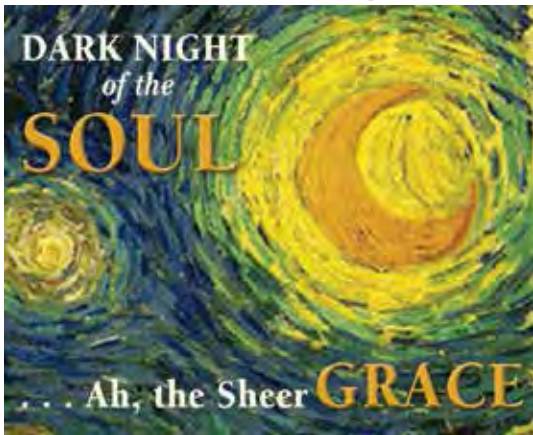




Dark Night of the Soul...Ah, the Sheer Grace!



Sunday, May 17 • 11:00 a.m. • Sanctuary

The musical work by living Norwegian composer, Ola Gjeilo, is an impressionistic interpretation of the ecstasy of grace which God gives us in our most needful hour — a beautiful metaphor of Christ's triumphant resurrection from the grave and a call for us to be carriers of God's grace to a hurting world. This moving piece will be a musical culmination of the three-week study of the mystical poem of the same name by St. John of the Cross, offered as a part of Wednesday night *CenterPeace* for Adults. Presented by Adult Choir and String Quartet.

Sunday, May 31 • 7:00 p.m.

Organ Concert Celebrating 37 Years of Ministry **Dr. David Foster, organist**

Join us as we celebrate Dr. David Foster's 37 years of ministry at First Baptist Church Asheville. Included in the concert will be works by Bach, Franck, and Pepping, a trio of African-American spirituals, and Widor's complete Fifth Symphony.

David Foster holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio, a Master of Music degree from Indiana University, and a Doctor of Music degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; all three degrees were in organ performance. He was a Fulbright scholar for two years, studying under Michael Schneider in Köln, Germany. Dr. Foster has served in churches of many denominations as a Director of Music, and has played numerous recitals in the United States, Great Britain, and Germany. He previously was an organ instructor at Greensboro College and East Carolina University. He and his wife, Lorraine, have two grown children and two grandchildren.

A reception expressing gratitude to Dr. Foster will follow the concert in the Dining Room.





Easter Vision

Late one Lenten Friday, I found myself walking the labyrinth that covers Crouch Chapel floor. Tommy Bratton, Minister of Christian Formation, had carefully prepared materials to welcome this soul journey. I paced slowly, confession, hope, sadness, and joy finding stride in my heart. As I neared the end of this silent pilgrimage, I wondered, “Where to next?” My gaze lifted from the next step on my canvas path toward another destination, one filled with possibility and uncertainty all in the same moment.

Mary might have felt herself caught up in a kindred vision early that Easter morning. She had come to prepare Jesus’ body and her life for the consequences of crucifixion. After discovery of an empty tomb followed by her abandonment by disciples who had rushed to confirm the worst, Mary stood weeping in the garden. A vision of angels could not lift her eyes from grief. But her name, spoken by the supposed gardener,

parted a veil into the holy. “Mary,” was all he said, and this daughter of God cast her vision out beyond death and loss even as her eyes filled with resurrection.

This Easter horizon can transform our present moments, good and bad, into eternal openings. In the *Cloud of Unknowing*, the 14th-century Christian mystic invites us to face our anxieties, temptations, and longings with a gentle invitation. “Try to look over their shoulders, as it were searching for something else — and that something is God, enclosed in a cloud of unknowing.” When all we have worried over or welcomed near draws so close we are at a loss for words, our eyes lift just beyond what is within reach of our understanding and rest on One whose loving embrace cradles all.

So, lift your gaze just a little past what hurts and holds you down. Look out beyond even your deepest joy. When the doctor has bad news, a friend betrays you, the future falls apart, or everything falls into place, peer just clear of what you know to be the way things are. As the hymn writer invites, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus.” See all you might see through eyes filled with resurrection. Let that light illumine the next stride, the path just ahead that will lead you home.

David Blackmon
Coordinating Pastor

Asheville
Youth
Choir



CONCERT

Sunday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m.

The Cathedral of All Souls, Biltmore Village

Concert is free and open to the public.



WEDNESDAYS

DINNER: 4:45-6:00 P.M.

SMALL GROUPS: 6:00-7:00 P.M.

Find Peace . . . Centered on Christ, in the Center of Asheville, at the Center of Our Week

Wednesday evening *CenterPeace* for adults exists to provide large and small-group experiences for people of all ages for inspiration, Christian formation, spiritual conversations, and to equip the saints for ministry. Most weeks, we have a Chapel Bible Study led by one of our ministers. There are often small groups scheduled seasonally that meet around a myriad of topics related to faith and life.

Chapel Bible Study

- **Cuba Missions: Reflections and Projections • April 8 • 6:00 p.m. • Dining Room**

Our second team has returned from a meaningful experience with our sister church in Los Tunis, Cuba. They want to share their stories with you in hopes that you will develop a passion for this new mission opportunity. Plans for the coming year might include construction, installing water filtration systems, and sports/day camps for children and youth. Please join us for an informative evening of stories and pictures.

- **Consider the Birds • April 15-22 • Chapel • Led by Tommy Bratton**

Join us as we continue exploring the prominent places that birds occupy in scriptural narratives, and discover how they help us discern new layers of meaning as we read the Bible.

- **The Dark Night of the Soul • April 29 – May 13 • Chapel**

- **Baptist Heritage Series • May 20-27 • Chapel**

Modern Sacred Family • April 15-29 • Room MB304

This group is for parents and/or grandparents who are looking for authentic conversations about living the life of faith in their daily, ordinary life as a family. We will continue exploring how we see God working in the lives of our families, how we can encourage one another along the often inconsistent journey of life and faith, and how we can be intentional about the rhythm of our daily life together. Everyday events — conversations in the car, sharing a meal together, performing chores (or not), laughing together, creating family rituals — all have the potential to be sacred moments. These experiences become lodged in our children's memories and form who they will become and how their lives and souls will be enriched.

Western North Carolina

Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering

Sunday, May 3 • 4:00-8:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Marion

Schedule

5:00-5:30 p.m. • Opening Session – Guy Sayles, presenter

5:35-6:25 p.m. • Dinner

6:30-7:30 p.m. • Worship Service – Guy Sayles, preaching



Reservations are required for dinner. Contact Tommy Bratton at 252.4781 or tbratton@fbca.net to make a reservation or for more information.

Pastor Search Committee Update

Your Pastor Search Committee is comprised of 15 people, representing a cross section of the church. We are meeting weekly as we follow a thoughtful and deliberate process. Some of you from other faith traditions might not be aware of the Baptist way of hiring a senior pastor. Basically, we go find a church with a really good pastor and try to lure (invite) that person away. There is both humor and truth in this. Each Baptist church functions independently of any larger governing body. We do, however, seek to take advantage of the resources available to us through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and other organizations. We will attempt to be as transparent as possible during the search process, while maintaining the level of confidentiality that is required. You will receive updates through the church website, enews, Highlights, bulletin inserts, Sunday Bible study classes and from me as a representative of the Pastor Search Committee. Please hear that the Search Committee feels an appropriate sense of

urgency. We also have great confidence in where we are as a church, our staff and our mission and ministry.

The committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey and listening sessions over the past several months. With this information and input from the congregation we will be able to continue composing a pastor profile and begin taking recommendations for candidates. As a committee we take your thoughts and concerns to heart and continue to strive toward the end goal, bringing you the one person that we feel led to believe is the right person to be our pastor.

There is one thing we should always remember: God has a vested interest in the lives of the people of FBCA and those we might impact. That means there is a greater wisdom than our own at work, in which we can find comfort, guidance, inspiration, and purpose.

— Cliff Christian

News from the Interim Search and Pulpit Supply Committee

Our interim season has been filled with great preaching, both from friends within our congregation and new friends from across Baptist life. Brett Younger, Associate Professor of Preaching from the McAfee School of Theology, continues with us through April 12. Following Dr. Younger will be a series of guests as well as some of our own.

Scott Hughes, Chair of the Interim Search and Pulpit Supply Committee, is working with his fellow members to finalize a longer-term interim preacher to be in place by mid-July. This recommendation will come to the Deacons on April 13 and then to the congregation for final approval. Until that time, make plans to be in worship each week to enjoy these fine preachers:

April 19 - Youth Sunday

April 26 - David Crocker (Executive Director/Operation Inasmuch)

May 3 - Leah Brown (Minister with Senior Adults, First Baptist Church Asheville)

May 10 - Kris Pratt (Fellow FBCA Member/Professor of Religion, Spartanburg Methodist College)

May 17 - Robert Lupton (Author of *Toxic Charity*)

May 24 & 31 - Jeff Rogers (Former Pastor - First Baptist Church Greenville)

June 7 - Stephanie McLeskey (Fellow FBCA Member/Chaplain, Mars Hill University)

June 14, 21, & 28 - Nancy Hastings Sehested (Co-Pastor, Circle of Mercy)

July 5 - Bill Leonard (Professor of Church History, Wake Forest School of Divinity)

Our Interim and Pulpit Supply Committee includes the following members:

Cliff Christian - 1st Vice Chair of Deacons/Chair of Personnel

Ginny Morris - Representative from Finance Committee

Karen McDonald - Representative from the Deacon Officers

Katie Stewart - Representative from the Christian Formation Council

Scott Hughes - Member-at-Large (Chair of Interim & Pulpit Supply Committee)

Christie Dresback - Member-at-Large

Dan Fowler - Member-at-Large



Preschool Bible Study

Sundays • 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Sunday morning Bible Study provides our preschoolers an excellent opportunity to grow in faith through captivating stories, fun activities, and loving relationships.

CenterPeace for Preschoolers Wednesdays • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

CenterPeace for Preschoolers uses a curriculum called “Growing in Grace” that provides wonderful music and worship activities for our children. Childcare is provided for children under age 3.

Contact Bree Welmaker at bwelmaker@fbca.net or 252.4781 for more information.

Kids Connect • Sundays, 9:35 a.m. • MB310

A time to gather for friendship, prayer, and to connect to the theme of the season.

FaithQuest: Guiding Children on their Spiritual Journey

Sundays • 9:45 a.m. • 3rd Floor, Children’s Building

April 12 - May 17 • Appearances of Jesus

Children will explore the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and connect them to ways we see Jesus in our everyday lives. Stories include the Walk to Emmaus, Doubting Thomas, the First Breakfast, the Great Commission, and Jesus’ Ascension.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Rocks!

Sundays • 9:45-10:45 a.m. in CB306

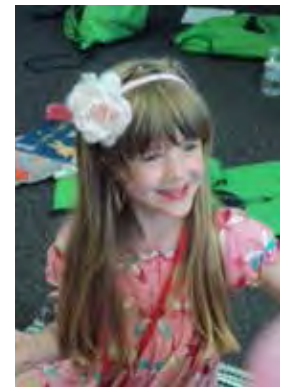
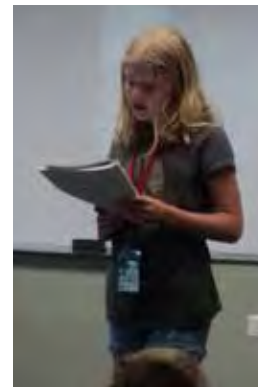
Fifth and sixth graders have their own time of learning, sharing, and Bible Study on Sundays.

CenterPeace for Children

Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Our Wednesday evening music, worship, and faith development activities are for children from first through sixth grades. Have supper in the Dining Room, then join us for a time of singing, storytelling, and sharing God’s love with others in word and deed.

April 8 – April 29 • We will explore the season of Eastertide, and how





TRAIL MARKS BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 31
9:35 a.m. • Dining Room
Free Breakfast

Contact Tommy Bratton at
252.4781 or tbratton@fbca.net
for more information.

Spiritual Friendships and the School of Love

The hope of the TrailMarks model of ministry is to invite parents, students, and ministers into close collaboration in an effort to provide holistic spiritual formation for the entire faith journey.

By working together to achieve shared goals, we believe we can create a system in which we all partner together for the life-long discipleship of our children and youth. The core values of Trail Marks include: intentionality, consistency, communication, and partnership.



Camp Dates: June 15-18, 2015

FirstShine is a traditional fun-filled overnight summer camp for children ages 6-12 years old with special needs, held on the beautiful campus at Warren Wilson College in the Swannanoa Valley. Day activities are geared to age and interests of each child and can include swimming, horseback riding, outdoor games, arts/crafts, and more! Help us get the word out to prospective campers that FirstShine is back.

Youth and college students are essential to the vision for FirstShine. Counselors are needed for each participant, and any youth (10th-12th grades) or college student willing to commit to this experience must complete an application by April. Counselors pay \$100 to cover their camper's fee, so the children can attend at no cost. Applications are available in the church office. Please consider being a part of this mission opportunity.

Spring Retreat at Fort Caswell

Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25

Registration is open through April 23 for \$140

Late Registration is open through May 1 for \$155



Come celebrate the end of the year in the sand and surf! We'll be playing in the waves, enjoying a party, as well as doing our affirmations and Senior Rites of Passage. Register and pay \$140 by April 23. Registration after April 23 will include a \$15 late fee. Registrations will be accepted no later than May 1. We will leave the church at 4:30 p.m. on

Friday and return at 4:00 p.m. on Monday! Contact Casey Callahan at ccallahan@fbca.net or 252.4781 for more information.

Do You Want to Keep Up With Our Youth in Real Time?

Sign up to follow their online blog (stories and devotions) at fbca youth.wordpress.com and follow them on Twitter at @ashevilleYOUTH

UNIDIVERSITY

DISCOVER UNITY AND CELEBRATE DIVERSITY



Youth Summer CAMP

July 18-25, 2015

University of Tennessee Campus

The cost is \$340 with a \$75 deposit required at time of registration. Sign up online at www.fbca.net. Contact Casey Callahan at ccallahan@fbca.net or 252.4781 for more information.

2015 CAT CLASSES

CAT II: April 8-May 20

Guitar: Jamie Gorsuch & Donna Lewis

Signing: Karen Altice, Lisa Barnett, & Sandra Martin

Hands & Feet: Laura Bratton & Casey Callahan

Survival Skills: Randall Barnett & Daniel Lewis

Art: Julianne Lewis & Laura Beth Slagle



Youth Sunday


Sunday, April 19

Make plans and invite friends to attend worship on April 19 as our youth lead in worship.

SkyZone Trampoline Park



Saturday, May 2
2:00-8:00 p.m.
\$20/person



**STEPHEN
MINISTRIES**

Are you going through a difficult time?

A Stephen Minister can help! Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a crisis or a difficult time. To learn how you can receive a Stephen Minister's confidential care, contact Leah Brown at 252.4781.



Senior Adult
SUNDAY

Sunday, May 3
Noon - Dining Room

Enjoy a luncheon celebrating our 50- and 75-year members following worship on this special day. The cost is \$5 per person and reservations are required for this event. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 by Sunday, April 26, if you would like to attend.

Jubilee Luncheon

11:00 a.m. • Dining Room

All senior adults are invited to join us for fellowship, programs that inspire, entertain, and inform, and a delicious meal. The cost is \$3 for the meal, and first-time guests eat free. Please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

- **April 21 - Bailey Mountain Cloggers**
- **May 19 - Storytelling with Betty Boyte-Ellis and Carl Cochrane**

Memory Café

1:00-3:00 p.m. • Dining Room

April 16 and May 21

Memory Café is a volunteer-run social gathering and respite service for those with dementia, their caregivers, families, friends, and the community. This is not a drop-off program or a support group, but rather a time to gather, relax, enjoy one another, and to reduce the isolation and loneliness that accompanies a diagnosis of dementia for both the person who gets the diagnosis and the caregiver. Each session will be hosted by members of our congregation who have received specialized training. This program is open to people in our congregation and the community. Reservations are not required for these gatherings. Contact Leah Brown at 252.4781.

A Look Back . . .

Youth/Senior Adult/Prime Time Valentine's Banquet

One hundred youth and their sponsors celebrated Valentine's Day with Prime Time/Senior Adults at this annual multigenerational event. Everyone enjoyed delicious food and engaging conversation around beautifully decorated tables. A special thank you to Nancy McCrory and her staff for a wonderful meal.



WE ARE THE VILLAGE

Spring Family Festival



A celebration of families.
Completely free.

Booths
sponsored
by local
agencies!

GAMES!
PETTING ZOO!
PRIZES!

INFLATABLES!
FOOD TRUCKS!
LIVE MUSIC!

Smart Start
Zone for
Preschoolers!

Saturday, MAY 16TH, 2015
2:00-5:00pm

First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street Asheville, NC 28801



Visit www.wearethevillageavl.org for more info!

Sponsored by:



First Baptist Church
of Asheville



INASMUCH UNITED BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Volunteer April 18, 2015 along with the rest of North and South Carolina as we seek to use our God-given gifts and talents to meet the needs of our community and build friendships with our fellow FBCA members and local churches. If you are not available on April 18 please look for other opportunities as we are volunteering the entire month of April. Registrations cards available for sign-up.



April 9 - MANNA Foodbank



April 11 - Asheville Greenworks – Hillside Orchard

April 12-25 (pending) - Partnership with Grace Baptist Church in construction projects.

April 17 - Veterans' Restoration Quarters – tear down

April 25 - Help assemble 10,000 meals for ABCCM; Asheville Greenworks - Hard to Recycle

April 26 - Green Bags for FBCA Food Pantry go out; Kairos Cookie collection in church atrium

May 2 - Women's Build

May 3 - Green Bags returned for FBCA Food Pantry



April 18

Veterans' Restoration Quarters - paint and lay flooring

Bake Kairos cookies in the FBCA kitchen

Habitat Restore

Meals on Wheels

Salvation Army - Paint rooms

Salvation Army - Clean out basement

Boys and Girls Club Landscape

Provide preschool child care - Color medicine bags for ABCCM /placemats with children

Create goodie bags for women in cancer treatment

Personal Care Bags for our After School Kids

Personal Care Hospital Bags for Our Voice

Work on Baptist House on UNCA campus

Mountain Housing Construction project

Cut out flash cards for local schools

Landscaping project at Jones Elementary School

Project at Claxton Elementary School

Spring Clean Child Development Center

Blanket Project for Council on Aging



<p>Sign-Up Early To Order an Operation Inasmuch T-Shirt</p> <p>\$5 a person/\$10 a family. Return registration card to church office by April 5, 2015. Registration cards available in church office.</p>	<p>Operation Inasmuch Kick-Off Celebration Friday, April 17</p> <p>Operation Inasmuch Kick-Off Celebration with ABCCM at 7:00 p.m. in the FBCA Sanctuary.</p>
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Camp Dates: June 15-18, 2015

FirstShine is a traditional fun-filled residential summer camp for children ages 6-12 years old with special needs, staffed and funded entirely by FBCA volunteers and held at Warren Wilson College.

Current Volunteer Needs:

- Camp counselors
- Cook, deliver, and serve evening meals
- Evening watch (while staff meets)
- Afternoon recreation and crafts
- Provide special treats (homemade ice cream, watermelon)
- Prayer partners for staff and campers (writing notes of encouragement).

To get involved contact [Eddie Morgan 252.4781](#).

Ongoing Mission Opportunities

Sign-up sheets in Atrium.

MANNA Foodbank

Volunteer to sort and pack food.

• Churchwide Dates/Time:

April 9 and May 14
6:00-8:00 p.m.

• Senior Team Dates/Time:

April 13 and May 28 • 1:00-3:00 p.m.
You are welcome to join us at J & S Cafeteria at 11:45 a.m. for lunch before going to volunteer.



Summer Green Bag Food Collection

July 19 - April 2 will go to ABCCM.

Crossroads Afterschool

Volunteers are needed on Wednesday afternoons to tutor/mentor elementary children, at risk at being homeless. To get involved, contact Everette Clark at 667.8078

Lunch at Crossroads

Volunteers are needed Thursdays to help provide lunch for guests in our community who are homeless. Several ways to serve in this ministry including helping an adult to read. To get involved, contact Everette Clark at 667.8078.



Hiking Trip

Saturday, May 23

Black Balsam Knob

Beattie Logan will be leading the 4.7 mile loop hike on a day trip that is open to all interested hikers (amateur hikers welcome!) Meet at church at 9:00 a.m. and expect to return shortly after lunch. Essentials to bring: day pack, two liters of water, rain gear, appropriate clothing and hiking/athletic shoes.

Gardening Group

Initial meeting: Tuesday, April 7

6:00 p.m. • FBCA

Dennis Hill will be leading a gardening group that is open to all interested gardeners. The group will meet on Saturday at church at 9:00 a.m. and then head over to the dedicated plot of land (located a few miles away) where a vegetable garden will be prepared. All ages are welcome.



Crafters

Christian Crafters, Tuesdays from 2-4 p.m. in MB223. No matter how crafty you may consider yourself, you are invited to come join this group for a single week or regularly. You'll be sure to enjoy both the projects and the conversations!

Update on the Sacred Garden

Plans for the Sacred Garden at First Baptist Church Asheville continue to come together. Drawings are with the City of Asheville awaiting final approval. A project management team has come together to guide construction. Next steps will include collection of all bids through the Sacred Garden team, a presentation to the Finance Committee, review by the Deacons and, congregational approval of the final budget and financing. Watch for key dates and information through the month of April.

Leah Brown, Minister with Senior Adults, is working with Ginny Morris and Debbie Miller to offer the options for purchasing a niche or memorial plaque in the Sacred Garden. Opportunities to learn more will be coming in April and May. If you have questions or want an information packet about the garden, please contact Leah at 252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net.



FITNESS CLASSES

Yoga

Every Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. (MB423)

\$5 a class (\$48 for 8 sessions) paid directly to the instructor

Zumba

Every Tuesday and Thursday - 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Gym)

Zumba Toning every Tuesday - 5:00-6:00 p.m. (MB415)

\$5 a week.

Tai Chi

Wednesdays at 4:30 & 7:30 p.m. (Sherman Center - Right Side)

Cost per instructor.



First Baptist Church of Asheville

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801 • 828.252.4781 • www.fbca.net

Child Development Center: 828.252.3234 • Fax: 828.254.2302

Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary • 9:45 a.m. Bible Study for all ages

Minister on Call

A minister is on call 24/7 to support you in times of need. To contact the minister on call, dial 252-4781. The deacon of the week can be reached through the church office or by contacting the minister on call.