

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who participated in Operation InAsMuch this year. We had another great event. It would not have been possible without the hard work and support of all the participants who volunteered. Thanks again!

Marla VanDyck

### REMINDER

Don't forget to return your Transition Team nomination letter to the church by Sunday, March 30. Thank you for your participation in this important step in the Intentional Interim Ministry process.

### SPANISH CLASS

**Mondays, March 31-May 5**

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

**Taught by Andy Ullrich  
Beginners Welcome!**

### WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

#### April 2

**Hot Meal:** Chicken Fingers, Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli Spears, Jello and Fruit, Breadsticks, and Dessert

**Children:** Hot Meal  
**Salad Bar:** Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

#### April 9

**Hot Meal:** Barbecue, Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Cup, and Dessert

**Children:** Domino's Pizza, Salad, Dessert  
**Salad Bar:** Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings

### A SPECIAL THANKS

Dear FBC,

March 9, 2008 will always stand out in my memory as a very special time for me. Thanks to Buddy Snow for the very kind words and to the congregation for the beautiful flowers, standing ovation, reception, and the generous monetary gift. I was absolutely speechless. The kind words you spoke to me at the reception made me realize how meaningful all my years at FBC truly were. Thanks to the Deacons, Personnel and Finance Committees, as well as the congregation, for always being supportive of me, and to my co-workers through the years, a very special thank you. I miss you all very, very much, but plan to enjoy retirement. My family and I love and appreciate FBC, Athens.

Arlene Wood

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS

**Linda Leathers Walker** joined First Baptist Church on March 16, 2008 by transfer of letter from Sandersville First Baptist Church in Sandersville, GA. **Welcome Linda!**

**Hannah and Kate Rissanen** joined First Baptist Church on March 16, 2008 by profession of faith requesting baptism. **Hannah and Kate** are the daughters of **Jim and Shelly Edwards** and the granddaughters of **J. Don and Clara Edwards**. **Welcome Hannah and Kate!**



### SYMPATHY

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Randy and Carol Williams** and their family in the recent loss of Randy's mother of Cordele, GA.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **George and Charlotte Marshall** and their family in the recent loss of George's sister, Marianne Flaherty.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Lyn and Andrew Hill** and to their children, **Jacquelyn Thompson and Drew Hill**, in the recent loss of Lyn's father, Bill Landrum of Millen, GA.

## OUR CHURCH AT WORK

### Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

March 30-April 5	Helen Mills	Bobbie Monk
April 6-12	Carl Monk	Shaun O'Rear
April 13-19	Alan Reddish	Sherman Reynolds

### Fellowship Team for April

Alan Reddish, Sherman Reynolds,  
Kim Rogers, Wayne Rogers

## A MUSICAL NOTE...

### *Polyphony: The Holiness of Beauty*

Anne and I will be attending the first annual conference of the Fellowship of Baptist Pastoral Musicians (FBPM) at First Baptist Church Asheville, April 3-5. This conference is an initiative of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and seeks to link and nurture moderate Baptist church musicians who share a passion for sacred choral and instrumental music, hymnody, and the arts. The theme of the conference is *Polyphony: The Holiness of Beauty*, and presenters are Sigrid Johnson, Artist in Residence in Music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and George Mason, Senior Minister at Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

We look forward to being a part of a Fellowship of Baptist Pastoral Musicians that values the great history and heritage of the best of our Baptist music and worship practices.

Blessings,  
Randy

## Reflections

From time to time, I will share with you books that have helped to shape my thinking and been an encouragement in my spiritual pilgrimage. I do order books through the Internet, but I still enjoy browsing bookstores and perusing books by authors who are unfamiliar to me. I usually look on the back of the jacket to see the list of endorsements; this is often the best indicator of how much time I want to spend checking it out. When I found an endorsement by Walter Brueggemann, I knew it was a book I wanted to read.

The book I purchased was *Why Christian?* by Douglas John Hall. There is much in the book for reflection, discussion, and even disagreement. If it didn't include some of the last category, it wouldn't be a good read! I quote one section at length; I underscored these lines and placed five stars in the margin beside the paragraph. I hope you agree that there is much here for reflection and discussion:

*There is no such thing as a "perfect" church, and the people who go about looking for such an ideal are bound to be disappointed. The Christian gospel isn't about the perfect church; it's about the perfect love of God, which none of us deserves and from which we all fall short. The church is not a little bit of the world that has finally been fixed up, righted. In a real way, the only thing that distinguishes church and the world is that the church knows something about the world that it doesn't usually know about itself: that it is greatly loved. Loved, and therefore also judged. You could say (the biblical letter of Peter does!) that the church is the place where God's loving judgment of the world begins (I Peter 4:17). God wants to strip away the falseness and suspicion and pretense and hypocrisy of human beings in their relating to one another, and have them encounter one another as they really are—as creatures of God who share the same problems and possibilities. What we call "church" is nothing more or less than a small beginning in the direction of becoming real (page 123).*

Ron Higdon

### Sermon Schedule

March 30: *It's Never Too Late to Begin Again*  
Luke 22:31-34

April 6: *Isn't There an Easier Way to Learn?*  
Hebrews 5:7-9; Romans 5:1-5

### PARKING NOTICE

During the month of April, First Baptist Church will be working with Prestige Parking to manage and rent out parking spaces on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. This is an experiment to determine how the church's parking lot is being used at night. If there is some event occurring during this time, please let the Property Management Committee know so that it can be accommodated.

## 55+

### 55+ DAY IN ATLANTA

To those who have paid for the trip to Chick-Fil-A, New World of Coke, and dinner at Blue Willow Inn: The bus will depart First Baptist Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. sharp on April 17, 2008. Please plan on arriving at the church no later than 7:45 a.m., so that we may be loaded and depart at 8:00 a.m. A letter will be mailed to each couple or individual during the first week of April with the schedule and emergency phone contacts.

### 55+ New Committee Members

During the business meeting following the breakfast on March 18, 2008, the following were elected to serve on the 55+ committee:

To serve for three years, starting September 1, 2008 and ending August 31, 2011: Carl Hedrick, Vickie Horton and Carol Huff.

To serve for one year, starting September 1, 2008 and ending August 31, 2009: Claire Tardy.

## KID'S CORNER



**Preschool Family Fun Day, Sunday, April 27:** All preschoolers and their families are invited for an afternoon of fun at Kim and Ches Smith's home. We will gather from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and a light supper will be part of the festivities.

**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." Please plan now to show your support for our children through your presence and your affirmation as they share their gifts.

**Churchwide Reception to Honor Nancy Moon, May 4:** Nancy is retiring at the end of May after over 20 years of dedicated service with the babies in our nursery. We will recognize her during the Children's Sunday worship service and with a reception in Fellowship Hall following worship.

**Children's Church** will be provided on the following Sundays: April 6, 13, and 20.

**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 in Crossville, Tennessee, and children currently in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate. Please call the church office if you have questions.

Valerie Hardy



**Many Thanks to Our Volunteers Who Served During the Lenten Series**

We had a fabulous team of volunteers who served as hosts during the Lenten series this year. Each Thursday, we hosted the Lenten services of the downtown church community which were followed by lunch. Our meals were prepared and coordinated by Doug Dillard and Jane Hubert. They were assisted by the following: Ray Austin, Carol Austin, Gloria Branyon, Faye Butler, Joe Clark, Lucy Clark, Jill Dawson, Nancy Dempsey, Judy Ebert, Nelle Epps, Flora Faircloth, Virginia Gerrett, Evelyn Harney, Joe Harney, Annis Herring, Doug Martin, Evelyn Martin, Carolyn Nunnally, Joyce Reynolds. Special thanks also to Wilson Denney for greeting during the services and to Jennifer Allen and the Flower Committee. Thank you for your service, your hospitality, and your spirit of love.

Frank

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

**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 deClaissse-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

**Adult Sunday School Teachers Meeting  
Sunday, March 30 at 6:00 P.M.  
Meeting in Room E-108/109**

Sunday evening, March 30 at 6:00 p.m., all adult Sunday School teachers are invited to meet in Room E-108/109 on the first floor. As we approach the summer months of June and July, we are planning ways to take a fresh and creative look at how we can offer Sunday School opportunities for adults during these two months. Our goals include: Providing opportunities that keep people engaged; giving adults the opportunity to meet and share with others in the church; giving study options that provide "entry points" for those who do not regularly attend Sunday School; providing teachers with a chance for a "break" and chance to hear others; creating a climate that builds relationships and interest in our Christian formation. We will be giving focus and discussion primarily to our summer planning, specifically the two months of June and July. Additionally, time will be set aside for you to share suggestions, questions, and ideas for our Sunday School.

**MISSIONS MOMENT**

**GLOBAL MISSION OFFERING  
FOR COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP**

**HAVE YOU TAKEN THE CHALLENGE?**

We now have \$10,591 toward our \$13,000 goal for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering. WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO! Please consider making a contribution to this worthy cause. The deadline is fast approaching!

**Doing Missions in Our Community  
April 2008**

<b>Food Bank</b>	April 8-9	Disciples Class
	April 22-23	Disciples Class
	May 13-14	Aderhold Class
	May 27-28	Aderhold Class
<b>Our Daily Bread</b>	April 10	Disciples Class
	May 8	Karen Class

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK NEWS**

Thanks to the many volunteers who made our FBC host week go so smoothly. It is so exciting to see everyone helping in so many different ways: van driving, preparing meals, spending the night, doing laundry, visiting with the guests, being doctor on call, grocery shopping, providing money for our Fun Friday Night Pizza, and praying for our guests. It reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12:7: *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.* Thank you for using your gifts to serve the Lord.

In Him,  
Mike and Linda Lacy, FBC Coordinators

**FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT**

<b>Weekly Needs:</b>	<b>\$22,569.69</b>
Received week of March 16	\$17,622.16
Received week of March 23	\$ 9,821.50

**PLEDGE UPDATE**

We have received pledges through March 25, 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 16</b>	9:00 Worship - 65	11:00 Worship - 324
<b>March 23</b>		11:00 Worship - 584

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Randy Brittain</b> Minister of Music
	<b>Matt DuVall</b> Minister of Youth/Young Adults
	<b>Jon Appleton</b> Pastor Emeritus
	<b>www.firstbaptistathens.org</b>
<b>Ron Higdon</b> Interim Pastor	<b>Valerie Hardy</b> Minister of Children
<b>Frank Granger</b> Minister of Education	<b>Anne Brittain</b> Organist/Music Associate

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**Sunday, April 6, 11:00 a.m.  
Communion Service**

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

**April 2, 2008**  
***Jesus or the Church: People Shouldn't Have to Choose***, Lisa Caine, Pastor, Oconee Street United Methodist Church, Athens, GA

**April 9, 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 deClaissse-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

**Sunday, April 27  
Commissioning of the  
Transition Team  
11:00 Worship Service**

## FBC to Present Scholarships

First Baptist Church has the privilege of presenting three scholarships to graduating high school seniors this spring. On Sunday, May 18, 2008, which is *Graduate Recognition Sunday*, our church will present these three scholarships. Below is a brief description for each.

### Harvey L. and Ellen C. Hammond Memorial Education Scholarship

Since 1985, First Baptist Church has been generously provided with the funds for a scholarship by the family of Harvey L. Hammond. The details on this scholarship have been mailed to all graduating seniors who are members of First Baptist Church. **Deadline for application—Sunday, April 13, 2008.**

### The Karen Nasworthy Scholarship

The Nasworthy family has established an annual educational resource scholarship in memory of Karen Nasworthy to be awarded to a member of the First Baptist Church who is graduating from high school in 2008. Every senior will be eligible upon receipt of a written nomination from a member of First Baptist.

No applications are necessary. The Coordinating Committee of the Karen Nasworthy Sunday School Class will evaluate each student on the basis of the letter of nomination and determine the scholarship recipient.

The scholarship is designed to pay for textbooks for the student over the course of their educational endeavor. The 2008 scholarship will be for \$1,000 to be placed in the First Baptist Foundation. As the student purchases textbooks, they will be reimbursed by the Foundation upon submission of a bill of sale.

The type of education the student pursues is not limited to colleges and universities but may include other types of accredited educational institutions.

Nominees will be judged on elements of personality and character as portrayed by the winsome qualities of Karen Nasworthy. Neither financial need nor intensity of involvement in the youth program of the church will be considered as prime factors by the Coordinating Committee.

The rewarding of the Nasworthy scholarship will be made on Graduate Recognition Sunday at First Baptist Church, Sunday, May 18, 2008. A suitable plaque will be placed in the youth section of the church where the names of those receiving this scholarship will be posted.

**Nominations for the 2008 scholarship must be in the office of the church to be forwarded to the Karen Class Coordinating Committee by Sunday, April 13, 2008.** Nominations must be in letter form indicating why the student should be considered for the scholarship.

### Pansy Nigh and E. Paul Torrance and Ellen Torrance Steele Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship, established by E. Paul Torrance in October 2002, is an endowment from which the interest is to be awarded annually to a graduating senior who is a member of First Baptist Church and will be attending an institution of higher education. The award is intended to be a one time cash award to the recipient and is to be used for tuition, books and related expenses. The details on this scholarship have been mailed to all graduating seniors who are members of First Baptist Church. **Deadline for application is Sunday, April 13, 2008.**

## EVENTS BOX

### March 30-April 12

3/30	<b>First Worship Service-Fellowship Hall</b>	9:00 AM
3/30	<b>Sunday School and Bible Study</b>	9:45 AM
3/30	<b>Classic Worship Service- Sanctuary</b>	11:00 AM
3/30	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
3/30	Stephen Ministry-E112/113	3:30 PM
3/30	Youth Choir Rehearsal-F316	5:15 PM
3/30	Women's Bible Study-E111	5:30 PM
3/30	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
3/30	Adult Sunday School Teachers Meeting-E108/109	6:00 PM
3/30	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:00 PM
3/31	Spanish Class-Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
4/1	<b>Wednesday Night Activities</b>	5:00 - 6:00 PM
4/2	<b>Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall</b>	5:00 PM
4/2	<b>Prayer Focus and Devotion</b>	5:45 - 6:00 PM
4/2	<b>Schedule for Children Preschool - Grade 5</b>	6:00 - 7:15 PM
	Children's Choir	6:00 - 6:45 PM
	MISSIONkids!	6:45 - 7:15 PM
4/2	<b>Schedule for Youth</b>	6:00 - 7:15 PM
	Youth Activities - Youth Area	6:00 PM
4/2	<b>Adult Continuing Education - Fellowship Hall</b>	6:00 - 7:00 PM
	<b><i>Jesus or the Church: People Shouldn't Have To Choose,</i></b> Lisa Caine, Pastor, Oconee Street United Methodist Church, Athens, GA	
4/2	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
4/6	<b>Communion Sunday</b>	
4/6	<b>First Worship Service-Fellowship Hall</b>	9:00 AM
4/6	<b>Sunday School and Bible Study</b>	9:45 AM
4/6	<b>Classic Worship Service- Sanctuary</b>	11:00 AM
4/6	Disciples Class Potluck-Fellowship Hall	12:00 Noon
4/6	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
4/6	Trustee's Meeting-Farrall Conference Room	4:00 PM
4/6	Youth Choir Rehearsal-F316	5:15 PM
4/6	Women's Bible Study-E111	5:30 PM
4/6	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
4/6	Adult Handbells-Handbell Room	6:00 PM
4/7	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	12:00 Noon
4/7	Spanish Class-Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM
4/8	Worship Committee Meeting- Farrall Conference Room	5:15 PM
4/9	Property Management-Farrall Conference Room	5:15 PM
4/9	<b>Wednesday Night Activities</b>	5:00 - 6:00 PM
4/9	<b>Wednesday Evening Dinner - Fellowship Hall</b>	5:00 PM
4/9	<b>Prayer Focus and Devotion</b>	5:45 - 6:00 PM
4/9	<b>Schedule for Children Preschool - Grade 5</b>	6:00 - 7:15 PM
	Children's Choir	6:00 - 6:45 PM
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	Youth Activities - Youth Area	6:00 PM
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	<b><i>Plants of the Bible,</i></b> Douglas Bailey, Professor and Head, Department of Horticulture, University of Georgia, Athens, GA	
4/9	Youth Activities-Youth Area	6:00 PM
4/9	Sanctuary Choir	7:00 - 8:15 PM
4/11-12	Youth Lock-In/Disciple Now-Fellowship Hall	