



*Highlights*  
May/June 2017



## PILGRIMAGE

As our thoughts turn to summer and sunnier climates, vacations and diversions, I invite us all to reconsider a practice that has fallen out of sight and out of mind for many Christians—the practice of pilgrimage. Generally defined as a trip to a sacred place, a pilgrimage is really a journey pursued in the spirit of religious devotion, and is an essential part of many faith traditions. Jews, for example, regard the Western Wall of Solomon’s Temple, more commonly called the “Wailing Wall,” as a most significant site of pilgrimage. For Muslims, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca—called Hajj—is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and a mandatory duty for all able-bodied adult Muslims with the financial means to travel.

As early as the third century, the church fathers encouraged Christians to visit the Holy Land, in order to pay homage to the most significant sites of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Like many of you, I’ve been privileged to visit the Holy Land. And though it was many years ago, the experiences I had there continue to shape my faith. Traveling to the particular places Jesus walked and “dwelled among us” had a powerful effect on my faith, and continues to shape the way I imagine specific passages of Scripture.

There’s great value in just this kind of pilgrimage, of going on a journey to a sacred place as a way of growing in faith. Many members of our church have traveled all over the globe to engage their faith in ways that are consistent with the practice of pilgrimage, from individual members traveling to holy sites in Jerusalem or Rome, to taking road trips to churches, cathedrals, or monasteries closer to home. We should even consider it a pilgrimage to make a simple visit back home to a community of faith that helped raise us.

But is it not the case that Jesus invites us to see our whole life as a pilgrimage? He tells an inquisitive Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6). That is, to be a follower of Jesus is to be “on the way,” always on the move, always being sent on a journey of discipleship towards greater spiritual ends. Scripture even teaches us that, like the Israelites before us, we are “sojourners” (1 Pet. 2:11), always traveling in the world as strangers, while we are simultaneously “citizens of heaven” (Phil. 3:20).

Christians are, therefore, pilgrims by default. Which means that the literal journeys we take, whether to Jerusalem, Haiti, or Cuba, or even the local prison, are more appropriately called items on the travel itinerary of an all-encompassing lifetime adventure we call “pilgrimage.”

To be sure, this pilgrim way can be as full of treacheries as it is full of wonders. Nevertheless, in this adventurous spirit, we are heirs of the original Baptist pilgrim, John Bunyan, who wrote to encourage us:

*This hill, though high, I covet to ascend;  
The difficulty will not me offend,  
For I perceive the way to life lies here:  
Come, pluck up, heart, let’s neither faint nor fear!  
Better, though difficult, the right way to go,  
Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe.*  
(From The Pilgrim’s Progress)

— Mack



## Tending to Our Spirits this Summer

*The purpose of setting aside particular time and space as sacred is to invite the sacred into the rest of our time and space . . .  
The spiritual quality of every hike in the woods seems utterly dependent upon how recently I have tasted Jesus and  
become his body with other Christians.*

— Morgan Guyton

In Matthew 11, we hear Jesus asking, “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

The summer season brings with it hope for a different rhythm of life. Children are out of school, families look forward to vacations, the weather invites us beyond the four walls of our homes into nature, and we all seek to recharge and renew ourselves. We come to this season as people who are tired and worn out, but I wonder if we really know how to take a real rest. In preparing to take a rest, we often work twice as hard to get ready for time away, we spend more money than we should, we eat too much, we cram into cars for long trips and into hotel rooms for “family together time.” When we return, we have laundry to do, emails to respond to, family members we need a break from, and too quickly we return to our same stressed out situations.

But what if we began to hear Jesus’ call to take a real rest as something we might follow? What if our times away spiritually formed us and made us more attuned to daily life when we return? Maybe we could begin to reclaim “wonder, love and grace” here at home. Maybe we could give ourselves wholeheartedly to life, to faith, to our church, to our community. Brother David Steindl-Rast writes, “The antidote to exhaustion may not be rest. It may be wholeheartedness. You are so exhausted because all of the things you are doing are just busyness. There’s a central core of wholeheartedness totally missing from what you’re doing.”

As a challenge for this summer, let’s take a break from all the busyness and silence the other voices that compete for our attention. Let us walk in the way of Jesus and learn the unforced rhythms of grace. Let us seek to (re)discover our calling and live it with wholeheartedness. Let us stop comparing ourselves to others. Let us stop looking to that next place, or new gadget, or perfect vacation to fill the longing of our restless hearts. Let us keep company with Jesus and our community of faith.

There is a need for time away to open ourselves to rest in the presence of God with a listening heart. Jenny Lee writes, “Away from home, we can meet a God who is bigger than we were previously able to imagine. When we are outside the regular places of our lives, we can sometimes encounter a serendipitous God; our small understanding of the world no longer defines God.” I have heard many people say that they feel closest to God at the beach or at a special location away from their everyday life. These retreats give us space to refresh our souls and open the eyes of heart to see God in new ways.

These times away are important, but they are intended to infuse meaning into our everyday lives, not simply to provide an escape for a week. When we cultivate an inner stability rooted in the love of God, committed to the place we live, engaged with the community we are in, and attuned to the spiritual rhythms of the body and soul, we can live and grow in the way that leads to abundant life.

### **Spirit-forming practices to consider this summer:**

- Re-frame your language. Instead of going on vacation, use the word “retreat” or “pilgrimage” to describe time away. How might using that language help you plan your time away with the intent of tending to your (and your family’s) soul.
- Read a book that invites you to grow in faith. One I might recommend is *Grounded: Finding God in the World – A Spiritual Revolution* by Diana Butler Bass.
- Journal about your days. Reflect on where you see God in nature, in others, in worship, in yourself.
- When on vacation, attend a church from a different tradition. I enjoy looking at the bulletins from other churches, so bring one back to me.
- Enjoy the beauty of God’s creation. Take a walk in the woods. Put your toes in the sand at the beach and reflect on the vastness of the ocean. Plant a flower garden in your yard. Eat a good tomato sandwich on white bread with Duke’s mayo. Watch a sunset with someone you love. And in all things, give God thanks and praise.

*Continued on page 4.*



## Adult Bible Study Option

**Sundays • May 7, 14, and 21**  
**9:45 – 10:35 a.m.**

### Sunday, May 7 • Sanctuary

Marc and Kim Wyatt will be our guests. Marc and Kim are CBF missionaries in Raleigh who work with the refugee and immigrant population there.

### Sunday, May 14 • Chapel

Mack Dennis will explore the scriptural and theological understandings of welcoming the stranger.

### Sunday, May 21 • Chapel

There will be a panel with Mack Dennis, a local rabbi, and a local Muslim leader to talk about what hospitality and welcome looks like from their tradition.

*Continued from page 3.*

- Serve those in need. Instead of spending money on a lavish vacation, find opportunities to care for those who will likely never have the chance to take a vacation. Volunteer with a local agency. Serve on a mission project. Form relationships with people who are different than you.
- Have a stay-cation and explore the wonders all around us.
- Worship in community. Summer is not a time to take a break from the worship of God. Instead, come together each week to worship God and encourage one another through your presence.
- Sit on the porch. If you don't have a porch, sit in a chair under a tree. Listen. Slow down. Pray.
- Walk the Labyrinth in the Sacred Garden. Consider what you may need to release. Center yourself in God's love. And return to the world renewed and ready to live out your calling.

Let me know what you are doing this summer to form your spirit and tend to your soul. And bring me back a bulletin when you visit a church while you are away.

— Tommy Bratton



## Wednesdays for Adults

**May 3, 10, 17, 24 • 6:00 p.m.**

### Financial Health Study

**Room MB302 • Led by Christine Quinley**

In "Your Money God's Way" Amie Streater explores seven money habits that are potentially keeping Christians broke. In this study, we will seek to replace common myths like "Money can fix all my problems" and "I have to give money to every good cause" with biblical truths. We will also cover specific solution steps to overcoming these financial obstacles.

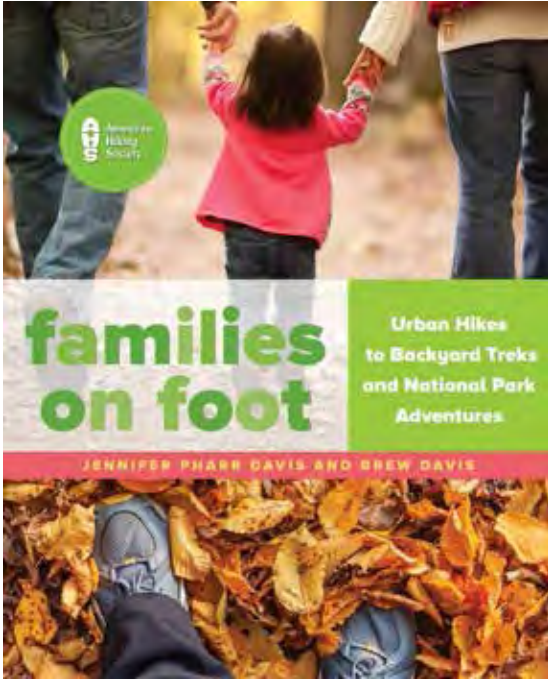
### REST(LESS):The Altars Where We Worship

**Crouch Chapel • Led by Tommy Bratton and Mack Dennis**

Join us as we continue to explore the witness of Scripture, popular culture, and current theological reflection as we reflect on our own struggles to rest and to be faithful to the God we worship.

**NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES IN JULY.**

**June 7, 14, 21 – Food and Fellowship • 5:00 p.m. • Dining Room**



**W**e are blessed to live in one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. It has called many people to take refuge in its wilderness. Chris and I were living in the hustle and bustle of city life before we took a leap of faith to move to this area to start and raise our family. It is a place where we felt closer to God and were happy to answer his calling by moving here. Nature is one of our places to worship. A place to seek God and have him answer. Being still and listening to the power and calmness of water, feeling dead leaves crinkle under our feet, smelling the fresh cut grass, to see the changes of season and be reminded of His promise of rebirth and eternal life. Now that we have two daughters who are almost two and four, we are able to take them on our adventures of discovering, exploring, and appreciating God's many gifts. Our fellow Sunday school classmates Jennifer and Brew Davis wrote the book *Families on Foot*. It is loaded with useful tips on hiking with the innocent and curious minds that accompany us in our search for peace and beauty through nature. I'm hopeful that it encourages young families like ours across this country and beyond that it is easy for families to get outside



and explore God's creation. We recently decided to have a "stay-cation" during Spring Break and explored Rocky Fork State Park in Tennessee and a few waterfalls in Dupont State Forest. Seeing the wonder, awe, and excitement of our children discovering wildflowers, playing in creeks and streams, throwing rocks, mesmerized with waterfalls, and listening to the sounds of nature were beneficial for our mind, soul and spiritual development.

— Chris and Molly Monkitas

# Pentecost Sunday

The Birthday of the Church Sunday, June 4

**11:00 a.m. Worship**  
 Celebration with the Adult Choir,  
 FBCA Orchestra,  
 and Liturgical Kites

**7:00 p.m. Concert**  
 Festival With the Asheville Youth Choirs  
 More than 100 singers from the Prelude Choir, Concert  
 Choir, Middle, and High School Chorales



# *The Language of Zion (National Park)*

By Eddie Morgan

Walk into the sanctuary.

Beyond the noise.

Listen and be still.

Let the wind usher in the spirit of peace and call you to worship.

Let the trails take you up to the edge of heaven where your eyes are clear of logs and specks.

The cataracts of daily living are gone and before you lies creation and it is good.

Breathe. Breathe in.

Fill your lungs with all that rut and routine have sucked out of you.

The rocks, the stones, the mountains are your altar of confession.

The spray from the falls spilling over canyon walls baptizes you.

The water that has been making this cathedral for millions of years has made you whole again.

You are forgiven.



Now with fresh ears and a new heart participate in the listening of creation.

The birds announce a new day.

The rushing and falling water respond with reminders of movement and growth.

The wind joins, then the flowers, then sun and the rain.

Finally—the Silence.

You have walked a labyrinth of switchbacks and trails.

You have heard the sermon of creation.

It is time to leave.

You are off the mountain now, back in the valley.

One last look.

Sunset.

You have encountered the Holy.

Walked in the presence of God.

You have listened to the language of Zion.

You have been blessed.





**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.

## **Sacred Garden Informational Session Wednesday, May 31 • 5:15-5:45 p.m. Conference Dining Room**

The Sacred Garden Team invites you to learn more about how you can purchase a niche/memorial plaque or support the garden with a gift. If you have any questions or want an informational packet about the garden, please contact Leah Brown at 252.4781.

## **Jubilee Luncheon**

**Tuesday, May 16 • 11:00 a.m.**

All senior adults are invited to join us for fellowship, programs that inspire, entertain, and inform, and a meal in our Dining Room. This month's program is *Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957) Live!* by Daphne Ruth Darcy, storyteller. 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.

## **Jubilee Picnic**

**Tuesday, June 20 • 11:00 a.m. • WNC Governor's Residence**

All senior adults are invited to join us for a special Jubilee Picnic on June 20, at the WNC Governor's Residence. Buddy Freeman, Comedian, will provide our entertainment! Please consider using our shuttle service due to limited parking at the Governor's Residence. The shuttle will leave at 10:00 a.m. from the Atrium parking lot. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Leah Brown, Minister with Senior Adults at 252.4781.



## **Spotlight on Walt Lewis Sound Ministry**

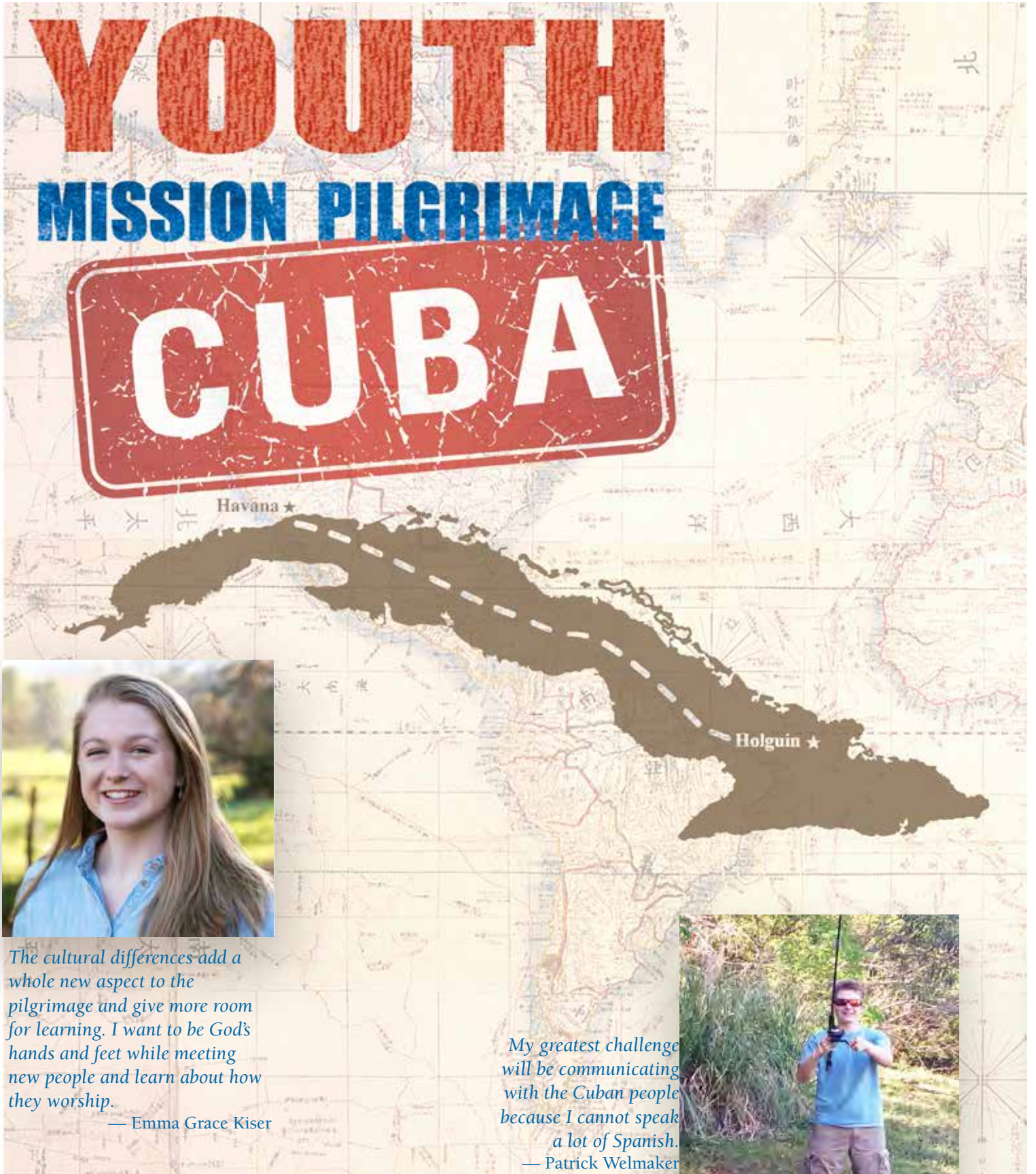
At the end of March, Walt Lewis, a 73-year-member of our church, completed 27 years of service in the Sound Ministry. Likely if you needed help with sound for a service in the

Sanctuary or Chapel, then it was Walt Lewis behind the scenes offering his skills to make sure that everything ran smoothly. Walt was recruited in 1990 by Charles Crocker to help with this important ministry. Walt has been a dependable presence in countless worship services including a majority of weddings and funerals. Walt, our congregation is grateful for your many years of faithful service in this important ministry. We thank God for you and the gifts you have shared with us.



Laura Addis Randall Barnett George Bashor Anna Rose Bourne David Bourne

Laura Beth Slagle Cayla Slaughter Patrick Welmaker Montana Williams Madison Womack



*The cultural differences add a whole new aspect to the pilgrimage and give more room for learning. I want to be God's hands and feet while meeting new people and learn about how they worship.*

— Emma Grace Kiser

*My greatest challenge will be communicating with the Cuban people because I cannot speak a lot of Spanish.*

— Patrick Welmaker

Steve Metcalf Ben Pitrolo Lis Pitrolo Matthew Roebke Elizabeth Sills



Ryan Bratton Jake Bratton Dylan Broome Casey Callahan Kim Christman

Annika Crutchfield Catherine Davis Dearing Davis Stan Dotson Bob Gilkeson Will Gilkeson

July 25 - August 5, 2017

- Day 1:** Fly to Holguin, Tour City
- Day 2:** Service Projects in City (visit children's home and install water system).
- Day 3:** Community-wide Worship Service
- Day 4:** Travel to Las Tunas (visit sister church) & Sancti Spiritus
- Day 5:** Visit Historical Sites
- Day 6:** Musical Concert & Worship with Local Youth
- Day 7:** Travel to Santa Clara for Service Projects (install water system and visit pediatric hospital).
- Day 8:** Travel to Varadero Beach
- Day 9:** Travel to Havana, Visit Cultural Sites
- Day 10:** Service Projects at Baptist Retreat Center
- Day 11:** Plan & Lead Large Worship Celebration
- Day 12:** Fly Home



*I think the biggest challenge for this trip will be adjusting to Cuban culture and being "un-plugged" from our usual surroundings.*

— Emily Lim

*The thing I think I will most enjoy on this pilgrimage will be interacting with the Cuban students that we will be traveling with.*

— Anna Rose Bourne



*I want to expand my knowledge of Christianity and spread God's love and peace through learning about others and their views.*

— Ben Pitrolo



Emma Grace Kiser Daniel Lewis Julianne Lewis Ashley Lim Emily Lim



### End-of-Year Churchwide Celebration Wednesday, May 31 • 6:00 p.m. • Chapel

Agape Kids will end on May 31 with a churchwide celebration. Our children will share things they've learned and done this year.

### Meet Our Children's Ministry Summer Intern Adrianna Enoch

Adrianna is a rising senior at Mars Hill University. She is majoring in psychology. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a Master of Divinity.



She will work primarily in the children area but will also lead in worship and assist in general pastoral ministries.



## TRAILMARKS a journey of faith

**T**railmarks is a part of our ministry that invites our children and students, their parents, and ministers to collaborate in providing holistic spiritual formation and deepened congregational relationships.

Trailmarks are given to recognize life events, to demonstrate spiritual gifts, and to honor life experiences.

In order to establish and maintain healthy relationships, parents are invited to periodically have conversations with respective ministers about the current faith development of their son/daughter.

Trailmarks are not to be used to compare or judge the spiritual vitality of any individual; rather, trailmarks are reminders of each person's unique experiences and growth, and are a tangible way individuals can remember and share their stories of faith.

### Trailmarks Breakfast • Sunday, June 4 • 9:45 a.m. • Dining Room

Parents, children, and youth are invited to attend. *(Preschoolers will attend their regular Bible Study class unless their parents would like to bring them.)* During this time, you will learn more about our Trailmarks ministry, hear stories from our members about their trailmarks, and have the opportunity to sign up for a Trailmarks meeting with a minister.

# kids' summer fun



## PASSPORTkids<sup>sm</sup>

June 27 - 30

with optional day camp on June 26

Bob Cooper 4-H Center Summerton, SC

(Rising 4th - Rising 7th graders)



**DO**  
justice



**LOVE**  
kindness



**WALK**  
humbly

MICAH 6:8

And what does the Lord require of you but to **DO** justice, and to **LOVE** kindness, and to **WALK** humbly with your God?



## Vacation Bible School

(Ages 4 - Rising 6th graders)

July 10 - 13

9:00 a.m. - Noon

**FREE**

but registration required.

To provide the best care there are limited spots available in our preschool classes

## VBS Day camp

(Rising 1st - Rising 6th graders)

July 10 - 14

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(includes Vacation Bible School)

This camp is already full. Please contact the church office at 252.4781 to be added to the wait list.



## Preschool Camp

(Ages 2years - Pre-K)

June 13 - 15

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Our theme is *Fairy Tales*

There are limited spots available. Please contact Bree Welmaker at 252.4781 for more information and to inquire about registration.



## Discovery Camp

(Rising 1st - Rising 6th graders)

July 24-28

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

This camp is already full. Please contact the church office at 252.4781 to be added to the wait list.

Each day we will have a theme (arts, nature, recreation, food, and science). We will discover new things about the theme while participating in hands-on activities.



## Manna Food Bank

Mike, Alice, and Julianne Lewis, Lee, Shelley, George, and Charlie Stowe, and Ava and Tina Bashor had fun. They bagged, sealed, and boxed 800 pounds of pasta, which will provide 960 meals.

### Want to Volunteer for Manna Food Bank?

Next Opportunity: Tuesday, May 9 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sign-up in the Atrium.



## Oh, The Wonder of Haiti

Just imagine . . . bright curious faces, babies with snowman tights, Patchy the pig, delicious Haitian meals, hands clasped in prayer, Wi Jezi remen'm, (Jesus Loves Me).

On April 1, 2017, a team of 11 First Baptist Church of Asheville volunteers left for Grand Goave, Haiti where we met up with Jenny Jenkins, CBF nurse missionary. Our first day involved orientation and attending a Haitian church service where we sang *Jesus Loves Me* in Haitian Creole.

Each day we set up clinics in different locations in remote mountainous villages where there was often no running water or electricity. What an adventure to ride standing up in the back of a truck over a steep rocky road. We staged our clinic with physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and vision screening. Every day there were both



challenges and joys: newborn baby assessments, medical problems addressed, new eyeglasses, and relief from having abscessed teeth removed. We saw more than 400 patients and gave out more than 200 sunglasses which you generously donated.

One touching story was a little boy who had endured a difficult procedure, but when he was leaving the young translator carefully selected a pair of sunglasses that really brightened his smile and countenance. There were other smiles when wounds were cleaned and people received medications for chronic problems. A curious blessing happened while there: the sweat and sunshine seemed to melt our color away, and the radiance of God's presence still remains-- a mutual bonding of brother and sister together as one.

— Marilyn Bollinger and Kara Kelley



## It's mountains... it's always been mountains

The mountains of Western North Carolina are what first attracted me to a nursing job in Asheville in 1999 and through that to my relationship with First Baptist Church of Asheville. Mountains are one of the things I love most about Haiti. To be able to stand on a mountain top and look out over the wonder of the world our God created is one of the greatest awe-inspiring blessings for me, either here in Haiti or in North Carolina. I live in a home by the sea in Grand Goave, but my heart takes me into the mountains where we conduct mobile medical/dental clinics for the communities that have limited access to care, meaning they can walk up to an hour to reach a basic health care center. We go to each of our four sites at least once a month offering care and medicine for chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes as well as acute needs like infections and rashes. Our dream is to build a free standing health center in Magandou, near Mt Sinai church where we have served for the past six years. These folks are some of the poorest and most amazing people with whom we work. With so little they continue to eek out a living under harsh conditions on the mountain but then sing God's praises with a passion and zeal I find humbling.

I grew up the daughter of a Baptist minister of education and children's minister. My folks served churches in Virginia and North Carolina. I became a nurse and worked as an oncology nurse for almost 17 years with my career taking me to New York City after working five years in western North Carolina. I never dreamed God would call me to Haiti but He did, through a kind man who had cut his leg with a machette. Ever since moving to Grand Goave in 2010, God has brought us along side Him through work in medical, education and construction building relationships long the way. We are excited to see where the next years will take us-to the mountain top I have no doubt.



— Jenny Jenkins, CBF Field Personnel, Grand Goave Haiti

## A New Way To Approach Missions and Ministry

Our partnership with the Elohim Baptist Church in Las Tunas, Cuba, is a model of a new way to approach missions and ministry. This partnership is based on relationship building, where all recognize that each one has resources and needs. Our congregations agree to love, pray for, and support each other. This past January, a team of six members traveled to Las Tunas. During our visit together, we were able to install another water filtration system, share Bible study materials among children in both churches, and participate in their anniversary worship service. In February, a group of five First Baptist Church of Asheville members attended the Fraternity of Baptists annual meeting in Havana. Our presence enabled us to learn more about Baptist life in Cuba and we spent time with some church friends from Las Tunas, presenting them with children's Sunday School literature. Casey Callahan used this visit as an opportunity to solidify plans for the summer youth trip to Cuba.

— Cliff Christian and Martha Worley



## Kairos Prison Ministry - An Invitation

Prison ministry is something that I've known I was called to do long before I became involved with Kairos. When I heard that volunteers were needed for a Kairos Prison Ministry weekend retreat in the spring of 2014, I knew the time had come, no more excuses, no waiting for retirement so I'd have more time, now was the time. Since then I've served as a team member on four Kairos retreats at two prisons in Spruce Pine that contain 1,800 incarcerated men. I'm scheduled to lead a retreat at Avery Mitchell Correctional Institution in the spring of 2018 and will be asking folks to serve on the team with me as that time nears. Others that have served as volunteers on a Kairos team from First Baptist Church of Asheville are Mark Embler, Randall Barnett, and Buddy Corbin.

### What is Kairos?

It is three and half days when volunteers (30-40) go into a prison facility and meet with 30-40 inmates (called participants) and get to know them. We are there to show the love of Christ to these men. We have a four word mission statement: listen, listen, love, love, and that's what we try to do with these men. The fellowship during the weekend includes excellent music, lots of cookies, speakers, times of sharing and spiritual meditation in a chapel setting. We volunteers go back on a monthly basis to share in a worship service that is conducted by the inmate-participants who have experienced a Kairos weekend. These services are some of most meaningful I've ever experienced as a Christian.



If you are interested in knowing more about the Kairos Prison Ministry, contact me at 828.337.3918 or [jbaleyiii@aol.com](mailto:jbaleyiii@aol.com) and I'll be glad to share with you the ways you can be a part of this ministry and what it has meant to me.

— Jim Baley

## Pray for FirstShine • June 26-29

Please pray for FirstShine, First Baptist's residential camp at Warren Wilson College for up to 15 children with special needs. Pray for children who will be a part of this camp on June 26-29. Pray as well for their parents and families as they experience a short season of respite. Keep our youth, college students, and adults in your prayers as they serve as counselors and guides for these intense days of fun and service. Give thanks for the Bible study classes who will help with meals. Jesus welcomed the children and blessed them. We follow in His steps as we share with these campers at FirstShine.



## **Laura Addis**

### **Summer Ministry Associate for Students**

First Baptist Church of Asheville is fortunate to have Laura Addis serving as our Summer Ministry Associate for Students. Laura has been a regular volunteer with our student ministry since her arrival to Asheville, but this summer she'll be expanding that volunteer role by providing essential leadership throughout the summer months, including the Caswell and Rising Seventh Grade retreats, the Youth Mission Pilgrimage to Cuba, and a weekly gathering focused on our younger youth.



## **Casey Callahan Graduates with Doctorate of Ministry**

Congratulations to Casey Callahan, Minister with Students, who graduated with his Doctorate of Ministry degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary on May 14. Casey's main project focused on the development, implementation, and evaluation of an educational curriculum focused on historical spiritual understandings and practices of the ancient Celtic peoples. The curriculum was framed with "five essential threads" of Celtic spirituality:

- the inherent goodness of all creation
- habitation at the margins
- human creativity
- self-discipline
- the doctrine of the Incarnation

It was titled, "A Collegiate Exploration into Celtic Spirituality." We give thanks for Casey's gifts and his investment in exploring faith and finding creative ways to engage others in that journey with God.

## **First Baptist Church of Asheville**

Freedom. Friendship. Faith.

5 Oak Street, Asheville, NC 28801 • 828.252.4781 • [www.fbca.net](http://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 828.252.4781.

The deacon of the week can be reached through the church office or by contacting the minister on call.