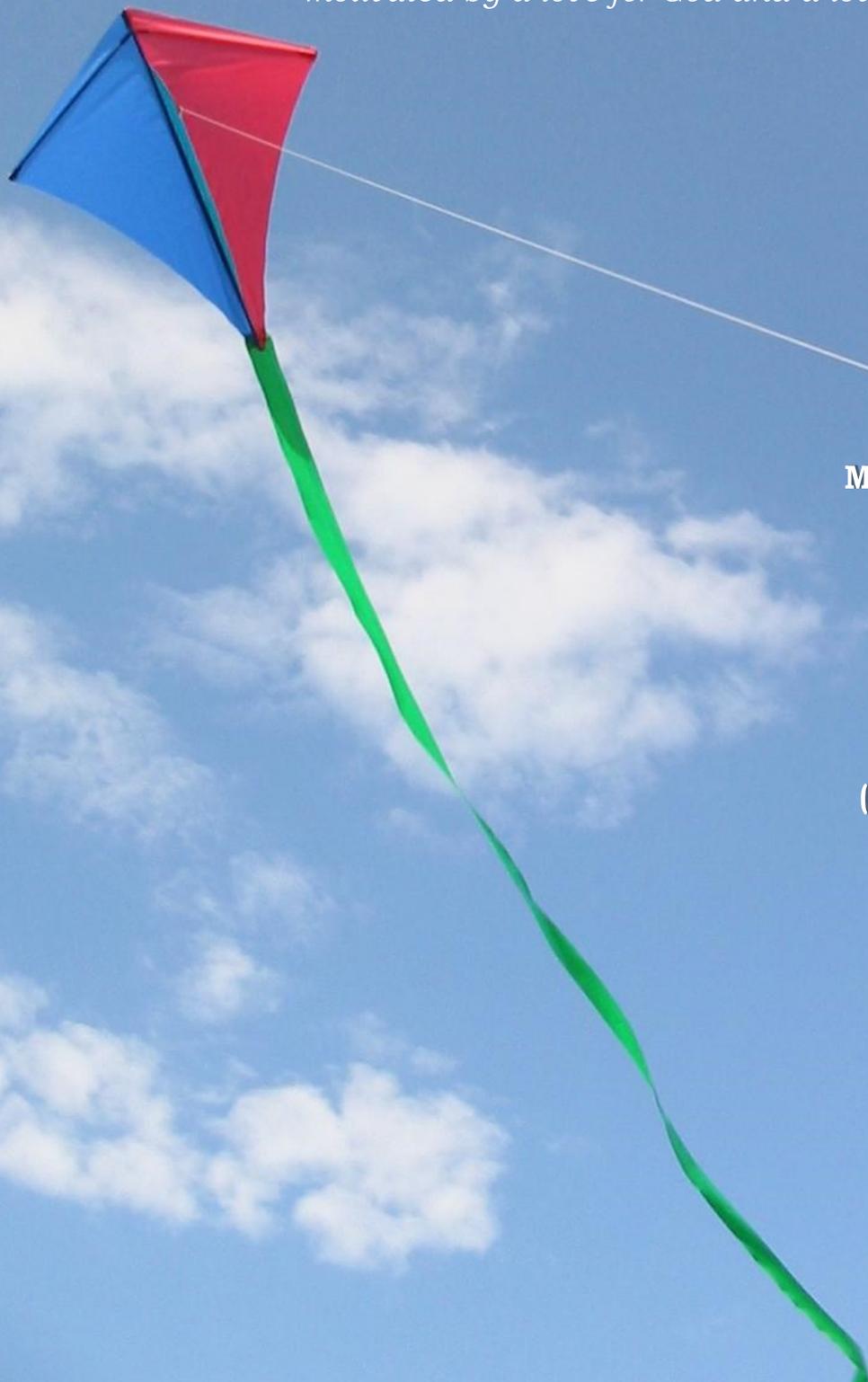


The First Word

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



First Step Class

March 6

Titus 2 Tuesday

March 8

**Men's Ministry Missions
Breakfast**

March 19

Palm Sunday

March 20

**Good Friday
(Church Office Closed)**

March 25

Happy Easter!

March 27



From Pastor Jeff

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

The 5 Personal Practices are:

Grow through personal spiritual growth habits

Right place of service

Attend weekly worship

Connect to a healthy small group

Engage in the Great Commission

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 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?
- Who does Christ want me to share the gospel with?
- 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 Christlikeness 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

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 & FX Live! Teams, 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

Special March & April Happenings!

Camp KidJam Sign-Ups. March 1-27

Spaces are limited! Register & pay deposit or full amount online.

Baptism Sunday. April 17

Children who have attended First Step Class and are interested in being baptized on this special day should contact Joy ASAP for all the details and important deadlines.

Parent/Child Dedication. Sunday, April 24, all services

Registration deadline is April 10. A Parent/Child Dedication Class is required for participants and will be Sunday, April 17, at 11:00 a.m.

Children's Ministry Facebook Page



Regular updates,
encouragement, links, church
news, giveaways and so much
more ... don't miss out!

facebook @

[firstbaptist.childrensministry](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptist.childrensministry)

First Step Class

A class for new Christians & at least one parent

This one-time class is offered approximately every other month. It is designed for children age 7 through 5th grade (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, March 6, 11:00 a.m.

Please call the church office (547-2051) or email Natalie (nsavader@fbcfm.com)
by **Thursday, March 3**, if your child plans to attend
... there is a sign-up minimum of 3 children.

Vacation Bible School

2016

Submerged

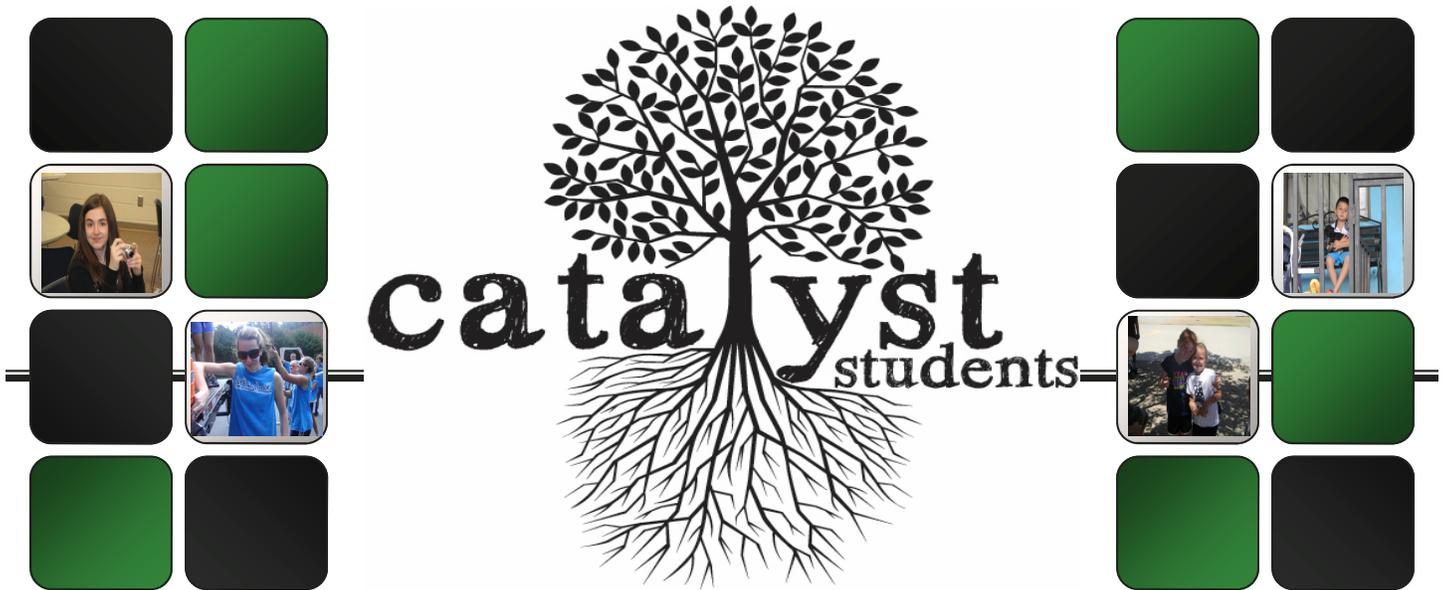
Jesus sees. Jesus knows.

Jesus saves.

Psalm 139:23-24

June 5-9





India Mission Trip

As most of you know we are going to India this summer, June 14-23. The cost of the trip is \$2200.00. Although this may seem to be an insurmountable amount, we serve a God that owns not only the cattle on a thousand hills, he owns the hills also. So nothing is impossible with Him.

There is still time to sign up for the trip. There are a couple of things that need to be taken care of right away. The most time-sensitive item is a passport. You need to apply for one right away. Once you receive your passport you have to go through the visa process. We will help you with that so we can achieve the best results.

Also, a deposit of \$200.00 is due by March 20. Tickets will be purchased the following week and in order to receive a spot we need the deposit.

Hopefully you have started sending out your support letters with the bookmarks you were given. If you don't have bookmarks please see Johnny so he can take a picture of you and make bookmarks for you to send with your letters. The bookmarks are a reminder for folks to pray for you while you're in India.

Middle School

Destination Unknown

Sunday, April 17, is our next Middle School Destination Unknown. We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. and return to the church at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person. If you have a friend that is unchurched or does not know the Lord they come as our guest and are not required to pay to participate. If you are a Middle School D-Group leader you are welcome to come and spend time with your group and their friends.

Baptisms

Parents and students:

The student ministry is following up with all students that made a decision for the Lord in the last year and at UpRising 2016 so they can take the next step of obedience—Baptism. We've made phone calls and sent emails in an attempt to contact those students. If you are one of those needing to take the next step please contact Johnny so you can move ahead in this important show of obedience to the Lord.



Adult Ministries

Experience It!

Upcoming Events in March

Mar 13 – Daylight Savings starts
Mar 16 – Celebrators monthly luncheon
Mar 19 – Men’s Ministry Missions Breakfast
Mar 20 – Palm Sunday

Mar 23 – Midweek Connection classes end
Mar 25 – Good Friday (church office closed)
Mar 27 – Easter Sunday



ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS

JOIN A SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Adult Bible Fellowship provides an enjoyable environment for people who are searching for more in their life through the study of God’s Word. Adult Bible Fellowships are the most effective places where people connect. They are personal, relational,

and fun. They are places to make friends, establish lifelong relationships and grow together spiritually. ABF classes meet at 9:30 & 11:00 each Sunday. To see a list of classes, please visit: <http://www.fbcfm.com/adult-bible-fellowship>

Are you a GRACE Adult?

God created us to be in significant relationships and to grow stronger as we develop our spiritual lives. There are certain disciplines (habits) of this spiritual process that we are developing together. We call these practices the Five Essentials of GRACE. Are you practicing these five essentials as an FBCFM adult?

Grow through personal spiritual growth habits (*Bible reading, prayer, etc.*)

Right place of service (*Serving God by serving others*)

Attend weekly worship service (*8:15, 9:30 or 11:00*)

Connect to a healthy small group (*ABF class, Life Group or Journey Group*)

Engage in the Great Commission (*Making disciples who can make disciples*)

Men’s Ministry Missions Breakfast

March 19 - Fellowship Hall (8:00 a.m.)



All FBC men and their guests are invited to our Men’s Ministry Missions Breakfast on Saturday, March 19, from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at the church. Our program will focus on learning how men can get involved in local missions. We will hear from various mission ministries and offer ways to connect with these ministries. Tickets are \$3 per person and available at the Registration Center in the church lobby.



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 4:9-10

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 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.

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

Celebrate Easter: The Worship Choir and Seasonal Singers will present special music on Palm Sunday, March 20, in all three services. Please plan to join us in the celebration of Jesus, our Savior.

Celebrators' Choir News

- * Meets on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. in the choir room.
- * Trip to Valdese FBC in NC on April 19.
- * 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).

He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!!

His Mission, My Place!



Easter Is Coming...

There are two times of the year when it is not only “ok” to be Christian, but it is expected that you can and will do something to celebrate — Christmas and Easter. This became more of a reality to me last year while we were still in India. The majority of people in that city of 11 million are Hindu, but there are more than one million Muslims, a good number of Catholics, and a sprinkling of several other religions. On our floor of the apartment complex were a Buddhist family, a Muslim family, three Hindu families and us. About a week or so before Easter a Hindu neighbor asked if we were going to do anything for the community to celebrate Easter. The Baptist hospital where I was a board member had a great sunrise service on the roof open for anyone to attend.

This is a place where Christian persecution is high, many national friends have faced terrible retribution for their faith. But on Easter there was acceptance and expectation. Easter is a real chance to get the message out that we are different and to be beacons of “light” in our communities. Increasingly, persecution of Christian beliefs and principles is on the rise right here in the US. It is no longer the “right” thing to do to be a Christian that talks about and demonstrates your faith. We are living in a very challenging time where we regularly see the fabric of our “Christian nation” being torn apart. I want to challenge us all to take advantage of the opportunity that celebrating Easter provides. We will have our regular service times on Easter Sunday, March 27, here at First Baptist. If you are in town, please invite friends and family to join you for corporate worship. I also want to do something different in our individual neighborhoods....

Consider getting with another family or two and hosting an Easter “Neighborhood Sunrise Celebration” at your home in the driveway, on the deck, at a clubhouse or just in the yard. You could even use your garage or living room if the weather is not conducive Easter morning. I have posted on the church website some suggestions for a celebration time. There are some graphics to download that you can use to make signs for your yard or flyers to give out to your neighbors. You can post a notice on your neighborhood Facebook page or on your community news site (like Nextdoor), if you have one. You can also just catch your neighbors when they are outside and invite them (avoid putting things in peoples’ mailboxes). Have them bring lawn chairs and/or blankets, invite the kids and celebrate together!

Sunrise will be right at 7:16 a.m., so begin at 7:00. Have some coffee/hot chocolate and snacks if you want, keep it simple and easy. There are some suggested songs and some possible music to use on the web link. Also, there is a short children’s lesson and activity, Scripture reading and a suggested Easter devotion by Henry Blackaby. Start and end with a prayer time including asking for prayer requests. You can plan on 20-30 minutes for everything. You can certainly do something different other than what I have posted, these are just suggestions. The important thing is to celebrate our risen Savior and proclaim your devotion to Him through this special holiday. If others join you, all the better!

All of us can do this, we don’t have to have some special “leadership” mantle, just be followers of the Risen One! If no one else shows up, you should still celebrate Jesus’ victory over death. Afterward, if you go to the early service, invite your neighbors to go with you. If you go to one of the other services, then invite neighbors to have breakfast together (everyone bring something or go somewhere), then invite them to come with you to the services.

Brett Freemon bfreemon@fbcfm.com
Minister of Evangelism and Missions, FBC Fort Mill

WORSHIP

ARTS

by Bryan Trotter

Critic, Consumer, or Participant

Josh Starkey

www.worshipleader.com

As I'm writing this, I'm still recovering from a stomach virus that swept through my family and several other church folks this week, including our lead pastor.

It's been about four years since illness last put me out of commission on a Saturday night and I had (thankfully, I guess) forgotten what it's like to do the Saturday scramble to get the fill-in worship leader and band all set up. But as I reflected at home while the church service went on without me, I was thankful for the reminder that God doesn't really need me to make worship happen—God builds and provides for His church with exactly the right people to serve when and where they're needed. Our human efforts can't compete with God's own care for His church, and yesterday my faithful friends and brothers and sisters in Christ covered preaching and music just fine.

Sometimes we need to fight the mindset in our churches that all is lost or wasted when our plans are derailed by illness, accident or other unexpected events. All is not wasted, and often God means to work greater good by derailing our plans. Over the years, I've seen three different mindsets revealed when our plans go kaput and these appear often in my own heart. See how often any of the following three have been true of your attitude toward the worship gathering.

1. The Critic

Often we show up to church with very staunch, grand ideas of how we expect to be led or "inspired" to worship God. Or we have grand ideas of how God will be most glorified in this time of corporate worship and are peeved on behalf of God when things go awry. The tendency is to cast a judgmental eye on the worship time, on the preacher, on the worship leader, on the reader of Scripture, or whoever, and see them as not doing their best. Or worse yet, we see the worship time as a waste and not pleasing to God because something went a little rough. The critical mindset often judges something that happened (or didn't happen smoothly) based on what they think someone else might be thinking (a visitor perhaps). Critiques are often founded on good, true things, but the critical mindset fails because it doesn't connect everything to the bigger picture of what God really does value and what He means to accomplish with a gathered church.

2. The Consumer

When I've seen a consumeristic mindset crop up, it's usually not quite as upset by anything that happens. But the evaluation of success from a worship consumer is usually based on the wrong things: preferences and feelings. In our humanness, we feel the best about things that appeal to our emotions in the right ways and when they make us feel comfortable. When we don't feel these ways, we often check out or don't feel invested. But preferences differ so much from one person to the next that they will never be fully satisfied for any group of people in any one church. Often the bigger problem with the consumer mindset is that a consumer doesn't see him/herself as a participant, but only as an observer, much like someone who has bought a ticket to a concert or a game, expecting to see something enjoyable. When we're not pleased, we start thinking of all the other places we'd rather be, where "the real fun" is happening.

3. The Participant

The "Participant" mindset is, I think, what we need to fight for. God never speaks of His gathered church in the New Testament as a group of critics or consumers, but as participants in the family of God. Every single person who shows up, if they are regenerate believers in Christ, have been given gifts by the Holy Spirit and are expected to use them, always, for edification. When we sing, we are commanded to sing together and "to one another" (Ephesians 5:19). We care for one another, suffer, and rejoice with one another (1 Corinthians 12:24-26). We are all, always, called to be participants. When every worshiper sees themselves as necessary to the gathering, that we're all in it together and that the gathering is much, much bigger than whoever is leading from the stage, everything changes. We find joy in the right things and can push through the rough and unexpected, because God is using us all to edify one another and help one another hold fast to Christ another week.

And this is why I was so encouraged yesterday and so thankful to be a part of a church where God takes us unexpected places sometimes—filling the gaps in good, gracious ways when our own plans, that seemed so wise, are derailed. Let's fight to be participants every week and to be thankful for how God provides leadership and gifting in the right people, at the right times, in the clutch ways that He sees fit.

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Welcome New Member



Rya Reynolds

Final Edition of *The First Word*

In case you missed last month's notification, this is the final edition of *The First Word*. All the information in the monthly edition will continue to be available through the Sunday worship folder, weekly enews, website, ministry-related emails, etc. Please continue to access the information in those formats.

The church office will be closed
on Friday, March 25,
for the Good Friday holiday.



Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. Production Team Volunteers
2. Coffee Ministry
3. Special Needs Buddies
4. Easter Host Team
5. CM Priority Gold Team

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

March Deacons

Sunday, March 6

Scott Motsinger & Bobbie Woodson

Sunday, March 13

Ron Whitmire & Shawn Swicegood

Sunday, March 20

Dave McWilliam & Ken Terry

Sunday, March 27

Michael Wright & Scott Nelson

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 Jordan on the loss of his grandmother
Jane Culp on the loss of her sister
Mia Pendarvis on the loss of her father

Congratulations to:

Devin & Casey Eanes on the birth of their son,
Elijah Parker, on January 31;

Randy & Teresa Crook on the birth of their
grandson on February 15;

Dave & Robin Witmer on the birth of their
grand-twins on February 14. Parents are
Jason & Shelby Rickey.

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

Regular Wednesday Schedule

5:15 p.m.—Midweek Meal (thru 3/23)
6:15 p.m.—Midweek Classes (thru 3/23)
6:17 p.m.—Middle School D Groups
7:30 p.m.—Worship Choir/Wind Ensemble Rehearsal



March 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	2 6:30 Prayer Meeting 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:15 Middle School D Groups	3 8:30 Prayer Meeting 6:00 MOPS Set-up 7:00 Ladies' Prayer Group 8:00 AA	4 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA	5
6 9:30 6 Habits Class 11:00 First Step Class 4:00 Deacons' Meeting 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:30 High School D Groups	7 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrators' Choir	8 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Titus 2 Tuesday 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	9 6:30 Prayer Meeting 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:15 Middle School D Groups	10 8:30 Prayer Meeting 7:00 Ladies' Prayer Group 8:00 AA	11 7:00 NA	12
13 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9:30 6 Habits Class 5:00 Blended Team Rehearsal 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:30 High School D Groups	14 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrators' Choir	15 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	16 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:30 Celebrators' Lunch 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:15 Middle School D Groups	17 St. Patrick's Day 8:30 Prayer Meeting 6:00 MOPS Set-up 7:00 Ladies' Prayer Group 8:00 AA	18 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA Loving Our Muslim Neighbors Conference	19 8:00 Men's Ministry Missions Breakfast
20 Palm Sunday 11:00 Overflow Orientation 12:15 Special Needs Trng 2:00 Church Bible Drill 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 6:30 High School D Groups	21 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrators' Choir	22 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	23 6:30 Prayer Meeting 10:00 Bible Study 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:15 Middle School D Groups	24 8:30 Prayer Meeting 7:00 Ladies' Prayer Group 8:00 AA	25 Good Friday Church Office Closed 7:00 NA	26 1:00 Wedding Reception
27 Easter	28 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrators' Choir Fort Mill Schools Spring Break ~ 28th—1st	29 9:30 ESL Classes 9:30 Women's Bible Study 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	30 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:15 Middle School D Groups	31 8:30 Prayer Meeting 7:00 Ladies' Prayer Group 8:00 AA		

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through January 2016

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 January 31, 2016.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Budget	\$ 2,441,892.13	\$ 2,441,892.13
Budget Income	\$ 190,887.07	\$ 127,339.58
Budget Spending	\$ 189,659.09	\$ 218,531.21

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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