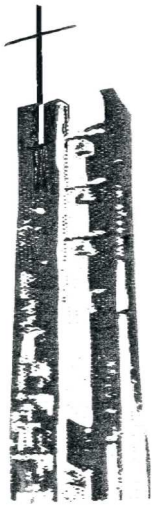


The Announcer

First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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



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April 26, 2018

Number 17

The View from the Rafters

Wrapping my hand around a warm mug of apple cider, my gaze falls upon the drizzling rain that is puddling outside my window. For a few days now, I have watched familiar stretches of Surry County soak in heaven's liquid refreshment, so much so that the waters running swiftly down the Ararat remind me of a jogger who pours a bottle of water over her face after an exhausting race. Much is taken in, but even more seems to be streaming away.

With a sip from my ceramic mug and the wafting of apples and cinnamon, I have pulled from the shelf a book of poetry. Perusing the pages, my attention is drawn to poem by the Spanish writer, Miguel de Unamuno. He writes,

Shake off the sadness, and recover your spirit;
sluggish you will never see the word of fate
that brushes your heel as it turns to go by,
the man who wants to live is the man in whom life is abundant.

...

Throw yourself like seed as you walk, and into your own field,
don't turn your face for that would be to turn to it to death,
and do not let the past weigh down your motion.
Leave what's alive in the furrow,

Jesus teaches, "Truly, I say unto you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." There is a form of dying that is necessary for us to be the person God has created us to be. As the grace of God flows down like rain, the seeds of our lives when cast into the fields of human history are given resource to sprout, take root, mature and give fruit as God had intended. Our lives (as rich and wonderful as they are) are only abundant, rich, and wonderful as we gladly share them with others. For each of our lives to reach the fullness of God's goodness, we must "shake of the sadness and recover our spirit". We must "throw" ourselves "like seed" into the furrow whereby our daily labor, our regular efforts, and the work of our lives are graciously sacrificed. This entrusted life we are given is but one; let us not waste away in regret to what might have been. Let us devote our lives to self-sacrifice and to daily dying in order that the priorities of life: faith, family and friends, bring about a bountiful harvest of God's goodness.

Joy for the Journey, Jay

It's Back!!!

Sunday, May 6, 6:30pm, FBC Sanctuary

It is time for the ever popular Spring Concert presented by Granite City Ringers, Joybells, and youth drummers. Don't miss this entertaining evening!



Youth Happenings

The Annual Mt Airy High School Prom Breakfast is this Saturday, April 28, in the church fellowship hall from 10:00pm until approximately 2:00am.

If you are planning to attend the Prom please come by afterwards for good food and fellowship. If you are unable to attend the Prom but would like to help with, and participate in, this event come and join us.

Hope to see **YOU** Saturday night!!

Youth Sunday is May 20

In addition to leading our church family in Worship we will also have an after-church Luncheon and Silent Auction Fundraiser. Our theme for the worship experience will be **"Family - Welcome Home"**

We will begin discussing our worship experience plans this Sunday, April 29, during our Youth Group Family time at 6:00pm. Be considering what you would like to do to help lead our church in worship on Youth Sunday. Also be thinking about what service or item you want to contribute to the Silent Auction Fundraiser. All Passport Camp participants need to be present to help with the fundraiser as money raised will help offset the cost of Passport.

We will have all of our regular Youth Activities this Sunday, April 29. I hope you'll make every effort to be present!

Many thanks to Lone Cooke for leading the Youth Group Family Time in my absence this past Sunday. Thanks also to Laura Marion, Andi Morris, Jayme Brant, and Sally Reece for providing supper for our youth.

Kevin

Mission Trip Opportunity

If you are interested in participating in a mission trip to Puerto Rico, please notify Bob Demcio by May 1. He is 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 do laundry and cook 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. Bob's cell # is 336-468-7141.



It's a Girl!

Congratulations to David and Inglis Rowe on the birth of their granddaughter, Reagan Elizabeth Rowe, on April 18. Her parents are Locke and Ocean Rowe. Reagan has a big sister, Kallie, and a big brother, Davis.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SURPRISES

Watch this space for more
information!

COMING IN MAY

Saturday, May 5:
Primetimer's Trip- Bus leaves at 11:30am

Sunday, May 6:
Spring Handbell Concert- 6:30pm

Sunday, May 20:
Youth Sunday & Fundraiser Lunch

Monday, May 21:
Senior Gathering-11:45am

Wednesday, May 23:
Children's Musical Spectacular - 6:30pm
(Sanctuary)

Remember YOUR Mother on Mother's Day, May 13, in a special way!

Make a contribution in honor or memory of your mother to FBC and designate it for Rise Against Hunger. It will help feed hungry children around the world.

In order to package 10,000 meals, we must raise \$2,944.08 for the meal costs (\$.29/meal)

SAVE the DATE:
Wednesday, June 20
6:30 - 8:30 pm
FBC Meal Packaging Event

It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Sam and Susan Gentry on the birth of their granddaughter, Emma Jo Gentry, on April 22. Her parents are Sammy and Erin Gentry.

Grace Notes

Thank you for all your texts, calls, cards, and all expressions of love since the announcement of my coming retirement. You are a congregation of encouragement, not only to me, but to everyone. It has been my great privilege to serve here.

There are many more times to do church together before August 1, so I don't want this time to be a long "good-bye." I want to enjoy every minute with you while looking forward to exciting new things for this church. Who knows what wonderful things God has in store for you?

Get Sunday evening, May 6, on your calendar; it is the date for our popular spring handbell concert, which will involve children, youth, and adults. This one will deliver its usual mixture of the serious and the definitely not-so-serious. Don't miss this entertaining evening!

Also, on Wednesday, May 23, children's music ministry will present a musical called *In the Image*. It will be performed in the sanctuary at 6:30.

Sing to the Lord!

Linda



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



The First Baptist Church family welcomes new members, Barry and Lang Ellis. They joined by letter on Sunday, April 22, 2018. Their address is 232 Willow Street #203, Mount Airy.

High School Seniors

If you are or have a high school senior, Class of 2018, please call or e-mail the church office with your information and a copy of your senior portrait to put on the front of the Announcer. Deadline for the senior portraits is May 21.

Note: If you are or have a college graduate, please notify the church office with your information.



Where can I help?

There are many areas at FBC where one can volunteer your time. **Some areas are:** Friends Feeding Friends, Friends Helping Seniors, Baptist men's projects, visiting the home-bound and sick, or giving someone a ride to a doctor's appointment. If you are interested in any of these areas, just call the church office to sign up. You are a blessing to many, and your service to FBC and others is much appreciated!

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, April 29

9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am **The Church at Worship & Praise
2:00pm Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall
4:00pm Children's Handbells
4:45pm Youth Choir
5:30pm Granite City Ringers
5:30pm Youth Supper
6:00pm Youth Group Family Time

MONDAY, April 30

7:00pm Voce Concert-Sanctuary

TUESDAY, May 1

7:00am Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia

WEDNESDAY, May 2

4:00pm Pre-School -Kindergarten Music & Missions
4:00pm Grades 1-5 Music
4:30pm House & Grounds Meeting
5:15pm Grades 1-5 Missions
5:45pm Family Night Meal
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, May 3

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

SATURDAY, May 5

11:30am Primetimer's Trip

SUNDAY, May 6

9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
9:00am Sunday School Council Meeting-Library
9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am **The Church at Worship & Praise
12:00pm Mary Rowe WMU-Fellowship Hall
TBA Handbells
4:00pm Diaconate Meeting
5:30pm Youth Supper
6:00pm Youth Group Family Time
6:30pm Spring Handbell Concert-Sanctuary

*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.

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.

Statistics**Date: 4-22-18**

Sunday School Attendance 143
 Worship Attendance 166

Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Needs \$10,683.00
 Budget Offering \$5,349.00

Weekly Deficit (\$5,334.00)

Designations (summarized below) \$1,666.00
 Total Offering \$7,015.008

Tithes and Offerings

Yearly Needs \$170,928.00
 Budget Offering \$147,758.09

YTD Deficit (\$23,169.91)

Designations \$38,187.99
 Total Offering \$185,946.08

Weekly Designations

Building Fund 0
 Organ Fund Pledge \$850.00
 Designated Missions \$670.00
 Miscellaneous 0
 Wednesday Night Meal \$146.00
Building Fund Bal to Date \$25,540.08
Organ Fund Bal to Date \$37,722.48

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**Friends Helping Seniors**

In memory of Christine Shelton by:
 Charles and Barbara Hill

General Fund

In memory of Bill Hall (Lydia Garland's brother) by:
 Richard and Nancy Pyles
 In memory of Shasta Brown (Dean and Eleanor Brown's
 daughter-in-law) by:
 Richard and Nancy Pyles
 In memory of Irene Belton by:
 Tom and Dianne Koch

Organ Fund

In memory of Irene Belton by:
 Laney Johnson
 In memory of Irene Belton, Sis Hennis and Christine
 Shelton by:
 Jean Marquet
 In memory of Irene Belton by:
 Jackson-Meeks-Beck Group

Rise Against Hunger

In memory of Irene Belton by:
 Jackson-Meeks-Beck Group

Wednesday, May 2

Menu: Pork Roast, Cabbage, Pintos, Cornbread,
 Salad, Dessert

**Happy Birthday**

4/26 Larry Blood
 4/26 Mary Alice Hayes
 4/30 Joseph Brannock
 4/30 Claire Hauser
 5/2 Emmie Brant
 5/2 Betty Jones
 5/2 Todd Tucker
 5/3 Carole Simmons
 5/4 Charlotte Hauser
 5/5 Lynne Edwards

Caring & Sharing in Our Church Family

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

Sympathy

Lydia Garland—death of her brother,
 Bill Hall, Mocksville
 Lydia Garland—death of her brother-in-law,
 Roy Doub, East Bend

Hospital

James Hayes-Forsyth
 Andy Hennis-Home

College

Blake Hensley
 128 Excalibur Cr, Apt 204
 Boone, NC 28607

Homebound

Haywood Jordan
 510 Ridgeway Dr
 Mount Airy, NC 27030

Doris Hunter
 1000 Ridgecrest Ln #202
 Mount Airy, NC 27030

VBS Dates have been set!**June 25-29, 9:00am-11:30am**

Ministry for Sunday: Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** I John 4:7-21 ; **Sunday School Greeters:** Jim & Sandra Redman ; **Deacon Greeters:** Jeffrey Ellis & Shirley Brinkley ; **Babies:** Anne Webb & Mercer Meadows ; **Toddlers:** Jarod & Meredith Simmons ; **Preschoolers:** Chad & Erin Stanley ; **Kid's Korner:** Lee Dancy & Angela Stroup ; **Children's Sermon :** Angela Stroup ; **Sound:** Ben Cooke, Martin Cooke, Peter Cooke

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