

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will not have a 9:00 a.m. Worship Service on Easter, March 23. There will be a combined service at 11:00 a.m.

### INVITATION

Shelby Lacy is retiring! She has had an incredible nursing career (47 years as an RN and 40 years at ARMC). Several of her colleague friends are hosting a reception. They would like to invite the FBC congregation to the reception.

You are invited to the

**“Career Celebration” of Shelby Lacy**

Sunday, March 30  
1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

The Bentley Center at Athens Community Council on Aging

Hosted by Colleague Friends

Please bring a card to share your sentiments and wishes for Shelby

In lieu of gifts, please make donations to

The Athens Nurses Clinic or Athens Regional Foundation

### HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS FOR HOLY WEEK

The Flower Committee is offering an opportunity to remember loved ones during Holy Week. Your \$15 donation will be used to purchase Easter lilies and greenery to decorate the sanctuary. Please submit this completed form and your donation to the church office by the Monday, March 17 deadline. To ensure accuracy, we ask that all requests be made in writing on the form. Additional forms may be obtained in the church office and foyer. On Sunday, March 23, an insert with the names of those being honored will be in the worship bulletin.

Donor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In **Memory** of: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

In **Memory** of: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

In **Honor** of: (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

In **Honor** of (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call Suzy in the church office, 548-1359

**SPANISH CLASS**  
Mondays, March 10-April 21  
7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Taught by Andy Ullrich**  
**Beginners Welcome!**

#### WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

##### March 20, Maundy Thursday

**Hot Meal:** Roast Beef, Rice and Gravy, Butter Beans, Apple Salad, Rolls, Dessert  
**Children:** Domino's Pizza, Salad, Dessert  
**Salad Bar:** Baked Potato, Broccoli-Cheese Soup

##### March 26

**Hot Meal:** Oven Fried Pork Chops, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Biscuit, Dessert  
**Children:** Domino's Pizza, Salad, Dessert  
**Salad Bar:** Baked Potato, Chili

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### SYMPATHY



We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Jon and Dana Ambrose** and family, in the loss of Jon's sister-in-law of Knoxville, TN.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Wayne and Mimi Dill** in the loss of Wayne's brother, LTC (R) Harold E. Dill of Summerville, SC, who passed away on February 24. He was inurned with full military honors at the Punch Bowl Cemetery in Hawaii.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of **Elbert Andrew Stapleton**. Elbert passed away on Saturday, March 8. Elbert had been a member of First Baptist for 26 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Burns Stapleton.

### A MUSICAL NOTE...

#### Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship

Many committees are hard at work behind the scenes on *Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship*, and we will have an opportunity to see the progress of this new worship resource for Baptists up close on Wednesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. Mark Edwards, the full-time Worship Resource Manager of the new hymnal, will be with us to talk in-depth about the hymnal and give us some visual examples of the printed page through a video presentation. You will not want to miss this exciting evening.

The new hymnal, a joint project of the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Church Music and Mercer University Press, will be broad in scope and supportive of the best of Baptist patterns of worship. It is scheduled for release in January 2010, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Baptists. I continue to serve on the Product Promotions and Publicity Committee. I hope you will make an effort to be here for this exciting presentation.

Blessings,  
Randy

## Reflections

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have already received a letter asking for your participation in the selection of the Transition Team. The Transition Team is one of the key components to the Intentional Interim Ministry process; it may well be the single most important element.

As you think about persons you want to recommend for the Transition Team, here are some of the qualities necessary for the person you suggest:

- Trusted
- Respected
- Prayerful
- Spiritually wise
- Regular attendee
- Regular contributor
- Able to speak for groups within the church—not representatives, but representative
- Willing to listen to all perspectives

I will be working with this team to guide our self-study. Some of the objectives of the Transition Team include:

- Customizing the Intentional Interim Ministry process, tasks, and activities to fit the congregational needs of FBC;
- Leading the interim process, while other church leaders continue their ongoing leadership functions;
- Recommending to the church the time to begin the formation of a Pastor Search Committee.

It is most important that the Transition Team be representative of the entire congregation. Because the team is usually composed of ten to twelve members, it is not possible to include many qualified persons who would simply duplicate a group already represented.

In addition to this *Reflections* column in our newsletter, on certain Sundays I will be giving a very brief “Interim Words” presentation during morning worship. One of our major goals is to keep the channels of communication open so that you understand fully not only what we are doing, but why we are doing it. Please be assured that your comments, observations, and suggestions will always be welcomed.

Two things are essential to this interim process. Your faithfulness both in attendance and financial support cannot be overly stressed. This is the time to put forth that extra effort that will make this interim a time of strengthening and growth. We want visitors to see a congregation so alive and vital that they will not want to wait to join until an installed pastor comes. And, of course, if they join now, they will be able to participate in the process of selecting the new pastor!

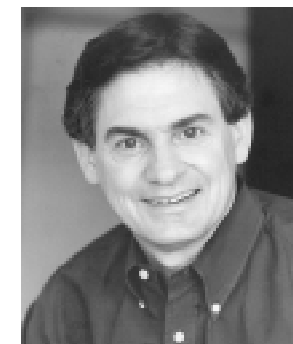
The second essential to this process is your prayers. Your daily prayers for the staff, persons in leadership roles, and the entire membership of this congregation will make all the difference in how this process develops.

I thank you in advance for all you will do to make this interim experience one of the truly productive times in the life of FBC.

Ron Higdon

### Sermon Schedule

March 16: The Triumph of What? - Mark 11:7-10; I Corinthians 1:18; Romans 2:4  
March 23: Resurrection Is a Bigger Word Than We Can Imagine - I Corinthians 15:1, 3-6, 20-22, 57-58



**A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

**Presented by Al Staggs**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2008,**  
**6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

**7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**  
**Coffee and Conversation**  
**with Al Staggs**

This one-person play adapted and performed by Al Staggs brings the life of one of the great heroes of the twentieth century to the stage. The audience is brought into the prison cell where Bonhoeffer awaits execution and listens to his struggles with evil, injustice, and God.

In the play, Bonhoeffer tells of the profound influence of fellow Union Theological student Frank Fisher, an African-American friend who introduced Dietrich to the blight of racism in America.

Prisoner Bonhoeffer expresses moral outrage against the Nazi treatment of Jews and explains how that outrage led him to become involved in the German resistance movement, a commitment that would result in his being executed by hanging on April 9, 1945.

### Additional Information on Al Staggs

Al Staggs holds a B.A. from Hardin-Simmons University, an M.R.E. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from Harvard Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He also completed a year internship in Clinical Pastoral Education at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

In the spring of 1983, he was honored as a Charles E. Merrill Fellow at Harvard, with major emphasis in Applied Theology under the direction of Harvey Cox.

Al, an ordained Baptist minister, served as a minister and hospital chaplain prior to becoming a full-time performing artist.

## STUDENT SCENE...

### 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

**Adult Continuing Christian Education**  
**Wednesday Evening Colloquium**  
**Spring 2008**  
**6:00-7:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall**

**March 26, 2008: Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship**, Mark Edwards, Worship Resource Manager for *Celebrating Grace, A New Hymnal for Baptists*, Nashville, TN

**April 02, 2008: Jesus or the Church: People Shouldn't Have to Choose**, Lisa Caine, *Pastor*, Oconee Street United Methodist Church, Athens, GA

**April 09, 2008: Plants of the Bible**, Douglas Bailey, Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**April 16, 2008: Morning Star: Our Ministry with Children and Families**, Renee Bennett, Director, Morningstar Family Based Services, Macon, GA

**April 23, 2008: The Book of Job**, Nancy deClaisse-Walford, Associate Professor of Old Testament and Biblical Languages, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

**April 30, 2008: Women to the World**, Doris Aldrich, Founder/President, Women to the World, Athens, GA

**MISSIONS MOMENT**

**THANK YOU!!**

The Youth Support Committee and the Disciples Sunday School Class send a huge **THANK YOU** to the entire FBC family for supporting our recent Yard Sale and Bake Sale. We raised about \$4,600.00 that will help finance various upcoming missions projects!! A big thanks to everyone who helped in so many ways: providing baked goods (and they were delicious) or items for the yard sale; bringing lunch to the workers; helping organize and price items for the sale; acting as cashiers or "movers" on the day of the sale. All help was most appreciated! All money raised will go to good causes as we minister here in Athens and around the world. Again, "THANK YOU!!!"

**GLOBAL MISSION OFFERING FOR COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**

**HAVE YOU TAKEN THE CHALLENGE?**

If you contributed this past week, thank you!!!! We now have \$9,986 toward our goal of \$13,000. We're climbing up some but have quite a ways to go yet. Please consider giving to this important offering soon.

**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.

**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. We want 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 toothpaste, 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**  
**March / April 2008**

<b>Food Bank</b>	March 25-26 April 8-9 April 22-23	Covenant Class Disciples Class Disciples Class
<b>Our Daily Bread</b>	April 10 May 8	Disciples Class Karen Class

Periodicals  
**POSTAGE PAID**  
 Athens, Ga. 30601

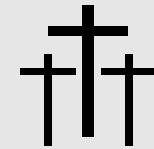
**FIRST BAPTIST NEWS**  
 (USPS 193-040)  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 355 Pulaski Street  
 Athens, Georgia 30601-2860  
 706-548-1359

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Ron Higdon</b> Interim Pastor	<b>Randy Brittain</b> Minister of Music
	<b>Valerie Hardy</b> Minister of Children	<b>Matt DuVall</b> Minister of Youth/Young Adults
	<b>Anne Brittain</b> Organist/Music Associate	<b>Jon Appleton</b> Pastor Emeritus
	<a href="http://www.firstbaptistathens.org">www.firstbaptistathens.org</a>	

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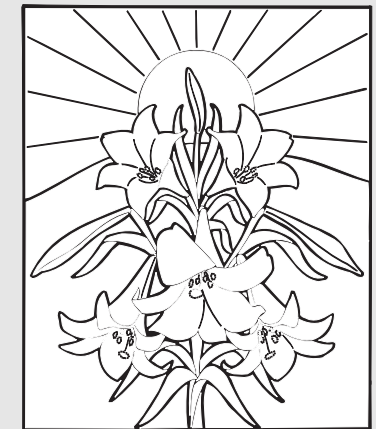
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**March 20, 2008**

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

**Service at 6:00 p.m.**  
**in the Sanctuary**  
**Drama and Silent Communion**

***A View from the Underside:***  
***The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer***  
***A One-Person Play Adapted and Performed***  
***by Al Staggs***

**Coffee and Conversation with Al Staggs**  
**at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**



**EASTER SERVICES**  
**March 23, 2008**

**9:45** Sunday School  
**11:00** Combined Worship

## FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

<b>Weekly Needs:</b>	<b>\$22,569.69</b>
Received week of March 2	\$23,840.08
Received week of March 9	\$18,046.06

### PLEDGE UPDATE

We have received pledges through March 11, 2008 as follows:  
 \$728,794.62 by 150 Family Units Giving  
 62.10% of the 2008 Budget  
 Please remember to turn in your pledge cards.

### ATTENDANCE

<b>March 2</b>	9:00 Worship - 80	11:00 Worship - 206
<b>March 9</b>	9:00 Worship - 35	11:00 Worship - 200

### First Baptist Church of Athens Foundation, Inc. Financial Statement December 31, 2007 First Quarter

<b>Benevolent Funds:</b>	
Beginning Funds October 1, 2007	\$228,552.47
Contributions:	25.00
Interest Received:	2,249.11
Disbursements:	5,000.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2007	<b>\$225,826.58</b>

<b>Building &amp; Improvement Funds:</b>	
Beginning Balance October 1, 2007	\$ 30,929.36
Contributions:	0.00
Interest Received:	347.67
Disbursements:	0.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2007	<b>\$ 31,277.03</b>

<b>Memorials/Other Restricted Funds:</b>	
Beginning Balance October 1, 2007	\$496,258.38
Interest Received:	2,180.73
Dividend Income:	5,780.08
Income:	83,000.00
Disbursements:	3,486.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2007	<b>\$583,733.19</b>

<b>Other Assets</b>	<b>\$840,836.80</b>
<b>Three (3) Burial Plots -          Evergreen Memorial Park</b>	<b>4,185.00</b>

**TOTAL FOUNDATION FUNDS 12-31-07** **\$845,021.80**

Contributions were made in honor/appreciation of or in memory of the following individuals during the first quarter (Oct-Dec 2007):

Rachel Harris

### EVENTS BOX

March 16-29

3/16	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
3/16	<b>First Worship Service-Fellowship Hall</b>	9:00 AM
3/16	<b>Sunday School and Bible Study</b>	9:45 AM
3/16	<b>Classic Worship Service- Sanctuary</b>	11:00 AM
3/16	Egg Hunt and Family Luncheon	12:00 Noon
3/16	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/16	Women's Bible Study-E111	5:30 PM
3/16	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
3/16	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:00 PM
3/16	Active Parenting of Teens-E108/109	6:30 PM
3/17	55+ Committee-Farrall Conference Room	2:00 PM
3/17	Student Support Committee-Farrall Conference Room	5:30 PM
3/17	Spanish Class-Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
3/18	55+ Welcome Breakfast for the Higdon's	9:30 AM
3/18	Circle 5-Disciples' Class	10:30 AM
3/18	Virginia Appleton-Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
3/19	First Cup-Preschool Area	8:30 AM
3/19	Personnel Meeting-Farrall Conference Room	5:30 PM
3/20	<b>Maundy Thursday-Sanctuary</b>	6:00 PM
	<i>A View from the Underside: The Legend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer</i> , Al Staggs, Actor/Writer/Artist, Santa Fe, NM	
3/20	Sanctuary Choir	7:00 - 8:15 PM
3/21	Nominating Committee-Farrall Conference Room	11:00 AM
3/23	<b>Easter Sunday</b>	
3/23	<b>Sunday School and Bible Study</b>	9:45 AM
3/23	<b>Combined Worship Service-Sanctuary</b>	11:00 AM
3/23	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/24	Church Office Closed All Day	
3/25	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Noon
3/25	MEF Circle-Gloria Branyon's Home	10:30 AM
3/26	Deacon Ballot Counting Committee-Disciples Room	5:00 PM
3/26	Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall	5:00 - 6:00 PM
3/26	Prayer Focus and Devotion	5:45 - 6:00 PM
3/26	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
3/26	Schedule for Youth	6:00 - 7:15 PM
	Youth Activities - Youth Area	6:00 PM
3/26	Adult Continuing Education - Fellowship Hall	6:00 - 7:00 PM
	<b>Celebrating Grace: Hymnal for Baptist Worship</b> Mark Edwards, Worship Resource Manager, Nashville, TN	
3/26	Sanctuary Choir	7:00 - 8:15 PM
3/26	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
3/27	IHNA Board Meeting-Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
3/28	Nominating Committee-Farrall Conference Room	11:00 AM

## KID'S CORNER



**PALM SUNDAY,  
 March 16,  
 is a SPECIAL day  
 for FBC's  
 Children's Ministry!**

All Children's Choirs will sing in the 11 o'clock worship service.

Following worship, the annual Egg Hunt will take place. Please gather in the preschool hallway—and **remember to bring your basket!**

Lunch will follow in Fellowship Hall for all children (babies through grade 5) and their families. The church will provide the drinks and chicken. Each family is asked to **bring a side dish** (either a vegetable, salad, or dessert) large enough to feed your family and several others.

**Wednesday Night of Holy Week:** There will be no choirs or missions groups on March 19. Children and their families are encouraged to come for supper and a special service which follows on Maundy Thursday, March 20.

**Easter Sunday:** Our children will remain in the combined morning service to celebrate with the congregation the resurrection of Christ.

**Children's Sunday, May 4:** Our children will lead in worship through singing, praying, and speaking on this annual day when we, as a congregation, focus on the moving of God's Spirit within and among our youngest members. The theme for worship will be "My Family, Our Church."

**Vacation Bible School** is June 2-5. This year's VBS will be held in the mornings. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact our director, Molli Scarborough.

**PASSPORTkids!** The absolute final deadline to pay the \$50 deposit to reserve your child's space for this fantastic children's camp is April 1. Camp is July 17-20, and children currently in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate. Please call the church office if you have questions.

Valerie Hardy

### Children's Ministry Calendar

<b>March 16</b>	Palm Sunday/Children's Choirs Sing Egg Hunt and Family Lunch, 12:00 Noon
<b>March 19</b>	First Cup with Live Oak Morning School, 8:30 a.m.
<b>March 30</b>	Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship
<b>April 6, 13 &amp; 20</b>	Children's Church, 11:00 a.m. Worship
<b>May 4</b>	Children's Worship Service—Choirs Singing
<b>May 7</b>	Last Wednesday Night for choir and missions
<b>June 2-5</b>	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
<b>July 17-20</b>	Passportkids Camp (3rd-6th graders), Crossville, TN

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

### Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

March 16-22	David Kopp	Mike Lacy
March 23-29	Shelby Lacy	Eric Line
March 30-April 5	Helen Mills	Bobbie Monk

### Fellowship Team for March

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

### Fellowship Team for April

Alan Reddish, Sherman Reynolds,  
 Kim Rogers, Wayne Rogers

## 55+

### Reminder.....

#### 55+ Welcome Breakfast for Dr. Ron Higdon and Family

Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

### 55+ DAY IN ATLANTA

Reminder: If you signed up for the First Baptist Church Day in Atlanta to tour Chick-Fil-A, New World of Coke, and dinner at Blue Willow Inn, and have not paid the \$65, please do so by March 24, 2008. We will mail out the itinerary to each couple or individual the first of April.