

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABC's of FBC

Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall



Charlotte Marshall
will present the history of
First Baptist Church.

Everyone is invited and a
snack supper will be provided.

Let the office know if you need childcare.

Aunt Orlene is Coming April 1

On Wednesday, April 1, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, there will be a presentation of "They Call Me Aunt Orlene," a one-woman show written and performed by actress Phyllis Stump. The play is about the life of southwest Virginia midwife Orlene Puckett, well-known as a local legend, who died in 1939 at the age of 102. She delivered over 1,000 babies without ever losing a baby or a mother—quite an accomplishment in those days.

There is no charge for admission to this special event; this is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to FBC. Supper will be served at the regular time; if you do not have a standing reservation, please contact the church office by noon on Monday, March 30 to reserve your meal. The usual charge of Wednesday night supper applies.

Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the new policy for selecting a Senior Minister Search Committee, all resident church members have been mailed a nomination form to be used for submitting three nominations for consideration by the Special Nominating Committee (SNC). Nominations must be received no later than Sunday, March 8th in order to be considered. The Deacons have appointed Mike Lacy and Jimmy Thomason to work with Evelyn Martin, Charlie Hooper, and Alan Reddish on the SNC to develop a recommended Senior Minister Search Committee based upon your nominations. A report to the Deacons and the church membership will be made by the SNC upon completion of its work. I hope you will give prayerful consideration to this important decision.

Alan Reddish
Deacon Chair

Lenten Services

We were informed that there will be no community Lenten services this year among the downtown churches. It is anticipated that the services will be resumed in 2010. (Note: FBC hosted the services last year.)

What's for Supper

MARCH 4

HOT MEAL: Turkey and Gravy, Rice or Dressing, Broccoli, Fruit, Rolls, Dessert

CHILDREN: Pizza, Salad, Dessert

SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Chili

MARCH 11

HOT MEAL: Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Salad, Biscuit, Dessert

CHILDREN: Hot Meal

SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Vegetable Soup

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The FBC family welcomes its newest member, **Michael Richardson, Jr.** Michael comes to us by profession of faith requesting baptism. He is the son of Diana Richardson and the grandson of Frank and Joyce McHan.

SYMPATHY

✠ We extend our Christian love and support to **Sherry and Harriett Lester and Cindy and Eric Hooper** in the loss of Sherry's aunt and Cindy's great-aunt, FBC member **Mary Betts**, who passed away on February 18, 2009.

The church extends their love and support to the family of **Evelyn Carlton**. Evelyn passed away on February 21, 2009.

We extend our love and support to **Ralph Johnson** in the loss of his brother, Henry McNeal Johnson, who passed away on February 23.

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 for more info.

Extended Nursery Schedule

March 1 Lastinger Whitford

Children's Church Schedule 11:00 Worship

March 1, 22, 29

2009 Children's Ministry Calendar

March 7 & 8 Choir Festival Weekend with Greenville FBC
March 1, 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

Reflections

Dr. Ron Higdon

On Wednesday, February 18, we began distributing the "Pastoral Leadership Expectations Survey." The survey MUST be returned no later than March 22. This survey is available through the church office on Wednesdays and Sundays, and will be mailed to anyone who is unable to personally pick up one. (Simply call the church office and request that one be sent for each member of your household.) We will discuss the results of the survey on March 25, and the results of the survey and our discussion will be relayed to the Senior Minister Search Committee.

Two words that are behind much of the disappointment that exists between congregations and their ministers are "assumptions" and "expectations." Too many persons assume that every minister has the same concept of the role and mission of the church that they do; they assume that "one pattern fits all," and it is usually the pattern they grew up with. The problem with many expectations of ministers is that they are either not openly expressed or they are unrealistic. Our goal is to use this portion of our self-study to avoid much of that disappointment.

Even if you have not attended any of the other sessions, I urge you to do everything possible to attend the final sessions. We will be discussing openly, matters you have never heard discussed before. We will be attempting to get all congregational expectations into written form so that the new minister is fully aware of at least 90% of what is expected. (We probably can't do better than that.) The work of the Senior Minister Search Committee will be so much easier when they have in written form what the congregation is looking for in a new minister.

On March 11, I will be doing a presentation on *Our Baptist Traditions*, but will also distribute a written response from the Transition Team to some of the continuing concerns that were expressed in one of our sessions some weeks ago. That session dealt with matters some felt we had not fully addressed and needed to resolve before a new minister arrives.

On March 18, we will discuss Hardy Clemons' *Twelve Suggestions for Welcoming Your New Pastor*. On March 25, we will discuss the results of the Pastoral Leadership Expectations Survey, and I will do a presentation on what I call *Ministry Myths*. (I could just as easily call it "Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!", but I decided against doing that.) On April 15, I will do a presentation and lead a discussion on *My Suggestions for Some Things to Keep in Mind as a New Pastor Begins His Ministry at FBC*.

Thank you again for the excellent level of participation in all of our sessions to date. I believe we will even surpass that level for our upcoming sessions.

Sermon Schedule

March 1: *If the Lord Is With Us, Why Has All This Happened?*
Judges 6:12-16a

March 8: *Belief and Unbelief Go Together*
Mark 9:19-24; John 20:24-31

A MUSICAL NOTE...

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL AT FBC ATHENS

The Joyful Singers will combine with the children's choir of FBC Greenville, SC, for a weekend festival March 7-8 at FBC Athens. I am grateful to our Children's Choir Coordinator, Teresa Granger, and Jill Fuson of FBC Greenville for planning this excellent musical event for our children. The combined choirs will sing in our 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, March 8.

FURMAN SINGERS IN CONCERT Friday, March 13

The Furman Singers, directed by Dr. Bing Vick, will be in concert at FBC Athens on Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. This 80-voice choir has consistently been one of the finest collegiate choirs in the nation. The concert is free and open to the public. Please invite your friends and plan to attend.

COLLEGE CORNER

Midweek Mocha!!!

Who: College Students and Their Friends!

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

When: 9:00 p.m.-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 a.m.-10:55 a.m. Sundays

Where: College Sunday School Room on the Third Floor

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT

Weekly Needs:	\$22,256.25
Received week of February 15	\$14,230.12
Received week of February 22	\$10,993.93

Year to date January 31, 2009

Needed:	\$96,443.75
Received:	\$69,266.06
Expenses:	\$82,057.81
Balance:	(\$12,791.75)

ATTENDANCE

February 15	February 22
9:00 a.m. Worship - 45	9:00 a.m. Worship - 54
11:00 a.m. Worship - 218	11:00 a.m. Worship - 291



BEING A DISCIPLE

*Learning Sessions for Children and Parents
For Grades 4-6
March 20 & 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**
Sunday Evenings, Beginning March 1
5:00-6:15 p.m.

A LADIES' LENTEN JOURNEY
Hosted by Paula Hooper
Sundays, 5:00-6:15 p.m., Room E-111
March 1-April 5

Beginning March 1 and continuing the following five Sunday evenings, 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. Let this Lenten journey be your time of reflection and joy as we learn together. Weather permitting, we will enjoy a spring evening for at least two of our sessions in the prayer garden.

What to bring? 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. Hope to see you there! Call the church office to sign up, or online at www.firstbaptistathens.org.

MOVIE NIGHT AT FBC
The Chronicles of Narnia
"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe"
Sunday, March 1
Showing at 5:00 p.m.
Movie Room - Third Floor

Join us for this viewing of the BBC version of C. S. Lewis' classic tale from the *Chronicles of Narnia*. This non-animated version holds closely to the story as written by Lewis. For those of you who attended the C. S. Lewis weekend, this is the movie Perry Bramlett introduced to us.

Join us!

Adult Sunday School News

The Young Couples' Class
Now Meeting in Room E-112/113
BEGINS SERIES:
GOSPEL PORTRAITS OF JESUS
Led by Frank Granger

We invite our young couples and young adults to join us beginning Sunday, March 1, at 9:45 a.m. The sessions will focus on the different names used of Jesus and by Jesus himself. The schedule is as follows:

- **March 1:** *Jesus is the name given to the one who would be born of Mary*
- **March 8:** *Jesus is called Rabbi, Teacher, and Master*
- **March 15:** *Jesus as Bread of Life, Light of the World, Good Shepherd, and True Vine*
- **March 22:** *Messiah or Christ, a title used in Gospels and other New Testament writings*
- **March 29:** *Son of David and Son of God: and, Son of Man*
- **April 5:** *"I am the Resurrection and the Life" and "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"*

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

March 1-7
Joyce Gravely
Wanda Grogan

March 8-14
Daniel Haygood
Al Henderson

Fellowship Committee Schedule

March:
Pam Bickley
Greg Bickley
Steve Barton
Buddy Barfield

SPANISH CLASS

Monday Evenings
March 30-May 4
6:30-8:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Periodicals
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FIRST BAPTIST NEWS
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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	Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate
Hannah Marshall Interim Minister of Youth and Young Adult College Students	Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus
www.firstbaptistathens.org	

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Concert

Friday, March 13
7:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church Sanctuary

Admission is Free and Open to the Public

FEATURING
Choral Music from America and Europe
American Spirituals
Folksongs
Choral Works by
Samuel Barber, Maurice Duruflé
Edwin Fissinger, Francis Poulenc
Randall Thompson
Love Songs and Humorous Settings
Barbershop Quartets

The Furman Singers, recognized as one of America's premier collegiate choirs, has performed with the Boston Pops, for two national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, and many Southern Division conventions.

They have been invited to perform for inaugurations of three governors of South Carolina.

First Baptist News
ATHENS, GEORGIA

YOUTH HAPPENINGS...

Dear First Baptist Family,

Every artist is inspired by different material. Some are immensely inspired by the wilderness, some by interiors, and others by mechanical objects. The same is true for people who don't consider themselves artists—we all receive energy from different things. Some are energized by people and others by being alone. Some are energized by cleaning the house, others by going out for coffee.

Last night, as I observed the youth during our game night, their energy filled up my waning tank, as it so often does. Sometimes it's their spontaneous desire to dance or wrestle with each other their bodies are full of so much energy. At other times, I am inspired by their growth in relationships which they show with good decisions to love their friends well. Teenage energy is infectious and life-giving. These qualities make teenagers a non-negotiable asset to every church family. Teenagers are a non-negotiable asset to THIS church family.

As your hearts smile when you see children bring the Word of God and the Christ-light into the sanctuary every Sunday morning, think of how you can give back to your children, for they are part of your family. When your heart awakens at the pure sound of the Youth Choir voices, reflect on the seeds you can plant in the fertile soil of their hearts with your time, words, and focus. Thank you to those of you who already give so much to the youth ministry of FBC!

Love,
Hannah

*"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*

Youth Ministry Stuff You Need to Know!

Upcoming Sunday Night Youth Activities:

Sunday, March 1, 2009 (following Youth Choir)

- Youth group hosts the KAREN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS for an intergenerational game night (adults, please let Hannah know if you are able to attend).
- Please remember to bring \$2 for food if you eat dinner.

Sunday, March 8, 2009: Culture Talk #4...the way we feel (final night in the culture series following youth choir)

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

Sign Up Staff:

March Mission Madness 2009

When: March 27-29, 2009

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

What: MMM is a CBF-sponsored annual youth event for other CBF youth groups in Georgia. Students travel to a host church (this year MABC), worship together, do mission projects together on Saturday, and have a great time getting to know new people.

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 me if you are willing to serve. 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 me with questions.

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

What: Passport Choices is a youth camp that allows students to choose what their daily activities will be. They get to choose between mission work, faith in the arts, body image workshops, recreation ministry, and many more. This is an opportunity that EVERY student should have a chance to experience during the course of their youth group years! Check your calendars now for this formative opportunity in the life of your student(s)!

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 04/01/09!

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, 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!

MISSIONS MOMENTS

Still Collecting BINGO Prizes!!

The Council on Aging thanks you for your gracious response to the request for small BINGO prizes. However, the need continues and so we are still collecting these items. Nothing expensive...just a little something for the winner, like a pocket size Kleenex, a pen, note pad, roll of mints, individual package of candy or gum, etc. Please bring to the Missions Room and place in the box marked "Bingo Items for Council on Aging." Questions? Call Lois Gibbs at 706-369-7672. Thank you

ENTRÉE OF HOPE

On April 28, "Entrée of Hope" benefiting The Ark will be held at various restaurants across the community. This annual event features restaurants donating 10 percent of their proceeds from that day to The Ark, so all you have to do is go eat at one of the participating restaurants! More information will be available as the date grows near, but be sure to mark both dates on your calendar!

IHN CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In difficult economic times like these, we expect our IHN program to be a critical component in the total Athens community effort to serve the homeless population. Our current IHN budget restraints limit our paid staff to one, thus making our volunteers especially critical to our program. Therefore, we are actively recruiting new volunteers and updating our old database of volunteers.

We ask that you take a moment to review the following list and determine if you might be able to help us on a regular or periodic basis and call or email Marcia Caskey (706-369-8474 or pcaskey235@charter.net) or Lynn Gatchell (706-549-8777 or gatchell1@charter.net) with this information. To paraphrase an old Persian proverb: "The darker the night, the more the stars shine." Be a star and give us a call.

Current needs:

- Day Center office volunteers (AM and PM)
- Day Center office opener (7:30-9:00 AM)
- Day Center van driver volunteers (AM and PM)
- Special office project volunteers (Ex. newsletters and special mailings)
- Events (planning and staging)
- Grant writing
- Day Center upkeep (cleaning and maintenance)
- Van maintenance coordinator
- Donations pick up (truck usually needed)

Our thanks,
Marcia Caskey and Lynn Gatchell
Co-chairs, Volunteer coordination

Doing Missions in Our Community

Food Bank

March 10, 11 and 24, 25 - Covenant Class

Our Daily Bread

Thursday, March 12 - Deacons

EVENTS BOX—March 1-14

3/1	IHNA Host Week Ends	
3/1	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
3/1	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
3/1	Worship Service - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
3/1	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/1	Movie and Discussion - Movie Room <i>Chronicles of Narnia - The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> - Movie Room	5:00 PM
3/1	Lenten Scripture & Reflection Study- Led by Paula Hooper - E-111	5:00 PM
3/1	Youth Choir - F-316	5:15 PM
3/1	Youth Game Night with Karen Sunday School Class	6:00-7:30 PM
3/1	Adult Handbells - Handbell Room	6:15 PM
3/3	Boy Scout Court of Honor - Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
3/4	Property Management Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	5:15 PM
3/4	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
3/4	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
3/4	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
3/4	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
3/4	Ad Hoc Task Force on Committee Structure Discussion - Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
3/4	Youth Wednesday Activities- Self-Study in the Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
3/4	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
3/7	Children's Choir with FBC Greenville- Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary	4:00 PM
3/8	Daylight Saving Time Begins	
3/8	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
3/8	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
3/8	Worship Service - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
3/8	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/8	Lenten Scripture & Reflection Study- Led by Paula Hooper - E-111	5:00 PM
3/8	Youth Choir - F-316	5:15 PM
3/8	Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:30 PM
3/8	Adult Handbells - Handbell Room	6:15 PM
3/9	AIM Board Meeting - Fellowship Hall	10:00 AM
3/9	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Noon
3/9	Senior Adult Committee Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	2:00 PM
3/9	Deacons' Meeting - Fellowship Hall	6:30 PM
3/10	Missions Committee Meeting - E112/113	5:30 PM
3/10	Explorer Scouts - Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
3/10	Boy Scout Troop 22 Meeting - Youth Area	7:30 PM
3/11	Finance Committee Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	5:15 PM
3/11	Wednesday Night Activities	5:00 PM
3/11	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00-6:00 PM
3/11	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45-6:00 PM
3/11	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
3/11	Youth Wednesday Activities- Self-Study in the Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:00 PM
3/11	Adult Studies - <i>Adventures in the Life of Faith</i> : Led by Ron Higdon, Baptist Traditions	6:00 PM
3/11	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	7:00-8:15 PM
3/11	Transition Team - Pastor's Office	7:15 PM
3/13	Furman Singers Concert - Sanctuary	7:30 PM