

The Announcer

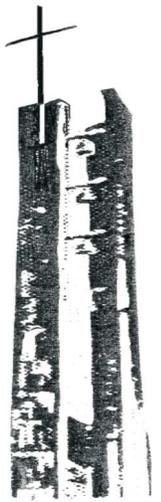
First Baptist Church—Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030

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

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The View from the Rafters

From the good earth a story of "Three Sisters" The crops of corn, beans, and squash are known as the Three Sisters. For centuries these three crops have been the center of Native American agriculture and culinary traditions. The tradition of calling these crops the "Three Sisters" originated with the Haudenosaunee (pronounced Ho-deh-no-shaw-nee). Also known as the Iroquois, Haudenosaunee occupy the regions around the Great Lakes in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

The Native Americans planted all three seeds together in the same elevated mound. Inside each mound and underneath the seeds, fish bones, and other parts of the fish that were discarded would be used as a natural fertilizer. The elevated mound assisted with drainage and avoided water logging of the plant roots which was important in a region that received an abundance of rainfall each summer.

The Three Sisters were planted together for good reason as these three crops complement each other in the garden, as well as nutritionally. Corn provides tall stalks for the beans to climb so that they are not out-competed by sprawling squash vines. Beans provide nitrogen to fertilize the soil, while also stabilizing the tall corn during heavy winds. Beans are "nitrogen-fixers" meaning they host rhizobia on their roots that can take nitrogen, a much needed plant nutrient, from the air and convert it into forms that can be absorbed by plant roots. The large leaves of squash plants shade the ground, which helps retain soil moisture and prevent weeds.

Additionally, these three crops were also at the center of culinary traditions and complemented one another as well. A diet of corn, beans, and squash is complete and balanced. Corn provides carbohydrates and the dried beans are rich in protein and have amino acids absent from corn. Squash provides different vitamins and minerals than corn and beans. These three crops are also important because they can all be dried and used for food year round.

The "Three Sisters" of the garden can be for us a metaphor for the need of diversity among our church family. Too often we are convinced that we need to "congregate with people just like us." Our culture seeks to convince us that people with differences can't coexist or may possibly may even be a threat, yet let us learn the lesson of the "three sisters." There are unique gifts and talents we all bring to life. There are ways of supporting and encouraging one another that enhances each other's lives. What we do may very well be the gift others need and what we lack may be what someone else can provide. Diversity can seem like a dirty word to some folks, yet we must remember that God crafted us with differences and loves us in our differences, and that God fashioned us for living in a mutually dependent community. I hope and pray that we can be a "three sisters" kind of faith community. May you this Spring enjoy good planting, good harvesting, and good fellowship with all of God's beautiful creation.

Joy for the Journey, Jay

Youth Happenings

Youth Sunday is May 20

To continue preparing ourselves to lead our church family in worship on May 20, we have a slight change to our regular Sunday schedule this Sunday, May 6:

9:45a – **Youth Sunday School**

11:00a – **Worship**

4:30p – **Youth Choir**

5:00p – **Youth Snack Supper**

5:30p – **Youth Group Family Time**, most of which we will use to finalize plans for our Youth-Led Worship experience on May 20. All youth are encouraged to be present.

6:30p – We will join the rest of our church family in the sanctuary for the

Annual Spring Handbell Concert



*Be sure to let Lesa Hensley know by this Sunday what service/item you want to donate for the Silent Auction on May 20.

High School Seniors – Our **Annual High School Senior Recognition Service** is **June 3**. You and your family will be treated to a delicious breakfast in the fellowship hall before Sunday School, and we will recognize you during worship and present you with a gift from your church family. We also want to include your high school senior portrait in the Announcer the week prior to June 3, along with information about your plans for the Fall. So be sure to get your Senior Portrait and information to the church office by Monday, May 21.

Many thanks to First Baptist Adults, Josh Martin, Lee Dancy, Angela Stroup, Todd Tucker, and Ben Cooke, and to First Baptist Youth, Hailey Martin, Peter and Martin Cooke, Paxton Reece, Matthew Reales, Weston Myers, and Walker and Zeb Stroup, who gave of their time and energy to help make our Annual Mt Airy High School Prom Breakfast an enjoyable time for all! Thanks also to the Seekers Sunday School Class for providing the youth snack support this past Sunday. **Kevin**

A Word from the Personnel Committee Regarding Our Music Ministry

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude to Linda for the many ways she has ministered to us over the years. As much as we would like to have her remain as our Minister for Music and Worship, we celebrate this opportunity for her to experience a new chapter in her life as our retired Minister for Music and Worship and a full time mother, daughter, grandmother, traveler, lady of leisure, and any other titles she chooses that she now will have time to claim.

Linda's retirement date is August 1. This day will arrive quickly. We are now faced with the task of finding a person to assume the roles that Linda has performed so well. One of the first steps in this journey is to appoint a Search Committee. To this end, the Personnel Committee has begun the process of forming a Minister for Music and Worship Search Committee. We want to give our congregation the opportunity to participate in this process.

A suggestion box will be placed in the breezeway for the next two Sundays, May 6th and May 13th. If you feel there is a member of our church who would be a good choice to serve on this committee, we welcome the submission of that person's name as one to be considered for service on this committee. In addition to the congregation at large, we are seeking input from a number of leadership groups within our church including the ministerial staff, the Church Council, the Diaconate, the Nominating Committee, people directly involved in our music ministry, and the Music Committee. We hope to have the Search Committee in place and ready to begin work as quickly as possible.

The committee will have 5 members. We want it to have representation from those who participate in the various areas of our music ministry and the congregation at large, as well as representing the age span of our congregation. In addition to the suggestion box, names to be considered can be called, mailed, or emailed to the church office through May 13th.

Most importantly, please hold Linda, our church, and the future Search Committee in your prayers as we move forward together in the Lord's service at First Baptist Church.

The Personnel Committee

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!



Grace Notes

We will welcome the Mount Airy High School Concert Choir to our worship Sunday. They will sing several times in the service. The choir is directed by Gena Ray, and several of our own high school students are members. I'm sure we will have visitors Sunday who are family members of these students and that they will be warmly welcomed to First Baptist.

On Sunday evening, Joybells, Granite City Ringers, and some youth drummers will present their always-popular spring concert. This one is not to be missed! Surprises abound and fun will break out all over! See you in the sanctuary at 6:30 Sunday.

The scriptures for the Easter season have to do with love—God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for each other. My prayer is that any encounter at First Baptist Church is one supported by lavish, extravagant love. We have had several visitors in the congregation on recent Sundays; all need to be loved and welcomed extravagantly. Our expressions of love may help another gain some understanding of God's extravagant love. On Wednesday evenings, we have several children and youth visiting that desperately need to know that they are loved. A kind word means so much to these children; they may not experience extravagant love at home. We can be the face of God to them and make a difference in their lives. Let it be said of us that we love extravagantly!

Sing to the Lord!

Linda



The Week Ahead

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
2:30pm Granite City Ringers
3:45pm Children's Handbells
4:30pm Youth Choir
4:00pm Diaconate Meeting
5:30pm Youth Supper
6:00pm Youth Group Family Time
6:30pm Spring Handbell Concert-Sanctuary

MONDAY, May 7

6:30pm *Cub Scouts

TUESDAY, May 8

7:00am Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia
10:00am Hensley Mission Action Group-Ridgecrest
7:00pm Wilson-Wyatt Prayer Group-Resa Brewington

WEDNESDAY, May 9

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

THURSDAY, May 10

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

SUNDAY, May 13

Mother's Day

9:00am Prayer Time-Prayer Room
9:15am Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room
9:45am Sunday School
11:00am **The Church at Worship & Praise

No Evening Activities

*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.

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

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 Monday, May 21.

Dear Friends of Ours,

Thanks for caring for our family by the cards you sent and by your prayers. Life with God is so precious. Enjoy every day.

Love you all,
Eleanor and Dean Brown



