

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You, Huey Andrews and Rebecca Fern

When things are busy, you sometimes forget to say "Thank You." We, in the Personnel Committee, recently realized that we have been forgetting to say "Thank You" for quite awhile to those that have been contributing to the success of our church through their hard work and dedication. Specifically, the employees of our church toil diligently with little or no recognition to make our worship experiences as meaningful as they are. Therefore, the Personnel Committee is instituting the practice of recognizing our employees on their significant anniversaries of service to our church.

On March 27, 2009, Huey Andrews celebrated his third anniversary with FBC. Those of you who have had the pleasure of working with Huey in his role of Facilities Manager know what a valuable contribution Huey has made to our church. Thank you, Huey, for getting more life out of old systems that should have been replaced years ago!

Rebecca Fern celebrated her one year anniversary on March 30, 2009, as Nursery Supervisor. We place our most innocent and precious assets of our church in the hands of Rebecca, and we thank her for taking such good care of them.

Join us in thanking these folks for their service to us and making FBC the place we are proud to call our church home.

NEWLY-ELECTED DEACONS AND TRUSTEE

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Board of Deacons for a three-year term beginning September, 2009.

Mary Barton	Van Morris
Marcia Caskey	Don Nelson
Carol Cofer	Ray Noblet
Wilson Denney	Robin O'Rear
Lamar Houston	Ches Smith
David Matheny	Erica Spackman
Evelyn McNair	

Note: There were thirteen deacons elected this year because of a tie.

Pam Dillard was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

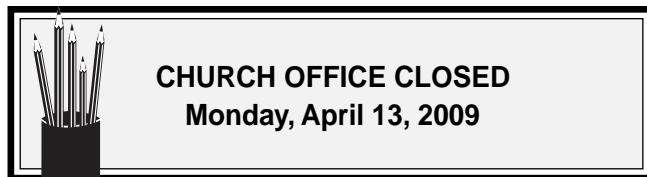
A BIG THANK YOU...

"Members of First Baptist... Thank you for the bingo prizes! The Seniors in the Senior Center love playing bingo and love the prizes as well. The Senior Center staff is especially grateful as they are always in need due to the high demand for bingo!"

Keisha Ryals, Senior Center Staff

So let's keep it up....I empty the box in the Missions Room about every 2 weeks. I know they appreciate the "goodies"...AND don't forget that now they are collecting plastic grocery bags as well. There is a box on the shelf for those, too.

Lois Gibbs



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Monday, April 13, 2009

SPANISH CLASS

Monday Evenings through May 4
6:30-8:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Hola! Come join us on Monday's, March 30 to May 4 at 6:30-8:00 p.m. for Spanish Class. Andy Ullrich will be teaching the class. Learn phrases to help you communicate with the Hispanics and Latin Americans you come in contact with on a daily basis.

What's for Supper...

APRIL 15

HOT MEAL: Barbecue, Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Cup, Dessert
CHILDREN: Pizza, Salad, Dessert
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

APRIL 22

HOT MEAL: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, Breadsticks, Dessert
CHILDREN: Hot Meal
SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Vegetable Soup

Letter of Gratitude to First Baptist and Appreciation for Hannah Coe

To the Members of First Baptist Church, Athens, GA:

I cannot quite express how deep my gratitude runs for the help you provided our congregation during our March Mission Madness weekend. We could not have done so much for our community without your time, your energy, your enthusiasm, and passion. I personally could not have done as much without your minister, Hannah Coe. Hannah was not only an enthusiast for the project, but also a dependable, incredible leader the whole weekend. She is a gift which I hope you are becoming more aware of each day she is with you. I am indebted to her.

And I am indebted to you. You helped our church host 500 youth and adults coming from around the state. You aided by bringing ladders at the last minute and working alongside our teenagers as they scraped and painted, cleaned and organized. You prayed for the teenagers, adults, and the families we served in this area. And you blessed them all, knowingly or unknowingly, by supporting them this past weekend. I thank you for being our partner as we continue to walk the life of faith in our Athens community.

Blessings,
Rev. Amy Shorner-Johnson, Associate Pastor
Milledge Avenue Baptist Church

Reflections

Dr. Ron Higdon

It is so easy to take for granted things that are truly extraordinary. We can often become so accustomed to some truly exceptional things that we no longer are able to sense how exceptional they really are.

Last week was one of those extraordinary and exceptional weeks in the life of the church. I cannot remember being with any congregation where so many quality events took place in such a brief period of time. It all began with the Kyle Matthews concert on March 29. This was my first opportunity to hear Kyle, and I was greatly impressed by the unique combination of great music and great theology.

On Wednesday, April 1, Phyllis Stump presented her one-woman show, "They Call Me Aunt Orlene." We had an excellent attendance, and the response of those present let me know it was a memorable evening of theater, inspiration, and sermon. A member of the congregation told Phyllis it was one of the best sermons he had ever heard. For those who were unable to attend, I will only add that I don't think I have ever heard more laughter during any presentation.

The Creative Arts Committee's exhibit "Celebrating Easter through the Arts," which runs from April 4 through April 12, is literally something to behold. This church is blessed with many persons who have extraordinary talents. It is always dangerous to single out individuals when many persons are involved, but I must give a special thank you to Janice Love who went above and beyond any call of duty in supervising and arranging the exhibit. In addition, she was responsible for the window arrangements in the sanctuary for Palm Sunday that were in themselves works of art.

Finally, there was the Palm Sunday evening service: "Hymns and Harp—A Holy Week Service of Reflection." I don't believe I have ever experienced 45 minutes of more meaningful—and beautiful—worship. I don't like to pile up superlatives because, in this case, there are simply not enough to do justice to this evening and all of those who made it possible. Randy Brittain was not only responsible for conducting the choir and harpist, but also for choosing and bringing together all the elements in this service.

I feel most fortunate to have had the opportunity to share these extraordinary eight days with this congregation.

A personal note: I will be on vacation (in Louisville) beginning April 20 and will return to Athens on May 9.

Sermon Schedule

April 12 Easter—*The First Easter Card* - Mark 16:1-8
April 19 *How Can You Believe Unless You See for Yourself?*
John 20:24-31

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

SYMPATHY

The church extends their Christian love and sympathy to the family of **Frances Cooper**, who passed away on March 21, 2009. Graveside services were held Saturday, March 28, 2009 at Evergreen Memorial Park with Dr. Jon Appleton officiating.

The church extends their Christian love and sympathy to **Betsy Carson** in the loss of her husband, Johnny R. Carson, who passed away April 1, 2009. Memorial services were held Saturday, April 4 at the Chapel of Lord & Stephens West with Dr. Jon Appleton officiating.

SENIOR ADULTS

The Traveling Seniors Return from Washington, D.C.

The Traveling Seniors returned from a wonderful trip to Washington, D.C., on March 31. The work of the entire Senior Committee made this a very successful trip. An unexpected bonus on the trip was seeing the cherry trees in bloom. Thanks to all who traveled with us and helped to make this a pleasant and rewarding experience.



Breakfast at IHOP

Join the 55+ Group for breakfast at the Epps Bridge Road International House of Pancakes (IHOP) at 9 a.m. for breakfast on Thursday, April 23. Please call the church office to sign up by Monday, April 20.

Dinner Meeting

Call the church office to make reservations for our Thursday, May 28 dinner meeting. Our speaker will be Mary Long from Lawrenceville. Mary is a delightful speaker. She is a retired educator, former president of Georgia Retired Educators Association, and author of books and newspaper articles. Price of dinner is \$7.00. Deadline for reservations is May 20. Invite your friends to come join us for an evening of fun.

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

April 12-18:

Bobbie Monk and Libby Morris

April 19-25:

Shaun O'Rear and Alan Reddish

Fellowship Committee Schedule

April:

Charles Adams, Jimmy Bryant,
Dallas Cannady, Reeves Carter

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Weekly Needs:	\$22,256.25
Received week of March 29	\$12,086.05
Received week of April 5	\$28,138.09

Attendance

March 29	April 5
9:00 a.m. Worship-33	9:00 a.m. Worship-48
11:00 a.m. Worship-239	11:00 a.m. Worship-263

May 3 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
12:00-1:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

For All Sunday School Teachers and Leaders

Sunday, May 3, we will honor and show our appreciation to all Sunday School teachers and workers. Our luncheon will be in Fellowship Hall. Please reserve this date on your calendar.

Adult Sunday School Teachers' Meeting
Sunday, April 19
5:30 p.m.

We will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, April 19 to preview summer Sunday School options and plans. We are planning for special Adult Class and study options this summer, beginning in June. (Sunday School hour will remain 9:45-10:45 a.m. for the summer, no change). Additional agenda items include gathering feedback from adults regarding interests, suggestions, and ideas related to Adult Sunday School and a brief preview of the Book of Esther (May lessons for Formations literature). We will meet in Room E-108/109, on the first floor.

Friendship Class to Begin New Study
"The First Paul"
April 19-May 31

Discussion Sessions Led by Janice Hume
Meeting at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Mornings
Room S-303

The Friendship Class will begin a new book study using *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The study begins on April 19 with an overview, then continues for six weeks ending on May 31. If you are interested in getting a book and joining with this study, please contact Frank Granger, e-mail frank@firstbaptistathens.org or phone 706-548-1359. Below is information from Cokesbury's web site describing the book.

Authors Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan join to present a new understanding of early Christianity, to reveal a radical Paul who has been suppressed by the church. Paul is second only to Jesus as the most important person in the birth of Christianity, and yet he continues to be controversial, even among Christians. Borg and Crossan use the best of biblical and historical scholarship to explain the reasons for Paul's mixed reputation and reveal to us what scholars have known for decades: that the later letters of Paul were created by the early church to dilute Paul's egalitarian message and transform him into something more "acceptable." They argue there are actually "Three Pauls" in the New Testament: "The Radical Paul" (of the seven genuine letters), "The Conservative Paul" (of the three disputed epistles), and "The Reactionary Paul" (of the three inauthentic letters). In truth, Paul was an appealing apostle of Jesus whose vision of life "in Christ"—one of his favored phrases—is remarkably faithful to the message of Jesus himself.

MISSIONS MOMENTS

Planning Underway for Operation InAsMuch

It's time again to get involved as the third installment of Operation InAsMuch will be held on April 25. This annual day of service offers a variety of mission opportunities for all members of our congregation and lets you find an area that best suits your schedule and your passion.

As of March 26, the following service opportunities were available:

- Preparing toiletry packets for the Athens Nurses' Clinic. (Contact—Sharon McArthur and the Aderhold Sunday School Class)
- Taking children from low-income communities bowling for the day. (Contact—Don Nelson)
- Service with Denney Towers. (Contact—Carl Monk)
- Service project with The Healing Place. (Contact—Jon Ambrose)
- Taking children from the Department of Children and Family Services fishing for the day. (Contact—Doug Martin)
- Preparing care packages for military servicemen and servicewomen overseas. (Contact—Susan Gravely)
- The Laundromat compassion ministry. (Contact—Greg Bickley)

Other service opportunities with many of our partners are being developed as we speak, so be sure to keep checking back for more information on these projects and ones to come. If you're interested in leading a project, please contact Johnathan McGinty (johnathan@frontporchconsulting.org) or Reeves Carter (reeves1204@bellsouth.net).

The Adults in Missions are lending support to the Athens Nurses' Clinic for personal care kits for their clients. Our own Shelby Lacy works with this project. If you are interested in assisting, we request the following items to be placed in a Ziploc-type baggie:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Bar Soap | Toothpaste | Deodorant |
| White Socks | Toothbrush | Razors |
| Shampoo | Lotion | Conditioner |
| Washcloth | Comb/Brush | Shaving Cream |

Thank you in advance for your time and compassion in this service project.

ATTENTION ALL SHOPPERS!

SAVE YOUR PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS....Council on Aging uses them in the daily delivery of *Meals on Wheels*. A cardboard box is on the shelf in the Missions Room marked "PLASTIC BAGS FOR MEALS ON WHEELS." This is really a "no-brainer" since most of us seem to have lots of these every week. Let's see how many we can collect—questions? Call Lois Gibbs at 706-369-7672.

Doing Missions in Our Community

FOOD BANK
April 14-15 and April 28-29: Disciples Class

Our Daily Bread

May 14: The Karen Class

Periodicals
POSTAGE PAID
 Athens, Ga. 30601

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS
 (USPS 193-040)
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 355 Pulaski Street
 Athens, Georgia 30601-2860
 706-548-1359

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers	Randy Brittain Minister of Music
Ron Higdon Interim Pastor	Frank Granger Minister of Education
Hannah Coe Interim Minister of Youth and Young Adult College Students	Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate
	Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus
	www.firstbaptistathens.org

FIRST BAPTIST NEWS (USPS 193-040) is published bi-weekly at no charge by First Baptist Church, 355 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601-2860. Periodicals postage paid at Athens, GA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST BAPTIST NEWS, 355 Pulaski St., Athens, GA 30601-2860.

VOL. LIII | **April 11, 2009** | **No. 8**

Easter Sunday



He is not here, but is risen...
 Luke 24:6

APRIL 12

11:00 a.m. Easter Worship
 with
**Brass Quartet, Timpani,
 and Organ**

Youth Sunday
APRIL 26

Children's Sunday
MAY 3

First Baptist News
ATHENS, GEORGIA

June 13-16, 2009

Mercer University, Macon, GA

Grades 3-6

Reserve your spot now with \$50.00 Deposit

Theme:

HEROES, Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives

Children of the 21st Century have their own set of favorites, including Kim Possible, Iron Man, American Dragon, the Mighty B, Wolverine and the X-Men, and Disney's Bolt. Why do we find these superheroes so fascinating? One reason is that we yearn for their extraordinary abilities. But what about real heroes? We see them in our world today—firefighters, doctors, children who save lives by calling 9-1-1, and yes, Christian missionaries! If the Bible teaches us anything about heroes, it is that they are ordinary people—usually humble, servant-hearted folks—whose small acts of faith make an enormous difference in other people's lives. Every camper this summer will discover their potential to be a hero through the guidance of Jesus, the nurture and teamwork of the church, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We can make a difference! As Paul reminds us in our theme verse for the summer, Christ gives me the strength to face anything. (Philippians 4:13, CEV).

Space is limited. Register today. Contact Frank Granger or Hannah Coe for additional information.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS...

FBC Youth Ministry

For three years of my college experience, I lived in a quad with three other girls. We had a "quote board" that hung on the heavy, squeaky metal room door on which we wrote our brilliant, funny, and unforgettable quotes. One of my favorite quotes on the "quote board" read like this:

"Look! It's finter...fake winter!"

....brilliant, I know (wish I could claim it as my own!)

Finter became a season to us in the Friendship quad. It came in the throes of fall and the burgeoning of spring on those days when it was freezing in the morning and at night, yet hot in the middle of the day. This weather was not conducive for the college student who lived as a turtle—leaving at 8:00 in the morning with everything they would need for the next 14 hours on their back.

We find ourselves these days in the midst of finter—our wardrobes, moods, car washing schedules, and beverage temperatures up in the air. It is the perfect time of year to transform—to adopt new thoughts, practices, and intentions.

I am so thankful for spring this year. I am thankful to be reminded that God is always molding, changing, shaping, and loving us—and the world around us. Each year, with the approach of Easter, we celebrate the gift of God's grace to us. Each year, I re-evaluate my acceptance and giving out of God's grace. And every year, I must learn to accept God's grace more deeply and to give it out more generously.

So, as our wardrobe begins to transform this finter, let's keep this in mind... "Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." Col. 3:12

Upcoming Sunday Night Youth Activities:

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

No youth activities...

Celebrate Easter with your family and friends!!

Sunday, April 19, 2009

(following Youth Choir rehearsal)

Experiential Worship #1:

Worship through visual art...prepare to experience a special time of authentic and creative worship that will help us to prepare for youth Sunday on April 26th.

Please remember

to bring \$2 for food if you eat dinner.

Sunday, April 26, 2009:

YOUTH SUNDAY!

PASSPORT 2009

When: July 5-10th, 2009 (7-12th graders);

June 13-16, 2009 (6th graders)

- If you haven't had a chance to sign up for Passport Choices yet and are interested in going, please let me know by e-mail: Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org.

- Please see Passport Kids Camp information if you are a 6th grader interested in going to Passport this year.

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

How Much: \$200...next deposit of \$75 due Wednesday, April 29th!

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, I 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 me at Hannah@firstbaptistathens.org to discuss if you are interested. **Chaperones attend Passport Choices for free!



EVENTS BOX—April 12-25

4/12	Easter Sunday-Celebrating Easter Through the Arts	
4/12	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
4/12	Worship Service- Sanctuary	11:00 AM
4/12	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
4/13	Church Office Closed	
4/13	Nominating Committee - Farrall Conference Room	5:30 PM
4/13	Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting-E112/113	7:00 PM
4/13	Spanish Class-Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
4/14	Missions Committee Meeting-E112/113	5:30 PM
4/14	Explorer Scouts-E112/113	7:00 PM
4/14	Boy Scout Troop 22-Youth Area	7:30 PM
4/15	Finance Committee Meeting-E112/113	5:00 PM
4/15	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
4/15	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
4/15	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
4/15	Children's Wednesday Activities - Preschool-Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
	Children's Choirs	6:00-6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
4/15	Youth Wednesday Night Activities - Youth Area	6:00-7:00 PM
4/15	Adult Studies- <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith:</i> Led by Ron Higdon	6:00 PM
	Presentation and Discussion on "My Suggestions for Some Things to Keep in Mind as a New Pastor Begins His Ministry at FBC"	
4/15	College Ministry: Midweek Mocha - Hannah's Home	9:00-11:00 PM
4/19	Worship Service-Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
4/19	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
4/19	Worship Service- Sanctuary	11:00 AM
4/19	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
4/19	Stephen Ministry Meeting-E112/113	4:00-6:00 PM
4/19	Youth Choir-F-316	5:15 PM
4/19	Adult Sunday School Teachers Meeting - E109	5:30 PM
4/19	Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
4/19	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:15 PM
4/20	FBC Quilters-S-104	10:00 AM
4/20	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Noon
4/20	Trustee's Meeting-Farrall Conference Room	5:30 PM
4/20	Spanish Class-Farrall Conference Room	6:30 PM
4/20	Deacons' Meeting & Supper-Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
4/21	Circle 5 at the home of Bobbie Monk	10:00 AM
4/21	Parkview Playschool Board Meeting - Farrall Conference Room	5:00 PM
4/21	Boy Scout Troop 22-Youth Area	7:30 PM
4/22	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
4/22	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
4/22	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
4/22	Children's Wednesday Activities - Preschool-Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
	Children's Choirs	6:00-6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
4/22	Youth Wednesday Night Activities - Youth Area	6:00-7:00 PM
4/22	Adult Studies - <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith:</i> Led by Frank Granger	6:00 PM
	Presentation and Discussion on "New Approaches to Becoming a Pastor"	
4/22	College Ministry: Midweek Mocha - Hannah's Home	9:00-11:00 PM
4/22	Sanctuary Choir-Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
4/22	Transition Team-Pastor's Office	7:15 PM
4/23	55+ Breakfast at IHOP	9:00 AM
4/23	College Student Cooperative Fellowship - Transmetropolitan	6:00 PM
4/25	Operation InAsMuch	

KID'S CORNER



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

Acolyte Schedule:

April 12	Hannah Dillard and Asa Hill
April 19	Alden Loftis and Foster Loftis
April 26	Bradley Lastinger and Lucy Smith

Nursery Schedule:

	Toddlers/Twos	Threes/Fours
April 12	Lastinger	Howell
April 19	C. Smith	Scarborough
April 26	Millians	Carter



Vacation Bible School Registration

**Crocodile Dock:
Where Fearless Kids Shine
God's Light**

**June 8-11, 2009
Monday-Thursday**

Registration for Bible School begins! Our Bible School dates are Monday, June 8-Thursday, June 11. Registration forms are available. Registration fees are \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 maximum per family. Make checks payable to FBC. (Check the web site for more info).