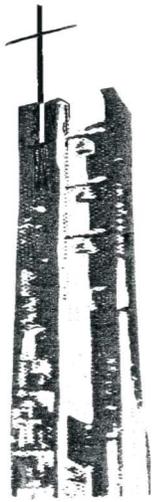


# The Announcer

First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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## *The View from the Rafters*

Valentine's Day meets Ash Wednesday .... Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> 2018, was lining up to be another typical Valentine's Day with cards being bought, flowers ordered, gifts selected, and restaurant reservations made. Couples and families alike had discussed their plans with a midweek romantic "night out" highlighting an otherwise ordinary week. Then came the news' reports of another school shooting at 2:30 p.m. in Parkland, FL. Chaos ensues for just a matter of minutes, yet its irreversible reverberations will be felt by hundreds for decades to come. 17 individuals dead; 17 families planning funerals, not graduations or birthday parties. 17 dead in the 18<sup>th</sup> school shooting of 2018. Reports tell us that after first responders arrived on the scene, cell phones could be heard ringing among the wounded and lifeless bodies. Valentine's Day 2018 would not be a typical day of romantic sentimentality but a day to reflect on our own mortality, a day to cherish and hold dear our beloved family and children. No longer thoughts about candied hearts but tears and prayers for real lives that were breaking.

Ash Wednesday has always reminded us "from dust we come and to dust we will return," yet the poignancy of this truth became even more clear this year. To be honest, I turned off the news channels and radio updates. I didn't want to listen to the cracking sound of gunfire, to the screaming sirens, and to the heart-wrenching voices in terror and tears. Schools are supposed to be safe zones of educational instruction, not war zones of mass casualty. "From dust we come and dust we return" – these words were not meant to be spoken over a sixteen-year-old who was only minutes away from getting on a bus for the long ride home. Each Ash Wednesday we read the gospel words, "...do not worry about your life...", yet the truth is that I do worry; I worry about my life, but even more so, I worry about the lives of my children and the numerous other children (known and unknown) who live with the reality of school lock-downs, School Resource Officers, and active shooter protocols in place. I can't help but wonder when will the sooty crosses that mark our foreheads and the words of confession we offer become genuine acts of contrition and repentance in that we make good on our Christian commitment to usher in the peaceable kingdom of God and renounce the cycles and systems of violence that make possible Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Columbine? Political debates will continue about guns, family values, mental health, etc. Yet, for the local church's part we have neglected to pray, speak, and act in ways that embody these additional Ash Wednesday gospel words, "seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well."

On this day – "tempered with tears and yet-to-be-realized" joy for the journey,

Jay

## Youth Happenings

Youth Ski Trip has been rescheduled! Here are the details:

**Sugar Mountain Resort, Sugar Mountain, NC**  
**Friday, February 23**  
**3:30p – 12:00p**



You'll need to be at church immediately after school. We will ski the night session, which will last from 6:00pm-10:00pm. It will be late when we return. Please bring food and drinks. We will not stop on the way to Sugar, but we will stop for a bite to eat on the way home.

Prices per person are below, assuming we will have at least 15 people going. If we don't have 15 people, prices will go up by \$8 for a lift ticket, \$12 for lift ticket and ski rental, and \$13 for lift ticket and snowboard.

\$30.00 ski lift ticket  
\$15.00 ski rental  
\$23.00 snowboard rental  
\$6.00 helmet

### **Deadline for sign up is this Sunday, February 18!**

You can reserve your place by calling the church office, or calling/texting/emailing Kevin!

There is a church-wide Sunday School breakfast at 8:45am this Sunday, February 18! Come for breakfast, and plan to stay for Sunday School and Worship afterwards.

We will also have our regular Sunday Evening Activities this Sunday! I've enjoyed getting to know you over these past weeks and look forward to seeing you this Sunday!

Many thanks to Jennifer Hiatt, Rene Myers, and Dean Bray for providing the Youth Supper this past Sunday.

Kevin

### **Primetimers Trip**

**"Tunes & Tales" with David Holt and Josh Goforth**  
**Thursday, March 15,**

**5:00pm: Bus leaves the church**  
**6:00pm: Dinner at K&W- 7:30pm: Concert**

Join the Primetimers as they travel to Winston-Salem, March 15 to enjoy a performance by four-time Grammy Award winner David Holt and rising acoustic music star and Grammy nominee Josh Goforth as they join together to bring to life the joy and spirit of old time mountain music and stories. Between them they combine the virtuosic sounds of guitar, banjo, fiddle, slide guitar, mandolin, and a world of exciting rhythm instruments from hambone (body slapping) rhythms to spoons, stump-fiddle, rhythm bones, jaw harp, and even paper bag. It is a program of songs, stories and amazing musicianship that will appeal to all ages. Please call the church office to sign up. Ticket price for this event is \$25 plus the cost of your meal at K&W. Your ticket will need to be paid to the church by Monday, February 26 to secure your spot for this trip. You don't have to be a Primetimer to join this event, which is part of the NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering.

**Saying "Yes" to the Cross**  
**First Sunday in Lent- February 18**



**This Sunday:** The Crown of Thorns  
**Mark 1:9-15,** The Good, the Bad, and the

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST**  
**February 18, 8:45 a.m.**



**Bring your family for great food and fellowship!**

**Guest Speaker: Seth Hix**  
**Church Engagement Coordinator for**  
**NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship**

**Come and make connections with our church**  
**family and our NC Baptist Family**

**No Coffee Fellowship—**  
**come for breakfast instead!!**

*Regular Sunday School classes will meet at 9:45*



### **Crockpot Creations**

**Sunday, February 25, 5:30pm**

To add more variety to our usual menu of chili, we're asking folks to also bring their favorite soup, stew, or dessert. There will not be a judging for this event but just a good time of fellowship. Sign up sheets will be in your Sunday School class or you may call the church office. The meal will begin at 5:30pm.

### **Caswell Summerfest May 28-June 1**

*"Enjoying the Journey"*

5-day, 4-night retreat for retired and semi-retired adults.

**Speaker:** Bobby Morrow

**Worship Leader:** Clyde Buckner

**Pianist:** Larry Keesler

Cost for all meals and lodging :\$330

We have 10 fully furnished rooms reserved in Fort Caswell Hotel

Call the church office by **MARCH 1** to reserve a space – you will be glad you did!

Thank you so much for the men's shirts. Our inventory was low, and your generous donation definitely filled that void. The children's socks were very much appreciated. There is always a high demand and short supply of socks. So, thanks for helping solve that problem. We appreciate your continued support and kindness... *Grace's Closet*

## Grace Notes

I recently found this list by Rachel Held Evans of questions to ask myself at the beginning of Lent:

- **When I wake up on Resurrection Sunday morning, how will I be different?**
- Is there a habit or sin in my life that repeatedly gets in the way of loving God with my whole heart or loving my neighbor as myself? How do I address that habit over the next forty days?
- Is there anyone in my life from whom I need to ask forgiveness or pursue reconciliation?
- What practical steps can I take to carve out time for daily contemplation?
- What spiritual discipline do I need to improve upon or want to try?
- What are some things in my life that I tell myself that I need but that I really don't need?
- Why am I giving this particular thing up? How does giving it up draw me closer to God and prepare me for Easter?
- What am I going to tell myself when self-denial gets hard?
- Is it necessary/helpful for me to share the nature of my fast with others or should I keep it private?

These questions get tot me at the beginning of Lent, 2018. A final word from Isaiah:

*Isn't this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them, and not hiding from your own family? Then your light will break out like the dawn, and you will be healed quickly. Your own righteousness will walk before you, and the Lord's glory will be your rear guard.*

Sing to the Lord!

Linda



## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, February 18 First Sunday in Lent

8:45am Sunday School Breakfast  
 9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room  
 9:45am Sunday School  
 9:45am New Members and Prospects Class  
 11:00am **\*\*The Church at Worship & Praise**  
 4:00pm Children's Handbells  
 4:45pm Youth Choir  
 5:00pm Griefshare Class  
 5:30pm Granite City Ringers  
 5:45pm Youth Supper  
 6:00pm Youth Group Family Time

### MONDAY, February 19

6:00pm Friends Helping Seniors Planning-Library  
 6:30pm \*Cub Scouts

### TUESDAY, February 20

7:00am Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia  
 10:30am Jackson -Meeks-Beck Group

### WEDNESDAY, February 21

10:00am Beth Moore-Rebekah Class  
 4:30pm Grades 1-2 Music; Grades 3-5 Missions  
 5:00pm Pre-School -Kindergarten Music & Missions  
 5:15pm Grades 3-5 Music; Grades 1-2 Missions  
 5:45pm Family Night Meal  
 6:30pm Bible Study  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, February 15

5:30pm Feeding Friends Meal  
 7:00pm \*Boy Scouts—Scout Hut

### FRIDAY, February 23

3:30pm Youth Ski Trip

### SUNDAY, February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room  
 9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room  
 9:45am Sunday School  
 9:45am New Members and Prospects Class  
 11:00am **\*\*The Church at Worship & Praise**  
 4:00pm Children's Handbells  
 4:45pm Youth Choir  
 5:00pm Griefshare Class  
 5:30pm Granite City Ringers  
 5:30pm Crockpot Creations-Fellowship Hall  
 5:45pm Youth Supper  
 6:00pm Youth Group Family Time

\*Community Ministry \*\*Hearing Assists / Valet Parking available upon request. Wheelchair spaces are available in the sanctuary for the convenience of those who need to stay in their chairs.

### WMU Focus Week

#### Week of Prayer for WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering

**February 11-18**

Contributions to the WMU NC Heck-Jones Offering will be collected during the month of February. This offering helps fund ministries such as Camp Mundo Vista Summer and Year-Round Camp, Military Ministry, Habitat for Humanity Women Build, Women's Prison Retreat, New Ministers' Wives Retreat, Christian Women's and Men's Job Corps, and development and training for Associational and Church WMU Leaders. This is the only offering that supports the work of WMU.

Dear Church Family,  
 John and I would like to thank the church for their thoughts and prayers as we have dealt with the loss of his mother. Your many expressions of love have been a comfort to us all. We are so blessed to be part of this loving church family.  
 Resa & John

#### *Thank You from the 3rd-5th Class!*

**The Souper Bowl of Caring....** collected \$1,277.01 and 176 food items, which will be divided between Yokefellow and the Mount Airy City Schools backpack program.

**Statistics**

**Date: 2-11-18**

Sunday School Attendance 128

Worship Attendance 157

**Tithes and Offerings**

**This Week**

Weekly Needs \$10,683.00

Budget Offering \$12,821.00

**Weekly Surplus \$2,138.00**

Designations (summarized below) \$3,967.00

Total Offering \$16,788.00

**Tithes and Offerings** **Year To Date**

Yearly Needs \$64,098.00

Budget Offering \$48,679.51

**YTD Deficit (\$15,418.49)**

Designations \$10,703.51

Total Offering \$59,383.02

**Weekly Designations**

Building Fund \$125.00

Organ Fund Pledge 0

Designated Missions \$140.00

Miscellaneous \$3,524.00

Wednesday Night Meal \$178.00

**Building Fund** Bal to Date \$25,783.48

**Organ Fund** Bal to Date \$34,032.48

**MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**

**General Fund**

In memory of Edward Jones by:  
Richard and Nancy Pyles

In memory of Ed Lovell by:  
Richard and Nancy Pyles

In memory of Ed Lovell by:  
Mark and Deidre Rogers

**Ministry for Sunday:** Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** Mark 1: 9-15 **Sunday School Greeters:** Benny & Diane Robinson ; **Deacon Greeters:** Jimmy & Cindy Jones ; **Babies:** Paula Brinkley & Maggie Nicholson ; **Toddlers:** Laney Johnson & Dora Gwyn ; **Preschoolers:** Angela Stroup & Helper ; **Kid's Korner:** Marsha Meadows & Mercer Meadows ; **Children's Sermon :** Carole Kerley ; **Sound:** Paul Madren, Mark Hensley, Jeff Harmon

**Senior Gathering, Monday, February 26**  
**Information Coming Soon**

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**Wednesday, February 21**  
**Menu:** Baked Spaghetti w/Garlic Toast, Salad

**Happy Birthday!**

2/18 Pat Vaughan  
2/22 Gene Garland  
2/22 Lesa Hensley  
2/23 John Brim  
2/24 Jeff Harmon  
2/25 Kyle Leonard  
2/25 Charles Strickland  
2/27 Gilbert Huffman  
2/27 Jeffrey Martin  
2/27 Katie McDuffie  
2/29 Amy Snow



**Caring & Sharing in Our Church Family**  
Write a note, make a telephone call, or pay a visit to

**Sympathy**  
Family of Ed Jones

**Hospital**  
David Rowe-Home  
Henrietta Bingman-Northern  
Mildred Glenn-Surry Rehab

**College**  
Matthew Dowell  
Gateway Room 265  
East Carolina University  
1000 East 5th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

**Home or Retirement**  
Doris Hunter  
1000 Ridgecrest Lane #202  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Alma Key  
1000 Ridgecrest Lane #205  
Mount Airy, NC 27030

**Youth Meals....** If anyone would like to help feed our youth on a Sunday evening, April 29<sup>th</sup>, please sign up on the sheet located on the youth board outside of the church office or let Lesa Hensley know.



**Exciting Opportunity for Fellowship and Learning**  
NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering  
March 15-17, Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem  
Go to [www.cbfn.org](http://www.cbfn.org) for details and registration information  
See details on hall bulletin board or talk to Becky Keesler!