VOLUME 11 SSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

Follow Me Churchwide Campaign Begins September 13

START HERE Class September 13

Celebrators' Jubilee September 15-16

> Choir Retreat September 18-19

OveRflow Session September 20



A CALL TO DIE. A CALL TO LIVE.

From Pastor Jeff

As we enter into the *Follow Me* focus, September 13-October 18 I want to connect the challenges from this study to the language we have been using around here for several years. We talk at FBC about 5 Personal **Practices** involved in following Jesus. These practices are easy to remember with the acrostic, G.R.A.C.E.

The 5 Personal Practices are:

<u>G</u>row through personal spiritual growth habits <u>R</u>ight place of service <u>A</u>ttend weekly worship <u>C</u>onnect to a healthy small group <u>E</u>ngage 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 out of the *Follow Me* focus.

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?

Let me encourage you to prioritize this study and this focus as a way to catalyze great growth in your personal walk with the Lord and your impact upon the world!



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 Livel Team, Wed. Nights, CM Midweek & Welcome Teams npotts@fbcfm.com

Marsha Jongs Children's Ministry Assistant Mother's Morning Out/Moppets/General Paid Childcare mjones@fbcfm.com

Are you in your R?

oveRflow Volunteer Orientation Session

Sunday, September 20 11:00 a.m.

This volunteer orientation is a session designed to explore more about what it means to serve God as an FBC volunteer, as well as practical things in regard to opportunities, scheduling, expectations and vision. This is a one-time session that is held conveniently on a Sunday morning.

You will not be asked to sign on any dotted lines so plan to join us and venture into the wonderful world of volunteering and finding your **R**ight place of service.

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!

SAVE THE DATE!!

November 8



First Step Class

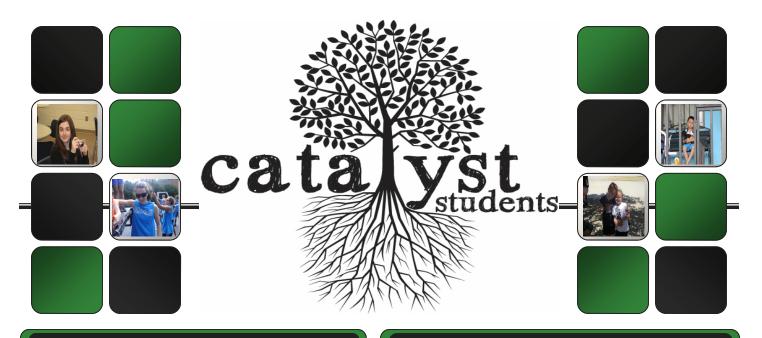
A new Christian class for kids & at least one parent

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, 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 a.m.

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



High School Leadership Team

A reminder for all leadership team members that we meet at 9:10 in the parlor on Sunday mornings.

Team members not leading a Middle School D-Group still need to attend the Sunday morning meetings as we have other responsibilities that need to be handled and your leadership is needed.

Engage Fort Mill

To all who participated in Engage Fort Mill — thank you for your service. You made a difference and the emails of appreciation continue to come in from the teachers and the administration. You represented Christ well!

Middle School D-Groups

Middle school D-Groups are underway. They begin at 6:17 p.m. on Wednesday nights and end at 7:45 p.m.

High School D Groups

High School D-Groups have begun and home assignments have been made. If you are having trouble finding where you are suppose to meet please talk to Johnny.

Sunday Night Live

Sunday Night Live is under way for all 6th-8th grade students. The schedule is as follows:

- 6:00 Snack Supper
- 6:30 Bible Study
- 7:30 Head Home

Follow Me

All high school D-Groups will walk through the six-week Follow Me campaign material. Sermon series begins Sunday, September 13.



Adult Ministries Experience It!

Upcoming Events in September

September 13 - Start Here September 13 - "Follow Me" Campaign Begins September 20 - Volunteer Orientation



Midweek Connection: 2015 Fall Schedule Wednesday Evenings (6:15 - 7:45)

- 1) Christian Beliefs: Part 1 -105-WC
- 2) 1 Peter (*Ladies*) Lower Auditorium
- **3)** 1 Peter (Men) 202-F
- 4) Financial Peace University 113-WC(A)
- 5) <u>Counter Culture</u> 113-WC(B)
- 6) Grief Share 103-WC
- 7) Grace Based Parenting 116-WC
- 8) First Serve Fellowship Hall



English as a Second Language

The ESL program at First Baptist Church Fort Mill is an outreach ministry to internationals in our community who

desire to increase their ability to speak English. All students begin each session with a phonics program learning to form and pronounce sounds common to the English language. Time is also spent in each class learning a level-appropriate Bible verse which corresponds with the lesson of the day.

ESL classes meet on Tuesday mornings. Individuals wishing to volunteer in our program should contact Heidi McGill at heidi.g.mcgill@gmail.com to receive information on training and positions available.

September 15 - Women's Bible Study Begins



Women's Ministry News

September 15th begins a new session of Tuesday Morning Women's Ministry. We meet each Tuesday in Room 202WC, above the Worship Center, from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

September 15 - October 27: Seamless Seamless covers the people, places and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.

• November 3 - December 15: 1 Peter The message of Peter's first letter shows what the story of Jesus' life means for us as we take up our cross and follow Him.

Childcare is provided for a small fee. Sign up at the Registration Center in the lobby or register online at www.fbcfm.com/womens-ministry.

FOLLOW ME A CALL TO DIE. A CALL TO LIVE.

To live as disciples we need an authentic encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, who He is, what that means and to count the cost of truly following Him. Look afresh at the invitation Jesus offers and discover the joy and purpose that comes from abandoning your life to His. The sermon series begins Sunday, September 13.



Music ~ Celebrators ~ Media

"Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." Psalm 33:1-3

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. Seasonal singers who want to participate in the Christmas musical should plan to attend the fall choir retreat.

(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. We will resume on September 2. 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.
- * Fall Choir Retreat: September 18—6:00 p.m. for meal and 7:00-9:00 p.m. for rehearsal.

September 19—9:00-12:00 p.m. for rehearsal.

At this retreat we will learn 75% of the songs for the Christmas Musical. Choir members and seasonal singers should plan to attend this retreat. New members, youth-adult, are welcome. Childcare is available, 5th grade & under, upon request by contacting Diane Dulin at the church office. **Deadline to register for childcare for the retreat is Friday, September 11, at noon.**

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

CELEBRATORS' (Senior Adult) News

* September 15 & 16: Celebration Jubilee

September 15: 10:00 a.m. Guest Speaker, Mike Whitson of Indian Trail, and the Celebrator Choir in the Chapel followed by a catered lunch by Macs BBQ in the Fellowship Hall.

September 16: 11:30 a.m. Regular Celebrators' luncheon with Mechelle Strickland providing the entertainment .

Cost is \$10.00 per person. Registration and ticket sales Sunday mornings through September 6 and in the office during the week.

Upcoming Events:

- * October 15: BMW plant tour in Greer, SC. Cost is \$10.00/person plus meal at Wade's Cafeteria.
- * October 21: Luncheon. Staff from the Crisis Pregnancy Center will share about their program.
- * November 18: Luncheon. Jan Rosser will entertain us with an interpretation of Esther.
- * December 3: Trip to the Billy Graham Library. Only cost is your lunch.

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 by Bryan Trotter

CONDITIONAL WORSHIP

Gary Durbin

www.worshipleader.com

"I just can't worship with that kind of music."

Have you ever said something like this? I'm pretty sure I've said this before. I've definitely thought it at times.

I was at a traditional church several years ago when God opened my eyes to this. I was sitting there during the music and thinking about how I would do the song differently. Then God basically slapped me in the face. I felt Him say to me, "Gary, worship me. If you can't worship me with this kind of music, then your idea of worship is shallow." I walked away from that a changed person and a changed worship leader. Over the years, I have seen and heard testimonies of people who have worshipped and connected with God for the first time, even though they didn't prefer the music style that I was bringing. That is what it is all about. It's not about the methods or styles in which we worship. It's about bringing worship that the Father is seeking, which is in Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23)

That being said, I'm concerned that there is a danger we need to watch out for in our churches. The danger is CONDITIONAL WORSHIP. It's when God's people convince themselves of certain conditions that need to exist in order for corporate worship to happen. For some, it may call for a killer band and for others, it may call for a choir. For some, it may be lights and multimedia and for others, it may be stained glass and candles. These things are not bad ideas at all. When used properly, there are so many things that can enhance the experience and touch the senses, but we need BALANCE. We need to learn to worship God no matter what the circumstances. Paul said in Colossians 2:16 – "So don't put up with anyone pressuring you in details of diet, worship services, or holy days. All those things are mere shadows cast before what was to come; the substance is Christ." (The Message)

What is the substance of your worship? If it's not Christ alone, then you are probably suffering from CONDITIONAL WORSHIP.

Here are a few signs you can watch out for:

1. INCONSISTENCY – Is your worship experience inconsistent? If it is, you need to realize that it's not the church's fault. It's not the worship leader's fault. It's not the pastor's fault. The issue is found when you look in the mirror. If Christ is the substance of our worship, then we will experience consistency in corporate worship. Hebrews 13:8 says, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* When Christ becomes the substance of our worship more and more, we will experience more and more consistency in heart-tugging, life-changing corporate worship.

2. BOREDOM – Jesus is not boring. Following Jesus with surrender is a true adventure. When Christ is not the substance of our worship, then we require lesser things to keep our attention in corporate worship. We require certain styles, certain songs and certain sermons. Eventually we tire of those things like a spoiled kid tires of unwrapped Christmas presents after a week of playing with them. If you are bored in corporate worship, maybe your attention is being kept by lesser things. When you fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-3), you will never lose sight of true, exciting worship, no matter what the conditions.

3. HESITATION – Hesitation in corporate worship manifests itself in our inspection of everything, before we surrender everything. It's when we look at who is on the stage or what is on the agenda, as we assess whether or not the order of worship will satisfy our wants and needs. Surrender and obedience are at the heart of worship. Delayed obedience is disobedience. When we delay or hesitate to bring an offering of praise to God, we're not trusting that Christ is truly all we need. In Matthew 4, when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, it says that they "immediately" left all they had and followed Him. May we not hesitate. May we follow and worship with trust and surrender.

Conditional worship is a sign that we have grown stale in our relationship with God or maybe we just have not grown at all. It reveals a heart that is not completely His.

When we completely, unconditionally surrender our heart to God, our worship will be complete.

God's love for us is unconditional. May our worship for Him have less and less conditions.

He loved us so much that He sent His only son to die for our sins. Christ is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). Christ is the substance of true worship and the only condition in worship we will ever need.

created for connection

Here are some easy ways to connect in ministry and community:



Life Groups are relational environments of 8-12 people who meet on a regular basis with the purpose of growing closer together and growing closer to God. Our goal is that each person in the group takes one step closer to becoming like Christ as a result of interacting with God's Word and each other. Community is a vital

part of life. God designed us this way. You don't want to miss out on this life changing opportunity! If you are interested in joining a Life Group, you can sign up in the Worship Center lobby or online at www.fbcfm.com.



It is the goal of our Host Team to provide a 5-star experience to every guest, regular attender and member by creating a warm and welcome atmosphere through a simple and smooth process. We do everything from shaking hands to straightening up bathrooms. We want everyone who attends FBCFM on a Sunday morning to know that we are glad they are here and we prepared for their visit. We want to free them up to connect with God and others.



We have experienced record numbers of First Time Guests the last few years at FBCFM. It is so vital that we help all of them connect to our church family. If we don't help our unconnected attendees bridge the gap from guest to connected attendee, they might never experience all that God is doing here at FBCFM. Our Link Team is designed to be a personal connection to help

guests get plugged in to the life of FBCFM. The Link Team helps them discover not just the *programs* of FBCFM, but the *people* of our church family. If this kind of thing gets you excited, please shoot me an email or indicate the Link Team as an area of service on your Connect Card.

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

IN OUR FELLOWSHIP



Victory Sports 8th Annual **Golf Tournament**

Friday, October 2 **Regent Park Golf Course**

Schedule of Events 8:00 am ~ Registration 9:00 am ~ Shotgun Start Following Golf ~ Lunch/Awards

Golfing costs are \$100 per golfer/\$400 per team which includes green fees, cart, breakfast, lunch and range balls. \$20 Mulligan package includes 2 mulligans and 1 ladies tee shot.

Register and find payment and sponsor information at www.vsogolf.org.

Articles for the October First Word are due in the church office by September 22.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

Congratulations To:

Michael & Jessica Davis on the birth of their son, Banks Michael, on July 25;

Jason & Jennifer Johns on the birth of their daughter, Farrah Elese, on August 3;

Tony & Melissa White on the birth of their granddaughter, Clara Frances, on August 15. Parents are Haines & Emily West.

In Sympathy

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

Steve McManus on the loss of his mother Carolyn Boyd on the loss of her sister Buddy Prince on the loss of his mother The family of Jean Massey Terry & Sharon Boatwright on the loss of their great-niece Cam Johnson on the loss of his uncle Patty Snincak on the loss of her sister David O'Neil on the loss of his uncle



Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time **CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** In life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

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 Bill Tumlin, 803-554-2530

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



September Top 5 **Ministry Opportunities**

- Event Decorator Lead Electric Guitarist
- CM Priority Gold Team CM Special Buddies Team
- 4.
- Church Office Volunteers

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

September Deacons

Sunday, September 6 Paul Taggart & B. Jay Bogan

Sunday, September 13 Dohn Davis & Dave Kirby

Sunday, September 20 Tom Neal & Pat Maness

Sunday, September 27 Shawn Swicegood & Larry Hammond

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 (begins 8/23)

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

September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Ladies' ESL Classes 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	2 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17	3 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	4 7:00 NA	5
6 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live	7 Labor Day 6:30 Men's Prayer Group Church Office Closed	8 9:30 Ladies' ESL Classes 10:30 Priscilla Group 7:00 Titus Two Tuesday 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	9 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17	10 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	11 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA	12
 13 Follow Me Campaign Begins 11:00 Start Here Class 4:00 Deacons' Meeting 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live 	14 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	 15 9:00 Celebration Jubilee 9:30 Ladies' ESL Classes & Bible Study 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon 	16 6:30 Prayer Meeting 11:00 Celebration Jubilee 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17	17 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	18 6:00 Fall Choir Retreat 7:00 NA Meeting	19 9:00 Fall Choir Retreat
20 11:00 Overflow Volunteer Orientation 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live	21 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	22 9:30 Ladies' ESL Classes & Bible Study 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	23 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17	24 8:30 Prayer Meeting 8:00 AA	25 9:30 MOPS 7:00 NA	26
27 6:00 Catalyst Sunday Night Live	28 6:30 Men's Prayer Group 9:30 Missions Prayer Group 10:30 Celebrator Choir	29 9:30 Ladies' ESL Classes & Bible Study 5:30 Stephen Leader Meeting 6:30 SM Supervision Groups 8:00 AA/Al-Anon	30 6:30 Prayer Meeting 5:15 Handbell Rehearsal 5:15 Midweek Meal 6:15 Midweek Classes 6:17 Catalyst 6:17			

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT Through July 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 July 31, 2015. 2015 2014 1,424,437.07 Budget \$ \$ 1,391,409.81 \$ \$ Budget Income 1,251,585.16 1,380,910.18 \$ Budget Spending \$ 1,299,004.37 1,366,765.41 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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