

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION FOR THE HIGDON'S

Sunday, February 17
4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

There will be a Welcome Reception for Ron and Pat Higdon and their family, Sunday, February 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and welcome the Higdons as they join us in ministry.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Sunday, March 9 at the 11:00 A.M. Service

Please mark your calendar to be present at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 9 when special recognition will be given to the retirement of **Arlene Wood**. More details to follow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Choir to Lanier Gardens:

Sunday, February 17, 4:30 p.m.

Festival of Hymn Singing: Sunday, February 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Active Parenting of Teens Continues

Session 4: February 17

Session 5: February 24

Session 6: March 2

Operation INASMUCH: Saturday, March 1, 2008

Women's Bible Study Classes

IHNA Host Week: March 2-9

Free Spanish Classes

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

February 20

Hot Meal: Baked Chicken, Squash Casserole, Butter Beans, Sliced Peaches, Biscuit, Dessert

Children: Domino's Pizza, Salad, Dessert

Salad Bar: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

February 27

Hot Meal: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Pear Salad, Biscuit, Dessert

Children: Hot Meal

Salad Bar: Baked Potato, Broccoli/Cheese Soup

FREE SPANISH CLASS

Mondays, March 10-April 21

7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Taught by Andy Ullrich

Beginners Welcome!

Nominating Committee Announces Revised Process

Seeking Volunteers for Service

First Baptist Church began our Intentional Interim period with Dr. Ron Higdon in January. During this period, a self-study of the church will be conducted which will include all aspects of our church ministry. In consideration of this factor and the additional factors outlined below, the Nominating Committee made a recommendation to the Board of Deacons at their January 2008 meeting regarding the manner in which this committee will approach its work during the Intentional Interim period.

Background Information:

The following recommendation, made by the Church Council in April 2007, was presented to and approved by the Board of Deacons at the May 2007 meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Church Council conduct a detailed review of FBC's committee structure during the 2007-08 church year. The purpose of the proposed review is to ensure that the mission and goals of First Baptist Church are achieved in the most timely and expeditious manner, and further to ensure the most efficient use of the time and talents of our church members and our ministerial and administrative staff in light of the changing needs in First Baptist Church and the community.

The Deacon Board agreed to establish an ad hoc committee to review the committee structure within the 2007-08 church year. Due to the resignation of the Senior Minister in July, the ad hoc committee was not named and the process was put on hold.

In addition, a leadership audit, which looks at the necessary people resources that are required to maintain the work, ministry, and mission of the church, was compiled. The numbers below show the necessary people resources that we currently require at First Baptist Church, as well as the number of people ages 21-90 on our Sunday School rolls.

Church Committees	302
Deacons and Associates	72
Church Council	11
Sunday School	68
Children's Choirs	8
Children's Missions	10
Trustees	3
Total	474

For reference, the total number of people ages 21-90 on our church Sunday School roll is 415.

The above figures suggest the need for modifications in the committee structure of FBC, as the number of positions is greater than the people resources currently available.

In consideration of the above information, the Nominating Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Deacon Board at the January meeting. The recommendations were approved by the deacons and are as follows:

→ Committees within the Administrative Division will be filled as specified by church policies.

→ The slate of Church Officers will be filled as specified by church policies.

Nominating Committee, continued

→ A Chair and Chair-elect will be confirmed for the 2008-09 church year for committees in the Worship, Missions, Fellowship, and Education Divisions.

→ Those individuals serving in rotational spots on the committees in the Worship, Missions, Fellowship, and Education Divisions, who are scheduled to rotate off in 2008, will be invited to remain in service for another year. This invitation will also allow them to rotate off as scheduled if they choose to do so.

→ Vacant slots on committees will not automatically be filled, and slots where people rotate off will not be filled unless deemed absolutely necessary.

→ The church membership is invited to respond with requests to serve on one of the committees in the Worship, Missions, Fellowship, and Education Divisions during the 2008-09 church year.

The Nominating Committee would like to encourage any church member who is interested in serving in a particular area during the 2008-09 church year to contact Joanna Hill, Nominating Committee Chair, at 706-208-0820 by March 9, 2008.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS 2008 Downtown Lenten Services Theme: "The Lenten Road"

12:00 Noon, Thursdays During Lent
Lunch to Follow in Fellowship Hall
Lunch Cost: \$6.00

*When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.*

Jesus led his disciples down a difficult road that led to death on a Roman cross. For us, the road to Jerusalem is one of many roads on which we are confronted by Christ during this solemn season.

February 21: The Road to Jerusalem (Matthew 16:21-23)

Robert Salamone

The disciple Peter becomes a roadblock on this road prompting Jesus to say, "Get behind me, Satan!" and invites us to take up the cross and follow.

February 28: The Road to Jericho (Luke 10:25-37)

Patrick Chandler

As the Good Samaritan stopped on this road, so Jesus stops to care for us in our needs and teaches us to "do likewise."

March 6: The Bethany Road (Mark 11:1-11)

Richard Washington

This road leads to the home of Mary and Martha and the funeral of their brother Lazarus, and then on to Jerusalem for the Palm Sunday parade.

March 13: The Road to Calvary (John 19:17-30)

Bill Britt

This road is the one Christ trod carrying a cross. It is the road of suffering, pain, and agony. It also is the road to redemption.

Reflections

My article for this edition of the newsletter will be more in the nature of information than reflections. Pat and I are reasonably situated in our home at 132 Magnolia Blossom Way (30606). Our telephone number is 706-543-0908. My cell phone number is 706-201-0467.

Different ministers have different work patterns, so I thought it would be helpful if I gave you mine. I get up at 5:00 a.m. (my mother came from a farming family, and I can still hear the chickens and the cows) and try to do between 3 and 4 hours of study before I come to the office. I have found that one hour of uninterrupted study time is worth 2 hours of start and stop endeavors.

When I come to the office, I usually keep my door open unless I am in conference or on the telephone with a call of a personal nature. The open door means just that. The only reason I usually suggest making an appointment is so that you can be assured of my availability.

I am always available for emergencies, and I hope you will feel free to call me. As we move into our self-study, I will certainly be available to answer any questions about procedures or content. In the next newsletter, there will be information about the formation of a Transition Team and the general outline for the self-study (which probably will not begin until August or September).

There are far too many personal pronouns in this article, but one more has to be included. I am extremely grateful for your many kind words and your attention and response in our worship services. You have already done so much to make Pat and me feel a part of this community. We look forward to sharing the future together with you.

Ron Higdon

Sermon Schedule

February 17

Don't Pull Those Weeds (Matthew 13: 24-30)

February 24

The Future: Fixed or Flexible? (II Kings 20:1-6)

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Weekly Needs: \$22,569.69

RECEIVED:

Week of February 3 \$22,438.85

Week of February 10 \$22,528.54

Year-to-Date January 31, 2008

Needed: \$97,802.00

Received: \$67,597.76

Expenses: \$85,124.74

Balance: (\$17,526.98)

PLEDGE UPDATE:

We have received pledges through February 11, 2008 as follows:

\$731,974.62 by 150 Family Units Giving

62.37% of the 2008 Budget

Please remember to turn in your pledge cards.

Attendance

	Worship	
February 3	9:00 75	11:00 282
February 10	9:00 70	11:00 302



From Frank

The New Baptist Covenant meeting was held in Atlanta at the close of January. The event spanned three days and brought together 15,000 Baptists from multiple Baptist denominations, institutions, and groups. The event, as you well know, received pre-meeting publicity, as well as post-meeting publicity. As you continue to gather information and formulate your personal opinions of this historic event in the life of Baptists throughout the world, I would encourage you to have conversation with some of our members who attended this event. Ask them their impressions, what they observed and experienced in the large plenary groups sessions, as well as in small group seminars. The following people from our church attended: Matt and Caroline DuVall, Lois Gibbs, Joyce Gravely, Valerie Hardy, Joe and Evelyn Harney, Becky and David Matheny, Johnathan McGinty, Kim Rogers, Mark Sanders, Sandy Sanders.

The New Baptist Covenant web site has available the speeches of all those who spoke at the event. The web site is www.newbaptistcelebration.org.

Let's Talk About It at Church
A WEDNESDAY EVENING SERIES FOR ADULTS
Facing the Issues of Sexuality,
Poverty, War and Violence
Wednesday Evenings: 6:00-7:00 P.M.

This series of topics begins by looking at how to approach decisions within a Christian framework. The series will include topics on the ethics of sexuality, a view of our culture's response in grief, the realities of poverty, and comparing the example of Jesus with the challenges of violence. We talk about these issues at work and in the community, with neighbors and with family. We invite you to join us as we *Talk About It at Church*.

- February 20** *Ethics of Sexuality: Choices and Responsibility*, Larry McSwain
- February 27** *Journalism in a Culture of Grief*, Janice Hume, Associate Professor, Grady College, University of Georgia, FBC Member, Athens, GA
- March 5** *The Reality of Poverty*, Johnathan McGinty, FBC Member, Athens, GA
- March 12** *Jesus and the Challenges of Violence*, Larry McSwain
- March 20 (Thursday)** *A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, Al Staggs, Actor, Writer, Artist, Santa Fe, NM

YOUTH HAPPENINGS...

Youth Schedule

- Sundays:**
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study in Youth Area—Bring your Bible!
 5:15 p.m. Youth Choir, F316
 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Gathering in Youth Area—Bring \$2.00
- Wednesdays:**
 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Area

KID'S CORNER



New Mural: If you have not already done so, take the elevator to the first floor and walk toward the preschool area. At the end of the hallway, you will see a beautiful mural depicting a familiar Bible story involving a child who shared. Lenetta Root, the local artist who painted the children's area for our Apprentice Faith Workshops, also shared her creative abilities through this painting which adds so much to our preschool area.

Spring Cleaning Spectacular: Thanks to all those who helped with the spring cleaning of the children's area. Many, many bags of outdated "stuff" were thrown away, and everything got a good scrubbing. We now both look and smell fresh and clean on the third floor!

2008 Vacation Bible School: The theme has been selected! We will be having a beach party and surfing through the beach be-attitudes. Mark the dates of June 2-5 on your calendar now.

PASSPORTkids!: The absolute final deadline to pay your \$50 deposit for this fantastic children's camp is April 1. After that time, we will need to submit our final count of those attending to avoid paying change fees. Please contact me if you have questions. Checks can be mailed or brought to the church. We are still in need of a male chaperone for our group.

First Cup: The next First Cup will be the morning of Wednesday, February 20. This ministry to the parents of our weekday school children includes offering a cup of coffee and a muffin, along with a thought for the day, information about upcoming preschool and children's activities at FBC, and a warm word of encouragement.

Special Palm Sunday Events: Plan to stay following the children's choirs singing in worship on March 16 for the annual egg hunt and luncheon for children and their families.

Children's Sunday is May 4th. Valerie Hardy

KID'S SCHEDULE	
February 17	Children's Church, 11:00 Worship
March 1	Operation InAsMuch
March 1-2	Joyful Singers Travel to FBC—Greenville, SC
March 16	Palm Sunday/Children's Choirs Sing Egg Hunt and Family Lunch
May 4	Children's Worship Service—Choirs Singing
May 7	Last Wednesday Night for Choir and Missions
July 17-20	Passport Kids Camp (3rd to 6th graders)-Crossville, TN

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

SYMPATHY
 The church family extends their Christian love and sympathy to **Charlene Ramsay** in the loss of her sister, Betty May of Nashville, TN.

The church family extends their Christian love and sympathy to **Jim Turner** in the loss of his father, Jack Turner, who passed away on February 3.

The church family extends their Christian love and sympathy to **Lucy Clark** in the loss of her sister, Annette Collins, who passed away on February 2.

Ministers	
Ron Higdon Interim Pastor	Frank Granger Minister of Education
Valerie Hardy Minister of Children	Matt DuVall Minister of Youth/Young Adults
Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate	Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus

www.firstbaptistathens.org

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VOL. LII **February 16, 2008** **No. 4**

You are invited
 to attend a
Welcome Reception
 for the
Higdon's
 Sunday, February 17 at 4:00 p.m.
 in the Fellowship Hall

Festival of Hymn Singing
 Sunday, February 24
 5:00 p.m.
 Church Sanctuary
 Dr. Al Travis, guest musician
 The theme is
Singing Forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!
 The Sanctuary Choir will sing, and members of the Athens Symphony will accompany.



EVENTS BOX: February 17-March 1

2/17	First Worship Service-Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
2/17	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
2/17	Classic Worship Service-Sanctuary	11:00 AM
	Youth Choir	
2/17	IHNA Training-E112/113	12:00 Noon
2/17	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
2/17	Stephens Ministry-E111	3:00 PM
2/17	Welcome Reception for the Higdon's-Fellowship Hall	4:00 PM
2/17	Missions Committee-E112/113	5:00 PM
2/17	Youth Choir to Lanier Gardens	4:30 PM
2/17	Women's Bible Study-E111	5:30 PM
2/17	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
2/17	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:00 PM
2/17	Active Parenting of Teens-E108/109	6:00 PM
2/18	55+ Committee Meeting-Farrall Conference Room	2:00 PM
2/19	Circle 5 Meeting-Helen McArthur's Home	10:00 AM
2/19	Virginia Appleton Circle Meeting-Carol Jane Cofer's Home	6:30 PM
2/19	Boy Scout Court of Honor-Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
2/20	First Cup-Live Oak Area	9:00 AM
2/20	Christian Formation Committee-Fellowship Hall	12:00 Noon
2/20	Wednesday Evening Dinner-Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
2/20	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
2/20	Schedule for Children Preschool - Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
	Children's Choir	6:00-6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
2/20	Schedule for Youth	6:00-7:15 PM
	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
2/20	Adult Continuing Education-Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
	<i>Ethics of Sexuality: Choices and Responsibility</i>	
	Larry McSwain, Professor of Ethics and Leadership	
	McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA	
2/20	Sanctuary Choir	7:00-8:15 PM
2/20	Associate Deacons' Meeting-F 319	7:15 PM
2/21	Lenten Service-Sanctuary	12:00 Noon
	<i>The Road to Jerusalem</i> - Robert Salamone,	
	Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Athens, GA	
2/21	Lenten Luncheon-Fellowship Hall	12:30 PM
2/23	Hymn Festival Dress Rehearsal-Sanctuary	11:00 AM
2/24	First Worship Service-Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
2/24	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
2/24	Classic Worship Service-Sanctuary	11:00 AM
2/24	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
2/24	Festival of Hymn Singing-Sanctuary	5:00 PM
2/24	Women's Bible Study-E111	5:30 PM
2/24	Festival Reception-Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
2/24	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
2/24	Active Parenting of Teens-E108/109	6:00 PM
2/26	MEF Circle-Home of Becky Snow	10:30 AM
2/27	Wednesday Evening Dinner-Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
2/27	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
2/27	Schedule for Children Preschool-Grade 5	6:00-7:15 PM
	Children's Choir	6:00-6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45-7:15 PM
2/27	Schedule for Youth	6:00-7:15 PM
	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
2/27	Adult Continuing Education-Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
	<i>Journalism in a Culture of Grief</i>	
	Janice Hume, Associate Professor,	
	Grady College, FBC Member, Athens, GA	
2/27	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
2/27	Sanctuary Choir	7:00-8:15 PM
2/28	Lenten Service-Sanctuary	12:00 Noon
	<i>The Road to Jericho</i> -Patrick Chandler,	
	First Christian Church, Athens, GA	
2/28	Lenten Luncheon-Fellowship Hall	12:30 PM
2/29	Youth March Mission Madness-Macon, GA	6:00 PM
3/1	Operation InAsMuch	8:00 AM
3/1	Children's Choir Festival-Greenville, SC	
3/1	Youth March Mission Madness-Macon, GA	

55+

55+ Welcome Breakfast for Dr. Ron Higdon and Family Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Please call the church office at 706-548-1359 by noon March 10, 2008, to make reservations for the 55+ Welcome Breakfast for Dr. Ron Higdon and his family. The breakfast will be in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. The committee will provide the breakfast. If you have any questions, please call Joe Clark at 706-549-3808

55+ and First Baptist Church Day in Atlanta Thursday, April 17, 2008

Please go by or call the church office at 706-548-1359 and sign up for a day in Atlanta. We will visit and tour The Chick-Fil-A Headquarters, have lunch at a Chick-Fil-A, tour the New World of Coke, and then travel to Blue Willow Inn at Social Circle for dinner. The cost for the trip is \$65 per person. This includes meals, tours, tips, gratuity and bus fare. The date for the trip is April 17, 2008.

The deadline to sign up and pay is Wednesday March 5, 2008, so that tickets can be purchased and the bus trip can be finalized. The trip is for First Baptist members and a friend. There are only 35 spaces available on a first sign up basis. If you have questions, please call Joe Clark, 706-549-3808.

A MUSICAL NOTE...

Youth Choir to Lanier Gardens Sunday, February 17

Youth Choir and parents, please remember our schedule this Sunday, February 17:

- 4:30 p.m. Gather at FBC
- 4:45 p.m. Car-pool to Lanier Gardens
- 5:00 p.m. Program for Residents
- 6:00 p.m. Return for Youth Activities at FBC

Festival of Hymn Singing Sunday, February 24, 5:00 p.m.

Dr. Al Travis, Distinguished Professor of Organ at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Organist/Minister of Music at Broadway Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas, will be our guest musician on Sunday, February 24 for a Festival of Congregational Singing. Dr. Travis will play in the 11:00 a.m. service and lead us in the festival service at 5:00 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir will sing, and members of the Athens Symphony will accompany.

The theme of the evening festival service is *Singing Forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!* Some of the hymns we will be singing together include *Come, Christians, Join to Sing; How Firm a Foundation; Beneath the Cross of Jesus; On Jordan's Stormy Banks; I Stand Amazed; and All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.*

I look forward to your participation in this uplifting time of worship on February 24.

Blessings,
Randy

MISSIONS

OPERATION INASMUCH Saturday, March 1 12 Projects to Choose From

We invite everyone to join one of our teams and serve with us on Saturday, March 1. We have 12 projects to choose from. Sign-ups for these projects are on the bulletin board near the sanctuary. Clothes are needed for the clothes closet. If you would like to donate supplies to a project, contact the project leader for a list of needed items. We are sending supplies to an Iraqi orphanage. If you would like to help the orphanage, please contact Susan Gravely of the military project. Monetary donations can be made in the church office. If you want a T-shirt, please donate \$5.00 to the office and e-mail Marla with the size by February 20th.

Thanks for all of your support. This is going to be another great InAsMuch.

Marla

Global Missions Offering for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Continues

This is how we support our missionaries and mission work all over the world. Our FBC goal for the year is \$13,000!! Please give generously, from your heart.

Since June 1, 2007, we have given \$9,116.00 to Global Missions. The last date to give will be May 31, 2008.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging needs **used Christmas cards**. They will be using the front of the card only. You may cut the fronts off or bring the entire card in and we will cut off the front for you. Just bring the cards by the church and drop them in a bin in the Missions Room marked "Greeting Cards."

FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is in need of **spaghetti and spaghetti sauce**. Times are hard for them and while they can use almost anything, they are still requesting spaghetti and sauce. Bring them to the church and put them in the Missions Room. Thanks for your help.

ATTENTION Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteers

I am updating my volunteer information. If any of the following has changed in the past year, please get me your new information: address, home phone, cell phone, email. Thanks.

Linda Lacy, 706-543-4299
or mplacy@earthlink.net

Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteer Training February 17, Sunday, from Noon-2:30 p.m. In Room E-112-113 Box lunch from Jason's Deli - \$6.00 Call Linda Lacy, 706-543-4299 for information

This training is open to anyone who would like to know more about IHNA or is interested in volunteering in this FBC ministry now or in the future. Training covers mission of IHNA, how a host week works at FBC, FBC set up in youth area, videos of an actual program, and guests giving helpful hints to volunteers, different volunteer opportunities, and many other topics. In addition, you will receive a training manual and a packet of handouts. Previously trained volunteers are welcome if you would like a "refresher" on your information. Come join the other 122 trained FBC volunteers in this community ministry.

DENNEY TOWER PANTRY NEEDS

The monthly finances of many Denney Tower's residents are depleted before the end of the month. Andy Walker, Denney Tower's manager, has tried to keep a small pantry stocked to help those in need. OPERATION INASMUCH wants to help Andy replenish the pantry now and in the future. Their needs are:

- Food Needs:** Canned meats, soups, beans, fruits, corn
- Personal Items:** Small tubes tooth paste, deodorant, wrapped body soap
- Other Needs:** Small containers liquid dish detergent and laundry detergent

Drop items in box labeled "Denney Tower Pantry" in the Missions Room. If there are questions, please contact Carl Monk at 706-548-2932. Thank you.

Doing Missions in Our Community February / March / April 2008

Food Bank	February 26-27	55+ Committee
	March 11-12	Covenant Class
	March 25-26	Covenant Class
Our Daily Bread	March 13	Deacons
	April 10	Disciples Class

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the weeks of:

February 17-23	Ed Dempsey	Jim Ebert
February 24-March 1	J. Don Edwards	Joyce Gravely
March 2-8	Wanda Grogan	Daniel Haygood
March 9-15	Bill Horton	John Knowlton
March 16-22	David Kopp	Mike Lacy

Fellowship Team for February

David Kopp, Mike Lacy, Shelby Lacy, Eric Line

Fellowship Team for March

Helen Mills, Bobbie Monk, Carl Monk, Shaun O'Rear