state that has overstepped its bounds, a state that is attempting violence on persons at a Judgment Seat at which the state is not a party.

When we work for religious liberty, we are working in the interest of the common good; we are not just protecting ourselves. We are working to keep ourselves from participating in the evil of a conscience-restricting coercive government. The apostles denied the authority of a decidedly non-democratic authority to intrude into such matters (Acts 4:19-20), much less should we expect it of a government with constitutional guarantees of the natural rights of religious freedom.

This doesn't mean, though, that we should vent outrage when we are ridiculed or insulted or slighted by the culture around us. We should seek to keep our conduct honorable "among the Gentiles," as the Bible tells us (1 Peter 2:12), but we shouldn't chafe at being strangers and aliens to them (1 Peter 1:11). When we are ridiculed and mocked, it's probably a sign that people are starting to actually hear what we are saying. Our gospel isn't safe and normal. Our gospel is a strange message of turned cheeks and bloody crosses and empty tombs, of coming judgment and of poured-out mercy.

*Russell Moore serves as the President of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. For more information and resources go to [erlc.com](http://erlc.com)*



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIKE us on Facebook @firstbaptist.childrensministry

## Questions or Comments??

Contact FBC: 547-2051

Joy Canupp  
Minister of Children/Preschool  
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

## Summer Fun with Bible Skills!!

The summer is an excellent time to incorporate basic Bible skills into the non-school day routine. Try one or more of these activities at home ...

1. **Bible Book Pin Up:** Write the names of Old and New Testament books on individual wooden clothespins. Hang a "clothesline" between two chairs or in another location. Mix up the pins and allow kids to have fun putting them in order as quickly as possible. \*It's fine to have a Bible close by for easy reference while the game is going on...maybe by the end of the summer, this game can be played without "looking."
2. **Bible Skills "Twister":** Use an old Twister game. Develop Bible skill questions & print them on yellow, green, blue & red cards - or use color markers to write them on white cards. Spin the spinner. Select card to match the color. If the correct answer is given, complete the remaining instructions on the spinner (left foot on green, right hand on red, etc).
3. **Old Testament Tower:** Use an old Jenga game. Carefully write the books of the Old Testament on all sides of the Jenga blocks. Stack the blocks randomly, three to a layer in alternating directions. Players remove the blocks and begin placing them in order over to the side. The goal will be to get as many OT books in order before the tower falls.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

### Annual CM Volunteer Breakfast/Training

Saturday, August 29th

8:30 a.m.

We have a super-fun theme planned for this year's event as well as some great training during the main session and in the team break-outs. And, the food?? Why, yes, it will be amazing, as always.

We value our volunteers tremendously. Please do not miss this important event full of encouragement, new information, critical reminders and over-the-top giveaways.

*Make note on your calendar now!*

## Victory Sports Camp

Victory Sports Camp is a summer camp for students who have completed 1st-6th grade (or turn 7 on or before September 1, 2015).

July 13-17

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
at Springfield Elementary

Fee: \$60 (includes t-shirt)/ \$150 max. per family

Participants will choose one sport from the following list: Baseball, Soccer, Football, Basketball, Cheer, Volleyball



All details & online registration at [www.victorysportsoutreach.org](http://www.victorysportsoutreach.org)



## Student Life Staff Camp II

Sunday, July 26, the high school leadership team will travel to Ridgecrest Conference Center for leadership camp. We will attend the 8:15 a.m. worship service and leave for camp following the service. We plan to return home by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 31. The cost is \$35.00.

## High School Leadership Team

Applications for next year's leadership team are now available for those who will be freshmen-seniors in the fall. All applications will be due in the student ministry office by July 19.

## Engage Fort Mill

Engage Fort Mill is August 10-13. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. each morning at the church and return at 2:30 p.m. Please bring a sack lunch. If you can't attend every day, come when you can.

## Belize Mission Trip

The names have been set, tickets purchased and fees paid. Participants will meet at Charlotte-Douglas airport at 4:00 a.m. If you need help with transportation to the airport contact Johnny to make arrangements. A trip checklist will be sent out for things needed on the trip and suggested extra money.

## Reception for Kylie McDonald

On Sunday, July 19, we will have a going-away reception for Kylie McDonald from 5-7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Kylie has been invaluable to the student ministry at FBC and will be missed greatly. If you would like to help with the reception contact Karen Adams. If you would like to participate in a love offering for Kylie make checks payable to First Baptist and designate the gift to Kylie in the memo line.



# Adult Ministries

## Experience It!

### Upcoming Events in July

July 6-11 - Belize Mission Trip

July 12 - Start Here Class

July 13-17 - Victory Sports Camp (Fort Mill)

July 19 - Overflow Volunteer Orientation

July 25-Aug 1 - Jamaica Mission Trip

July 26-31 - St. George VSO Camp



### Midweek Connection—New Fall Schedule Wednesday Evenings 6:15-7:45 p.m. / Starts August 26

Sign-ups start in the Worship Center lobby on **August 2** for our fall *Midweek Connection* classes. The church also serves a light supper beginning at 5:15 p.m. Below are some of the classes we will offer this fall.

1. Christian Beliefs: 20 Life-Transforming Truths – Shannon Ford
2. Precepts: 1 Peter (Women) – Trish Caruso
3. Precepts: 1 Peter (Men) – Steve Adams
4. Financial Peace University – Larry Ashworth & Andy Jones
5. Counter Culture (David Platt) – Garrett Eckert
6. Grief Share – Leader: T.B.D.
7. First Serve – Leader: Joy Canupp

*\*Marriage class, parenting class and others.*

**\*\*Wednesday morning class (10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.) - 2 Corinthians (Lynn Sain)**

### Adult Bible Fellowship Teachers & Administrators

There will be a very important Sunday Morning Leadership Banquet and training session for Adult Bible Fellowship teachers on **August 9** (5:30-8:30 p.m.). The appreciation banquet will start at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The training session for ABF teachers will start at 6:30 p.m.



# Music ~ Celebrators ~ Media

*“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:19-20*

## Music News

The Adult Worship Choir continues to make a joyful noise to the Lord throughout the summer months so if you enjoy singing or being involved with music, please check out the opportunities listed below.

- \* 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.
- \* The Handbell Choir meets on Wednesday evening from 5:15-6:15 p.m. from September to early May. You must be able to read music to participate in this group that plays at some of the 8:15 worship services, the Candlelight service and various community venues.
- \* 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. Will resume in September.
- \* The Celebrator Choir meets on Mondays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. from September to 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.
- \* If you are interested in learning more about these music opportunities, contact Diane in the church office.

## CELEBRATORS’ (Senior Adult) News

- \* July 15: Luncheon. Sing along in the Chapel with Judie Reynolds on the piano and Rollie Reynolds providing the history of the songs selected.

### Upcoming Events:

- \* August 19: Luncheon. An update of the town’s status will be presented.
- \* September 15 & 16: Celebration Jubilee. Guest speaker, Celebrator Choir and catered lunch on Tuesday, September 15. Regular Celebrators’ luncheon with entertainment by Mechelle Strickland on Wednesday, September 16. Watch for more details.
- \* October 15: BMW plant tour in Greer, SC.
- \* October 21: Luncheon. Staff from the Crisis Pregnancy Center will share about their program.
- \* December 3: Trip to the Billy Graham Library.
- \* December 9: Christmas banquet (this replaces the regular Celebrators’ luncheon).

## 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).



# WORSHIP ARTS

by Bryan Trotter

## LET ALL THE EARTH REJOICE

Martin Smith

[www.worshipleader.com](http://www.worshipleader.com)

In our English language we use the word “love” a lot. I love that movie; we loved our car; I love your hair; I love you God.

Worship is a word that is also getting a run for its money. Let’s have a worship time; I love that new worship song; have you checked out that new worship artist; the way they “do” worship is awesome; I worship you God.

### Language Dilemma

You can see the dilemma we’re in, can’t you? Our limited language can cheapen the power of the true meaning of a word and dilute the original weight it originally carried.

“Great is the Lord and highly to be praised in the city of our God!” says Psalm 48. And that is what worship is; it’s all about God and not about our records or songs or even the way we feel towards Him. We worship this great God because of who He is, not because we feel in the mood but simply because He is God and is the Great I Am.

All over this earth, people are worshiping God—there is an explosion of heavenly worship from all the corners of this globe. All cultures, all colors, all ages, all traditions are united in this one act—God is worthy and we want to spend our lives saying thank you for what He has done.

So how do we do this? Is there a way that God likes it? I don’t believe that God has a personal preference or style that He listens to on His heavenly iPod. (Apparently it has so much storage space on it that one whole planet has been turned into a hard drive) No! He loves the heart, that’s what He hears, not the tempo or the key but thanksgiving and abandonment. This may mean guitars, drums and keyboards in London; it may mean tablas and sitars in India; it may mean street praise parties in Brazil, and so on. You get the picture.

### Resounding with Sound

God is definitely not saying, “This is the way I want you to worship me.” He’s saying, “Let everything that has breath, praise. Express this to Me in the way you love to express yourself.” God loves any offering if it comes from the heart, whether a dance, a painting, a love letter, a gift of money, a violin, a screaming electric guitar. God always sees the heart and passion of the worshiper before the method or the style and right now this earth is resounding with every sort of sound, rhythm and style we could possibly dream of.

We must always remember that this is God’s planet and not the devil’s. We are in an unprecedented time in history when the Church of Jesus Christ is connected through technology and there is much more unity and sense of belonging to one another, even if thousands of miles and cultural differences impede at times. What unites us is stronger than what divides us and we have a glorious King who deserves praise from His people. So, here we go, “Let all the earth rejoice.”

# created for connection

## GroupLINK

### What is GroupLINK ???

You have heard us mention that we really want you to be part of a Life Group. We think God has a plan to use other brothers and sisters in your life to grow you to be more like Him. Being part of the life-changing community offered in a Life Group can help you take that next spiritual step God has for you.

Beyond our own spiritual growth, we know God has commanded us to make disciples. You have been called to multiply yourself. Not only are Life Groups a place for you to grow and be challenged to apply the things God is teaching you to make disciples, but it's also a place for you to challenge others to follow the command we have all been given by our King!

Enter GroupLINK. It's like eharmony for Life Groups! GroupLINK is a two-hour event designed to help connect those interested in Life Groups with a group. It's a night of food, fun and friends that will hopefully end with you finding the right group to try out. We will eat, introduce the available groups, mingle a little and attempt to help you connect to the right group.

GroupLINK is a low pressure event that will hopefully reap high rewards. Be in prayer now about what steps the Lord might want you to take as you seek to follow Him. GroupLINK might just be that next step. Be on the look-out for sign-ups beginning in August! Now might be your time to engage in life-changing community.

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Want to learn more about Life Groups, the Host Team or our Link Team?  
Contact Matthew Cavin at:  
[mcavin@fbcfm.com](mailto:mcavin@fbcfm.com)



# IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

## Welcome New Members



**Madison  
Dougan**



**Andy & Kelsey  
Hedrick**

The church office will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.



## Fresh Encounter Prayer Service August 5 ~ 6:30 p.m.

We will have a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. and then a special time of corporate prayer at 6:30 p.m. Sign-up for the meals will be in the lobby July 26 and August 2. Activity & care for 5th grade and under provided by request only. Sign up on the website.

## Congratulations To:

Karen Milstead on the birth of her grandson, Jonathan William White, on June 7. Parents are Joel White and Heidi Toothaker.

## In Sympathy

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

Gale Hipp on the loss of her mother  
Dave Thomas on the loss of his father  
Deborah Farrington on the loss of her uncle  
The family of Andy Nichols  
The family of Kelly Lavallee  
Donnie Lisk on the loss of his mother  
Harald Morgenstern on the loss of his mother  
The family of Ann Powell



## They Are among Us

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. A training class is starting soon.

To find out more about this ministry, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders listed below:

Jerry Lape, 704-219-1626  
Sam Treadaway, 803-802-3025  
Ken Terry, 727-512-0920  
Karen Morrow, 803-547-2051

Carolyn Lape, 704-989-0284  
Tony Bishop, 803-548-4109  
Hannah Bates, 704-644-9681



## July Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. FX Live! Fall Staff
2. Midweek Connection Teachers for Kids
3. After Effects Animator—Video Team
4. Host Team Greeters
5. Connect Group Leaders

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

**Articles for the August *First Word* are due in the church office by July 21.**

## July Deacons

**Sunday, July 5** ~ Paul Taggart & B. Jay Bogan

**Sunday, July 12** ~ Dohn Davis & Alan Drake

**Sunday, July 19** ~ Tom Neal & Pat Maness

**Sunday, July 26** ~ Larry Hammond & Shawn Swicegood

## Regular Sunday Schedule

8:15 a.m. ~ Blended Worship  
9:30 & 11:00 a.m. ~ Contemporary Worship/ABF and Serving Opportunities

## Regular Wednesday Schedule

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



## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through May 31, 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 May 31, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 1,017,455.05	\$ 993,864.15
Budget Income	\$ 903,581.65	\$ 1,019,997.12
Budget Spending	\$ 931,965.40	\$ 980,403.24

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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121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715  
[www.fbcfm.com](http://www.fbcfm.com)

Phone: 803-547-2051

Fax: 803-548-0241

### *Church Staff*

Jeff Bedwell, Sr. Pastor	JBedwell@fbcfm.com
Shannon Ford, Executive Pastor/Minister of Adults	SFord@fbcfm.com
Johnny Caruso, Minister of Students	JCaruso@fbcfm.com
Kylie McDonald, Assoc. Minister of Students	KMcDonald@fbcfm.com
Matthew Cavin, Minister of Life Groups/Assimilation	MCavin@fbcfm.com
Bryan Trotter, Minister of Contemporary Music/Worship Arts	BTrotter@fbcfm.com
Joy Canupp, Minister of Children/Preschool/Volunteer Min. Director	JCanupp@fbcfm.com
Ralph Riley, Minister of Pastoral Care	rwjtriley@gmail.com
Karen Morrow, Office Mgr./Pastor's Admin. Assistant	KMorrow@fbcfm.com
Angie Hayman, Media/Adults/Assimilation-Ministry Assistant	AHayman@fbcfm.com
Diane Dulin, Worship/Outreach/Youth-Ministry Assistant	DDulin@fbcfm.com
Natalie Savader, Children's Ministry-Ministry Assistant	NSavader@fbcfm.com
Fran Lynch, Financial Secretary	FLynch@fbcfm.com
John Phillips, Facilities Manager	JPhillips@fbcfm.com

# JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 6:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>2</i> 8:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>3</i> Church Office Closed	<i>4 Independence Day</i>
<b>Student Life Camp ~ June 29 - July 4</b>						
			7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8:00 AA		
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 6:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>9</i> 8:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<b>Belize Mission Trip ~ July 6-11/ VSO Camp in Lancaster &amp; Buford ~ July 6-10</b>						
		8:00 AA/Al-Anon	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8:00 AA	7:00 NA	
<i>12</i> 11:00 Start Here Class	<i>13</i> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:00 VSO Camp—Fort Mill 9:30 Missions Prayer Group	<i>14</i> 9:00 VSO Camp—Fort Mill 10:30 Priscilla Group	<i>15</i> 6:30 Prayer Meeting 9:00 VSO Camp—Fort Mill 11:30 Celebrator Lunch	<i>16</i> 8:30 Prayer Meeting 9:00 VSO Camp—Fort Mill	<i>17</i> 9:00 VSO Camp—Fort Mill	<i>18</i> 2:00 Family Memorial Service
<b>Camp KidJam ~ July 15-18</b>						
		7:00 Titus Two Tuesday 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	7:00 Finance Meeting 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8:00 AA	7:00 NA	
<i>19</i> 11:00 Overflow Volunteer Orientation  5:00 Reception for Kylie McDonald	<i>20</i> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group	<i>21</i>  6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	<i>22</i> 6:30 Prayer Meeting  7:30 Choir Rehearsal	<i>23</i> 8:30 Prayer Meeting  8:00 AA	<i>24</i>  7:00 NA	<i>25</i> Jamaica Mission Team Departs
<i>26 Communion Sunday</i> 12:15 VSO Mission Team Lunch	<i>27</i> 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> 6:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>30</i> 8:30 Prayer Meeting	<i>31</i>	
<b>Jamaica Mission Trip ~ July 25-August 1/ VSO St. George Mission Trip ~ July 26-31/ Catalyst Staff Camp ~ July 26-31</b>						
		6:30 Stephen Leader Meeting 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	7:30 Choir Rehearsal	8:00 AA	7:00 NA 7:30 Wedding/Worship	