

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 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.

*Victory Sports
Golf Tournament
October 2*

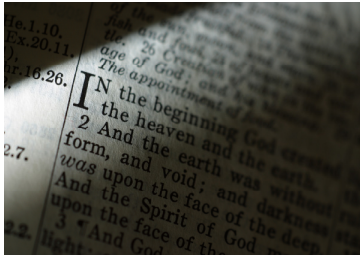
*First Step Class
October 4*

*Parent/Child Dedication
Class
October 11*

*Celebrators' Day Trip
October 15*

*Parent/Child Dedication
October 18*

*6 Habits Class Begins
October 25*



From Pastor Jeff

This month I want to share some words adapted from Dr. Chuck Lawless of Southeastern Seminary about what to watch and listen for as we gather together on Sunday mornings:

For most of us, attending church is a habit. We leave home near the same time each week. We park in the same area, go in the same door, sit in the same place and talk to the same people. Then, we usually go the same restaurants for lunch. We expect nothing different and we see and hear nothing different. That's too bad, because we sometimes miss what God is doing around us. **This weekend, slow down enough to look and listen for these things:**

1. **If you're married, watch and listen to your family as you get ready for church.** If they're stressed before church ever starts, that's not a good start to the day. You be the peacemaker, the calm one, the prayer warrior, the encourager before you ever get in the car.
2. **Watch for people you drive past on the way to church.** It's likely they're not going to church. See them as sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36) and pray for them as you drive.
3. **Watch for opportunities to serve.** Give up your parking space to somebody behind you. Open a door for someone. Help the mother who's struggling with three children and stroller. Offer to get coffee for someone else. Serve others.
4. **Watch for people wandering around the parking lot or the building.** Whether it's a guest, a straying child, or confused adult, he or she might need somebody to give some guidance. Be that somebody.
5. **Look for someone you don't know.** Whether or not that person is a member and whether you're an introvert or an extrovert, introduce yourself. Take the risk. I doubt you'll regret it.
6. **Look for people sitting by themselves.** I suspect many of us walk past such folks each week. They may not want to be bombarded, but they probably won't reject a friendly smile and a warm handshake. Learn a name and offer yours.
7. **Deeply listen to (and read, if available) the lyrics of any songs you sing.** Don't just sing the words – listen to them. Let them sink into your heart. If you don't typically listen that closely, do it for only one song to begin.
8. **Listen closely to the sermon and take notes.** You might have opportunity to hear more of the Word this weekend than many people around the world will ever have. Take notes. At the end, write in one sentence the central lesson you learned.
9. **Listen to your heart as you hear the Word.** Hear the Word when it calls you to change and listen to your heart. Be aware when you try to fight against what you hear – that might be your heart in rebellion.
10. **Watch for how quickly you can forget what you heard.** The enemy tries to snatch the Word from us (Mark 4:15) before we ever get out of the building. This weekend, don't miss how quickly your mind can move beyond the Word of God. Fight against that tendency.

Watch and listen. May God give you eyes to see and ears to hear this weekend.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LIKE us on Facebook @firstbaptist.childrensministry

Questions or Comments??

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It's Shoebox Time!!

for Operation Christmas Child

FBC Due Date is

Wednesday, Nov. 18

It's time to shop for shoebox items ... things like crayons, small toys, small stuffed animals, toothpaste, combs and so much more!

Check out the complete list of suggestions as well as reminders of what not to pack along with other OCC details on the church website.

fbcfm.com/occboxes

Parent-Child Dedication

Sunday, October 18

during all 3 services

Sign-up deadline is 10/4 (firm).

This special dedication is an opportunity for parents and the FBC family to commit publicly to raise little ones in the way of the Lord. More information can be found on the church website.

Parent-Child Dedication CLASS: Sunday, 10/11 at 11:00
(required for all participants)

Don't miss the next FX LIVE!

Sunday, November 8

SAVE THE DATE!!



First Step Class

A new Christian class for kids & at least one parent

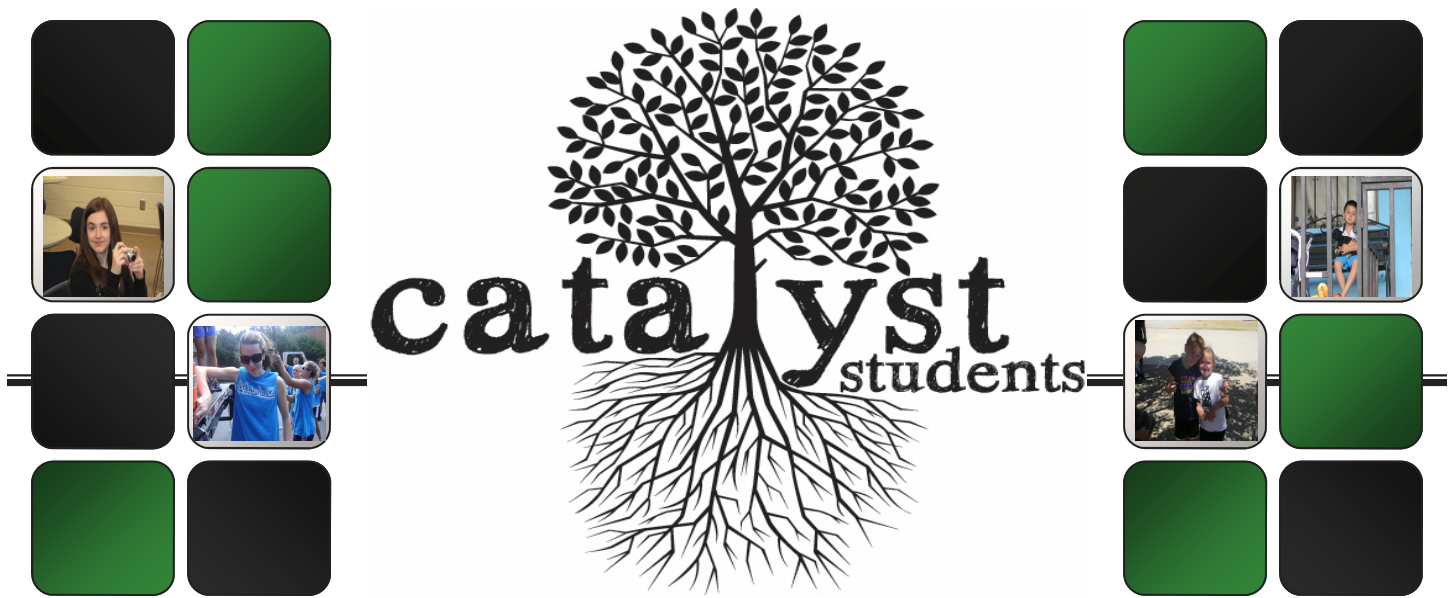
This one-time class is offered approximately every other month. It is designed for children ages 7 & up (who have already made a salvation decision) and is an FBCFM prerequisite to baptism. Content includes discussion, teaching and Q & A on salvation and baptism.

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, October 4, 11:00

Please call the church office or email [Natalie \(nsavader@fbcfm.com\)](mailto:Natalie(nsavader@fbcfm.com)) by Thursday, 10/1 if your child plans to attend ... *there is a sign-up minimum of 3 children.*



Middle School Destination Unknown

Middle School Destination Unknown is Sunday, October 4. We will meet at church at 4:00 p.m. in the back parking lot near the U-shaped driveway. We will return to the church at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person, which covers the entrance fee for our destination and dinner. As usual, friends that are not attending a church or not Christ followers may attend free of charge as your guest. This is a great chance to invite your friends to attend an event in a non-church atmosphere. Sign up during 180 or on the Student Ministry office window.

Middle School D-Groups

Middle school D-Groups take place every Wednesday from 6:17 p.m.-7:45 p.m. We meet outside the Worship Center lobby.

High School D Groups

Remember to attend your high school D-Group. We are studying through the *Follow Me* material, a video series by David Platt.

College Visits

We will visit with college students on their campuses this month. The schedule is below:

North Greenville	October 19
Clemson/Anderson	October 20
Georgia Tech/ Savannah School of Art Design	October 21
University of South Carolina/ Columbia International University	October 26
Charleston Southern/ College of Charleston	October 27



Adult Ministries

Experience It!

Upcoming Events in October

October 2 – Victory Sports Golf Tournament
October 4 – *Start Here* Class
October 15 – Celebrator Trip to BMW Plant

October 18 – *Volunteer Orientation* Class
October 21 – Celebrator Luncheon
October 25 – Operation Christmas Child starts
October 25 – *6 Habits* Class Begins



Basic Spiritual Growth Habits

6 Habits Class (October 25 - December 6)

6 Habits is a practical, hands-on class designed to help strengthen your relationship with the Lord through learning and practicing spiritual habits of 1) Bible reading, 2) meditation & journaling, 3) Bible study, 4) prayer, 5) serving and 6) stewardship. This six-week class starts October 25. The class will meet at 9:30 in room 202-F for six Sunday mornings. Please check the appropriate box on the Connect Card during the Sunday services to sign-up for the class.

Celebrators

Senior Adults 60 years and older

Upcoming Events

- 1) **BMW Plant Tour and Lunch** - October 15 (9:30 a.m. –5:00 p.m.)
For those that signed up in September, we will travel to tour the BMW plant in Greer, SC. We will also eat lunch at Wades in Spartanburg, SC.
- 2) **Wednesday Monthly Luncheon** - October 21 (11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Our speakers for this month’s luncheon are the staff members from Palmetto Pregnancy Center. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. We will take up a collection of needed items for the center; a list of those needs is posted on the Celebrators’ bulletin board.



Mission Trip: Chosen Children Ministries, Nicaragua (November 14-21)

A mission trip to Nicaragua to support our Chosen Children Ministries partnership is scheduled for November 14-21. The purpose of this trip is to construct a church in the “Las Banderas” community. In addition, there will be door-to-door evangelism in the “Las Banderas” community. Estimated cost for the trip is \$1400 / person. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Shannon Ford (sford@fbcfm.com) or Carl Catoe (carlcatoe@yahoo.com).



Music ~ Media



“But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.”

1 Samuel 12:24

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, orchestra and drama team will present *“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

God is Great; God is Good

Andrew Lucius

www.worshipleader.com

“God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food.” A prayer voiced by many young voices with profound theological implications for those who believe that it is true. Implicit in these truths are God’s sovereignty and His loving kindness, His transcendence and His immanence, His might and His absolute goodness. As God’s people gather for weekly worship, it is critical that these truths be presented because it is the marriage of God’s greatness and goodness that support the faith of every Christian and power biblical worship.

God’s Greatness—Greatness is one of the most fundamental traits that anyone would attribute to the object of their worship. Fundamental to worship, Christian or not, is the idea that the object of worship is greater than the one who is worshiping. Therefore, if we worship money, we essentially say that money is greater than I am, and thereby we elevate money to a certain status. A status that is supreme over areas of life. We get stressed out about it. We fight over it. We think about it constantly because of our misplaced love. These things lead us to one final question: If the greater object fails, what happens to me, the lesser object?

As worshipers of God, we are freed from these fears since God is truly the greatest being. The prophet Jeremiah affirms that the Lord is great writing, *“There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and great is Your name in might”* (Jeremiah 10:6). God has no rivals in greatness. He is alone! The psalmist also affirms the Lord’s exclusive supremacy over all other objects of worship, *“For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all other gods”* (Psalm 96:4). God is not only great; He is the greatest. He is feared above all other gods. He alone is worthy of worship because there is nothing that supersedes His greatness, so He is worshiped because He is intrinsically worthy of it based on His greatness.

God’s Goodness—But God’s greatness is void of any hope if it is isolated to itself. If there is nothing to govern His greatness, then there are no parameters to which He is bound. Therefore, He could be great in evilness as well as holiness. A God completely sovereign with no care, love, or goodness is a scary thing indeed. But God has told us in the Scriptures and demonstrated over history that intrinsic to His nature is not only greatness but also goodness.

While God is good to the world through a common grace, He is good to those who believe the Gospel in a special and specific way. The Psalmist writes, *“What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?”* (Psalm 116:12). What kinds of deeds has the Lord done that the Psalmist would assign a ‘good’ value to? The answer is that He has *“delivered my soul from death”* (Psalm 116:8). It is the redemptive deeds of God that the Psalmist has in mind as he remembers the goodness of the Lord. It is this goodness that leads us to worship Him not under compulsion or obligation, but with affection and love. When we consider His redemptive goodness our hearts are moved to worship Him because of the affection we have for Him – we love Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19).

Conclusion—Understanding God as both great and good gives us the freedom to look at every circumstance as good from an eternal perspective and worship God not in spite of our circumstances, but because of them. This doesn’t mean that we always experience good things, or that we can’t mourn in times of sorrow. In those moments, however, we can say with Paul, *“For this light and momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”* (2 Corinthians 4:17). God is great in His sovereignty and good in His salvation, so let’s worship with a freedom that only a Christian can know. God is great and God is good; let us thank Him for more than food.

created for connection

Can you remember a time when you had a task so large and so complex that you didn't know where to begin or what step to take first? Getting connected to a church when you are new can be a very similar experience. We have a lot of awesome things going on at FBCFM, but trying to figure out exactly where to start to get connected can be hard. That's why we have something called START HERE. The concept is simple. When someone is new or looking to get better connected, they can start by attending START HERE, a monthly class designed as a quick orientation to FBCFM. It is the very first step to learning how to connect to our church family. So if that's you, or if you know someone who this might pertain to, START HERE is the place to be! Details for our next few START HERE classes are at our Guest Info tables and also listed below:



When: Sunday, October 4, November 8, December 13; 11:00 a.m. - noon

Where: 116-WC — go to Guest Info, or take the stairwell or elevator in the Worship Center Lobby to the basement and follow the Start Here signs

What: Start Here — a quick orientation to FBCFM

Contact: Matthew Cavin (mcavin@fbcfm.com) with any questions

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP

Welcome New Members



Anna Zielinski



Drake Jones



October Top 5 Ministry Opportunities

1. Operation Christmas Child Team
2. First World Set Design Team
3. Adult Male 5th Grade Connect Group Leader
4. ABF Singles' Class Teacher
5. ABF Couples' (30-40) Teacher (9:30)

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

Congratulations To:

Tony & Sallie Bishop on the birth of their granddaughter, Rebekah Ann, on August 24.

In Sympathy

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

The family of Frances Boulware
Andy Kuiper on the loss of his mother
Nicole Powers/Nancy Swicegood on the loss of their uncle
Meghan Cavin on the loss of her grandfather
Tony Armeni on the loss of his grandmother
Patty Snincak on the loss of her brother
Nancy Brewer on the loss of her brother

It's a Match



Matching is an important part of what Stephen Ministry is all about. Those who need care are matched with the best caregiver for them, given their particular life situation. Find out whether Stephen Ministry is a match for your need by contacting one of the Stephen Leaders listed below.

Stephen Ministers Care

When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening. That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. We need Stephen Ministers to care for those who are making that long journey through the valley of a life crisis. Will you consider serving in this way?

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!

Articles for the November *First Word* are due in the church office by **October 21**.

October Deacons

Sunday, October 4

Scott Motsinger & Bobby Woodson

Sunday, October 11

Ron Whitmire & Shawn Swicegood

Sunday, October 18

David McWilliam & Ken Terry

Sunday, October 25

Michael Wright & Scott Nelson


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
6:15 p.m.— Midweek Classes
6:17 p.m.— Catalyst 6:17
7:30 p.m.— Adult Choir/Wind Ensemble Rehearsal

OCTOBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p>1 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>	<p>2 9:00 VSO Golf Tournament</p> <p>7:00 NA Meeting</p>	3
<p>4 11:00 First Step Class 11:00 Start Here Class</p> <p>4:00 Middle School Destination Unknown 4:00 Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>5 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>6 9:30 Ladies' ESL and Bible Study Classes</p> <p>8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>7 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>8 8:30 Prayer Meeting 10:30 Celebrators' Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>7:00 Budget Meeting 8:00 AA</p>	<p>9 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA</p>	<p>10 3:00 Ordination Service</p>
<p>11 11:00 Parent/Child Dedication Class</p> <p>6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 7:30 Blended Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>13 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>14 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>15 9:30 Celebrators' BMW Plant Tour 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>7:00 Budget Meeting 8:00 AA</p>	<p>16 7:00 NA</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Parent/Child Dedication</p> <p>11:00 Overflow Volunteer Orientation</p> <p>6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live</p>	<p>19 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>20 9:30 Ladies' ESL and Bible Study Classes</p> <p>8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>21 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:30 Celebrator Lunch</p> <p>5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17</p>	<p>22 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>	<p>23 7:00 NA</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Communion Sunday</p> <p>11:00 6 Habits Class</p> <p>4:00 High School Destination Unknown 7:30 Blended Team Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir</p>	<p>27 9:30 Ladies' ESL and Bible Study Classes</p> <p>6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon</p>	<p>28 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>29 8:30 Prayer Meeting</p> <p>8:00 AA</p>	<p>30 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA</p>	<p>31 Halloween</p>

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through August 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 August 31, 2015.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Budget	\$ 1,627,928.08	\$ 1,590,182.64
Budget Income	\$ 1,462,060.30	\$ 1,601,504.11
Budget Spending	\$ 1,474,712.44	\$ 1,541,477.88

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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