

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETING AND EVENT SCHEDULING

In these busy times with multiple meetings and events being held at the church and in order to allow for proper scheduling, we are asking everyone to submit their request for room reservations as soon as you know about your event. We also will need set-up instructions at least two weeks (or sooner) before the event date. We will need the head count no later than three working days before the event date. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter. This will help assure the proper scheduling and set-up of all events.

Huey Andrews
Facilities Manager

There will be a Memorial Service for Hazel Pittman on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Sanctuary. Dr. Ron Higdon will be officiating.

FBC Women's Picnic Tuesday, May 26 at 6:00 p.m. Church Prayer Garden

Mark your calendar and come join us as we enjoy a (hopefully) pretty spring evening together. What's on tap? Lots of fun, lots of ideas and planning, and lots of fried chicken. What to bring? \$5.00 to cover the meal and a blanket, if you wish. Table and chair seating will be available for all. Questions: Contact Paula Hooper at pbhooper@charter.net.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Senior Minister Search Committee is meeting on a regular basis to move toward its goal of calling our new Senior Minister. Plans and upcoming events include:

- A committee retreat scheduled for May 31 to meet with members of the Transition Team and remaining staff members.
- A second Listening Post on Sunday, June 7 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. for those who want to address the committee.
- Nomination forms provided for our congregation to submit names of potential candidates for Senior Minister (these forms are available from and should be returned to Evelyn Cutshaw in the church office).

The committee appreciates those members who offered input at our first Listening Post on May 17. We ask for your continued prayerful support as we move through this important process.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Shelby Lacy, recipient of the J. W. Fanning Humanitarian of the Year Award given by the Athens Regional Foundation Pillar Society.
Upshaw Bentley, recipient of the Alumni Merit Award given by the Alumni Association of the University of Georgia
Jimmy Bryant, inducted into the Athens Athletic Hall of Fame.

SENIOR ADULTS

DINNER MEETING



Thursday, May 28
6:00 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall

Our 55+ Dinner Meeting will be Thursday, May 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Mary Long, our speaker, will give a humoristic talk about Georgia history. She is a delightful speaker, former educator, and author of books and newspaper articles. We look forward to a great evening!

The Senior Adult Committee Needs Volunteers!

We want to hear from you if you can serve on the Senior Adult Committee. Please contact either Emily Harris at 706-548-9927 or Jackie Thomason at 706-769-5016 if you would like to volunteer. Thanks!

YOUTH HAPPENINGS...

What's up in Youth Ministry?

Many of the FBC youth are coming to the end of the school year in the next two weeks. Yay for summer! Congratulations to each student for a great school year. I know many of you have worked very hard throughout this year and will soon enjoy a much-deserved summer break.

This year's Graduate Recognition Sunday was special, as always. Graduates, we are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to the growth you will experience as you continue your education.

Upcoming Sunday Night Youth Activities

- **Sunday, May 24th, 2009:** NO youth activities (Memorial Day Weekend)
- **Sunday, May 31st, 2009:** Learn! Getting Ready for Summer Please bring \$2 if you plan to eat snack supper.

PASSPORT Passport Choices 2009

Thank you so much to all those who came to our informational meeting this past Sunday night! I am really looking forward to camp this year; I know that it will be a worshipful and transformative time. Parents, please make an effort to submit your camper's registration form by the week of July 4th. It will make preparation for camp even easier!

OUR CHURCH AT WORK

Co-Deacons for the Weeks of:

May 17-23: Steve Barton and Reeves Carter
May 24-30: Dallas Cannady and Jimmy Bryant

Fellowship Committee Schedule

May
Al Henderson, Richard Coleman, Ed Dempsey, Nancy Dempsey
June
Sherri Divers, Tal DuVall, Jim Ebert, J. Don Edwards

Reflections

Dr. Ron Higdon

In the next few months, you will be hearing a great deal about a new hymnal, *Celebrate Grace*. My Reflection column for this issue of the newsletter is an excellent article by David Bolin. Please read his article to which I give a hearty "Amen!"

Why Celebrate Grace?

Two philosophies have long interacted both to drive forward and thwart the church's song. One approach says the song is an ongoing work of composition to which each generation adds its own harmonization or contrapuntal line while respecting and building upon an inheritance it has been given. The other approach heralds the song only as a "new song" suggesting (wrongly, I fear) that the legacy of previous generations is to be acknowledged in a nostalgic way as something God did "back then" but not to necessarily affect that which He is doing now. If texts and tunes of older hymns are adapted by contemporary artists, they often are arranged in ways that strip them of their glory rather than illumine their truth. All too brief a summation, to be sure, but these contrasting philosophies provide a context which establishes the importance of the *Celebrating Grace* Hymnal, the Worship Matrix, their associated materials, and the events which will introduce church musicians to these resources and provide training in their use.

For many years, the first philosophy was understood and supported among member churches of each denomination. Though churches would disagree on the finer points of doctrine and practice, in their shared song they knew community. Though they might raise their voices in opposition on the convention floor, in the worship time they found common voice and were reminded of a day coming when debate would end and that which was sung in the earthly realm would break into a free harmonization in Heaven. And so, denomination life flourished nurtured by its song. Church music programs, state convention and associational music offices, professional organizations, college and seminary music schools operated in partnership. A synergy was experienced in festivals, workshops, music camps, retreats, reading sessions, and the camaraderie of music ministers gathered round the table for breakfast or lunch.

The network that once existed and its synergy have largely been lost. Opportunities for growth and fellowship, now, are primarily market driven rather than ministry based and promoted by a host of independent publishers and parachurch organizations as the next "new thing." The song continues but without the purpose and direction that comes from a shared source.

The *Celebrating Grace* Hymnal and the Worship Matrix are being developed to reunite church musicians in a network of support, encouragement, inspiration, education, and friendship. For those who remember the earlier days, these new resources will have a familiarity with which they'll feel at home. Those beginning their church music career will find a depth and diversity of material to guide contemplation and ignite the imagination of what future worship music will be. Through the hymnal and its online counterpart, church musicians, young and old, will gather again in a fellowship once viewed as the norm. They will sing the songs of different eras, cultures, and times while finding songs of their own. They will hear the voices of authors and composers, poets and prophets, and every Sunday realize that these and those of their congregations have joined a great conversation that can never grow old, and thus, is always new.

So let us be diligent to keep the song. Let us promote the profundity and beauty of what previous generations have entrusted to us, and let us provide a platform for a new generation to add its own voice to ours and theirs to the next until we all find ourselves in chorus before God's throne.
—David Bolin

Sermon Schedule

May 24: *Down, But Not Out*, Proverbs 24:16;
II Corinthians 4:8-9
May 31: *Gratitude's Extra Dividend*, Luke 17:11-19

KID'S CORNER



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 8-11, 2009, Monday-Thursday

CROCODILE DOCK

"Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light"

Registration forms are available. Registration fees are \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 maximum per family. Make checks payable to FBC. (Check the web site for more info.)

We are so excited about VBS 2009 and plans are well underway. We are in need of items to help us in decorating for the event. If you have any of the following that you can donate/loan, please drop them by the Children's Department Workroom on the 3rd floor by May 24.

Large plastic Gatorade bottles, rolls of green/blue cellophane, wooden crates (4), wooden pallets (12), artificial vines, Spanish moss, battery powered lanterns, cane fishing poles, fishing creels, small canoe (2), fish nets, twin flat sheets.

Don't forget to label any items that will need to be returned.

We will also participate in a Mission Project and will be making stuffed animals to send to children in the United States who have been victims of natural disasters. Any donations of Poly-fil pillow stuffing would be appreciated. Your monetary donations will be greatly appreciated.

Reminder to Parents...Register your children (rising kindergarteners through 5th grade) for VBS and have them bring a friend.

Thanks for your help!
Joanna Hill, Kim Smith

Volunteers Needed for VBS

Volunteers are needed to help set up for VBS on Sunday, June 7 around 1:00 p.m. Please call Joanna Hill 706-208-0820 or Kim Smith 706-850-0631, if you can help.

PASSPORTkids!

Exploring Missions in a World without Borders™

June 13-16, 2009, Grades 3-6

Mercer University, Macon, GA

Reserve your spot now with \$50.00 deposit.

Theme: HEROES, Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives

2009 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

June 8-11: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, 9-12 noon

June 13-16: Passport Kids Camp, 3rd-6th grade

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

May 24: Hannah Dillard and Asa Hill

May 31: Lucy Smith and Bradley Lastinger

Remember to swap with someone if your date doesn't work. Also, if you have a 2nd-5th grader who would like to serve as an acolyte, let Kim Smith know. We would love to put them on the schedule. Thanks!

NURSERY SCHEDULE

Toddlers/Twos

Threes/Fours

May 24

May 31

C. Smith

Carter

Dillon

Scarborough

Coming This Summer...
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS
THIS SUMMER

Special Classes and Topics for Adults
June 7-August 9, Sunday Mornings, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

June

Exploring Old Testament Personalities

Leader: Paula Hooper. Come explore Bible personalities you have known since you were a child; discover their strengths and weaknesses during the four Sundays of June:

- The Sacrifice of Isaac: What's up with Abraham?
- The Selling of Joseph: Can you ever really lose your roots?
- Absalom and David: So parents and children fought then, too?
- The Reign of Solomon: Where do we draw the line on toleration?

Insights from Frederick Buechner

Leader: Frank Granger. This track will offer DVD clips from a documentary interview with Frederick and excerpts from his writings designed to engage in discussion on some of the many spiritual, biblical and theological insights from this influential writer.

Habitudes: Life and Leadership Principles

Leaders: Pete Chamberlin, Genie Chamberlin and Ches Smith. Habitudes is a collection of 32 images that form leadership habits and attitudes. This groundbreaking tool teaches life and leadership principles through images. Using images as the starting point, Habitudes engage participants in leaders/zip learning. Useful for all adults, a mixture of generations will increase the experience. Each week is a separate leadership topic and a self-contained lesson.

July-August 9

"I Wish Jesus Hadn't Said That"—a series on the difficult, troubling sayings of Jesus.

Leadership: Several speakers including Ron Higdon, Ray Austin and Paula Hooper. Each week a different passage or saying from Jesus will be presented and discussed.

Neglected Voices: Biblical Spirituality in the Margins

Leader: Frank Granger. This six week scriptural journey by author John Indermark provides weekly devotional readings of biblical characters that might be considered by some as less than famous. Three Biblical characters are considered each week and focus on a particular theme. Even if participants are not able to attend each week, they can remain connected through the daily readings. A wonderful opportunity to read insightful reflections on some of the scriptural passages that are less familiar.

Rob Bell DVD Series

Leaders: Johnathan McGinty and Greg Bickley. The series will incorporate presentation of Rob Bell through DVD, accompanied by information from his writings. Time for interaction and discussion will be included in each week's session. Themes and topics will change each week.

Habitudes: Life and Leadership Principles

Leaders: Pete Chamberlin, Genie Chamberlin and Ches Smith

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Wednesday Meal and Fellowship

We have reserved two Wednesday evenings on our church calendar for our summer Wednesday meals followed by an informal program: Wednesday, June 24 and Wednesday, July 15.

MISSIONS MOMENTS

Remember the Food Bank

Please remember the Food Bank needs with continued support during our summer months. The children will still be hungry and in need of our help. Please bring cereal, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, and other kid-friendly canned foods such as individual cans of ready-to-serve spaghetti, ravioli, noodles, soup, etc. Bring them to the church Missions Room, and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. Thanks to everyone for their support, and have a great summer!

Help wanted!

FBC of Athens is looking for its new church coordinator to handle the responsibilities for IHN of Athens. This will include working with the existing sub-coordinators and managing the different volunteer responsibilities during the church's host weeks. In addition, the church coordinator works with the organization's executive director regarding issues related to the church and is expected to attend monthly meetings with other church coordinators in IHN of Athens. For more information, please contact Johnathan McGinty at johnathan@frontporchconsulting.org.

DOING MISSIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Food Bank

May 26-27: Aderhold Class
June 9-10 and June 23-24: Joe Callaway Class

Our Daily Bread

Thursday, June 11: Associate Deacons

FINANCIAL & ATTENDANCE REPORT

Weekly Needs:	\$22,256.25
Received week of May 10	\$17,931.91
Received week of May 17	\$13,763.86

Attendance

May 10	May 17
9:00 a.m. Worship-54	9:00 a.m. Worship-48
11:00 a.m. Worship-253	11:00 a.m. Worship-254

EVENTS BOX

5/24	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
5/24	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
5/24	Worship Service - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
5/24	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
5/25	Memorial Day - Church Office Closed	
5/26	MEF Circle Meeting - at the home of Martha Pool	11:00 AM
5/26	FBC Women's Picnic - Prayer Garden	6:00 PM
5/26	Explorer Scouts - E112/113	7:00 PM
5/26	Boy Scout Troop 22 - Youth Area	7:30 PM
5/27	Nominating Committee Meeting - Farrall Conference Room	5:30 PM
5/27	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	6:00-7:15 PM
5/27	Mid-Week Mocha - Hannah's home	9:00-11:00 PM
5/28	55+ Dinner Meeting - Fellowship Hall	6:00 PM
5/31	Worship Service - Fellowship Hall	9:00 AM
5/31	Sunday School and Bible Study	9:45 AM
5/31	Worship Service - Sanctuary	11:00 AM
5/31	Sunday School at Denney Towers	2:30 PM
5/31	Joe Callaway Class Picnic - Anna's Walk	5:30 PM
5/31	Youth Activities - Fellowship Hall	6:00-7:30 PM
6/1	Newsletter Deadline	12:00 Noon
6/2	Boy Scout Troop 22 - Youth Area	7:30 PM
6/3	Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room	6:00-7:15 PM
6/3	Mid-Week Mocha - Hannah's home	9:00-11:00 PM

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers	Randy Brittain Minister of Music
Ron Higdon Interim Pastor	Frank Granger Minister of Education
Hannah Coe Interim Minister of Youth and Young Adult College Students	Anne Brittain Organist/Music Associate
	Jon Appleton Pastor Emeritus
	www.firstbaptistathens.org

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"Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light"

Vacation Bible School
2009

Monday thru Thursday
June 8-11
9:00 A.M.-Noon

Storytelling, Crafts, Music,
Missions, Recreation, Snacks

First Baptist News
ATHENS, GEORGIA