

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SPECIAL THANKS

Joel and Ann Giddens would like to thank their wonderful church family for all the thoughtful cards and well wishes in recognition of Joel's 90th birthday celebration.

### FOCUS GROUPS ANNOUNCED

#### All Adults Are Invited-See Schedule Below

We are inviting you to join us for one of the focus group meetings we have scheduled. We offer a variety of experiences and seek to offer more for you as an adult in our church. We want to know of your interests, your needs, and your ideas for our adult ministry here at First Baptist. We especially want to know what additional offerings and opportunities you would like to see planned and offered.

The focus group times are listed below. Two of these times are targeted for a specific group of adults in the church. The other two are designated as "open session" which simply means that the session is open to any and all ages of adults.

#### THREE SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

##### Session One: Adults of Children at Home - Time: 12:00 Noon

We are inviting adults who are parents of children still living in the home—preschool age through teenagers. We will serve a light luncheon with this session. If you need child care, we will arrange for this. Please RSVP for child care to 706-548-1359 or by e-mail to frank@firstbaptistathens.org

##### Session Two: Open Session - Time: 4:00 p.m.

This session is open to any and all adults in our church.

##### Session Three: Young Married Couples - Time: 5:00 p.m.

We are inviting all adults who are young married adults in our church.

#### ONE SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

##### Open Session - Time: 7:30 p.m.

This session is open to any and all adults in our church.

All sessions will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall. We look forward to hearing from you.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Training will be held on Sunday, February 18, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Room E112/113.

### OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL Subscribe on-line at [www.firstbaptistathens.org](http://www.firstbaptistathens.org)

We are now offering you the opportunity to receive our church newsletter (in the form and layout it is published) by e-mail. Go to the Events page under Fellowship menu button, or click on "Calendar" on the left side of the web page. The address is <http://www.acswebnetworks.com/firstbaptistathens/events>. Either of these links will lead you to the Newsletter Subscription information. Click on "Newsletter Subscription Form" and you will be asked to simply supply your name and e-mail address. This will automatically add your name to the subscription list.

### COMMUNITY LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

Each Lent the Downtown Churches of Athens have offered a Lenten Worship experience and lunch during the Thursdays of Lent. This year the host church is Emmanuel Episcopal Church and their new rector, Robert Salamone. The theme this year is "To Live the Word—Inspired and Incarnate." Worship begins promptly at noon followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 for a nominal fee. No reservations are needed for lunch.

- February 22** Robert Salamone, Emmanuel Episcopal  
*The Word of Encounter*, John 5:1-18
- March 1** Bill Ross, First Baptist  
*The Word of Humility*, Luke 18:9-14
- March 8** Patrick Chandler, First Christian  
*The Word of Conversion*, Luke 15:11-32
- March 15** Bill Britt, First United Methodist  
*The Word of Forgiveness*, Matthew 18:21-35
- March 22** Glenn Doak, First Presbyterian  
*The Word of Salvation*, Luke 17:11-19
- March 29** Richard Washington,  
First African Methodist Episcopal  
*The Word of Discipleship*, Matthew 25:31-46

### Deployed Soldiers Recognized

The Creative Arts Committee would like to recognize the deployed soldiers of our church membership. If you have a member of your family or a close family friend who is currently in Iraq, Afghanistan, or another foreign country and would like to participate in this recognition, please call the information to Jane Houston 706-543-9496 or email [janehouston@charter.net](mailto:janehouston@charter.net). The committee would like names, location and pictures of these soldiers. This information will be displayed for our membership to remember them and their families.

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Lindsey and Edward Smith**, parents of **Madison Smith**, in the birth of their second child, **Edward Hudson Smith**, born Saturday, February 3.



### SYMPATHY

The church family extends love and support to **Rick Dawson** in the loss of his mother, Helen Landrum Dawson, who passed away on Thursday, February 1.

The church family extends our love and support to the family of **Juanita Harden**, who passed away on February 7. Juanita had been a member of First Baptist since 1955.

The church family also extends our love and support to **Becky Snow and her niece**, in the loss of her niece's husband, leaving behind a blended family of 6 children, ages 1-1/2 - 15 years of age.

## FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Week of February 4, 2007		Attendance	
Weekly Receipts:	\$31,246.46	9:00	81
		11:00	282
Week of February 11, 2007		Attendance	
Weekly Receipts:	\$20,922.25	9:00	94
		11:00	261

## Reaching Out Around the World...

First Baptist Church Athens continues to reach out around the world. There will be many opportunities for each of you during 2007. Giving is a form of missions. Our Global Mission Offering Goal is \$17,000. Once we reach a giving level of \$13,000 for the overall mission effort of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, we will help to build two wells in Africa. One well is to be built in Kenya and a cooperative effort of seven CBF churches, and the second well will be built in Zambia by FBC Athens. At the present time, we have \$11,205.79 in our Global Missions Offering. Let's reach at least \$17,000 by Easter!

I returned from a short mission effort to Bayou La Batre, Alabama. This was my first trip to the Gulf Coast since Katrina. Jim Ebert, Greg Bickley, Bob Deck, and I worked on two houses that had experienced damage from the storm. It is difficult to believe that in the small community of Bayou La Batre, there are still over 400 homes in need of repair. One cannot imagine what needs to be done in all areas of the Gulf Coast that were damaged over 17 months ago. We will be taking other teams to this area to continue to do work. Volunteer of America has received federal grants for building supplies. Their need is volunteers to do the work.

Matt DuVall will be leading a student group to work in the Gulf Coast in March. They will be going during spring break for students at UGA. It is admirable to have students willing to give of their time during their spring break to make a difference in the lives of others.

You will be hearing a lot about "Operation InAsMuch." Mark April 21, 2007 on your calendars and leave that day open to be a part of this day of missions at FBC. Marla VanDyck and Linda Lacy are working to put together a number of mission projects for children, youth, and all adults to take part making a difference in the lives of the people of Athens. All members of FBC Athens can be involved in this day of missions!

For years, churches and civics organizations have taught English as a second language classes for the international community. The Community Ministries Committee has asked Andy Ullrich to lead us in a different direction. Beginning the first Monday in March, Andy will be teaching conversational Spanish as a second language. If you would like to be able to better communicate with your Hispanic neighbors and community, you are invited to this class at FBC Athens. The Community Ministries Committee is inviting people from the community of Athens who may benefit from this class, as well as all church members and their friends. The weekly class will begin Monday, March 5, 2007 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will run through the month of May.

See you Sunday,  
Bill

## 55+

### Friday Evening, March 23, 2007

A dinner meeting will be held Friday, March 23, at 6 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. Darrell Huckaby, Athens Banner-Herald columnist, educator, author, and public speaker, has agreed to be our after-dinner speaker. Reservations and \$6.00 payment are required before March 15. Call the church office at 706-548-1359.

### UPCOMING SERMONS

This Sunday, February 18, Bill will end the sermon series on *Prayer* and begin a new series for the Lenten Season. We will focus on the last week of Jesus' life as recorded in Mark's gospel: *They were on their way up to Jerusalem with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid* - Mark 10:32.

#### February 18

*Monday with Jesus - The House of Prayer* - Mark 10:32-34

#### February 25

*Tuesday with Jesus - Dealing with Status Quo* - Text will be taken from Mark 11:20-13:37

#### March 4

*Wednesday with Jesus - The Plan of Betrayal* - Mark 14:1-10

#### March 11

*Thursday with Jesus - The Last Meal* - Mark 14:12-72

#### March 18

*Friday with Jesus - The Cross* - Mark 15

#### March 25

Dr. Walter Shurden, guest speaker. Bill is speaking for the 75th Anniversary at FBC Hillsville, Virginia.

#### April 1

*Palm Sunday - Sunday with Jesus - An Entrance with a Purpose* - Mark 11:1-11

#### April 8

*Easter - Life with Jesus* - Mark 16:1-8

## A MUSICAL NOTE...

### HYMNAL FOR BAPTIST WORSHIP

Last week I spent two days at the Mercer University campus in Atlanta attending the Hymnal Project Convocation. It was an invigorating time of committee meetings involving fifty leaders from the United States and Canada representing Baptist pastors, church musicians, composers, scholars, and laypeople who are creating the hymnal and its supplemental resources. I am proud to be representing First Baptist Athens in this important endeavor.

In the 20th century, Southern Baptists published a hymnal about every 15 years. These included *New Baptist Hymnal* (1926), *The Broadman Hymnal* (1940), *Baptist Hymnal* (1956), *Baptist Hymnal* (1975), and *The Baptist Hymnal* (1991, our current hymnal). I have a copy of all of these hymnals on my shelf, and although I have not researched it, I'll bet FBC Athens used every one of these hymnals in worship.

It is time for a new Baptist hymnal, and I'm glad that Mercer University is leading the way. One of the catch phrases last week during the hymnal convocation was "distinctively Baptist for a new generation." I like that. It means we will seek to preserve the great hymns of the Christian faith and our Baptist heritage, while seeking out new texts and fresh tunes for a new generation of believers in the 21st century.

As I said in the last newsletter, I'll keep you informed throughout this two-year process. It is my hope that we will be one of the first churches to purchase this new Baptist resource for congregational worship and ministry.

Blessings,  
Randy

## Education Ministry

### WEDNESDAY EVENING COLLOQUIUM Lent 2007 Wednesday Evenings, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**February 21, 2007: Ash Wednesday Service** (6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary)

**February 28, 2007: Making Room for the Sacred in Family Life**, Rick Bennett, Associate Coordinator for Congregational Life, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Atlanta, GA.

**March 7, 2007: Streams of Living Water**, Melanie Nogalski, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Formation, School of Divinity, Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC.

**March 14, 2007: Prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures**, David Garber, Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, McAfee, Atlanta, GA.

**March 21, 2007: Prophecy as Fulfillment in the New Testament**, Tom Slater, Professor of New Testament, Atlanta, GA.

**March 28, 2007: Preparation for the Seder**, Frank Granger, Minister of Education, First Baptist Church, Athens, GA.

**April 5, 2007 (A Thursday Evening): Seder Meal**, Nancy deClassie-Walford, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA.

## STUDENT SCENE...

Anne Lamott says that sometimes the most powerful sermon we can preach is to simply say, "me too." Dr. Claypool would often say something similar, "We are all running scared...none of us has gotten life right up to this point...we are fellow strugglers on the journey." Whew!! I was talking to a friend the other day and he suggested that maybe what we need more in our dark spaces is not so much strength to hold back the shadows or power to force our way through. Maybe what we need is gentleness. Gentleness...whose companion is humility and whose way is honesty. That seems so counter to the world. Isn't that where the church is supposed to be?

We are quickly moving toward the Season of Lent. During these weeks, we will be spending our times together focusing on some practical ways to cultivate our spiritual growth. I encourage you to be a part of this special time together.

Our Family Group schedule will make a permanent change this Sunday, February 18th. Ninth and Tenth grade family group will now meet every week at the church in the youth area from 5:00-5:45. We will have a snack supper from 5:45-6:15 with the 11th and 12th grade family group, and then the 11th and 12th graders will have their family group from 6:15-7:00 p.m. (the 9th and 10th are free to leave at 6:15). Our program for our middle school students will remain on Wednesday nights for now.

Our Disciple Now weekend was incredible! Thank you to our college students who served as leaders, and thanks to our youth who committed to be a part of this life-changing weekend. I am so proud of you!

Blessings to you,  
Matt

## MISSIONS

### FBC HOST WEEK for Interfaith Hospitality Network is March 4-11

Please sign up on the board in the main hall. For providing meals, contact Joyce Gravely. Thank you!

### IHNA WISH LIST

Every Host Congregation is given the Day Center wish list once a year. February is FBC's month. The Wish List Tree will be located in the Fanning Foyer. Please select an item from the tree and return it either directly to the Day Center located in the Hancock House or put it in the FBC Missions room. Thank you for your generosity!

### Doing Missions in Our Community FEBRUARY

**Athens Area Food Bank: February 27-28**  
Senior Adult Committees

**March 13-14: Covenant Class**

**Soup Kitchen: February: Joe Callaway Class**  
**March: Deacons**

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

### Co-Deacons for the weeks of:

**February 18-February 24:** Phil Branyon, Marcia Caskey  
**February 25-March 3:** Janey Cooley, Steve Barton

### Fellowship Team

**February:** Eric Line, Helen Mills, Carl Monk, Robin O'Rear  
**March:** Shaun O'Rear, Carol Rayburn, LaReece Reynolds, Sherman Reynolds

### THE EVENTS BOX

2/18	First Worship	9:00
2/18	Classic Worship	11:00
2/18	Focus Group - Session 1	12:00
2/18	Stephen Ministry Training	3:30
2/18	Focus Group - Session 2	4:00
2/18	Focus Group - Session 3	5:00
2/18	9th & 10th Grade Family Group	5:00
2/18	Community Ministries	5:30
2/18	High School Snack Supper	5:45
2/18	11th & 12th Grade Family Group	6:15
2/19	Sr. Adult Committee	2:00
2/20	Visitation Committee	5:30
2/21	Personnel Committee	5:30
2/21	Ash Wednesday Services	6:00
2/21	Children's Choirs	6:45
2/21	Flower Committee	7:00
2/21	Associate Deacons	7:15
2/21	Deacons' Meeting	7:30
2/22	Lenten Services at Emmanuel	12:00
2/22	Creative Arts	5:30
2/22	IHNA Board Meeting & Potluck Dinner	6:00
2/25	First Worship	9:00
2/25	Classic Worship	11:00
2/25	Athens Symphony Chorus Rehearsal	2:30
2/25	New Member Orientation	4:30
2/25	Stephen Ministry Supervision	5:30
2/28	Wednesday Evening Activities	5:00

### Ministers

<b>Bill Ross</b> Senior Minister	<b>Frank Granger</b> Minister of Education	<b>Bailey Nelson</b> Minister of Children
<b>Randy Brittain</b> Minister of Music	<b>Matt DuVall</b> Minister of Youth/Young Adults	<b>Jon Appleton</b> Pastor Emeritus
<b>Anne Brittain</b> Organist/Music Associate	<a href="http://www.firstbaptistathens.org">www.firstbaptistathens.org</a>	

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# The Lenten Worship Schedule

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Robert Salamone, Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
*The Word of Encounter*  
John 5:1-18

### — MARCH 1 —

Bill Ross, First Baptist Church  
*The Word of Humility*  
Luke 18:9-14

### — MARCH 8 —

Patrick Chandler, First Christian Church  
*The Word of Conversion*  
Luke 15:11-32

### — MARCH 15 —

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*The Word of Forgiveness*  
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### — MARCH 22 —

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Richard Washington,  
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Matthew 25:31-46

HOSTED BY  
**EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**First Baptist News**  
ATHENS, GEORGIA