

Good News

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

First Baptist Church
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ISSUE 6

From Your Pastor...

A SUNDAY TO REMEMBER.....

Memorial Day Sunday was a wonderful day in The Lord's house. Everyone there was energized by the full house! And the largest number of 14 bright little faces for children's time that we have seen in a while.

Our Youth Committee Chair, Stephen Brady introduced us to a wonderful young man for us to consider as a Summer Youth Ministry Intern! Aaron Goforth is a student at Gardner-Webb. He has grown up in Mars Hill where his father serves as Dean of Students at Mars Hill University.. The future is bright when young, dedicated and talented Christians such as Aaron serve the Lord. Hopefully we will be led soon to a positive conclusion. I enjoyed hearing that Aaron was led to a large group of eight of our youth where he decided to stay for Sunday School and shared in the Youth Drama!

Have you noticed that your Sunday school classes are growing? I will highlight the newest one, the Young Couples Class, where 14 were in

attendance on Mother's Day, and they topped that this week with 15 in attendance! Their teachers, Cheryl Roach and Phil Feagan are doing a superb job with their Bible (cover-to-cover) Lessons.

Though many are enjoying new stirrings of life, we must not forget that the Interim time is the most ANXIOUS time of a congregation's life. Usually only a few are engaged in transitioning a church and find it hard to keep others well informed.

The new Interim Ministry Leader remains unknown to many who need the personal touch of one they know well enough to call. The sense of direction seems in limbo and new things, big and small are difficult to incorporate into a well known routine.

Any church that has had a long-term pastor, as you have had, has a real adjustment. Grieving is still experienced in unexpected ways, especially in the TFBC case of such excellence and familiar leadership. Typically folks do not know how or to whom to express their concerns, or how to sort out these stirrings. If we were Methodists we might be better able to handle changes in leadership, but we Baptists do

not give up easily the people or things we come to truly love.

Let me offer to you the assurance of your Transition Team. They are working very hard to lead you in a self study experience, and it just plain takes time! Ask them! And be PRESENT THIS SUNDAY to enjoy the first fruits of their labors!

They are working for you in these 4 ways; Gathering needed **information**, leading you in **participation** in learning events, making **interpretations** of both of these, then, and only then, making **recommendations** for the whole congregation to consider. The **GOAL** for all their work is for all of us to become more aware of your own well established Church Identity and gain a sense of real direction from who you are and what you perceive God to be calling you to be about in this generation.

So I ask you to be patient with each other, ask a ton of questions, pray a great deal and "Cast all your cares on Him, for He cares for you!" I Peter 5:7

Your Pastor in the Interim,

Library News

Susan Smith

The Church library is open before and during Sunday School, and after church services. We have books to entertain, educate, and inspire. Come, browse, read!

We invite children and parents to check out our **Summer Reading Program**. The program will begin **June 8**. Watch the church bulletin for more details



Music

Anne Shu

Thank you for the response you gave to our survey asking for favorite anthems and hymns. June 8 our worship service will be celebrating our church's ministry of music. The anthems to be sung have been selected by choir members as some of their favorites. The hymns selected are among your favorites. Top on the list is *How Great Thou Art*. Second place is a tie between *Just As I Am* and *In the Garden*. Third place is a 3-way tie with *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, *The Old Rugged Cross* and *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. Come sing your favorite hymns during the summer worship services.



Sisterhood

Di Greene

On May 13, eleven women joined in fellowship at the Activity Building. We were treated with delicious salads made by our members and we enjoyed strawberry shortcake for dessert. This night was about enjoying each other's company.

After our meal, we relaxed and watched a DVD by Chonda Pierce entitled *Having a Girls' Nite Out*. This DVD made us laugh a lot and even shed a few

tears. It had a wonderful meaning about how God loves us even though we all sin daily and have many shortcomings.

Sisterhood will continue their mission work but will not meet again until August 12. We encourage all women of our church to come and be a part of our ministry.



Flowers

Mona Kimble

Our May flowers were beautiful. On the first Sunday, we had flowers from the gardens of Linda Ligon and Elizabeth Burrell. Elizabeth's roses were fantastic, and Linda has something blooming in her garden almost year round. Right now her poppies are in full bloom, and their bright red heads make you look twice when you're rounding the bend. She tells me that strangers have stopped to tell her how much they enjoy her garden.

For Mother's Day, Phillip and Paula Edwards shared a beautiful pink petunia that seemed to see just how far it could stretch its branches. It was given in honor of their anniversary. Also, on Mother's Day, an anonymous donor who I learned was my sister, Laura Brannen. (How can you keep a secret when you live with the donor?) presented the church with flowers to honor all our mothers. It was a lovely surprise to me and the church.

The following Sunday we honored Mae Scruggs on her birthday, with flowers presented by her husband R. B. On the last Sunday Alene Sawyer shared the beautiful plant her Sunday School class had given her for Mother's Day. Mrs. Sawyer said she was so pleased to do this because it made her feel more a part of the church, now that she's home-bound.

Thanks to each one who made the floral gifts. You are an active part of our church and make worship more enjoyable.



IT IS TIME TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS!

Ellis Fincher, Jr.

I have to admit that I have been somewhat pessimistic lately. It is certainly not my nature to be that way. It started last September about the time the economy began to slow down. For the first time in over twenty years construction jobs were hard to find and what was available were at prices that were unattractive. That was eight months ago and well, things have only gotten worse.

Our country is facing many problems. The problems that seem to be on everyone's mind are the price of fuel, the devaluing of the dollar, the sagging economy, the war in Iraq, immigration reform and healthcare. Each one of these problems affects every citizen of our country. You can do what everyone recommends and cut back on your energy consumption or contact your elected representatives but other than that your options are limited.

Our elected leaders need our prayers. With the Lord's guidance all of these problems can be overcome. It is time for us to also count our many blessings, and these are provided for us each and every day. We live in the greatest country in the world. When in any period of time has man had so much for which to be thankful? I keep reminding myself of this when the **pessimist** shows up, so I ask, do you count your blessings?

DATES TO REMEMBER:

July 13-19 Mission Trip to Charleston

Friday, July 11, Youth Presentation

July 28-August 1 VBS

August 10-11.

Summer Bible Study, I & II Samuel



Do you miss worshipping on Sundays? Joyce Scoggins

Hebrews 10: 24, 25 - New Living Translation – *“Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other...”*

Recently I thought of writing an article for the monthly newsletter expressing what was on my heart. Now I feel I truly can write from my heart after being with Phil during and after his open-heart surgery. I have seen and experienced the “outbursts of love” from our church family, our family, our work friends, and our social friends, as described by the author of Hebrews.

You will never know the depth of love and compassion, and the measure of caring we have received during the past month from our network of friends. Phil and I are truly blessed to have such a church family. We are so very thankful for all you have done

Each of us is guilty at times of just going to church on Sundays when we feel like going, it is convenient with our schedule or nothing else is going on and we have time.

We need to search our hearts and think about the effort and amount of time spent in preparation for Sunday worship by our minister, director of music, musicians and Sunday School teachers. I know at times they get discouraged looking at the sparse attendance in the classroom or sanctuary. When we think about it we realize these persons have spent much more time preparing to lead us in worship than the time we are actually in church. We sometimes think that we do not have to be in church to worship and we can worship wherever we are, and this is true. However, Sunday worship is with our church family and with our God. As the scripture states above, we need to be there to encourage one another. We need to be there in the classroom and in the sanctuary to receive the blessing from

God he has for us in His Scripture, His Preaching, and His Songs.

When the boys played ball and Phil had to miss some of their games, they would say to me that it did not matter and it was okay. When Phil got to the games, they knew it and it was important to them. Yes, it matters to God that you and I are in church on Sunday. It is important to God and to us.

We need to search our hearts and think about what our presence in church on Sunday means to each of us. Ask yourself, “What does it mean to me to be in church?” “How does it affect my spiritual self?”

My parents taught me when I was growing up that attending church was important and always came first. We attended church on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. To this day, my parents will ask me on Sunday, “How was church today?” And if I did not go to church that Sunday, for whatever reason, I do feel guilty and am slow to answer. When I miss worship on Sunday, I feel an emptiness the following week and I feel as though something is missing. I know how much Phil and my father have missed being in church these past few weeks.

I am sharing this from my heart to encourage you to worship on Sundays as often as you can. You are missed when you are not in church. The entire church misses you...I miss you.



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Edward & Bernice Culbreth
- 7 Scott & Kathyanne Harding
- 11 Don & Rosemary Iaffaldano
- 17 David & Sue Thompson



The July *Good News* will feature the college graduates and the scholarship recipients. **Congratulations** to these students!



BROTHERHOOD

John Spinks

The Brotherhood of Baptist Men have an exciting project planned for the summer. We're going to hold an AUCTION! The tentative plan is to follow the next Get Acquainted Meal with an auction for items and services donated by members of the Brotherhood as well as other men of the church. The thing that will make this auction special is the fact that you will not only be bidding on the item or service but with your winning bid you will also receive a personalized introduction to the item or service. For example, if a steak dinner is the auctioned item, with your winning bid you not only will receive the steak dinner but also have it cooked, served and cleaned up by the Brother who donated it. Another example, if a hand-made birdhouse is the auctioned item, not only will you receive the birdhouse with your winning bid but also have it installed wherever you wish.

Of course the proceeds from this auction will go to a worthy cause. We plan to help strengthen other churches in our area.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 June Brady
- 1 Ellis Fincher, Sr.
- 1 Megan Ross
- 2 Harold Burrell
- 2 Alisa Constance
- 2 Madi McKaig
- 2 Lib McKeller
- 2 Phil Scoggins
- 3 Bud Pace
- 4 Matt Corn
- 6 Andrew Harding
- 7 Paula Edwards
- 7 Ryan Tennant
- 8 Gwen Goodwin
- 10 Mary Gibbs
- 14 Genelle Phillips
- 14 Sydney Waldman
- 23 Vernon Dusenbury
- 27 Phillip Edwards
- 27 Ruby G. Jones