

NOVEMBER 2015

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 11

The First Word

FX Live!
November 8

Men's Ministry
"Messy Meal"
November 12

Women's Retreat
November 13-15

Nicaragua Mission
Trip
November 14-21

Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes
Due Date
November 18

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

FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
FORT MILL





From Pastor Jeff

Taking Things For Granted or With Gratitude

What is the basis for true thanksgiving? For someone to be thankful, they must be grateful for something and to someone. The early Pilgrims had many difficult days in settling this new land. Governor Bradford of Massachusetts is believed to have made this first Thanksgiving proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

Inasmuch as the Great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forest to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of nine and twelve in the daytime, on Thursday, November 29th, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty-Three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

Those early Pilgrims recognized that the provisions they had experienced came from God. They were thankful and they did not hide the fact that they were thankful to Almighty God. But the greatest gift ever given, by the greatest Person, was God's Son, Jesus Christ. He's the real basis for all thanksgiving. The Bible says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15). The greatest gift that anyone has ever given to humankind is God's gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus because He loved us and so He could do the greatest work for us that anyone has ever done. That work was dying on the Cross for our sins so that we could be set free. Jesus paid the penalty for all your sins. He died so that you would not have to die. He suffered so that the bondage of sin could be broken. He took your place on the Cross. He died for you. And He did it all because He loves you. God responded to the greatest need, our sins, by giving the greatest Person, Jesus Christ, to make the greatest sacrifice, His death, so He could give us the greatest gift, eternal life. God gave Jesus. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

Thanksgiving is something unique that we can give to God. When you think of it, all the material things we give to God were given to us by Him, but our thanksgiving is ours—a personal gift and an offering of praise to God. We should learn how to express our thanksgiving well, not only to God, but to one another. We're sometimes too much like a little boy I heard about. On his return from a birthday party his mother asked, "Bobby, did you thank the lady for the party?" Bobby replied, "Well, I was going to. But a girl ahead of me said, 'Thank you,' and the lady told her not to mention it. So I didn't." What kinds of attitudes characterize you? You can either take things for granted or take them with gratitude. Let's remember to "give thanks with a grateful heart." And let's remember Paul's prayer, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

I am thankful for so many things including the privilege of pastoring and being part of such an incredible church family. May you have a blessed and very happy Thanksgiving this year. Together let us continually praise and thank God from whom all blessings flow!

Pastor Jeff



Children's Ministry

LIKE us on Facebook @ firstbaptist.childrensministry

Questions or Comments??

Contact FBC: 547-2051

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mjones@fbcfm.com

Operation Christmas Child



Due Date: Wednesday, November 18

Are your boxes packed??

There's still time to do ONE more.

These boxes have the potential to change lives and to make an eternal difference.

Don't miss this great opportunity to do a small part in a big effort to share God's love with thousands of children across the world.

FX Live!

Sunday

November 8

5-7 p.m.

Dinner followed

by Family Experience

Register online by

Wednesday

November 4

childcare provided for

children 2 & under



SAVE THE DATE

&

MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS!

Friday, December 4

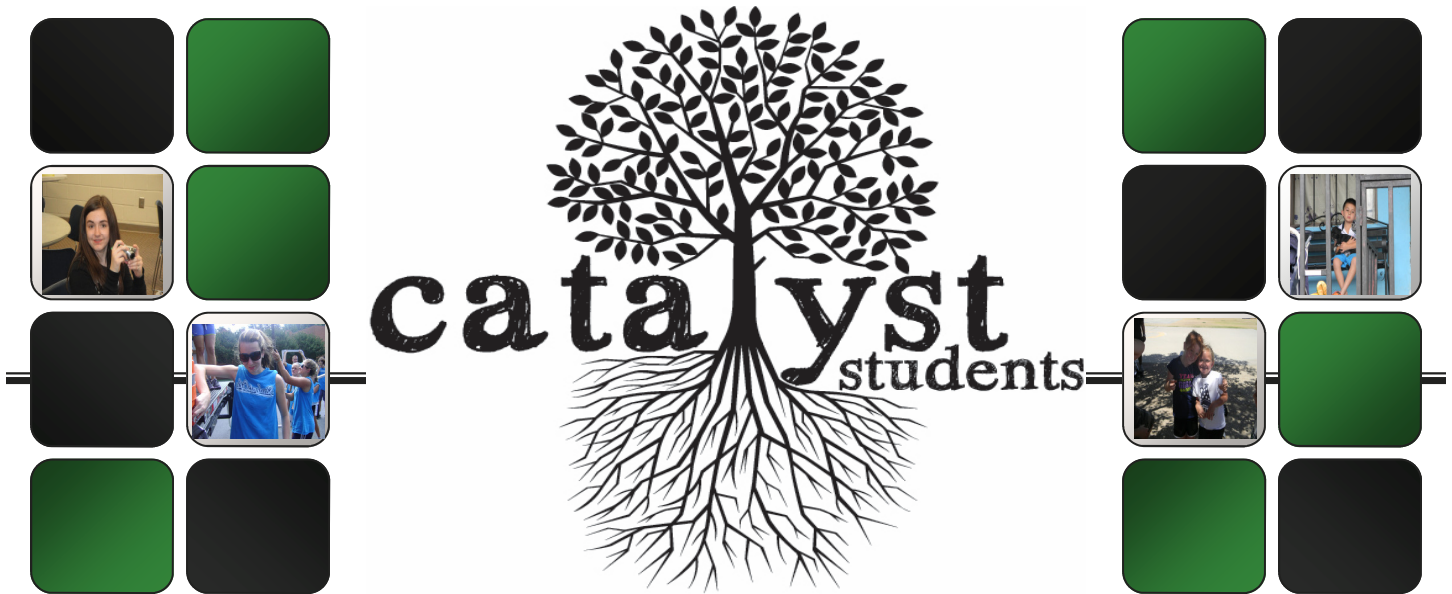
6-10 p.m.

Envelope registration **REQUIRED** by Sunday, November 29.

(...sorry...no exceptions...)

Use the envelope that you receive in the mail or pick up one from either welcome center/sign-in area.

Drop the completed envelope in the Christmas box!!



Parent UpRising Meeting

On Sunday, December 13, we have scheduled a parent meeting to discuss the details of the UpRising Weekend in January 2016. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m. following the 11:00 worship service. A \$25.00 deposit is due at that time. The cost for the event is \$70.00. Families that have more than one student involved in the event will receive a discounted rate.

Middle School D-Groups

Middle school D-Groups are in full swing. The groups meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:17–7:45 p.m. If you are new please join us just outside the Worship Center entrance at 6:17 p.m. and we'll direct you to the right group. The last meeting for this semester is on Wednesday, November 18.

High School D Groups

High School D-Groups meet on Sunday nights in individual homes. If your high school student isn't currently attending please encourage them to participate.

UpRising Weekend 2016

January 15-17 is the date for our 2016 UpRising Weekend. The cost is \$70.00 per student. A parent meeting is scheduled for December 13 (see other post). Volunteers are needed in several areas:

- Host homes
- Drivers
- Kitchen help (Saturday lunch & dinner)
- Registration
- Sunday morning help

We anticipate having over 250 students for the weekend. Please contact Johnny Caruso if you can volunteer in one of these areas.



Adult Ministries

Experience It!

November Schedule

Nov 1- Time change
Nov 12 - Men's Messy Meal
Nov 13-15 - Ladies Retreat at Ridgecrest

Nov 14-21 - Nicaragua Mission Trip
Nov 18 - OCC Shoeboxes due
Nov 29 - Angel Tree starts



Men's Ministry Messy Meal

November 12th - Rush Pavilion at
Anne Springs Close Greenway

FBC men & friends are invited to the first annual Men's Ministry "Messy Meal" on Thursday, November 12, at the Rush Pavilion on the Anne Springs Close Greenway. Cost of the event is \$10/person and will be from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please sign up at the Registration Center in the lobby on Sunday. Come enjoy Christian fellowship among men, enjoy a good barbeque dinner and hear some encouraging testimonies!

Upcoming Events

Celebrators

Senior Adults 60 years and older

- 1) **Monthly Luncheon** - November 18, 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Our speaker for the luncheon is Jan Rosser. She will minister to us with an interpretation of Esther. Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.
- 2) **Billy Graham Library Tour & Lunch** - December 3, (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Plan to sign up for our trip and lunch at the Billy Graham Library. The only cost is your lunch. Sign-ups will be available 11/8-11/29 at the Registration Center on Sundays or in the church office during the week.



Christmas is rapidly approaching and what better way to spread our love and joy than giving a gift of love to a less fortunate child in our community. **Project Angel Tree** is about making a needy child's Christmas happier.

As you can imagine with the current economic conditions the needs for this year's Angel tree is great. We need everyone to participate in this wonderful ministry. **Project Angel Tree** will start Sunday, November 29. Please stop by the Angel Tree table in the lobby to learn how you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.



Music ~ Media



“Come, let us shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the Rock of our salvation! Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to him in song.” Psalms 95:1-2

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.

Please join us this Christmas season for our Christmas musical and Candlelight services:

- * The Worship Choir, children’s choir, wind ensemble and drama team will present David T. Clydesdale’s *“My Heart Longs for Christmas”* on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- * Candlelight services and communion will be held on Sunday, December 20, at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.



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

Prelude to Thanksgiving

Roger O'Neel

www.worshipleader.com

Thanksgiving is typically on my mind every fall semester, not just for the promise of food and a break from school, but also because our worship program is responsible for producing the Thanksgiving chapel every year. It is always somewhat of a challenge to emphasize our thanks to God in new and creative ways. It usually leads me to focus on thanksgiving long before the actual holiday and to prioritize it in my own personal life.

This year has been somewhat different for me. I have found myself somewhat frustrated with life circumstances and personal burnout. These have led at times to a spirit of irritability and discontent. Living with discontent only fed itself, leading to more frustration and burnout.

However, God has been faithful to send encouragement along the way that has helped me see how grateful I need to be. Sometimes this came in positive ways as I received encouragement from others and needed to realize that "every good and perfect gift is from above" James 1:17. Other times it has come through seeing the struggles of others and realizing how that I have been blessed.

Ingratitude is not an option for the believer. Paul writes in Colossians 2:6-7 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." We are to give thanks in all things, regardless of the circumstances. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) began as a conflict between the Protestant and Roman Catholic princes in Germany, initially based on religious issues, but spread into a quest for territory and political power. Martin Rinkart was a pastor in Eilenburg, Saxony that was greatly impacted by the war. The city itself was a walled city and was a place of safety for many refugees. Although he was barely able to provide for his family, Rinkart shared what he had with others, providing shelter and food for many of them in his home. Plague also struck the city, killing at least 8,000 people. He did 40-50 funerals a day in 1637 and eventually his wife also succumbed to the disease.

Yet with this backdrop of war, famine and disease, Rinkart wrote what he called a "Tisch-Gebetlein": a "little table prayer" to be said before a meal. It has become widely known as a hymn in German and now translated into English, commonly known to us as the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God". It is a great statement of faith from a man who could have easily been frustrated with his life circumstances, but instead focuses on giving thanks to God.

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!
All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God, whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

created for connection

The DNA of FBCFM

There is a lot that can be said about the DNA of FBCFM, but one thing for sure is we have a very friendly church. It's just who we are. And it's not just because we shake hands during service or because we have a Host Team. It's because the individuals of our church, you, care about people. Here's what some of our guests have said about us over the last few months:

“Everyone was friendly”

“Friendly and welcoming”

“Very friendly”

“Very comfortable environment”

“Very friendly atmosphere”

That kind of atmosphere can only exist if everyone is pitching in, which includes you. So when we see someone who needs a hug, we offer it. When we see someone we haven't seen before, we introduce ourselves. When we notice we haven't seen someone in a while, we call them. When there's a new couple attending, we ask them out to lunch. We smile, we wave, we shake hands, we offer to help, we bring meals, we write cards to the sick, we listen, we walk together through struggles, we share meals, we share joys, we share heartbreaks and we invite others in to all of that.

This occurs not because we are southern or because we are just trying to be friendly. Being friendly is an external action that is produced from an inward genuine care for people birthed in us by a Savior who has cared for us and sacrificed for us. So how will you help perpetuate this DNA of FBCFM? It begins with keeping your eyes peeled this Sunday! Who needs your kind words or introduction? Find them and allow them to experience the kindness of our Savior.

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

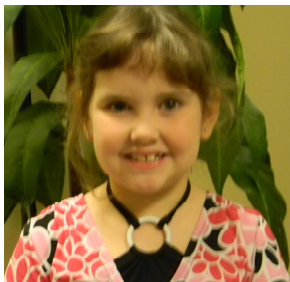
Welcome New Members



Susan Brown



Pam Landires



Grace Powers

Not Pictured:

William & June Hogue



Real Men, Real Ministry, Real Difference.

Men—want to make a real difference in the lives of other men but not sure you know how? Concerned that your “fix-it” mentality will get in the way of helping other guys who need someone to come alongside to listen and help them process the circumstances of life? You might consider taking Stephen Ministry training. It’s a great opportunity to develop caregiving skills that will allow you to support other men in the name of the Lord. To find out more about this ministry, please contact one of the Stephen Leaders listed 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!

Congratulations To:

Rick & Donna Brannon on the birth of their granddaughter, Annabelle Marie, on October 12. Parents are Marshall & Caroline Bailey.



November Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. Children’s Ministry Welcome Center Team
2. Care Center Liaison
3. Link Team
4. Coffee Ministry
5. First World: Infant & Toddler Teams

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

Articles for the December *First Word* are due in the church office by November 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:

Bryan Trotter on the loss of his aunt
Tina Newsome on the loss of her mother
Glenn Boyd on the loss of his sister
Terri Archie on the loss of her husband
Terry Emehiser on the loss of his mother

November Deacons

Sunday, November 1 ~ Tom Neal & Tony Bishop

Sunday, November 8 ~ Pat Maness & Dean Schearer

Sunday, November 15 ~ Dohn Davis & Gordon Folz

Sunday, November 22 ~ B. Jay Bogan & Buddy Prince

Sunday, November 29 ~ Jeff Collins & Dave Kirby

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 (thru 11/15)

Regular Wednesday Schedule

5:15 p.m.— Midweek Meal (thru 11/11)

6:15 p.m.— Midweek Classes (thru 11/11)

6:17 p.m.— Catalyst 6:17 (thru 11/18)

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

NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 9:30 6 Habits Class</p> <p>4:00 Deacons' Meeting 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live</p>	<p>2 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>3 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study Class</p> <p>8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>4 6:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:00 FX Live! Rehearsal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17</p>	<p>5 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:30 6 Habits Class 11:00 Start Here Class</p> <p>5:00 FX Live! 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 7:30 Blended Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>10 9:30 Ladies' ESL and Bible Study Classes 10:30 Priscilla Group</p> <p>6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>11 6:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17</p>	<p>12 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>2:00 Celebrators' Program Meeting 6:00 MOPS Set-up 6:30 Men's Messy Meal 8:00 AA</p>	<p>13 9:30 MOPS</p> <p>14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Women's Retreat ~ 13th-15th Nicaragua Mission Trip ~ 14th-21st</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	
<p>15 9:30 6 Habits Class 11:00 Overflow Orientation</p> <p>6:00 Catalyst OCC Packing Party</p>	<p>16 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p> <p>6:00 OCC Collection</p>	<p>17 9:30 Ladies' ESL and Bible Study Classes 11:00 OCC Collection</p> <p>6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>18 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:30 Celebrator Lunch</p> <p>5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 OCC Collection 6:17 Catalyst 6:17 7:00 2016 Budget Presentation</p>	<p>19 8:30 Prayer Meeting 12:00 OCC Collection</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>	<p>20 11:00 OCC Collection</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2:00 OCC Collection</p>
<p>22 9:30 6 Habits Class</p> <p>2:00 OCC Collection</p> <p>7:30 Blended Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:00 OCC Collection 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p> <p>7:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 9:30 Ladies' ESL & Bible Study Classes</p> <p>8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>25 6:30 Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving Day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Closed ~ 26th-27th</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>		<p>27</p> <p>7:00 NA</p>
<p>29 9:30 6 Habits Class</p>	<p>30 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>					

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through September 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 September 30, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 1,831,419.09	\$ 1,788,955.47
Budget Income	\$ 1,658,382.51	\$ 1,765,284.51
Budget Spending	\$ 1,677,446.02	\$ 1,734,434.01

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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