Reflections

Dr. Paul Baxley

Nearly four months have passed since our congregation voted to approve the 2014 budget along with our vision implementation plan. You might be curious how we are doing in the initial stages of implementing the vision we discerned and adopted last year. Here are updates on how we are doing in several key areas of the plan.

You may remember that our vision called for the establishment of several new long-term mission partnerships, both in our community and around the world. In December, those present on a Wednesday evening had a chance to meet CBF Field Personnel Shane and Diane McNary, who serve in Slovakia. They joined our Wednesday night program by video conference so that they could introduce themselves and their ministry. In the next several months, we will take several key steps in beginning a formal partnership between our church and the ministry the McNarys are leading in Slovakia. As you receive this newsletter, a small delegation from our congregation will be returning from a visit to Slovakia and will soon offer us a report on how they believe our congregation can be most usefully involved in ministry in Slovakia over the next several years. Then, in June, a team of thirteen youths and their adult leaders will be the first mission team to go to Slovakia from our church. We will have opportunity to commission them, pray for them, and hear a report when they return. In the coming weeks, we will share much more, but are off to a very good start in cultivating that international partnership.

At the same time, our vision called for more intentional ministry in some communities near our church, particularly the Parkview community and Bethel Downtown Homes. Initial meetings have been held with leadership in both communities, and we will be taking first steps in the coming weeks to building the kinds of relationships that can lead to important ministry.

Significant steps have also been taken in the last few weeks related to several other areas of our vision. In the area of college ministry, the Personnel Committee has formed a search committee to seek the part-time Minister for College Students recommended in the vision report and funded in the 2014 budget. That committee includes Wayne Rogers (chair), David Coe, Susan Greene, Joanna Lamkin, Margaret McDonald, and Erica Spackman. That committee has held an initial meeting, and initial advertising for the position is underway at McAfee School of Theology and Candler School of Theology. Please pray for this committee as they seek a person to lead our college ministry in a part-time capacity.

The Space Utilization Committee elected by the congregation in October has held an organizational meeting and is now meeting on a regular basis. Their charge is to recommend ways that our use of our facilities can allow us to live more faithfully into the recommendations in the vision report. That committee, which includes Daniel Haygood (chair), Jill Dawson, Jim Ebert, Andy Hogan, Mike Lacy, GiGi Lastinger, Doug Martin, Helen Mills, Kevin Price, and Mark Sanders, also needs our prayers as work begins. Their charge requires that they make regular reports to the Deacons.

(Continued on page 6)
MINISTRY AREAS

Children
Hannah Coe

Youth–Middle and High School
Brandon Pendry

What's Coming Up

SuNDAys
5:15 p.m. youth Choir
6:00 p.m. youth Supper
6:15-7:30 p.m. Sunday Night youth

WeDNesDAys
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00-7:15 p.m. reNew

International Mission Trip to Slovakia
It's drawing closer! On June 18-29, 13 youths and 6 adults from FBC will be in Slovakia on a mission to the Roma people. We will also begin our International Mission Partnership with CBF Missionaries Shane and Dianne McNary.

WHAT TO BRING
$1 admission (for SOUP Kitchen)
Favorite Game-Day food to share
One Drink to Share

CONTEST & Door Prizes!!
Every Dollar Raised provides a meal at

International Mission Trip to Slovakia

FBC Athens 1st Annual Youth & Parents SOUPer Bowl Party

WHAT’S COMING UP

6 pm
FBC Youth Room

2.2.14
FBC Athens 1st Annual Youth & Parents SOUPer Bowl Party

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SUNDAYS
5:15 p.m. Youth Choir
6:00 p.m. Youth Supper
6:15-7:30 p.m. Sunday Night Youth

WEDNESDAYS
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00-7:15 p.m. reNew

Extended Session Schedule
February 2
Joanna Hill, Helen Mills, Amy Young

February 9
Emily Casper, Deborah and David Millians

February 16
Linda Lacy, Matt and Caroline DuVall

February 23
GiGi Lastinger, Kim Smith

Acolyte Schedule
February 2
Ethan and Breanna Martin

February 9
Mattie Thomason and Ches Smith

February 16
Kalli Clark and Bo Scarborough

February 23
Hollin Hargrave and Livy Baxley

Children’s Church in February
Helpers needed
February 2
Hannah Coe teaching

February 9
Julie McGinty teaching

February 16
Kathryn Fountain teaching

February 23
Ginny Dempsey teaching

Children’s Ministry Team Meeting
February 2, 8:30 a.m.
Farrall Conference Room

Children’s Lock-In!
February 21-22
Mark this date on your calendar as it’s one of our children’s favorite events! Children will arrive for dinner on Friday evening, play games, watch movies, and then share breakfast before departing on Saturday morning.

Lock-In

Extended Session Schedule
February 2
Joanna Hill, Helen Mills, Amy Young

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Emily Casper, Deborah and David Millians

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Music Ministry

Randy Brittain

ORGAN CONSOLE UPDATE

The new organ console is scheduled to arrive at the end of this month. I have included some pictures of the construction of the console. These were taken a few weeks ago and are visual reminders of the intricacy of building a musical instrument piece by piece. Below are pictures of a side panel, drawknobs, tabs, sharp keys (black), and some of the internal electronics that are housed inside the console. Of course, this is just the “tip of the iceberg.”

Please remember that the rededication service is planned for Sunday, April 27 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. John Mitchener, Professor of Organ at Mercer University, will be our guest organist so that day to help us rededicate the pipe organ to God’s glory and the worship life of First Baptist Church. We will also have the opportunity to return in the afternoon and hear Dr. Mitchener in recital at 3:00 p.m. on the newly refurbished organ. I hope you will plan to join us on this exciting day.

February Mission Opportunities

Interfaith Hospitality Network Host Week is February 16-23. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the main hallway.

Monday-Friday: Breakfast, 8:00-9:00 a.m. Lunch, 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Saturday: Sack Lunch, 12:00 noon Sunday: Sack Lunch, 3:00 p.m.

For volunteer opportunities and questions, contact Brandon: brandon@firstbaptistathens.org

Who’s Volunteering?
Emergency Food Bank: 50+ Group, February 11-12 and 25-26
Our Daily Bread: Joe Callaway Class, February 13

FARRALL-HYNDS CIRCLE
Farrall-Hynds Circle will meet February 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Jackie Thomason’s home.

DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 21 AT NOON.
Send all news items to Donna Smith: donna@firstbaptistathens.org.
**FIRsT BAPTIsT RePoRTs ReCoRD BuDGeT GIVING IN 2013**

We began 2014 with $90,937 on hand in unrestricted cash, and an additional $103,881 in reserves for Capital Maintenance and Preservation. Beyond this, our total pledges for 2014 currently stand at $925,000, more than $60,000 higher than the total pledged for 2013. Because of the additional pledges and the fact that our 2013 expenditures included several significant areas that will not recur in 2014, we began 2014 in a relatively strong position.

We thank you for your generous support of the ministry of First Baptist Church during 2013 and look to the new year with confidence as we continue to follow God’s call in the life of our church. We thank you in advance for the ways you will give of time, resources, and energy to help our congregation more faithfully participate in God’s mission in our community and around the world.

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**CONTRIBuTIONS & PARtICIPATION**

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**11:00 a.m. Worship Attendance**

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<td>219</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26, 2014</td>
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**SERVING TOGETHER**

**CoDeacons for the Weeks of:**
- **January 26-February 1**: Jimmy Bryant and Dallas Cannady
- **February 2-8**: Chris Conley and Jill Dawson
- **February 9-15**: Rick Dawson and Ed Dempsey
- **February 16-22**: Sherri Divers and Jim Ebert
- **February 23-March 1**: Chris Conley and Jill Dawson

**Fanning Foyer: Kathy Barrow and Pam Bickley**
**February 23**

**Fanning Foyer: Karen Price and Cindy Haygood**
**February 16**

**Fanning Foyer: Judy Ebert and Jim Ebert**
**February 9**

**Fanning Foyer: Debbie Brown and Tom Brown**
**February 2**

**Welcome Center Team for February**
- **February 2**: Branyon Foyer: Kathy Barrow and Pam Bickley
- **February 9**: Branyon Foyer: Debbie Brown and Tom Brown
- **February 16**: Branyon Foyer: Karen Price and Cindy Haygood
- **February 23**: Branyon Foyer: Judy Ebert and Jim Ebert

**Usher Team for February**
- **February 2**: Wilson Denney, Joyce Gravely, Bert Hill, Joanna Hill, Brad Lastinger

**Wednesday Night Meal Servers for February**
- **February 2**: Sharon McArthur, Christine Lo, Carol Huff
- **February 9**: Sharon McArthur, Christine Lo, Carol Huff
- **February 16**: Sharon McArthur, Christine Lo, Carol Huff
- **February 23**: Sharon McArthur, Christine Lo, Carol Huff

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**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

**Sympathy**

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Rusty, Julie, Maggi, and Brookes Shelton** in the loss of Rusty’s father, Bennett F. Shelton, Jr., on December 29, 2013.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Marie Abercrombie** in the loss of her mother, Roberta Sue Gunnells Bahnsen, on December 30, 2013.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **J. Don Edwards** and **Jim, Shelley, Chelsea, Hannah, Kate, and Ashley Edwards** in the loss of **Clara Edwards** on January 7, 2014.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of Anissa Lattimore, who passed away on January 15, 2014.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the family of **W. R. (Dick) Alexander, Jr.**, who passed away on January 19, 2014.

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to **Sanford and Faye Butler** and **Dianne and Tony Dillard** in the loss of Sanford’s sister and Dianne’s mother, **Gloria Cobb**, who passed away on January 21, 2014.

We welcome **Laverne Giesber** who joined with us on January 26, 2014 by profession of faith.

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**WEDNESDAY SUPPERS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>HOT MEAL: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, Breadsticks, Dessert</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHILDREN: Hot Meal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Vegetable Soup</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>HOT MEAL: Barbecue, Bun, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Fruit Jello, Dessert</td>
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<td>CHILDREN: Pizza</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Chili</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>HOT MEAL: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas, Pear Salad, Biscuit, Dessert</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHILDREN: Hot Meal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Broccoli Cheese Soup</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>HOT MEAL: Turkey and Gravy, Rice or Dressing, Broccoli, Fruit, Roll, Dessert</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHILDREN: Hot Dog and Tater Tots</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SALAD BAR: Baked Potato, Taco Salad Fixings</td>
</tr>
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Adult Discipleship
Frank Granger

Discipleship Opportunities for Adults
Wednesday Evenings
6:00 p.m.

CONTINUING THROUGH FEBRUARY 26
• Genesis Bible Study
• Living the Questions Series
• Women’s Small Group

• Studies in Genesis
  Led by Paul Baxley
  Meeting in Fellowship Hall
  Also meets on Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon
During February, our Midweek Bible Study continues our focus on texts in Genesis. We will explore the opening chapters of Genesis and also the Jacob narratives found in Genesis 25-33. The study is offered both on Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 6:00, continuing through February 25-26. This study is taught by Paul Baxley.

• Living the Questions 2.0: Honoring Creation
  Led by Frank Granger
  Meeting in Room E-108/109
This is the 2nd in a series of 3 parts to a small group exploration of progressive Christianity featuring premier religion voices of our day. Combining brief DVD segments and group discussion and dialogue, it features leading voices of faith, stories illustrating aspects of an evolving faith, and concrete spiritual practices and disciplines.

The seven weeks entitled Honoring Creation cover the following topics:
  • Restoring Relationships
  • The Prophetic Jesus
  • Evil, Suffering, and A God of Love
  • The Myth of Redemptive Violence
  • Practicing Resurrection
  • Debunking the Rapture
  • Honoring Creation

50+

The Board of Deacons cordially invites
Everyone 50+ and their guest to the
41st Annual Valentine Banquet
Monday, February 10, 2014
at 6:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

The 50+ Committee will meet February 10
1:00 p.m. in Room E-113

50+ Church Project for February
Since February is dental hygiene month, the 50+ church project for February is to collect dental hygiene supplies to be donated to Mercy Clinic. Labeled boxes will be at the church entrances on Sundays and Wednesdays during February to collect dental supplies, such as toothbrushes (soft or medium bristles), toothpaste, dental floss, and packets of hand sanitary wipes. Items will be put in kits on March 3 to be handed out to dental patients. If you had rather give money, put it in an envelope and ask Suzy or Donna to put it in my church mailbox. We will purchase needed items for the kit. Your contributions will be appreciated.

Jan Brown, Chair 50+ Committee
Reflections

Dr. Paul Baxley

(Continued from page 1)

and congregation, so look for more information from them as their work unfolds.

In the area of Community, the vision implementation plan called for the creation of a Community Team and a new Community Division in our church leadership structure to give focused direction to initiatives that draw us into closer community with Christ, with each other, and with our neighbors. The Deacons elected Donna Hopper as the first liaison to the Community Division, and the Nominating Committee is working to enlist the first six members of the Community Team. With a new title and job description, Frank Granger has primary staff responsibility for working with the lay leadership to coordinate our ministries of Christian community.

Finally, in the area of children and families, plans are already underway for an expanded summer of children’s ministry for children in our church and community. As approved in the vision plan, the Children’s Ministry Team is seeking a summer intern to help give leadership to these expanded summer ministries, and early planning is underway for the possibility of beginning the summer fine arts camp as soon as this summer.

In the coming weeks, we will provide more detailed updates regarding even more elements of our vision implementation. But I wanted to make sure all of us were aware that significant energy is being given even now to make sure the vision we discerned last year does not become a document on a shelf, but a living reality in the life of our congregation.