

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING CHURCH CONFERENCES

**Sunday, March 15, 2009, 12:00 noon**

#### Proposed Committee Restructure Program

The Proposed Committee Restructure Policy recommended by the Ad Hoc Task Force Committee will be presented to the congregation in Church Conference for approval on Sunday, March 15. It was previously presented for discussion on March 4, 2009 during Wednesday night activities. We encourage you to be present Sunday, March 15 and be a part of this decision. The proposal can be viewed on the First Baptist website at [www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org) under "Proposed New Committee Structure Information".

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

#### Senior Minister Search Committee

There will be a Church Conference on Sunday, March 22 at 12:00 noon to vote on the nominations for the Senior Minister Search Committee.

### A LADIES' LENTEN JOURNEY

**Sunday Evenings, 5:00-6:15 p.m.**

**Room E111**

FBC women are encouraged to journey through the Lenten season together as we *scale the walls*. Drawing from Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Home by Another Way*, and learning from Christ's example as he entered the concluding days of his ministry, we will discuss the roadblocks that stand in our paths as women. What to bring? Not a shoe this time...but a rock. Jagged, smooth, heavy, light, large or small, please bring a rock that represents a hurdle that you would like to defeat...and use as your greatest building block.

If you plan on attending, please pick up a handout on one of the church foyer tables. Sign-up is not necessary for participation in the class. Hope to see you there!



### ABC's of FBC

**Sunday, March 15**

**5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**

Charlotte Marshall will present the history of First Baptist Church. New members are encouraged to attend and all members are invited. A snack supper will be provided. Let the office know if you need childcare.

### SPANISH CLASS

**Monday Evenings**

**March 30-May 4, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

**First Baptist Church, Fellowship Hall**

### What's for Supper

#### MARCH 18

**HOT MEAL:** Roast Beef, Rice and Gravy, Butter Beans, Apple Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
**CHILDREN:** Pizza, Salad, Dessert  
**SALAD BAR:** Baked Potato, Broccoli Cheese Soup

#### MARCH 25

**HOT MEAL:** Oven Fried Pork Chops, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Biscuit, Dessert  
**CHILDREN:** Pizza, Salad, Dessert  
**SALAD BAR:** Baked Potato, Chili

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Harriett Zippilli transferred her membership to Sardis Baptist Church, Hartwell, GA.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

The church would like to express congratulations to Hannah and David Coe on their recent marriage.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Charlie and I, and my brother, Billy Harris and his family, would like to express our deep gratitude and sincere thanks for all the cards, phone calls, and thoughts and prayers we received during the illness and death of my sister-in-law, Betty Harris.

Ann Gillespie

After my recent eye surgery at Emory, I would like to express my appreciation for all the prayers, the phone calls, cards and notes, and the food I received from everyone. Thanks.

Melissa Vasenden

## COLLEGE CORNER

### CHECK OUT THE CHANGE!

#### Midweek Mocha!!!

**Who:** College Students and Their Friends!

**What:** Come enjoy coffee, dessert, games, and hanging out.

**When:** 9:00-11:00 p.m. Wednesdays

**Where:** Hannah's Apartment (e-mail for directions)  
Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org

#### College Sunday School Class

**Who:** College Students and Young Adults

**What:** Breakfast, Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship

**When:** 9:45-10:55 a.m. Sundays

**Where:** College Sunday School Room on Third Floor

## Reflections

**Dr. Ron Higdon**

This week's reflection is a copy of the response distributed to the workshop participants on March 11. I felt it was important enough to include in our newsletter.

### Transition Team Response to Concerns Raised in Our Discussion on January 21

On behalf of the Transition Team (and with their approval), I am writing this response to some of the concerns raised in our discussion on January 21 when participants were asked two questions: (1) *Is there anything that still hinders your commitment to the future and moving forward with First Baptist Church?* (2) *What issue or issues do you identify that would hinder our church from its commitment to the future and moving forward?*

The vast majority of responses were characterized by these three responses: (1) *"We are ready to commit and move forward! It is time to consider the positives and have a prayerful attitude."* (2) *"While I'm ready to move forward, I want to be sure that all individuals here have gotten everything off their chest. I do not want to have any of our old issues continue to bubble up."* (3) *"Let the past be the past...."*

The one issue that was mentioned several times was this one: "Still the issue of different services." However, the consensus seems to be that we have two services and what should be done is that the staff diligently work to make each of our worship services the best it can be.

Hardly anyone expressed a desire to continue to discuss some of the points of tension that were addressed in earlier sessions. The Transition Team is unanimous in its decision that now is the time to move forward.

We never eliminate the past, but we are able to determine how much power the past will have over us. All of us want to take the best of the past and use it to enable us to make the best of the future. The Senior Minister Search Committee is now in the process of being selected and, in a few weeks, will begin its work. The Transition Team is convinced that enough work has been done, enough discussions have been held, and the air has been sufficiently cleared to give us the positive atmosphere in which to interview and call the new Senior Minister—and move forward into the future into which God is calling First Baptist Church.

We ask that you pray daily for your church and the work of the Senior Minister Search Committee.

### Sermon Schedule

**March 15:** *Whoever Started the Rumor That Christianity Is Easy?* - Mark 10:34-39

**March 22:** *How to Give and Not to Give Comfort-* Job 2:11-13; 16:1-5

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

### Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

**March 15-21:** Charlie Hooper, Paula Hooper

**March 22-28:** Bill Horton, John Knowlton

### Fellowship Committee Schedule

**March:** Pam Bickley, Greg Bickley, Steve Barton, Buddy Barfield

## April 1 Will Be An Inspiring and Memorable Evening

In difficult times, it is always encouraging to be reminded of the lives of courageous people. And it is especially encouraging when these courageous people are little known except in their own communities where they did extraordinary things.

**Phyllis Stump** brings her one-woman show of one such courageous person to FBC at 6:00 p.m. on April 1 in Fellowship Hall. Her presentation of "They Call Me Aunt Orlene" is in its seventh year, and she has given performances in churches, schools, and historical societies.

The name of Orlene Puckett is familiar to the many visitors who travel the Blue Ridge Parkway in Carroll County, Virginia. A sign, erected in front of the cabin at Milepost 189.9 by the National Park Service, provides a bit of history about the legendary midwife's life. "Aunt" Orlene began midwifery in her mid-forties and successfully delivered over a thousand babies in the Virginia counties of Carroll, Patrick, and Floyd, though none of her own 24 babies lived past infancy. For 49 years, this dedicated lady walked or rode on horseback to the homes of expectant mothers, and she never missed a birthing. At the age of 94, Aunt Orlene caught her last baby. She was forced to leave her cabin a year later when construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway began. She died three weeks after that move.

Phyllis Stump is a retired English and speech and drama teacher and has many years of experience as an actress and director of Community Theater. Her book of poetry, *The Heart Knows*, received an award from the North Carolina Poetry Council. She has a new book of poetry, *Walking the Gunny Sack Trail: A Mountain Journey in Poetry*, which is a tribute to Orlene Puckett. The old black bag that Phyllis uses in her play is the one carried by this brave woman, lent by a family member of Orlene's.

The performance is free and open to the public. If you do not have a regular 5:00 p.m. supper reservation, you can be included by calling the church office at 706-548-2302. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

## KID'S CORNER



### Passport Kids Camp



Attention all kids grades 3rd-6th, Passport Camp is June 13-16, and we need to know you are coming. Make your reservation NOW by sending in your \$50 deposit. We will be going to Mercer University in Macon. Total camp fee is \$250. [www.passportcamps.org](http://www.passportcamps.org) for more info.

### 2009 Children's Ministry Calendar

**March 22, 29** Children's Church, 11:00 worship  
**April 5** Palm Sunday - Children's Choirs Sing, Egg Hunt and Family Lunch  
**April 8** No Wednesday night activities!  
**April 12** EASTER  
**April 19 & 26** Children's Church, 11:00 worship  
**May 3** Children's Sunday  
**May 6** Choir Recognition, 6:00 p.m.  
**May 10 & 17** Children's Church, 11:00 worship  
**June 8-11** VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 9-12 noon  
**June 13-16** Passport Kids Camp, 3rd-6th grade

**BEING A DISCIPLE**

*Learning Sessions for Children and Parents*  
**For Grades 4-6**  
**March 20 and March 22**

Being a Disciple is a 2-part experience for our children grades 4 and 5 and Youth grade 6 to explore the meaning of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. The first session is scheduled for Friday evening, 5:00-7:00 p.m., and will include a light supper meal. The second session is scheduled for Sunday evening from 5:00-7:30 p.m. and includes the parents. Frank Granger will be leading these sessions. Please mark this on your calendar. Sign-up will be available beginning the first of March.

**LENTEN SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION STUDY**

*Hearing Jesus' Voice from the Cross*  
**Hosted by Paula Hooper**  
**Sunday Evenings, Beginning March 1**  
**5:00-6:15 p.m.**

The Lenten study draws from the writing of Barbara Brown Taylor and will explore the message and experience of Jesus from the cross. Sign up through the church office or online at [www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org).

**MISSIONS MOMENTS**

**FUNDRAISER FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN**

All God's Children, a non-profit special needs adoption agency, will be hosting its annual "White Buffalo's Charity Reception and Auction" at 6:00 p.m. on March 27 at Buffalo's restaurant in the Alps Shopping Center. The event features a full buffet, bingo, and a silent auction featuring sports memorabilia, travel packages, and other assorted items. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased through the organization. For more information, please call 706-316-2421.

**Doing Missions in Our Community**

**FOOD BANK: March 24 and 25:** Covenant Class  
**OUR DAILY BREAD: Thursday, April 9:** Jewel Class

**FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT**

<b>Weekly Needs:</b>	<b>\$22,256.25</b>
Received week of March 1	\$21,816.40
Received week of March 8	\$27,413.02

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 8</b>
9:00 a.m. Worship-54	9:00 a.m. Worship-32
11:00 a.m. Worship-178	11:00 a.m. Worship-273

**EVENTS BOX—March 15-28**

3/15	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
3/15	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
3/15	Worship Service - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
3/15	Church Conference - Proposed Committee Restructure Program - Sanctuary	12:00 PM
3/15	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/15	ABC's of FBC New Member Orientation - Fellowship Hall	5:00 PM
3/15	Lenten Scripture & Reflection Study - Led by Paula Hooper - E111	5:00 PM
3/15	Youth Choir - F-316	5:15 PM
3/15	Middle School Game Night - Hannah's Home	6:15-8:00 PM
3/15	Adult Handbells - Handbell Room	6:15 PM
3/16	FBC Quilters - S-104	10:00 AM
3/16	Deacons' Meeting and Supper - Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
3/17	Circle 5 - at the home of Wanda Grogan	10:30 AM
3/17	Parkview Playschool Board Meeting - Farrall Conference Room	5:00 PM
3/17	Explorer Scouts - Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
3/17	Boy Scout Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area	7:30 PM
3/18	Nominating Committee Meeting - Farrall Conference Room	4:30 PM
3/18	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
3/18	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
3/18	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
3/18	Children's Wednesday Activities - Preschool - Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
3/18	Children's Choirs	6:00-6:45 PM
3/18	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
3/18	Adult Studies - <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith: Led by Ron Higdon</i> Discussion of Hardy Clemmons' <i>Twelve Suggestions for Welcoming Your New Pastor</i>	6:00 PM
3/18	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
3/18	Transition Team Meeting - Pastor's Office	7:15 PM
3/18	College Ministry - Midweek Mocha - Hannah's Home	9:00-11:00 PM
3/19	IHNA Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
3/20	Being A Disciple - For Grades 4-6	5:00-7:30 PM
3/22	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
3/22	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
3/22	Worship Service and Baptism - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
3/22	Church Conference - Senior Minister Search Committee - Sanctuary	12:00 PM
3/22	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/22	Lenten Scripture & Reflection Study - Led by Paula Hooper - E111	5:00 PM
3/22	Being A Disciple - For Grades 4-6	5:00-7:30 PM
3/22	High School Game Night - Hannah's Home	6:00-8:00 PM
3/22	Adult Handbells - Handbell Room	6:15 PM
3/23	Embroidery Guild - F-316	10:00 AM
3/23	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 PM
3/24	MEF Circle Meeting - at the home of Joyce Gravely	10:00 AM
3/24	Virginia Appleton Circle Meeting - at the home of Paula Hooper	7:00 PM
3/24	Boy Scout Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area	7:30 PM
3/25	Deacon Ballot Count - Disciples' Classroom	5:30 PM
3/25	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
3/25	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
3/25	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
3/25	Children's Wednesday Activities - Preschool-Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
3/25	Children's Choirs	6:00-6:45 PM
3/25	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
3/25	Adult Studies - <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith:</i> Led by Ron Higdon Discussions of Results of the Pastoral Expectations Survey and presentation of <i>Ministry Myths</i>	6:00 PM
3/25	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
3/25	Transition Team - Pastor's Office	7:15 PM
3/26	55+ Trip to Washington DC - March 26-31	
3/27	First Cup - Live Oak Area	8:00 AM
3/29	Kyle Matthews Concert	6:00-8:00 PM

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**FIRST BAPTIST NEWS**  
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 706-548-1359

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Randy Brittain</b> Minister of Music
<b>Ron Higdon</b> Interim Pastor	<b>Anne Brittain</b> Organist/Music Associate
<b>Hannah Coe</b> Interim Minister of Youth and Young Adult College Students	<b>Jon Appleton</b> Pastor Emeritus
<a href="http://www.firstbaptistathens.org">www.firstbaptistathens.org</a>	

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**KYLE MATTHEWS**  
 •  
**Songwriter  
 Vocalist  
 Teacher**

**IN CONCERT**



**Sunday, March 29**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**First Baptist Church**

We are pleased once again to present Kyle Matthews in concert. In almost two decades of writing and performing, artist and teacher Kyle Matthews has emerged as one of Christian music's most prolific songwriters. Of his over 60 cuts by major artists of disparate genres, he has penned such well-known songs as "If You Want Me To," recorded by Ginny Owens; "Everything and Nothing," recorded by Vince Gill; "One and the Same," recorded by Cece Winans; "God Forbid," recorded by Point of Grace; and "Been Thru the Water," recorded by Kyle. His song "We Fall Down," recorded most notably on a multi-platinum release by Donnie McClurkin, won numerous Christian Song of the Year awards from the music industry. Please join us for this great opportunity and invite your friends and neighbors.

## YOUTH HAPPENINGS...

*“See, I am doing a new thing!  
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?  
I am making a way in the desert  
and streams in the wasteland.”*

-Isaiah 43:19 NIV

### FBC Youth Ministry

#### UPCOMING SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

**Sunday, March 15, 2009** (following Youth Choir)

- Middle School Game Night:  
Hannah's Apartment, 6:15-8:00 p.m.
- Please remember to bring \$2 for food if you eat dinner.

**Sunday, March 22, 2009** (no Youth Choir rehearsal)

- High School Game Night: Hannah's Apartment,  
6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Please remember to bring \$2 for food if you eat dinner.

#### SIGN UP STUFF:

##### **MARCH MISSION MADNESS 2009**

**When:** March 27-29, 2009

**Where:** Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens GA (MABC)

**Who:** FBC youth and their friends (this is a friend-friendly event)

**How Much:** The total cost of the event is \$35 (if you haven't yet paid, please pay ASAP).

**Needs:** We currently need 9 adults to serve as chaperones for worksites. We ask for this number of chaperones in order to support our neighbor host church, MABC, as they facilitate this huge event! Chaperones help students stay safe and on task at their worksites around Athens. Chaperones also help transport students from MABC to various worksites and back to MABC when they are finished working. A chaperone can expect to work from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28th.

Don't have a student who is a member of the youth group? Don't know any of the youth? That's okay!! We're looking for adults who don't normally get a chance to interact with the youth to seize an opportunity to serve, not only our youth group but also youth groups across Georgia, and to support mission projects in the community. Please contact Hannah if you are willing to serve. [Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org](mailto:Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org).

##### **PASSPORT 2009**

**When:** July 5th-10th, 2009 (7th-12th graders);  
June 13-16, 2009 (6th graders)

- Final deadline to sign up for 7th-12th graders: April 1, 2009 (initial payment of \$50 per student due)

- Informational meeting on April 5, 2009 for 7th-12th graders (time and location TBA)

- Please see Passport Kids Camp information if you are a 6th grader interested in going to Passport this year! You may also e-mail Hannah with questions.



**Where:** (7th-12th graders) Wingate University in Wingate, NC

**How Much:** Approximately \$200

- This year, we will set up a payment plan for those students registered to go to Passport Choices. The first payment deadline and the deadline to sign up for Passport Choices is April 1, 2009. The first payment requirement is \$50 and must be paid by April 1, 2009!

**Needs:** Chaperones!! Depending on how many youth sign up to attend Passport Choices, we will need both male and female chaperones for the week—possibly more than one male and more than one female. If you are available to help as a chaperone/driver, we would love to take you along to experience this awesome week of worship, learning, and fellowship. Don't have a student who is a member of the youth group? Don't know any of the youth? That's okay!! We're looking for adults who don't normally get a chance to interact with the youth to seize an opportunity to influence the lives of our students! Please contact Hannah at [Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org](mailto:Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org) to discuss if you are interested. \*\*Chaperones attend Passport Choices for free!