

# Highlights

September 1 - October 31, 2015

**A**pril 2015 was a real highlight for me. I joined with over 500 folks from FBCA to participate in a state-wide effort called Operation Inasmuch. People of every generation worked together to refurbish rooms in the VRQ for our veterans, frame new houses for homeless families, make lap blankets for seniors, prepare hospital care bags for folks undergoing chemo therapy, bake cookies for Kairos prison ministry, repaint rooms at the Salvation Army where homeless people stay, help plant an orchard for an apartment complex, recycle, cut out 7000 flash cards for Asheville and Buncombe County Schools, landscape the Boys and Girls Club grounds as well as the grounds at Jones Elementary and Claxton Elementary. Whew! The list of projects goes on and on! We worked with agencies throughout Asheville and Buncombe County whose mission is to help those in need.



Isn't that what Jesus called us to do? His ministry on earth demonstrated that he constantly cared for those in need ... healing the sick, befriending the outcast, welcoming the children and those on the margins of society. When we are followers of Jesus, we look for ways that we can reach out to those who are important to Jesus. It's the Jesus way.

Jesus warned us that following him would be costly. We know that it was costly in our time. Over 1,400 hours were spent by First Baptist Church of Asheville members in April alone. It's also costly financially. When we support our church's annual budget, we help make projects like this possible. It's a joy to me that through my giving, I help to make opportunities to serve others a reality. What about you? Will you choose to be part of our mission in Asheville and around the world? Don't miss the chance to experience this joy!

***Truly I tell you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have done it unto me. —Matthew 25:40***

—Judy Hamrick

## 2016 Budget Roundtable

Sunday, September 13 • 1:00 p.m. (following First Lunch) - Dining Room

## Commitment Sunday

Sunday, September 27

Bring your pledge cards to worship or pledge online at [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net).

## Just a Few Suggestions



Several years ago, H. Jackson Brown's *Life's Little Instruction Book* spent several months on the best sellers' lists. The book is 511 suggestions, observations, and reminders on how to live a happy and rewarding life. For instance:

- Buy whatever kids are selling on card tables in their front yards.
- Whistle.
- Put marshmallows in your hot chocolate.
- Wear audacious underwear under the most solemn business attire.
- Turn off the television at dinnertime.
- Measure people by the size of their hearts, not their bank accounts.
- Never go to bed with dirty dishes in the sink.
- Let your children overhear you saying complimentary things.
- Sit down front at meetings.
- Have a friend who owns a truck.

*Life's Little Instruction Book* makes me wonder about suggestions that could be made for life around First Baptist. Some recommendations would be on-going while others would be one-time possibilities. Some of my ideas might make you think of your own better ideas. For instance:

- Expand your comfort zone. Be open to new ideas.
- Do something good you have not done before.
- Bring shoes for the FBCA clothes closet.
- Volunteer to help with Room in the Inn.
- Tell Clark you want to be part of the Academy for the Arts.
- Call several members of your Bible Study class who were absent last week and congratulate them on being elected class president.
- Hug everyone at a deacons' meeting.
- Invite your neighbors to church. Tell them it's "Bring Someone Who Would Like It If They Just Came Once to Church Day."
- Wear comfortable shoes to church.
- Compliment choir members.
- Learn the name of a child each Sunday.
- Let your Bible Study teacher overhear you saying complimentary things.
- Pretend you are an official greeter. Wear a name tag and a yellow smiley face button to worship. Ask visitors if they prefer smoking or non-smoking.
- Bring cymbals and sit in the choir loft.
- Pass a note to Tate asking if he takes requests.
- Pray during the chiming of the hour. Pray during the invocation. Pray during the prayer of dedication.
- Tell the person seated next to you in worship to sing louder.
- Smile big during the sharing of the peace.
- Give an offering bigger than the one you planned to give.
- Tell Leah you thought her prayer was wonderful, but wondered if the obscenity was a slip of the tongue.
- Ask, "Where did you find the handsome interim?"
- Thank God that you get to be part of First Baptist Church.

—Brett



WEDNESDAYS

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

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

## Creator God, Creating Still: Creativity as Spiritual Practice September 2–30 • 6:00 p.m. • Crouch Chapel

On Wednesdays in September, we have invited persons to speak about how creative expression has been formational to their life of faith (and vice versa). Because we have so many creative people in our area, we will also invite people from the church and/or community to display some of their craft during that time. Come join us as we explore the intersection of creativity and spirituality in our lives.

- September 2 Tommy Bratton Introduction: *In the Beginning, God Created*
- September 9 TBA
- September 16 William Everette *Sawdust and Soul: Spirituality and Woodworking*
- September 23 Dearing Davis *The Potter's Hands*
- September 30 Ken McLesky *Brush Strokes*

## Recovering the Art of Biblical Blessing

September 9–30 • 6:00 p.m. • MB304 • Led by Tommy Bratton

In his book *To Bless the Space Between Us* John O'Donohue writes, "It would be infinitely lonely to live in a world without blessing. The word blessing evokes a sense of warmth and protection; it suggests that no life is alone or unreachable." In this study, we will explore scripture and see how blessing us understood, beginning with Jesus' beatitudes. We will also consider how we can be agents of blessing to those in our lives today.

MANAGING  
*Grief*  
IN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY  
November 4, 11, 18  
6:00 p.m. • Sherman Center

Grief and loss are difficult subjects to talk about, yet in the past year, many of us have been faced with the pain caused by the death of a friend or family member. Leah Brown and Eddie Morgan will facilitate this series on grief. Please contact Ashley Starnes [astarnes@fbca.net](mailto:astarnes@fbca.net) or Leah Brown [lbrown@fbca.net](mailto:lbrown@fbca.net) at 252.4781 to register.

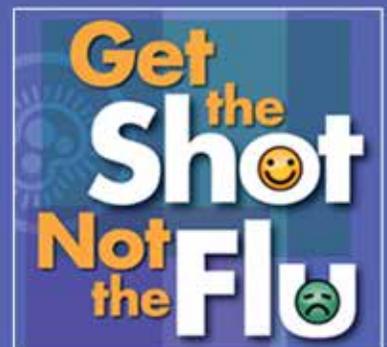
## Flu Shot Clinic

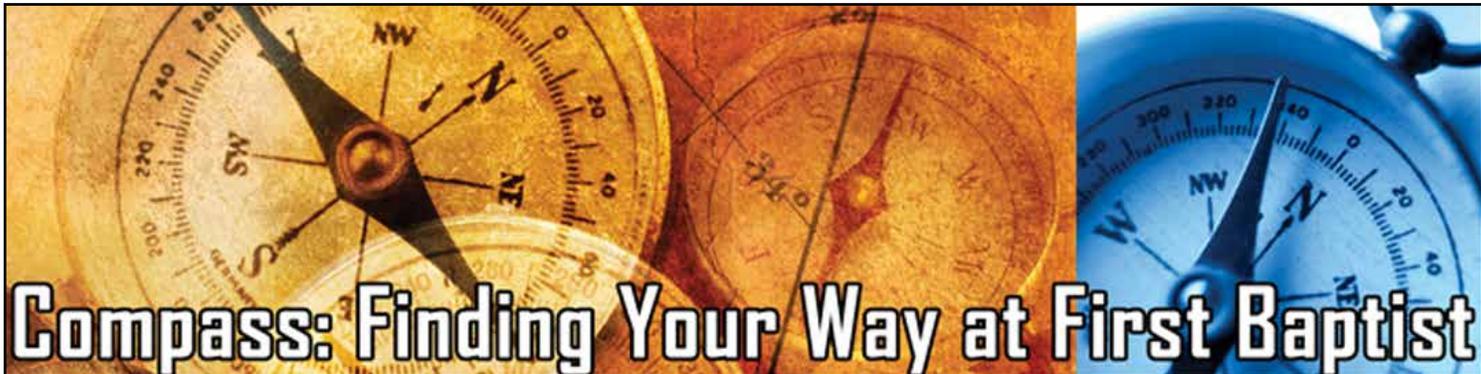
Wednesday, October 14

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Room MB303

- Ages 14 and older are eligible
- No Appointment Necessary
- BC/BS and Medicare Part B Accepted
- Insurance Filed (Please Bring Card)





# Compass: Finding Your Way at First Baptist

**Sundays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25**

**9:45–10:35 a.m. • Conference Dining Room**

If you are new to the First Baptist Church of Asheville family, or if you've been here for a while and are interested in getting more deeply involved in the mission and ministry of the church, please join the ministers for this time of fellowship and conversation about our faith tradition, our worship life, and the many ways to be a part of this community of faith. Compass is an opportunity to ask questions about the church, meet the ministerial staff, get to know other people on their journey of faith and church connection, and learn how to get involved in our common life and ministry. Each week will be led by one or more of our ministers. Sign up online at [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net) or by contacting April Nance at [anance@fbca.net](mailto:anance@fbca.net) or 252.4781.



**Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship  
Fall Gathering  
Sunday, October 18 • 5:00 p.m. • FBC Black Mountain  
Brent Walker, Guest Speaker**

Brent is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Contact Tommy Bratton at [tbratton@fbca.net](mailto:tbratton@fbca.net) or 282.4781 if you are interested in attending.



## Children's SABBATH

**Sunday, October 18  
11:00 a.m. - Sanctuary**

Children's Sabbath aims to unite religious congregations of all faiths across the nation in shared concern for children and common commitment to improving their lives and working for justice on their behalf. Each year, our church recognizes and celebrates children as part of a world-wide worship experience. Children will lead in both services through reading scripture, prayers and song.

### **First Grade Bible Presentation**

One of our favorite traditions in Children's Ministry is the presentation of a Bible to new First Graders. This gift is to encourage children to read and learn about God's Word as we learn and grow in our Christian faith. Please join us to celebrate this important day in the life of our first graders and their families.

## **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. • CB303 & CB219**

CenterPeace for Preschoolers involves missions, discipleship, and music on a weekly basis. Our exciting curriculum provides wonderful music and worship activities.



Please contact Bree Welmaker at [bwelmaker@fbca.net](mailto:bwelmaker@fbca.net) or 828.252.4781 for more information.



## **Kidz Connect**

**Sundays 9:35-9:50 a.m. • CB310**

Join us on Sunday morning for fellowship and snacks at Kidz Connect.

## **FaithQuest** (Grades 1-5)

**Sundays • 9:50-10:45 a.m. • 3rd Floor Children's Building**

A different way for children to learn about faith — that's what FaithQuest is designed to be. FaithQuest is a rotation model that makes use of child-friendly learning methods and environments that promote involvement, discovery, and creativity for children's Bible Study.

## **Sixth Grade Rocks!** • Sundays • 9:45-10:45 a.m. in CB306

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

**With Hearts, and Hands, and Voices**



## **CenterPeace for Children Kick-off**

**Wednesday, September 2 • 5:30-7:00 p.m.**  
**Crocker Auditorium and CB221**

Our Wednesday evening music, worship, and faith development activities for children from ages 3 through 6th grade resumes with CenterPeace Kick-off on Wednesday, September 2. 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. There will be t-shirts, prizes, and refreshments for everyone.

- Children ages 3 through kindergarten will register at CB 303.
- First through 6th graders register in the Small Atrium.



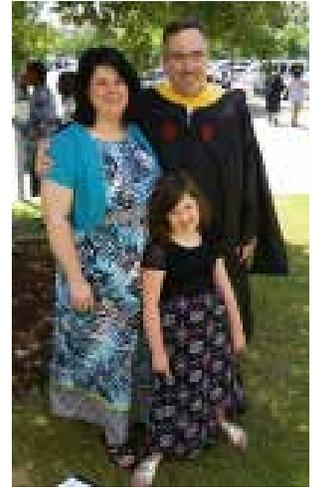
## Welcome Amy

We look forward to welcoming Amy Stertz as our new Minister with Children and Families. Her first day will be Monday, September 28.

Born in Georgia, Amy grew up in the southeast US and graduated from Mars Hill College in 1998, where she earned the Bachelor of Social Work degree. She holds the Master of Divinity with concentration in Counseling/Chaplaincy and Missions/Ministry from Campbell University Divinity School.

Amy served from May 1997 - December 2000 as Youth and Children's Minister at First Baptist Church of Franklinville, North Carolina. She also completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, North Carolina. From August 2002 - January 2008, Amy served as Minister of Christian Education at Azalea Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia, where she was ordained. From January 27, 2008 to the present, Amy has served as Associate Minister in Christian Education at the First Baptist Church of Aiken, South Carolina. Amy also served on the Administrative and Coordinating Councils of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina as the 2013 - 2014 Moderator.

She is married to Joe Stertz, a Clemson University and Old Dominion University graduate. Joe is a Human Services Specialist for Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health. They are the parents of Sophie, who is in the second grade.



### A few words from Amy:

*I seek to live and love in the Jesus way and encourage others to do so as well. No one was unworthy of Jesus' time; no one unwelcome at his table, each child was received and valued. And so, we are called to love. This is hard but important work. I believe we should look for the good, act with kindness, practice forgiveness, and build bridges that bring people together, rather than walls that divide.*

*It is important to help children understand they have a place and a sense of belonging in a community of faith. Children are curious and open to thinking, talking, and asking questions. When we nurture their questions and their willingness to ask them, they will understand that faith is something that grows and they are active in that process. Children believe they can make a difference in the world. This is an important time to name and affirm their gifts and help them begin using them in meaningful ways. Church is a unique place for children to develop their spiritual selves and must be characterized by Christ-like love, reflective learning, healthy dialogue, and nurturing relationships.*

### Interesting Facts About Amy

- Her favorite color is blue.
- Her favorite drink is Diet Coke.
- Her favorite snack is chips/salsa.
- She is not a morning person.
- She loves musicals.
- Her favorite sport is football.
- She has two cats names Jackson and Phoebe.
- Her favorite sweet is anything with chocolate and peanut butter.
- She is a middle child. Her older sister is 55 minutes older and her younger sister is 20 years younger.
- Her favorite food is Mexican. She "had" to eat it everyday when pregnant with Sophie. Therefore, Sophie was a chili pepper for her first Halloween.

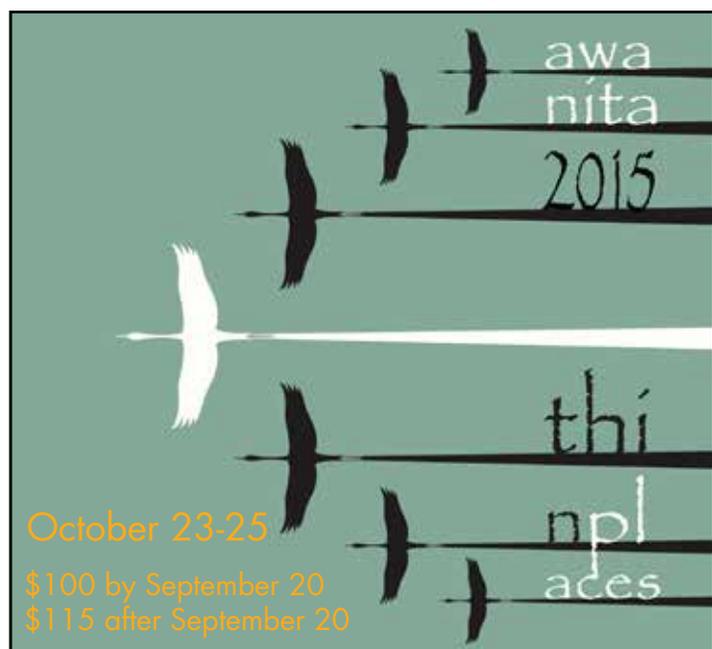


**A**fter a busy summer of camps, trips, projects, and students being scattered, it is time to return to our foundational youth ministry programs! We hope that all of our teens will be able to make these weekly gatherings and special events into integral parts of their own complex lives this fall!

The first Sunday with regular youth activities is Sunday, **September 13:**

- 3:00 p.m. Handbells
- 4:00 p.m. Asheville Youth Choir
- 5:00-5:30 p.m. Snack Supper (\*Parents' Meeting)
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. Koinonia

\*A Youth Parents' Meeting is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. in Crocker Auditorium. During this time, parents will hear from both Clark Sorrells and Casey Callahan about the upcoming year of youth ministry.



This is a great retreat filled outdoor adventures including hummer rides, campfires, a mud-pit, fellowship, and more! This year we will explore Celtic Spirituality and consider the ancient sacred idea of “Thin Places”: settings and experiences in which the physical and spiritual realms seem to touch together. A Pre-Trip meeting for all parents/guardians, youth, and leaders is set for **Sunday, October 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the MB423.**

## Creative Arts Training (CAT) Wednesdays, September 2-October 7

**6:00-7:00 p.m. • MB423**

**Fall classes include:** guitar, drama, signing, art, and green spirituality. The youth-led CAT Service will be on Sunday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## First Lunch • Sunday, September 13

All youth should plan to help serve the lunch meal from Noon-1:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children with a \$25 family maximum.



# G THE SACRED GARDEN

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ASHEVILLE

## Early Days of Construction

The week of August 2 marked the beginning of construction on our outdoor sanctuary! Please take time to look in on the progress being made each week. You can also get a bird's-eye view of the construction site from the window by the balcony entrance to the

sanctuary. Please continue to check our website for pictures and updates on the Sacred Garden!



## Sacred Garden Informational Session

**Sunday, September 27 • 9:00-9:30 a.m. • Dining Room**

The Sacred Garden team would like to invite you to breakfast in the Conference Dining Room on September 27 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 Luncheons

**Tuesdays, September 15 and October 20  
11:00 a.m. • Dining Room**

- **September 15** • Music Antiqua
- **October 20** • Students from the Academy for the Arts at First Baptist Church of Asheville

All senior adults are invited to join us for fellowship, entertainment, and a delicious meal. The cost is \$3 for the meal, and first time guests eat free.. Contact Leah Brown at 252.4781 or lbrown@fbca.net.net for more information.

## Memory Café

**Thursdays, September 17 and October 15  
1:00-3:00 p.m. • Dining Room**

Memory Café is a volunteer-run social gathering and respite service for those with dementia, their caregivers, families, friends, and the community. It is 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. This program is open to people in our congregation and the community. Contact Leah Brown at 252-4781 or lbrown@fbca.net for more information.

## Stephen Ministry Corner

Stephen Ministers are trained laypeople who are eager to provide one-to-one confidential care for people in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives (i.e. death of a loved one, a chronic or terminal illness, separation/divorce, unemployment, birth/adoption/miscarriage/infertility, etc.) Please contact Leah Brown at 252-4781 for more information about how this ministry might assist you.

SENIOR ADULT/PRIME TIME

# Fall Retreat

October 8-9 - Bonclanken Retreat Center

The cost is \$67 (\$33.50 per person) for a double room and includes accommodations, three meals, transportation and conference materials. Please register online at [www.fbca.net](http://www.fbca.net) or by calling Leah Brown or Ashley Starnes at 252.4781 by Friday, September 25.



### Wednesday, September 2

- 5:30 p.m. • Preschool and Children's Choirs (age 4-6th grade)
- 6:30 p.m. • Music Time (ages 2-3)
- 7:00 p.m. • Adult Choir (age 18 and older)

### Tuesday, September 8

- 1:00 p.m. • Jubilee Choir (age 50 and older)

### Wednesday, September 9

- 6:00 p.m. • Brass Quintet (by invitation)

### Sunday, September 13

- 3:00 p.m. • Youth 1 and 2 Handbells (grades 7-12)
- 4:00 p.m. • Asheville Youth Choir (Community choir, grades 7-12)
- 5:00 p.m. • Adult Handbells (age 18 and older)

### Sunday, October 4

- 6:30 p.m. • FBCA Orchestra (grade 9-adult)



The Asheville Youth Choir (AYC) is a community choir for youth ages 13-18. AYC offers the opportunity for teenagers to come together to enjoy the challenge and friendship of creating beautiful music, thereby making a positive impact in our community and beyond.

**2015-2016 year begins**

**Sunday, September 13 at 4:00 p.m.**

**For more information visit [afta-fbca.net](http://afta-fbca.net).**



*The Asheville Youth Choir in Concert on June 26, 2015  
at National Cathedral, Washington, DC*



## **Meals on Wheels • Saturday, September 26 22 volunteers needed**

Meet in FBCA Dining Room at 10:00 a.m. to bring a hot meal for someone over the weekend who is home bound. Consider signing up as a Bible Study class. To learn more about this opportunity please call Laura Grover: 828.667.4898.

## **Green Bag Collection**

We will bring out the "green bags" for September and ask you to return those bags to church with as much food as you or your family can provide. A list of the specific items needed will be attached to the green bags. October efforts will go toward helping ABCCM.

## **Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build • September 22-November 25**

You can help build Interfaith House #17. No experience is required and all over the age of 16 are welcome. Contact Sarah Whitlock or Eddie Morgan at 828.252.4781 to get involved.

## **CROPWALK: Sunday, October 4 • 2:00 p.m. (Registration at 1:00 p.m.)**

Donation forms available in Bible Study classes. Sign-up to walk as a family or with a Bible Study Class.

## **Crossroads Afterschool Ministry Expanding**

In October, we will begin our fourth year. Every Wednesday between 3:00-6:00 p.m., more than twenty children from Asheville City Schools who have been identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness will be transported to First Baptist where they will be provided a snack, tutoring, recreational activities and a faith development program.

We need loving, patient, compassionate tutors who will work one-on-one with the kids from 3:00-4:45 p.m. We also need people who are willing to ride the bus to pick up the children at school and take them home. To learn more about this life changing ministry, please call Everette Clark at 828.667.8078 or Eddie Morgan at 828.252.4781.

## **Lunch at Crossroads Adding an Additional Thursday a Month**

We are in our 16th year of this ministry to those in our community who are homeless and need a good meal in a safe and welcoming environment. Do you have a couple of hours per week to volunteer as a cook, host, dishwasher, server, reading tutor or popcorn maker? We need you. This program now operates four times per month on Thursdays. To learn more please contact Everette Clark at 828.667.8078 or Eddie Morgan at 828.252.4781.

## **Men's Day Ministry**

Our ministry to the men who are part of the Veterans Restoration Quarters (VRQ) will begin again in September. In partnership with ABCCM, this program happens Monday-Friday at First Baptist Church of Asheville. Under the leadership of Joe David Fore and Carl Dougherty these men develop relational, spiritual, and vocational skills that enable them to move toward abundant living. This ministry is transforming lives. If you are interested in helping please call the church at 828.252.4781.

## **Room in the Inn • September 6-12 • 50 volunteers needed**

First Baptist Church of Asheville will provide safe housing for women in transition. Help is needed for set-up, meal preparation, transportation, overnight hosts. To learn more about this opportunity please call Dorothy Porter 828.778.2010.

## **MANNA Foodbank • Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. • September 15, October 6, November 10**

This is a great volunteer opportunity for families to sort food and create food packs for children in the Asheville area. Meet at 627 Swannanoa River Rd, Asheville, NC.



# Fall Family Festival

Saturday, October 31 • 3:00-6:00 p.m.

*Free community event,  
everyone is welcome!*

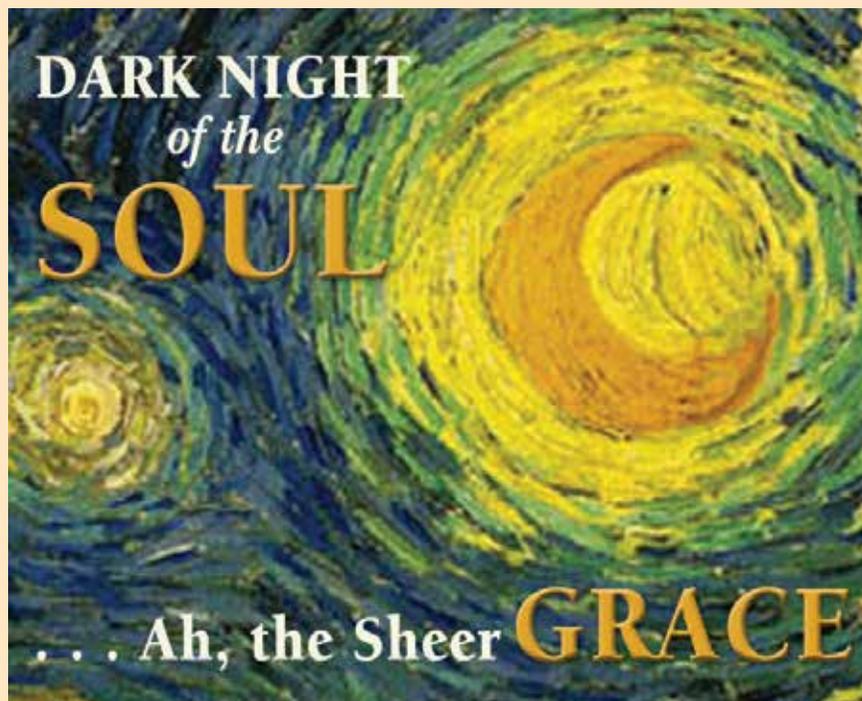
*Concessions available for  
purchase (hamburgers,  
hot dogs, pizza, etc.)*



*Fun for the  
whole family!*

- Inflatables
- Door Prizes
- Game Booths
- Face Painting
- Concession Stand
- Candy
- Balloon Twisting
- Costumes  
(No scary costumes please!)
- Preschool Area
- And more!





**All Saints Sunday**  
**November 1 • 11:00 a.m.**

***Dark Night of the Soul***  
and  
***Luminous Night of the Soul***  
by Ola Gjeilo

*Presented by the Adult Choir, pianist Tate Addis, and String Quartet*

This annual service will feature a reprise of the much-loved work, *Dark Night of the Soul*, which was presented by the Adult Choir this past Spring, and the first-time presentation of its companion piece, *Luminous Night of the Soul*. This two-movement work is a powerful picture of the Christian struggle with darkness and death and the triumphant light which comes from God's gift of joy and eternal life. This service will also include a time of remembering First Baptist Church of Asheville members whom we have lost in the last year, lighting memorial candles for all loved ones who have passed away, and celebrating the promise of eternal life through communion.



**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 252-4781. The deacon of the week can be reached through the church office or by contacting the minister on call.