

The Announcer

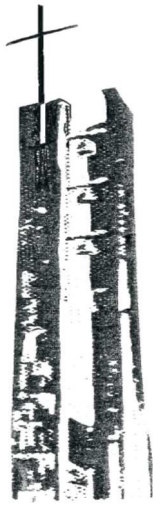
First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

Phone: 336-786-5185, Fax: 336-789-3982, Website: www.fbcmountairy.org

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Number 15



The View from the Rafters

"We hope she gets to heaven, if she doesn't overshoot."

– John Claypool, on the occasion of his mother's death

Most conversations about "making it into heaven" have always been concerns about doing "what's needed to get in." Folks often have thoughts and musings about what's "the minimum I have to do" to make it to the "pearly gates." Never has anyone personally shared with me concerns about "overshooting heaven." Yet, in Claypool's remark, there's this *excellence of Christian faith* which his mother demonstrated and was evidenced by all in the family. And this spurred my thinking, as Jesus is the only way to heaven and as trusting Jesus in a personal relationship of salvation is the means by which we will be received into heaven. How then does our trust of Christ show forth an *excellence of Christian faith*?

What if an "*excellence of faith*" was demonstrated through our lack of worry and anxiety about everyday matters and reflected in a deep confidence in God?

What if an "*excellence of faith*" was displayed by our consistency of time spent with God in prayer and reading scripture allowing the Holy Spirit to hone a Christ-like life?

What if an "*excellence of faith*" was revealed through our ability and capacity to show forth a godly compassion to people of all stripes?

What if an "*excellence of faith*" was witnessed in our willingness to receive and offer forgiveness?

For some, speaking of "excellence" in regard to our Christian walk may seem out of place, yet let me share this truth: God's love for us is "excellent" in all ways. In other words, God's love in Christ is "not lacking in any way, but whole, complete, all-encompassing" and in all ways "sufficient for our every need." With this being the case that God's love in Christ is "excellent" toward us, then it is right, good and appropriate for our response to God's love be "excellent" in return. We are to long for, strive and seek a life that offers God nothing less than a full expression of love in response to what he has freely, generously, and graciously given. If we return to the LORD that which he has graciously given, then some may say one day of us, "I hope they didn't overshoot heaven."

Joy for the Journey,
Jay

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.

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Youth Happenings

The following Youth and Adults will be participating in the

Youth Spring Retreat @ Fort Caswell this weekend. Our theme for the weekend is **The Homecoming**

I ask that you be in prayer for us as we continue to discover what it means to be a part of the Family of God.

Ella Brant	Simon Cawley	Hanne Cooke	Martin Cooke
Peter Cooke	Peyton Harmon	Charlotte Hauser	Claire Hauser
Meredith Hensley	Olivia Malone	Audrey Marion	Marleigh Meadows
Mercer Meadows	Caroline Morris	Harrison Morris	Lily Morris
Ben Reales	Matthew Reales	Kinlee Reece	Corbin Robertson
Lane Snow	Walker Stroup	Zeb Stroup	Patty Carpenter
Lesa Hensley	Mark Hensley	Kevin Wilson	

There will be Sunday School and Worship this Sunday, April 15 for those unable to go to Caswell. There will not be any afternoon youth activities at FBC.

Kevin

Senior Gathering, Monday, April 23

11:45-2:00, Fellowship Hall

Seniors Of All Ages are invited to join your friends in faith and fellowship for devotion, lunch, musical moments with Ben Currin, and "Don't be Scammed" by Police Chief Dale Watson. Transportation will be provided upon request.

Please RSVP to 710-2041.



The Mary Rowe Mission Action Group will



meet Sunday April 15, 2018 (changed this month to 3rd Sunday), immediately following worship in the FBC Fellowship Hall. All ladies who are interested in being in a Mission group are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be provided. Join the fellowship as we strive to be on mission for Christ.

News from the Bereavement Committee

We are updating our list of those willing to take part in a meal for a family going through a loss. If you would like to be a part of this call list, please call the church office. Also, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Sunday School classes. Thank you in advance for your help.

Your kindness is greatly appreciated.



Thank you so much for another generous donation for Grace's Closet The men's suits went quickly. The socks are a great blessing to many in the community.

Grace's Staff

Attention First Baptist Family

Will you make a commitment to spend two hours of your time to help feed 10,000 children????

Plan to join us for a meal packaging event on June 20th in our Fellowship Hall from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. as we come together to



Watch the newsletter for more for details

Tune in to WPAQ, Sunday morning services, April 22, 11:00am-11:30am

Grace Notes

We will still be singing "alleluias" on this third Sunday of Easter. As we are "Easter people," we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday. The shift from Sabbath worship to worship on the first day of the week was a way for the early church to define its faith. How would our worship today be different if we came in every week focused on celebrating the resurrection?

Our season of Easter lasts fifty days, until Pentecost. Scriptures for the season emphasize Jesus' appearances following the resurrection and the teachings he wanted to leave with his disciples, teachings such as "Peace be with you," "I am the good shepherd," "Remain in me, and I will remain in you," "As the Father has loved me, I too have loved you." "I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they [we] are yours."

We are the ones being spoken to, just as emphatically and lovingly today as the first disciples were spoken to. We, with our imperfections, our lack of faith and our fears, are loved into being what Christ envisions us to be, despite our failings. We are children of resurrection, with lives that are restored and renewed. We are Easter people! Alleluia!

Sing to the Lord!
Alleluia!

It's A Boy!

Congratulations to great-grandparents, James and Minnie Loflen, and to grandparents, Mike and Yolanda Howard, on the birth of Luke Anderson Howard, born on April 7. Parents are Andrew and Amy Howard. Luke has an older sister, Madison.



PrimeTimers Trip

Music is Magic!

Saturday, May 5, 2:00pm

11:30pm: Bus leaves the church

12:00pm: Lunch at K&W 2:00pm: Show Time

Join the Primetimers for an afternoon of entertainment filled with acts of magic by magician, Glen Yost, humor, and the best in a cappella singing. There will also be performances by *Let's Sing* and *Downtown Sound*. Ticket price will be determined on the number of people that sign up. Deadline to signup for this trip is April 25. Please call the church office to add your name to the list.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your faithful partnership with my ministry in Shelby. It encourages me that you continue praying and giving. Your gifts help make it possible for children and youth to participate in church retreats and activities that are potentially life-changing. May God bless each of you as you faithfully serve Him.

Grace and peace, Cecelia Beck

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, April 15

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 Mission Group-FH
4:00pm Children's Handbells
NO Youth Choir
4:45pm Granite City Ringers
No Youth

MONDAY, April 16

9:00pm Griefshare Class

TUESDAY, April 17

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

WEDNESDAY, April 18

4:00pm Grades 1-5 Musics
5:00pm Pre-School -Kindergarten Music & Missions
5:15pm Grades 1-5 Missions
5:45pm Family Night Meal
6:30pm Bible Study
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, April 19

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

SUNDAY, April 22

9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside 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
5:30pm 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.

Mission Trip Opportunity

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

I am hoping to put together a team of 6-12 members to roof hurricane damaged homes the week of July 22 or 29 for the NC Baptist Men. Two members are needed to provide housekeeping and meals for our team at the church each day. Some members will be needed on the ground to cut and supply wood structure up to those above ground. If interested, please see me, Bob Demcio, or call my cell 336-468-7141.

For more information, see the insert in April 15, Sunday bulletin.



VBS Dates have been set!

June 25-29, 9:00am-11:30am

Statistics**Date: 4-8-18**

Sunday School Attendance 142
 Worship Attendance 171

Tithes and Offerings

This Week
 Weekly Needs \$10,683.00
 Budget Offering \$8,725.50
Weekly Surplus (\$1,957.50)
 Designations (summarized below) \$662.50

Total Offering \$9,388.00

Tithes and Offerings

Year To Date
 Yearly Needs \$149,562.00
 Budget Offering \$136,767.01
YTD Deficit (\$12,794.99)

Designations \$33,630.99
 Total Offering \$170,398.00

Weekly Designations

Building Fund \$1,252.50
 Organ Fund Pledge \$1,560.00
 Designated Missions \$120.00
 Miscellaneous \$100.00
 Wednesday Night Meal 0
Building Fund Bal to Date \$25,340.08
Organ Fund Bal to Date \$36,852.48

Caring & Sharing in Our Church Family

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

Sympathy

Family of Shasta Brown: Mark, Kate, Sam,
 Dean and Eleanor Brown

Hospital

Andy Hennis-Forsyth

College

Madison Willingham
 ASU Box 13975
 Boone, NC 28608

Homebound

Marvin and Margie Driskill
 1525 W Wensley Drive
 Mount Airy, NC 27030

Amy Edwards
 542 Allred Mill Rd #102
 Mount Airy, NC 27030

Ministry for Sunday: Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** Luke 24:36b-48 ; **Sunday School Greeters:** Hugh Taylor & Jeanette Jordan ; **Deacon Greeters:** David & Betty Jones ; **Babies:** Drew & Kellye Fussell ; **Toddlers:** Lisa York & Maggie Nicholson ; **Preschoolers:** Lone Cooke & TBA ; **Kid's Korner:** Gregg Martin & TBA ; **Children's Sermon :** Carole Kerley ; **Sound:** Wes Parker, Ben Cooke, Jeffrey Ellis

Wednesday, April 18

Menu: Breakfast: Sausage, Bacon, Eggs, Grits, Gravy, Biscuits- "No Salad Fixings"

**April Birthdays**

4/13 Nancy Belton
 4/13 Bella Brown
 4/14 Sam Gentry
 4/14 Cindy Jones
 4/14 Marti Loftis
 4/14 Owen Leonard
 4/14 Derek Slate
 4/15 Lawrence "LT" Tate
 4/16 Dick Belton
 4/16 Sherry Blackmon
 4/17 Resa Brewington
 4/17 Chip Fussell
 4/17 Locke Rowe
 4/21 Richard Williams
 4/24 Sandy Tilley
 4/26 Larry Blood

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**Friends Helping Seniors**

In memory of Christine Shelton by:
 Larry and Barbara Blood

General Fund

In memory of Irene Belton by:
 Maude Morris

In memory of: Irene Belton, Christine Shelton, Scott Sanders, Helen Inman, H.R. Inman, Jr., Sis Hennis, Margaret Taylor, Mildred Glenn, and Henrietta Bingman by:

Sandra Sanders

In honor of: Herbert Inman, Rebekah Sunday School Class, and E.G. Wynne Sunday School Class by:
 Sandra Sanders

Organ Fund

In memory of Irene Belton by:

Carol Dunning
 Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Marion
 Jim Roberts and Glenna Daniels

Youth Fund

In memory of Mildred Glenn by:
 Paul Manuel and Paulette Moon

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