

The Announcer

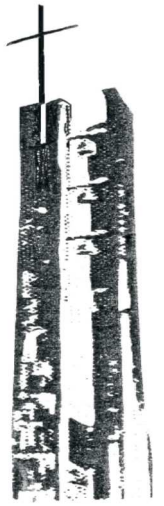
First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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Number 9



The View from the Rafters

**In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling
down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love.**

During this past Sunday's morning worship, a choir of students, teachers (active and retired), administrators, school board members, and others stood before our congregation reminding us the importance of communal lamentation. Painfully aware of the horrible violence perpetrated recently at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Sunday's volunteer choir directed us toward a theological reflection regarding the current events of our lives, in which the love of God demonstrated in the person of Jesus Christ is the core of response always for God's people. Oh how beautiful was the solo by Audrey Marion and voices of the mass choir singing, "in the midst of pain, I choose love!"

**In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, hate and anger
keeping score, I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.**

The Jewish people knew well the importance of lamentation in their daily lives. Within the 150 psalms of scripture, 65 of them are laments which express deeply the grief and sorrow which visited the communities and families. Within the Jewish context, laments always had the following elements: an address to God, a description of the suffering, a cursing of the party responsible for suffering, protestation of innocence (or the admission of guilt), petition for divine assistance, faith in God's hearing of the prayer, anticipation of divine response, and then a song of thanksgiving. In recognizing the role that communal lamentation served in the community, we see that there was not mere complaint which led to bitterness and frustration, but there was the active taking of a complaint to God in prayer and trusting that God would act.

I am struck by how the church today has forgotten how to lament. We know well how to complain, but in many respects, we have lost the ability to lament, individually, or as a faith community. Perhaps, as we deepen our spiritual maturity, we learn again what it means to acknowledge pain, suffering, and loss and see that inviting God into our own brokenness is the way forward. Only in voicing to God our deepest longings are we truly setting free God's power to heal our deepest wounds.

If we needed yet another reminder of the importance of lamenting, let us turn to our Lord and Savior. In the book of Matthew, Jesus laments over Jerusalem's disobedience, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down,
explanations can't be found, I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.**

Joy for the Journey,
Jay

Youth Happenings

We have a BIG day coming up this **Sunday, March 4**. Here are the details:

8:00am – Youth arrive at the church to help prepare for the pancake breakfast

8:30am-9:30am – **Youth Sponsored Church-Wide Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser.**

If you're planning to go to Passport this Sunday we need you here to help

9:45am – **Youth Sunday School**

11:00am – **Worship**

4:45pm – **Youth Choir Practice**

5:30pm – **Youth Snack Supper**

6:00pm – **Youth Group Family Time**

Hope to see **YOU** this Sunday!!

Coming Sunday, March 11 – **Youth Ice Skating Trip to Winston-Salem.**

We will leave immediately after worship, stop on the way to Winston for lunch, and then go ice skating from 1:30pm-4:00pm. Cost for skating and skate rental is \$10.00. You will also need money for lunch. We plan to be back at the church by 5:00pm. There will be no other youth activities in the evening. **Deadline to sign up is Sunday, March 4** – I need to make sure we have adequate transportation. Come give ice skating a try. It'll be a lot of fun skating and good fun being with one another!!



A Note From the Personnel Committee

It has been our custom around this time of year to place a suggestion box in the breeze way to give every member of the congregation the opportunity to submit suggestions or concerns to the Personnel Committee. We will leave the suggestion box out for about six weeks. Please let this be an opportunity to not only voice suggestions or concerns but also to offer positive feedback and encouragement to any and all members of our ministerial and office staff. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff who work very hard to make our church, our worship, and our ministry the very best it can be as we all serve the Lord together. The scripture encourages us to be generous in supporting and uplifting our coworkers in the ministry of the church.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and concerns for Henri.

The food was delicious. Our family enjoyed the food and the memories of our sweet sister.

Henri's family



**Called Church Conference
Wednesday, March 21
6:30pm-Fellowship Hall**

A called Church Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 21, to vote on the Nominating Committee's recommendation to fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee. Please plan to attend this meeting.

I want to thank my First Baptist Family for the thoughts, prayers, and cards when my younger sister, Ruth Stone, passed away.

I love you all,

Nancy Twitty



Dear Members of First Baptist Church,

The Mount Airy Restoration Foundation wishes to acknowledge your warm hospitality by inviting our guests to your church during our Christmas Tour. We appreciate your generous giving of time to our community during the Holiday Season. Your contribution to this event enabled it to be a great success.

Betty Wright



Exciting Opportunity for Fellowship and Learning

NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering
March 15-17, Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem
Go to www.cbfnc.org for details and registration information
See details on hall bulletin board or talk to Becky Keesler!

Prayer News: Remember that you are being prayed for individually each week by a member of the Diaconate. We thank God for you and ask His blessing on you as we all desire to grow in our faithfulness in following Jesus and in our caring for one another. As always, when you have specific prayer requests, please call the church office.

**Saying "Yes" to the Cross
Third Sunday in Lent- March 4**

This Sunday: The Whip



Grace Notes

What a wonderful outpouring of support last Sunday as so many of you joined to sing "I Choose Love!" It was deeply appreciated by our youth. They, with students across America, have been deeply affected by the most recent school violence. I am proud that our church expressed such care for them, as well as for all who are called to work in education.

Sunday's Lenten symbol is the whip, and the litany focuses on relationships and our failures to act as Jesus would in the world. It ends with these words: "Mold us into the image of Jesus, in whose holy name we pray." Lord, help us be willing to be molded.

Sing to the Lord,
Linda



The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, March 4 **Third Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30am Youth Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
- 9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 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, March 5

- 6:00pm ***Cub Scout Pack Meeting**

TUESDAY, March 6

- 7:00am Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia

WEDNESDAY, March 7

- 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, March 8

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

FRIDAY, March 9-10

CBF Youth Festival-Wingate

SUNDAY, February 11 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
- 9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am ****The Church at Worship & Praise**
- 12:00pm Mary Rowe WMU-Fellowship Hall
- Youth Ice Skating**
- 4:00pm Children's Handbells
- NO Youth Choir**
- 5:00pm Griefshare Class
- 5:30pm Granite City Ringers

*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.

Focus on Friends Helping Seniors

MINISTERING TO THE NEEDS OF THE SENIOR ADULTS OF
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



Friendly Visitors

This team consists of volunteers who agree to visit assigned seniors who may be homebound and or need support and encouragement. Friendly visitors visit an assigned individual on a regular basis based on need and time constraints.

**Primetimers Trip
"Tunes & Tales" with David Holt and Josh Goforth
Thursday, March 15
5:00pm: Van leaves the church
6:00pm: Dinner at K&W- 7:30pm: Concert**



There is still room on the van if you want to join PrimeTimers on Thursday, March 15, for dinner at K&W and Tune's & Tales concert with David Holt and Josh Goforth. Tickets are \$25. Call the church office to sign up.

CBFNC Youth Choir Festival

March 9-10

Public Concert, March 10, 2:00PM

Wingate University

Six of our youth will participate in the choir festival. Hope you can come support them in the closing concert!

Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary

Easter Lilies in foil will be available to decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Price is \$12.50. Please place the order form in the offering plate or return to the church office by **Friday, March 23**, to reserve yours.

In memory of _____ or in honor of _____

Name _____

Given by _____



March is our month for emphasis on giving!



Statistics**Date: 2-25-18**

Sunday School Attendance 141

Worship Attendance 196

Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Needs \$10,683.00

Budget Offering \$10,823.00

Weekly Surplus \$140.00

Designations (summarized below) \$2,895.00

Total Offering \$13,718.00

Tithes and Offerings**Year To Date**

Yearly Needs \$85,464.00

Budget Offering \$65,703.51

YTD Deficit (\$19,760.49)

Designations \$14,760.01

Total Offering \$80,463.52

Weekly Designations

Building Fund \$1,070.00

Organ Fund Pledge \$225.00

Designated Missions \$505.00

Miscellaneous \$950.00

Wednesday Night Meal \$145.00

Building Fund Bal to Date \$27,065.98**Organ Fund** Bal to Date \$34,327.48**MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS****Building Fund**

In memory of Henrietta Bingman by:

John and Bobbie Collins

In memory of Mrs. Brewington by:

John and Bobbie Collins

In memory of Ruth Stone by:

John and Bobbie Collins

In memory of Marie Ward by:

John and Bobbie Collins

In memory of Margaret Taylor by:

Revel and Bonnie Young

General Fund

In memory of Henrietta Bingman by:

Larry and Barbara Blood

In memory of Henrietta Bingman by:

Mark and Deidre Rogers

Organ Fund

In memory of Ed Lovell by:

Larry and Barbara Blood

Ministry for Sunday: Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** John 2:13-22 ; **Sunday School Greeters:** Scott & Cindy Wilson ; **Deacon Greeters:** Bobby Watson & Hilda Brannock ; **Babies:** Jarod & Meredith Simmons ; **Toddlers:** Benny & Gina Brannock ; **Preschoolers:** Laney Johnson & Helper ; **Kid's Korner:** Lone Cooke & Hanne Cooke ; **Children's Sermon :** Angela Stroup ; **Sound:** Ben Cook, Martin Cooke, Peter Cooke

Wednesday, March 7**Menu:** Country Pork Ribs, Mashed Potatoes, Cornbread, Slaw, Salad**Happy Birthday!**

3/1 Carole Dowell
 3/2 Hugh E Sutphin
 3/2 Joy McGehee
 3/4 Haywood Jordan
 3/5 Ashley Moser
 3/5 Lisa Shaw
 3/6 Jane Fussell
 3/6 Barbara Hill
 3/6 Jimmy Jones
 3/7 Paul Beasley
 3/8 Colin Hiatt
 3/8 Jack Thomas
 3/8 Kyle Wilson
 3/10 William Judd
 3/10 Nancy Twitty

**Caring & Sharing in Our Church Family**

Write a note, make a telephone call, or pay a visit to

Sympathy

David Taylor, Hugh Taylor, and Cindy McCabe in the death of their mother, Margaret Taylor

HospitalSherry Blackmon-Forsyth
Mildred Glenn-Northern**College**Blake Hensley
128 Excalibur Circle
Apt 204

Boone, NC 28607

Home or RetirementMaude Morris
207 Robin Road
Mount Airy, NC 27030Frances Randleman
3102 Summit Hills Trl
Mount Airy, NC 27030**Youth Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Fundraiser (Donations Only)****Sunday, March 4, 8:30am – 9:30 am-Fellowship Hall**

Proceeds will help defray the cost of the

Youth Summer Retreat

Call the office to signup!

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