

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 5

MAY 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.*

Senior Adult Day/Banquet - May 3

Welcome to the Family Class - May 3

**National Day of Prayer Meal/
Prayer Service - May 7**

Graduate Recognition/Banquet - May 31



MAY 7 • 2015

Lord, hear our Cry



"Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day." — 1 Kings 8:28



www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org

Join us Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Worship Center as we come together as a church family on the National Day of Prayer for a special time of prayer for our nation - there will also be a special kids' event for preschoolers through 5th grade. A meal will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m.—tickets available for purchase for \$3/person on Sunday mornings in the Worship Center lobby.



VBS



2015

JOURNEY OFF THE MAP

JUNE 7-11

6:15-8:30 P.M.

CLASSES FOR AGE 4 THROUGH 5TH GRADE

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT MILL

(BEHIND COMPORIUM)

WWW.FBCFM.COM

Be sure to check the website for Sunday's Family Night, June 7th.
The event will begin at 5:30 p.m.



High School Girls Conference

We will have a girls' retreat May 15-17. This is for high school girls only. The cost is \$60.00 per person. We will pack up and leave the church at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and return around 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. Kylie will send out a packing list by Sunday, May 3. Girls will also need enough money for two meals, dinner on the way and lunch on the way home.

High School Graduates

If you would like to participate in the graduate recognition please submit the following information to Diane in the church office by the deadlines. Here is a list of things we need: the service you will be recognized in, whether you plan to attend the banquet on Sunday and how many will attend, and five pictures of the graduating student growing up.

Student Life Camp

Student Life Camp sign-up is going strong. The camp is June 29-July 4. We are going to Lee University, in Cleveland, TN, this year. The cost is \$260.00 per student. If you have more than one student in your family the cost is \$240 per student. This is a \$20.00 savings per student in the same family. We will start the week with a worship service in the Worship Center on Monday the 29th. Students will spend the night at the church and then depart around 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Adam Robinson is the speaker and Unhindered will lead worship at camp. If you were unable to attend the camp meeting please make sure to provide the following to the church office: Catalyst Student Medical Release Form (if you filled one out for another activity this year it is good for the whole year), Student Life Release Form which needs to be notarized and a \$50.00 deposit to secure a spot for your student(s). We presently only have 3 spots remaining.



Adult Ministries

Experience It!

Upcoming Events in May

May 3 – Sr. Adult Day & Banquet
May 7 – National Day of Prayer Meal & Service
May 10 – Mother’s Day

May 17 – Overflow Volunteer Orientation
May 25 – Memorial Day (office closed)
May 31 – Graduate Recognition & Banquet

Find Your Place in an Adult Bible Fellowship Class



Adult Bible Fellowship classes provide an enjoyable environment for people who are searching for more through the study of God’s Word. ABF classes are the easiest way to connect with people in a small group atmosphere to pray and apply God’s Word to your life. ABF classes meet at 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. each Sunday. ***Stop by any of our “Guest Info Centers” for help in finding a class to attend.***



The National Day of Prayer is an annual event held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for our nation. It was created in 1952 and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America’s leaders and its families.

☛ Join us at 5:30 for meal and 6:30 for prayer in Worship Center. Meal tickets available for \$3 per person on May 3 at the Registration Desk.

FBCFM Mission Partnership Spotlight



Chosen Children Ministries exists to share God’s love and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Nicaragua, serving their spiritual and physical needs in ways that bring God glory, by planting churches, equipping leaders, strengthening families and individuals, evangelizing and discipling children and adults, giving humanitarian aid and providing the operating needs for Casa Mephibosheth orphanage.

We believe God has opened a door for Chosen Children Ministries that will create huge opportunities for ministry and more importantly, eternal value found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as CCM continues to minister in the Nicaraguan Barrios.



Music News

Music ~ Celebrators ~ Media

Spring is an exciting time in the Adult Worship Choir as we learn new worship selections, welcome new members and enjoy sweet fellowship. 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.
- * 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. We meet 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

- * 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. A ticket is required for admission. (This replaces the regular Wednesday luncheon for May.)

Upcoming Events:

- * Friday, June 12: NarroWay's production of *Samson*. Show begins at 6:30 p.m. (no dinner). Tickets are on sale May 3 through May 24 and are \$24.00/person.
- * June 17: Luncheon. Cookout and games.
- * July 15: Luncheon. Sing along.
- * August 19: Luncheon. An update of the town's status will be presented.
- * September 15 & 16: Celebration Jubilee...more details to come.
- * October 15: BMW plant tour in Greer, SC
- * December 3: Trip to Billy Graham Library
- * December 9: Christmas banquet

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO WORSHIP

Amanda Furbeck

www.worshipleader.com

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4, NIV.

Psalm 27 can be categorized as a psalm of trust. Throughout the psalm, the psalmist alludes to some pretty frightening circumstances, such as evil men advancing against him, an army coming to besiege him, and a war breaking out against him. But the psalmist places his trust not in himself or his own men, but in the Lord, using language that describes God as his stronghold, his light, and his salvation. He also expresses his hope for God to deliver him. But in the midst of all this trouble, the psalmist pictures worship at the temple.

The temple was the place where God came to dwell among His people—just imagine visiting church on Sunday and seeing the visible, tangible presence of God. What an incredible experience, to be in the presence of God in such a dramatic way. I often wonder what it was like? Did the Israelites feel frightened? Or amazed? Or loved? Or all of it?

And yet, Jesus said that where there are two or three are gathered in His name, He is there (Matthew 18:20). When we gather together in the name of Jesus, we are in the *very presence of God*. What a privilege, what a joy! Perhaps we, too, should approach worship services with that same fear of God, amazement, and feeling of love.

All too often, I approach my church service feeling a little tired and worn from a busy week, feeling over-extended in my bills, and stressed about a myriad of modern day life complications. Worship begins, and perhaps I think, oh not this song again, or this new song is just not in my key. I sip my coffee, waiting for a little energy to kick in. Maybe I'm dreading facing this person or that one, because they've put expectations on me that I don't like. Maybe life is just really hard and I don't have much left to give. I came to church to be filled and refueled, but what I feel is empty. Have you ever felt this way? That the church service, in spite of happy-clappy praise music or majestic hymns, just feels dry. I'm not getting what I need. What's wrong with this church?

Chances are, the problem is not the song choices, the band, the organ, or the volume. Most of the time, the problem is me. I am not prepared for worship. Whether I am the worship leader, the pastor, the praise team, or a soul in the pew, I need to prepare for worship.

Sometimes we forget that worship is not about what we GET, but about what we GIVE. In the Old Testament, the worshipers brought sacrifices to God—usually the best of their livestock or grain. We don't live under the sacrificial system in that way, but we still need to bring our best gifts to God when we come to worship: a heart that is open to the Lord, full of His praise, and fully prepared. Hebrews 13:15 speaks of a sacrifice of praise. Not just some leftover words, or a few strains of a song, but a sacrifice. Praise takes effort. It's ok if you don't *feel* like praising because He is still worthy of our worship. Our feelings don't change who God is or His worth. If I am more concerned about what I'm getting from worship than what I'm giving, I need to adjust my expectations and attitude about worship. We come together to worship and be with The Holy One, not hear the perfect songs in just the right keys or be inspired by a perfectly worded sermon.

If I want to truly experience the richness of worship, I need to practice! Musicians spend hours practicing scales, riffs, trills, and chord charts to offer beautiful music. It isn't unheard of for me to spend 15 hours of practice time on a 3 minute long offertory. But what are we doing about the condition of our hearts? We need to practice that, too. Nothing prepares a heart for worship like spending time alone with the Father. When have you escaped from the world and just spent time enjoying the Word of God? When have you spent a little time alone, enjoying a conversation with the Lord of Creation through prayer? Without regular, consistent time in our Bibles and on our knees, away from distractions, we are going to have a harder time experiencing God in worship. What about practicing worship at worship practice? After working out the musical details, why not spend time worshipping with the music for Sunday?

Worship requires effort, and when our energy is zapped, it is hard to get it together to worship the Lord. How would we be different at our services if we made sure we were well-rested the night before? If we planned and prepared for worship with as much enthusiasm as a rock concert or ball game? What if worship was not just something on our to do list, but a holy event that we, and our household, schedule our week around? What if, like the psalmist, we looked forward to being in God's presence more than anything else?

The psalmist longed to be in the presence of the Lord. He wanted to be where God was, seeking Him, worshipping Him, and being with Him. His longing was for God; his focus was not on how the temple priests could serve him but on how He could seek God. In times of trouble, he intentionally placed his confidence in God and looked forward to being in God's presence in the temple again. As Sunday nears, I ask myself, what am I doing to prepare my heart, my mind, my body, and my soul to worship and be in God's presence? How should I prepare so that I truly desire to spend time in God's presence, with God's people, giving Him the glory He deserves?

created for connection

HOSPITALITY IS NOT JUST FOR THE HOST TEAM

I have talked with many in our church about their experiences getting connected at FBCFM and many mentioned how welcoming and eager people were to introduce them to others or connect them to a group. Well, years later, with multiple worship services and an official Host Team, I see a negative trend on the horizon: “hospitality” is just for the Host Team. Can I lovingly point us as a congregation in a different direction? Hospitality is **not** just for the Host Team; it’s for every member. We are the body of Christ and according to John 13:34-35, our love for each other ought to be so great that the watching world will know that we are Jesus’ disciples. So on Sunday mornings, be on the lookout for those you know and those you don’t. Greet them. Show them hospitality. Love them. Give them a hug. Connect them with others. Here is a practical piece of advice I found on the Desiring God blog:

Come early, linger afterward.

“And perhaps the most practical advice in our hurried lives is that we make room to be with the people God has given us to gather with. By making a regular habit of showing up late, we can unwittingly communicate that the gathering belongs to someone else. As a priesthood of believers, we are all hosting each other. Just as it would be inhospitable of me to invite you to my house and arrive 15 awkward minutes late, we don’t communicate hospitality in corporate worship gatherings when it appears that the only people hosting this thing are the staff ministry leaders or worship team. *“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God”* (Romans 15:7). Simply put, you can’t welcome when you aren’t there....Christian worship fosters community not by shutting others out, but by inviting them in as we worship a God who has made himself known in Jesus. The joy of corporate worship finds expression as we worship the King with hospitality: arm in arm and hand in hand, for the end of all things is at hand.”

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

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Welcome New Members



Jean Barnes &
Linda Rutherford



Thomas & Jane Culp



Leah Brindle



Natalie Gonzalez

Not Pictured: Dale, Melissa & Hunter Corzine

Congratulations To:

Derrick & Alyssa Pruitt on the birth of their son,
Graham Asher, on April 4.

Chris & Lottie Moody on the birth of their son,
David Alec, on April 7.

Andy & Cynthia Jones on the birth of their daughter,
Catherine Lee, on April 13.



The church office will
be closed on
Monday, May 25,
in observance
of Memorial Day.

In Sympathy

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

Claudine Mayberry on the loss of her sister
Jamie Wosje on the loss of her grandmother
Amy Armeni on the loss of her aunt
Gail Hatmaker on the loss of her mother

Stephen Ministry

Searching for a new ministry opportunity in our congregation? There will be a cost but there will also be great rewards. Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. Right now we are looking for members who are willing to pay the

Commitment
Of
Self and
Time

and become Stephen Ministers, remembering that the blessings will outweigh the costs. 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

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

the
top 5

May Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. Children's Ministry Shoppers
2. Children's Ministry Summer/Holiday Floaters
3. Recycle Team
4. 11:00 Connect Group Leaders
5. VBS Final Volunteer Slots

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

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

May Deacons

Sunday, May 3 ~ Paul Taggart & B. Jay Bogan

Sunday, May 10 ~ Dohn Davis & Alan Drake

Sunday, May 17 ~ Tom Neal & Pat Maness

Sunday, May 24 ~ Larry Hammond & Shawn Swicegood

Sunday, May 31 ~ Dave Kirby & Alan Drake

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

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through March 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 March 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 610,473.03	\$ 596,318.49
Budget Income	\$ 531,944.51	\$ 599,794.35
Budget Spending	\$ 577,839.93	\$ 546,227.09
Balance on Building Loan 03/31/2015	\$ 13,280.01	

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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John Phillips, Facilities Manager	JPhillips@fbcfm.com

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7:00 NA	2 FM Strawberry Festival
3 <i>Sr. Adult Day</i> 9:30 <i>Welcome to the Family Class</i> 4:00 <i>Deacons' Meeting</i> 6:00 <i>Celebrators' Banquet</i>	4 6:30 <i>Men's Prayer Group</i> 9:30 <i>Mission Prayer Group</i>	5 9:30 <i>ESL Classes</i> 6:30 <i>SM Supervision Meeting</i> 8:00 <i>AA/Al-Anon</i>	6 6:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 5:15 <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i>	7 8:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 5:30 <i>National Day of Prayer Meal</i> 6:30 <i>Prayer Service</i> 8:00 <i>AA</i>	8 9:30 <i>MOPS</i> 7:00 <i>NA</i>	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 11:00 <i>Start Here Class</i>	11 6:30 <i>Men's Prayer Group</i>	12 9:30 <i>ESL Classes</i> 10:30 <i>Priscilla Groups</i> 7:00 <i>Titus Two Tuesday</i> 8:00 <i>AA/Al-Anon</i>	13 6:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 5:15 <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i> 6:00 <i>GLOW to CAH</i>	14 8:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 4:00 <i>Recital Dress Rehearsal</i> 8:00 <i>AA</i>	15 7:00 <i>NA</i>	16 Catalyst Girls' Weekend
17 11:00 <i>Overflow Orientation</i>	18 6:30 <i>Men's Prayer Group</i> 9:30 <i>Mission Prayer Group</i>	19 9:30 <i>ESL Classes</i> 6:30 <i>Student Bible Study</i> 6:30 <i>SM Supervision Meeting</i> 8:00 <i>AA/Al-Anon</i>	20 6:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 5:15 <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i>	21 8:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 10:00 <i>Stitches Group</i> 6:30 <i>Piano Recital</i> 8:00 <i>AA</i>	22 7:00 <i>NA</i>	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> 6:30 <i>Men's Prayer Group</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	26 9:30 <i>ESL Classes</i> 10:00 <i>Play Rehearsal</i> 8:00 <i>AA/Al-Anon</i>	27 6:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 10:00 <i>Play Rehearsal</i> 5:15 <i>Handbell Rehearsal</i>	28 8:30 <i>Prayer Meeting</i> 6:30 <i>School Play</i> 8:00 <i>AA</i>	29 5:00 <i>Wedding Rehearsal</i> 7:00 <i>NA</i>	30 5:00 <i>Wedding</i>
31 <i>Graduate Recognition</i> 5:00 <i>Graduate Banquet</i>						